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The Hadlows of Ightham

The Hadlows of Ightham were a large "clan" which included ploughwrights and weavers and at least two borsholders but with many "loose ends". There was William Hadlow the weaver, William Hadlow, junior (with no obvious "William Hadlow, senior") and other children of William Hadlow who cannot be fitted into either of these families.

There is also little continuity in that, although records of Hadlows stretch from the beginning of the records in the 1560s up to the 1630s, it is not possible to match up the generations. The births of 45 children are recorded but, of these, nothing more is known for at least 31.

Four wills have survived:

William Hadlow	14 Sep 1609	CKS: Pws/w/8/3	page h.13
Theophilus Hadlow	18 Mar 1626	CKS: Pws/w/8/27	page h.20
William Hadlow	25 Jun 1627	CKS: Pws/w/8/31	page h.29
Joan Hadlow	9 May 1631	CKS: Pws/w/8/71	page h.34

Theophilus was buried on 21st April 1626 and William, the testator of June 1627 on 15th September 1627. Joan, who was the widow of William died 1627, lived for another seven years after writing her will being buried on 27th October 1638.

There were also Hadlows in Shipbourne and Seal but there seems no way of finding out how, if at all, the various Hadlows were connected.

The Sixteenth Century Hadlows

There were a number of Hadlow families in Ightham having children in the second half of the sixteenth century. Other individuals were:

Secille Hadlow buried on 20th February 1565; nothing was given except the name - Cecil or Cecily? - a man or a woman?

Henry Hadlow

Henry Hadlow was described as an ale-taster in the Ightham Court Records for 1553-1574. His wife, Alice, was buried on 27th August 1560 and he himself on 15th January 1570.

If the Henry Hadlow who died in 1570 was the Henry Hadlow referred to by **William Pelsett** during the Bing v. Hooper case (see *Excerpts from Ightham Court Records*) as being "[a man of the age of 76 years](#)", apparently at the beginning of Elizabeth's reign (CRI 1938, p.84), he was 86 when he died.

The Thomas Hadlows

Thomas Hadlow, ploughwright (i295), had a son, Thomas (i297), baptised on 21st December 1567.

There were two families headed by a Thomas Hadlow:

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
i 298	<u>HADLOW, Thomas</u> -----			<1560	1	3
I i 299	<u>HADLOW, Theophilus</u>		9 Apr	1581		0 0
I i 304	<u>Hadlow, Jane</u>		19 Jul	1584		0 0
I i 306	<u>Hadlow, Dorothy</u>		2 Feb	1587	21 Jun 1612(K) married at 25	Robert HUGGINS ¹ 1 1

¹ married in Kemsing; Robert (k649) and Dorothy had a son Thomas (k651) baptised in Kemsing on 3rd January 1613.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
i 297	<u>HADLOW, Thomas</u> -----			21 Dec 1567		1 5
I i 1324	<u>Hadl ow, Eli zabeth</u>			21 Feb 1591		0 0
I i 326	<u>HADLOW, Thomas</u>			16 Oct 1592		0 0
I i 327	<u>HADLOW, Ni chol as</u>			11 Feb 1593		0 0
I i 328	<u>HADLOW, Regi nol d</u>			1 Jun 1595		0 0
I i 329	<u>HADLOW, Thomas</u>			13 Jun 1596		0 0

The second family could be the children of the ploughwright's son or those of i298. Theophilus, the eldest son of i298, cannot have been the testator whose will has survived since William, the eldest son of the testator was baptised in 1588. Perhaps i298 had a brother Theophilus who was the testator.

Two Thomas Hadlows died in 1596, one was buried on 26th January and the other on 30th October; one is likely to have been the ploughwright but who was the other?

A **Thomas Hadlow, weaver**, was mentioned in the Court Records for 1586-1618; this could have been either i297 or i298.

William Hadlow, weaver

Eleven children of William Hadlow were recorded in Ightham between 1562 and 1583, all except the first two being the children of “William Hadlow, weaver”

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Di ed
i 270	<u>HADLOW, William</u> -----	<1542			1 11	
I i 272	<u>Hadlow, Jane</u>	19 Jul 1562			0 0	7 Apr 1598
		was this the Jane Hadlow who died 1598?				
I i 273	<u>Hadlow, Elizabeth</u>	8 Dec 1566			0 0	
I i 274	<u>HADLOW, William</u>	15 Dec 1567			0 0	
		too young to be William Hadlow, junior in 1572				
I i 276	<u>Hadlow, Katherine²</u>	5 Feb 1570			0 0	
I i 277	<u>Hadlow, Elizabeth</u>	20 Apr 1572			0 0	
I i 278	<u>HADLOW, Walter</u>	7 Nov 1574			0 0	10 Nov 1574 <1 wk
I i 279	<u>Hadlow, Margaret</u>	28 Oct 1575			0 0	29 Oct 1575 <1 wk
I i 280	<u>HADLOW, Matthew</u>	11 Nov 1576			0 0	
I i 281	<u>Hadlow, Anne</u>	10 Feb 1579			0 0	
I i 303	<u>Hadlow, Agnes</u>				0 0	15 Mar 1581
I i 302	<u>HADLOW, Richard</u>	12 May 1583			0 0	

2 could be the Catherine Hadlow who married **Richard Johnson** (1711) in 1590 - see **Johnson**

Another Elizabeth, daughter of William Hadlow, was baptised on 14th February 1567. Only one of these Elizabeths can have been the daughter of William the weaver.

A **William Hadlow, borsholder** was mentioned in the Court Records for 1553-74 and this could have been i270. The William Hadlow mentioned between 1586 and 1618 was described in the list of names (CRI 1938, p.58) as **borsholder, ploughwright and weaver**.

By 1597, the last recorded entry for a William Hadlow, i270 would have been about 60. The two detailed entries are:

- On 5th April 1592 William Hadlow was to be fined 10s if the stranger he had received - "**Johnson**" - was not removed or sureties found for him. (CRI 1938, p.17). Was there any connection between this Johnson and the husband of Catherine Hadlow?
- **William Hadlow** was one of the residents within the View of Frank-pledge in October 1597 who made default but was pardoned because he had not been sufficiently summoned to the Court. (CRI 1938, p.33)

A **Laurence Hadlow** is also mentioned in the Court Records for 1553-74.

William Hadlow, husbandman

Although the William whose will was written in 1609 describes himself as "of Ightham", he wished to be buried in Seal and the land he owned was in Seal but there is no record of a William Hadlow being buried in either Seal or Ightham between the date of the will and when it was proved (15th January 1615).

His will is particularly interesting because he leaves the residue of his goods and chattels to Audrey Multon (i1581³), the wife of George Multon of Ightham, Armig. and also makes her his executrix. Was Athelreda/Audrey Multon, William's daughter? Robert Multon, their son, was baptised in 1594 which suggests that William Hadlow would have married in the mid-1560s and been about the same age as John Porter of Chart whom he mentions in his will.

3 i indicates reference in the Ightham database (where a number is given without a prefix, it refers to Ightham)

1 In the name of god Amen. The fourteenth day of September
2 in the year of our lord god one thousand, six
3 hundred and nine, I, **William Hadlow of Ightham**,
4 within the County of Kent, **husbandman**, being in good
5 and perfect remembrance, do make this my
6 last will and testament in manner and form following:
7 **First:** and principally, I bequeath my soul into the
8 hand of almighty god who gave it me and my body
9 to be buried in the **churchyard of Seal** in the County
10 aforesaid. Concerning my worldly goods and chattels:
11 **First:** I give unto the poor people of **Seal** aforesaid
12 five shillings. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Audrey**
13 **Multon, the wife of George Multon of Ightham**,
14 aforesaid, Armig., three pounds of lawful money
15 of England the which was in the hands of one **John**
16 **Porter of Chart in Seal**⁴ aforesaid. The residue of
17 all my goods and chattels whatsoever I give and

4 if this was the John Porter of Seal who married in 1566, he would have been about 70 in 1609

18 bequeath unto the said **Audrey Multon** whom
19 I make and ordain my sole and only executrix
20 of this my last will and testament. Concerning
21 my house and lands lying and being in the parish
22 of Seal in the county aforesaid, I will and bequeath
23 the said house and lands with all and singular things,
24 appurtenances and also my right title . . .
25 remainder and interest whatsoever in the said house
26 and lands now in the tenancy and (occupation?) of **Vane**
27 **Summers**⁵ or his assigns, to have, to her the said
28 Audrey Multon, during her natural life with impeachment of . . and, after
the decease of the said Audrey, unto **Robert Multon**, son of the said George
and Audrey Multon, to have to him, his heirs and assigns, forever
witnesses under the sealing and delivering of this will and testament:
Jeffery Seyliard and ?? **Seyliard** and **Elizabeth Peckham**⁶

5 Vane Summers married, in Ightham, in 1599 and had a son baptised, also in Ightham, in 1600. He could, however, have lived in Seal with his wife coming from Ightham

6 perhaps Henry Seyliard, rector of Ightham 1586-1616; initials "EP" look as if written by Elizabeth who was perhaps the wife of Reginald Peckham, gent.

Theophilus Hadlow, yeoman of Ightham

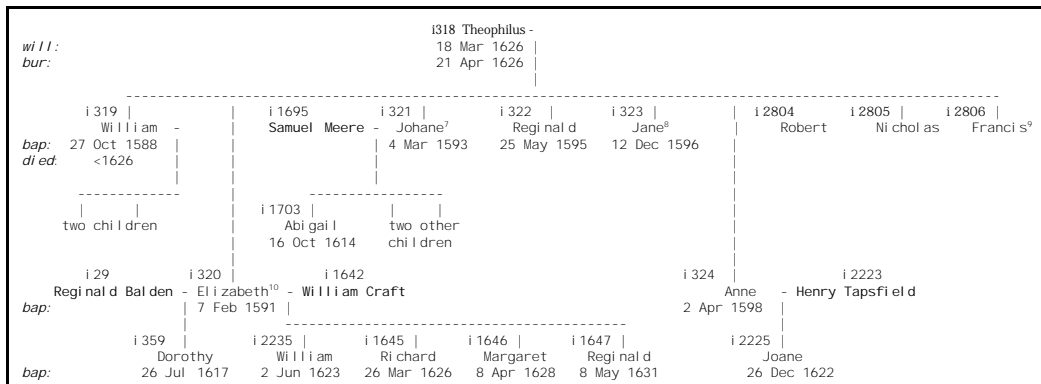
Theophilus Hadlow, who was a borsholder sometime between 1586 and 1618, appears a number of times in the Court Records which show that a man selected as borsholder could still be brought before the Court and fined:

- On 3rd October 1588, the jurors nominated **Robert Baldwin** (i25) and **Theophilus Hadlow** "in order that one of them, at the election of the steward, should execute the office of borsholder for the coming year and Robert Baldwin was chosen by the steward and sworn in." (CRI 1938, p.33). Since Theophilus is given as borsholder in the list of names (CRI 1938, p.58), he must have been selected another year.
- On 17th October 1594, **Theophilus Hadlow and Robert Hooke of Seal** (who does not appear in the parish records for Seal or Ightham) were presented to the Court because they had beaten down acorns "on the common of Ightham to the inconvenience and damage of the tenants of the manor. Fined 12d each and it was thereupon ordered that no one else should offend in this respect, under penalty 3s 4d, of which one half should go to the lord of the manor and the other half to the person discovering the delinquent." (CRI 1937, p.209)

- At the same Court, **Theophilus Hadlow** was one of four men fined 3s 4d for overburdening "the common of Ightham with more sheep than they ought to keep there." (CRI 1937, p.209)
- "On 16th October 1604, five failures to trim hedges were dealt with, orders being made in each case for the hedge to be cut before 1st March under penalty 3s 4d." One of these was **Theophilus Hadlow** with a hedge between **Standgate and Borough Green**. (CRI 1937, p.201). Standgate was south of Borough Green and outside the manor of Ightham (CRI 1938, p.80)

Although it is not known how, if at all, Theophilus was related to the other Ightham Hadlows, a considerable amount is known about him; a family tree has been constructed from his will and the parish records - see next page.

Theophilus's will, besides giving more information on his children, is interesting for the varied items he leaves to them - see Table H.1. He had obviously had silver spoons and pieces of pewter marked with each of their initials.



- 7 married Samuel Meere on 18th January 1614 when she would have been twenty - see **Meere**. Since Theophilus gives her name as "**Johane Hadlow**" rather than her married name, it is not known if her other two children were Samuel's.
- 8 not mentioned by her father in his will; perhaps she died before 1626
- 9 Robert, Nicholas and Francis, mentioned by their father but no baptisms were recorded for them.
- 10 married Reginald Balden 27 May 1616; they had a daughter baptised 26 July 1617 and probably two more daughters, Mary and Ann, born after 1617 (see **Weston**) but before 1623 when she was married to William Croft/Craft, their eldest son being baptised on 2nd June.

Table H.1: Items Bequeathed by Theophilus Hadlow in 1626

Reginald, son	£5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - one pair of sheets - my best ruff band - one cupboard - several pieces of pewter marked with the letter H
Robert, son	£8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a pair of sheets - one chest - one silver spoon marked with the letter R - divers pieces of pewter marked with the same letter R
Nicholas, youngest son	£8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - one pair of sheets - one chest - one silver spoon marked with the letter N - divers pieces of pewter marked with the same letter N.

Francis Hadlow, youngest daughter	£8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - one featherbed - one pillow, one bolster - two blankets, one green rug - one pair of sheets - one bedstead whereon I now lie - one warming pan - one pewter chamberpot - several pieces of pewter marked with the letter F - one silver spoon marked with the same letter F - one gold ring, the best of my two gold rings.
Elizabeth, married daughter	£3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - my worser gold ring - one silver spoon marked with the letter E - one pewter dish marked with the same letter E
Anne, married daughter	£4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - one silver spoon marked with the letter A - three pieces of pewter marked with the same letter A.

two children of son, William Hadlow, deceased	£3	equally divided between them
three children of daughter Johane	£2	equally divided between them

The Will of Theophilus Hadlow of Ightham

written 18th March 1626

buried 21st April 1626; probate 15th Jun 1626; transcript from original

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The eighteenth day of March in the first year of the reign of our sovereign lord, Charles, by the grace of
- 2 god, king of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc., I, **Theophilus Hadlow**, of **Ightham**, in the County of Kent, **yeoman**, being
- 3 sick and weak in body but of good and perfect remembrance (thanks be given to Almighty God for it) do make and ordain this my present testament containing

4 herein my last will and utterly renouncing and revoking all other wills at
any time heretofore formerly made. **First:** and principally
5 I bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God, my maker and
redeemer, trusting that through the merits of my Saviour and his most
blessed son
6 Christ Jesus, his passion and most precious bloodshedding my sins be
wholly remitted and forgiven, and my body I commit to the earth to be
buried
7 in decent manner in the churchyard of the parish of Ightham aforesaid and
my mind and will is that my executor hereafter named shall lay out and
distribute for
8 the charges of my burial thirty shillings or more at his own discretion. All
my goods and chattels whatsoever being my temporal estate, I give and
bequeath
9 in manner and form following, viz. I give and bequeath unto **Reginald
Hadlow¹¹, my son**, five pounds in money, one pair of sheets, my best ruff
band,
10 one cupboard and several pieces of pewter marked with the letter **H. Item:**
I give and bequeath unto **Robert Hadlow, my second son**, eight pounds in
money, a

11 baptised 25 May 1595, aged 30 in March 1626

- 11 pair of sheets, one chest, one silver spoon marked with the letter **R** and
divers pieces of pewter marked with the same letter R. **Item:** I give and
bequeath unto
- 12 **Nicholas Hadlow, my youngest son**, eight pounds in money, one pair of
sheets, one chest, one silver spoon marked with the letter **N** and divers
pieces of
- 13 pewter marked with the same letter N. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
Francis Hadlow, my youngest daughter¹², eight pounds in money, one
featherbed,
- 14 one pillow, one bolster, two blankets, one green rug, one pair of sheets, one
bedstead whereon I now lie, one warming pan, one pewter chamberpot,
15 several pieces of pewter marked with the letter **F**, one silver spoon marked
with the same letter F and one gold ring, the best of my two gold rings.
- 16 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my daughter Elizabeth, the wife of William
Crofts**, three pounds in money, my worser gold ring, one silver spoon
marked with
- 17 the letter **E** and one pewter dish marked with the same letter E. **Item:** I
give and bequeath unto **my daughter Anne**¹³, the wife of Henry Tapfford,
four

12 no baptism recorded, in Ightham, for Robert, Nicholas or Francis

13 baptised 2 Apr 1598; Henry Tapsfield had a daughter baptised 22 Dec 1622

18 pounds in money, one silver spoon marked with the letter **A** and three
pieces of pewter marked with the same letter **A**. **Item:** I give and
bequeath unto the two
19 children of **my son, William Hadlow, deceased**¹⁴, the full sum of three
pounds in money equally to be divided between them. **Item:** I give and
bequeath unto the three
20 children of **my daughter Johane Hadlow**¹⁵, the sum of forty shillings in
money equally to be divided between them. And my mind and true
meaning is that my executor
21 putting in good security to my overseer hereafter named shall have the use
of the two legacies last bequeathed until such time as they shall
accomplish
22 their full ages allowing unto them the profit that until that time he shall
make thereof and if it happen any of the said children to depart and die
before

14 Theophilus's eldest son, baptised 27 Oct 1588; when Theophilus refers to his "second son, Robert" he must have meant his second **surviving** son

15 baptised 4 Mar 1593; why was nothing bequeathed to Johane herself? Perhaps, like William, she had died. Johane Hadlow married Samuel Meere on 18 Jan 1614 and they had a daughter baptised 16 Oct 1614 but no further children are recorded. Johane could have been the third wife of the Samuel Meere whose first children were born in the 1590s. Perhaps Samuel Meere died and Johane married again so that her children had different fathers and this could be the reason for Theophilus to name her as "Johane Hadlow" rather than "Johane, wife of .."

23 such time as they shall receive their portion or legacy, then my mind is that
the legacies of the deceased shalbe equally divided amongst them that
shalbe
24 living, that is to say, that if either of the two children of my son William die,
then his part to go to the other then living and if any of the three children
of my said
25 daughter Johane die then the portion or legacy of that so dying to be
divided and go to the other two. All the rest of my goods and chattels
whatsoever not already
26 given or bequeathed, my debts being paid, my legacies and funeral
expenses discharged and performed, I give and bequeath unto **John**
Pickerell of Northam, in the
27 county aforesaid, yeoman, whom I make and ordain my sole executor of
this present last will and testament. And last of all, my mind and the true
meaning of
28 this my present last will and testament is that my said executor shall,
within two years next after my decease, pay or cause to be paid unto every
one of my
29 before named children their and every of their several legacies or sums of
money and, if it shall that any of my said children shall die before such
30 time as they shall receive their legacies, that then the legacy or portion of
him or them so deceased shalbe paid and equally divided among them

31 that shall then be living. And to the end that this my last will may the
better be performed and looked unto, I make and ordain my well beloved
friends,
32 **William Durrant** and **Alexander Charmby**, overseers of this my last will and
testament. In witness whereof the said Theophilus Hadlow have
33 hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year above written 1625
Published, sealed and subscribed
in the presence of **Henry Hastings**

Theophilus Hadlow his mark

William Hadlow and his wife Joane

A William Hadlow married Rachel Dier (i275) on 23rd October 1569 but Rachel died two months later, being buried on 23rd December 1569.

On 3rd September 1570, William Hadlow married Joane Scorer (i285). This could have been the second marriage of Rachel's husband. The William who died in September 1627, in his will written three months earlier, describes himself as "[in reasonable good health of body and perfect memory but being an old man](#)". If this was the William who married in 1569, he must have been about eighty. Joane's will was written in May 1631 but she did not die until October 1638. If she was Joane Scorer, even if she married before she was twenty, she would have been about eighty in 1631 and over eighty-five when she died. These ages are quite possible since, if either a man or a woman survived the dangers of youth and early middle age, they could often live to an old age.

These wills do not look as if they were written by the same person but the beginning of Joan's will is very similar to that of William's and both differ from the usual. Not only is the description about being old repeated in the same form but both contain the phrases "[assuredly believing to be made his partaker of his everlasting kingdom](#)" and "[I commend my body to be buried at the discretion of my executors.](#)"

Joane was her husband's executrix and it is likely that she had a copy of the will particularly since most of William's bequests were only to be paid "[within one whole year after the decease of me Wm. Hadlow and Joane, my wife](#)" and therefore her executor would need the details. Perhaps Joane's will was copied directly from William's. Probably with a wife approaching eighty, William had not expected her to survive him by very long but, as it was, his children would have had to wait another eleven years for their inheritances.

It is likely that the children baptised in Ightham between 1572 and 1586 are the children of the testators William and Joane since, although the baptisms of Thomas and Margaret were not recorded, there are baptisms for all the others mentioned in both wills and whilst except for Audrey the names are common ones, the exact combination would have been unlikely to have occurred twice.

The only grandchildren mentioned are two sons and a daughter of their son Thomas who died before his father. William was married but does not appear to have had any children since his father provides for the eventuality of him dying without an heir. Elizabeth had a son Thomas but was to have "[her dwelling . . . where she now abides during her life if so long she continues unmarried, paying yearly twelve pence](#)" to William, her brother. Joane was not mentioned by her father, perhaps because she had married in 1601 - see page h.36. The only other daughter who might have married is Audrey but her father gives her name as "Audrey Hadlow".

Joane made her four daughters, Elizabeth, Ann, Margaret and Audrey, her executors and left them "all the goods in my chamber where I lie as it is furnished, not to be diminished by any person or persons until such time as they all come together".

										i284							
i275 Rachel Dier ¹⁶ -		William -		Joane Scorier ¹⁷		i285											
will:	23 Dec 1569		25 Jun 1627		9 May 1631												
bur:			15 Sep 1627		27 Oct 1638												

i286		i290		i291		i292		i294		i301		i2797		i847		i2798	
John		John		Richard		Elizabeth ¹⁸		Joane		William		Thomas -		Audrey ¹⁹		Margaret	
bap:		26 May 1572		17 Mar 1574		26 Feb 1576		5 Jun 1581		28 Jul 1583				11 Dec 1586			
bur:	12 Jun 1571		20	14 Jan 1575													
				at 10 months				i293		i300		-----					
								John		Anne		i2800		i2801		i2802	
								18 Dec 1580		11 Feb 1582		Thomas		William		Elizabeth	

- | | |
|----|---|
| 16 | married 23 October 1569 |
| 17 | married 3rd September 1570 |
| 18 | not married but had a son Thomas |
| 19 | The marriage of Audrey Hadlow and Henry Blackman was, however, recorded on 9th May 1618 and they had a daughter, Elizabeth . An Audrey Blackman married Walter Swan in July 1622 and this could have been Audrey Hadlow. |
| 20 | probably died before the birth of i293 |

1 In the name of god Amen. I, Wm. Hadlow of Ightham in the county of Kent
2 .
3 in reasonable good health of body and perfect memory but being an old
4 man and not knowing (how soon god)²¹
5 (may) take me out of this world have thought good to ?? this my last will
6 and testament (in manner and)
7 form following: **First:** I bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty god,
8 assuredly believing (to be made his)
9 partaker of his everlasting kingdom through the merits of Jesus Christ, my
10 only saviour and redeemer and my body (I commend)
11 to the earth to be buried at the discretion of mine executors. I give and
12 bequeath unto **John Hadlow** . .
13 . . tenement . . now dwelleth in . . now occupied . .
14 . . two sendall pieces of land containing, by estimation, ?? acres more or
15 less . .
16 adjoining . .

21 this beginning is so similar to that of his widow Joane that the end of these lines can be "guessed" by comparing the two wills

10 I give and bequeath unto **my two daughters, Eliz. Hadlow and Anne**
11 **Hadlow**, three pounds a piece of ?? English
12 money to be paid . . . by my said ?? John Hadlow within one whole year
13 after the decease of me
14 Wm. Hadlow and **Joane, my wife**, and if either of my said daughters shall
15 happen to be unpaid . .
16 after the time . . it shalbe lawful if either of my said daughters, Eliz. and
17 Anne to . .
18 . . of **my son, John Hadlow**, or any parcel thereof . . or carry away . .
19 . . until they be fully satisfied and paid according to the ?? of this my will
20 and testament. **Item:** I will
21 and bequeath unto **Tho. ??, son of my daughter Eliz. Hadlow**, twenty
22 shillings of good and lawful money of England
23 to be paid by my son John Hadlow within one whole year after my decease
24 . . Joane, my wife . .
25 . . twenty shillings or any parcel thereof to be unpaid at the time appointed,
26 then it shalbe lawful . .
27 . . upon any part or parcel of the messuage ?? John Hadlow ?? distrain,
28 take, drive or carry away . .
29 any such goods as shalbe thereon found until the said twenty shillings
30 shalbe fully accounted and paid according to this my will . .
31 **Item:** I give **Wm. Hadlow, my son**, my mansion house wherein I now dwell
withall and singular the appurtenances

22 thereunto belonging ?? withall such parcels of land as are unbequeathed
to John Hadlow above ?? by me already
23 bounded out with the orchards, gardens and other ?? as by me now
occupied. **Item:** I will and bequeath to my
24 **daughters Audrey Hadlow and Margaret Hadlow** three pounds a piece to
be severally paid to them or their lawful
25 assigns, heirs or executors or any of them by my son Wm. Hadlow aforesaid
within the space of one whole
26 year after the decease of me, the said Wm. Hadlow and Joane, my wife. . .

if unpaid, as above

- **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my two grandchildren, Tho. Hadlow and Wm. Hadlow**, the sons of Tho.
- Hadlow, my son, the sum of four pounds a piece of lawful money of England and I give to **Elizabeth**
- **Hadlow, the daughter of my son Tho. Hadlow, deceased**, the sum of forty shillings of good and lawful money
- of England to be paid to ?? Tho. and Wm. and Eliz. or their heirs, executors, assigns, . . . or any of them
- within the time above limited viz. within one whole year after my decease and of Joan, my wife . .

if unpaid, as above

- and if it should happen
- that my son Wm. Hadlow should die without heirs of his body lawfully begotten, then I will and
- bequeath this my message withall the profits, emoluments, orchards, gardens and land unbequeathed to John Hadlow and
- to my two grandchildren Tho. Hadlow and Wm. Hadlow after the decease of my son Wm. Hadlow, my son
- and Eliz. his wife, otherwise to remain to my son Wm. Hadlow and the heirs of his
- body lawfully begotten. And my will and meaning is if my three grandchildren, Tho. Wm. and Eliz.
- shall not be paid their several legacies until they attain their age of twenty and one and if it shall happen
- that myself and Joan, my wife, should depart this life before they attain their several years of one and
- twenty. And I further give and bequeath to my daughter, Eliz. Hadlow, her dwelling in the outset?
- where she now abides during her life if so long she continues unmarried, paying yearly twelve pence
- to Wm., my son. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto Joan, my wife, all my moveable goods, chattels,

- whatsoever, my debts paid, my funeral expenses discharged and my will paid and whom I make and
- ordain sole executrix of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have set
- my hand and seal this the five and twentieth day of June, Anno. die. 1627
Sealed and delivered in
the presence of us
John Grimes²²
the mark of
Richard R Showbridge
the mark of
John T Taylor

²² possibly the man who wrote the will

1 In the name of god Amen. I, Joane Hadlow of Ightham in the county of
2 Kent, widow, being in good health of body and perfect memory but being
3 an old woman and not knowing how soon god may take me out of this
4 life, therefore I have thought good to make and ordain this my last will and
5 testament in manner and form following: **First:** I bequeath my soul into
6 the hands of Almighty god, assuredly believing to be made his partaker of
his ever
7 lasting kingdom through the merits of Jesus Christ, my only saviour and
redeem
8 er and I commend my body to be buried at the discretion of
9 my executors. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my four daughters,**
Elizabeth,
10 **Ann, Margaret and Audrey,** all the goods in my chamber where I lie as it is
11 furnished, not to be diminished by any person or persons until such time as
they all come
12 together. Furthermore my will and testament is that my daughters shall
have
13 all my brass and pewter with three iron pots and one brass pot, two frying
pans

14 with the bed and bedstead as it standeth in the chamber over the chamber
where I lie.

15 **Item:** I give to every one of my grandchildren twelve pence a piece. **Item:** I
give to my four

16 daughters my cow, paying my **two sons John Hadlow and William** five
shillings a piece

17 and I make my four daughters my sole and whole executors of this my last
will

18 and testament. The rest of my moveables, goods unbequeathed to be
divided between

19 my sons and daughters and if any of my daughters shall happen to die that
then my will

20 is that their part shall remain to their heirs, executors, administrators or
assigns

21 begotten of their bodies. Dated the ninth day May. Anno. Domi. 1631
Sealed and in the²³
presence of us
John Jeffer

23 no word between "and" and "in"

the mark of **R** Richard Showbridge

The mark of Joane
Hadlow

*The Other **Hadlows** of Ightham*

Other Ightham Hadlows are known from the parish records.

The children of William Hadlow

Joane Hadlow baptised on 5th June 1581; probably i284's daughter, see page h.27; aged 19 in 1601, could be the Joane who married William Durrant on 20th April 1601; **William Durrant, borsholder**, was mentioned in the Court Records for 1586-1618.

Two other children "[of William Hadlow](#)" were recorded between 1579 and 1598:
Christan Hadlow buried on 23rd December 1579.

Robert Hadlow baptised on 1th July 1598

Walter Hadlow's Family

The Walter Hadlow mentioned in the Court Records for 1586-1618 could have been the father of the children below.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Di ed
i 307	<u>HADLOW, Walter</u> -----	<1563			1 4	18 Feb 1625 in his 60s
I i 309	<u>Hadlow, Alice</u>	15 Dec 1583	28 Jul 1605	James MOTKYN ²⁴ i 339	1 0	
I i 310	<u>Hadlow, Jane</u>	7 Nov 1585	21 Apr 1611	Adam DEANE ²⁵ i 340	1 0	
I i 311	<u>HADLOW, Simon</u>	21 Feb 1591			i 340 0 0	
I i 325	<u>HADLOW, William</u>	4 Feb 1599			0 0	

24 if it was this Alice who became Motkyn's wife, she married at 21 but it could possibly have been the Alice (i313), daughter of John Hadlow (i312), who was baptised on 8th August 1585.

25 if it was this Jane who was the wife of **Adam Deane**, she married at 25 but it could have been i304 - see page h.8

John Hadlow's Wife and Children

On 7th October 1612, the Court found that "the wife of **John Hadlow of Tebbes** had committed a trespass on the lord of the manor by beating down mast of trees growing on the common of the lord." John Hadlow was fined 12d. (CRI 1937, p.209) Tebbes was a farm lying east of the road from Ightham village to Ivy Hatch (CRI 1938, p.81)

Four years later a number of people, including the **wife of John Hadlow**, were found to "have often and separately trespassed on the lord of this manor by beating down mast of trees growing on the common of the lord, they not being tenants of the manor. Fined 5s each." (CRI 1937, p.209)

A John Hadlow, who was probably the John buried on 2nd June 1636, had children between 1605 and 1611:

i332	Anne Hadlow	baptised 24 Mar 1605
i333	John Hadlow	15 May 1608
i334	Susanne Hadlow	8 Sep 1611

This could have been John, the son of William and Joane born in 1580 (i293 - see page h.28) but neither William nor Joane mention any children of their son John.

Three Baptisms

The entries for the following two baptisms are two separate entries with nothing to indicate that they are twins although they are recorded for the same date. Both are sons of "Hadlow" but without first names for the father(s).

i314	Nicholas Hadlow	baptised 17 Jan 1590	
i317	Reginald Hadlow	17 Jan 1590	buried 29 Jan 1590

No father was given either for another Reginald (i330) baptised on 17th January 1602.

If i314 and i317 were twins, all three could be "fitted in" to Walter's family on page h.37.

Six Burials

Six burials, including those of three widows, were recorded; these cannot be "tied up" with the other details given.

i282	William Hadlow	buried 29 Nov 1590
i349	Nicholas Hadlow	1 Jan 1592
i348	Alice Hadlow, widow	5 Oct 1593

i350	Margaret Hadlow, senior	1 Dec 1595
i351	Margaret Hadlow	29 Nov 1595

These two women died practically at the same time. It is unusual to denote a woman as "senior" - was i351 the daughter of i350?

i352	Jane Hadlow, widow	19 Jun 1625
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The Hadlows of Seal

Four wills have survived for Hadlows in Seal:

		Drb/Pw	Drb/Pwr	
Thomas Hadlow	4 Aug 1527	CKS: 2;	8.208	page h.44
Henry Hadlow	3 Jun 1548	CKS: 3;	11.225	page h.47
William Hadlow	26 Jun 1587	CKS: 15;	17.282	page h.51
John Hadlow	18 Dec 1588	CKS: 15;	17.361	page h.53

There is very little information to be gained about this family from the parish records - only three burials were recorded:

- **Johane, "wife of old Hadlow" on 20th December 1575.**
- William, above, who was buried on the same day his will was written
- John, above, who was buried on 4th March 1589.

From their wills, John was William's son but William's children could have been born before records started (as obviously applies to the children mentioned in the earlier wills).

There were also Hadlows in Shipbourne and Ightham but there are no obvious connections between them.

The testator of the 1527 will was "Thomas Hadlow, the elder" but there was no mention of a son Thomas to be "Thomas, the younger". The testator's son William was only mentioned as owing his father some money; had Thomas and William already been provided for? The main beneficiary was Sylvester Hadlow but there is no indication as to the relationship between her and the testator.

#4483 ²⁶	Thomas Hadlow -	#4484	Jude Hadlow -
	the elder		
will:	4 Aug 1527		

	#4487		#4489 #4490
Thomas	William	Sylvester	Alice
the younger ??		born >1508	born >1509

The relationships in Henry's will are very difficult to sort out and it is not thought worthwhile trying to represent these with a tree.

26 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

and two neices whose names he did not give. William could have been the testator of 1587 when these children were adults; Thomas died in 1562.

	#289 ²⁶	Johane Patri che - William	#288						
wil l:		23 Jun 1587							
bur:		26 Jun 1587							

	#2707	#1016		#1063	#4259		#290		#4260 #4262
	Cuthbert Echyes - Agnes/Anne - William Sexton			John			Thomas		William Margaret
mar:	30 Jan 1580	28 Oct 1583							
wil l:					18 Dec 1588				
bur:	22 Apr 1582				4 Mar 1589		23 Jan 1562		

William Sexton came from Knockholt and his wife was the sister of the John Hadlow whose will was written in 1588. John gave her name as "Anne" and he left her "[the occupation of his house and lands in Seal](#)" for the rest of her natural life providing that she and her husband paid 13s 4d rent per year to brother William. On 23rd July 1590 Ann Sex., widow, whose name was partially erased from the register, married Arnold Sexton of Knockholt (#1525); perhaps William Sexton died and Agnes married another member of the Knockholt family.

26 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

1 In the name of god Amen. The 4th day of August
2 in the year of our lord god 1527,
3 I, Thomas Hadlow, of **Seal**, whole in mind make
4 my testament and last will in manner and form following:
5 **First:** I bequeath my soul to god almighty, my
6 body to be buried in the churchyard of Seal.
7 **Item:** I bequeath to the high altar for my tithes forgotten 8d.
8 Also I bequeath a lb²⁷ of wax to be
9 thereof a taper perpetually every and year to be
10 made and to burn in the rood loft before the rood. And the
11 said taper every year to be new made against
12 the eve of the nativity of our lord. And the
13 same taper to be kept at the costs and charges
14 of them which shall inherit and occupy a
15 piece of lands of 3 acres called the **Bynefold**²⁸

27 li - £1; does this mean a pound in weight of wax?

28 see lines 52 and 60 below - it is only on line 60 that the letters preceding "fold" can be deciphered; *Incumbents of Kemsing with Seal, A.C. Vol.20, p.265*, however, gives the name of the land as "barneffelde"

16 And for lack that and if it fortune that the
17 said taper be not every year new made that
18 then I will the church wardens of Seal
19 shall stress and strain for the said sum of
20 money for the said taper. Also I bequeath to
21 **Sylvester Hadlow, the daughter of Jude Hadlow,**
22 a mattress stuffed with wool, 2 pairs of canvas
23 sheets, 2 shrede? cloths, a new blanket, 3
24
25 sheets of sale? cloth and a pair of bedes, the
26 . of . . to be delivered for the use of the
27 said Sylvester straight after my decease. And
28 so to be kept unto the time that she be
29 marriageable. Also I bequeath to the said
30 Sylvester a chest of 2 . . And if it happen the
31 said Sylvester to fail before that she be
32 marriable, then I will that **Alice, the sister of**
33 **the forsaid Sylvester** and the daughter of the
34 forsaid Jude shall have all the moveables afore
35 bequeathed unto her use. Also I bequeath to
36 **Alice Hadlow,** the daughter of Jude Hadlow, 13s 4d
37 the which **William Hadlow, my son,** oweth
38 unto me, unto her marriage or else 2 bullocks . .

39 13s 4d. And if it happen the said Alice to fail
40 then I will that Sylvester have the said 13s 4d. (The
41 residue) of all my goods and moveables, not
42 bequeathed, my debts and bequests paid, I give and bequeath unto
43 **Sylvester Hadlow** aforesaid. Whereunto I make
44 and ordain **Thomas Pynden** to be mine executor.

45 This is the last will of me, the foresaid **Thomas**
46 **Hadlow, the elder**, made the day and year above
47 said. **First:** I will that **Sylvester Hadlow** abovesaid
48 have all my land and tenements in the parish of Seal
49 unto her, and the heirs of her body lawfully begotten.
50 And my house that I bought of **John Curde** with
51 the land paied thereto and the 3 acre land called
52 **Bynefold** I will shall remain unto the said
53 Sylvester and the heirs of her body lawfully
54 begotten. And if it happen (the said) Sylvester
55 to fail without issue of her body lawfully
56 begotten, then I will that **Alice Hadlow**, aforesaid, have
57 the said tenements and land unto her and to the
58 heirs of her body lawfully begotten. Also I will
59 that Alice Hadlow have the profit of half
60 the foresaid 3 acres of land called **Bynefold**

61 unto the time that she come to the age
62 of 21 years and then to remain to
63 the foresaid Sylvester wholly as is above said.

The Will of Henry Hadlow of Seal

written 3rd June 1548

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. In the year
2 of our lord 1548, the 3rd day of June, I, **Henry**
3 **Hadlow**, whole of mind and of good remembrance make
4 this my present testament and last will in manner and form
5 following: **First:** I bequeath my soul to Almighty god,
6 my maker and Redeemer and my body to be buried in the
7 churchyard of **Seal**. **Item:** I bequeath to **my daughter,**
8 **Alice?** 40s to be fully paid to her within the term of
9 2 years after my decease and it to be paid out of my
10 moveables. Also I bequeath to be bestowed at my
11 burial to have 5 masses and beside the . . to have
12 5s? 4d to be distributed unto the poor people whereas
13 is most (needed) . . . I will also to be

14 bestowed at my month's mind 10s for masses and
15 for to be bestowed to the poor where as is most needed.
16 Also I bequeath to **Bess?, my son's daughter**, 2 pewter
17 dishes and 3 platters with a little brass pot. Also I
18 bequeath the residue of my goods and chattels to **Agnes**,
19 **my wife**, whom I make my sole executrix and to have
20 the profit of my land . . after my decease.
21 Also I will that Agnes, my wife, shall have my land
22 to farm before any other if she will. Also I will my wife,
23 or he that shall be farmer of my land, shall have
24 sufficient fire wood to be . . on my land. Also I will
25 that Agnes my wife shall have yearly, out of my
26 land 6s 8d to be paid the (rest) of her life
27 of the which 6s 8d she hath a deed that I made
28 her. Also I bequeath to **Henry, the son of my son**
29 **John**, my house and all my land to him and his
30 heirs for ever, paying to **my son Richard's son** 40s
31 but the said Henry shall not be bound to pay the 40s
32 till he have possessed my land the (time) of 3 years.
33 Also I will that the said Henry shall not possess the
34 land till he come to th'age of 24 years but if the

said Henry do challenge any debt of me which but the
(sum) of 18s, then he shall not possess my land
till he be 25 years of age if he do not challenge
the debt then he possess my land at 24 years of age. **Item:**
if Richard, my son's son do fail without issue, then I
will that 20s of the 40s remain to **my son Richard's**
eldest daughter. Also I bequeath to
Bess?, the daughter of **my son Richard**, 20s to be paid out of my land
at the day of her marriage. **Item:** If **Henry, the son of my son Thomas**
do fail without issue male, then I will
that **John, his brother**, have my land and
house. If that John do fail without issue male, then I will it
remain to **Richard, his brother**. And if the said
Richard do fail without issue male, then it shall remain
to **his brother Geoffrey**. And if all they fail, then I
will it to my said Richard's son. And if he fail
then I will that **John Chantsted** and **Richard Hadlow**
of **Gransryt?** to have my house and land. **Item:** I will
that Agnes, my wife have the occupancy of my house
and land till the time that the heirs come to age as is above specified
paying 6s 4d to the . . of this my will and
defend the cost and lying and to keep it

57 . . Also I make **William Christopher**³⁰ overseer of
58 this my last will and testament which I will shall have the
59 disposition of all the money that cometh of my land
60 till heirs come of age to be equally divided between
61 children of **Thomas, my son**. And I will the overseer
62 shall have for his pains 3s 4d to be paid out of the
63 land. The witnesses of this present will and
64 testament are following:

John Denman, vicar of Seal³¹

William Christopher

Thomas Lorke, John Denman, the son of William

Andrew Porter³², **William Tomlyn**

30 William Christopher of Seal (#257), had children in the 1530s-40s; died 1562

31 vicar at least from 1545 to 1548 and prebend of Rochester; he probably wrote this will

32 #303, of Hall

1 In the name of god Amen. the 23rd day of June in the year
2 of our Lord god 1587, I, **William Hadlow of Seal**, in the
3 County of Kent, **husbandman**, being sick in body but perfect
4 and whole mind and in good remembrance do make my last
5 will and testament in manner and form following: **First:** I
6 give and bequeath my soul to almighty god and my body
7 to be buried in the churchyard of Seal Also I give and bequeath
8 my house and all my lands with all and singular their appurtenances
9 unto **John Hadlow, my eldest son**. Also I will that
10 **Agnes, my daughter, and her husband** shall have the lower chamber in the
11 said house during the natural life of the said Agnes.
12 Also I will that my said son, John Hadlow, shall pay to my said
13 daughter 5s by the year during the natural life of
14 the said my daughter.
15 Also I will that my son, John Hadlow, shall pay to
16 **my son, William Hadlow**, 6s 8d a year during the natural
17 life of the said William and also he shall pay to my said son
18 William the sum of 40s of lawful money of England at
19 one whole and . . when he shall lawfully demand

20 it. **Item:** I will that William Hadlow, my son, shall have one
21 pair of sheets. **Item:** I bequest to **Margaret, my daughter**
22 6s 8d and one little kettle. Also I will and bequeath
23 to my daughter, Agnes, all my household stuff unbequeathed.
24 Also I will and bequeath to John Hadlow, my son,
25 all my goods and moveables except those excepted who
26 I make my sole executor of this my last will and
27 testament. And **William Porter of Seal**
28 and **John Porter of Chart**³³ my overseers of this my last will.
29 witnesses at the making and confirming of this last will and testament of
the said William Hadlow:

William Warren
Richard Warren³⁴

other names torn off

33 William Porter of Hall (#58) and John Porter (#305)

34 William was probably #546 but there were a number of Richard Warrens in Seal at this time

1 In the name of god Amen. I, **John Hadlow of Seal**,
2 in the County of Kent, **labourer**, being sick in body but
3 of perfect memory, I thank god, do make this my last
4 will and testament, this 18th day of December in the
5 31st year of the reign of our sovereign Lady queen
6 Elizabeth in manner and form following:

7 **First:** I bequeath my soul to Almighty god in hope to be
8 saved through the mercy of Jesus Christ, his son, my
9 Lord Saviour and redeemer, believing that, through his
10 cross, death and passion, my sins be forgiven.

11 **Item:** I will my body to be buried by my executor
12 hereunto appointed and overseers.

13 **Item:** concerning my house and land in Seal aforesaid, my will
14 is that **William Sexton and Anne his wife, my sister**, shall have
15 the occupation of my said house and lands in Seal aforesaid with the
16 appurtenances during the natural life of the said Anne
17 yielding and paying therefore yearly unto **my brother William Hadlow** 13s
18 4d at (two feasts)
of the year, that is to say 6s 8d at the feast of the

19 Annunciation of our lady and 6s 8d at the feast
20 of St. Michael th'archangel, . . the 6s 8d to him
21 bequeathed by my father and allowing to my said brother William
22 Hadlow one chamber in my said house with free egress and
23 regress to the said during the said term of my sister Anne's
24 life if he so long shall live and keep himself unmarried
25 . . is that the said William Sexton and Anne . .
26 . . keep all reparations . . ³⁵
27 £3 thereof to my brother, William Hadlow, 40s thereof
28 to my brother-in-law, William Sexton and 20s residue thereof
29 to my brother-in-law, **Cope?**, to be paid to them and to
30 any of them at the feast of St. John the Baptist which
31 shalbe in the year of our lord god one thousand, five
32 hundred and ninety-one. **Item:** I give the £4 that **Robert Chadyn?**
33 **of Ightham**³⁶ doth owe me unto **Richard Manson of Seal** in
34 satisfaction of £3 I owe unto him to be paid at our
35 Lady day next. **Item:** I make and ordain my brother-
36 in-law, William Sexton, my executor whom I require
37 to prove my will within one month next after my decease

35 will damaged

36 "Item" in will

38 and if he refuse so to do then my will is that he shall
39 take no benefit of anything by this will but my
40 brother William Hadlow to have all things to him bequeathed
41 and to be my executor in his place.

The mark of John Hadlow made in the presence of ? ? **John
Porter, William Sexton, William Hadlow, Richard Warren**³⁷

³⁷ see notes to witnesses of William Hadlow's will

The Hadlows of Shipbourne

Three wills have survived for Hadlows in Shipbourne:

John Hadlow	18 May 1576	CKS: Drb/Pw 12; Drb/Pwr 15.12	page h.57
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Richard Hadlow	1558	CKS:	Drb/Pwr 12.202
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Johan Hadlow	1559	CKS:	Drb/Pwr 12.246
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Only John's will has been transcribed; this is interesting in that the first part appears to be a normal will with the second page apparently nuncupative.

There are some entries for Hadlows in the parish register but none which correspond to the surviving wills. There were also Hadlows in Ightham and Seal but there seems no way of finding out how, if at all, the various Hadlows were connected.

The Hadlow entries in the Shipbourne parish registers are given in
More Families & Transcripts

1 In the name of god Amen. The 18th day of May in the year of our
2 lord god one thousand, five hundred, threescore and sixteen. I, John
3 Hadlow of Shipbourne in the county of Kent, **husbandman**,
4 being sick in body but yet of perfect and good remembrance,
5 thanks be unto god, therefore do ordain and make this my present
6 testament and last will in manner and form following: **First** and
7 principally, I commit and bequeath my soul unto Almighty
8 god, beseeching him that through the merit,
9 death and passion of Jesus Christ, his son, I may be the child
10 of salvation, my body to be buried by the discretion
11 of my executor and overseer. **Item:** I bequeath unto poor
12 people inhabiting within the parish of Shipbourne aforesaid 12d
13 to be distributed among them by my executor within three
14 months next after my decease. **Item:** I will and bequeath
15 unto **Thomas Hadlow, my eldest son**, and to his assigns, the
16 shop and loft chamber over the same, situated, standing and
17 being in my now dwelling house and the garden thereunto

18 adjoining with th'appurtenances, during his natural life.³⁸

- The effect of a testament of John Hadlow
- late of Shipbourne, deceased, made and
- declared the 18th day of May in the year
- of our lord god 1576 followeth, viz:

- He willed that Thomas, his son, should have three or four
- parcels of lease land of his, containing, by estimation, 7 acres, during
- all the term of years contained in his lease thereof made
- paying unto his wife yearly during all the years
- that are come of the said lease 10s. **Item:** He ordained and made **Johane,**
- **his wife,** his executrix. Witnesses hereof **Robert**
- **Thomas, gent., Thomas Dunke**

38 in the original, the rest of the first page is blank, the rest of the will, which is apparently a nuncupative continuation, is on a separate page. In the probate copy, the continuation follows on without a break.

1 In the name of god Amen. I,
2 **Thomas Hall**, of Seal in the County of Kent, **yeoman**,
3 being of good, sound and perfect memory, thanks be
4 to Almighty god, do make and ordain this my last
5 will and testament in manner and form following:
6 **First:** I commend my soul into the hands
7 of Almighty god, my maker, having . .
8 trusting the pardon and remission of all my sins
9 through and by the merits and . . . of Jesus
10 Christ, my redeemer and my body to the earth to
11 be buried at the discretion of mine executor
12 hereafter named. **Item:** I give and bequeath to
13 **Thomas Adgoe, my grandchild**³⁹, son of Thomas
14 Adgoe, the sum of ten pounds. **Item:** I give and
15 bequeath unto my daughter **Mary Christopher**,

39 Thomas Adgoe married Katherine Hall on 24th April 1638; their son Thomas was baptised 27 December 1639; Katherine had earlier had a base daughter baptised 8 June 1633 and buried five days later. Ralph was baptised a year before his grandfather was buried but practically a year after Thomas wrote his will; like two of his elder siblings, he might have died in infancy.

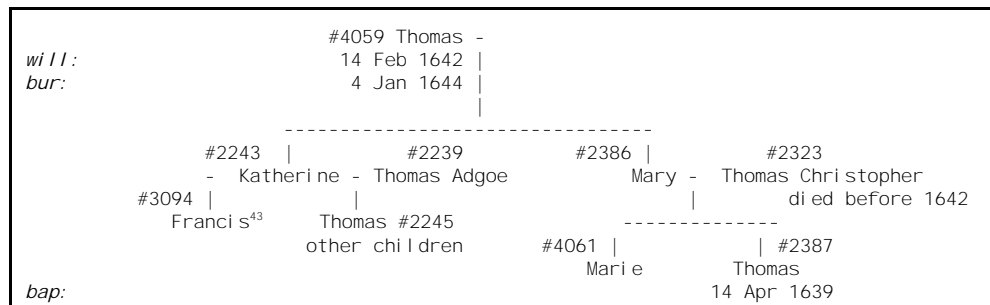
16 **the wife of Thomas Christopher, deceased⁴⁰**, the sum
17 of five pounds to be paid unto her within six months
18 next after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath
19 unto my said daughter, Mary Christopher, the sum
20 of twenty shillings a year to be paid unto her
21 or her assigns, during her life natural, at or on
22 the first day of January And the first day of August
23 by equal portions yearly. **Item:** I give and bequeath
24 unto **Marie Christopher, daughter of the said Thomas**
25 **Christopher, . . and Mary, my daughter**, the sum
26 of ten pounds of legal English money to be paid
27 unto the said Mary Christopher, her mother, to be use of
28 the said Marie Christopher, my grandchild, within
29 one year next after my decease. **Item:** I give and
30 bequeath unto the said Marie Christopher, my granddaughter,
31 one bedstead standing in the chamber over the gate?
32 at **Fuller Street** where I now live together with lying? and
33 one bolster, two pillows, three blankets and one
34 coverlet lying unto the said feather bed. **Item:**

I give and bequeath unto **Thomas Christopher⁴¹**,
son of the said Thomas Christopher, deceased, the
sum of twelve pounds to be paid unto his mother, the
aforesaid Mary Christopher, my daughter, to the
use of the said Thomas, her son, within one whole
year next after my decease. **Item:** I give and
bequeath unto my said daughter Mary, ??
pairs of fine holland sheets. The residue of
all my goods, chattels and . . . whatsoever,
my debts paid and funeral expenses discharged,
I give and bequeath unto **Thomas Adgoe, my**
son-in-law whom I make the executor of
this my last will and testament and I do
appoint and entreat **Richard Fletcher?** of
Wateringbury and **John Beckett of Sevenoaks**
to be overseers of this my last testament
and for their pains herein to be taken i do
give to either of them three shillings four pennies.
In witness whereof, I the said Thomas Hall
have hereunto set my hand and seal the
fourteenth day of February in the year of our

⁴¹ baptised 14th April 1639

56 Lord Christ one thousand, six hundred, forty
 57 one. Thomas Hall, his mark
 sealed in the presence of **William Moore**
Thomas Sandell⁴²

From the will and the parish records it is possible to build up the following family tree:



⁴² no William Moore recorded in the Seal registers. Thomas Sandhill/Sandell (#3373) had a number of children baptised in Seal in late 1620s/early 1630s; he wrote his will in 1632 but it was not proved until 1645 so it is possible he was a witness to this will (see *sandw.will*)

⁴³ "base daughter of Katherine Hall"; bvaptised 6th June 1633, buried 13th June

This will (CKS: Prs/w/8/85) is an example of a will proved in the Deanery of Shoreham but not from the Sevenoaks area. William Hall leaves to Elizabeth, his eldest daughter, part of his house: "the kitchen, cheese house, little parlour and loft over it, . . . and also the garden plot with free passage of ingress and egress . . . in, to and through the yard for the use of the well or any the premises."

After a number of legacies, including all the rest of his household stuff divided equally between his three daughters and his house, land, etc. to his son William, William Hall left all the rest of his goods and moveables to his wife, Helen, who was to be his executrix. She was also to be their son's guardian until he reached his majority, receiving the profits of her husband's lands during that time towards the charge of the children's maintenance. William requests that his wife, "for God's cause", takes on the care and tuition of the "children for their education in the fear of God and providing for them" by placing them out "for their future hopes and further preferment in the world".

The will could have been written by a professional scriptor, possibly Mr. Fitchett, one of the witnesses. The spelling "bee" and "mee" is used throughout. Some of the known scriptors, particularly Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who

wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618, used this form but it is otherwise not very common.

1 This is the last will and testament of me, William
2 Hall of Bexley in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, made
3 the eight and twentieth day of April in the year of
4 our Lord God 1642. **First:** I bequeath my
5 soul to God and my body to be buried in the church
6 yard of the said parish. And as touching my worldly
7 goods, I give and bequeath unto **Elizabeth Hall, my**
8 **daughter**, and to the heirs of her body lawfully
9 begotten, the kitchen, cheese house, little parlour and loft
10 over it, being parcel of the house in which **Rignall**
11 now dwelleth, and also the garden plot with free
12 passage of ingress and egress to the said Elizabeth,
13 or her heirs and assigns, in, to and through the yard
14 for the use of the well or any the premises. **Item:**
15 I give to **my son, William Hall**, all the rest of my
16 house, barn, stable, yard withall edifices thereon (except
17 before excepted) with all my lands where soever
18 lying and being. **Item:** my will is that William,
19 my son, shall pay unto **Helen, my loving wife**,

20 the sum of ten pounds, viz. five pounds when
21 he⁴⁴, the said William shall attain to
22 the age of one and twenty years and the other five pounds
23 to be paid when **Mary, my daughter**, shall attain
24 to the like age of one and twenty years. **Item:** I give
25 to my daughter, Mary Hall, the sum of fifteen
26 pounds of current English money to be paid unto
27 her, the said Mary, by my son William Hall,
28 when she shall attain to the age of one and twenty
29 years. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Sarah Hall,**
30 **my daughter**, the sum of twenty pounds of
31 current English money to be paid to her also by
32 by my son William aforesaid when she shall like
33 wise attain to the age of one and twenty years. **Item:**
34 my will is that, if the said Elizabeth shall die without
35 heirs of her body lawfully begotten, then that said
36 parcel of house with the appurtenances shall go and descend
37 to my son William only and his heirs. But my
38 mind is that, if either of my other two daughters, Mary
39 or Sarah, shall happen to die without heirs and
40 before they shall have attained to 21 years

41 of age, then the legacies of that party so dying
42 shall remain equally to and divided between my
43 son William and those his sisters that shall survive
44 when they have attained to the said age of 21
45 years. And further my mind is that if my son
46 William shall die without issue of his body lawfully
47 begotten, then that my daughters, Elizabeth, Mary
48 and Sarah, or their heirs then kiving, shall equally
49 divide the aforesaid house and lands with the appurtenances
50 before bequeathed unto him. **Item:** I give to Elizabeth,
51 my daughter, the bedstead in the little parlour, one
52 featherbed, one feather bolster, one pillow, two blankets
53 and a coverlet. And to Sarah, my daughter, I give
54 a bedstead, one ?? bed⁴⁵, one bolster and two blankets.
55 And to my son William I give the joined bedstead
56 in the great parlour, the table, the press and five
57 joined stools. And all the rest of my household
58 stuff to my three daughters equally to be divided
59 between them. **Item:** I give to the poor of the parish
60 of Bexley 5s. All the rest of my goods and moveables
61 whatsoever, my debts being paid and funeral dischar=

45 "??operbed"

62 = ged, I give and bequeath to my loving wife, Helen,
63 whom I make, constitute and ordain the sole and
64 whole executrix of this my last will and testament
65 requesting **my loving brother, Saxbyr, William**
66 **Forld, Richard Staple and John Moore** overseers to be
67 helpers to my executrix in the execution of this my
68 will further requesting my loving wife for
69 God's cause, to take the care and tuition of my children
70 for their education in the fear of God and providing
71 for them to place them out for their future hopes
72 and further preferment in the world. And further
73 to receive the profits of my said lands with the
74 guardianship of my son whilst he shall remain
75 in his minority towards the charge of their mainten=
76 nance.

Sealed signed and declared
in the presence of

Henry Goymys
Mr. Fitchett

William Hall

First: I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty god, my saviour and to Jesus Christ, my saviour? and redeemer and to the holy ghost, my comforter, hoping (to be?) with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. And my body to be buried in the church of Luddesdown, aforesaid at the chancel end of the same church near to the place where Henry Tayler lieth.

One of the witnesses to this will (CKS: Drb/Pw 23; Drb/Pwr 20.543) was Robert Hooper, one of the members of the Hooper family which wrote a large number of wills from the 1560s until after 1650 when this study ends. Robert himself wrote a number of wills between 1612 and 1623 but the will which has survived is a copy by **Jacob Tayler** made in March 1614/5. The right hand side has deteriorated so that the probate copy has been used to fill in missing words.

- 1 To all christian people to whom this present writing shall come, I, Austin Harman
- 2 of the parish of Hadlow in the county of Kent, **husbandman**, send greeting our
- 3 Lord god everlasting whereas I, the said Austin Harman, being aged, sickly and not able
- 4 to traffic and trade in this troublesome world as heretofore I have done and in
- 5 consideration that **Thomas Harman, my loving and natural son**, shall keep and maintain

6 me⁴⁶, the said Austin and **Isabell, now my wife**, during our natural lives,
and
7 my debts and other considerations me specially moving have given,
granted, delivered and
8 confirmed and by the present deed do give, grant, deliver and confirm unto
9 the said Thomas Harman, my son, all and every my corn, cattell, brass,
10 pewter, debts, household stuff and all other my moveable goods
whatsoever and
11 wheresoever they, or any of them, are, shall or may be found, to have and
to hold
12 the same and every part and parcel of them (by and under the condition
abovesaid)
13 unto the said Thomas Harman, my son, his heirs and assigns, as his and
their
14 own proper goods forever. And I, the said Austin Harman, have put the
said
15 Thomas Harman, my son, in possession of the above mentioned goods and
premises
16 by the delivery of a piece of pewter at the ensealing of these present and
delivery

46 "mee"

17 of the same. In witness whereof, to this my present deed, I, the said Austin
Harman,
18 have set my hand and seal dated the twentieth day of January in the
twelfth year
19 of the reign of our sovereign Lord James, the grace of god, King of England,
France
20 and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. And of Scotland the eight and
fortieth.

The mark of Austin Harman

Read, sealed and declared and a piece
of pewter delivered according to
the tenor above written in the presence of

Nicholas Collin

Robert Balden

Nicholas Clagatt, sen. and

Robert Hooper

*The **Harmans** of Seal and Kemsing*

There were a number of Harmans recorded in the parish registers of Seal from the time when they began until 1650 when this study ends.

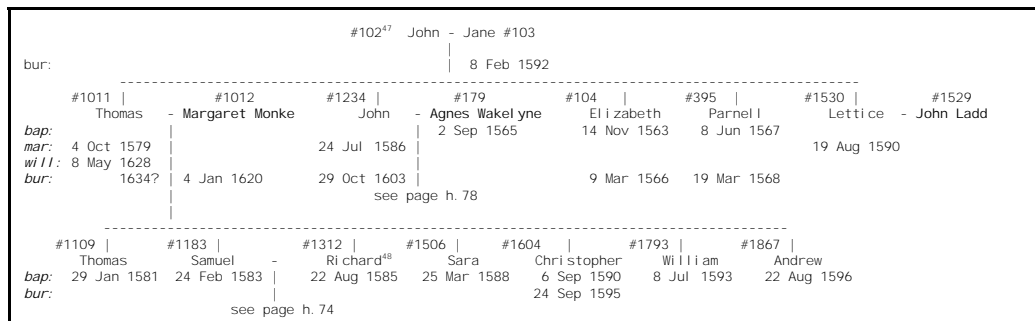
On 21st June 1562, **Sylvester Harman** married **William Coxe of Eltham**. She was born too early to be a daughter of the John whose family is given below but she could have been his sister.

*The **Family of John Harman***

A **John Harman** (#102) had two children baptised in Seal in the 1560s but neither survived childhood. However, the **Thomas Harman**, a carpenter, who married in 1579 and whose will has survived and the **John Harman** who married in 1586 could have been his sons, born before the register of baptisms was started.

Lettice Harman married **John Ladd** on 19th August 1590; she could have been one of #102's younger children, born either between Elizabeth and Parnell or after 1567 (see next page).

Assuming this assumption is correct, the following tree can be assembled:



A Thomas Harman married Mercy Hills (#1736) on 21st August 1620 when #1109 would have been thirty-nine. Mercy, widow of Thomas Harman, was buried on 8th August 1637; no children were recorded.

A William Harman married **Elizabeth Booth** (#2798) on 17th April 1635 when #1793 would have been forty-one; they had a son baptised **Samuel** (#2799) on

⁴⁷ # indicates reference in Seal database

⁴⁸ Thomas does not mention either Richard or Sara in his will; perhaps they died before 1628

19th July, only three months after the marriage. Elizabeth was buried on 5th September 1637, perhaps as a result of another pregnancy.

	#1735		#1183		#2800
	Ann Smit h -		Samuel -		Joane
<i>bap:</i>		24	Feb 1583		
<i>mar:</i>	24 Sep 1620				
<i>bur:</i>	30 Aug 1626				4 May 1647

	#2801		#2802		#2803
	Thomas		Susanna		Samuel
<i>bap:</i>	20 Sep 1636		8 Sep 1639		24 Apr 1642

Assuming that the recorded marriages of Thomas, William and Samuel refer to #1011's children, it seems that three of his sons married at a much later age than was usual - Thomas at thirty-nine, Samuel at thirty-seven and William at forty-one. No children were recorded for Thomas or Samuel's first marriage but Samuel married again and had three children when he would have been in his fifties. Nothing is known of Andrew, the other son Thomas mentions in his will.

Throughout the will the name is written “Harmaine”.

- 1 In the name of god Amen. In the year of our lord god 1628,
2 the 8th day of May, I, **Thomas Harmaine**, of the parish of
3 Seal in the County of Kent, **carpenter**, being of good and perfect
4 memory, thanks be given unto God for it, do ordain and make
5 this my last will and testament in manner and form hereafter
6 following:
7 **First:** I give and bequeath my soul into the hands of the Almighty
8 god trusting to be saved by the merits and death of Christ Jesus,
9 my merciful saviour and Redeemer.
10 And my body to be committed to the earth there to rest until the
11 general Resurrection at which time I do steadfastly believe
12 that the Almighty god, by the power of his spirit, will raise
13 it up again to Immortality to live with him for ever.
14 The portion of land the which god hath lent me by his mercy
15 and goodness in this world, I will that it shalbe bestowed as
16 hereafter followeth.
17 **Imprimis:** I give and bequeath unto **Thomas Harmaine**, my eldest

18 **son**, four pounds of good and lawful money of England
19 to be paid within one year next after my decease.

20 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Andrew Harmaine, my son**,
21 four pounds of good and lawful money of England to be paid
22 within one year next after my decease.

23 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **William Harmaine, my son**,
24 ten pounds of good and lawful money of England to be paid
25 within one year next after my decease.

26 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Samuel Harmaine, my son**⁴⁹,
27 one tenement with garden plot and a barn and one
28 acre and a half of land, be it more or less, situated,
29 standing, lying and being at **Blackhall** in the parish of
30 **Sevenoaks** in the County of Kent, to him and to his heirs
31 for ever. Whom I do make my sole executor of this
32 my last will and testament.

33 In witness hereof I, the above named Thomas Harmaine
34 have hereunto this my last will and testament, revoking
35 all other wills which heretofore I have made, set my hand
36 and seal the day and year first above written.

⁴⁹ after Thomas, the eldest son, baptised January 1581, the other sons are mentioned with Andrew, baptised August 1596, the youngest first, then William, baptised July 1593 and lastly Samuel, baptised February 1583. Richard, baptised August 1585, presumably did not survive; Christopher, baptised September 1590, died when he was five.

37 in the presence of **Thomas Dixon**⁵⁰ the mark of
the mark of **William Frenche**⁵¹, blacksmith
John Brooker⁵² **Thomas Harmaine**

50 Thomas Dixon may have been the writer of this will

51 #1263, born in 1584, had children in the 1610s/1620s; #1833 was born in 1594 with children in the 1620s but there is nothing to say which was the blacksmith (even if it was one of these two).

52 #3675 had two children baptised in Seal in 1626 and 1628

The Plague Strikes

The John Harman buried in 1603 who died from the plague is likely to have been #1234, the son of #102, who married Agnes Wakelyne and had five children, three of whom also died of the plague at the same time as their father.

	#1234 John		-	Agnes Wakel yne		#179
bap:				2 Sep	1565	
mar:	24 Jul	1586				
bur:	29 Oct	1603				

	#1575	#1774		#1871	#2795	#2796
	Katherine	John		Dorothy	Thomas	Ri chard
bap:	18 May 1589	22 Oct 1592		3 Oct 1596	13 Apr 1600	17 Oct 1602
bur:	29 Oct 1603	18 Nov 1603			11 Oct 1603	
aged:	14 years	11 years			3½ years	

The Family of Robert Harman

There was also a Robert Harman who had a child buried in 1564 and four baptised between 1573 and 1581; he could have been a brother of John (#102).

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#566	<u>HARMAN, Robert</u>				1	5	
!	#568 <u>Harman, Elizabeth</u>			child of a first marriage?	0	0	15 Mar 1564
!	#752 <u>HARMAN, William</u>	21 Jan 1573			0	0	
!	#811 <u>HARMAN, Robert</u>	4 Sep 1575			0	0	
!	#881 <u>HARMAN, John</u>	3 Aug 1578			0	0	
!	#1135 <u>HARMAN, Richard</u>	3 Dec 1581			0	0	

The Harmans of Kemsing

On 2nd June 1634, a **John Harman** married **Ann Pratt** in **Kemsing** and they had a son, **Walter**, baptised on 19th April 1635, also in Kemsing. Ann, the "**Goodwife of John Harman**" was buried in Seal 1649/50; she could have been Ann Pratt.

Whether or not Ann's husband was a Seal Harman is not known; there is not an obvious John Harman who could have married in 1634. It looks, however, as if when Ann married she came to live in Seal but returned "home" for the birth of her first child.

This will was probably written by John Hooper, the parish clerk of Tonbridge, who was one of the witnesses but since the original cannot be found this assumption cannot be checked.

I, William Harris, of Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **tailor**, . . . in manner and form following: **First** and principally, yielding my soul to Almighty god, my maker, with an assured hope of salvation, remission and forgiveness of all my sins through his mercy in the merit and mediation of Jesus Christ, his dear son, my saviour and redeemer, and my body to the earth with the assurance and hope of resurrection into eternal life.

20s to be distribued among the poor at the burial; will 2 pages

In witness whereof I have to this my present testament and last will set my hand and seal even the the day and year first above written. **William Harris**.
Sealed, published and declared in the presence of **Jeremy Boys, Jeames Earle, John Hooper, notary publique**.

I bequeath my soul to Almighty god, my maker, and my body to be buried in the churchyard.

The Harts of Tonbridge

Four wills have survived for Hart (or Harte) of Tonbridge:

William Hart	1472	CKS: Drb/Pwr 4.150
Edward Hart	1548	CKS: Drb/Pwr 9.26
Edward Hart	1557	CKS: Drb/Pwr 12.105
William Harte	20 Oct 1601	CKS: Drb/Pw 18; Drb/Pwr 19L.178

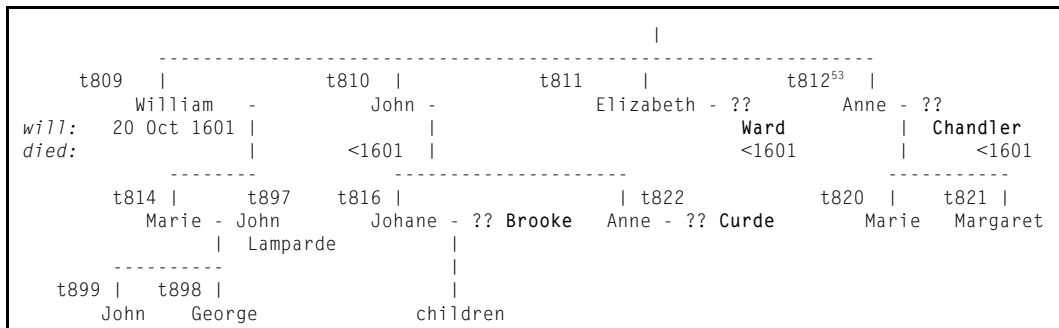
page h.84

Only the 1601 will has been investigated; this was written by either Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618 or his son John who also wrote a large number of wills. Neither the name of Nicholas Hooper nor that of John appear among the witnesses but the mark (or decoration) at the top of the will is very similar to those at the head of wills written by Nicholas as is also the decoration of the initial letter "I".

The writing throughout the will is also similar to that of "Nicholas Hooper wills" and it contains many of his usual phrases but "following" is spelled with two ls, Nicholas usually entering only one. John Hooper's writing is similar to his father's, there is a similar mark at the top of Robert Newman's will, written by John in

1603, and the will also contains terms such as "backside" and one occurrence of "discharge" is spelt with a "d", both more typical of John than Nicholas, so that, this will could have been written by either of them.

William was a member of a large family but only had one daughter, Marie, living when he died; Marie was married to John Lamparde whom William made his executor - see [John Lamparde of Barnestreete in Families & Transcripts](#) for details of how Marie might have "fitted into" the Lamparde family and the relationship between John Lamparde, the elder, and John Lamparde, the younger..



Nicholas? Hooper's
mark

1 **In the name of god Amen.** the Twentieth day of October
2 in the Three and fortieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady
3 Elizabeth, by the grace of god Queen of England, France and Ireland,
 defender
4 of the faith. I, William Harte, the elder, of **Brookestreet** within the parish of
5 Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being sick and aged and thereby
 put in mind
6 of my last end but yet of perfect mind and remembrance, thanks therefore
 be given
7 to the Almighty, do ordain and make this my present testament and last
 will in manner
8 and form following: And **First** and principally I give, commend and
 bequeath my
9 soul into the hands of Almighty god, my maker, And to Jesus Christ, his
 dear son, my

10 only Saviour and Redeemer and my body to the earth from which it came.
11 **Item:** I will there shalbe distributed at my burial amongst the poor people
12 of Tonbridge aforesaid, at the discretion of **my son-in-law, John Lamparde**
and
13 **John Stockwood, vicar of the parish of Tonbridge,** aforesaid, forty shillings
14 lawful money. **Item:** I give and bequeath to the children of **Johane Harte**
15 **wife of** ⁵³ **Brooke and daughter to one, John Harte, my brother deceased,**
16 Eight Pounds of good and lawful money of England, equally to be divided
between
17 them within one whole year next after my decease. **Item:** I give to **Anne**
Harte, (sister
18 **of the said Johane) wife of** **Curde** the sum of forty shillings. **Item:** I give
19 to **Elizabeth Ward, widow, and Anne Chandler, widow, my sisters,** to either
of them
20 20s a piece. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Thomas Harte and Elizabeth**
Harte, children
21 **of William Harte, butcher, 20s a piece. Item:** I give and bequeath to
Elizabeth, now
22 **wife of William Webb, 20s. Item:** I give and bequeath to the **wife of**
Frances Worster 20s.

53 blank and similarly on line 18

23 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Marie and Margaret, daughters of my sister**
Chandler,
24 to either of them 20s a piece. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Ruth Abraham,**
my servant, 10s.

25 The residue of all my goods and chattels, as well moveable as unmoveable,
my debts being paid
26 and funeral discharged⁵⁴, wholly, fully and with good effect, intent and
purpose, give and bequeath unto
27 my loving and natural **daughter Marie, now the wife of John Lamparde** and
unto the said
28 John Lamparde which John Lamparde I make my whole and full executor
to see my debts paid and my
29 legacies discharged within one whole year next after my decease and my
body honestly buried.

30 This is the last will and testament of me the said William Harte made and
declared
31 the day and year abovesaid touching the ordering and disposing of my
lands and tenements

54 "d" in original but not in line 29 below

32 hereafter presently mentioned, that is to say, **I will**, give and bequeath unto
the said Marie, my
33 daughter, wife of the said John Lamparde, All that my Messuage or
Tenement lying in Tonbridge
34 Town with the Edifices and backside thereto belonging, now in the
occupation of **Richard Harris, tailor**⁵⁵,
35 during the whole term of her natural life. And after the decease of the said
Marie, I will the said
36 Messuage or Tenement and backside with th'appurtenances unto **George
Lamparde**⁵⁶, **son of the said Marie**
37 and **John Lamparde**, To have and to hold to the said George, his heirs and
assigns for ever. In
38 witness whereof, to this my present last will, renouncing all former wills
whatsoever, I, the said William
39 Harte, the elder, have set my hand and seal, yeven⁵⁷ the day and year first
above written in the presence

55 the will of Richard Harris, tailor, written by John Hooper in February 1626/7, has survived

56 the will of John Lamparde of Hadlow, written by John Hooper in 1625, has survived. This John had a son George who, from the will, looks like the eldest son but, in at least in 1625 John's wife was Alice; she could, of course, have been his second wife.

57 given

of **John Lamparde**, the elder,
and **John Lamparde**, the younger⁵⁸
and **Edward Harris**

The mark of
Edward Harris

The mark of

William Harte

58 see lamtnh.will for details of Lampardes

The Hasdens/Haseldens of Seal, Kemsing and Ightham

The name Hasden appears in a number of forms: Hasenden, Haselden, Haisden, etc.

Three marriages took place in Seal with nothing else being known about the couples:

#1023	Thomas Haselden	14 Aug 1580	Margaret Emery	#1024 ⁵⁹
#1555	Helen Haselden	5 May 1591	Richard Weekes	#1554
	by a Licence from the Faculties			
#1674	Avis Haselden	11 Jun 1594	Nicholas Hemmings	#1673
	by a Licence from Dr. Lewen out of the Faculties			

⁵⁹ # indicates a reference in the Seal database, "k" in the Kemsing database and "i" in the Ightham database

The Family of William and Sylvester of Kemsing

Sylvester Olyver (#367, k157), the wife of William Haselden came from the large Seal family of Olyvers - see [Olyver](#). They married in Seal where their first child, Margaret, was baptised. William was probably the William Haselden who witnessed the will of Sylvester Miller (k485) with his wife being the Sylvester Haselden who was left some items in that will - see [Miller](#)

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Di ed
k156	<u>HASELDEN, William</u> -----		22 Nov 1573(S)	Syl vester Olyver k157	1 6	
I k645	<u>Hasel den, Margaret</u>	10 Nov 1574(S)			0 0	
I k158	<u>Hasel den, Sylvester</u>	23 Oct 1576	2 Dec 1604 married at 28	Thomas LAWRENCE k163 - see Lawrence	1 5	
I k159	<u>Hasel den, Margaret</u>	17 May 1582			0 0	
I k160	<u>Hasel den, Mary</u>	8 May 1585			0 0	
I k161	<u>Hasel den, Eli zabeth</u>	4 Apr 1588			0 0	
I k162	<u>Hasel den, Dorothy</u>	5 Apr 1592			0 0	25 Nov 1593 at 19 mnths

The Family of John Haselden of Seal

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
#2808	<u>HASELDEN, John</u> ----- 	<1583	<1604	Clemence Haselden(m)	1 5	
#2809	<u>Haselden(m), Clemence</u> -----	<1583			1 5	17 Feb 1641
!	#2810 <u>Haselden, Elizabeth</u>	5 Feb 1604			0 0	
!	#2811 <u>Haselden, Clemence</u>	11 Aug 1605			0 0	
!	#2812 <u>HASELDEN, John</u>	29 Nov 1607	13 Apr 1629 married at 21	Ann Beale #2815	1 9	
!	! #2816 <u>Haselden, Clemence</u>	14 Feb 1630			0 0	
!	! #2817 <u>Haselden, Awdrie</u>	29 Dec 1631			0 0	
!	! #2818 <u>HASELDEN, Thomas</u>	16 Dec 1633			0 0	18 Dec 1633 < 1 wk
!	! #2819 <u>HASELDEN, Edward</u>	7 Dec 1634			0 0	
!	! #2820 <u>HASELDEN, Elizabeth</u>	19 Mar 1637			0 0	
!	! #2821 <u>HASELDEN, William</u>	1 Sep 1639			0 0	
!	! #2822 <u>Haselden, Anne</u>	20 Mar 1642			0 0	
!	! #2823 <u>Haselden, Mary</u>	18 Apr 1645			0 0	
!	! #2824 <u>HASELDEN, John</u>	6 Jul 1651			0 0	
!	#2813 <u>HASELDEN, Richard</u>	1 Apr 1610			0 0	
!	#2814 <u>HASELDEN, William</u>	19 Mar 1615			0 0	

John Haselden of Seal was a yeoman in 1606 when he appeared as surety for Richard Rolfe of Seal - see **Rolfe**. He must have died before 1641, at about 60, if the "**Clemence Haselden, widow**" who died Feb 1641, was his wife; this seems most likely since #2808 had a daughter and granddaughter called Clemence. The John who married in 1629 was listed in the Knole MS of 1648 for Chart - see **Section Z in Families & Transcripts**.

The Ightham Hasdens

A number of Hasdens/Hasendens appear in the Court Records of Ightham but not in the Ightham Parish Records. A **Thomas Haselden** was mentioned between 1553 and 1574 and **John Hasden, Solomon Hasden and William Hasden** were mentioned in the Court Records for 1586-1618. **Robert Polhill (#1441)** sat on the grand jury at the July 1595 Assizes.

At the July 1598 Assizes **John Hasden**, of Ightham, **carpenter**, was indicted for grand larceny. On 20th June 1598 at Maidstone he stole 8 lambs (£1) from Stephen Mosse of Maidstone, husbandman. He confessed and was allowed clergy.¹

Solomon Hasden, labourer

At Maidstone Assizes, on 1 July 1591, **Zachary Loder of Chelsfield and Solomon Hasden** of Seal, labourer, were indicted for grand larceny. On 10 May 1591, at Chelsfield, they stole a cow and a calf (50s) from **John Pratt**; they confessed and were allowed clergy.

Four years later Solomon Hasden, by that time given as a labourer of Ightham, was in trouble again. At the Maidstone Assizes on 14 July 1595, **Joseph Fitz Jeffrey, gent.** and **Jasper Johnson** who had been remanded in custody were indicted for burglary together with Hasden, **Robert Roke, George Isley, shoemaker and William Wood, labourer of Newnham.** On 6 Mar 1595, they burgled the house of **Henry Reynolds, gent, at Hadlow** and stole a velvet cap (3s), a shirt (4s) and £100 in money belonging to Henry Reynolds and a silver spoon (6s), a cloak (30s), a dagger (4s), a shirt (5s), a towel (20d), a pair of shoes (15d) and £12 18s 4d in money belonging to **Thomas Reynolds.** **John Flud of Lenham,** currier, was indicted as an accessory. Fitz Jeffries and Johnson confessed and were allowed clergy. Flud was found guilty and the others were at large.²

Reginald Hasden of Ightham

There was also a **Reginald Hasenden/Hasden/Haisden** of Ightham whose will written 19th August 1638 (CKS: Prs/w/8/69) has survived page h.96

He (or possibly a number of different Reginald Hasdens) appears a number of times in the Court Records but not in the Parish Records:

- On 8th May 1598, "**Reginald Haseden, William Warren and John Warren**, tenants of this manor, allow their cattle to go and feed on the common after 1 May last, wherefore each of them has incurred a penalty to the lord, according to the tenor of a certain order." (CRI 1937, p.209)
- Reginald Haseden was presented to the Court held on 4th October 1605 for receiving a "**stranger**" - **Elizabeth Styles** and, if she stayed without sureties being found, he was to be fined "**as provided in ths statute**" (CRI 1938, p.18) In 1590, an Elizabeth Styles was one of the servants of William Pynden of Seal - see **Pynden**.
- On 11th December 1611, Reginald Hasenden was fined 12d for cutting down "**two birches lately growing in the lord's wood on the common of Ightham**". (CRI 1937, p.208)

- On 16th October 1616, a number of people, including **Reginald Hasden**, were found to "have often and separately trespassed on the lord of this manor by beating down mast of trees growing on the common of the lord, they not being tenants of the manor. Fined 5s each." (CRI 1937, p.209)
- At this same Court, on 16th October 1616, **Reginald Hasden** featured in two cases of assault. He was fined 12d for having assaulted **Robert Kips** about the previous 30th November. In addition, he had been assaulted by **Thomas Richardson (i1967)** who "about Christmas last struck him with a stick of no value, drawing blood. Fined 3s 4d." (CRI 1938, p.8) Almost a year seems a long time between the assaults and presentation to the Court; why were they not brought before the Court held in spring 1616?. There was a Robert Kips in Kemsing - see **Kips** and also **Richardson** in **More Families & Transcripts**

Reginald Hasden/Hastden, husbandman, was charged in 1628 with keeping an unlicensed tippling-house. He appeared in the Assize Records from then until July 1639. Since the records sometimes say that the man issued with a writ had died and, since we do not have the date of his burial, the Reginald appearing in the Assize Records could be the Reginald who wrote his will in August 1638 - see **Barret in More Families & Transcripts** for more details.

1 In the name of god Amen. I, Reginall Hasden of Ightham
2 in the county of Kent, **husbandman**, being sick in body but of good and
perfect remembrance, do ordain this to be⁶¹ my
3 last will and testament. **First:** I give and bequeath my soul
4 to all mighty god who gave it me and my body to be buried
5 in the churchyard of the parish of Ightham whereby in I live.
6 **Item:** I give and bequeath to ?? **Burth** my bed and stodell and
7 all that belongeth to it. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **John Cowper** 10s.
8 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Water Swan** 10s. **Item:** I give and
9 bequeath to **Meary**⁶² **Glover** one chest. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **John**
10 **Elster** forty shillings, all which legacies my will is shall
11 be paid within a year after my decease. **Item:** I make
12 and ordain for my executors **George Swaynes** and
13 **Henry Ingrain** both of Ightham. **Item:** I give and bequeath
14 to the poor of the parish of Ightham 10s? to be given at my

61 "bee" throughout except on line 14, including "bee longeth" on line 7 and "bee queath" on line 8

62 "Mary"?, "Mercy"?

15 burial. Given under my hand and seal the nineteen day
16 of August in the year of our lord 1638.

Sealed and declared

in the presence of

Joh: Cowper

the mark

of **Wm Parnell**

the mark of

Reginall Hasden

The Hasells of Seal

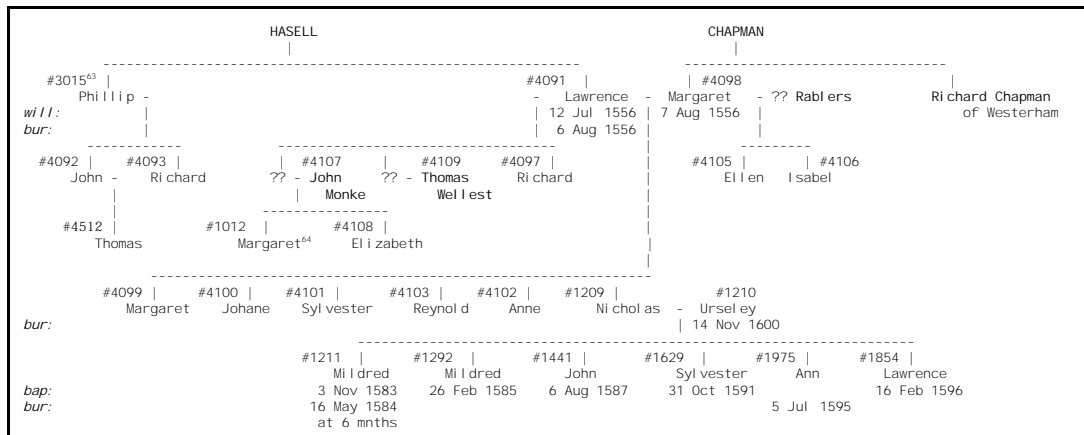
The first that is known of the Hasells of Seal is the wills of Lawrence and his widow Margaret whose will was dated less than a month after that of her husband.

	will	buried		
Lawrence Hasell	12 Jul 1556	6 Aug 1556	CKS: Drb/Pwr 12.43; Drb/Pw 5	page h.101
Margaret Hasell	7 Aug 1556		Drb/Pwr 12.42; Drb/Pw 5	page h.110

Lawrence was a mason; the only information available from the parish records concerns the children of Nicholas Hasell, probably the youngest son of Lawrence and Margaret, both of whom had had children from an earlier marriage.

Lawrence does not give the names of his two married daughters; the four younger ones could have been by either his first or second wife but, since Margaret left each of them some items, they have been taken as her children although she makes no mention of their upbringing.

Both Lawrence and Margaret requested that, during the year after their deaths, eight bushels of wheat should be made into bread and distributed to the poor. In addition, Margaret left 20s to be distributed as penny dole.



Nicholas was probably the youngest child of Lawrence and Margaret and, since his first recorded child was baptised in 1583, he was possibly only a year or two old when his parents died.

Lawrence appointed Margaret, his wife, to be his executrix but, since she died so soon after him, her brother, Richard Chapman of Westerham who had been

⁶³ # indicates reference in Seal database

⁶⁴ the Margaret Monke who married **Thomas Harman** (#1011) on 4th October 1579 could have been Lawrence's granddaughter - see [Harmans of Seal](#)

appointed one of his overseers became his executor. Margaret appointed Richard as her executor jointly with John Walker of Otford.

Margaret's executors were to have custody of Reynold and Nicholas, "putting them to school, to learn the laws of god, till they shall be able to go to some honest master or mistress whereby they may, in time to come, get their own living". Until that time, her executors were to "have a reasonable recompense yearly for their finding and bringing up as shall be thought most mete and convenient by the judgement of honest men".

Lawrence forgave George Carrier (or Carryer) "certain money" that he owed Lawrence. Margaret also forgave him 20s of the 40s he owed her and left his wife and Johane Carryer (perhaps his daughter) a kerchief each. Since Margaret wrote her will the day after Lawrence was buried it is hardly likely that the debt she mentioned was the one passed over from her husband. Had they both lent money separately to George?

Since Margaret's will was copied into the probate book on page 12.42 and Lawrence's on page 12.43, Richard Chapman presumably took them both to Rochester on the same day with Margaret's being copied first.

1 In the name of god Amen. The 12th day of
2 July 1556, I, Lawrence
3 Hasell of the parish of Seal, **mason**, being
4 sick in body but of good and perfect memory,
5 god be praised, do make and ordain this my
6 present testament and last will in manner
7 and form following: **First:** I commend my
8 soul into the hands of Almighty god, my
9 Creator and Redeemer and my body to be
10 buried where mine executrix shall think
11 most mete and convenient. **Item:** I will that
12 my executrix shall make, or cause to be
13 made, in bread one quarter of wheat⁶⁵ and
14 given to the poor people of the parish of
15 Seal aforesaid within one whole year next
16 after my decease, that is to say, each quar-
17 ter of the year 2 bushels of wheat made

⁶⁵ 8 bushels; 1 bushel is a capacity measure of 8 gallons

18 to bread and given as is aforesaid. **Item:** I
19 do forgive **George Carrier**⁶⁶ certain money
20 that he oweth me, that is to say for ten
21 bushels of oats. **Item:** I give to each of my
22 godchildren 4d. **Item:** I give to **Edmund**
23 **Harris, my servant**, one ewe, the best he can
24 choose among my sheep. **Item:** I bequeath to
25 **Margaret**⁶⁷ and **Elizabeth Monke**, daughters
26 of **John Monke, my son-in-law**, each of them
27 20s and one of them to be the other's heir
28 which money I will shall be paid to them
29 within the space of one year next after my
30 decease. **Item:** I will and bequeath to **Richard**
31 **Hasell, my eldest son**, £10 of good and
32 lawful money of England and also one
33 featherbed to be delivered to him when he
34 shalbe of the age of 21 years and, until
35 that time, I will it shalbe in the hands of **John**

66 A George Carryer had children in the 1560s and 1570s; George Carryer (who could have been the father or grandfather of the children) was buried in September 1577.

67 Lawrence's granddaughter could have been the Margaret Monke who married Thomas Harman (#1011) on 4th October 1579 - see *harman.fam*

36 **Pelsett of Penshurst** to the use of my said
37 son⁶⁸. If it shall happen the said Richard,
38 my son, do decease before he be of the said
39 age of 21 years, then I will the said £10
40 shall remain to my other two sons, **Reynold**
41 and **Nicholas Hasell**, equally to be divided
42 between them. **Item:** I will to Reynold Hasell,
43 my son, £5 of good and lawful money
44 of England and also one brass pot, the
45 best. **Item:** I will unto Nicholas Hasell,
46 my son, £5 of good and lawful money
47 of England and also a great Cauldron
48 and a great Trivet. And if it happen
49 one of them, that is to say Nicholas and
50 Reynold, to decease before they be of the age
51 of 21 years and without heirs of his body lawfully
52 begotten, then I will his part and portion
53 of money and goods shall remain to the
54 other brother of them then living. **Item:** I
55 give and bequeath to **my 4 daughters**, that
56 is to say **Johane, Margaret, Sylvester** and

68 was Richard Hasell apprenticed to John Pelsett? or working as his servant?

57 **Anne**, each of them £8 of good and lawful
58 money of England and each of them 40s in
59 moveable goods and chattels or corn to be delivered
60 to my said daughters when they shall come
61 to their several ages of 18 years or on the day
62 of their marriage if any of them happen to
63 marry before they come to the said age of 18 years.
64 And if it happen that any of my daughters
65 decease before she or they be of the said age of 18
66 years and unmarried, then I will her or their
67 part or portion of goods and money, before to
68 them bequeathed, to Richard, Reynold and
69 Nicholas Hasell, my sons, equally to be
70 divided among them. Nevertheless, I will the
71 portion of money and goods before given to
72 Sylvester and Anne, my daughters, shalbe
73 delivered into the hand of **John Pelsett**,
74 aforesaid till they come to the age afore
75 said or marriage to the only use of my
76 daughters. **Item:** I bequeath and give to
77 **Ellen Rablers and Isabel Rablers**⁶⁹, each of

69 Lawrence's step-daughters, see line 28 of his wife's will

78 them, £8 and, in moveable goods and chattels⁷⁰
79 or corn, the value of 40s. **Item:** I give
80 unto **my daughter, John Monke's wife,**
81 6s 8d. **Item:** to **my daughter, Thomas**
82 **Wellest's wife** 6s 8d. The residue
83 of all my goods, chattels and debts
84 owing to me over and above my will
85 fulfilled, debts and legacies fully contented,
86 satisfied and paid, I will and bequeath
87 wholly to **Margaret, my wife,** whom I do
88 ordain to be my sole executrix for the execution
89 and performance thereof. And I do ordain **John**
90 **Pelsett of Penshurst, Thomas Pelsett of Seal,**
91 **and Richard Chapman of Westerham**⁷¹ to be the
92 overseers of this my testament and last
93 will. And they to have for their pains,
94 each of them for every day that they shall
95 set about the same, my testament
96 and will, or anything therein contained,

70 cattle?

71 Lawrence's wife, Margaret, was originally Margaret Chapman and Richard was her brother

97 12d⁷² provided always, and my very
98 will is that, if it shall happen my wife
99 do decease before the term of years be
100 fully ended contained in the lease of
101 the house and land wherein I now dwell,
102 then I will the said lease to John
103 Pelsett and Richard Chapman aforesaid
104 to the use of my sons.

105 This is the last will of me the
106 aforesaid Lawrence Hasell made and
107 declared the day and year above named.
108 I will that Margaret, my wife, shall have
109 my tenements and land called **Buggens** with
110 th'appurtenances and also 4 acres of land,
111 be it more or less, called **Crowd Land**.
112 And also one other tenement and a garden with
113 th'appurtenances called the **Vicaredge**⁷³ lying

72 this reads as 12d per person per day which is very high; most overseers were left of the order of 3s 4d (plus their expenses) as a total bequest

73 "Vicaredge" interpreted when repeated in line 136

114 and being in the parish of Seal aforesaid
115 to be had to the said Margaret, my wife,
116 and to her assigns during the term of
117 her natural life upon condition that the
118 said Margaret and her assigns shall,
119 from time to time and year to year, during
120 the said term pay keep and maintenance,
121 all manner of rent, reparations and other
122 charges going and issuing out of the
123 same. And after the decease of my wife, I
124 will and bequeath the said 2 tenements
125 and the said 4 acres of land withall
126 th'appurtenances aforenamed to my
127 youngest sons, Reynold Hasell and
128 Nicholas Hasell in manner and form following:
129 that is to say, to Reynold Hasell
130 the said tenement called Buggins and the
131 said 4 acres of land called Crows Land
132 with appurtenances to be had unto the
133 said Reynold Hasell, his heirs and
134 assigns, in fee simple, forever. And to
135 the said Nicholas Hasell, my other
136 tenement and garden called the Vicaredge

137 with th'appurtenances belonging to the
138 said, to be had unto the said Nicholas
139 Hasell, his heirs and assigns, in fee
140 simple, forever. **Item:** I will to Richard
141 Hasell, my eldest son, my other tenement
142 and land with th'appurtenances called
143 **Dowles(?)** to be had to the said Richard
144 Hasell, his heirs and assigns, in fee simple
145 forever. Notwithstanding, I will that John
146 Pelsett shall deliver the same unto him within the year
147 profit issuing out of the same in the mean
148 time if it happen any of my said sons to
149 decease before they be of the age of 21 years and
150 without issue of his body, or their bodies, lawfully
151 begotten, then I will his or their parts or portions
152 so deceased shall remain to the other then
153 living equally to be divided. If all my said
154 sons happen to decease before they come to
155 the said age of 21 years and without issue of their
156 bodies, lawfully begotten, then I will
157 that **my brother Phillip Hasell's 2 sons,**
158 **called John Hasell and Richard Hasell,** shall
159 have my tenement called Buggens to

160 them, their executors and assigns,
 forever. Witnesses present at the making
 and . . . hereof: **Thomas Olyver, the elder⁷⁴,**
 Robert Blatcher⁷⁵ and Thomas Hasell

⁷⁴ Thomas Olyver of Kettles, #265, became known as "the elder" but would have been only about 40 in 1556 with his son Thomas still in his teens; perhaps the witness of Hasell's will was the father of #265.

⁷⁵ #333; the relationship of the other witness, Thomas Hasell, to the testator is not known

1 In the name of god Amen. The 7th day of
2 August, Anno D. 1556, I, Margaret
3 Hasell, . . (widow) . . the parish of Seal in the
4 County of Kent, being of good and perfect
5 memory, god be praised, do make and
6 ordain this my present testament and
7 last will in manner and form following:
8 **First:** I commit my soul into the hands
9 of almighty god and my body to the
10 earth. **Item:** I will that one quarter of
11 wheat shalbe made into bread and be given
12 to the poor people of the parish of Seal
13 aforesaid within the space of one whole year
14 next after my decease in this wise following: that
15 is to say, each quarter of the year 2 bushels
16 of wheat made in bread and given as is aforesaid⁷⁶.
17 **Item:** I will have given to the poor people in

⁷⁶ practically the same as Lawrence's will

18 penny dole 20s. **Item:** I give to each one of my
19 godchildren 4d. **Item:** I forgive **Nicholas Robert**
20 20s of the 40s that he oweth me which 20s
21 I give to **John Bartman** and **Elizabeth Bart-**
22 **man**, equally to be divided between them. **Item:**
23 I forgive **my brother, Richard Chapman** £3
24 6s 8d part? of the 20 nobles⁷⁷ which he oweth
25 me. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Richard Hasell**
26 **my son-in-law**⁷⁸, 20s of lawful money of
27 England and also one ?? tablecloth.
28 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Ellen Rablers, my**
29 **daughter**, my russet frock and enough
30 russet as will make her a frock and 20s
31 of good and lawful money of England. **Item:**
32 I give and bequeath unto **Isabel Rablers, my**
33 **daughter**, my best kertell⁷⁹ and as much
34 russet as will make her a frock and

77 20 nobles was £6 13s 4d, thus half of his debt was forgiven

78 stepson; Lawrence Hasell's son by his first wife

79 kirtle?

35 twenty shillings of good and lawful
36 money of England. **Item:** I give and
37 bequeath to **Johane Hasell** my gown and
38 ten shillings of money. **Item:** one double
39 . . . and a yard of the new Canvas ??⁸⁰.
40 **Item:** I give to **Margaret Hasell** my best
41 petticoat and ten shillings of money
42 and a yard of the new canvas. **Item:**
43 I give to **Sylvester Hasell** ten shillings.
44 **Item:** to **Anne Hasell** ten shillings
45 And I give to **John Hasell and Richard**
46 **Hasell, sons of Phillip Hasell,**⁸¹ each of them
47 twenty shillings. **Item:** to the same
48 Richard Hasell I give a doe leather
49 jerkin. **Item:** I give to **Thomas Hasell, son**
50 **of John**⁸² Hasell, 20s and a heifer
51 of a year old. **Item:** I will to **John Harris,**

80 is this item a copying error? see line 42 below

81 see line 156 of Lawrence's will

82 since Lawrence had grandchildren in 1556 (children of John Monke), his brother Philip could also have had grandchildren so this John could be Philip's son.

52 **my servant**, a twelve monthling heifer
53 bullock. **Item:** I will to **Henry Haselwood**
54 2 pairs of hose. **Item:** to **Father Lawton** a
55 . . of lynsey wool. **Item:** I will to **Johane**
56 **Burge, wife of Sherbourne**, a white russet
57 petticoat. **Item:** I will to **John Curde's wife**⁸³ a
58 smock. **Item:** to **Mother Martin** a smock. **Item:** I
59 will to **Lawrence Forward's wife** a kerchief. **Item:**
60 I will to **George Carryer's wife**⁸⁴ a kerchief. **Item:**
61 to **Johane Carryer** a kerchief. **Item:** I forgive
62 **Edward Fryer** all the money that he oweth me
63 except 3s 4d which 3s 4d I give to his
64 2 sons that are my husband's godchildren
65 and mine. **Item:** I forgive **Walter Hawk** the money
66 that he oweth me except 3s 4d which I
67 give to his son, my godchild. **Item:** I forgive
68 **Fryer of Stone Street** the money that he
69 oweth me. **Item:** I forgive **George Carryer**

83 John Curde (#25) had a son baptised in 1561, five years after Margaret's will was written

84 Thomasine, the first wife of #274, died in 1566 but #274 may not have been married in 1556 so that it could have been his mother to whom Margaret left a kerchief.

70 20s of the 40s that he oweth me.
71 **Item:** I do ordain and make **Richard Chapman**
72 **of Westerham** and **John Walker of Otford**
73 to be my executors and they to have for
74 their pains about the pair each of them
75 forty shillings which Richard Chapman
76 and John Walker I will shall have the
77 custody of **my sons, Reynold Hasell** and
78 **Nicholas Hasell** putting them to school
79 to learn the laws of god till they shall
80 be able to go to some honest master or
81 mistress whereby they may, in time
82 to come, get their own living and
83 until that time, I will my said
84 executors shall have a reasonable
85 recompense yearly for their finding
86 And bringing up as shalbe thought most
87 mete and convenient by the judgement of
88 honest men. The residue of all my goods,
89 chattels and debts owing to me I give
90 and bequeath to Reynold Hasell and Nicholas
91 Hasell, my sons, equally to be divided between
92 them to be delivered to the said Reynold and

93 Nicholas when they and each of them shalbe
94 of the age of 20 years and if it shall happen
95 one of them to decease before he be of the said
96 age of 20 years and without issue of his body
97 lawfully begotten, then I will his part or
98 portion of goods so deceased to the other of
99 my sons then living. If they both happen
100 to decease . . .
101 . . . then I will all the said
102 residue of my goods before given to them
103 to Ellen Rablers and Isabell Rablers,
104 my daughters, equally to be divided between
105 them notwithstanding all the premises?
106 I will that Richard Chapman aforesaid
107 and **John Pelsett of Penshurst** shall have
108 my lease of the farm that I now dwell
109 and occupy to the use of my 2 sons
110 Reynold Hasell and Nicholas Hasell and
111 to the use of Richard Hasell, my son-in-law
112 according to the true meaning
113 of the last will and testament of their
114 **father, Lawrence Hasell, my late**
115 **husband** any thing herein mentioned to

116 the contrary notwithstanding. Also I will
117 that all and . . . legacies and bequests
118 And one part and parcel there contained in
119 the said last will and testament of my said
120 late husband shalbe by my said executors
121 fully discharged, contented, satisfied and paid
122 according to the true meaning and effect
123 of the same. Witnesses present at the . .
124 hereof: **Robert Blatcher, John Smale,**
and Thomas Hasell⁸⁵

85 Robert Blatcher and Thomas Hasell who witnessed Lawrence's will

*The **Haslins** of Wrotham*

Two wills have survived for the Haslins of Wrotham, both written by Charles Hutchinson, clerk:

	written:	proved:	
Sarah Haslin	28 Feb 1624/5	18 Apr 1625	CKS: Prs/w/8/21 page h.121
William Haslin	29 Jan 1630/1	17 Mar 1630/1	CKS: Prs/w/8/42 page h.124

Sarah Haslin's will, although difficult to read, made detailed bequests to a large number of her children and grandchildren, specifying not only the items but where many of them were in her house:

Table H.2 - Sarah Haslin's Bequests

Hall	one long table a square table with a form	} }	son Nicholas
------	--	--------	--------------

Parlour	one long table with 2 forms } joined bedstead } cushion a joined chest a joined chest with its contents	son Nicholas daug. Susan daug. Sissly daug. Sara
Chamber over the Parlour	a half head bedstead 1 joined bedstead with a flockbed } 1 bolster, 2 blankets, a coverlet, 2 pillows }	daug. Susan son William
Chamber over the Kitchen	one joined chest & the linen in it one chest & the linen in it	daug. Sissly son William
son William's chamber over the parlour	a chest	son William
	one flock bed with a half head bedstead } 1 bolster, 2 pillows, 2 blankets, a coverlet } 1 trundle bed with a flock bed, coverlet } and blanket } 1 cauldron, 1 little chafer, 1 little brass } bottle, 2 pewter platters, 1 pewter dish } 1 little chest containing linen 2 pairs of sheets; 12 napkins, 1 pillow	daug. Sissly gr.daug. Sara gr.daug. Susan

	1cow 2 kyne 1 cow 1 bullock 2 kyne	daug. Susan daug. Sissly daug. Sara grandson John son William
--	--	---

Sarah Haslin had a married granddaughter and was therefore probably in her seventies when she wrote her will. The William who wrote his will in 1631 was her son and executor but does not seem to have married. The house, probably left after his mother's death to William, was obviously a large one and the term "[stair head](#)" in William's will is most unusual for wills of this period.

William's will does not include any mention of land or house but his father's will could have specified that, if William did not have a son, his land, etc. should go to his second son, Nicholas. This is implied in William's will: "[I give to Sara, the daughter of my brother Nich. Haslin, one long table cloth. And to her father, one great chair, a wicker chair and a bedstead in the chamber at the stair head to remain to the house](#)". If this furniture was to go to Nicholas and stay in the house, the house must pass to Nicholas.

The main relationships can be constructed from the two wills but William mentions two brothers, Lawrence Bing and Abraham Ellis and makes the latter his executor. One of them could have been the husband of Sissly Haslin who was

1 In the name of god Amen. The 28th day of February in the two and
2 twentieth
3 year of the reign of our sovereign Lord James by the grace of God of Eng
4 land, France and Ireland, king, defender of the faith, etc. and of Scotland
5 the
6 eight and fifty. I, Sarah Haslin of the parish of Wrotham in the county of
7 Kent, **widow**, being sick in body but of good and sound remembrance, laud
8 and
9 praise be to Almighty god, do make and ordain this my last will and testa
10 ment in manner and form following: **First:** I bequeath my soul to almigh
11 ty god, my creator, by whose mercy in Jesus Christ I hope to be saved and
12 my
13 body to the earth to be buried in the church of Wrotham by my husband.
Item: I give and bequeath to **my daughter Susan Heaner, the wife of John
Hea=**
ner, linen draper in Southwarke, one half head bedstead in the chamber
over the parlour, one cow, one great ?? and
one of the parlour cushions. **Item:** I give to **my daughter, Sissly Haslin,** two
kyne, one flock bed with the half head bedstead, one bolster, 2 pillows,

14 2 blankets and a coverlet. **Item:** I give more to my said daughter Sissly one
15 trundle bed with a flock bed on it with the coverlet and blanket belonging
to it.
16 **Item:** I give and bequeath to my said daughter Sissly one joined chest in
the cham=
17 ber over the kitchen with all the linen in it. **Item:** I give more to her one
18 cauldron, one little chafer of pot brass, one little brass bottle, two pewter
platters
19 and a pewter dish and one little ??, one joined ??. **Item:** I give and
bequeath to my
20 **daughter Sara Kettle⁸⁷, widow**, one cow, one joined chest in the parlour with
a ??
21 in it. **Item:** I give to **her daughter, Sara Kettle**, one little chest which
contains lin=
22 en in it. **Item:** I give to **her son, John Kettle**, one twelve monthling bullock.
Item:
23 I give to **my son Nicholas Haslin** one long table and a square table in the
hall

87 difficult to read here but "Kettle" from William's will

24 with a form, one long table and 2 forms in the parlour with a joined
88 bedstead

25 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my grandchild Susan, the wife of Thomas**
Hatten

26 two pairs of ?? sheets, one flaxen, the other hempen, half a dozen of flaxen
napkins

27 and half a dozen of hempen napkins and one pillow. **Item:** I give and
bequeath to my

28 **son William Haslin** two kyne, one joined bedstead with a flockbed, a
bolster,

29 two blankets, a coverlet and two pillows in the chamber over the parlour.

30 **Item:** I give to my said son William Haslin one chest in the chamber

31 over the kitchen with the linen that is in it and another chest in his
chamber

32 over the parlour. All the rest of my goods, household stuff, catell and
chattels

33 unbequeathed, I give to my said son William Haslin whom I make my

34 whole and sole executor of this my last will and testament. In witness

35 whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year first above
written.

Sealed, signed, published and
declared in the presence of

Char: Hutchinson, clerk

Larry? King

John Heaner

Sarah

Haslin

her

mark

Will of William Haslin of Wrotham

written 29th January 1630/1

transcript from original

1 In the name of god Amen. The 29th day of January A^o dm 1630 in the
2 sixth year of the reign of our sovereign Lord Charles, by the grace of God, of
3 England, Scotland, France and Ireland king, defender of the faith, etc, I
4 William Haslin of Wrotham in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being sick in
body
5 but of good and sound remembrance (laud and praise be to Almighty God)
6 do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following:
7 **First:** I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my creator, by whose mercy
8 in Jesus Christ, my redeemer, I trust assuredly to be saved and my body to
9 the earth to be buried at the discretion of my executor. **Item:** I give to my
10 **sister Pullin** a pair of sheets of flaxen and a pair of flaxen pillowberes.

11 **Item:** I give to **her daughter, Sara Kettle**, twenty shillings to be paid to
12 her within one half year after my decease. **Item:** I do give and bequeath
13 to **my cousin Susan Hatten** one flockbed and a bolster and a pair of hemp=
14 en sheets and a pair of hempen pillowberes. **Item:** I do give to my
15 **cousin Paul Boston** twenty shillings to be paid within one half year after
my decease.
16 **Item:** I do give to **my cousin John Heaner**⁸⁹ twenty shillings to be paid to
17 him within one half year after my decease. **Item:** I do give to **William**
18 **Heaner, my cousin**, the sum of eight pounds to be paid to him within
19 one whole year after my decease and my executor shall ??
20 and oversee it for him and also that which I have given to his brother,
21 John. And if it fortune the said William do die before he be one
22 and twenty years old, then my will is that his brother John shall
23 have the said portion. **Item:** I give to **my brother, Mr. Lawrence Byng**,
24 my cloak. **Item:** I give to **Sara, the daughter of my brother**
25 **Nich. Haslin**, one long table cloth. And to her father, one great chair,
26 a wicker chair and a bedstead in the chamber at the stair head
27 to remain to the house. **Item:** I give to **my brother, Abraham Ellis**,
28 two chests, a table and form in the kitchen, a brass kettle, a brass pot,
29 a brass chafer. And all the rest of my goods and chattels unbec=

89 William's sister Susan married John Heaner; this John was probably their son, William's nephew. William seems to have used "cousin" to refer to nephews and neices since Susan Hatten was his mother's grandchild.

30 eathed whatsoever I do give and bequeath to the said Abraham
31 Ellis (my burial expenses being discharged) who I do make and
32 ordain my whole executor of this my last will and testament.
33 In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hamd and seal the day and
34 year first above written.

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

Char: Hutchinson, clerk

William Haslin⁹⁰

⁹⁰ he could have written his name

1 In the name of god Amen. The 14th November 1622
2 I, Arthur Heath of Tonbridge in the county of
3 Kent, **sailor in the London**, do by these present constitute and ordain this
my last
4 will and testament in manner and form following: **First:** I bequeath my
soul to Al
5 mighty god trusting my only salvation in the precious blood of my
redeemer,
6 Christ Jesus and my body to the earth to be buried after the order of
Christian bur
7 ial. Also I bequeath unto **Richard Foxe** four books of Callico⁹¹ and one
Parable to
8 be delivered at my decease. Also to **Peter Lewis** two books of Callico to be
delivered

⁹¹ were these "bolts of calico" a bolt being a roll of cloth of a definite measure

9 at my decease. Also to **Anthony Cramford** one piece of tarpsell⁹² to be
delivered at my
10 decease. Also to **William Watson** two books of Callico with the residue of
my things
11 that remain in my chest to be delivered at my decease. Also I give to
Thomas
12 **Williams** my part that shall ?? of the residue of the shares⁹³ to be delivered
after
13 my decease. Also I give unto **my wife, Alice Heath and to my daughter,**
Ellen Heath,
14 all my wages to be divided between them and do ordain Richard Foxe sole
execu
15 tor to see this my last will performed according to the tenor thereof. In
witness
16 whereof I have hereunto put my hand and seal the day and year above
written.
17 the mark of Arthur Heath. Sealed, signed and delivered in the presence of
Edwin
18 **Guy, Peter Lewes, Thomas Thorot.**

92 topsail?

93 were these shares in the profits of an expedition on which Heath and his companions had been?

- **First:** I bequeath my soul to Almighty
- god, my maker and redeemer, hoping and assuredly believing to have eternal
- life by and through the precious death and passion of Jesus Christ. **Item:**
- my will is that my body shalbe buried in the churchyard of Pepingbury aforesaid.

Read, sealed and allowed⁹⁴, by the said Thomas Henwood, for his will in the presence of: **Thomas Roots, John Rixon and me, Richard Amherst, huius scriptoris.**

94 "alowed" but two lls in "following"; also "being", "he", etc. only have one "e"

The Hills of Kemsing and Seal

Five wills have survived for Hills of Kemsing and Seal:

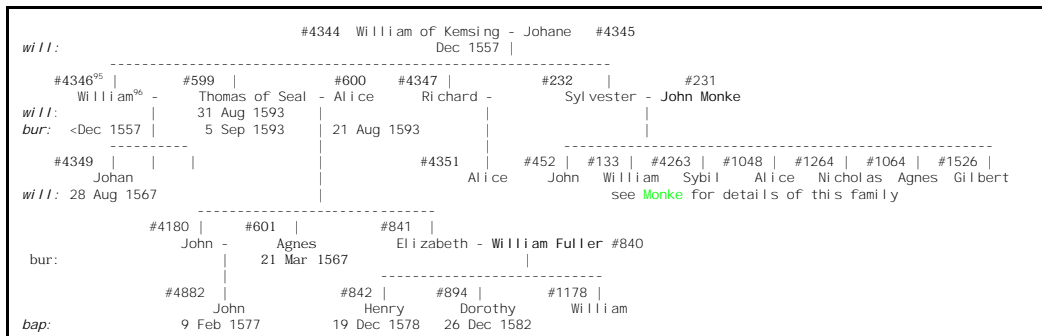
		written	buried	CKS: Drb/Pw	Drb/Pwr	
William Hills	Kemsing	Dec 1557		6	12.332	page h.132
Johan Hills	Kemsing	28 Apr 1567		9	13.339	page h.138
Thomas Hills	Seal	31 Aug 1593	5 Sep 1593	16	18.300	page h.138
Thomas Hills	Kemsing	7 Sep 1638	probate 1642	30	22.499	page h.145
William Hills	Seal	27 Apr 1568	28 Apr 1568		13.363	page h.153

The Family of William, the testator of 1557

Thomas Hills of Seal was the son of the William who died in 1557.

Johan's will is nuncupative and very short; all it tells us is that Johan was the daughter of William Hills the younger and that she had some sisters; her mother was alive at the time the will was written since she did "[know well enough](#)" about the household stuff and money Johan left to her sisters. She could have been the granddaughter William mentioned in his will of 1557 in which case her father had been dead for over ten years when she died.

From these wills the following tree can be assembled:



Working backwards from the births of Henry, Dorothy and William, Thomas Hills of Seal was probably born between 1520 and 1525 which would mean that he was about seventy when he died. William Hills, senior, of Kemsing was therefore born at the end of the fifteenth century and about sixty when he died.

95 # indicates reference in Seal database in which these Kemsing Hills are also included

96 died before his father

Johan, the daughter of William, junior, was obviously an adult when she died in 1567 and was, therefore, probably born between 1540 and 1545. William, junior, born about 1518 would mean that his father, William, senior, was approaching seventy when he died.

From the names of the children, Sylvester's husband he can be identified as the John Monke whose will of 1566 has survived and whose wife was "Sylvester" - see **Monke**. These children, mentioned by their grandfather, must all have been born before December 1557 implying that Sylvester was born in the early 1520s.

Will of William Hills of Kemsing

written December 1557; proved 1558
transcript from the probate copy

This is a very long will not all of which has been transcribed.

1 In the name of god and of the glorious and blessed
2 Virgin, our lady saint mary and of all the holy company
3 of heaven, the ? day of December in the year of
4 our lord god 1557,
5 . . . England. I, **William Hills of Kemsing** in the
6 County of Kent, **yeoman**, being of whole and perfect

7 mind, calling to my remembrance that I am mortal
8 And that neither I nor any other (can know?) of the
9 time, place, when ?? it shall please Almighty
10 god to call him out of this world . .
11 therefore minding by god . . before my passage
12 out of the . . . ordain my last
13 will and testament in manner and form following:
14 **First:** most humbly and . . I commend and bequeath
15 my soul unto Almighty god

my body to
- be buried within the churchyard of
- Kemsing. Also I revoke and . . all other wills
- and testaments heretofore, at any time, by me made.
- Also, this my present last will and testament to take
- affect . . I will . . . devise and
- that whensoever it shall please Almighty god
- to call me out of this world unto
- his infinite . . and grace, that mine executors
- do . .

- for me in the parish church of Kemsing
- aforesaid. Also I will and . . mine executors,

- that they immediately after my decease, out of their
- the most poor and needy people and beggars
- 20s
- of money of England. And to all the poor
- people that shall have mine alms to pray
- . . unto god for remission of my offences
- and the . . of my soul. Also I give and bequeath
- unto **my son Richard Hills** one annuity or
- yearly sum of 26s 8d going out of . .
- piece of land lying in Kemsing called **Buffet**
- the . . and one other piece of land called
- the **Cytting**, to have and hold the said annuity
- each year unto of 26s 8d to the said Richard
- during his life at 4 . . . in the year
- that is to say at the feast of Saint Michael
- the Archangel, the . . of our lord god
- called . . the Annunciation of our blessed
- lady mary, the virgin and the feast of saint
- John, the baptist, by equal portions. And if it
- shall fortune the said annuity or yearly
- sum of 26s 8d, or any part or portion
- thereof, to be . .

- within one month next and immediately
- following that, then I will, and my
- full mind and intent is, that my said son
- Richard Hills, or his assigns, shalbe into
- the said . . . land.

- Item:** I will and bequeath unto my
- **daughter's son, John Monke**, the younger, 6s 8d
 - of lawful money of England to be paid to him
 - within half a year after my decease and also
 - I give to **William Monke, brother** of the said
 - John Monke, 6s 8d of lawful English money.
 - Also I give to **Nicholas Monke** one sheep. Also
 - I give and bequeath to **Sybell Monke** forty
 - shillings of current money of England to be
 - paid to her at the day of her marriage by
 - mine executors. Also I give to **Alice Monke**
 - forty shillings of lawful money of England
 - to be paid to her at the day of her marriage.
 - Also I give to **Alice Hills, the daughter of**
 - **Richard Hills**, the sum of forty shillings of
 - current money of England to be paid to her at
 - the day of her marriage.

- Also I give unto **Johane Hills, the**
- **daughter of William Hills, deceased,** ? pounds of
- lawful money of England. Also I give and
- bequeath to **my daughter, Sylvester,** . .
- . ., to be delivered immediately after my
- decease.

- The residue of all my goods, chattels,
- corn, plate and stuff of household not begotten
- nor bequeathed, my debts, legacies, annuities, expenses
- of my burial and this my present last will and testament
- in all things fully and wholly performed, fulfilled, contented
- and paid, I will and my full mind and intent is that it
- shalbe equally and indifferently divided
- between **Johane, my well beloved wife, and Thomas Hills, my son.**

- This is the last will concerning the order
- and disposal of all my lands, tenements and heriditaments
- within the said County of Kent. **First:** for so
- much as all my lands, tenements and heriditaments
- that I have within the said County of Kent be
- gavelkind land, and of the ?? of gavelkind
- And my said wellbeloved wife, by the custom

- of the said county, if she fortune to . . .
- and outlive me, ought to be endowed of the moiety
- thereof and to have and enjoy the same during her
- natural life, if she keep herself sole and
- unmarried, I will and bequeath, and my full mind
- and intent is that, if the said Johane, my said
- wellbeloved wife, fortune to outlive me, that,
- in full recompense

(4 pages)

In witness whereof to this
my present last will and testament, I, the said
William Hills have set my hand and my
seal, yeoman, the day and year first above . . .

sealed in the presence of:

**John ?atte, William ??, the younger
Thomas ?? and others.**

1 In the name of god Amen. The 28th
2 day of April in the year of our lord god 1567,
3 Johan Hills, **the daughter of William Hills**
4 **the younger, late of Kemsing** in the diocese of Rochester,
5 deceased, made her testament nuncupative in
6 manner and form following: she did give and
7 bequeath all the goods that she had, money and
8 household stuff, which her mother did know
9 of well enough, to her sisters, these being
10 witness: **Isabel Rowle, Alice Constantine,**
11 with others.

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 The last day of August in the five and thirtieth year of the reign of

3 our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of god Queen of England,
France and
4 Ireland, defender of the faith. I, Thomas Hills of Seal, in the county of
5 Kent, **tailor**, being sick of body but of good and perfect remembrance,
thanks be given
6 unto Almighty god for the same, do make and ordain this my last will and
testament
7 in manner and form following: **First:** I bequeath my soul unto almighty god
that gave
8 it and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Seal. **Item:** I give and
bequeath unto
9 **Elizabeth, the now wife of my son-in-law, William Fuller**, a russet frock of
narrow cloth.
10 **Item:** I give unto **Dorothy Fuller⁹⁷**, daughter of the said **William**, a red
petticoat. **Item:** I
11 bequeath unto **William Fuller⁹⁸**, his youngest son, one lamb. **Item:** all the
rest of my

97 baptised 19 December 1578, married Gregory High in 1608 and had five children

98 baptised 28 December 1582; had three children between 1608 and 1618; there was an elder son, Henry, baptised 9 February 1577

12 goods and cattalls unbequeathed I give the one half of them unto **John**
13 **Hills, my son,** and the other
14 half I bequeath unto **John Hills, his son,** which one half of the said goods
15 and cattalls last bequeathed, my will and mind is
16 that my son John shall take the custody and keeping of them until his son
17 do accomplish the full
18 age of two and twenty years and then to deliver the said goods unto his
19 son provided always
20 my will and mind is that John Hills, my son, shall put in sufficient surety
21 unto Mr.
22 **Steven Theobald**⁹⁹ for the safe keeping of the one half of the goods
23 bequeathed unto John Hills,
24 his son, and for the safe delivery of them at his said age of two and twenty
25 years. And
26 if my son, John Hills do refuse to put in such surety for the said goods as is
27 above mentioned
28 within one month after my decease, then I will the one half of the said
29 goods bequeathed unto John Hills, his son, to be ??
30 ?? immediately after the said ?? into the custody and keeping of the said
31 Mr. Steven Theobald or to him or them

99 #312; a wealthy lawyer owning a large amount of local land; grant of arms 1583

22 whom he shall think good to assign. And I make and ordain my son John
Hills my sole executor of this my
23 present will and testament. And of the execution of the same I make **Mrs**
Clemence Theobald¹⁰⁰, **Mr. Steven**
24 **Theobald, William Denman**¹⁰¹ and **Thomas Theobald**¹⁰² my overseers. In
witness whereof to this my present
25 will I have set my hand and seal, these being witness
Clemence Theobald
Thomas Theobald
William Denman
The mark of Thomas Hills seal¹⁰³

100 Steven Theobald's mother (#2); although a wife was generally appointed executrix of her husband's will, it was most unusual for a woman to be appointed as an overseer but Clemence was a most unusual woman, at least to find in a village. Her name, as a witness, looks like a signature.

101 "old William Denman" (#1992) died in 1599 when he would have been approaching eighty; this William Denman could have been #1992's son born about 1550 (#3940)

102 Clemence and her husband John had a son Thomas (#8) born in 1569 who became a lawyer of Cliffords Inn; he could have been the Thomas appointed as an overseer and could also have been the writer of the will

103 looks like a duck or a goose

Other Hills of Kemsing

Other Hills from Kemsing known only from the parish register are:

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
k100 ¹⁰⁴	<u>HILLS, Robert</u> -----				2	3
<i>Marriage 1</i>		27 Apr 1566	Sara Gatts			
k101	<u>Gatts, Sara</u> -----				1 2	17 Jun 1581 in her late 30s
I k102	<u>HILLS, William</u>	4 Apr 1567			0	0
I k103	<u>Hills, Margaret</u>	7 Aug 1569			0	0
<i>Marriage 2</i>						
I k105	<u>HILLS, Nicholas</u>	10 Jun 1583			0	0
Nicholas, son of Robert - taken as the Robert who was father of William and Margaret since no other Robert was recorded						

¹⁰⁴ k indicates a reference in the Kemsing database

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
k106	<u>HILLS, William</u>				2	5	
	<i>Marriage 1</i>			Margaret Hills(m)	1	3	
k107	<u>Hills(m), Margaret</u>				1	3	8 Dec 1583 in her 30s
• k108	<u>Hills, Elizabeth</u>	15 Nov 1573			0	0	5 May 1580 aged 6½
• k109	<u>HILLS, Thomas</u>	9 Mar 1576			0	0	
• k110	<u>Hills, Margaret</u>	25 Mar 1581			0	0	
	<i>Marriage 2</i>			Susan Hills(m)	1	2	
k111	<u>Hills(m), Susan</u>				1	2	8 Feb 1592
• k112	<u>Hills, Annes</u>	6 Jan 1590			0	0	

William Hills, tailor

At the February 1598 Assizes, **William Hills, tailor**, of Kemsing, was indicted for grand larceny. On 14th December 1597, at Kemsing, he stole a red-spotted ox (£4) from **Thomas Comporte**. At the time of the Assizes he was “at large”.¹⁰⁶

He could have been k106 above.

William and Thomas Hills of Heverham in Kemsing

A William Hills of Heverham in Kemsing (k113¹⁰⁵) was buried on 13th March 1628 but no will has survived for him; he could have been the father of Thomas whose will was written in September 1638 since Thomas was also "of Heverham". Thomas's will was written by John Hooper, notary public and town clerk of Tonbridge. Members of the Hooper family wrote many wills in the neighbourhood from the 1560s up to at least 1650 when this study finishes.

In the assessment made in September 1628 for a subsidy to Charles I Thomas Hills of Kemsing was assessed for 20s for land and 4s for goods.

Thomas and his wife Sylvester do not appear to have had any living children in 1638 and, after Sylvester's death, Thomas made "[Mathew Allen, son of Thomas Allen, late of Nettleshead deceased](#)" his heir. If Mathew died without heirs before Sylvester married again or died, Thomas's land, etc. was to go to Thomas Allen, eldest son of Henry Allen of Ightham. This must be the Henry Allen (i3¹⁰⁶) whose children were baptised between 1618 and 1631. The baptism of Thomas Allen

105 k indicates a reference in the Kemsing database; where no indicator is given, Kemsing should be understood

106 i indicates a reference in the Ightham database

was not recorded but he was buried on 17th April 1639, six months after the will was written.

Thomas Hills also mentioned Henry's second and third sons, Henry and William, and left £20 to Agnes, daughter of Henry Allen, who was probably Henry's daughter baptised Anne (i478) on 27th February 1625. There was also a fourth son, Steven, baptised on 9th January 1631 - see the [Allens of Ightham](#) for more details.

Will of Thomas Hills of Heverham in Kemsing

written 7th September 1638; probate 1642

transcript from original

- 1 In the name of god Amen. the seventh day of
2 September in the year of our lord god one thousand, six hundred
3 thirty and eight, I, Thomas Hills of **Everham**¹⁰⁷ in Kemsing in the
4 county of Kent, **yeoman**, being in reasonable good health of body and of
5 sound and good memory (praised be god) do ordain and make this my
testament
6 and last will in manner and form following: **First:** I commend my soul

¹⁰⁷ Heverham

7 to the glorious acceptance of Almighty God through Jesus Christ, his
8 beloved son, my saviour and redeemer. And my body to the earth in
decent
9 manner to be¹⁰⁸ buried by mine executrix hereafter named. I will and give
10 to **Agnes, the daughter of Henry Allen of Ightham**, twenty pounds of lawful
11 English money to be¹⁰⁹ paid out of my lands and tenements within one year
next after
12 the decease of me the said Thomas Hills and the decease of **Sylvester, now
my**
13 **wife. Item:** I will to **Francis Round, now my servant**, ten pounds to be
14 paid as aforesaid within one year next after the decease of me and my said
wife.
15 **Item:** I will and give to **Joane Allen and Elizabeth Allen, daughters of
Thomas**
16 **Allen, late of Nettlestead, deceased**, five pounds a piece to be paid within
two
17 years next after the decease of me and my said wife. **Item:** I will and

108 "be" omitted in original

109 spelt "bee" throughout

18 give to **Elizabeth Romney, the daughter of Edward Romney of**
19 **Kingsdowne**¹¹⁰
20 twenty pounds of lawful English money to be paid at the age of twenty and
21 and four years or day of her marriage which shall first happen if she live to
22 either
23 of those times. **Item:** I give to **my goddaughter, Clemence Hawkes**, twenty
24 pounds of lawful English money to be paid to her within two years next
25 after the
26 decease of me and my said wife and the longer liver of us. **Item:** I will to
27 **Dinah**
Hawkes, the sister of the said Clemence¹¹¹, the sum of five pounds to be
paid to the said
Dinah within three years next after the decease of me and my said wife.
Item: I will to
Mathew Allen, my kinsman, son of the before named Thomas Allen,
deceased,
all my wearing apparel of all sorts.

110 there were Romneys/Rumneys in Seal, Kemsing and Ightham

111 there were Hawkes in both Seal and Ightham but no record of a Clemence or a Dinah

28 **Item:** I will that every legatee before named that shall live to the end of the
time
29 assigned for the payment of his, her and their several and expective legacy
and
30 legacies shall be paid the same out of my lands and tenements. And for
default of payment
31 thereof accordingly shall and may enter, have hold, receive and enjoy the
issues, rents and
32 profits thereof until either and every of them so unpaid shall have had and
received such and
33 so much of the said issues, rents and profits as their respective legacies
shall extend unto.
34 Provided always if the said legatories, or any of them, shall decease before
the end
35 of the time appointed for payment of his, her or their legacies as aforesaid, I
will that
36 his, her and their legacies so deceasing shall never be paid nor belong to
any other person or
37 persons¹¹².

112 that is, if any of them died before the due date for receiving their legacy, it was not to be paid to their heir.

38 The residue of all and other my goods, cattell and chattels whatsoever, I
fully and wholly will and¹¹³
39 give to Sylvester, my loving wife, whom I make the sole and only executrix
of this
40 my testament and last will, to see the same proved, my body decently
brought to the
41 earth. And to pay my debts only and not any of the legacies before
mentioned¹¹⁴.
42 This is the last will of me the said Thomas Hills made and declared the
said seventh day of
43 September, An. Diem 1630, touching the disposing of all my lands and
tenements as followeth:
44 **Item:** I will that Sylvester, my wife, shall and may have and hold all that
messuage or tenement
45 wherein I now dwell and all the barns, stables, outhouses, yards, gardens,
orchard and lands,
46 arable, meadows and pastures, ways, waters, commons of pasture,
commodities and appurtenances whatsoever

113 *end of page:* signed X Tho. Hills

114 because they were not to become due until Sylvester's death (or remmariage)

47 thereunto belonging, and also all other my lands in Kemsing aforesaid, to
her and her assigns for and during
48 the whole term of her natural life (if she shall so long keep herself a widow)
she keeping the
49 same well repaired and doing no wilful strip or waster thereupon. And
immediately from and
50 after the decease or next marriage of my said wife (whichsoever of the said
times shall first happen)
51 I will and give all the said messuage or tenement and premises with their
appurtenances situated, lying
52 and being in Kemsing aforesaid in the county of Kent and all other my
lands and tenements to my
53 kinsman Mathew Allen, son of Thomas Allen, late of Nettleshead
deceased, and to the
54 heirs and assigns forever of the said Mathew if he shall be living at the
time of the
55 decease or next marriage of my said wife whichever shall first happen.
And if the said
56 Mathew shall be then deceased, I will that my said messuage, tenements,
lands and
57 premises formerly willed to the said Mathew, shall be and remain to
Thomas Allen, eldest

58 **son of Henry Allen of Ightham** aforesaid and to the heirs and assigns of the
said Thomas,
59 if he, the said Thomas, shall be then living. Or if the said Thomas shall be
then deceased
60 then shall be and remain to **Henry Allen, second son of the said Henry
Allen of Ightham**
61 and to his heirs and assigns if the said Henry Allen, the son, shall be then
living. But
62 if the said Henry Allen, the son, shall be then deceased, then shall be and
remain to **William**
63 **Allen, third son of the said Henry Allen of Ightham.** And to the heirs and
assigns for
64 ever of the said William Allen which messuage, houses, lands, tenements
and premises with th'appurtenances
65 I will notwithstanding shall and may be holden and enjoyed with their
rents, issues and
66 profits by every legatee (or legatory) before named. Any devise or
remainder of the
67 said messuage, lands, tenements and premises to the before named
Mathew, Thomas, Henry
68 or William Allen to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

69 In witness whereof I, the said Thomas Hills, to this my testament and last
will contained
70 and written on two sheets of paper, have set my hand and seal dated the
day and
71 year first above written

signed ¹¹⁵ **Tho. Hills**

sealed, subscribed, published
and delivered in the presence of
Thomas Lawrence¹¹⁶

Walter Gardener, John Hooper, notary pbq.

¹¹⁵ a vertical cross

¹¹⁶ Thomas Lawrence of Kemsing had children baptised between 1605 and 1618

This is a short will with no children mentioned so that he cannot be fitted in with any of the other Hills. William Hills witnessed the wills of:

John Denman, prebend of Rochester	1555
Johane Cottman	1564

1 In the name of god Amen. The 27th
2 day of April in the year of our lord god
3 1568 and in the tenth year of the reign
4 of our sovereign lady Queen Elizabeth.
5 I, William Hills of the parish of Seal within
6 the county of Kent, being sick in body but,
7 thanks be unto god, of sound and perfect
8 memory, do make my testament and
9 last will in manner and form following:
10 **First:** I bequeath my soul unto Almighty
11 god, my maker and Redeemer and my body
12 to be buried in the churchyard of Seal

13 aforesaid. **Item:** I give unto **Elizabeth**¹¹⁷, my
14 **wife**, all my moveable goods to pay my
15 debts, to do with what she will.
16 And I do make her my sole executrix of
17 this my last will and testament.
18 witnesses: **Gilbert Jenyns, clerk**¹¹⁸, William
19 **Monsters, John Foster** and others.

The Hills of Seal: the Three Johns

Hills (or Hilles) being a common name, all the groups below are unlikely to be related; certainly many of them cannot be fitted into a composite family. It is possible, however, to construct three generations of Hills - John(1), John(2) and John(3) - (#46¹¹⁹, #391 and #1784 respectively). This family starts with "**old John Hills**" who died in 1601 when he would have been at least well into his sixties but

¹¹⁷ Elizabeth Hills (#174), widow, married **John Weekes**, in Seal, on 30th September 1568; no children were recorded for them.

¹¹⁸ Gilbert Jenyns, vicar of Seal from 1561 to 1603, probably wrote this will

¹¹⁹ # indicates a reference in the Seal database

could have been older. #391 is taken as "**the Clerke**" who died in 1620; see page h.157 for details of his assumed marriages and children. The assumptions made in the reconstruction are given.

Since records of baptisms did not start until the 1560s, the Johane Hills who married **Roger Greenwood (#998)** on 21st September 1578 could have been an elder daughter of this family, born before records began.

William (#1099), "son of Alice Hills" (#1097), presumably a base, was baptised on 15th October 1580. Alice was probably born before 1560 and could have been a daughter of John(1) born before the children given below.

A John Hills married **Johane Barre** on 31st October 1585 and Johane, wife of John Hills was buried on 17th July 1588 without any children having been recorded but it is not possible to decide which, if any, of the John Hills recorded this was.

John Hills of Seal was mentioned by Elizabeth and George Weery of Sevenoaks in their wills of 1616 and 1628 but his children do not fit in with any of those baptised in Seal - see **Weery**

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#46	<u>HILLS, John(1)</u> ----- his wife, Johane			Johane Hills(m) "old John Hills" when he died	1	8	8 Jun 1601 aged 60+
#47					1	8	29 Jul 1597 in her 50s
! #48	<u>Hills, Dorothy</u>	26 Jul 1562			0	0	
! #115	<u>Hills, Anne</u>	19 Mar 1564			0	0	
! #172	<u>Hills, Clemence</u>	27 Jul 1565			0	0	
! #391	<u>HILLS, John(2)</u>	6 Apr 1567			2	4	20 Jan 1620 age 52
! #442	<u>HILLS, Thomas</u>	11 Mar 1569			0	0	19 Apr 1569 at 5 wks
! #487	<u>Hills, Susan</u>	6 Aug 1570			0	0	
! #542	<u>Hills, Margaret</u>	1 Nov 1572			0	0	27 Jan 1573 at 3 mnths
! #777	<u>Hills, Marion</u>	3 Oct 1574			0	0	

The children shown below born 1592, 1597 and 1604 (Katherine, daughter of "John Hills, clerk") are taken to be #391's by a wife who died before 1609 when a John Hills married **Rachel Briteling** in 1609 and this is taken as #391's second marriage since Elizabeth, born 1612, was recorded as the daughter of "John Hills, senior,". There is a problem with the baptism of Robert which is only 7½ months after that of Elizabeth. Perhaps Elizabeth was a few months old when she was baptised or, alternatively, the family reconstitution is incorrect.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#391	<u>HILLS, John(2)</u>	6 Apr 1567			2	6	20 Jan 1620 age 51
	<i>Marriage 1</i> ¹²⁰				1	3	
!	#1784 <u>HILLS, John(3)</u>	26 Dec 1592			1	2	
	see below for his marriage and children						
!	#1886 <u>Hills, Clemence</u>	23 Mar 1597	18 Jun 1620	Edward GISTLING married at 23	1	5	#855; see Gisting
!	#2869 <u>Hills, Katherine</u>	25 Nov 1604			0	0	
	<i>Marriage 2</i>	16 Oct 1609	Rachel Briteling #2201		1	3	
!	#2870 <u>Hills, Elizabeth</u>	1 Mar 1612	7 Jun 1635	Robert HAMMOND ¹²¹ #2889	1	2	
	If #2870 is the Elizabeth Hills who married in 1635, she was 23						
!	#2871 <u>HILLS, Robert</u>	11 Oct 1612			0	0	
!	#2872 <u>Hills, Mary</u>	19 Feb 1614			0	0	

Gartred Hills, baptised on 25 Feb 1616 was also the daughter of John and Rachel. She married Nicholas Wheeler before 1648 when she, Elizabeth and Robert were the beneficiaries of the will of John Brightling - see More Families & Transcripts.

120 the three children of this marriage could have been the children of John Hills to whom John Weekes left 6s 8d in 1607

121 two children were recorded for Robert Hammond:
 - Richard (#3805) baptised 26th February 1637
 - Jane (#3806) baptised 6th September 1640

The John Hills who married in 1615 could have been John(2)'s son, John(3), or #1795, the son of William (#1052) (see page h.159). Jane need not have been the daughter of this marriage.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Di ed
#1784	<u>HILLS, John(3)</u> -----	26 Dec 1592	27 Apr 1615	Margaret Insl and married at 23 #2046	1	1	
I #2874	<u>Hills, Jane</u>	14 Mar 1619				0	0
A John Hills who was buried 17 Jan 1653: if #1784, he was aged sixty							

The Other Hills of Seal

There were a large number of other Hills in Seal from at least the 1580s, some of whom can be arranged into individual families.

Both William and Alice, father and mother of the following five children, died from the plague but even their younger children, who would be expected to have still been at home, seem to have escaped:

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#1052	<u>HILLS, William</u>	<1563	28 Apr 1583	Alice Kennard	1	5	12 Dec 1603 in his 40s
#1053	<u>Kennard, Alice</u>	<1563			1	5	13 Nov 1603 in her 40s
	-----		of Dartford				
!	#1296 <u>HILLS, Richard</u>	29 Dec 1583			0	0	
!	#1400 <u>HILLS, James</u>	18 Oct 1586			0	0	
!	#1570 <u>HILLS, William</u>	1 Apr 1589			0	0	
!	#1795 <u>HILLS, John</u>	19 Aug 1593			0	0	
!	#1937 <u>HILLS, Thomas</u>	25 Dec 1599			0	0	
The burials of two children nursed at Hills were recorded:							
	#1948 Edward from London						28 Aug 1591
	#1981 Christian from London						18 Jan 1596

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#2040	<u>HILLS, George</u>	<1592	26 Oct 1612	Dorothy Baker	1	3	
#1092	<u>Baker, Dorothy</u>	30 Sep 1580			1	3	

	if it was this Dorothy Baker who married George Hills, she married at 32						
!	#2866 <u>HILLS, John</u>	15 Aug 1613			0	0	
!	#2867 <u>Hills, Margaret</u>	21 May 1615			0	0	
!	#2868 <u>Hills, Alice</u>	9 May 1619			0	0	

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
#2875	<u>HILLS, Francis</u> -----	<1605	<1626	Susan Hills(m) ¹²² (or Susannah) #2876	1 4	
!	#2877 <u>HILLS, John</u>	7 May 1626			0 0	
	Long gap between the births of #2877 and #2878					
!	#2878 <u>HILLS, Thomas</u>	12 Jan 1634			0 0	
!	#2879 <u>HILLS, Edward</u>	2 Feb 1636			0 0	
!	#2880 <u>Hills, Susannah</u>	29 Jul 1638			0 0	
#2875 could be Francis Hills, eldest son of Richard Hills who lived in Sevenoaks when he died. Richard was baptised in Shoreham in August 1574 and his son Francis on 13th July 1600 - see Hills of Shoreham						
#2881	<u>HILLS, Thomas</u> -----	<1626 of Sevenoaks	<1647	Mary Hills(m) #2882	1 3	
	although "of Sevenoaks", three children were baptised in Seal; possibly Mary came from Seal and came "home" to her mother's to have her children					
!	#2883 <u>Hills, Jane</u>	31 Jan 1647			0 0	
!	#2884 <u>HILLS, Thomas</u>	20 May 1649			0 0	
!	#2885 <u>HILLS, John</u>	1 Aug 1652			0 0	

Mary Hills (#2998) was buried on 12th March 1614.

122 Susan could have been the Susan Hills alias Weekes to whom, on 18th March 1639, a Grant of Administration was made for Dionis Weekes, the mother of Susan (A.C. Vol.20; p.31)

Finally, there were three marriages:

John Hills, #2892	Joanne Woodgate, #2893	28 Nov 1639
George Hills, #2894	Elizabeth Rumney, #2895	6 Aug 1648
Francis Hills, #2896	Alice Cronk, #2897	23 Aug 1649

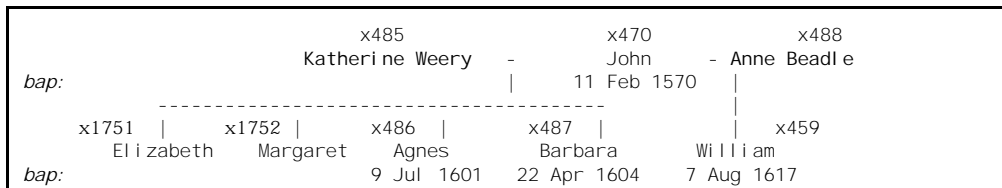
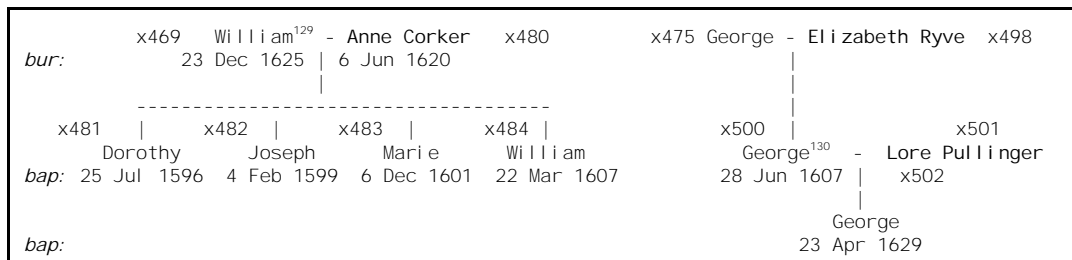
The Hills of Shoreham

The Hills of Shoreham were a large family which starts, in the parish records, with the marriage of William Hills to Alice Ramney in 1558. Only one will has survived, that of Robert (**CKS: Pws/w/8/63**) written on 24th November 1635 and proved on 7th January 1635/6 - see page h.169.

William (x463¹²³) and Alice had eleven children, only one of them recorded as being buried as a child and seven of them are known to have married - see next page for a family tree. Their son Robert is probably the Robert whose will has survived.

123 x indicates a reference in the database covering a number of villages including Shoreham

William's Sons, William, George and John



129 William died aged fifty-seven; "Anne, wife of William" was buried in 1620

130 Was this the George Hills who married on 27th October 1628?

John married Katherine Weery/Weary on 9th January 1598 when he was nearly twenty-eight and it is likely that it was the same John who married Anne Beadle on 29th April 1616. But was he also the John who married **Ruth Gates** (x490) on 18th October 1620; John and Ruth had a daughter, **Ruth** (x491), baptised on 28th January 1621, only three months after the marriage.

William's Son Richard, Sevenoaks and the Weerys

The Richard Hills of Sevenoaks whose will of 1639 has survived was probably William's son. He married Agnes Weery on 8th January 1596 in Shoreham. Richard and his brother John appear to have married sisters: Agnes/Anne and Katherine Weery with Richard's children as given in his will showing considerable agreement with the Shoreham parish registers:

Katherine and Agnes had another sister, Elizabeth, and a brother George whose wills have survived. See [History of Sevenoaks, Section 2 \(Hills and Weerys\)](#) for details of Richard's will and the Weery family.

Robert Hill, Son of William

Robert married Agnes Miller on 9th July 1604 when he was twenty-seven. The burial of “[Robert, son of William Hills](#)”, was recorded on 25th December 1635. The will of Robert Hill, the elder was written on 24th November 1635 and proved on 7th January 1635/6. The testator was probably was the son of William and Alice but they had died in twenty-five years before and a man of fifty-seven would hardly have been recorded in this way on his burial.

Robert mentioned in his will all of the children shown in the following tree except for the Elizabeth and Tobie who died soon after birth. George was just twenty-one, Elizabeth fourteen and Alexander twelve when their father wrote his will. Robert also mentioned his two oldest grandsons, William and Robert.

Robert's Legacies

Robert's eldest son, also Robert, was the main heir but considerable sums of money were left to the other six children - see Table H.3 below. In addition, Robert was to apprentice the youngest son, Alexander, to some good trade.

Edward, 2nd son (x506)	£45	£30 £15	within 1 year of his death within 3 years
George, 3rd son (x509)	£25		within 4 years
Alexander, 4th son (x512)	£25		when he was 22 (in 1645)
Agnes, eldest daughter (x505)	£15	£7 10s £7 10s	within 1 year birth of 1st child
Joane, 2nd daughter (x507)	£20	£10 £10	within 1 year birth of 1st child
Elizabeth, 3rd daughter (x511)	£15		when she was 22 (in 1643)

Table H.3: Legacies to Robert's Children

Robert's wife, Agnes, was to have, in addition to various household items listed in his will which included a great joined chest, another chest and a trunk,

- all his linen, pewter and household stuff that he had "set down into a note for her which she hath in keeping".
- one of his best hogs at the Michaelmas next after his decease
- every year "eight bushels of good, sweet and well dried barley malt during her natural life" and "four loads of assised¹³⁴ wood of the best to be delivered at her house in Shoreham".

Will of Robert Hills of Shoreham

written 24th November 1635

transcript form original

1 In the name of god Amen. And in the four and twentieth day of
2 November Anno dom 1635: And in the eleventh year of the
3 reign of our sovereign lord Charles by the Grace of God
4 king of England France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc.
5 I, Robert Hills, the elder of the parish of Shoreham in the

6 county of Kent, **yeoman**, being weak and sick in body but
7 of good and perfect memory, thanks be¹³⁵ given to god for
8 the same, do make and ordain this my last will and testament
9 in manner and form following: **First:** I commend my soul
10 to Almighty god, my maker and unto Jesus Christ, his only
11 son, my saviour and redeemer. And my body to the earth
12 to be buried in the churchyard of Shoreham aforesaid in sure
13 and certain hope of joyful resurrection to life
14 eternal. **Item:** I give to the poor of the parish of
15 Shoreham ten shillings to be distributed amongst them
16 at the day of my burial. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
17 **Edward Hills, my second son**, five and forty pounds of
18 lawful english money which is my gift and others to be paid to him
19 by my executor hereafter named in manner and form following:
20 viz: thirty pounds within one whole year next ensuing
21 after my decease and the other fifteen pounds within
22 three years next ensuing after my decease. **Item:**
23 I give and bequeath unto **George Hills, my third son**,
24 five and twenty pounds of lawful english money
25 to be paid unto the said George Hills by my executor

page 2:

26 at one whole and entire payment within four years
27 next ensuing after my decease. Provided always
28 and my very will, intent and meaning is that, if the
29 said five and twenty pounds be not paid to the said
30 George Hills according to this my will, being lawfully
31 demanded, then my will and meaning is that the said
32 George Hills shall enter into the said parcels of land
33 called **Crooche Land**, hereafter mentioned and
34 bequeathed to **my son Robert** and the same lands,
35 called Crooche Land, to have and to hold to the said
36 George Hills, his heirs and assigns, for ever in as large
37 and ample manner as I have devised the same to my said
38 son Robert Hills and the said Robert and his heirs
39 utterly to be excluded for ever. **Item:** I give and
40 bequeath to **Alexander Hills, my youngest son**,
41 five and twenty pounds of lawful money of England
42 to be paid to the said Alexander by my executor,
43 hereafter named, at one whole and entire payment
44 when the said Alexander shall come to the age of
45 two and twenty years. Provided always, and my
46 very will, intent and meaning is that, if the said five
47 and twenty pounds be not paid to the said Alexander

48 Hills according to this my will, being lawfully demanded,
49 then my will and meaning is that the said Alexander,

page 3:

50 shall enter into all my lands lying upon the East hill called
51 by the name of **Seething Land** and **Windgate** excepting **Windgate**
52 **Field** and the ??¹³⁶ belonging to the field to have and to hold
53 to the said Alexander Hills, heirs and assigns, for ever,
54 in as large and ample manner as I have devised the same
55 to my son Robert Hills and the said Robert and his heirs
56 utterly to be excluded for ever. **Item:** I give and bequeath
57 unto **my eldest daughter**¹³⁷ **Agnes Hills**, fifteen pounds of lawful
58 money of England to be paid to her by my executor hereafter
59 named in manner and form following: viz: seven pounds
60 and ten shillings within one whole year next ensuing
61 after my decease and the other seven pounds and ten
62 shillings to be paid to her within one year after the birth
63 of her first child if she be then living. **Item:** I give

136 "shaes": shaws or shays, groups of trees? "shaw", with this meaning, occurs in the will of Thomas Pocock of Sevenoaks written in 1587

137 "dafter" throughout

64 and bequeath unto **Joane Hills, my second daughter,**
65 twenty pounds of lawful money of England to be paid
66 to her by my executor hereafter named, in manner and form
67 following: viz. ten pounds within one whole year next
68 ensuing after my decease and the other ten pounds
69 to be paid to her within one year after the birth of her
70 first child if she be then living.

page 4:

71 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Elizabeth Hills, my**
72 **youngest daughter,** fifteen pounds of lawful money of
73 England to be paid to her by my executor hereafter
74 named at one whole and entire payment when the said
75 Elizabeth Hills shall come to the age of two and
76 twenty years. Provided always, and my very
77 will, intent and meaning is that if the said
78 fifteen pounds be not paid to the said Elizabeth
79 Hills according to this my will, being lawfully
80 demanded, then my will and meaning is that the said
81 Elizabeth Hills shall enter into the said parcels of
82 land called **Melland and Windgate Field** with the

83 ??¹³⁸ belonging to the field hereafter mentioned
84 and bequeathed unto my son Robert and the same
85 land called Melland and Windgate Field with the
86 ?? belonging to the field, to have and to hold
87 to the said Elizabeth Hills, her heirs and assigns,
88 for ever in as large and ample manner as I have
89 devised the same to my son Robert Hills and the
90 said Robert and his heirs utterly to be
91 excluded for ever. **Item:** I give and bequeath
92 **Agnes, my wife**, the sum of six pounds
93 by the year of lawful money of England to be
94 paid unto her yearly by my executor,
95 his heirs and assigns,

page 5:

96 during her natural life, at four feasts or times¹³⁹
97 in the year, that is to say at the feasts of Saint
98 Michael Th'archangel, the Nativity of Christ, the
99 Annunciation of the virgin Mary and the Nativity of

138 as on line 52

139 "tearmes"

100 Saint John the Baptist by even portions, the first payment
101 to begin at the first of the four feasts which shall first
102 happen after my decease. Also I will that my said
103 **son Robert** shall deliver unto Agnes, my wife, or her
104 assigns every year eight bushels of good, sweet and
105 well dried barley malt during her natural life. Also
106 I will that my said son Robert shall yearly deliver to
107 Agnes, or her assigns, during her natural life,
108 four loads of assised wood of the best to be delivered
109 at her house in Shoreham. Also I will that the said Agnes
110 shall have my best feather bed and one flock bed
111 and three blankets and the best feather bolster and one
112 flock bolster and two feather pillows and two
113 coverlets and two bedsteads of my best. Also I
114 will that the said Agnes shall have the great joined
115 chest and one other chest and one trunk. Also
116 I will that the said Agnes shall have all my linen
117 and all my pewter and all my household stuff that I
118 have set down into a note for her which she hath in keeping.

page 6:

119 Also I give unto her one of my best hogs to be delivered
120 to her at Michaelmas next after my decease. Provided

121 always and my will and meaning is, if it shall happen that
122 Agnes, my wife, shall marry, then my will is that she shall
123 have after such time that she should marry again but
124 four pounds by the year. Also I will that the said Agnes
125 shall have the use of all my household stuff before
126 given and bequeathed unto her during her life her natural life and,
127 after her decease, I will that the said household stuff shalbe
128 to the use of my sons and daughters at her disposing
129 unto them. Also my will is that if it happen that Agnes,
130 my wife, should chance to marry with any other man
131 again, then my will is that my household stuff before
132 given and bequeathed unto her shall remain and
133 be shifted amongst them, my will is that my youngest
134 daughter, Elizabeth Hills, shall have and the better shift
135 if it so happen. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
136 Robert, my eldest son, all that my messuage
137 and tenement in Shoreham wherein I now dwell
138 abutting to the land of **Sir Thomas Polhill, knight,**
139 called **Somers** to the south and to the lands of the
140 said Sir Thomas Polhill called **Deaths** to the north
141 and to a river there turning to the west and to the
142 kings high way to the east, with the barns, stables,

page 7:

143 orchards, gardens and other edifices, thereunto belonging
144 with one piece of land thereunto belonging called **Melland**
145 containing, by estimation, two acres and three yards and one
146 piece of land called **Crooche Land** containing, by estimation,
147 five acres and all my land lying upon the East Hill
148 called by the names of **Seething Lands** and **Windgate** containing,
149 by estimation, ten acres. All which land and tenements are
150 lying and being within the parish of Shoreham aforesaid.
151 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto my son Robert Hills's
152 **two children, William Hills and Robert Hills**, twenty shillings
153 a piece to be paid to them when they shall come to the
154 age of one and twenty years. **Item:** to this my last will and
155 testament, I make and ordain the said Robert Hills, my
156 eldest son, my whole and sole executor, whom I require
157 and charge¹⁴⁰ to see this my will performed. Also my will
158 is that my son Robert Hills shall put out my youngest
159 son, Alexander Hills, apprentice to some good trade
160 which shalbe fit for him. In witness hereof I, the said
161 Robert Hills, the elder, to this my present last will and

162 testament have set my hand and seal the day and year
163 first before written.

Read, sealed in the
presence of
Alexander Lewin
his mark
Edward Everest¹⁴¹

Robert **R** Hills the elder
his mark

141 could have written the will

Benjamin Hills

There was also a Benjamin Hills having children in the 1620s; was the Benjamin, married to Anne, who had a son in 1644, the son of this Benjamin? Bennet was the daughter of "Benjamin and Elizabeth" and so was the Elizabeth baptised twenty years later. It is just about possible that Benjamin had these children by one wife but perhaps he married twice with both wives called Elizabeth.

						x526 El i zabeth	-		x525 Benj ami n	-	x531 El i zabeth		
	x527		x536	x528		x529		x530			x532		x533
	Benj ami n	-	Anne	El i zabeth		Bennet		Jane		Marie		El i zabeth	
bap:				30 Mar 1623		6 May 1627		25 Oct 1629		12 Feb 1643		26 Apr 1647	
bur:				x537								4 Apr 1643	
			Wi l l i a m										
bap:			19 Feb 1644										

This will (CKS Drb/Pw 31; Drb/Pwr 22.417) was written by John Hooper, senior, - the parish clerk of Tonbridge who had written numerous wills from the beginning of the 1600s. His son, John Hooper, junior, who was born in 1613 and married in 1639 was a witness to the will.

The Fourth day of January An Dom 1640 and 16th ?? ?? Reign
Carolus¹⁴²

- 1 In the name of god Amen. I, Marie Hoade of Tonbridge in
2 the county of Kent, **Widow**¹⁴³, being in reasonable good health of body
3 and of Perfect memory (I praise God) but being aged and thereby assailed?
4 by daily spectacles of mortality admonished of my departure hence, do
5 therefore for the settling of that estate which I have to bestow, ordain and
make
6 this to be my testament and last will as followeth: **first** I will to **John**

142 written at the top of the page

143 spelled "Widdowe"

7 **Hoade, my son**, my two looms in the shop of my now dwelling house. And
8 half the slays¹⁴⁴ and half the other weaving tackling thereto belonging, the
9 other half of which slays and tackling I will to **Marie, my daughter**.
10 And also I will to the said Marie, all that joined bedstead which was my
11 Sisters And the Bed, Bolsters, Blankets and coverlet, two pillows,
underbed,
12 pair of pillowcoats. And also I will and give to the said Marie, my great
13 Cauldron, the Cupboard standing in the wall, All the linen yarn, wool,
14 new linen cloth, woollen yarn and new lynsey wool that I shall have at
15 the time of my decease. And my great Chist¹⁴⁵ which was her ??. **Item:**
16 I will to **Mercy, my daughter**, my lesser Cauldron, my cupboard in the
17 hall and the great Chist which her father ?? there. And touching
18 there of my brass, linen, pewter and household stuff, not formerly given by
19 this my will, I will the same to the said **Marie and to Elizabeth And Mercie,**
20 **my three daughters** equally to be divided and shifted between them.
21 The rest and all other my goods, chattels and my wearing apparel I will
22 to the said Marie, my daughter, whom I make the full, whole and sole
23 executrix of this my testament and last will to see the same paid, my

144 slay or sley - a weaver's appliance for separating the warp threads and beating up the weft

145 chest?

24 debts paid and my body decently to be brought to the earth. And my will
and
25 desire is that my said son John and daughter Marie shall indifferently shift
26 the Slays and weaving tackling that I have given them.
27 In witness whereof I have to this my testament and last will set my hand
28 and seal the day and year first above written.

Read, Sealed, published and
declared in the presence of

Signn. ¹⁴⁶ **Marie Hoade**

Daniel Pixier

John Hooper, Jun.

John Hooper, Snr.

No location is given for this will written (CKS: Drb/Pw 29; Drb/Pw 22.125) by George Lane, clerk. Whilst some of the words and phrases used (for example, "yeven" and "First and principally") are familiar from the Hooper (and other) wills, some phrases are unique to this will - at least as far as the wills investigated are concerned. Examples are "[while I do enjoy the faculties of my soul](#)", "[craving of his divine Majesty pardon and forgiveness](#)". Were these phrases standard for wills written by George Lane or specified by the testator?

George Holland mentions six godchildren to whom his legacies, in each case, includes a silver spoon.

- 1 In¹⁴⁷ the name of god Amen. The six and twentieth day of February An.
dm. 1634
- 2 and in the year¹⁴⁸ of the reign of our Sovereign Lord Charles by the grace of
God of England,

147 decorated "I" but not in Hooper style

148 this was the ninth year but the number is omitted

3 Scotland, France and Ireland, King, defender of the faith, etc. I, George
Holland,
4 being weak in body but in perfect mind and memory, laud and praise be¹⁴⁹
given to almighty God,
5 And knowing for certain that I must die in a time uncertain and unknown,
And that the
6 commandment of the Lord to the king of Judea was to put his house in
order is also a mandate
7 to me and to all people in general, Therefore for avoiding and prevention of
all strife and dissension
8 that may hereafter, in any wise arise, for, touching or concerning anything
that is now mine, I hold
9 it my duty, while I do enjoy the faculties of my soul to dispose of those
things that the lord and
10 given of all things ?? been pleased to lend unto me. And accordingly I do
hereby make, ordain,
11 ?? and pronounce my last will and testament in manner and form
following, that is
12 to say, **First** and principally, above all things, I commend my soul into the
hands of Al

149 "bee" here and "mee" on line 7 but "be" throughout the rest of the will which was not written by a Hooper

13 mighty God, the father, son and holy ghost, my creator, redeemer and
sanctifier, most humbly
14 craving of his divine Majesty pardon and forgiveness of all my sins and
iniquities and
15 trusting by his great mercy and for the merits of my sweet saviour, Jesus
Christ, to be
16 made partaker of the joys that are prepared for the elect children of God.
And my body, I
17 commend to the earth to be buried in such place and in such sort as it shall
please my exe
18 cutor hereunder named to appoint. **Item:** I do give and bequeath unto
Robert Holland,
19 **my brother,** my black cloak faced with taffeta, and one black suit, and the
best suit,
20 doublet and hose that I have, and one pair of dark ?? silk stockings. **Item:** I
do
21 give and bequeath unto **my cousin Phillip Holland** five shillings of current
money of Eng
22 land. **Item:** I do give and bequeath to **Mary Harbor, the elder,** five shillings
of cur
23 rant money of England to buy her a pair of gloves to be paid her within one
month after

24 my decease. **Item:** I do give and bequeath unto **George Harbor, my**
25 **godchild,** ten shillings of
26 currant money of England and one silver spoon to be paid him within one
27 month after my decease.
28 **Item:** I do give and bequeath to ?? ?? one ?? ?? and coated with silver
29 to be
30 delivered to her within one month after my decease. **Item:** I do give and
31 bequeath to **George**
32 **Brian, my godchild,** one silver spoon to be delivered to him within one
33 month after my decease.
34 **Item:** I do give and bequeath to **Margaret Stewart, my godchild,** one silver
35 spoon to be delivered
36 to her within one month after my decease. **Item:** I do give and bequeath to
37 **Prudence Hoyell,**
38 **my goddaughter,** one silver spoon to be delivered to her within one month
39 after my decease. **Item:**
40 I do give and bequeath to **Penelope Bennett, my godchild,** one silver spoon
41 to be delivered to her with

35 in one month after my decease. **Item:** I do give and bequeath to the child
of **Rachel Pattenson**
36 five shillings of currant money of England to be paid to the foresaid child
within one month after
37 my decease. **Item:** I do give and bequeath unto **George Lane, clerk**, five
shillings of currant
38 money of England. All rest and residue of my goods, chattels, household
stuff, napery, linen, woollen,
39 plate, ready money, bonds, bills and all other things and thing
unbequeathed wherewith it
40 shall please god to endow me with all at the time of my decease, my debts,
legacies and funeral char
41 ges being first paid and allowed, I do fully and wholly give and bequeath
the same unto my **lov**
42 **ing wife, Mary Holland**, whom I make and ordain my full and sole executrix
of this my last will
43 and testament. Hereby revoking and disallowing of all former wills,
legacies and bequests
44 by me heretofore made. And this to stand and abide for and as my last will
and testament. In
45 witness whereof I, the said George Holland, to this my present testament
and last will,

46 have set my hand and seal, being or containing two sheets of paper, yeven,
the day and
47 year aforesaid.

George ¹⁵⁰ Holland
his mark

Sealed, delivered and declared the
day and year first above written
in the presence of

George Lane, scriptor

John Lane

William Newman

150 a vertical cross; he also put his mark on the first page of the will

The Hollombys of Chiddingstone

There are two surviving Hollomby (or Hollamby) wills for Chiddingstone:

	dated	proved	
John Hollomby	6 Feb 1636/7	9 Aug 1637	CKS: Prs/w/8/64 page h.194
Margaret Hollomby	7 Jan 1643/4	7 Jan 1644/5	CKS: Prs/w/8/91 page h.204

The will of John Hollomby was written by Thomas Leddall who wrote wills from at least 1615 until 1643 mainly from Penshurst and Chiddingstone. Margaret was very probably his wife. John Hollomby owned a considerable amount of land much of which he had purchased only "[lately](#)". He divided this between his wife and children:

To Margery Hollomby, his daughter:

- his part of a message and lands in Chevening which he and George Beecher¹⁵¹ had purchased from Sir Henry Atkins, knight. His wife, Margaret, having the rent for the first two years after his decease. Since

¹⁵¹ George Beecher, (x113 where x indicates a reference in the miscellaneous database), in his will of 1638, left his part of the message and lands in Chevening to the child "[which my said wife Jane now goeth with](#)"

Margaret was his executrix, this was probably to pay his debts, legacies, etc.

To Richard Hollomby, his son:

- a messuage in Penshurst called **Comyearth** for twenty-one years after his decease or until Richard's death provided that Richard paid to John's wife Margaret and his son John forty shillings a year for the twenty-one years.
- a messuage in Tonbridge called **Boornes Place** with some pieces of land belonging to it comprising, in total, about thirty-six acres. This was to go to Richard and his heirs but, if he had no heirs lawfully begotten, to Margery, his daughter, and to her heirs. But if she had no children it was to go to "[the right heirs of Susan, my late wife, deceased](#)". (Susan must have been John's first wife)

To Margaret, his wife:

- his part of two messuages in **Sevenoaks Town** which he and George Beecher¹⁵² had purchased, again from Sir Henry Atkins. She was to have these to "[her heirs and assigns for ever](#)".
- the messuage in which he lived and those lands called **Bushells** which he had purchased from Robert Streatfield and the tenement and lands which

152 again George Beecher mentioned his part in his will

he had purchased from William Plumly, deceased, all in Chiddingstone. She was to have these until John, their son, was twenty-three years old. But Margaret was to pay the £80 which John had left to his daughter, Margery.

To John Hollomby, his son:

- when he was twenty-three he was to have the messuage, etc. in Chiddingstone, paying Margaret £15 a year until she died and providing her with "[convenient dwelling and being](#)" in the house he had inherited. If John died before Margaret, without the heirs lawfully begotten, then the tenement and lands which had been purchased from William Plumly were to go to Margaret forever but there was no mention of what was to happen to the other land, etc. which should have gone to John
- .
- at the end of the twenty-one years for which Richard was to have the messuage and lands called Comyearth, they were to go to John and his heirs for ever.

Richard's land called Comyearth had to provide forty shillings a year for Margaret and John. Margaret's land in Chiddingstone had to provide £80 for Margery's legacy and, once John had inherited this land, he had to provide £15 a year for Margaret. The arrangements in the case of default were different for the payment of the £80 than for the annuities.

If Margaret defaulted it would be lawful for Margery to enter the property and "to have, hold and enjoy (them) until the said sum of four score pounds be fully paid". In the cases of the annuities, the recipient or assigns could enter the land and "to distrain and the distress or distresses there so had and taken lawfully from thence to lead, drive, bear and carry away and the same to withhold, impound, detain and keep, until the said yearly sum . . be fully satisfied and paid withall arrearages, if any be". Was the difference because of the different type of payment or differences in the land providing the money? Or was it just chance in the way the will was written?

John also left an annuity of 13s 4d to his widowed sister but without specifying who was to be responsible for paying it.

Comyearth was interesting also in that it included a sandpit where, during Richard's occupation of it, it was to be lawful for Margaret, John and their assigns "to dig, fell and take sand for their use at the sandpit there against the highway in the field or land next to the said messuage so (long) as they . . do not dig within twelve foot of the said messuage".

Margaret Hollomby, widow, had a son John and a son-in-law, Thomas Long, so that it is likely that she was John's widow. Her son, John, was under twenty-three when his father wrote his will in 1637 but he had married before his mother wrote

1 In the name of god Amen. The sixth day of February Ao dm 1636
2 in the twelfth year of the reign of our sovereign Lord Charles, by
3 the grace of god, king of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender
of
4 the faith, etc. I, John Hollomby of the parish of Chiddingstone in the
county of Kent,
5 **yeoman**, being sick and not well in body but of sound and perfect memory,
thanks be given
6 to God, therefore, do make and declare this my last will and testament in
manner
7 and form following: **First and principally** I commend and bequeath my soul
into the
8 hands of Almighty God, my maker, and Jesus Christ, his son, my only
saviour
9 and redeemer and my body to the earth from whence it came with a full
10 assurance of a joyful resurrection at the last day. As concerning such
worldly
11 goods the disposing of them as God hath lent me, **First:** I give to the poor,
to

12 be distributed at my burial, three pounds. **Item:** I give to the preacher that
13 shall preach at my burial, 10s.¹⁵³

17 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Elizabeth Humfry of**
18 **Sevenoaks, widow,**
19 **my sister,** the like sum of thirteen shillings and four pence of lawful money
20 yearly
21 and every year during the term of her natural life half yearly to be paid
22 by equal portions as aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Henry**
23 **Hollomby,**
24 **my brother,** forty shillings of lawful money to be paid unto him within one
25 whole year next after my decease by mine executrix. **Item:** I give and
26 bequeath
27 unto **Margery Hollomby, my daughter,** the sum of four score pounds
28 good and lawful money of England to be paid unto her within three years
29 next after my decease by mine executrix hereafter named. The residue
30 of all my moveable goods, cattell and chattels whatsoever, my debts,
31 legacies and

153 The remainder of this line and the next three were crossed out, unfortunately the names cannot be read: "**Item:** I give unto E-- ?? , the wife of ?? ??, being my sister, the sum of thirteen shillings four pence of lawful english money yearly and every year during the term of her natural life to be paid unto her by mine executrix hereafter named half yearly to be paid by equal portions."

27 funeral paid and discharged, I give and bequeath unto **Margaret, my**
28 **wellbeloved**
29 **wife** whom I do ordain and make the full and sole executrix of this my last
30 will
31 and testament. And I do appoint **my loving brother Richard Hollomby** and
32 my
33 **son-in-law, Thomas Long**¹⁵⁴, to be overseers to this my last will and
34 testament.

31 This is the last will and testament of me¹⁵⁵ the said John Hollomby made
32 the day and year aforesaid, touching the disposing of all my lands,
33 tenements
34 and hereditaments whatsoever lying and being in the several parishes
35 hereafter named.
36 **First:** I give and bequeath unto Margery Hollomby, my daughter, all my
37 part of that
38 messuage or tenement and lands, withall and singular th'appurtenances
39 thereunto belonging which I

154 Thomas could have been John's stepson, his wife's son by a previous marriage but, in her will, he is also described as her "son-in-law"

155 "mee" here and the occasional "bee"

36 and **George Beecher** late purchased of **Sir Henry Atkins, knight**, situated,
lying and being in
37 the parish of **Chevening** in the county aforesaid. To have and to hold unto
the said Margery,
38 my daughter, her heirs and assigns, forever. Provided always, and my will
and meaning is that
39 Margaret, my wife, shall have and take to her use all the rent of the said
messuage or tenement
40 and lands during the term of two whole years next after my decease. **Item:**
I give and
41 bequeath unto **Richard Hollomby, my son**, all that my messuage or
tenement called **Comyearth**
42 with the barn, lands and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situated,
lying and being in
43 **Penshurst** now in the occupation of **Thomas Sutton**. To have and to hold
unto the said
44 Richard Hollomby during the term of one and twenty years next after my
decease or the term of his natural life¹⁵⁶. Provided always and my will and
meaning

156 changed from "his heirs and assigns forever"; see end of the will for what was to happen to this land after twenty-one years

45 is that the said Richard, my son, shall well and truly pay out of the said
tenement
46 and lands unto my executrix and **John Hollomby, my son**, the sum of forty
shillings
47 lawful money of England, yearly and every year during the said term of one
and twenty
48 years next after my decease, or the term of his natural life, at the two usual
feasts or terms in the year by
49 equal and even portions and for default in payment thereof it shall and may
be lawful to and for my
50 said executrix and John, my son, to enter in and upon the said tenement
and lands, or any part there
51 of, to distrain and the distress or distresses there so had and taken lawfully
from thence to lead,
52 drive, bear and carry away and the same to withhold, impound, detain and
keep, until the said
53 yearly sum of forty shillings be fully satisfied and paid withall arrearages, if
any be.
54 Provided also, that it shall and may be lawful to and for my said executrix
and John Hollomby,
55 or those assigned, to dig, fell and take sand for their use at the sandpit
there against the

56 highway in the field or land next to the said messuage so as they, or either
of them, do not dig
57 within twelve foot of the said messuage. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
the said Richard
58 Hollomby, my son, all that my messuage or tenement called **Boornes Place**
and all the
59 lands thereunto belonging with th'appurtenances called or known by the
name of the **Little**
60 **Kitchenfield, the Great Kitchenfield, the Posternfield, Jackland,** the little
Wood, the
61 **Hilly Harpers** and a parcel of ground called **the Wood** containing in the
whole, by estimation,
62 thirty and six acres, be it more or less, together, situated, lying and being in
Tonbridge.
63 To have and to hold unto the said Richard, my son, and to the heirs of his
body lawfully
64 begotten. And for default of such issue, then I will and devise all the said
messuage,
65 and lands aforesaid unto Margery Hollomby, my daughter, and to the heirs
of her body lawfully
66 begotten.
67 To have, hold and enjoy unto the said Margery, my daughter, and to the
heirs of her body

68 lawfully begotten. And for default of such issue, then my will and meaning
is that all the said
69 tenement and lands aforesaid shalbe and remain unto the right heirs of
Susan, my late
70 **wife, deceased**¹⁵⁷. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto Margaret, my wife, all
my part of those
71 two messuages or tenements, with th'appurtenances thereunto belonging,
situated and being in **Sevenoaks**
72 **Town** and late purchased by me and George Beecher of Sir Henry Atkins,
aforesaid
73 To have and to hold unto the said Margaret, my wife, her heirs and assigns
for ever.
74 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto the said Margaret, my wife, all the said
messuage
75 or tenement wherein I now dwell with the lands and appurtenances
thereunto belonging and all
76 those lands called **Bushells** which I late purchased of **Robert Streatfield**.
And also all
77 that tenement and lands which I late purchased of **William Plumly**,
deceased. All which said tenement,

¹⁵⁷ Margaret was obviously John's second wife; were Richard and Margery children of the first marriage and the younger son, John, and the daughter who had married Thomas Long by Margaret?

78 lands and premises are situated, lying and being in Chiddingstone. To
have, hold and
79 enjoy unto the said Margaret, my wife, until John Hollamby, my son, shall
80 accomplish his full age of twenty and three years. Provided always, that if
81 the said Margaret, my wife, or her assigns, shall refuse to pay the said sum
of four score pounds, as aforesaid,
82 unto Margery, my daughter, within three years next after my decease, that
then it
83 shall and may be lawful to and for the said Margery, my daughter, to enter
in and upon all
84 my said messuage, tenements and lands before given to Margaret, my
wife, and the
85 same to have, hold and enjoy until the said sum of four score pounds be
fully
86 satisfied and paid with all arrearages if any be. **Item:** I will and devise that
after the
87 said John, my son, shall accomplish his said age of twenty and three years,
then
88 I give and bequeath all the said messuages, tenements and lands aforesaid
unto the said
89 John, my son, To have and to hold unto the said John, my son, his heirs
and

90 assigns for ever. Provided always upon condition that the said John, my
son,
91 his heirs and assigns, shall pay out the said tenements and lands unto the
said Margaret,
92 my wife, the sum of fifteen pounds of good and lawful money of England
yearly,
93 every year, during the term of her natural life, quarterly to be paid by equal
94 portions. And for default in payment thereof, that then it shall and may be
95 lawful to and for the said Margaret and her assigns to enter in and upon
the said
96 tenements and lands aforesaid to distrain and the distress and distresses
there so had and taken
97 from thence lawfully to lead, drive, bear and carry away and the same to
detain and keep
98 until the said yearly rent be fully satisfied and paid with all arrearages if
any.
99 **Item:** I will and devise that Margaret, my wife, shall have convenient
dwelling and
100 being in my now dwelling house, both to come to the fire and to necessary
besides,
101 during the term of her natural life after the said John, my son, shall
accomplish
102 his said age of twenty and three years. And if it shall happen that the said

103 John, my son, to die before Margaret, my wife, without the heirs of his body
lawfully
104 begotten, then I give and bequeath all the said tenement and lands
aforesaid
105 which I purchased of William Plumly, To have and to hold to the said
Margaret,
106 my wife, her heirs and assigns for ever. And whereas I have willed unto
107 Richard Hollamby, my son, one messuage or tenement called Comyearth
with the
108 lands there unto belonging during the term of one and twenty years next
after
109 my decease or term of his natural life, as aforesaid **Item:** I will and
110 devise that after the said term is expired, the said tenement and lands shall
be
111 and remain unto John Hollamby, my son, To have and to hold to the said
112 John Hollamby, his heirs and assigns for ever. In witness where
113 of to this my present testament and last will containing three sheets and
this

114 part of sheet of paper, I, the said John Hollamby, have set my hand and
115 seal the day and year aforesaid.

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

John Hollamby¹⁵⁸

Will of Margaret Hollomby of Chiddingstone

written 7th January 1643/4
transcript from original

1 In the name of god Amen. I, Margaret Hollomby, in the parish
2 of Chiddingstone, **widow**, being sick in body but in my perfect sense
3 and memory, do bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God
4 my Creator and Redeemer; and my body to be buried at the discretion
5 of my executor and overseers. **Item:** I give and bequeath to the

¹⁵⁸ looks to be written in a different hand from the will and could therefore be John's signature; his surname is written "Hollomby" on the first page but later as "Hollamby"

6 minister for a sermon at my burial the sum of ten shillings. **Item:**
7 I give unto the poor of the parish of Chiddingstone twenty shillings.
8 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto the **children of my son Thomas**¹⁵⁹,
9 long-deceased, the sum of nine pounds to be disposed of to them
10 in equal portions at the age of twenty years. **Item:** I give unto
11 the **children of Thomas Long, my son-in-law**, now living, the sum
12 of ten shillings a piece to be paid unto them within the space of
13 2 whole years after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath
14 unto **my daughter**¹⁶⁰, **Elizabeth, the wife of John Hollomby**, one
15 annuity of twenty shillings a year issuing and going out of a
16 parcel of land called **Sharps** now in the possession of **Mr. John**
17 **Meredith**, to be enjoyed by her during her natural life and
18 afterward to her heirs for ever. **Item:** I do make and ordain
19 **John Hollamby, my own son**, to be my full and whole
20 executor and I do appoint **my brothers, John and Richard**
21 **Fletcher** to be the overseers of this my last will and testament
22 to whom I do give and bequeath twenty shillings a piece
23 for their pains. All the rest of my goods and lands I bequeath
24 unto my aforesaid executor, John Hollamby. In witness whereof

159 could have been by a first marriage

160 daughter-in-law

25 I have hereunto set my hand and seal, dated this 7th day of January
26 Anno dm 1643. witnesses

George Hills

Thomas Huggen

The mark of Margaret Hollamby

The Holloways of Seal

Five wills have survived for the Holloways of Seal:

	date of:	will	burial	ref.	
Thomas Holloway	11 Feb 1510/1			Drb/Pwr 6.283	page h.212
Thomas Holloway		1529		Drb/Pwr 8.211	page h.213
James Holloway	2 Sep 1571		7 Sep 1571	Drb/Pwr 14.62; Drb/Pw 14	page h.216
John Holloway	24 Jul 1619		probate 1625	Drb/Pwr 21.150; Drb/Pw 27	page h.219
Johane Holloway	4 Jun 1635		14 Nov 1635	Drb/Pwr 22.139; Drb/Pw 29	page h.225

John Holloway's will was written, in 1619, by **John Hooper**, notary publique of Tonbridge who, like his father Nicholas before him and his son after him, wrote numerous wills for people in the surrounding villages.

The two Thomases were probably father and son of with the younger one (a carpenter) being the father of James who died in 1571. When his father died, James had not yet decided to "[go to carpenter occupation](#)" and was therefore probably between ten and fifteen (born between 1514 and 1519). He does not give his occupation or status in his will of 1571 but his son, the John who wrote his will in 1619, was a carpenter so that it is likely that there were at least three generations of Holloways who followed this trade and four consecutive generations in Seal. Johane was John's wife.

With the information available from the wills and the parish registers, the Becket line in Seal came to an end with John and Johane since both their sons died as young children. James had two other sons in addition to John but, although they could have had descendants, none were recorded in Seal or the neighbouring villages.

James would have been in his mid-fifties when he died. Agnes, his wife, was buried three weeks after him so that someone else, presumably their eldest son John, would have had to take on the executorship of James's will. The probate clause just says the executor to administer the will without giving a name. Agnes was probably a little younger than James since she had her last child, James, in 1563 late enough to be recorded in the parish register.

Johane Holloway married **John Porter** (#169) on 12th September 1563 (see **Porter**) and Alice Holloway married **John Fuller**, carpenter, (#190) on 19th November 1564 (see **Fuller**). They could have been daughters of James and Agnes born before John and not mentioned in their father's will because they had had their portions when they married. James does mention two daughters: Agnes and Margaret. Sylvester Holloway who died in 1562 could also have been his daughter.

	#4044 ¹⁶¹	Thomas - Margery	#4045
<i>will:</i>	11 Feb 1511		
		#98 Thomas (carpenter) - Alice	#99
<i>will:</i>	1529		

	#241		#242
	James - Agnes		#4046
			Thomas
<i>born:</i>	1515-1520?		
<i>will:</i>	2 Sep 1571		
<i>bur:</i>	7 Sep 1571		30 Sep 1571 ¹⁶²

	#170		#191
	Johane	Alice ¹⁶³	John - Johane Becket
<i>born/bap:</i>		1547?	
<i>mar:</i>	1 Jun 1572		
<i>will:</i>	24 Jul 1619		4 Jun 1635
<i>bur:</i>	1625?		14 Nov 1635
			19 Jul 1562
			see next page

¹⁶¹ # indicates reference number in the Seal database

¹⁶² James's wife could have been the Agnes Holloway buried on 30th September, three weeks after the burial of James himself

¹⁶³ see above for their marriages

		#355 John - Johane Becket #356					
will:		24 Jul 1619 4 Jun 1635					
bur:		1625? 14 Nov 1635					

#751		#3366		#3365		#852	
Katherine - ?? Garrett		Agnes - Edward Rumney		John		#1104	
bap: 31 May 1573		14 Apr 1575		4 Aug 1577		Johane -	
bur: <1619?		19 Jan 1647		1 Dec 1582		Richard Palmer	
<1619?		13 Jun 1648		aged 5		d. <1635?	

#4051		#3367		#3368		#3369	
Thomas Henry William		John John		Edward ¹⁶⁴		#4048	
bap:		24 Jul 1607		2 Jul 1609		Richard John	
bur:		25 Jul 1607		20 Sep 1612			

The children of Katherine and Johane (who was 'described as "[Johane Palmer](#)" in her father's will) are taken just from John's will who does not say they are his grandchildren and does not mention his daughter Katherine at all. Johane is not mentioned in her mother's will.

Thomas Holloway and the church steeple

In 1511, Thomas Holloway left "[to the building of the steeple in Seal church 40s if the parish be disposed that it shall be now made. If not, then I bequeath 20s to the profits of the said church.](#)" This is the first mention of rebuilding the steeple; thirty years later Gilbert Biggyns left money for "[the taking down of the old steeple](#)". In the meantime, the Thomas Holloway who died in 1529 left his "[five fold tackling](#)"¹⁶⁵ to Seal church, to hang "[in the steeple to the use of the church](#)".

The house that Thomas Holloway left to his wife and then his son Thomas included a croft and a cony - a "cony" was a rabbit, possibly a rabbit warren was meant.

¹⁶⁵ tackling - not mentioned by F.G.Emmison in his description of tools left by carpenters (or other craftsmen) in their wills in 'Elizabethan Life' Essex CC, 1976.

1 In the name of god Amen. The 11th day of February
2 in the year of our lord god 1510, I, Thomas
3 Holloway of Seal, whole in mind, make my
4 testament in this wise: **First:** I bequeath my
5 soul to Almighty god, my body to be buried
6 in the churchyard of Seal. **Item:** I bequeath to
7 the high altar 12d. **Item:** I bequeath to an
8 honest priest to sing a trental for me 10s. **Item:**
9 I bequeath to the building of the steeple in Seal
10 church 40s if the parish be disposed that it shalbe
11 now made. If not, then I bequeath
12 20s to the profits of the said church. **Item:** I bequeath
13 to **Elizabeth Chambers** 3? **Item:** I bequeath to
14 **Margery, my wife**, the house where I dwell in with the
15 croft and cony during term of her life and,
16 after the decease of her, to **Thomas Holloway, my**
17 **son**. The residue of all my lands not bequeathed
18 I bequeath to the said Thomas Holloway, my son,
19 for to enter immediately after my departing.

20 Also I bequeath the residue of my goods moveables
21 unto Margery, my wife, and to Thomas Holloway, my
22 son whom I ordain and make my executors. Witness:
23 **Sir Cristofer Blande**¹⁶⁶, priest; ?? Holloway and William ??

The Will of Thomas Holloway 1529

written 1529

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. In the year of our
2 lord god 1529, I, Thomas Holloway
3 of Seal, whole in mind, make my testament
4 in this wise: **First:** I bequeath my soul to god,
5 my body to be buried in the churchyard of
6 Seal. Also I bequeath to the high altar for my
7 tithes forgotten 12d. Also I will I have a
8 trental to be said in the parish church of
9 Seal for my soul and all persons. Also I bequeath

166 Nicholas Metcalf was vicar of Seal from 1509 to 1517 but he was domestic chaplain to the Bishop of Rochester; Christopher Bland could have been his curate.

10 to the church of Seal, my five fold tackling¹⁶⁷
11 to hang there in the steeple to the use of the church
12 Except if **James, my son**, go to **carpenter** occupation.
13 Then I will he have it to such time as he
14 shall have need of it. And then to bring
15 it again to the steeple as oft as he doth fetch it
16 saving it harmless. Also I will that **Richard**
17 **Peke of Shipborne??**, the elder, shall have it in
18 like manner during his life. Also I bequeath an end
19 of rope to the said church to serve to the said tackling.
20 Also I bequeath to James, my son, if
21 he go to carpenters occupation, part of all such
22 tools as belonging to carpenter occupation.
23 The residue of all my goods, moveable, my debts
24 paid and bequests, I give to **Alice, my wife** whom
25 I make my executrix.

26 This is the last will of me Thomas Holloway,
27 aforesaid, written the said day and year. **First:**
28 I will that Alice, my wife, have my house in

167 tackling - not mentioned by F.G.Emmison in his description of tools left by carpenters (or other craftsmen) in their wills in 'Elizabethan Life' Essex CC, 1976.

29 Seal which **William Miller** hath in term
30 called S--ingette, to her during her life,
31 paying to **John Swaynland** £7. And after
32 the decease of the said Alice my wife, I will it
33 to remain to James, my son, and to his assigns,
34 paying to his **brother, Thomas** £4 in 4
35 years. . . ? ? there
36 being witness: **Sir Xpher Sharpeharrow**¹⁶⁸, **John**
37 **Thebolde**¹⁶⁹, **Richard Porter** and **William Halles**.

168 curate of Seal at this time; possibly wrote the will

169 John(2) Tebold (#673)

1 In the name of god Amen. The second
2 of September in the year of our lord god
3 1571, I, James Holloway, sick in body
4 and in good and perfect memory, laude and
5 praise be given unto god. **First** and principally
6 I give and bequeath my soul to Almighty
7 god and saviour and Redeemer, Jesus Christ.
8 And my body to be buried within the church
9 yard of Seal. **First:** I will and give unto
10 **John, my son**, a cow. I will and give unto
11 **Agnes, my daughter**, one two yearling cow
12 bullock and one joined bedstead. I give and
13 give unto **Margaret, my daughter**, one
14 joined bedstead. All the residue of
15 my goods (my debts and legacies being paid)
16 I will and give unto **Agnes, my wife**,
17 whom I make my sole executrix.
18 This is the last will
19 of me, the said James Holloway, of my

20 disposition of all my land and tenements
21 made in the day and year above written.
22 I will and give unto John, my son, my
23 house in Seal with the land thereunto
24 belonging, to him and to his heirs forever
25 upon condition he do pay unto **my son,**
26 **Thomas Holloway**, 40s. And to **James**
27 **Holloway**¹⁷⁰, **my son**, another 40s and to
28 be paid to either of them when they
29 come to the age of 21 years. And if
30 default of payment be, then my very
31 will is that either of my two sons
32 shall enter into the said house until
33 such time the said 40s a piece be
34 paid. Witnesses at the sealing hereof:

William Porter¹⁷¹, **William Masters**¹⁷²,

170 baptised 1563, James's other children would have been baptised before parish records for Seal have survived

171 William Porter of Hall (#58) was active in the village of Seal from the 1560s until his death in 1611

172 William Masters (#105) had children in the 1560s and 1580s and died in 1599

John Holloway's House

In 1529, Thomas's wife Alice and then his son James were left the house which "William Miller hath in term called S--ingette" it not being possible to decipher what is possibly the name of the house. James just leaves John his "house in Seal with the land thereunto belonging" but John, in 1619, describes a large house with a number of rooms. Whether or not this was the original house with the croft and cony left by the first Thomas, modified or perhaps completely rebuilt is not known. The house mentioned in 1529 would appear to have been leased to William Miller rather than lived in by Thomas and his family.

From the description given in his will, John's house was in the centre of Seal village with the "Town well" to the south; it included a garden plot, "backside" and outhouses. On the death of his wife it was to be divided between his two daughters following the custom of gavelkind (neither of his two sons, both named John, survived childhood). Agnes was to receive the south end of the house which consisted of the hall with a little kitchen and parlour to the west with three upper chambers, one over the parlour, one over the hall and the third over the entry.

John also mention cross beams or "summer" obviously showing the specialised knowledge of a carpenter. Agnes was also to have a "little part of the garden" which was "marked out and well known". The garden must have been to the

north of the house so that Agnes was to have a "footpath through the backside to and from the garden". Johane was to have the "residue of the said tenement and residue of the said garden plot" which, unfortunately for us, was not described except that Johane was also to have "the hayhouse at the further end of the said tenement northward".

A document describing the division of a house in Lullingstone in 1585 between two brothers has survived - U55 T274 - and details of this are given in Kentish Sources V Some Kentish Houses¹⁷³. This house seems to be similar to that of the Holloways. Most of those bequeathed by the yeomen, husbandmen and craftsmen of the area would have been built on the same lines varying in the number and size of the rooms and their furnishings depending on the wealth of the owner.

The Will of John Holloway, carpenter

written 24th July 1619; probate 1625

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. The 24th day of July in the
2 year of our lord Christ 1619, I, John Holloway, of Seal in the County of

173 KCC 1965; edited by Elizabeth Melling, p.10

Kent, **carpenter**, being at the time of making hereof in reasonable and good health of body, notwithstanding aged and thereby, as by many other example, put in mind of my departure, the time whereof most certain though

. . most uncertain, do therefore, in good remembrance and memory ordain and make this my testament and last will in manner following:

First: and

principally, yielding my soul to almighty god with a fixed hope of salvation through Jesus Christ that died for me and hath satisfied god's in . . for my sins, and my body I yield to the earth whence it was . . hope of a joyful resurrection to eternal life at the last day.

And, as touching all my moveable goods, chattels, debts and all other my goods whatsoever, I wholly will and give all and every the same unto

Johane, my

loving wife, whom I make and ordain the full and sole executrix of this my testament and last will. And I desire my loving **brother-in-law, John Becket**,

to be the supervisor and overseer of the same. This is the last will of me, the said John Holloway, made and declared the day and year first above written touching the disposing and devising of my tenement with th'appurtenances

situated in Seal aforesaid. **First:** I give, will and devise all that my

20 message or tenement wherein I now dwell, situated in Seal aforesaid,
with
21 the garden plot, backside, outhouses and all other appurtenances
thereunto belonging
22 wholly unto the said Johane, my well beloved wife, for, by and during the
whole
23 term of her natural life. And after the decease of the said Johane, I will
24 and devise all my said tenement with th'appurtenances in manner
following, viz: I will
25 and devise to **Agnes Romney, my daughter**, all that part of my said
tenement wherein
26 I now dwell lying toward the South end of the whole house or toward the
27 Town well as namely the hall, one little kitchen adjoining to the said
28 hall toward the west, one parlour, three upper chambers, one over the
29 parlour, one other over the hall and the third over the entry and some little
30 part more of upper rooms beyond the entry, that is to say to the cross
beams or
31 Summer¹⁷⁴ at the further end of the same chamber over the entry . .
32 the said beam or summer right down to the ground, lying together in
33 Seal aforesaid with a footpath through the backside to and from the garden
34 there. Also one little part of the garden or backside thereto adjoining

174 great horizontal beam or lintel especially supporting a floor or roof

35 which is ?? and marked out and well known. To have and to hold all the
36 said rooms and part of my said tenement and use of my said garden with
th'appurtenances and
37 footpath aforesaid unto her, the said Agnes and her assigns for, by and
during the
38 whole term of her natural life (and) after the decease of the said Agnes, to
39 the heirs of her body lawfully begotten for ever. And for default of such
40 heirs of the body of the said Agnes, I will and devise the said rooms and
parts
41 of my said tenement and garden formerly willed and devised to the said
Agnes, to
42 **Johane Palmer, my daughter**¹⁷⁵, her heirs and assigns for ever. And the
43 residue of the said tenement and residue of the said garden plot (not
formerly
44 willed to the said Agnes) I will and devise to the said Johane, my daughter,
45 together with the hayhouse at the further end of the said tenement north
46 ward. To her and her heirs, the said residue of the said tenement, residue
47 of the said garden and all the said hayhouse with th'appurtenances unto
the said Johane,
48 her heirs and assigns to the only use and behoof of the said Johane, her

175 The only Palmers recorded in Seal are Robert Palmer (#3688) and his children born between 1615 and 1621 none of whom were called Richard or John (see line 53 below).

49 heirs and assigns for ever. Notwithstanding my will and meaning is
50 that my said two daughters, Agnes and Johane, and their heirs shall pay,
or
51 cause to be paid equally between them, unto **Thomas Garratt, Henry**
52 **Garrett and William Garratt**, to every of them 20s a piece of
53 lawful English money. And to **Richard Palmer, John Palmer**¹⁷⁶ ??
54 **Richard Palmer, his sons**, to every of them 12d a piece of good money.
55 All which sums I will shalbe equally paid by my said daughters, their
56 heirs or assigns, within half a year next after the decease of the
57 said Johane¹⁷⁷, my wife, at or in my said messuage or tenement without
(any)
58 fraud or guile. And I further will that he or they which shall happen to be
59 unpaid contrary to the tenor of this my will shall, and may, enter into
60 and upon her of their part of ?? my said tenement which shall make
default
61 of payment of the several sums aforesaid, or of any part thereof, contrary
62 to the purpose of this my will and there shall, or may, distrain for the same.

176 if these were John's grandsons why is there no mention of any Rumney grandchildren? And who were the Garratts? John and Johane had a daughter Katherine, born in 1573 of whom nothing more is known. Perhaps she married a Garratt but died before 1619.

177 Johane did not die until 1635, sixteen years after John wrote his will and ten after the date of probate. By 1635 Agnes and Johane would have been sixty and fifty-five respectively, their mother having lived well into her eighties.

63 And the distress or distresses, there so had, to carry away, detain and hold
64 until he or they and every of them so unpaid be fully satisfied and paid
65 their several legacies and sums of money according to the terms
66 hereof. In witness whereof I, the said John Holloway, have to this my
67 present testament and last will set my hand and seal ?? the day and year
68 first above written.

the mark of John Holloway

< ¹⁷⁸

read, sealed and declared in the presence of

John Becket, Jun.¹⁷⁹

and **John Hooper, notary**

The mark of John Holloway.

178 this shape but much larger

179 if the witness was John Holloway's brother-in-law (#3970), who was to be his overseer and supervisor, why "Jun.?" #3970 would have been about 70 in 1619 and so could easily have had a son who witnessed the will.

1 In the name of god Amen. I, Joane Holloway of Seal, in the county
2 of Kent, **widow**, being sick in body but whole in mind and of
3 good and perfect remembrance (thanks be given to God) do make,
4 constitute and ordain this my last will and testament in manner
5 and form following, viz: **First:** I commend my soul into the hands
6 of Almighty God, my maker, hoping for pardon and
7 remission of all my sins by the merit and satisfaction
8 of Jesus Christ, my redeemer. And my body to be buried in
9 the churchyard of Seal aforesaid. I give and bequ
10 eath unto **my daughter, Annas Rumney**, six pieces of
11 pewter, three kettles and one brass pot and three
12 brass chafers, one flockbed with one covering and one
13 blanket, one bolster and two pillows, five pairs of
14 sheets and all my ?? wearing apparel as well woollen
15 as linen, one table, one form, one joint chair
16 and two turned chairs and three joint stools and
17 two plain chests. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto

18 **John Becket**¹⁸⁰ of **Sevenoaks**, in the aforesaid county,
19 **yeoman**, one chest and one bedstead in the parlour and
20 one cupboard in the Hall. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto Annes, my
21 daughter, aforesaid, half a dozen milk trays, two
22 firkins and one brewing tub and one ?? ??
23 The rest of all my goods and chattels, my debts and
24 funeral expenses discharged, I give and bequeath
25 unto John Becket, aforesaid, whom I make executor
26 of this my last will and testament. In witness where
27 of I have hereunto set my hand and seal the 4th day
28 of June in the eleventh year of the reign of our
29 sovereign lord Charles, by the grace of God King of
30 England, Scotland, France and Ireland, Defender of
31 the faith 1635.

180 was this her nephew, the John Beckett, junior, who had witnessed her husband's will sixteen years previously? He would have been approaching sixty in 1635 but it could easily have been a completely different John Becket. However, it is likely that he was quite a close relation since Johane appointed him her executor and left him the residue of her goods, etc.

Joane Holloway her mark
(a vertical cross)

witness hereof **William Moore**¹⁸¹ (or Noore)

William Frenche
his mark¹⁸²

181 a complex signature; was he the writer of the will?

182 his mark was a large "F"; there was a William French (#1833?) having children in Seal in the 1620s.

The *Holmans* of Seal

The original will of **Edward Holman**, "**practitioner in physic**" has survived (CKS: Drb/Pw 20 - see page h.229) but, unfortunately, he just asks his wife to "**have motherly care of mine and her children**". All the children of Edward Holman baptised in Seal are assumed to be those of the physician although, with a gap of five years between the fourth and fifth, he may have married twice.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
#1285	<u>HOLMAN, Edward</u> -----			Elizabeth Holman(m) #1286	1 7	17 Apr 1607
!	#1287 <u>HOLMAN, Richard</u>	26 Dec 1584			0 0	< 1597
	probably died before 1597 since #1887 is taken as a younger brother					
!	#1443 <u>Holman, Dorothy</u>	10 Sep 1587			0 0	
!	#1591 <u>HOLMAN, Edward</u>	8 Feb 1590			0 0	
!	#1769 <u>Holman, Sara</u>	16 Jul 1592			0 0	
!	#1887 <u>HOLMAN, Richard</u>	23 Mar 1597			0 0	11 Dec 1612 age 15
	there is no evidence other than name to show that baptism and burial refer to the same person					
!	#2904 <u>Holman, Francis</u>	16 Sep 1600			0 0	
!	#2905 <u>HOLMAN, William</u>	3 Feb 1603			0 0	1 Mar 1613
	burial was of " <u>William Holman, child</u> "; #2905 would have been ten					

Edward Holman witnessed the will of William Pynden in 1590; since Pynden died as a result of being stabbed during a burglary of his house, Holman may have been there primarily as a doctor.

Richard Holman, gent. (#1988) was buried on 19th November 1596 but his relationship to Edward is not known.

Will of Edward Holman

written April 1607¹⁸³

transcript from original; probate copy has not survived

1 In the name of god Amen. I, Edward Holman of
2 Seal in the County of Kent, **practitioner in physic**
3 being weak and sick in body but of good and perfect
4 memory, thanks be given to god, do constitute and
5 ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form
6 following: **First:** I commit and commend my soul
7 into the hands of Almighty god and his son Jesus
8 Christ, my saviour and redeemer. And my
9 body to be buried at the discretion of mine

183 date written at the top of the will; probate copy has not survived

10 executrix hereafter (named?). And I bequeath as followeth
11 that is, I give unto **Elizabeth, my wife**, all
12 my goods and chattels of ? ? ?
13 ? ? they be giving that she will
14 have motherly care of mine and her children
15 and also, as far as her power will extend, to
16 pay my debts. And I do appoint the said
17 Elizabeth, my wife, the sole executrix of this
18 my last will and testament And I do also
19 renounce all former wills or deeds of ?
20 ? ? ? this to be my
21 last will and testament In witness whereof I have,
22 to this my present will, put mine hand and
23 seal the day and year above written. Edward Holman
24 Sealed in the presence of us

Richard Buckley¹⁸⁴

John Folbroke

184 Richard Buckley (#2344) vicar of Kemsing and Seal 1603 until his death in 1608; he probably wrote this will

The Homewoods of Seal and Ightham

The nuncupative will of Andrew Homewood, dated 8th November 1603, has survived (PCC: Harte 68)

page h.235

Andrew Homewood, tailor and churchwarden

Andrew Homewood (or Holmewood), tailor, was **churchwarden of Seal** at the end of the sixteenth century up to 1603 when **Gilbert Jenyns (#15¹⁸⁵)**, the vicar since 1561, died in the January, Homewood himself dying in the November.

All the pages of the parish register up to 1603 were signed by Jenyns, Homewood and **John Godden**, the other churchwarden but the original pages up to 1597 would most likely have been copied into a bound volume when keeping such a volume became mandatory. Thus Homewood and Fuller need not have been churchwardens for all this time. Homewood, however, even if not churchwarden

¹⁸⁵ # indicates a reference in the Seal database

for all the period would have been closely connected with the church and village from the mid 1570s.

Andrew married Alice Swaynland on 19th August 1575 but Alice died in 1601 and their son, John, in 1598 when he was twenty-one so that Andrew's heirs were his two daughters, Elizabeth and Clemence who were to be his joint executors. Their inheritance was to be "[divided equally between them both but rather that Clemence, my daughter, should have the most](#)" This seems contradictory perhaps because the will was nuncupative; Clemence was the younger daughter, aged nineteen in 1603 with Elizabeth five years older.

	#715	Andrew	-	Alice Swaynland	#716
<i>will:</i>	8 Nov	1603			brother -
<i>bur:</i>	12 Nov	1603		17 May	1601

	#824		#925		#1256
	John		Elizabeth		Clemence
<i>bap:</i>	10 Jun	1576	4 Nov	1579	19 Feb
<i>bur:</i>	22 Apr	1598			1584
				#4515	
				Edward	#4516
					John

Andrew's will is very short but, whilst not leaving any money to the poor, he left ten shillings to the repairing of the well in Seal; it was not proved until July 1604.

From his will, Andrew had two nephews, Edward and John Homewood. Their father, and Andrew's brother, could have been the Thomas Homewood who married Alice Frenche, widow, on 15th September 1578. Alice was the widow of the John Frenche who wrote his will in April 1578 (#596), naming his wife as Alice; she had had four sons and a daughter by her first marriage, the eldest probably about twenty at the time of her second marriage so that she would have been in her early forties.

It is thus likely that Edward and John were Thomas's sons by a first marriage. They had to wait five years before being paid their inheritance perhaps because it would take that time to raise the money from rents, etc. rather than that Edward and John were underage. If Thomas Homewood's wife was the Alice, widow, who was buried in 1621, she must have been in her eighties when she died.

<i>will:</i>	?? -	#996 Thomas	-	Alice #997	-	John Frenche #596
<i>mar:</i>						Apr 1578
<i>bur:</i>		15 Sep 1578				
		1 Mar 1587		24 Feb 1621		

#4515				#4516		
Edward		John				
				4 sons and a daughter		
				see Frenche		

On 1st April 1602, **Andrew Homewood of Seal** was brought before the Ightham Court because he had "[unjustly and unlawfully moved certain posts and rails from the lands](#)" of Henry Selyard (i1330)¹⁸⁶, the rector of Ightham¹⁸⁷ - see [Selyard](#).

Victim of a Burglary

Andrew appears to have been the victim of a burglary in 1597. At Dartford Assizes, on 20 Feb 1598, **Simon Darby**, labourer of Farningham, who had been remanded prior to the trial, was indicted for burglary and grand larceny.

"On 24 Oct 1597, he burgled the house of **Arthur Browne of Otford, tailor**, and stole 5 ells of medley-russet cloth (24s), a gown (30s) and a doublet (8s). On 19 Sep 1597 at Seal, Darby of Sevenoaks stole a French-green gown (10s), a red petticoat (5s) and a piece of 'homes' fustian (3s) from **Andrew Holmewood**. **Sybil Godfrey of Rainham**, widow, and **Margery Smale**, wife of Richard Smale of Sevenoaks, labourer were indicted as accessories to the second count. Darby found guilty: to hang; the accessories pleaded."

¹⁸⁶ i indicates a reference in the Ightham database

¹⁸⁷ Court Rolls, Ightham, 1938, p.32

Although Darby is given as from Farningham in the first case and then Sevenoaks, with such an unusual name, he is obviously the same man¹⁸⁸.

Will of Andrew Homewood of Seal

declared 8th November 1603

transcript from probate copy

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The eighth day of November
2 An. Dm. one thousand, six hundred and three, I, Andrew Homewood, of
3 of Kent, **taylor**, being then sick of body but in perfect mind and memory,
made and declared
4 this last will and testament, nuncupative, as followeth: **Item:** I give unto
Edward Homewood
5 and **John Homewood, my brother's sons**, forty shillings a piece, to be paid
five years after
6 my decease. **Item:** I give to the repairing of the well in Seal ten shillings.
Item: I
7 do give all the rest of my goods, plate, jewels and money and land and
houses unto my

8 two daughters, **Elizabeth Homewood and Clemence Homewood**, to be
divided equally between
9 them both but rather that Clemence, my daughter, should have the most¹⁸⁹.
I do make them both
10 full and whole executors. Witness by me, **Gabriell Brown**, the mark of **Alice
Ford**.

Two Baptisms in Seal

Two Homewood baptisms were recorded in Seal in the 1630s:

#2910 John, son of "-- Homewood"	on 17th January 1630
#2911 Ann, daughter of John Homewood (#2908)	on 10th March 1633

If they were the descendants of Andrew's nephew John, they would most likely have been his grandchildren.

¹⁸⁹ perhaps this contradiction concerning the division was a result of this being a nuncupative will

Robert Homewood of Ightham

Robert Homewood of Ightham and his wife Jane had the following children:

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
i 1377	<u>HOMWOOD, Robert</u> -----		18 Nov 1588	Jane Pol hills ¹⁹⁰ i 1373	1 4	
I i 1444	<u>Homewood, Agnes</u>	11 Jan 1590			0 0	22 Jan 1590 at 2 wks
I i 1445	<u>HOMWOOD, Henry</u>	7 Mar 1591			0 0	
I i 1446	<u>Homewood, Elizabeth</u>	2 Apr 1592			0 0	
I i 1447	<u>Homewood, Sylvester</u> ¹⁹¹	17 Mar 1594			0 0	

Robert Homewood was presented to the Court on 4th October 1590 for having "encroached upon the highway leading from the Common of Ightham to **Wingfeilde Mill, with his hedge there.**" He was given until 25th March to amend the encroachment, under penalty 40d. "Six months later Homewood had still not amended the encroachment and the penalty was forfeited to the lord of the manor." (CRI 1937, p.200)

190 although there are Polhills in Seal, Ightham and Otford, Jane is known only from her marriage

191 Sylvester Homewood married Richard Mills of Shipbourne (\$593) on 27th June 1615 when i1447 would have been twenty-one; see *Mills in Families & Transcripts*.

The Hoopers of Shipbourne, Tonbridge and Ightham

John Hooper was "parson of Ightham" from 1561 until his death in September 1574 and Nicholas Hooper was curate of Shipbourne from the 1570s until his death in December 1618. One of Nicholas's sons, John, became a notary public and parish clerk of Tonbridge and his is the only Hooper will to have survived.

The family are known, in particular, for the large number of wills which they wrote for people in the Tonbridge and Sevenoaks area from the late 1550s until at least the end of the period studied (i.e. 1650). The family members who worked as scriptors were:

- John in the 1550s and 1560s,
- Nicholas
- Nicholas's sons John and Robert
- John's son George.

The early John could have been the father of both the parson of Ightham and the curate of Shipbourne.

The Parson of Ightham

John Hooper, the parson of Ightham, featured in the tithe case **Bing v. Hooper** - see *Excerpts from Ightham Court Rolls* for details. His first wife died before October 1568, perhaps as a result of the birth of Robert and there could have been other children born before 1561 and therefore not recorded. John married Joan Hills on 25th October 1568.

			- i 229 ¹⁹² John		- Joan Hills i 236				
-----					-----				
i 231		i 232		i 233		i 234		i 235	
George		Jane		Robert		Elizabeth		George	
bap: 13 Aug 1561		28 Dec 1563		7 Jul 1566 ¹⁹³		25 Mar 1569		22 Jul 1571	
bur: 25 Sep 1563									

¹⁹² "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database, \$ in the Shipbourne database

¹⁹³ A Robert Hooper married **Elizabeth Sone**, in Tonbridge, on 10th November 1594; it could not have been Nicholas's son who was only twelve in 1594 but could have been this Robert.

*The Family of **Nicholas Hooper***

The dates from which the history of the rest of the Hooper family has been built up come from a number of parish registers, mainly Shipbourne and Tonbridge but also Ightham and Leigh. In the following tree, "S" after a date indicates an event recorded in Shipbourne, "T" in Tonbridge. This family tree indicates how necessary it is to consult the records from a number of parishes.

The Tonbridge parish register notes that the marriage of **William Hawkes** and **Elizabeth Rivers** on 27th August 1610 was carried out by **Nicholas Hooper**.

Nicholas Hooper married Katherine Page in Ightham on but moved to Shipbourne from where his wife probably came since there were a large number of Pages in Shipbourne. Their first children were baptised there and the last three in Tonbridge. She died in 1613 and Nicholas married again.

A **Johane Hooper** married **John Barnabee** (\$459) on 17th June 1599 in Shipbourne; although her baptism was not recorded she was probably Nicholas's daughter, born between John and Robert, that is about 1580, since Thomas Lamparde left £1 to Johane, daughter of Nicholas Hooper in the early 1590s - see **Lamparde**. No children were recorded but Barnabee is not a Shipbourne name and they may have lived elsewhere.

mar:		3 Oct 1575 in Ightham	\$1045	married 17 Jul 1615 in Leigh																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																											
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Nicholas would have been in his late sixties when he married Joane and about seventy when he died; "[Joane Hooper](#)" was buried in 1649 and this could have been Nicholas's second wife who, if she had been in her mid-twenties when she married would only have been about sixty in 1649

-
- 194** Robert married and had at least one daughter but died before September 1641 since his brother John leaves an annuity of 2s to the daughter of his brother Robert, deceased
- 195** married **Ralph Fuller** on 30th September 1610 when she was twenty-five; had three children baptised in Shipbourne, see [Fuller](#).
- 196** just over a year after Agnes died, on 29th September 1641, Nicholas married Elizabeth Petter (\$1815).
- 197** being Easter Monday, John, son of Nicholas Hooper, curate, was borne and baptised the same day
- 198** register just says "[Katherine Hooper](#)"; probably Nicholas's daughter who would have been 28 in 1618

	\$885	Alice Bishop ¹⁹⁹	-	\$884	John	-	Joan Redmer ²⁰⁰	\$2202
<i>will:</i>					15 Mar 1641			
<i>bur:</i>		1 Oct 1621T			8 Sep 1641T			
	\$1060	George ²⁰¹	-	\$1057	Ann		\$2203	Sara ²⁰²
					John			Mary
<i>bap:</i>		7 Apr 1611T			30 Nov 1613T			22 Sep 1621T
<i>bur:</i>		<1641						24 Sep 1623T

John Hooper of Tonbridge

John Hooper who was parish clerk of Tonbridge and a notary public, lived "[within the verge of the Town of Tonbridge](#)". He may have become parish clerk on the

199 married, by licence, in Shipbourne, on 7th April 1607 when John was twenty-nine; there was an eight year gap between the baptisms of their two youngest children and Alice was buried nine days after Mary was baptised. John, in his will, mentions a daughter Sara, who herself had two daughters by 1641 but not Ann who had probably died; Sara could have been born between John and Mary, probably 1615 or soon after.

200 married in Tonbridge on 10th February 1639 when John was sixty

201 married Jane Alchome in Tonbridge on 17th February 1642

202 had two daughters, Sarah and Anne when John wrote his will in 1641

death of "[old Henry Marr](#)", parish clerk, who was buried on 16th January 1611; he was still parish clerk when he died thirty years later.

John's first wife Alice, and the mother of his children, was buried on 1st October 1621 but he married again on 10th February 1639, in Tonbridge, just over a year before he wrote his will. His second wife was Joan Redmer and, since her brother was Richard Polhill, she was a widow herself when she married John.

John's will (**PCC: Evelyn 124 & 125; Prob 11/187** - see page h.252) is fairly long and was apparently written by John himself, on 15th March 1641, six months before he died; the original does not appear to have survived. He was buried, in Tonbridge, on 8th September 1641, "[aged 63](#)" which agrees with his baptism which was "[on the same day he was born](#)", 31st March 1578. Probate was granted to his son, George Hooper, on 28th October 1641.

The bequests to his family are given in Table H.4, the £5 and £7 10s left to Joan being added, apparently as two separate afterthoughts as he lists a large number of bequests to godchildren and others which are given in Table H.5.

Towards the end of these bequests is a list of twelve people (see Table H.6) who are to receive, apparently, £12 each although twelve pence would seem more appropriate. Without the original it is impossible to say whether this was a mistake made by the clerk making the probate copy or whether John actually

wrote "pounds". Certainly this will does not read as smoothly as many John wrote for other people.

John appointed his eldest son, George, his executor but **Daniel Pinkney**, his kinsman and overseer, was to be "keeper of this my will for my executor" with the power to lock up John's study immediately after his decease if George was absent.

There is what appears to be another mistake either by the clerk copying the will or John himself. The first mention of his son John is given as "the said John, my son" but a son "Peter Hooper" was earlier left some items earlier in the will. No baptism was recorded for a Peter, this being the only time this name is given and later John writes "my two sons" that is George and John,.

Of John's three daughters for whom baptisms were recorded, Mary died aged two and Sara had two daughters, Sarah and Anne, when her father wrote his will. She must therefore have married before 1638 and it was presumably then when she had "been preferred". Since Anne was not mentioned at all, she probably died before 1641.

Table H.4: John's Bequests to his Family

To:		amount, etc.	when to be paid
Joane	wife	50s 25s per quarter £5 £7 10s	within 7 days of his decease during her widowhood within one year 3 years after his decease
George	son and executor	cistern of lead residue	
Peter?? (John)	son	bedstead with its bedding and furniture, a court cupboard, a chest, table and chair, John's "best desk", two leather stools, pewter, linen, brass	
John	son	£10 £10 £10	1 year 3 years 5 years after his decease
Sara	daughter	20s (had already been preferred)	

Sarah	granddau.	£5 a featherbed	at age of 21
Anne	granddau.	£5	at age of 21
Nicholas	brother	suit of clothes 2s to be divided between himself and his daughter	
daughter of Robert	neice	annuity of 2s	
Richard Polhill	wife's brother	10s	

Table H.5: John's Bequests to his Godchildren, Etc.

To:	Relationship:	
David Pinkney	kinsman and overseer	20s
John Bullen	kinsman	2s if he serve out his apprenticeship
mother and sister of John Bullen		5s each
daughter of William Walter	goddaughter	a featherbed
John Walter, son of William Walter	godson	cupboard which was his grandmother's
cousin Sugar's daughter	goddaughter	10s
Elizabeth Bishop	goddaughter	5s
cousin Applebury's daughter	goddaughter	5s
cousin Pawley's daughter	goddaughter	5s
John Braser	godson	5s
Katherine Dean	goddaughter	10s "of that money her father oweth me"

Table 3: Twelve People to Receive Twelve Pounds/Pence Each

four poor people in the almshouse
Sara Dixon and Anne Dixon ²⁰³
Corke, godson
the widow Richardson's daughter, "my goddaughter"
the widow Walter's son, "my godson"
John Rookes, "my godson"
Ralph Johnson, "my godson"
Robert Johnson, "my godson"

²⁰³ were these John's granddaughters, the daughters of Sara?

John's Provisions for his wife, Joan

Approaching half of the will is taken up with details of the items and privileges left to his wife Joan who was to have (in addition to the money in Table H.4):

- all the plate, linen, brass utensils and household stuff which she had brought with her at their marriage (except the cistern of lead which John's son George was to have)
- the chamber over the parlour in the house in which they then dwelt and the closet with it (with free ingress and egress), solely to her own use, for as long as she chose to stay there.
- liberty to partake of the wood, fuel and coals²⁰⁴ that he had at his death
- access to such baking and firing as she should have occasion to use whilst living in the house

204 "coles"

- free ingress to and from the well and to the use of the water and also to and from the garden, "there to wash, dry clothes, walk, ?? and refresh herself"
- half the fruits of the ground of the said garden and orchard as long as she lived in John's house
- half the corn that was in John's house or barn at his death and liberty to thresh it and use some part of the barn
- one of the best kine which she was to choose. This cow was to be kept by George, John's son and executor, who was to allow Joan to take to "her own use the milk and profit of the said cow" and, if the cow failed or was sold by Joan, my said wife, George (or his assigns) were to provide "with sufficient pasture and hay such other cow as my said wife shall provide in the room thereof".
- half the fruit that had been gathered and stored in his house excepting any that had already been sold.
- free liberty to use any brass item, utensil, tub or milking utensil, shelves or wooden vessels that were in their house when John died and had not been bequeathed to anyone else.

- half of the new linen cloth that "we shall have made since marriage" and one silver spoon²⁰⁵.

No children of Joan's earlier marriage were mentioned by John but this does not necessarily mean that Joan and her first husband had not had any since they could have been provided for by their father. However, there was "her boy, John Cox" who, if he were with her when John died, was to share in the facilities left to her as also was any servant Joan should provide "to look to her or him, if sickness shall fall upon either of them". This part of the will raises two interesting points:

- if John Cox was Joan's son, she must have married three times (with Cox being her first husband and Redmer her second) in which case, since John Cox seems to be a young boy, her marriage to Redmer could not have lasted very long.
- had John Hooper had particular experience of the need for nursing during sickness and thus for the necessity of including persons involved in such care in the terms of the will? This is the only occurrence of such a provision in all the wills studied but since John wrote a large number of wills, he must have been present in many sick rooms.

205 the rest of his silver spoons were to be equally divided between his daughter, Sara, and his two sons

- 1 In Dei nomine Amen. The fifteenth day of March Anno Dom. 1640
2 I, John Hooper, **parish clerk** of Tonbridge in Kent, being in good health and
perfect
3 memory, thanks be given to Almighty god to whose gracious acceptance I
commend my soul
4 when it pleases him to put a period to my days here upon with expecting
for salvation
5 and joyful resurrection to eternal life only in Jesus Christ, my saviour and
redeemer, do make and
6 ordain this my testament and last will as followeth: **First:** I will that
Joane, my loving²⁰⁶
7 **wife**, shall have, and may have and hold to her own use, all the plate, linen,
brass utensils and household stuff
8 which she brought with her and was hers before marriage (except the
cistern of lead which

²⁰⁶ John married Joan Redmer on 10th February 1639 when he was sixty-one

9 I will to **my son George.** **Item:** I will that my said wife shall have the
10 chamber over the
11 parlour in my now dwelling house, and the closet with it, solely to her own
12 use during
13 . . and as long time as she shalbe pleased to stay and dwell in my said
14 house. And that it shalbe
15 lawful for her such means of ingress, egress and passing in and through my
16 said
17 house as she shall have occasion to use during the time of her dwelling or
18 being there
19 after my decease. Together with liberty to have and partake of my wood
20 and fuel and coals that I
21 shall have at my death and toward such be living, baking and firing as she
22 shall have occasion
23 to use during her dwelling aforesaid together with free ingress to and from
24 the well and to use
25 ?? of the water there and free ?? to and from the garden which I
26 purchased
27 of **Thomas Shorne, gent.,** there to wash, dry clothes, walk, ?? and refresh
28 herself, giving
29 unto herself half the fruits of the ground of the said garden and orchard,
30 from time to time, for

19 as long as she shall dwell in my said house after my death. Also I will that
she shall have
20 half the corn that I shall have in my house, or in my barn, at my decease.
And liberty
21 to thresh out the corn that I shalbe in my said barn and to use some part of
the said
22 barn, if her occasion shall require, during . . aforesaid. Also I will unto
her one of
23 my best kine, at her choice to be taken. And I will that my executor and
his assigns shall freely
24 keep the same and ?? keeping afore the said cow. And shall suffer my
said wife to have and take to
25 her own use the milk and profit of the said cow during the time aforesaid.
And if the said
26 cow shall fail, or be sold by my said wife, I will that my said executor and
his assigns shall
27 keep and serve with sufficient pasture and hay such other cow as my said
wife shall provide
28 in the room thereof. And shall suffer my said wife to have and take the
profit of during her
29 dwelling in my said house after my decease. **Item:** I will that my wife shall
have half the

30 fruit that shalbe gathered at the time of my decease and shall ?? in my
said house
31 if the same shall not be them sold by me to some other person. **Item:** I will
that my wife
32 shall have free liberty to use any brass item, utensil, tub or milking utensil
that shalbe in my
33 house at my decease, not willed. . . . any shelves, tubs or wooden
vessels
34 during that time of such her dwelling as aforesaid. Provided always that, if
my said
35 wife shall marry again, that then she shall have no longer dwelling or use
of my said
36 house . . . or other the commodities of. **Item:** if **her boy, John Cox**, shalbe
37 with her at my decease (to be kept by her as . . .) I will that he shall partake
38 in and with her of the corn, firing, rooms, ?? and commodities which I have
appointed,
39 as aforesaid, to be for her during such her dwelling as aforesaid. And so I
will shall any
40 servant or keeper? which she shall provide to look to her or him, if sickness
shall fall upon either of
41 them, during such sickness. **Item:** I will that my executor shall give and
pay to my

42 said wife fifty shillings of lawful english money within seven days next
after my
43 decease. And after, upon every feast day of the Nativity of St. John the
Baptist, St.
44 Michael Th'archangel, the Nativity of our Lord Christ and Th'annunciation
of the blessed
45 virgin Mary consequently following one after another during the
widowhood of my
46 said wife after my death, shall pay or cause to be paid to her five and
twenty shillings of
47 lawful english money, beginning at, for the first payment thereof, at that
feast of the feasts,
48 aforesaid, that shall come and be next after my decease. But, if my said
wife shall go
49 about to get, or have any dower or other demand, then as aforesaid in my
said house,
50 garden or orchard or with thappurtenances, or any part thereof, I will that
my said
51 executor and his assigns shalbe forever afterwards free of all the said
quarterly payments
52 of twenty five shillings appointed to be paid to my said wife as aforesaid
and after from

53 the performance of such other legacies or money as I shall hereafter give to
her by this my
54 will. Anything therein contained to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.
Item: I
55 will to **my daughter, Sara**, already preferred, twenty shillings. **Item:** I will
to **Sarah**,
56 **her daughter**, five pounds to be paid her at her age of one and twenty
years, if she
57 shall accomplish that age. **Item:** I will to **Anne, her daughter**, five pounds
at her age of
58 one and twenty years, if she shall accomplish that age. **Item:** I will to the
said **Sara, my**
59 **grandchild**²⁰⁷, one feather bed. **Item:** I will to **my son, Peter Hooper**, the
bedstead in the
60 hall chamber of my now dwelling house and the bed bedding and furniture
thereto
61 belonging as it now standeth in the said chamber. And also the new Court
Cupboard²⁰⁸

207 he has not previously mentioned a grandchild; presumably the daughter of his daughter Sara who would have been preferred on her marriage

208 "Cubbert"

62 there, one joined chest there and one little table there, my great joined
chair, my
63 best desk²⁰⁹, four pieces of pewter whereof some to be of the biggest sort,
two pair of
64 sheets, six table napkins, one table cloth, one new towel, one brass kettle,
one brass
65 stunett and two leather²¹⁰ stools. **Item:** I will more to the said **John, my**
son²¹¹, ten
66 pounds to be paid him at the end of the first year after my decease, if he
shalbe then
67 living. And also other ten pounds to be paid him at the end of third
68 year after my decease if he shalbe then living. And also other ten pounds
to be paid
69 at the end of the fifth year after my decease if he shalbe then living upon
this

209 "deske"

210 "lethered"

211 this is the first mention of John who was baptised 30th November 1613; there is no record of a baptism of "Peter, son of John Hooper", nor is Peter mentioned anywhere else other than on line 59. Perhaps Peter was written there instead of John.

70 condition that he do and shall suffer my executor and his assigns to have,
hold and receive the
71 whole rents, issues and profits of those lands, arable and meadows with
thappurtenances which
72 belong to him and mine executor during the term of five years next after
my decease.
73 **Item:** I will more to my loving wife five pounds to be paid her within one
whole year next
74 after my decease (besides any money or payments before mentioned to be
paid unto her). And
75 also I will to her half of the new linen cloth that we shall have made since
marriage
76 and one silver spoon. **Item:** I will that all my other silver spoons shalbe
equally shifted
77 between my said daughter Sara and my two sons²¹². **Item:** I will to **my**
brother Nicholas
78 one suit of my clothes viz: shirt, hat, band, breeches, shoes and doublet.
And to him and his
79 daughter two shillings equally to be shifted. **Item:** I will to the **daughter of**
my brother

212 but three sons, George, Peter and John, have been mentioned

80 **Robert, deceased**, two shillings a year. **Item:** I will to **my kinsman, John**
81 **Bullen**, if he
82 shall serve out his apprenticeship, two shillings. And to his mother and
83 sisters, five
84 shillings apiece. **Item:** I will to my goddaughter at this church, the
85 **daughter of William**
86 **Walter**, one featherbed. And to **John Walter**, her brother, **my godson**, the
87 cupboard which
88 was his grandmother's. **Item:** I will to **my cousin, Sugar**, his daughter, **my**
89 **goddaughter**,
90 ten shillings. **Item:** I will to **Elizabeth Bishop**, my goddaughter, to my
91 **cousin Appleby's**
92 **daughter, my goddaughter**, to my cousin **Pawley's daughter, my**
93 **goddaughter**, and to
94 **John Braser, my godson**, to these four five shillings apiece. **Item:** I will to
95 the four
96 poor people in the almshouse, to **Sara Dixon and Anne Dixon**, to **Corke, my**
97 **godson**,
98 the **widow Richardson's daughter, my goddaughter**, to the **widow Walter's**
99 **son, my godson**
100 and to **John Rookes, my godson** and to **Ralph Johnson, my godson** and to
101 **Robert**

91 **Johnson, my godson**, to these twelve last mentioned twelve pounds²¹³
apiece. **Item:** to
92 **Katherine Deane, my goddaughter**, I will ten shillings of that money which
her father
93 oweth unto me. **Item:** I will more to Joan, my loving wife, seven pounds
and ten shillings
94 to be paid at the end of the third year next after my decease if she shalbe
then living.
95 **Item:** I will to her brother, **Mr. Richard Polhill**, ten shillings. **Item:** to
Johnson and **Sherlock**
96 two shillings. **Item:** I will to **Daniel Pinkney, my kinsman**, to be overseer
and keeper of
97 this my will for my executor, giving him power to lock up my study
immediately
98 after my decease if my executor shalbe absent, and any my goods to be
locked ?? for his use, I
99 say for his pains, I will to him twenty shillings. The rest of my goods
unbequeathed I will
100 to **George Hooper, my son**, whom I make the full and sole executor of this
my testament

213 this is definitely "pounds" in the probate copy but "pence" seems more likely to be correct

101 and last will, to see the same paid and all my debts and legacies paid and
my body decently buried.

102 **Item:** I will and give to the said George Hooper, my son, and to his heirs, all
that messuage or

103 tenement wherein I dwell within the verge of the Town of Tonbridge and
the barn,

104 buildings, closes, garden and orchard with thappurtenances thereunto
belonging. To hold to the only

105 use and behoof of the said George, his heirs and assigns for ever. In
witness whereof I have,

106 to this my testament and last will, set my hand and seal the said fifteenth
day of March

107 1640. Per me John Hooper. Sealed, subscribed, published and delivered in
the presence of

108 **William Dick, George Rootes, Daniel Pinkey**

This will (CKS: Drb/Pwr 17.95) was written by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618. Wills for other Howes of Tonbridge, Cuxton and Tudeley have survived but these have not been investigated.

This will, that of a man who describes himself as a labourer, is interesting for both the individualised phrases which are used and that, at least for a labourer, he has property and debts which he considers justify the production of an inventory and also a tenant who apparently rents his lands for two shillings for six months.

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 The seventh day of August in the year of
3 our lord god one thousand five hundred four
4 score and five and in the seven and twenty
5 year of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth,
6 by the grace of god queen, of England and France
7 and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. I, Richard
8 Howe, of Hadlow in the diocese of Rochester in the

9 county of Kent, labourer, being at the time of making
10 hereof in reasonable good health, thanks therefore
11 be given to Almighty god, notwithstanding aged,
12 lame and many and sundry times sore visited with
13 sickness even upon the sudden ?? putteth in
14 mind of my last end and the frail and brittle
15 state of my weak nature and therefore do ordain
16 and make this my testament and last will in manner
17 and form following, that is to say, **First** and
18 principally I give, commend and bequeath my
19 soul into the hands of Almighty god, trusting
20 only to be saved by the death, merit and passion
21 of Jesus Christ, his dear son, and my body to the
22 earth to be buried in the churchyard of
23 Hadlow aforesaid. **Item:** I will and bequeath
24 to **my godson John Longth, my sister's son,**
25 two shillings lawful money to be paid to him,
26 at that feast of St. Michael or Accession
27 of the virgin Mary which shall next follow
28 after my decease, by **Simon Lightwood,** my
29 tenant, which will be then due from him for ??
30 of my lands. **Item:** I will and bequeath to **Johane,**

31 Margaret and ²¹⁴, the three daughters
32 of my daughter Elizabeth, deceased, to either of
33 them two pairs of my sheets, one pair
34 of the best sort and the other of the second
35 sort to be delivered to them, and every of them,
36 immediately after my wife's decease. And as
37 to ?? all other my moveables and other ??
38 my best hog and debts to me owing by all
39 persons, I will there shalbe an inventory taken
40 the same by Robert, my son, immediately after my
41 decease and I will my wife shall have the
42 occupation, governance and keeping of the same
43 (except the said hog and debts aforesaid)
44 during the whole term of her natural life if
45 she keep herself so long a widow notwithstanding
46 the ?? gifts of all which (except the sheets
47 aforesaid) I will and bequeath to the said Robert
48 Howe, my son. Also I will to the said Robert
49 my said best hog and all debts to me owing
50 and appertaining by any person whatsoever, which
51 Robert I make my whole and sole executor of this

52 my will to see the same proved, this my will fulfilled
53 and my body honestly ?? to the earth.
54 In witness whereof . . .
55 . . . I, the said Richard Howe,
56 have set my hand and seal yeven the day
57 and year first above written in the presence of
58 me, **Nicholas Hooper, writer hereof**, and of ??
59 **Clampard** and ??

First: I commend and give my soul unto Almighty god, my creator, hoping and assuring myself by the death and blood shedding of Jesus Christ, my redeemer, to be saved and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Hever hard by **John Woodgate, my wife's late husband**²¹⁵.

I give to four poor men four shillings of the parish of Hever to carry me thither there to be buried . . to the poor of Hever 30s shillings at my burial.

witnesses: William Douglas, Thomas Douglas, William Woodgate, John Coombes

215 the will of a John Woodgate written 18th October 1617 but not proved until 1620 has survived; obviously this John could not have been the wife of John Howell

1 In the name of god Amen. The twelfth day of February Anno
2 Dom.1646 and in the two and twentieth day year of the reign of
3 our sovereign lord Charles, by the grace of god king of England,
4 Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc.
5 I, Will. Hutchinson, **clerk**, of the parish of Wrotham,
6 being of good and perfect memory (thanks be to god) therefore
7 do make and ordain this my last will and testament in
8 manner and form following (viz.) **First:** I give and bequeath
9 my soul into the hands of almighty god, my maker, and to his
10 son Jesus Christ, my redeemer and saviour, through whose
11 death and passion I only look for my salvation. And my
12 body to be buried in **Hartley** churchyard. **First:** I do or=
13 dain and appoint **my daughter Elizabeth**²¹⁶ to be my sole
14 executrix of this my last will and testament. And I ordain
15 and appoint **my friend, Mr. Thomas Jones of Hartley** to be my over-
16 seer for my daughter by my wife lawfully begotten. And I give
17 and bequeath to my daughter Elizabeth the sum of one

216 appointed executrix although she was under eighteen

pounds to be paid her at the age of eighteen
years and in the mean while I do ordain and appoint
the use of that hundred pounds by my overseer to be paid
for the bringing up of my daughter Elizabeth till she be
of the age of eighteen provided that, if she dies afore
she comes to the age of eighteen, without issue lawfully
begotten that then this hundred pounds be given, twenty
pounds to **my sister Clambard** and her heirs, forty pounds
to **Elin, the daughter of Thomas Jones** and the other
forty to **Heather Clements, daughter-in-law to Thomas
Jones.** Item: I give to my maid that attends me twenty
shillings and I give and bequeath to my sister Clambard
twenty shillings and all the rest of my goods, chattels and
cattles I give and bequeath to my overseer. In witness
whereof I have sealed and subscribed the day and year
written. Sealed and delivered in the presence of
us

John Middleton
the mark of ?? **Fox**



Will of John Iden of Hadlow
The Idleys of Seal

page i.2
page i.3

I, John Iden, of Hadlow in the County of Kent, **Esquire**, being of good and perfect remembrance, thanks be given unto Almighty god, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say, **First** and before all things, I bequeath my soul unto Almighty god, my creator, trusting in Almighty god to be saved by the only merits, death and passion of Jesus Christ, my redeemer. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto the poor men's chest of Hadlow, three pounds, five shillings, eightpence. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto all poor people of the parish of Hadlow and unto all other poor people of all other parishes that shall happen to be at my funeral five pounds to be portioned and equally divided between them of Hadlow and other parishes as aforesaid.

John Iden also bequeathed to the poor people of:

Tonbridge	45s 8d	to be paid within one fortnight after his decease
Yalding	£6 13s 4d	one month
Hunton	25s	one month
West Farleigh	25s	one month

The Idleys of Seal

Two Idley wills have survived:

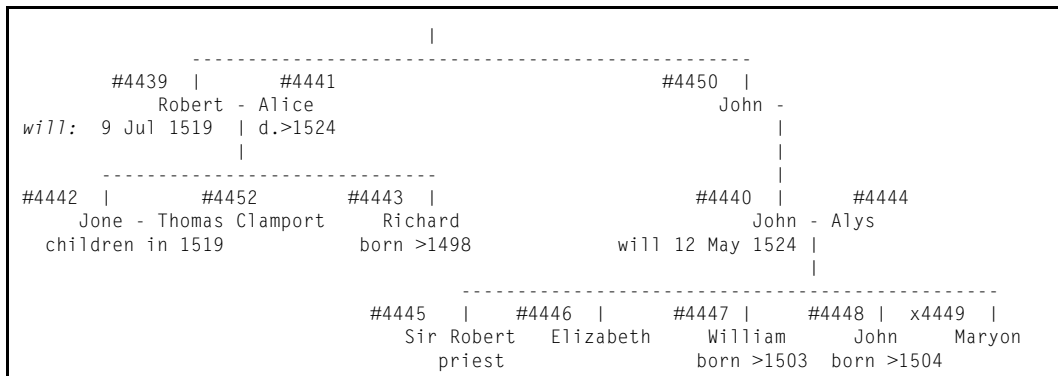
	written	proved	CKS:	
Robert Idley	9th July 1519	11th August	Drb/Pwr 7.168	page i.5
John Idley, the elder	12th May 1524	17th July 1524	Drb/Pwr 7.335	page i.9

It is difficult to decide upon the relationships between the various Idleys. Who was the John who was one of Robert's executors? John mentions his "[aunt, widow of Robert Idley](#)" without, unfortunately, giving her name. If this Robert Idley was his uncle, then John who died in 1524 was the next generation. Whilst in 1519 Robert's daughter was married with a number of children, his son Richard was under twenty-one. Even so, he was to be one of his father's executors, the other one being "John Idley" who could have been the 1524 testator. Robert also mentions a "[John Idley, the elder](#)" who seems a different John from the one appointed his executor.

There is also a problem with "[John, the elder](#)" and "[John, the younger](#)" since the writer of the second will (who calls himself "John, the elder") calls his son "John, the younger" but also leaves 6s 8d to "John, the elder" who had a wife who also receives 6s 8d. If this John and his wife were the testator's parents (who would

have been in the seventies but could have been alive in 1524) surely John would have described them as his father and mother. Thus the tree below must be taken as very hypothetical. (# indicates a reference in the Seal database)

Then there was the Thomas Idley who had three children in 1524. And who was the father of John's godson, Peter Idley?



The Thomas Idley who was mentioned by John in his will of 1624 was probably the Thomas Idley who, with his wife Alice, was the defendant mentioned in a fine of 1518. William Hills was the plaintiff paying 100 marks (£66.67) with respect to 3 messuages, 8 gardens, 20 acres of land, 5 acres of mead and 20 acres of pasture in Seal and Kemsing (CKS: Fines 19-111-16)

1 In die name Amen. The 9th day of July in the year
2 of our lord god 1519, I, Robert Idley of Seal,
3 whole of mind, make my testament and last will
4 in form following: **First:** I bequeath my soul to god,
5 my body to be buried in the churchyard of Seal.

6 **Item:** I bequeath to the high altar for tithes for
7 gotten 20d. **Item:** to an honest priest to sing a
8 trentall of masses 10s in the church of Seal.

9 **Item:** I bequeath toward the char . . ways in
10 maintaining good . . a ewe and a lamb.

11 **Item:** I will at the day of my burying to
12 5 priests for 5 masses, 2s 6d and 6s
13 8d in meat and drink and other deeds
14 of charity in the said day of my burying.

15 **Item:** at my month day 5 priests ? 2s 6d
16 and 6s 8d in meat and drink and other
17 deeds of charity. **Item:** at my years mind 40d
18 and in the second year 40d. And the 3rd
19 year a dirige and a mass. **Item:** I bequeath to

20 **Alice, my wife**, all the household stuff that
21 she had when she and I were married together.
22 And all such stuff of household as hath been
23 intea sed?? . betwixt us two. Also I bequeath
24 to Alice, my wife, 3 of the best kyne and 6s 8d.
25 Also I will that Alice, my wife, have half my
26 corn, both within doors and without, and my
27 black mare. **Item:** I bequeath to **John Idley**
28 one of my hogs and the residue of my hogs to
29 be divided between **Richard, my son, and Alice,**
30 **my wife.** Also I bequeath to **Alice Tebold, my goddaughter**²¹⁷,
31 a ewe. Also I bequeath to Ch. . , **my servant**, 2
32 ewes. Also to every one of **Thomas Clamport's**
33 **children**, a ewe. The residue of shop? being
34 at **Thomas Pawlton**, unbequeathed, I bequeath to
35 **Thomas Clamport and Jone, my daughter, his**
36 **wife.** **Item:** to the said Thomas Clamport, a --
37 of --. Also to **John Idley** 6s 8d. **Item:** to
38 **Elizabeth Walton** a ewe. The residue of
39 my moveable goods not bequeathed, my debts
40 paid, I bequeath to **Richard Idley, my son**, which

217 (#679) daughter of John Tebold who witnessed this will and the will of John Idley (see page i.9)

41 Richard and John Idley I make mine executors and
42 the said John to have for his labours 6s 8d
witnesses: **Sir Xpher Sharsharow²¹⁸, John Tebold**
and Robert Bowman

43 This is the last will of me, the forsaied
44 Robert Idley, made the day and year abovesaid.
45 **First:** I will that Alice, my wife, have my
46 house and . . as the deeds do appear made
47 to her at the time of her marriage. And then
48 it to remain to Richard, my son, to his heirs and assigns
49 for ever more. Also I will that Richard, my son
50 have a croft of land lying at **Waterdown**
51 when he cometh to the age of 21 years
52 and he to have the farm thereof immediately
53 after my decease. Also I will (that) if Richard,
54 my son, fail before he cometh to the age
55 of 21 years, then I will that Thomas
56 Clamport and Jone, his wife, have the
57 house in which I dwell in term of their lives.

218 Christopher Sharperow, who also witnessed the will of John Idley (see page 9) was probably the curate of Seal and it is likely that he wrote these two wills.

58 And after their decease, it to remain to the
59 heirs of their 2 bodies lawfully begotten.
60 Also I will that my land called **Devyd**,
61 my croft in Waterdown, if Richard, my son,
62 fail before he cometh to the age of 21
63 years be sold by my feoffees and mine executors
64 and the money for ordaining to priest to
65 sing one whole year in the parish church of
66 Seal for my soul, my friends' (souls) and he to
67 have for his labour 10 marks. And £8 8s
68 of the said money to the best behoof?
69 of the parish of Seal. And 40s to **John**
70 **Idley, the elder**. And the residue of the money
71 of the said land to be disposed by the
72 discretion of my executors and overseer.

1 In the name of god Amen. The 12th day of May in the year of our
2 lord god 1524, I, John Idley, the elder, of Seal, being
3 whole of mind and in good memory make my testament and
4 last will in this manner of wise: **First:** I bequeath my soul to All
5 mighty god, to our lady saint Mary virgin and to all the holy
6 company in heaven, my body to be buried in the churchyard of the pa
7 rish church of saints Peter and Paul, the apostles, in Seal aforesaid.

8 **Item:** to the high altar there for my tithes and oblati
9 ons forgotten and negligently withholden, I bequeath 2s.

10 **Item:** I will there be distributed, for the health of my
11 soul and all christian souls, at my outbeing 6s 8d.

12 **Item:** in like manner at my trentall to be distributed 6s 8d.

13 Also I bequeath to **Elizabeth Idley, my daughter**, £3 6s 8d.

14 **Item:** I bequeath to **Master William Croke, vicar of Tenter**
15 **den**, of the sum of money that he oweth unto me, 20s. All
16 so, I will that the said Master William Croke shall pay, for
17 me, unto ? **Richard Goldwell, monk of saint augustus**
18 **in Canterbury**, £10 of money at such day as is (ap)ointed
19 betwixt him and me by indenture, that is to say, 40s by year

to the time the said £10 be full content and paid. Also I
give to **Sir Robert Idley, my son**, for to sing one quarter of
a year in the parish church of Seal for my soul, my
friends' souls and all christian souls 33s 4d. Also
I bequeath to the said Sir Robert Idley for to sing one other
quarter of a year, for my soul and all christian souls, where
it pleaseth him, 33s 4d. **Item:** I bequeath to **John Idley,**
th'elder, 6s 8d. Also to **the wife of the same John Id**
ley 6s 8d. **Item:** to **my godson, Peter Idley** 6s 8d. **Item:**
I bequeath to **William Dawson** 10s?. **Item:** to **Alys, the wife**
of Thomas Idley 6s 8d. Also I bequeath to **the 3 chil**
dren of the said Thomas Idley 10s equally to be divided
among them. Also I bequeath to **Maryon, my daughter**, 6s
8d. Also I bequeath to the building of the **steeple of Seal**
20s. Also I bequeath to **our lady Chancell** there 13s
4d and also all the residue of all my money being in the
hands of the forsaid Master William Croke, vicar of Tenterden,
I will that Sir Robert Idley have it to bestow it upon **my sons**
William Idley and John Idley the younger as he thinketh most necessa
ry. And all the residue of my goods, my debts, bequests and fune
eral expenses first content and paid, I give and bequeath unto **Alys,**
my wife, the which I make and ordain my executrix and Sir
Robert Idley, my son, executor to the which Sir Robert I give, for

43 his labour, 6s 8d.

44 The last will of me, the forsaide John Idley, made and declared
45 the day and year above written. **First:** I will that my feoffees
46 suffer Alys, my wife, to have, occupy and take the profit
47 of all my lands and tenements lying and being in the forsaide
48 parish of Seal so long as she keepeth herself sole ??
49 And if it fortune that the said Alys, my wife, to marry again,
50 that then I will that my said lands and tenements remain
51 to my sons William Idley and John Idley the younger in manner
52 following: **First:** I will that the said John, the younger, my son, after
53 the marriage of the said Alice, his mother, if she fortune to ma-
54 rry, or else after her decease, have my messuage that I now
55 dwell in with all th'appurtenances thereto belonging with one
56 croft, called **Hogdale**, to have to the said John for ever. Also
57 I will that William, my son, after the forsaide marriage or decease of
58 the said Alice, my wife, have my messuage with appurtenances
59 where now dwelleth **Thomas Walklyn** and the meadow
60 of **Robert Joley** to have and to hold to the said William for ever.
61 And if it fortune that any of my said 2 sons, William
62 and John, the younger, do die before they come to the age
63 of 21 years old, then I will the one be the other's
64 heir. And if they both die within the said age of 21

65 years, that then I will that all the said lands and
66 tenements remain to Sir Robert Idley, my son, to dis
67 pose of in deeds of alms for the wealth of my soul,
68 my father's soul, my mother's soul and all christian souls.
69 Also I will that **William Dawson and Jone, his wife**, have
70 my messuage with ye appurtenances the which **John Cotman**
71 now dwelleth in after the forsaid marriage or decease
72 of the said Alys, my wife, to have to the said William
73 and Jone, his wife, and to the heirs of ye two bodies
74 lawfully begotten for ever. Also I will it **my aunt,**
75 **the widow of Robert Idley**, have the going and coming
76 through the hall so to fetch water at the well and
77 to have one little garden at the end of Thomas
78 Walklyn's garden and half the fruit of 2 trees,
79 that is to say, one apple tree and one pear tree and also
80 ?? and liberty to make fire in the hall finding her
81 self wood . . . to her life, providing always, that if
82 it ?? the forsaid £10 be not paid unto the said
83 **Richard Goldwell**²¹⁹, or to his assigns at such days
84 and times as is agreed between him and me by indenture
85 that then I will that **John Tebold** of Seal enter

219 see line 17 above

86 in the house to have it to him and his heirs
87 for ever, paying £13 of good lawful money of England
88 in for following: that is to say, to the said Richard
89 Goldwell such sums of money as is unpaid of that covenanted
90 between him and me and, if residue of the said £13, to be paid
91 to Alys, my wife, or to her assigns, to dispose it for the wealth
92 of my soul and her own soul and all christian souls. Witnesses
93 hereof **Sir Christopher Sharperow, John Tebold²²⁰, William Dawson.**

220 #673, having children in Seal in the 1520s

J

Will of John Jessopp of West Malling
The Jewells of Tonbridge

page j.2
page j.5

There were Jessops in Penshurst and Leigh but there is no known connection between them and John of West Malling.

1 In the name of god Amen. I, John Jessopp of West Malling
2 in the county of Kent, **husbandman**, being in good health and perfect
remembrance (thanks be given to
3 Almighty god) do make this my last will and testament in manner and form
following: **First:**
4 I give and commend my soul into the hands of Almighty god, my maker,
redeemer and sanctifier,
5 whom and through whose grace only I hope for eternal life. And my body
to be buried in the
6 churchyard at West Malling aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Alice**
Jessopp, my
7 **wellbeloved wife**, all my linen, woollen, brass and pewter and all other my
household stuff whatsoever
8 except only, and always reserved out of this my present will, one bedstead
now standing in the

9 parlour of **Robert Moonewood** of West Malling aforesaid, my best flockbed,
two pair of my
10 best sheets, one pair of my best blankets, my best coverlet, my biggest
brass kettle, one of the
11 best of my brass chafers. All which being there with my wearing apparel,
both linen and woollen,
12 my debts and funeral charges being first paid and discharged by mine
executor hereafter
13 named, I give and bequeath to **Henry Jessopp of Ryarsh**²²¹ in the said
county of Kent, **linen**
14 **weaver, my loving brother.** Which said Henry Jessopp I do hereby ordain
and make my
15 sole executor of this my present testament and last will. In witness
whereof, I,
16 the said John Jessopp, hereunto set my hand and seal dated the thirtieth
day of
17 March in the year of the reign of our sovereign lord Charles, by the grace of
God of
18 England, Scotland, France and Ireland king, defender of the faith, etc. the
eighth

²²¹ just to the north of West Malling

19 Annoge dm. 1632. And have and do publish and declare the same to be
my last will and
20 testament in the presence of **Andrew Broughton** and **Francis Lambe** who
have hereunto also
21 subscribed their names.
Andrew Broughton, notary public²²²
Francis Lamb John Jessopp
his mark

²²² probably wrote the will

The Jewells of Tonbridge

Two wills have survived for Jewell (or Juell) of Tonbridge:

John Juell	22 May 1597	CKS: Drb/Pw 18; Drb/Pwr 18.579	page j.7
John Jewell	1 May 1610	CKS: Drb/Pw 22; Drb/Pwr 20.188	page j.8

The 1597 will is nuncupative; that of 1610 was written by John Hooper, one of the members of the Hooper family which wrote a large number of wills from the 1560s until after 1650 when this study ends.

John Juell had four children, John, Ruben, Jone and Elizabeth with Ruben underage in 1597. John Jewel had a brother Ruben and so is likely to have been the son of the first John.

One of John Jewell's sisters was married to George Beecher and, in 1610, they had at least two sons, Thomas and Robert. A George Beecher of Chiddingstone wrote his will in 1638; his first wife was called Elizabeth but the only child of this marriage mentioned in the will was George, underage in 1638 and therefore born after 1617. See [George Beecher of Chiddingstone in Families & Transcripts](#).

Thomas and Robert were obviously born before 1610 and, in their early thirties by 1638, could possibly have been older sons of George Beecher of Chiddingstone established by the time their father wrote his will. It is also possible that John's other sister was the wife of Robert Fan but the assumption that first wife of George Beecher of Chiddingstone was Elizabeth Jewell and Robert Fan's wife was Jone Jewel are just conjecture.

"t" indicates an entry in the Tonbridge database, "x" one in the database covering a number of parishes including Chiddingstone

1 **Memorandum** that these words, or the like in effect,
2 were used by John Juell being sick in body but of
3 perfect memory, thanks be to god, concerning the
4 disposing and governing of his moveable goods, the 22nd
5 day of May 1597, viz:

6 **Item:** my mind and will is that all my goods,
7 and chattels, my debts being paid and my funeral
8 expenses being discharged²²³, to be equally divided between
9 **my four children**, that is to say, **John, Ruben, Jone**
10 **and Elizabeth**, only my will is that Ruben Juell,
11 my youngest son, shall have one cow over and
12 above the rest of their portions which is in the hands
13 of **Henry Parker**. Which cow, and the rest of
14 Ruben's portion, he²²⁴ doth desire his loving friend
15 and kinsman, **John Towne**,

223 "discharged" - note that this is the probate copy, not the original

224 the first sentence is written in the first person but it reverts here to the third person

16 of **Capel** to take into his hands and to keep the
17 said Ruben and to bring him up and to deliver his
18 portion unto him when he shall come to the age
19 of one and twenty years. These words, or the like
20 in effect, were pronounced the day and year above
21 written, in the presence and hearing of **Thomas**
22 **Danne, Walter Morgan, John Towne and Peter**
23 **Harris**. The mark of Thomas Danne.

The Will of John Jewell of Tonbridge 1610

written 1st May 1610

transcript from original

1 In the name of God Amen²²⁵. The first day of May
2 in the year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord James, by the
3 grace of God, king of England, Scotland, France and Ireland,
4 defender of the faith, of England, France and Ireland the
5 eighth and of Scotland the three and fortieth, 1610. I, John

225 decorated "I"; small Hooper type mark over "God Amen"

6 Jewell of Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **husbandman**, do ordain and
make this
7 my testament in manner following: **First:** I bequeath my soul to Almighty
8 God, my maker, with an assured hope of salvation through Jesus Christ,
my
9 saviour and redeemer, and my body to the earth from whence it was taken.
Item:
10 I give to **Ruben Jewell, my brother**, my best suit of apparel, my best hat,
11 stockings, shirt and all my wearing bands. **Item:** I will to my said
12 brother the sum of five pounds, which for the most part in money and the
13 rest in moveables, in the hands of **John Fry** and the said John Fry
14 to me at this time owing, which said five pounds I will shall remain in the
15 hands of the said John Fry two whole years after my decease. And at the
16 end of the said two years to be²²⁶ truly contented and paid by him, his
17 executors or assigns, to my said brother Ruben. And if the said Ruben
happen
18 to decease before the end of the said 2 years, then I will the said £5 to
Thomas
19 and **Robert Beecher, sons of my brother-in-law George Beecher**, equally
20 between them or to the survivor of them, the whole, at such time as the
said

226 "bee" throughout

21 Ruben should have received the sum if he had lived. **Item:** I will to **Robert**
22 **Fan and his wife** 40s to be paid within half a year next after my decease.
Item:
23 I give to the said George Beecher and his wife 20s to be paid also within
24 half a year next after my decease. **Item:** give to **John Rootes, servant**, with
25 **Thomas Goldsmith**, one barren ewe which I have in my **Mr. Robert Piper**
26 his keeping to be delivered him within 14 days next after my decease.
27 **Item:** whereas I have an ewe and a lamb in the keeping of the said John
Fry above
28 named, I will the ewe to **Thomas Fan, son of the aforesaid Robert Fan** and
the
29 lamb to **Henry Fan, son also of the said Robert**, to be delivered about
30 **Whitsuntide** now next coming to the said Robert, their father, and by him
to be kept and
31 put out for the benefit of his said children, as he shall see good. **Item:** I
32 will to four bachelors, whosoever they be, by appointment of mine
executor, that
33 shall carry me to church, ten shillings equally between them.

34 The residue of all my goods, debts, moveables and utensils I wholly give to
my good
35 Mr. Robert Piper toward the keeping of me in my lameness and sickness
and to see my

36 debts and legacies paid and my body decently buried which said Robert
Piper I make
37 and ordain my sole and only executor and I do appoint overseer of this my
testament the
38 above named John Fry. In witness whereof I have set my hand and seal
39 the day and year first above written.
Sealed and declared in
the presence of

William M---, ?? **Chowning**
and **John Hooper**.

K

The Kerwynes of Seal and Penshurst	page k.2
Thomas and Sybil Kerwyne	page k.5
John Kerwyne, will 1585	page k.6
Robert Kerwyne's Bequests	page k.12

Will of Thomas Kirkham, clothier of Pembury	page k.18
The Knells, truggers of Shipbourne and Brenchley	page k.20

Knight Wills	page k.33
The Cowden Knights	page k.34
Richard Knight of Pembury	page k.72
The Knights of Tonbridge and Shipbourne	page k.89
Father and Son Marry Mother and Daughter	page k.91
Nicholas Knight	page k.93

The Kerwynes of Seal and Penshurst

Kerwynes appear in the Seal parish register from the start of the register in 1562 up to 1618 and, although Seal was their main location, a few events were recorded in Ightham. Two wills have survived, one from Seal and the other from Penshurst:

		written	buried	
John Kerwyne	Seal	3 Feb 1585	13 Feb 1585	CKS: Drb/Pw 14; Drb/Pwr 17.75 page k.7
Robert Kerwyne	Penshurst	4 Dec 1615	9 Feb 1616 ²²⁷	PCC: 20 Cope; Prob 11/127 page k.14

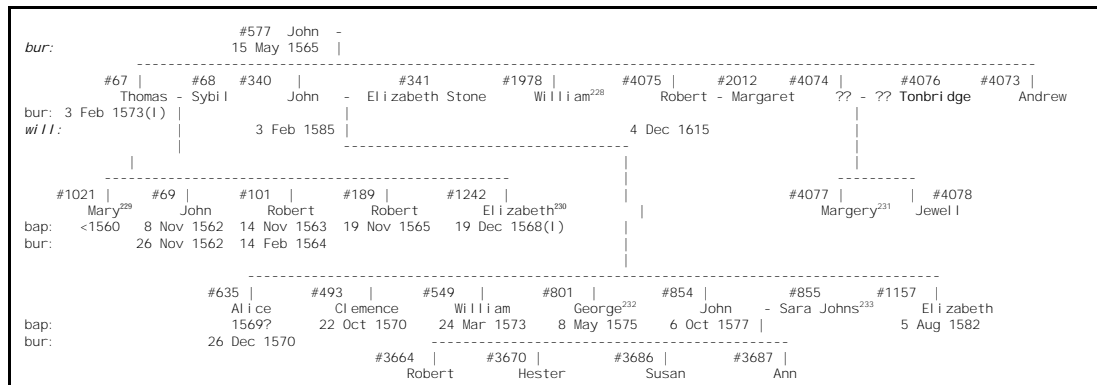
Robert, although married with his wife still living, does not mention any children in his will but, because he leaves legacies to a number of nieces and nephews, it is possible to fit in some otherwise apparently unconnected references to Kerwyne in the parish records. He used the term "cousin" instead of niece and nephew, sometimes adding "[my sister's daughter](#)", etc. Thus the John and Robert whose wills have survived were brothers with Robert being one of the executors of John's will. From their two wills, we know there were five brothers and a sister.

²²⁷ probate 17th or 27th February 1616

Thomas was the eldest of the brothers and his eldest daughter, Mary, married in 1580 and was therefore born in the late 1550s indicating that Thomas was probably born in the early 1530s. John married Elizabeth Stone (#341) on 7th June 1568 and could therefore have been considerably younger and in his forties when he died.

If Robert was born between 1540 and 1545 he would have been in his early seventies when he died which was not at all unusual. Whilst Thomas was most likely the eldest of the family, there is no way of deciding the order in which his brothers and sister were born.

A John Kerwyne was buried, in Seal, on 15th May 1565 and he could have been the father of these brothers and their sister. The full family can be reconstructed as shown on the next page. (# indicates reference in Seal database and, although Robert lived in Penshurst when he died but without mentioning any children, he is included in the Seal database)



- 228 William and Robert were both appointed executors of the will of their brother, John (#340); William is known only from John's will, Andrew only from Robert's will
- 229 Mary/Mercy Kerwyne married John Olyver (#1627) on 20th June 1580 and they had two daughters baptised in Seal - see [Olyver](#). Mary Olyver, widow, married [George Welfare](#) of Lingfield (#2020) on 4th February 1601. Although Mary by this time must have been about forty, she and George had a daughter - see [Welfare](#) which includes Mary's will.
- 230 baptised in Ightham, she married Richard Goodhews (#1241) on 22nd June 1587 (in Seal) when she was 19; see [Goodhews](#)
- 231 Robert does not give the second name of his niece Jewell but both are described as daughters of his sister
- 232 George probably died before 1585 since he was not mentioned in his father's will
- 233 married Sara Johns, in Ightham, on 22nd June 1606

John of Seal had the lease of some land in Seal from George Multon, Esquire, which was part of the inheritance to be divided between his sons, John and William. Since Robert leaves to his "[cousin John Kerwyne of Seal . . the lease and term of years holden of George Multon, Esquire, which the said John hath, by his deed, assigned over to me](#)", it must have been John (#854) who inherited this lease from his father. The George Multon of 1585 could have been either the George Multon who died, aged 83, in 1598 or his son who died in 1618 aged 71. It would have been the son who owned the land when the lease was mentioned in Robert's will of 1615.

Thomas and Sybil Kerwyne

Thomas Kerwyne's youngest daughter, Elizabeth, was baptised in Ightham in 1568 and a Thomas Kerwyne was buried in Ightham on 3rd January 1573. John's and Robert's elder brother could have moved from Seal to Ightham in 1567 or 1568.

A Sybil Kyrwin was mentioned in the Court Rolls of Ightham between 1586 and 1618 and **Sybil Kerwyne, widow**, was buried, in Seal on 30th March 1600. Both Sybil and Kerwyne are unusual enough names for this to be the same person but whose widow was she? If Thomas Kerwyne's family was in Ightham and Sybil

was his wife, she could have lived in Ightham for a time after his death before returning to Seal sometime before 1600..

John Kerwyne, will 1585

John and Elizabeth's daughter, Alice, presumably their firstborn, was buried 26 December 1570 but, since Clemence was baptised 22 October 1570, Alice must have been over a year old when she died.

Eleven months after John's death, his widow, Elizabeth Kerwyne, married **William Martin** (#1233) on 5th May 1586 but she died in June 1590 when she would still have been only in her forties and her youngest daughter was not yet eight. Since John left her the use of his house, etc., for ten years, even if she remarried, she may have continued to live there until her death. John's executors, who were his brothers Robert and William, would have been responsible for the welfare and inheritances of John and Elizabeth's children from 1590 without their mother to look after them. Although John appointed his wife, Elizabeth, his executrix, probate was granted to William Kerwyne whom John appointed one of his overseers.

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 the third day of February in the year of
3 our Lord god one thousand, five hundred and
4 four score and four, I, **John Kerwin of Seale**,
5 in the County of Kent, **freemason**²³⁴, do make and
6 ordain this my last will in manner and kind
7 following: **First:** I bequeath my soul to
8 All mighty god and my body to be buried in the
9 churchyard of Seal aforesaid. **Item:** I
10 give and bequeath unto **my two daughters**,
11 **Clemence and Elizabeth**, ten pounds of
12 good and lawful money of England to be
13 paid by mine executor out of my
14 moveables within one year after my death
15 to **my brothers, William and Robert**, whom I
16 make overseers of this my last will and
17 testament to the use, commodity and

²³⁴ mason of superior quality; able to travel to other places for work

18 education of my said two daughters, Clemence
19 and Elizabeth to be delivered to them by my
20 said overseers at their marriage or at
21 their ages of . . years by equal portions
22 to be divided amongst them. Also all my
23 moveables, as well within . . . without
24 those ten pounds . . . to be taken excepted
25 all my debts and legacies paid, I give
26 to **Elizabeth, my wife**, whom I make my sole
27 executrix of this my last will and testament.
28 **Item:** I give to Elizabeth, my said wife, for
29 her life if she keep her self sole and unmarried²³⁵, my
30 house in Seal aforesaid with one barn and one orchard
31 with one hempland²³⁶ and one croft adjoining to the
32 said house, paying therefore yearly 6s 8d at two
33 . . terms (times?) in the year, (that is to say) at
34 the feast of St. Michael the Archangel and the Annunciation
35 of the blessed virgin Mary, by even portion unto the

235 Elizabeth Kerwyne, widow, married William Martin on 5 May 1586; she was buried on 7 June 1590 when she was probably in her late 40s.

236 "hempland" was only deciphered on its appearance in line 69

36 aforesaid William and Robert, overseers of this
37 my last will and testament to the use of **my two**
38 **sons, William and John**, until such time as they
39 shall come to the age of 21 years. But if it shall
40 happen the said yearly rent of 6s 8d to be
41 behind and unpaid in part or in whole within 40 days
42 after any of the said feasts in which it ought to
43 be paid, that then it shall and may be lawful
44 for my said overseers
45 to distrain and for want of such
46 payment to reenter and go to expel . . my
47 said . . my wife . . . until my children
48 come to the age of 21 years. **Item:** I will that
49 my said wife shall keep the reparation of the
50 said house as also the . .
51 so long as she shall have and enjoy the same.
52 Also, the use, commodity and profit of my
53 lease of certain lands granted to be by **Mr.**
54 **George Multon, Esquire**, I give and bequeath
55 to my aforesaid two sons, William and John, to
56 be given to them by equal division when as they shall come
57 to the age of 21 years by mine overseers, William
58 and Robert, to whom I have given and granted -

59 do give and grant my lease aforesaid to the use and
60 condition aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath to my
61 said two sons, William and John, my house in Seal
62 aforesaid, one barn, one orchard, one hempland and
63 one croft thereunto adjoining and to the heirs of
64 their bodies lawfully to be begotten by equal division by
65 them to be had at what time as they shall come to the
66 age of 21 years. And if my wife shall die or be
67 married²³⁷ . . . it shall happen my said two sons to
68 die without heirs, . . . then I will that the house,
69 barn, orchard, hempland and croft before
70 bequeathed to them shall remain and come to my
71 said daughters, Clemence and Elizabeth and
72 their heirs equally to be divided between them by
73 my said overseers, William and Robert. And if it
74 happen that Elizabeth, my wife, do marry then
75 I will that she shall have the aforesaid house,
76 barn, orchard, hempland and croft adjoining
77 to the said house in Seal aforesaid only ten years

237 was the first part of this sentence added in error, perhaps made when the will was copied; it makes sense in line 73/74 (check original will Drb/Pw 14)

78 next ensuing after my decease²³⁸, paying therefore
79 yearly 6s 8d at the two aforesaid times of
80 the year to my said overseers. **Item:** I will that
81 Elizabeth, my wife, whether she marry or not,
82 shall have those lands granted to me in lease by
83 the forenamed George Multon before any
84 other payment therefore yearly to my said overseers
85 ---ing as they shall think reasonable and
86 convenient to the use and commodity of my said
87 two sons, William and John, to be equally
88 divided amongst them at what time as they
89 shall come to the age of 21 years. In witness

238 But William, the eldest son, would have been 21 in March 1594, less than ten years after the will was being written and would then have been due, according to the previous lines, to his half of the house, etc.

90 whereof these persons have subscribed their names:

John Walker
by me John Kerwin signed

William Monk²³⁹
Johananus Porter²⁴⁰

Robert Kerwyne's Bequests

Robert's legatees, other than his wife who was to receive the residue and was appointed his executrix, were:

		age ²⁴	legacy
John (#854), nephew*	son of brother John (#340)	28	land in Seal

²³⁹ (Monke) #133

²⁴⁰ John Porter, #305; who could have been the scriptor

²⁴¹ age when Robert wrote his will

Margery Tonbridge, niece*	sister's daughter		£5
Jewell, niece*	sister's daughter		40s
Mercy Welfare (#1021), niece*	brother Thomas Kerwyne's daughter	55	10s
Andrew	brother		10s
niece* Goodhews (#101)	brother Thomas's daughter, Elizabeth, the wife of Richard Goodhews	47	10s
Mistress? Holloway, niece*	wife of ?? Holloway?		10s
Elizabeth Spencer	wife of William Spencer of Penshurst		40s

* relationship given as "cousin" in the will

1 In the name of god Amen. The fourth of December
2 Anno Dm. 1615 and in the year of the reign of our sovereign lord James, by
the
3 grace of God, of England, France and Ireland, king, defender of the faith,
the thir
4 tenth and of Scotland the nine and fortieth. I, Robert Kerwyne of
Penshurst in
5 in the county of Kent, **gent.**, being of sound and perfect memory, thanks be
given to
6 God, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form
following:
7 And **First:** I bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty god, And my
body to
8 be buried in the church of Penshurst, aforesaid, near unto my seat where I
used to
9 sit in the said church. **Item:** I give and bequeath to the poor and most
needy people of

10 the said parish of Penshurst the sum of fifty shillings to be distributed
amongst them by
11 the churchwardens and overseers of the said parish at the day of my burial.
Item: I will
12 and devise unto **my cousin John Kerwyne of Seal**, in the said county of
Kent, and his heirs
13 all the estate which I have upon condition of and in a tenement and certain
lands in the said
14 parish of Seal mortgaged unto me by my cousin John Kerwyne. **Item:** I
will and
15 devise unto the said John Kerwyne the lease and term of years holden of
George
16 **Multon, Esquire**, which the said John hath, by his deed, assigned over unto
me together
17 with all such evidence of script and writing as I have touching the
tenement, lands and
18 leases devised unto him as aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my**
cousin, Margery
19 **Tonbridge, my sister's daughter**²⁴², the sum of five pounds of lawful money
of England.

²⁴² Margery would have been his niece but the term "cousin" was often used to denote various relationships

20 And to **Elizabeth Spencer, the wife of William Spencer of Penshurst,**
aforesaid, forty
21 shillings of like lawful money of England. And to **my cousin, Jewell, my**
sister's daughter,
22 forty shillings of like money. And to my cousin **Mercy Wellfare, my brother**
Thomas
23 **Kerwyne's daughter,** ten shillings of like money. And also to **my brother**
Andrew
24 **Kerwyne, my cousin Goodhews, the wife of Richard Goodhews, and to my**
cousin Mr.²⁴³
25 **Holloway,** ten shillings a piece. All which legacies, my will and mind is
shalbe paid,
26 by my executrix hereafter named, within one year after my decease. All
the residue of
27 my goods, plate, debts, duties and chattels whatsoever, my debts, legacies
and funeral
28 expenses paid and discharged, I give and bequeath unto **Margaret, my**
loving wife²⁴⁴, to

243 or Mrs - Mistress; looks longer than the "Mr." on line 30 below; there is no reference to a Kerwyne marrying a Holloway

244 Mercy, wife of Robert Kyrwin, was buried in Penshurst on 21st January 1603; Mercy could have been this Robert's first wife

29 dispose at her will and pleasure, whom I make sole executrix of this my last
will
30 and testament. **Item:** I make **my loving neighbours, Mr. Herbert May and**
Mr. John Burst,
31 overseers of this my last will to whom I give ten shillings a piece. In
witness
32 whereof I have hereunto set my mark and seal and published this to be my
last will and
33 testament, the day and year first above written. In the presence of

Herbert May, Thomas Constable.

(Pembury was often written as “Pepingbury” in the seventeenth century)

In the name of god Amen. The sixteenth day of August in the 20th year of the reign . . . 1622, I, Thomas Kirkham als. Kirkin, of Pepingbury in the county of Kent, although being diseased in body but of good and perfect remembrance, thanks be given to Almighty god, do make and ordain this my present testament and last will in manner and form following: **First** and principally I commit my soul into the hands of Almighty god, my only saviour and redeemer and my body to be buried at the discretion of my executor.

poor people of **Horsmonden**

poor people of the parish where I shall happen to die 20s to be equally divided

Item: I give and bequeath unto **John Kirkham, my son**, my loom withall stays and tackling whatsoever to the same belonging.

lands in Horsmonden:

messuages and mansion house wherein I lately dwelled and now in the occupancy of the said **Thomas, my son**, or his assigns, called **Little Hall** and

Hobbs ?? with all buildings thereunto whatsoever and the workhouse or dyehouse with the copper and all other implements in and about the said workhouse or dyehouse and also my . .

. . and sealed the day and year above written: Thomas Kirkham
witnesses hereunto and at the sealing hereof: **John Remington, Robert ??**
George Salmon, scr.

The Knells, truggers of Shipbourne and Brenchley

Three Knell wills have survived for the area covered by the Diocese of Rochester. The nuncupative will of Richard Knell, gent., of Bromley was proved at the PCC in 1623 and has not been investigated. The other two are:

			date of will	CKS:	
				Drb/Pw	Drb/Pwr
Roger Knell	Shipbourne	18 Nov 1599	19	19I.148	page K.24
Edmond Knell	Brenchley	11 Jun 1649	32	23.118	page K.31

The will of Roger Knell was written by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618.

Both Roger and his son Edmond were truggers, makers of flat baskets made usually of strips of willow wood nailed to a wooden frame. John Blatcher of Shipbourne, when he wrote his will in 1582, was due to receive £30 from **Roger Knell, trugger, of Shipbourne.**

Roger had been married for twenty years when he died and so was probably in his late forties. When he wrote his will he was "[grievously pained with ulcers and](#)

lameness of limb and therefore very likely not long to live"; he did actually live for another two months.

Edmond perhaps moved to Brenchley (about ten miles from Shipbourne) when he married. He was sixty-nine when he wrote his will so that even his youngest child was likely to be over thirty but there is no indication that any of them were married. He and his family have been included in the Shipbourn database.

<i>di ed:</i>			mother	-					
			>1599						
<i>will:</i>			\$147 ²⁴⁵	Roger	-	Alice Nicolls (alias Webb)	\$148		
			18 Nov 1599			married 8 Feb 1579			

			\$149		\$2341		\$2340		\$293
			Edmond	-	Mary		Thomas		Jane
<i>bap:</i>			1 Nov 1579						18 Jul 1584
<i>will:</i>			11 Jun 1649						

			\$2342		\$2343		\$2344		\$2345
			Roger		James		Mercy		Mary
									Thomas

245 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

Alice did not remain a widow for very long: on 27th July 1600 she married James Walden (\$658).

In addition, there were two Knell marriages in Shipbourne, in the 1560s:

On 19th September 1563, **Alice Knell** (\$38) married **Thomas Curd** (\$37)

On 26th October 1567, **Johane Knell** (\$75) married **William Beecher** (\$74)

It is not known who wrote Edmond's will but there are a few phrases and words which are unusual; it is obviously impossible to tell whether they were chosen by Edmond himself or the scribe. Some of these are given in the following table together with the more usual wording. Another unusual item in Edmond's will is that, after giving his two elder sons £5 each, he requests that on her death, his wife, gives each of them another £5.

Unusual Phrases in Edmond Knell's Will

The left hand column is as used in Edmond's will, the right hand column the more usual wording:

blessed be God therefore	thanks be given to Almighty god
I commend my spirit	I commend my soul
through the merits and satisfaction of Christ Jesus	through the merits and death/ passion/blood shedding of Jesus Christ
to Roger, my eldest son, I bequeath	I bequeath to my eldest son . .
betwixt	between
I do jointly nominate for executors	I ordain and make my joint executors
In witness of all the promises	In witness whereof to this my present last will and Testament

Nicolas Hooper's
mark

- 1 , n²⁴⁶ the name of god Amen. the eighteenth day of November In the year
2 of our lord god
3 One Thousand, five hundredreth, four score and nineteen, And in the Two
4 and fortieth year of the reign
5 of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God, Queen of England,
6 France and Ireland, defender
7 of the faith. I, Roger Knell, of Shipbourne in the County of Kent and
8 diocese of Rochester, **Trugger**, being,
9 at the time of making hereof grievously pained with ulcers and lameness of
10 limb and therefore very likely not long to live,

246 This "I" and the "T" at the beginning of the next section (see page 26) are both highly decorated and there are two copies of Nicholas Hooper's mark at the top of the will.

6 And willing that my debts above all the rest should be paid. And that little
Overplus which remaineth of those transitory
7 possessions that God hath made me Steward of here in this world, should
be quietly enjoyed after my decease.
8 Therefore I do ordain and make this my Present Testament and last will in
manner and form following. And
9 **First** and principally, I give, commend and bequeath my Soul into the
hands of Almighty god who gave it
10 trusting, by a sure faith, in the mercy of Christ Jesus, my only Saviour, that
the said shalbe presented, pure, before
11 the Throne of his Majestie. And my body to the earth in sure and certain
hope of resurrection to eternal life.
12 And as Concerning all my moveable goods and Cattells whatsoever, I
wholly, fully
13 and with good effect, intent and purpose, give and bequeath to **Alice, my**
wellbeloved wife²⁴⁷, whom I make and
14 Ordain my whole and sole executrix of this my will. **Item:** I give to
Edmond²⁴⁸, **my son**, my Grymmylfaced

247 Roger married Alice Nicolls, alias Webb, in Shipbourne on 8th February 1579

248 Edmond was baptised on 1st November 1579, thirty eight weeks after the marriage of his parents

15 hayfer²⁴⁹, And to **Thomas, my son**, my whitefaced hayfer.

Nicolas Hooper's
mark

16 τ **his is the last will** of me, the said Roger Knell, made and declared the
day and year first above
17 written, concerning the order and disposition of All that my mansion house
wherein I now dwell with the
18 Barn, stable, garden, hemp plot, orchard and parcel of land or meadow
thereto adjoining and belonging
19 containing, in the whole, by estimation, three acres, whether more or less
thereof be had, together, situated,
20 lying and being in Shipbourne aforesaid. **Item:** I will that the above named
Alice Knell, my Wellbeloved wife,
21 together with **my very friend, Edmond Walsingham of Ryarsh** in the county
of Kent, **yeoman**, Or one of them (if the other

249 heifer

22 refuse or be deceased) shall at sometime within one year next after my
decease, sell all my said messuage, Barn, stable,
23 garden, hemp plot, Orchard and parcel of land or meadow with
th'appurtenances, for and by the best price she, or he, can.
24 And I will that the party so buying the same shall have and enjoy the same,
withall and singular th'appurtenances, to him and to his heirs
25 and assigns, forever. Willing further that **my very friend, Thomas Balden, of
Oxenhoth, the elder, fuller**, shall buy the
26 same before any other man if he please and shall have the same something
betterchepe²⁵⁰ than any other without fraud or guile. And
27 the money arising of the said sale, I will shall be²⁵¹ paid and employed in
manner and form following, that is to say, **First:** I
28 will that all my debts whatsoever which I owe shalbe paid and discharged.
And as outstanding a certain debt of me claimed of five
29 pounds for the which **my Brother-in-law, Andrew Davies**²⁵², hath a bill of
my hand, by me made to **William Harris**, his ???²⁵³

250 cheaper?

251 two separate words

252 not his wife's brother since she was a Nicolls alias Webb

253 pecceress?

30 the which I take upon me even upon my death lying in the hands of god
very likely to die, is all already long ago paid and discharged,
31 my will notwithstanding is that the said Andrew Davies, his executors, or
assigns, shall have three pounds lawful money in full
32 satisfaction of the same according to an agreement thereof partly between
him and me made at the mediation of **John Hoadeley** and other
33 my friends delivering the same bill, or a sufficient acquittance, for the
same. **Item:** I will that Edmond Knell and Thomas Knell,
34 my sons, shall have each of them Six pound Thirteen shillings and
fourpence a piece of lawful money, parcel of the same sum and
35 **Jane Knell, my daughter**²⁵⁴, shall have five pounds lawful money, parcel of
the same. All which sums I will shalbe put out by my said wife,
36 my sons' parts till their several full age of Six and twenty years²⁵⁵ and my
daughter's part till her full age of Twenty years or day
37 of her marriage which shall first happen. And the interest or profit thereof
to red?ende to my said wife if she so long live. And
38 all the said sums to be, by her, her executors or administrators, paid at the
several times aforesaid. And I will that if any of my

254 born July 1584 and therefore 15 when her father wrote his will

255 much older than the usual twenty-one (occasionally twenty-four); Edmond was just twenty when his father wrote his will and Jane fifteen

39 sons or daughter happen to decease before the time, or several times,
aforesaid, That the Overliver or overlivers shall have and
40 enjoy his, her or their parts equally between them. And that if all die, my
said wife shall have their portions. **Item:** I will
41 that my said wife shall have all the rest and Overplus of the said sum, if
she be living at the time of the said Sale. And
42 that, if it happen she be deceased, Then I will my said loving friend,
Edmond Walsingham shall receive all the said money and
43 pay the said my debts and legacies and profit and increase thereof in
portion, and portions, like to my said sons and daughter, or the
44 Survivor of them, at the times aforesaid. And the Overplus equally
between all my children. Deducting for and towards his
45 pains so much as two honest men shall think reasonable, Over and besides
all his charges and reasonable expenses. **Item:** I will also
46 that my said wife, her executors or assigns, shall yearly pay to my loving
and aged mother 6s 8d of lawful money to
47 be paid quarterly, viz. 20d every quarter of a year during her natural life. **In**
witness whereof to this my present last will
48 and Testament, I, the said Roger Knell, have set my hand and Seal,
yeven²⁵⁶ the day and year first above written.

Nicolas Hooper's
mark
with initials

the mark of ²⁵⁷ Roger
Knell

Read and acknowledged in
the presence of
John Hoadeley
Edward Goldsmith and of me
Nicolas Hooper, writer hereof.

the mark of ²⁵⁸ John

— 1 —
1
Hoadeley

the mark ²⁵⁹ of Edward
Goldsmith

²⁵⁷ a vertical cross with embellishments

²⁵⁸ a large vertical cross

²⁵⁹ a small square

1 In the name of god Amen. I, Edmond Knell of Brenchley
2 in the county of Kent, **trugger**, being at this present in
3 perfect mind and memory (blessed be God therefore) though
4 sick and weak in body, do make and ordain this my
5 last will and testament in manner and form as
6 follows: **First:** I commend my spirit into the hands of
7 almighty god, my maker, by and through the merits and
8 satisfaction of Christ Jesus, my redeemer. My body also
9 to be decently buried in the churchyard of Brenchley,
10 aforesaid, according to the discretion of my executors
11 hereafter named. As for the temporal things which God
12 has lent me, I thus dispose of them: **First:** unto **Roger,**
13 **my eldest son,** I bequeath five pounds of current English
14 money. **Item:** to **James, my second son,** I bequeath five
15 pounds as aforesaid. **Item:** to **my two daughters, Mercy**
16 **and Mary,** I do bequeath ten pounds, that is to each
17 of them five. All these legacies being to be paid
18 within one year next after my decease. As for all
19 other my goods and chattels, moveable or immoveable,

20 together with all debts or sums of money owing to
21 me, my will is that they be equally divided betwixt
22 **Mary, my beloved wife**, and **Thomas, my youngest**
23 **son** which two I do jointly nominate for executors.
24 Mary, my wife, shall at ye²⁶⁰ time of her death give
25 to each of my two elder sons, namely Roger and
26 James, five pounds more. In witness of all
27 the promises I have set to my hand and seal,
28 the 11th day of June, Anno Dom. 1649.

Signed, sealed and published

in presence of us

John Topping Frank Shelley

Edmund Knell

260 "ye" was unusual

Knight Wills

Six Knight wills have survived from the parish of Cowden:

	written:	proved:		
John Knight, the elder	26 Oct 1609	7 Nov 1611	PCC: Wood 95; Prob 11/118	k.39
John Knight	24 Aug 1618	8 Sep 1618	PCC: Meade 85; Prob 11/132	k.44
Richard Knight	7 Nov 1633	7 Nov 1633	PCC: Russell 102; Prob 11/164	k.55
Robert Knight	9 Jun 1638	4 Aug 1638	PCC: Lee 95; Prob 11/177	k.64
Mary Knight	29 ?? 1640	5 Aug 1640	CKS: 19IIB.158; Dra/Pw1	k.65
George Knight	17 Oct 1641	5 Jul 1642	PCC: Cambell 87; Prob 11/190	k.70

Edward Knight, mercer of Sevenoaks, came from Cowden. His will was written on 6th July 1634 (**PCC Seager 66; Prob 11/166**) and the transcript of this is given in [Section 2 of The History of Sevenoaks up to 1650](#).

Three other Knights from the locality whose wills have survived do not seem to have any connection with the Cowden Knights:

Richard Knight	Pembury	11 Jul 1575	4 Feb 1575/6	CKS: Drb/Pwr 15.4	k.76
Richard Knight	Tonbridge	26 Jan 1631/2		PCC: Audley 36	k.94
Joane Knight	Shipbourne	15 Mar 1635/6		PCC: Pile 39	k.101

The Cowden Knights

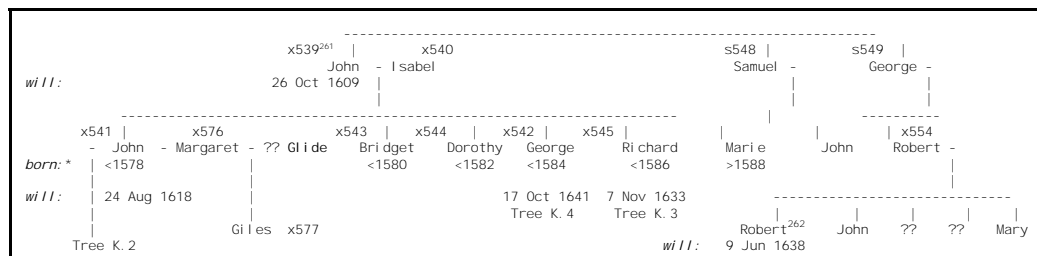
The wills of the John Knights were both written by Robert Hedley, the first in 1609 and the second in 1618. The Cowden Knights owned land in a number of places other than Cowden:

Villages mentioned in Knight Wills

from Cowden:	miles	direction
Sevenoaks	10	north-east
East Grinstead	5	west
Lingfield	6	west-north-west
Burstow	10	west
Arlington	21	south
Speldhurst	6	east
Hartfield	3	south

The Knights mentioned in the wills can be assembled into a number of family trees although various suppositions have been made.

Tree K.1: The Brothers John, Samuel and George



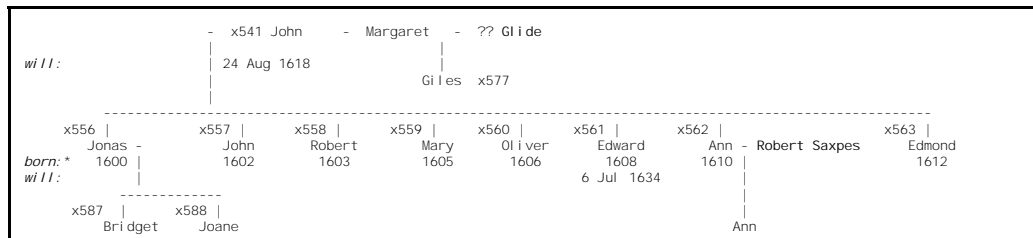
- * these are possible dates when x539's children could have been born but even their order in the family is not known

See Knight in More Families & Transcripts for a note regarding George and his sister Bridget.

²⁶¹ x indicates a reference in the miscellaneous database

²⁶² the Robert whose will was written in 1638 was the son of a Robert Knight; x554 could have been the testator's father but this is only a possibility. He had three sisters, one with a number of children married to a Wickenden, the second with one child married to an Easland and a third, Mary, who was unmarried.

Tree K.2: The Family of John x541

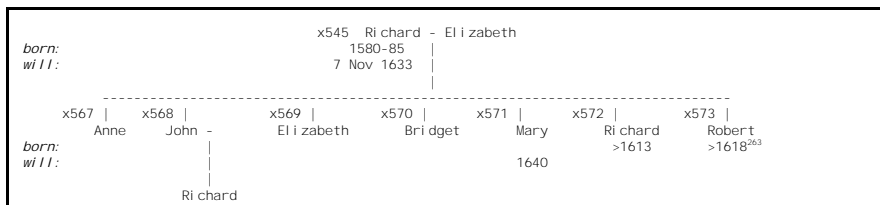


- * all John's children were underage in 1618; these dates assume that Jonas was nearly of age but they could all have been considerably younger. A birthdate of the mid-1570s is reasonable for the father of these children who could thus have been the son of x539 as shown in these trees.

The father of x541 had a godson Jonas who could have been his grandson (x556)

Edward of Sevenoaks made Robert Saxpes, the husband of his sister Ann, his executor. John, Edward's father, mentions his daughters Mary and Agnes but Ann and Agnes were often used interchangeably for the same person. Edward also had a brother Jonas so that he was probably x561, one of the sons of John who wrote his will in 1618; he would have been only in his twenties when he died. Edward made Ann, the daughter of his sister, his heir.

Tree K.3: The Family of Richard Knight

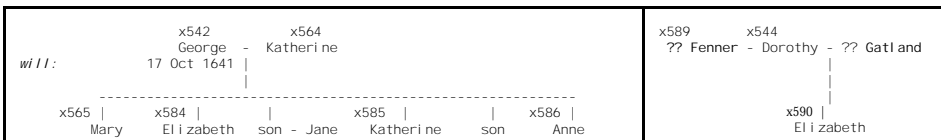


All the names of Richard's children and that of his wife are known from his will. The mother of the Mary whose will was written in 1640 was Elizabeth and Mary had three brothers, John, Richard and Robert. Thus the testator was Richard's daughter x571. It is from her will that we know her brother John was married with a son Richard.

Mary also had an "Aunt Gatland" who had married twice since she had a daughter, Elizabeth Fenner. One of the witnesses to the will was Dorothy Gatland so that Aunt Gatland was probably Richard's sister Dorothy (x544) - see below.

263 not twenty-two in 1640 when his sister Mary wrote her will

Tree K.4: George and his sister Dorothy



Mary Knight, who was probably in her late twenties when she died in 1640, left £100 to her brother Richard and £80 to her brother Robert who was not then twenty-two so that their mother was to have the interest on the £80 at the rate of 5 per cent until he did come of age.

Mary details the clothes and other items she left to her relations. First there was "the tammett of carnishing" which she had bought to make a gown; what type of material this was has not been determined. She had a number of "suits" a term nor otherwise found for women's clothing:

- her best tawny cloth suit
- a green stuff suit
- a riding suit and black hood
- a suit of linen.

Then there was her best scarf, the best of her wearing linen, a green scarf, a handkerchief, a crosscloth²⁶⁴, a coif, a pair of handcuffs, a workcloth and an apron. To her brothers and male cousins she gave silver spoons and she also had a little desk, a joined chest containing linen and two boxes.

Will of John Knight, the elder of Cowden

written 26th October 1609

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. the six and
2 twentieth day of October in the year of our lord god one thousand
3 six hundred and nine, I, John Knight th'elder of Cowden in the
4 county of Kent, **yeoman**, weak in body but of good and perfect memory
5 (laud and praise be to Almighty God) revoking hereby all my former wills
6 do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form
7 following: that is to say, **First**: commending my soul into the hands
8 of god, my maker and redeemer, with the most steadfast faith and hope of
9 salvation thereof. And leaving my body to be committed to the earth (at the
10 will and pleasure of the same my god) with like assured faith and hope of

264 a "crosscloth" was the part of a woman's headdress going across the forehead

11 resurrection of the same to eternal life through the only merits of my
12 crucified saviour Christ, notwithstanding my misdeeds. I give and bequeath
13 unto the poor of the parish of Cowden aforesaid forty shillings to be
14 distributed amongst them by mine executor within one quarter of a year
15 next after my decease. **Item:** I give unto the poor of **East Grinstead in**
Sussex
16 twenty shillings. **Item:** I give unto the poor of **Lingfield in Sussex** forty
17 shillings. **Item:** I give unto the poor of **Speldhurst** twenty shillings to
18 be paid within the one half year next after my decease. **Item:** I give unto
Isabel,
19 **my wife,** thirty pounds to be paid her as followeth: (that is to say) within
20 one month next after my decease ten pounds and within five years then
21 next following twenty pounds. **Item:** I give unto my said wife my bed
22 and bedstead and all the furniture belonging thereunto within my chamber
23 over the hall, the table and four chests withall the linen therein in the
24 same chamber and one dozen of napkins and one tablecloth. **Item:** I give
25 unto my said wife one other feather bed with a feather bolster and two
26 pillows, one coverlet and two blankets thereunto, half a dozen of joined
27 stools and a joined form, one iron pot, one brass chafing dish, one iron
28 pasuett, the great brass kettle, one dozen of pewter dishes and platters,
29 half a dozen of fruit dishes and two dozen of spoons. **Item:** I give unto **John,**
30 **my son,** one steer bullock of three years old. **Item:** I give and bequeath
31 unto **my son George** thirty pounds to be paid him as followeth (that is

32 to say) ten pounds within one month next after my decease and twenty

page 2:

33 pounds within one year then next following. **Item:** I give unto my said son
George one
34 of my beds with the bedstead and all things belonging thereunto within the
chamber
35 over the parlour. **Item:** I give unto **Bridget, my daughter**, one featherbed and
all
36 things belonging thereto. **Item:** I give unto **Dorothy, my daughter**, one two
yearling
37 heifer. **Item:** I give unto **Edward Beard, my kinsman**, five pounds to be paid
to him
38 within one year next after my decease. **Item:** I give to **Marie, the daughter**
of
39 **Samuel Knight, my brother**, forty shillings to be paid her at her full age of
40 one and twenty years or at the day of her marriage which shall first happen.
Item:
41 I give unto **Jonas Knight, my godson**, five pounds and to every of my other
42 godchildren twelve pence a piece to be paid unto them within six months
next
43 after my decease. **Item:** I give unto **John Grove, my servant**, ten shillings to
be

44 paid within one month next after my decease. **Item:** I give unto **Marie, the**
45 **daughter**
46 **of George Knight, th'elder, of Edenbridge,** twenty shillings to be paid within
47 one year next after my decease. All the residue of my goods and chattels
48 whatsoever unbequeathed
49 (my debts, legacies and funeral expenses paid, disbursed and discharged) I
50 give and bequeath
51 unto **Richard, my son,** whom I make and ordain sole executor of this my last
52 will and
53 testament. And I make and ordain and heartily pray **my wellbeloved**
54 **kinsmen John Knight**
55 and **Robert Knight, sons of my brother George Knight,** to be mine overseers
56 to see
57 this my last will and testament well and truly performed to whom I give ten
58 shillings a piece for their pains to be taken in that behalf. And I will that all
59 their
60 costs and charges whatsoever about this my last will and testament shall be
61 borne and
62 paid them by my said executor the premises notwithstanding. Now as
63 concerning
64 certain my lands and tenements, this is my last will and testament as
65 followeth:
66 (that is to say) **First:** I give unto Isabel, my wife, and her heirs forever all that

57 my house and lands thereto with th'appurtenances called **Fidlers** being in
Cowden in
38 in the county of Kent. **Item:** I give and bequeath all my lands and
tenements
31 with th'appurtenances being in Speldhurst in the said county of Kent called
32 **Lampington** and **Woolgrove** unto George Knight, my son, and the heirs of
33 his body lawfully begotten, And for lack of such issue, I give and bequeath
34 all the same lands and tenements with th'appurtenances called Lampington
and
35 Woolgrove unto Richard Knight and John Knight, my sons, and to their heirs
of
36 forever. In witness whereof to this my present last will and testament
concerning
37 my goods and chattels, lands and tenements aforesaid, I have set my hand
and
38 seal the day and year first above written in the presence of **Charles Eastland**
31 his mark, **Henry Still** his mark, **George Beard**, his mark and **Robert Hedley**,
Scr., John
32 Knight, the testator, his mark

1 In the name of god Amen. The four and twentieth day
2 of August in the year of our lord god one thousand six hundred and
eighteen, I,
3 John Knight of Cowden in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, sick in body but of
good
4 and perfect memory (god be praised) do make and ordain this my last will
and
5 testament in manner and form following²⁶⁵, that is to say, **First**: I commend
my soul
6 unto Almighty God whensoever it shall please him to sever the same from
my body
7 with most assured faith and hope of salvation thereof by the only merits of
my
8 crucified saviour Jesus Christ. And I let rest my body to be committed to
the

page 2:

²⁶⁵ "folowing" but probate copy; also on line 55

9 earth²⁶⁶ within the churchyard of Cowden aforesaid whensoever it shall
please the same my god to call
10 me out of this wretched world with the like faith and hope of resurrection of
the same to
11 eternal life. **Item:** I give unto the poor of the parish of Cowden aforesaid
twenty shillings
12 to be distributed amongst them at the discretion of mine executor hereafter
named.
13 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Margaret, my wife**, one hundred pounds of
lawful english
14 money to be paid unto her within one year next after my decease. **Item:** I
will that the
15 said Margaret, my wife, shall have all such household stuff as she brought
to me. **Item:** I will
16 that the same Margaret, my wife, shall have the wardship of the body and
lands of **Giles**
17 **Glide, her son**, and take the benefit of the wardship of him as fully and
wholly as I my
18 self have by any grant thereof to me made or by act are done in that behalf
upon this

266 "earth" omitted but probate copy

19 condition notwithstanding that she, the said Margaret, with two other
sufficient persons of
20 ability in lands or goods shall, within one month next after my decease,
become bounden
21 to mine executor in the sum of five hundred pounds of lawful money of
England that
22 she, the said Margaret, nor any other person by her means shall intermeddle
with any of my
23 lands or tenements by reason of any title that she hath or shall have of and
in the same.
24 And that she, the said Margaret, shall seal and, as her act and deed, deliver
some
25 writing sufficient in the law wherein she shall release unto every one of my
sons
26 viz: unto **Jonas, John, Robert, Oliver, Edward and Edmond** all the rights of
her, the
27 said Margaret, of and in all my lands, tenements, furnace, mill and
buildings with the
28 appurtenances to them my said sons hereafter bequeathed and, at such
time as she, the said
29 Margaret shalbe required to become bounden as aforesaid. And if the said
Margaret shall

30 intermeddle with any of my said lands or tenements or shall not become
bounden as aforesaid,
31 then my will is that she shall not have the wardship of the said Giles, her
son, nor of
32 any of his lands. But that then mine executor shall have the same. **Item:** I
give unto
33 every one of my sons viz: John, Robert, Oliver, Edward and Edmond²⁶⁷, forty
shillings to be paid
34 them at their several full ages of one and twenty years. **Item:** I give and
bequeath unto
35 **Mary and Agnes, my daughters**, one hundred and fifty pounds a piece and
three pairs
36 of my best sheets a piece to be paid and delivered to them at their several
ages
37 of one and twenty years or at their several days of their marriages which
shall first
38 happen. **Item:** I will that if the said Mary or Agnes, my daughters, shall
happen to die
39 before the said time of payment of their said legacies, then the survivor of
them shall

²⁶⁷ Jonas in list on line 26 omitted here presumably because he was the eldest son and executor

40 have the full portion of her so dying. And all the residue of my goods and
chattels what
41 soever unbequeathed, my debts, legacies and funeral expenses paid and
discharged
42 I give and bequeath unto Jonas Knight, **my eldest son**, whom I make and
ordain to be
43 sole executor of this my last will and testament when he shall come to his
full age of
44 one and twenty years. And in the meantime I make and ordain
45 **my wellbeloved brother in Christ George Knight** to be mine executor in trust
of this
46 my last will and testament viz. until my said son Jonas shall accomplish his
said
47 age of one and twenty years. And I make and ordain and heartily pray **my**
wellbe
48 **loved friends Mr. Edward Bishe of Burstowe** in the county of **Surrey, Esquire**,
49 and **George Turner of Lingfield** in the said county of Surrey, **gent.**, to be
mine overseers
50 to see this my last will and testament well and truly performed. To whom I
give
51 towards their pains to be taken in that behalf twenty shillings a piece. And
I will

52 that the charges²⁶⁸ which they shalbe at about any needful business
concerning this my
53 last will and testament shalbe borne and paid them by my said executor
(the premises
54 notwithstanding). As concerning all my lands and tenements whatsoever
55 and wheresoever, this is my last will and testament as followeth, viz: **First:** I
give and
56 bequeath unto Jonas Knight, my son, and his heirs for ever, all that my
dwelling
57 house in the parish of Cowden aforesaid and all the barns, buildings and all
the
58 lands with th'appurtenances to the same belonging. And also my furnace
for founding
59 of iron and my corn mill by my said dwelling house. And all that parcel of
meadow

page 3:

60 ground adjoining to the premises which I purchased of **Richard Toxsell**.
And also one little
61 messuage or tenement and all the lands thereunto belonging with
th'appurtenances being now

268 "charges" but probate copy; also line 103

62 in the occupation of one **George Beard**. To have and to hold all the same
premises at the
63 full age of one and twenty years of him the said Jonas. **Item:** I give and
bequeath
64 unto John Knight, my son and his heirs forever, both my two houses at or
next **Cowden**
65 **Street** in the county of Kent with the barn, buildings, orchard, garden and
lands to
66 the same belonging. And all that my parcel of meadow ground with
th'appurtenances
67 adjoining to the premises which I severally purchased of **Francis Parkin,**
Thomas
68 **Wickenden** and **William Pigott**. To have and to hold the same premises at
his full age
69 of one and twenty years. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto Robert Knight, my
son and
70 his heirs for ever all that my house, barn and land with th'appurtenances
lying and being
71 at **Arlington** in the county of Sussex being part of the lands which I
purchased
72 of **Mr. William Crowe, Esquire** which part now is or late was in the
occupation of

73 one **Widow Bathyt**. To have and to hold the same at his full age of one and
74 twenty
75 years. **Item:** I will that all the residue of the said land which I purchased of
76 the
77 said Mr. Crowe shalbe divided into two equal parts by and between O;over
78 Knight
79 and Edward Knight, my sons. And then I will that the said Oliver, my son,
80 shall have and hold the one part thereof to him and the heirs of his body
81 lawfully
82 begotten at his full age of one and twenty years. And that the said Edward,
83 my son,
84 shall have and hold the other part thereof to him and the heirs of his body
85 lawfully
86 begotten at his full age of one and twenty years. **Item:** I give and bequeath
87 unto
88 Edmond, my son and his heirs forever, all that my land with
89 th'appurtenances which
90 **John Dane** of Lingfield in the county of Surrey, yeoman, hath mortgaged to
91 me if
92 default shall happen to be made of payment of such money as is to be paid
93 to redeem the

84 said land. Also I give to him, my said son Edward²⁶⁹, the yearly rent or profit
formerly
85 paid to me for the said mortgaged land. **Item:** I give unto the said Edmond,
ny son and
86 his heirs forever, all that annuity or yearly rent of twelve pounds issuing out
of
87 the house and land of **my cousin John Knight** called **Smithes** and out of all
other
88 his lands called **Constables** and **Humfreys** or any other his lands whatsoever
situated
89 and being within the foresaid parish of Lingfield. If default shall happen to
be
90 made of the payment of the sum of eight score pounds over and above the
said annuity,
91 or any part thereof, in manner and form as in the writings concerning the
said annuity
92 is specified and contained, and if the said sum of money upon the said
mortgaged land
93 or the money to redeem the said annuity shalbe tendered at the time and
place for payment

269 "Edward" at least in probate copy but it should be "Edmond"

94 of either of the said sums and payment be made thereof, then there being
and demanded,
95 then I give and bequeath the said sum or sums of money so tendered unto
the said
96 Edmond, my son (anything before mentioned in the disposition of my goods
and chattels
97 to the contrary notwithstanding). **Item:** my will and my desire is that my
brother
98 George Knight and **William Lysney of East Grinstead** in the county of
Sussex,
99 yeoman, shall provide for the bringing up and placing of my said sons and
daughters
100 viz: of my sons until their several full ages of one and twenty years and of
my
101 said daughters until my son Jonas shall come to his full age of one and
twenty
102 years. And then my said daughters to be found and brought up at the costs
and
103 charges of the said Jonas, my son, until either of them, my said daughters,
104 shalbe of the full age of one and twenty years or until the several days of
their
105 marriage first happening. And in consideration thereof I will that the said
George,

106 my brother, and William Lisney shall in the meantime receive all the rents
and
107 arrearages of rents for all my said lands which are already ?? And
108 for that meantime shall let to farm all or any of my said lands being not in
lease
109 for the most rent may be received for the same. And also that they shall
receive all the
110 profit of the said mortgaged lands and the said annuity that shall be
tendered as

page 4:

111 aforesaid for the well bringing up and placing of my said sons and
daughters as aforesaid.
112 And I will and my special care is that my said sons shall be brought up to
learning at
113 convenient time for their better preferment and my daughters brought up as
best becometh
114 them for their advancement. In witness whereof to this my last will and
testament
115 I, the said John Knight, have set my hand and seal the day and year first
before written
116 in the presence of **Edmond Porter** and **Robert Hedley, Scr.** John Knight

1 In the name of god Amen. I, Richard
2 Knight of Cowden in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being sick in body but of
good and
3 perfect memory (thanks be given to Almighty God for the same) do make my
last will
4 and testament in manner and form following: viz: **First**: I give and bequeath
my soul to
5 Almighty God certainly hoping that by his mercy and the merits of Christ
Jesus,
6 my saviour, to receive remission of all my sins. And my body to the earth to
be buried in
7 decent manner in the churchyard of Cowden in which parish I now dwell.
And for the
8 disposition of all my estate which it hath pleased god to bestow upon me, I
will and bequeath
9 in manner and form following: viz: **Imprimis** I give and bequeath to the poor
of the parish
10 of Cowden aforesaid the sum of five pounds to be paid within one year next
after my

11 decease and to the poor of **East Grinstead** in the county of **Sussex** and to the
12 poor of **Lingfield** in the county of **Surrey** the sum of twenty shillings a piece to be
13 likewise paid within one
year next after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Elizabeth, Bridget**
and **Mary**

page 2:

14 **Knight, three of my daughters**, the full and several sums of two hundred
pounds a piece to be
15 paid unto them within one year next after my decease or at their several or
respective days
16 of marriage (which shall first happen). And if it shall happen one of my
three daughters to die before
17 the end of the said year next after my decease, or her said day of marriage,
then the portion of her
18 so dying shalbe equally divided and paid to the other two said daughters
surviving. And if it
19 shall happen two of my said three daughters to die before the end or
expiration of the year
20 aforesaid or their said several or respective days of marriage, then the
portion of one of my said two

21 daughters so dying as aforesaid shall be equally divided and paid between
the third daughter
22 survivor and **John Knight, my eldest son**, and the portion of my said two
daughters so dying
23 as aforesaid shall be equally divided and paid unto **Richard and Robert
Knight, my younger sons**.
24 Provided always and it is my true intent and meaning that if my said
daughter Elizabeth
25 Knight do survive the said Bridget and Mary Knight, or either of them,
whereby she, the said
26 Elizabeth Knight shall and may have part of the portion of her the said
Bridget or Mary Knight
27 so dying as aforesaid. And if it happen she, the said Elizabeth Knight, to
marry and after her
28 marriage to die without issue or having issue of her body then living at the
time of her death
29 and if the said issue of the said Elizabeth Knight shall fortune to die before it
come to and attain the
30 full age of six years, then such portion or portions which shall or may come
to the said Elizabeth Knight
31 by the death of the said Bridget Knight and Mary Knight, or either of them
as aforesaid, shall

32 be repaid unto John Knight, my son, his executors or assigns, by the
husband of the said Elizabeth Knight,
33 his executors or assigns within one quarter of a year after the death of the
said Elizabeth
34 Knight without issue as aforesaid (or having issue) then within six months
next after the
35 death of the said issue of the said Elizabeth Knight so dying as aforesaid.
And also provided,
36 and it is my true meaning, that if my said daughter Bridget Knight do
survive the said
37 Elizabeth and Mary Knight, or either of them, whereby she, the said Bridget
Knight,

. . . *as for Elizabeth*

.
44 repaid unto Richard Knight, my son, . . .

.
48 . . Provided always and it is also my true intent and meaning that if my
said daughter
49 Mary Knight do survive the said Elizabeth and Bridget Knight or either of
them, whereby
50 she, the said Mary Knight

. . . *as for Elizabeth*

56 . . shall be repaid unto Robert Knight, my son, . .
.
60 . . **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **George Knight, my brother**, the sum of
forty
61 shillings; unto **Mary Knight, daughter of the said George Knight**, the sum of
twenty shillings;
62 unto **John Merlingham, my servant**, ten shillings; to **George Bower, my**
servant, five shillings;
63 to **Mary Wommett** ten shillings; to **Bridget Cropwell, my servant**, five
shillings and to
64 **George Knight, my servant and kinsman**, twenty shillings. And also to all
and every of my
65 godchildren twelve pence a piece to be paid unto every of them within one
year

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66 next after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Elizabeth, my wife**,
one moiety of all my
67 messuages and tenements, ponds, waters, furnaces and mills with their and
every of their appurtenances
68 in the parish of Cowden in the said county of Kent (except all those four
several parcels of land

69 called the **Kentmeade, Barnfield, Penfieldbank** and **The Gill**). And one
moiety of all
70 messuages, lands, tenements, mills, millhouses, ponds, waters, underwoods
and hereditaments whatsoever
71 in the parishes of **East Grinstead** and **Hartfield**, or either of them, in the said
county of **Sussex**
72 for and towards the payment of my debts and legacies for and during the
term of four
73 years next after my decease. And after the end of the said four years, I give
and bequeath
74 all the said moiety and all other my messuages, lands, tenements, barns,
buildings, furnaces, mills,
75 millhouses, ponds, waters, watercourses, streams, woods, underwoods and
hereditaments whatsoever
76 withall and singular th'appurtenances in the said parishes of Cowden, East
Grinstead and Hartfield and in
77 any of them (except those four several parcels of land before excepted) unto
John Knight,
78 my eldest son and to his heirs forever. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
Elizabeth, my said wife,
79 all those my messuages, lands and tenements in the parish of **Lingfield** in
the said county of **Surrey**

80 and all those four several parcels of land before excepted with
th'appurtenances for and until
81 Richard Knight, my son, shall, by computation of time, be of the age of
twenty years. And after he
82 shall accomplish his said age of twenty years, I give and bequeath all my
said messuages, lands
83 and tenements in Lingfield aforesaid and all those four several parcels of
land before excepted,
84 withall and singular th'appurtenances, unto my said son Richard Knight and
to his heirs forever.
85 And if it happen the said Richard Knight to die before he come to and attain
his full age of
86 one and twenty years and without issue of his lawfully to be begotten, then
I give all the
87 foresaid messuages, lands and tenements in Lingfield aforesaid and the
said four several parcels
88 of land before excepted, with their and every of their appurtenances unto
my said son John
89 Knight and to his heirs forever. Upon condition that he, the said John my
son, do pay,
90 within one year next after the death of the said Richard, unto Robert Knight,
my son, the

91 sum of two hundred pounds of lawful money of England. And if my said son
John do not
92 pay the said sum of two hundred pounds as aforesaid, then I give and
bequeath all the said last
93 mentioned premises with th'appurtenances unto Robert Knight, my son, to
hold to him, the said
94 Robert for and until such time as the said sum of two hundred pounds, with
reasonable
95 interest for the forbearance of the same. **Item:** my will and true meaning is
that John, my
96 son, shall pay unto Robert, my son, the sum of two hundred and fifty pounds
when and so
97 soon as he shall accomplish his age of twenty years. And further my will is
that the said
98 John shall yearly, and every year, until the said Robert shall accomplish his
said age of twenty
99 years pay unto him, the said Robert, six pounds per annum for and towards
his maintenance. **Item:**
100 my will and true meaning is that John, my son, shall either give and allow
unto **Anne Knight,**
101 **one other of my daughters,** good and sufficient meat, drink, lodging, apparel
and all other

102 things necessary for her or else shall pay and allow unto her, the said Anne
Knight, twelve
103 pounds per annum during her natural life quarterly to be paid which shall
be on the election
104 of the said John Knight. And I do hereby make, ordain and appoint
Elizabeth, my said wife,
105 and the said John Knight, my eldest son, executors of this my said last will
and testament desiring they
106 would see this my will in all points truly performed. And I desire and do
appoint my true
107 and wellbeloved **friends John Botting and George Knight** overseers of this
my said last will
108 and testament to see it put in due execution to whom I give ten shillings a
piece for their pains
109 in that behalf to be had and taken. In witness whereof I, the said Richard
Knight to this my
110 last will and testament containing four sheets of paper have put my hand
and seal, dated the
111 seventh day of November Anno Dm 1633/ 1633/ Richard Knight/ This did
the said
112 Richard Knight publish and declare the day and year above written in the
presence of **George**
113 **Knight**, the mark of **John Merlingham**

Nuncupative Will of Robert Knight, the younger, of Cowden

written 9th June 1638; proved by father, Robert Knight, 4th August 1638

transcript from probate copy

1 **Memorandum.** That on the ninth day of June in the year of our lord
2 God one thousand six hundred thirty and eight, Robert Knight, the younger
3 of
4 Cowden in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being of perfect mind and memory
5 with an
6 intent to make and declare his last will and testament did make and declare
7 his
8 last will and testament, nuncupative, in these or the like words in effect, viz:
9 **Imprimus**
10 he gave and bequeathed his soul to Almighty God certainly hoping that by
11 his
12 mercies and the merits of Christ Jesus, his saviour, to receive remission of
13 all his
14 sins and his body to the earth to be buried in decent manner. And for his
15 worldly estate
16 he gave and bequeathed the same in manner and form hereafter following,
17 viz: he gave and bequeathed

10 unto **his sister Wickenden** thirty shillings. **Item:** He gave unto her children
thirty shillings
11 and to **her son, his godson**, twenty shillings. **Item:** He gave unto **his sister**
Easland twenty
12 shillings and to her child twenty shillings. **Item:** He gave unto his **sister**
Mary Knight forty
13 shillings and his linen. **Item:** he gave unto **his brother John Knight** forty
shillings.
14 And the rest of all his goods and chattels unbequeathed he gave and
bequeathed
15 unto **Robert Knight, his father**, whom he made his sole executor of his said
will in the
16 presence and hearing of diverse credible witnesses.

Will of Mary Knight, single woman of Cowden

written 29th ?? 1640

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. The nine and twentieth day of ??
2 Anno dm. 1640 and in the sixteenth year of the reign
3 of our most gracious sovereign Lord Charles by the

4 grace of god of England, Scotland, France and Ireland
5 king, defender of the faith, etc. I, Mary Knight of Cowden
6 in the county of Kent, single woman, being sick in body
7 but of good and perfect memory (praised be God therefore)
8 do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner
9 and form following: viz. **First:** I commend my soul unto
10 Almighty God, my maker, certainly hoping that through
11 his mercies and the merit of Christ Jesus, my saviour,
12 to receive remission of all my sins and my body to the
13 earth to be decently buried in the churchyard of Cow
14 den aforesaid when soever it shall please god to
15 take me out of this wretched world. And for the
16 disposing of my goods which it hath pleased god to
17 bestow upon me, I give and bequeath as follows,
18 that is to say, **Imprimis** I give and bequeath to
19 the poor of the parish of Cowden aforesaid the
20 sum of forty shillings to be distributed ??
21 at my burial by mine executors hereafter named
22 with the aid and assistance of the churchwardens and
23 overseers of the poor there for the time being.
24 **Item:** I give to **Mr. Aynscomb** of Cowden aforesaid
25 twenty shillings to preach at my funeral. **Item:**
26 I give and bequeath unto my godchildren to every

27 of them 12d a piece, to be paid them within ??
28 weeks after my decease. **Item:** I give unto **Anne**
29 **Saxpes, the daughter of Robert Saxpes of Hartfield,**
30 the tammatt of Carnishing which I have bought to
31 make me a gown with. **Item:** I give unto **my**
32 **cousin Katherine Knight, my uncle's daughter,**
33 my best tawny cloth suit. **Item:** I give to
34 **my cousin Elizabeth Fenner, the daughter of**
35 **Aunt Gatland, my green stuff suit. Item:** I
36 give to **my brother John Knight's wife** my riding
37 suit and my black hood, ma?? best scarf and the
38 best of my wearing linen. **Item:** I give unto my

page 2:

39 **cousin Richard, my brother John Knight's son**²⁷⁰, my silver
40 gilt spoon. **Item:** I give unto **my uncle George**
41 **Knight's daughter, Elizabeth,** my green scarf, a hand
42 kerchief, a crosscloth, a coif²⁷¹, a pair of handcuffs
43 and a workcloth and an apron. **Item:** I give the like

270 Richard would have actually been Mary's nephew

271 "quaife"

suit of linen unto **my cousin Ann Knight, one other**
of my uncle Knight's daughters, and my little desk. **Item:** I give unto
my two brothers, Richard and Robert Knight, a silver
spoon a piece. **Item:** I give unto my said brother,
Richard Knight, my joined chest and the linen
therein and one box. **Item:** I give unto my brother
Robert my other box. **Item:** I give unto **Nicholas**
Wicking five shillings to be paid at my burial.
Item: I give unto **my mother** my best hat and my
other hat unto **Elizabeth Humfrey**. **Item:** I give and
bequeath unto my said brother Richard Knight the
sum of one hundred pounds to be paid unto him
within one whole year next after my decease. **Item:**
I give unto my brother Robert Knight fourscore pounds
of lawful money of England to be paid unto him at
his age of 22 years. And my mind and meaning
is that **my said mother Elizabeth Knight** shall yearly,
and every year, until my said brother shall accom=
plish his said age of 22 years, receive and take the
interest of the said fourscore pounds after the rate of
twelve pence in the pound for a year²⁷². And if it shall

65 happen that my said brother Robert Knight to die before
66 his said age of two and twenty years, then I will that
67 the said fourscore pounds to be equally divided
68 between my said brothers John Knight and Richard
69 Knight, their heirs, executors or assigns. **Item:** I give
70 unto **Mrs. Jane Aynscomb** and unto **my cousin Mary,**
71 **Knight, the widow's daughter,** a pair of gloves a
72 piece. All the residue of all my goods and chattels
73 whatsoever unbequeathed, my funeral expenses
74 discharged, I give and bequeath unto my said brother
75 John Knight whom I make and ordain sole executor
76 of this my last will and testament. In witness

page 3:

77 whereof I, the said Mary Knight have hereunto set
78 my hand and seal the day and year first above
79 written. The mark of the said Mary Knight. Sealed,
80 published and declared to be the true last will and testament
81 of me, the said Mary Knight, in the presence of the ??
82 of **Elizabeth Fenner,** the mark of **Dorothy Gatlands**
83 **Nicholas Wicking.**

1 In the name of god Amen. I, George
2 Knight of Cowden in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being sick in body but of
3 good and perfect remembrance, thanked be²⁷³ to God, therefore do make
and
4 ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following: **First:**
5 I give and bequeath my soul to Almighty God certainly hoping that by his
mercies and
6 the merits of his son Christ Jesus, my saviour, to receive remission of all my
7 sins. And my body to the earth to be buried in decent manner in the church
8 yard of Cowden aforesaid when it shall please god to take me out of this
9 wretched world. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my loving wife Katherine Knight**
10 all my goods, household stuff, cattels, chattels and personal estate
whatsoever for
11 her maintenance during her natural life. And after her decease the same to
12 be disposed of, to and among my children, sons and daughters, and to the

273 "bee" (probate copy)

13 child whereof **my daughter-in-law Jane Knight** now goeth for their
14 portions at the discretion of the said Katherine, my wife. And it is also my
15 true intent and meaning that the said Katherine, my wife, shall out of my
16 said personal estate bring up, find and provide for my said sons and
17 daughters all things necessary for them. And of this my last will and
testament
18 I make my said loving wife Katherine Knight sole executrix. In witness
19 whereof I, the said George Knight, to this my last will and testament
20 have set my hand and seal the seventeenth day of October in the

page 2:

21 year of the reign of our most gracious sovereign lord Charles by the
22 grace of god of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, king, defender of the
23 faith, etc. Anno. Domini one thousand six hundred forty one. The mark of
the
24 said George Knight. Sealed, published and declared to be the true and last
will
25 and testament of me the said George Knight in the presence of **John Knight**
26 **Edward Bottinge**

Richard Knight, of Pembury

Richard Knight of Pembury wrote his will (CKS: Drb/Pwr 15.43) thirty-four years earlier than the first surviving will from Cowden. There is no obvious connection between the Cowden Knights and Richard, who mentions neither wife nor children in his will. John Wenname "[who I brought up as a child](#)" was left 13s 4d a year for the rest of his life but, compared with his other bequests, this was not a particularly large amount.

The bequests of both money and land are complicated, with money having to be paid out from the legacies of land, in one case for twenty years.

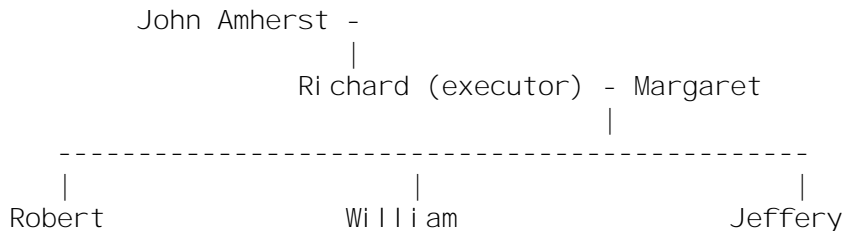
After giving 12d to each of his godchildren "[when they . . demand the same](#)", 40s to the repair of the church "[where most need is](#)", 26s 8d to the poor of Pembury and 3s 4d to a "[preacher to declare the word of god to the people at my burial](#)", Richard allocated £21 between sixteen of his "[sisters' sons and daughters](#)".

Richard's bequests to his sisters' sons and daughters	within years:			
	1	2	3	4
Joane Pococke	20s			20s
Elizabeth Lorkin	20s			20s
Margaret Bolline	20s			20s
Amy Stephen	20s			20s
Andrew Latter Thomas Latter, godson Richard Latter Margery Latter		20s 20s 40s 20s		20s
Alice Pyrson	20s			
Joane Rogers		20s		
Henry Lyee Walter Lyee			20s 20s	
Nicholas Ashen Thomas Ashen Elinor Ashen			20s 20s 20s	
TOTAL £21	£5	£6	£5	£5

He then left 20s each to the two sons of Richard Were als. Somer of Horsmonden "for their father's gentle friendship towards me always" and to Richard Were himself he gave £3 6s 8d. Joane Coyffe, Mary Torid and Katherine Fugall were each to have 40s on the day of their marriage or when they reached the age of twenty-eight - much older than the usual age specified.

William Fugall and Johane, his wife, probably Katherine's parents, were to have Richard's messuage and land in Pembury called Pasteape in which they were then living for their lifetime on condition that they paid his executor £5 a year for four years and also paid the lord's rent and kept the reparations. On their death Pasteape was to go to their son, Richard Fugall, the testator's godson except for a piece of land called Greatling.

Richard's main heirs were members of the Amherst family with Richard, son of John Amherst being appointed his executor and, as such, receiving the residue of his goods, etc. Robert, son of Richard was to receive £20 and William, another of his sons, received gifts of land. Jeffery, the third son was not so fortunate; although he was to receive £20 this was not due for payment until twenty years after the death of the testator.



The land left to William Amherst included "the lane by my messuage called [Bulles Place](#)". Since much of the farming in the area was pastoral, was this messuage near a place used for the collection of cattle being driven to market with this lane used for cattle droving? Richard Amherst was to have the yearly profits of the messuage and land called Bulles Place until William was thirty "[towards his bringing up because he is lame](#)".

Richard Knight had just purchased a messuage and land in Brasted from Nicholas Amherst, tanner, and this was left to Nicholas on condition that he paid twenty shillings a year to the will's executor for twenty years and, at the end of the twenty years, paid Jeffery Amherst, another of Richard Amherst's sons, £20.

The house in which Richard Knight lived, together with his lands in Pembury and Tudeley, were to go to his executor and his heirs but, if Richard Amherst's wife survived him, she was to receive an annuity of 53s 4d from these lands.

1 In the name of god Amen. The
2 11th day of July and in the 18th year of the reign
3 of our gracious sovereign, Lady Elizabeth, by the
4 grace of god Queen of England, France and Ireland,
5 defender of the faith, etc. Anno dm. 1575. I, Richard
6 Knight of the parish of Pepingbury, als. Pembury, in the
7 county of Kent, **yeoman**, and in the diocese of Rochester,
8 being in good and perfect remembering, thanks be
9 given to god, do ordain and make this my present
10 testament and last will in manner and form following:
11 **First:** I bequeath my soul into the hand of Almighty
12 God, my maker, and to Jesus Christ, my redeemer,
13 and the holy ghost, my comforter, trusting to be saved by
14 the merits of Christ, his passion, whensoever it shall
15 please god to call me to his mercy. And my body to be
16 buried in Christian burial. **Item:** I give to every of
17 my godchildren 12d a piece, to be paid by my executor,
18 his executors or assigns, when they or any of them do
19 demand the same. **Item:** I give forty shillings of

lawful money of England to be bestowed on the
reparations of the parish church of Pepingbury als.
Pembury, where most need is, within one year after
my decease at the discretion of my executor, the
churchwardens then being and two or four other
honest men of the same parish. **Item:** I give to the poor
in the parish of Pepingbury als. Pembury 26s 8d
within one year next after my decease and then
the same to be distributed by four honest men of
the same parish to the same poor where most need
shalbe. **Item:** I will that my executor or his assigns
shall provide a preacher to declare the word of god
to the people of my burial and he to have for
his pains 3s 4d. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
sixteen of **my sisters' sons and daughters**
one and twenty pounds of good and lawful
money of England to be paid by my executor,
his executors or assigns, in manner and form
following: viz. to **Joane Pococke** within one year
next after my decease 20s, to **Elizabeth Lorkin**
within one year next after my decease 20s, to
Margaret Bolline within one year next after

41 my decease 20s, to **Amy Stephen** within one
42 year next after my decease 20s. To **Andrew**

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43 **Latter** within two years next after my decease 20s. To
44 **Alice Pyrson** within one year next after my
45 decease 20s. To **Thomas Latter, my godson**, within
46 two years next after my decease 20s. To **Richard**
47 **Latter** within two years next after my decease
48 40s. To **Margery Latter** within two years next
49 after my decease 20s. And to **Joane Rogers** within
50 two years next after my decease 20s. To **Henry**
51 **Lyee** within three years next after my decease 20s.
52 To **Walter Lyee** within three years next after my
53 decease 20s. To **Nicholas Ashen** within three years
54 next after my decease 20s. To **Thomas Ashen** within
55 three years next after my decease 20s. And to
56 **Elinor, their sister**, within three years next after my
57 decease 20s. To the aforesaid Joane Pococke within
58 four years next after my decease 20s. To the said
59 Elizabeth Lorkin within four years next after my decease
60 20s. To the said Margaret Bolline within four years

next after my decease 20s. To the said Amy Stephen within four years next after my decease 20s and to the said Alice Pyrson within four years next after my decease 20s in full payment of the aforesaid sum of £21. And if it happen any of my said sisters' sons or daughters to decease before his or their payment shalbe due, then I will the children of them so deceased that be then living to have his or their part. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Solomon Were** and unto **Richard Were, the younger sons of Richard Were als. Somer of Horsmonden** in the said county, yeoman, the sums of twenty shillings of good and lawful money of England a piece to be paid unto them by my executor or his assigns immediately after my decease for their father's gentle friendship towards me always. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto the said Richard Were, the elder, or his assigns, the sum of three pounds, six shillings and eight pence of good and lawful money of England which is the farm of the annuity of the last year of land at **Herring**. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Joane Coyffe, Mary Torid daughter of Thomas Torid**, and to **Katherine Fugall**, to

84 each of them 40s a piece, to be paid to every of them
85 in day of their marriage or at their several
86 ages of 28 years. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
87 **Robert Amherst, the son of Richard Amherst**
88 of Pepingbury als. Pembury aforesaid, the
89 sum of £20 of good and lawful money
90 of England to be paid unto him, the said Robert,

page 3:

91 by my executor, his executors or assigns, when
92 he cometh unto his age of 21 years. And
93 the residue of all my goods, as well household
94 stuff as all other my moveables not given
95 nor bequeathed, I give and bequeath unto
96 **Richard Amherst, the son of John Amherst**
97 of Pepingbury als. Pembury aforesaid, towards
98 the performance of this my testament and
99 last will which Richard Amherst I make and
100 ordain my sole executor of this same my
101 testament and last will.

102 This is the last will
103 of me the aforesaid Richard Knight, made
104 and declared the day and year first above
105 written concerning the disposition of all my
106 land and tenements with reversions and ??
107 withall and singular th'appurtenances, lying in
108 Pepingbury als. Pembury or elsewhere within the
109 county of Kent. **First:** I will unto **William**
110 **Fugall and Johane, his wife**, during their natural
111 lives, and to the longest liver of them both, all that
112 my messuage and land called **Pasteape** which he now
113 hath in occupying under farm and condition
114 following that is to say, that he, the said William
115 Fugall, or Johane his wife or their assigns, shall
116 pay or cause to be paid unto Richard Amherst, my
117 executor or to his assigns, the sum of twenty
118 pounds of good and lawful money of England in
119 manner and form following: that is to say, within
120 one year after my decease £5 of lawful money
121 of England, within two years next after my decease
122 other £5 of like money of England, within three
123 years next after my decease other £5 of like
124 money of England, within four years next after

125 my decease other £5 of good and lawful
126 money of England in full payment of the aforesaid
127 sum of £20 being lawfully asked by my executor
128 or his assigns, and shall pay the lord's rent
129 yearly and keep the reparations. And further my will
130 and mind is that William Fugall and Johane, his
131 wife or their assigns, shall plough, fallow and
132 sterre one piece of land called **Greatling** during

page 4:

133 their natural lives and the longest liver of
134 them both and shall permit and suffer **William**
135 **Amherst** and his assigns, son of the said Richard
136 Amherst, to have and take the profit, use and commodity
137 of the one half of the said piece of land called
138 Greatling, that is to say of the half that lyeth next
139 to Pasteape gardens, when he comes to the full
140 age of 22 years during their natural
141 lives and that it shalbe lawful to and for the same
142 William Amherst, or his assigns, to set mortgage
143 at times in a piece of ground called **Rovercroft** for to
144 amend the half of Greatling. **Item:** I will unto

145 **Richard Fugall, my godson**, and to the heirs male of
146 his body lawfully begotten after the decease of William
147 Fugall, his father and Joane, his mother, all that
148 messuage and lands called Pasteape which is now in
149 the tenure and occupation of the said William Fugall,
150 his father, except from the said Richard Fugall
151 unto me, the said Richard Knight, mine heirs and
152 assigns forever, two pieces of land where of one
153 piece is called **Wellfield**, the other Greatling containing
154 both, by estimation, six acres and a half of land,
155 be it more or less. And if it happen the said Richard
156 Fugall to decease without heirs male of his body
157 lawfully begotten, then I will the said messuage
158 and lands to him, the said Richard Fugall, before
159 willed to remain unto Richard Amherst and to
160 his heirs forever. **Item:** I will to William Amherst,
161 son of the said Richard Amherst, the lane by
162 my messuage called **Bulles Place** and all the lands
163 there to belonging which I lately purchased of **John**
164 **Harison** except one piece of land called Greatling
165 which I will to him after the decease of William
166 Fugall and Johane his wife, to him the said William
167 Amherst and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten.

168 And if it happen the said William Amherst to
169 decease without heirs of his body lawfully
170 begotten then I will all the said messuage and land
171 (except before excepted) to him before willed to
172 remain to Robert Amherst, his brother, and to
173 his heirs for ever. **Item:** I will that Richard Amherst,
174 father of the said William and Robert, shall have
175 and take the yearly profits of the said messuage
176 and land called Bulles Place before willed to the
177 said William until he cometh unto the full age
178 of 30 years towards his bringing up because

page 5:

179 he is lame. **Item:** I will unto **Nicholas Amherst** of
180 **Brasted** in the county of Kent, **tanner**, my messuage
181 and land lying in Brasted aforesaid with
182 th'appurtenances which I late purchased of him, the said
183 Nicholas, to him, the said Nicholas Amherst and to his
184 heirs forever, under the condition following, that
185 is to say, if he, the said Nicholas Amherst, his heirs,
186 executors or assigns, do pay or cause to be paid
187 unto Richard Amherst, my executor, his executors

188 or assigns, at the now dwelling house of
189 me, the said Richard Knight, the sum of 20s of
190 good and lawful money of England yearly, every year
191 for and during the space of twenty years
192 next and immediately following after the decease
193 of me, the said Richard Knight. And within thirty
194 days next after immediately following after
195 the end of the said twenty years be expired, if he,
196 the said Nicholas Amherst, his heirs, executors or
197 assigns, do pay or cause to be paid unto **Jeffery**
198 **Amherst** or his heirs, son of the said Richard
199 Amherst, in or at the now dwelling house of
200 me, the said Richard Knight, the sum of £20 of
201 good and lawful money of England. And if
202 default be made of any of the aforesaid yearly
203 payments or of the payments of the aforesaid
204 sum of £20 in or at the place aforesaid contrary
205 to the meaning of this my last will and
206 testament, then I will the said messuage and
207 land in Brasted aforesaid to the said Jeffery
208 Amherst and to his heirs forever. **Item:** I
209 will unto Richard Amherst, my executor,
210 one piece of land lying at **Pasteape** called

211 **Browning** to him and to his heirs forever
212 under the condition following, viz. if he, the
213 said Richard Amherst, his heirs, executors or
214 assigns, do pay unto **John Wename** or his
215 assigns, who I brought up as a child, the sum
216 of 13s 4d of good and lawful money of
217 England once a year during the natural
218 life of him, the said John Wename, that
219 is to say, on the feast day of Saint John
218 the Baptist in or at the now dwelling

page 6:

219 house of me, the said Richard Knight, so that the
220 said John Wename, or his assigns, do demand
221 the said 13s 4d on the said day and
222 at the said place. And if default of payment be made
223 of the said sum of 13s 4d, on the said day and
224 at the said place, contrary to the meaning of this
225 my last will and testament, then I will the said
226 piece of land called Browning unto the said
227 John Wename and to his heirs forever. **Item:** I will
228 unto **Margaret Amherst, the wife of Richard**

229 Amherst, if she the said Margaret do over live the
230 said Richard, the sum of 53s 4d of lawful
231 money of England, yearly during the natural life
232 of her, the said Margaret, half yearly to be paid unto
233 her, the said Margaret or her assigns, out of my
234 messuage and land which I now dwell in at two
235 terms of the year, that is to say, at the feast of St.
236 Michael the archangel and the annunciation of the
237 blessed virgin Mary. And as often as it shall happen
238 the said yearly rent to be behind, unpaid after
239 any of the said feasts in the which it ought to be paid,
240 that so often it shalbe lawful for the said Margaret
241 or her assigns to enter into the said messuage
242 and lands and there to distrain and the distresses
243 there so found to take, lead, drive and carry away
244 and the same to withhold until the said rent, to
245 gether with the arrearages if any, be unto the said
246 Margaret, or her assigns, satisfied and paid. **Item:** I
247 will unto Richard Amherst, my executor, my
248 messuage and lands wherein I now dwell and
249 all other my lands and tenements in Pepingbury
250 and **Tudeley** or elsewhere within the county of
251 Kent nor before willed nor given, to him, the said

252 said Richard Amherst and to his heirs forever. In
253 witness whereof I, the said Richard Knight, have
254 set my hand and seal the day and year first
255 above written in the presence of Richard Were, alias
256 Somer, **Francis Hodgkins** and Solomon Were
257 and **Robert Hames, vicar** of the same parish. By me
258 **Anthony France, vicar of Lamberhurst, John**
259 **Woodgate** By me Richard Knight.

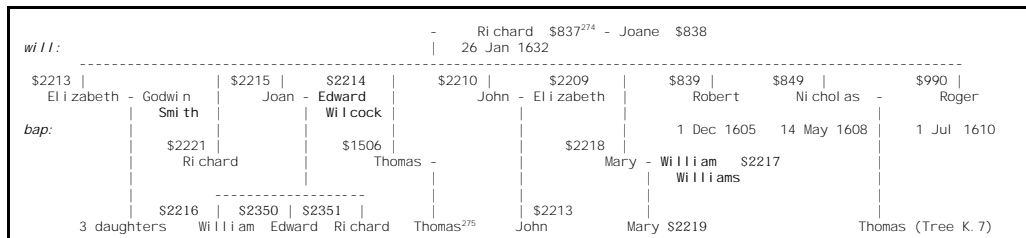
The Knights of Tonbridge and Shipbourne

Two Knight wills are transcribed here, those of Richard Knight of Tonbridge (early 1632) and his wife Joane Knight of Shipbourne four years later. Again there is no known connection between these Knights and those described above.

Richard Knight, palemaker, describes himself in his will as "of Tonbridge" but wanted to be buried in Leigh, a village about two and a half miles west of Tonbridge. He left his wife £20 and also "one red cow which was hers before I did marry with her". If this was, in fact, the same cow that she brought with her, Joane must have been his second wife and not the father of his children. The Joan whose will has survived was Richard's wife but it is clear from her will that she had been married previously and had a number of children.

Joan was "of Shipbourne", four miles north of Tonbridge, when she died and she was buried there, twelve days after writing her will. Three sons of Richard Knight, Robert, Nicholas and Roger, were baptised in Shipbourne between 1605 and 1610 and, since Nicholas and Roger are relatively uncommon names and they would be the right age, it is probable that Richard, the testator, was himself living in Shipbourne in the early 1600s. All the other children, sons-in-law and grandchildren given in Richard's family tree are known only from Richard's will:

Tree K.5 - Richard's Family



Richard's house was leased and he left this lease to be equally divided between his wife and son Nicholas and also three acres of wheat which was growing there. Joane and Nicholas were to give "[sufficient and reasonable security](#)" to his executor for any reparations which might be necessary for the house and, if either of them was not prepared to do this, they were to loose all benefit from the will.

Richard's executor was his son-in-law Godwin Smith, cordwainer from Sevenoaks. One of his early duties was to use as much of the corn in Richard's house "[in bread as shall be fitting at my funeral and the surplusage](#)" was then to be divided

²⁷⁴ \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database.

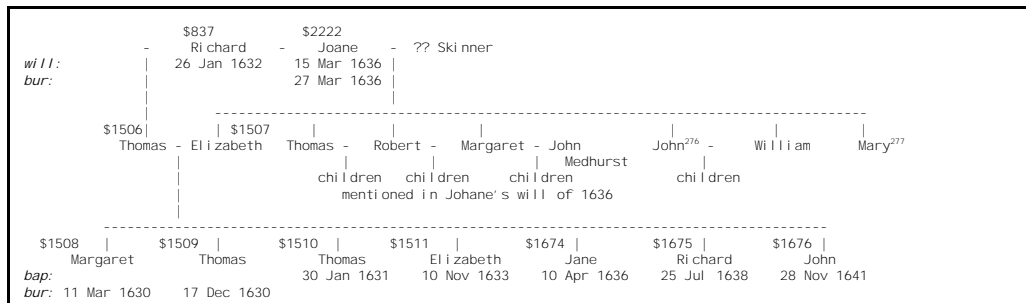
²⁷⁵ Richard mentions Thomas, son of his son Thomas, in his will and there was a Thomas Knight having children from 1630 onwards in Shipbourne who was probably Richard's son - see Tree K.6

between Joane and Nicholas. Elizabeth Knight married Godwin Smith on 12th August 1610; she must therefore have been born about 1590 but, with six younger brothers and sisters born before Robert in 1605, this is quite likely.

Father and Son Marry Mother and Daughter

Joane had four sons by her first marriage - Thomas Skinner of London, Robert, John and William. From the parish records, the name of Thomas Knight's wife was Elizabeth. Joane refers to her eldest daughter "Elizabeth Knight". Thus it is likely that mother and daughter (Joane Skinner, widow, and Elizabeth) married Richard Knight and his son Thomas. Since Thomas and Elizabeth's first recorded child was buried in March 1630, Elizabeth and Thomas must have married in the late 1620s.

Tree K.6 - Joane's Children and Richard Knight's Grandchildren



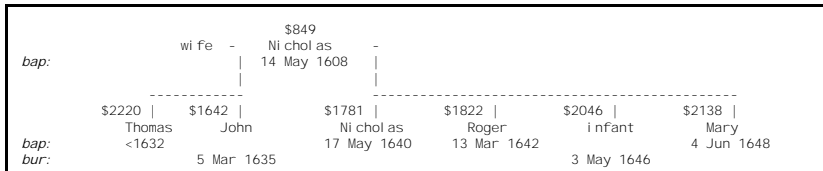
276 a John Skinner (\$1735) married Joane Claygate (\$938) in Shipbourne on 29th May 1638; if this was Joane's son it would have had to have been a second marriage since he had children in 1636

277 A Mary Skinner (\$1539) married Richard Medhurst (\$1530) on 5th September 1630. Joan mentions John Medhurst and her daughter Margaret Medhurst but not a daughter Mary; she could have died between 1630 and 1636

Nicholas Knight

Richard mentions Thomas, son of his son Nicholas in his will of 1632. In 1632 Nicholas would have been only twenty-three but the wife of Nicholas Knight was buried in March 1635 four days after their son was buried. A Nicholas Knight had children in the 1640s and this could have been the same Nicholas.

Tree K.7: Children of Nicholas Knight



1 In the name of god Amen. The six
2 and twentieth day of January and in the year of our lord god according to
the
3 computation of the church of England one thousand six hundred thirty and
one.
4 I, Richard Knight of Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **palemaker**, being sick
5 in body but of sound and perfect memory, thanks be given to god, therefore
do make and
6 ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following: **First**
and
7 principally I bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God, my creator,
who
8 made me of nothing and to Jesus Christ his dear son, my alone saviour and
redeemer,
9 in whom and through whom I steadfastly trust to have free remission and
forgiveness
10 of all my sins and my body to be interred in the churchyard of the parish of
Leigh at

11 the discretion of my executor hereafter named. And as for that little
portion of worldly
12 goods which the lord hath lent me, I give and bequeath the same as
followeth: **Item:** I give
13 and bequeath unto the poor people of the parish of Leigh twenty shillings
of lawful money
14 of England to be paid unto the minister and churchwardens of the said
parish within
15 thirty days next after my decease by my executor and the said minister and
church
16 wardens to distribute it to the said poor the next Sunday after the receipt
thereof.
17 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Joane, my loving wife**, twenty pounds of
like lawful
18 money to be paid unto her within three months next after my decease by
my executor.
19 Also I give unto my said wife one red cow which was hers before I did
marry with
20 her. **Item:** I give unto **Richard Knight, my son**, fifteen pounds being part of
that
21 twenty pounds which the said Richard oweth unto me as appeareth by a
bond made

page 2:

22 from the said Richard, my son, unto me. **Item:** I give unto **my son Thomas Knight**
23 five pounds of like lawful money to be paid unto him within three months
next
23 after my decease by my said executor. **Item:** I give unto **Robert Knight, my son,** ten
24 pounds of like lawful money to be paid unto him within one whole year
next after
25 my decease by my executor. Also I give unto my said son Robert five
pounds which
26 Richard, my son, oweth unto me to be paid unto him by my said son
Richard. **Item:** I
27 give unto **Nicholas Knight, my son,** eleven pounds of good and lawful
money of
28 England to be paid unto him within twenty days next after my decease by
my said
29 executor. **Item:** I give unto **Roger Knight, my son,** fourteen pounds of like
lawful
30 money to be paid unto him within one whole year next after my decease by
my said
31 executor. **Item:** I give unto **Elizabeth, my daughter, the wife of Godwin Smith,** five pounds

32 of like lawful money. **Item:** I give unto **Mary, my daughter, the wife of**
33 **William Williams,**
34 ten pounds of like lawful money to be paid unto her within
35 three months next after my decease by my said executor. **Item:** I give unto
36 **my daughter**
37 **Jone, the wife of Edward Wilcock,** five pounds of like lawful money
38 to be paid unto her within one whole year next after my decease by my
39 executor. **Item:** I give unto **my daughter-in-law Elizabeth, the widow of John Knight,**
40 three pounds
41 of like lawful money to be paid unto her within six months next after my
42 decease
43 by my executor. **Item:** I give unto **Elizabeth Cleare and Mary Cleare, the**
44 **daughters**
45 of **Daniel Cleare, late of St. Mary Cray, shoemaker,** three pounds a piece of
46 lawful
47 money of England to be paid unto them, or to either of them, at the age of
48 one and
49 twenty years or at the day of their marriage which shall first happen. And
50 if it shall
51 happen that either of them shall depart this life before the time of the
52 receipt thereof,

44 that then my will and mind is that the survivor of them shall have and
receive her
45 sister's legacy. **Item:** I give unto **John Knight, son of John Knight deceased,**
six shillings
46 eight pence of lawful money of England. Also I give unto **Thomas Knight,**
son of
47 **Nicholas Knight,** five shillings of lawful money of England. Also I give to
Mary, the
48 **daughter of William Williams,** five shillings of lawful money. Also I give
unto **Sarah**
49 **Banister** three shillings four pence of like lawful money. Also I give unto
Thomas
50 **the son of Thomas Knight** three shillings and four pence of like lawful
money. Also I
51 give unto the **sons of Edward Wilcock, William, Edward and Richard,** five
shillings
52 a piece. Also to the **three daughters of Godwin Smith** five shillings a piece.
All which
53 said legacies my will is shalbe paid unto every of them within six months
next
54 after my decease by my said executor. **Item:** I give unto my loving wife
Joane all such

55 goods and household stuff as are now remaining in my now dwelling house
which she
56 brought unto me when I married with her. Also I give unto her the
bedstead with the
57 bed whereon I lie with the covering and other the appurtenances thereto
belonging.
58 And my will and mind is that Joane, my wife, and Nicholas, my son, shall
jointly,
59 quietly and peaceably have and enjoy my said lease of the lands and
tenements which I
60 hold by lease from **Walter Double** withall commodities during the term
thereof
61 to be divided equally between them. Also I give unto them, the said Joane
and Nicholas,
62 three acres of wheat now standing and growing upon the said premises to
be
63 equally divided between them. As for the corn in my house, I do appoint
that
64 my executor shall spend so much of it in bread as shall be fitting at my
funeral
65 and the surplusage my will and mind is shalbe equally divided to Joane,
my wife,

66 and Nicholas, my son. All the rest of my household stuff unbequeathed
which is now
67 remaining in my house, I give unto Nicholas, my son. Also I give unto
William
68 Williams my gray mare. The residue of all my goods, moveables and
unmoveables, I
69 give unto my loving son-in-law Godwin Smith of Sevenoaks, **cordwainer**,
whom
70 I make and ordain sole executor of this my last will and testament. And
my
71 will and mind is that if any question shall arise about the reparations of the
house
72 wherein I now dwell, that then my wife Joane and Nicholas, my son, shall
have

page 3:

73 and keep harmless my said executrix²⁷⁸. And also my mind is that Joane,
my wife, and Nicholas,
74 my son, shall being thereunto required within twenty days next after my
decease give

278 presumably this should have been "executor" with the complete phrase meaning that Joane and Nicholas should not let the charges for reparations fall on Godwin Smith, Richard's executor

75 sufficient and reasonable security unto my said executor for to save him
harmless from the
76 said reparations. And if either of them shall refuse so to do, that the party
so refusing so to do
77 shall have no benefit of this my will. In witness whereof I have put my
hand and seal
78 yeven the day and year abovesaid. Signed Richard Knight. Sealed and
declared in the
79 presence of **George Children, John Nicholls, William Whorrie** his mark,
John Weekwright

Will of Joane Knight, widow of Shipbourne

written 15th March 1635/6
transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. The
2 fifteenth day of the month of March in the year of our Lord God one
3 one thousand six hundred thirty five, I, Joane Knight of Shipbourne, **widow**
of

4 **Richard Knight**, being of whole mind and of perfect memory, **First:** I
commend my soul
5 unto Almighty God, my maker and redeemer and my body to be buried in
the parish
6 churchyard of Shipbourne. **First:** I will and bequeath to the poor of the
same parish three
7 shillings and four pence. Also I will and bequeath unto the children of
Thomas Skinner of
8 **London** forty shillings. Also I will and bequeath unto the children of **Robert**
Skinner, my second
9 **son** forty shillings. Also I will unto the children of **John Skinner, my third**
son, forty
10 shillings. Also I will and bequeath unto the children of **Thomas Knight**
forty shillings. Also
11 I will and bequeath unto the children of **John Medhurst** twenty shillings.
Also I give
12 unto Thomas Skinner of London, **my eldest son,** five shillings. Also I give
unto
13 Robert Skinner, my second son five shillings. Also I give John Skinner my
third
14 son five shillings. Also I give unto **Elizabeth Knight, my eldest daughter,**
five
15 shillings and all my wearing apparel and my side saddle excepting one red

16 petticoat and one russet petticoat. Also I give unto **Margaret Medhurst, my**
17 **second daughter**, five shillings. Also I will that all my linen should be
equally
18 divided between **the wife of Robert Skinner** and the **wife of John Skinner**
and the
19 **wife of Thomas Knight**. Also I give unto John Skinner's wife my red
petticoat and
20 the russet petticoat. All the rest of my moveable goods and chattels I give
unto
21 **my youngest son William Skinner** whom I make my full and whole executor
22 whereof I acknowledge this to be my last will and testament. To this I
have hereunto
23 set my hand and seal the day and year above written. Joane Knight, her
mark. **Andrew**
24 **Stanford, Nicholas Knight**, his mark.

L

The Lampardes of Tonbridge, Hadlow and Cudham	page l.3
Thomas and Margery Lamparde	page l.5
William and John Lamparde of Barnestreete	page l.29
John Lamporte of Seal	page l.46
Will of John Lamporte of Seal	page l.48
Will of Edward Lawrence of Tonbridge	page l.53
Lether Wills from Tonbridge	page l.62
Richard Lobley of Seal	page l.68
Nicholas Locke of Hadlow	page l.69
William Loker of Penshurst	page l.82
Will of John Longe, chiringeon, of East Greenwich (extract)	page l.89

Alexander Longley of Tonbridge	page l.90
Will of Henry Lovelace of Chalk	page l.95
The Lovelaces of Kingsdown	page l.97
Leonard Lovelace, Esquire	page l.98
Margaret Clarke, widow Lovelace	page l.112
Will of Thomas Lowe of Tonbridge	page l.127
The Lucks of Penshurst	page l.135
Richard Luck, yeoman	page l.136
John Luck, yeoman	page l.149

The Lampardes of Tonbridge, Hadlow and Cudham

The wills which have survived for Lampardes in Tonbridge, Hadlow and Cudham are:

		written:	Drb/Pw	Drb/Pwr
Thomas Lamparde	Tonbridge	22 Aug 1593	CKS: 16; 18.247	page 1.11
Margery Lamparde ²⁸³	Tonbridge	18 Sep 1593	CKS: 17; 18.365	page 1.26
William Lamparde	Hadlow	22 Aug 1615	CKS: 23;	page 1.32
John Lamparde	Hadlow	21 Aug 1625	CKS: 27; 21.165	page 1.36
John Lamparde	Cudham	26 Apr 1603	PCC: Bolein 59	page 1.41

There is also a will for Edward Lampard of Sevenoaks written in 1630; the transcript of this is in [Section 2 of The History of Sevenoaks](#).

The two Tonbridge wills and the two from Hadlow were all written by a Hooper: Thomas and Margery's by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, William's by his son Robert and John's by John Hooper, notary public, and another of Nicholas's sons. Four generations of Hoopers wrote many wills in the Tonbridge, Hadlow, Seal area from the late 1550s up to the end of the period studied.

²⁸³ this will was also proved at the PCC on 4th January 1594/5 (PCC Scott 5)

Whilst many of these wills have decorated letters, that of John Lamparde is one of a few where the decoration of the "I" at the beginning of "In the name of god amen" includes a face which, in this case, is smoking a pipe.

Thomas and Margery of Tonbridge were probably husband and wife but whether or not the Hadlow Lampardes were connected with those from Tonbridge is not known.

The will of John Lamparde of Cudham (just north of Westerham) was proved at the PCC on 6th August 1603; he had moved from Biggin Hill (between Westerham and Cudham) some time before writing his will but all the land he left to his son was in Sundridge. There is no known connection between this John and the other Lampardes.

Thomas and Margery Lamparde

Thomas Lamparde's will, written on 22nd August 1593, is very long but mainly because of detail and repetition. In the introduction, he says he is in reasonable good health although "[often times visited with grief and disease and other wise put in mind of my last end](#)". Looking at the original will, however, shows that it was originally written on 15th January 1592 and updated in August 1593 when Thomas was presumably on his death bed. The alterations were made by Nicholas Hooper who had written the original.

His wife Margery wrote her will less than a month later and, by that time, she was a widow. It was not proved for another eighteen months so that she may have lived for some time after writing her will. Neither of them mention any children.

After the introduction Thomas details the provisions for his wife which included an annuity of £5 13s 4d from some land apparently sold to John Dixon but with the annuity included in the conveyance of the property and another annuity payable to "[during our two natural lives, and the longer liver of us](#)" out of some land sold to his brother, Mathew Lamparde who had sold it on to Abraham Willard. She was also to have "[the use and occupation of all that tenement, house and backside which I dwell in and occupy in Tonbridge](#)".

This takes us less than a quarter of the way through the will and, even with details about the residue, appointment of executor and overseer and witnesses, etc., over two thirds remain for:

- the deployment of £40 which was due to Thomas on Lady Day (25th March) 1595
- charitable bequests concerning the income from his land.

The £40 was to be paid to his overseer Jasper Plane who was to pay it, within three months of its receipt, to a large number of legatees (see Table L.1) "in the church of Tonbridge before the vicar there . . and six or four of the honest inhabitants of the said parish and to be recorded under the hand of the said vicar and inhabitants as an acquittance to the said Jasper".

Table L.1: Thomas Lamparde's Bequests

To:	
seven children of his brother John Lamparde	£7
Jane Wall, sister's daughter ²⁸⁰	£4
Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Heath	£1
Johane, daughter of Nicholas Hooper ²⁸¹	£1
children of William Harris, the younger, tanner	£2
children of Elizabeth and John Manser	£2
children of Nicholas and William Dixon	£4
Rowland Dixon	£1

²⁸⁰ when Thomas's widow wrote her will a month later, she left a cow to be equally divided among her "sister-in-law Walls children" except that Jane Wall was "to be none of them".

²⁸¹ There is no record of Johane's baptism in either the Shipbourne or Tonbridge parish records but Johane Hooper married John Barnabee on 17th June 1599 in Shipbourne. There is well over a four year gap between the baptisms of Nicholas's sons John (31st March 1578) and Robert (2nd December 1582) so that Johane could have been born about 1580.

Goodwife Dixon, Roland's mother	£2
Thomas's goddaughter, daughter of Thomas Walter	£1
Anne and Martha, daughters of Michael Playne	£4
John, Humphrey, William and Marie, children of John Reach	£4
old ??	10s
William Plendman	10s
Margaret and Elizabeth, daughters of William Wallis	£1 10s
Katherine Wilmot ²⁸²	£1
Susan Johnson, servant	£1
Margerie Hodwell	10s

²⁸² she was probably Thomas's servant since Margerie describes her as "now my servant".

Thomas appears to have owned two pieces of land and tenements, the first, a house and backside near the Cross in Tonbridge Town, was "of the nature of gavelkind", that is had to be divided equally by all the deceased's male children. Although land held in gavelkind could be bought and sold as normal, the type of tenure remained with the land and thus applied to the new owner and his heirs.

This house was let out to farm to the widow of Thomas's brother Mathew. After her death it was to be let out by the churchwardens of Tonbridge, for seven years at a time, at "the best yearly price that they may honestly" get for ever. The profit from the rent, after reparations, etc. were paid and each of the churchwardens had taken yearly, "for their pains every time 6d", was to be distributed amongst the poor of the parish, by the churchwardens.

The other property was Thomas's mansion house in Lamberhurst and this was to go to John Lamparde of Staplehurst, another of Thomas's brothers. From this land

²⁸³ Margerie appointed Jasper Plane to be her executor

²⁸⁴ all these bequests do total £38 leaving £2 for Jasper Plane; it would be very interesting to be able to see how this division of the £40 was worked out by the testator.

John and his heirs were to pay yearly 53s 4d - eight marks so that it divided easily into four quarterly payments each of two marks. This was to be paid, for five years, to a poor scholar of Tonbridge who had been selected by one of the universities. The selected scholar could be a son of the vicar or a churchwarden but Thomas specifies that William Abraham, son of Richard Abraham, should be the first scholar, provided that he was preferred for a place at university, and that the second one should be Parker Plane, son of Lullin Plane, deceased.

t903		t904			t905		t906		
John -		Mathew - ??		?? - ?? Wall	Thomas	-	Margery		
<i>will:</i>					22 Aug 1593		18 Sep 1593		
<i>died:</i>		<Aug 1593							
7 children				Jane					
alive in 1593									

original:

Nicolas Hooper's
mark

1 In the name of god Amen. the two and twentieth day of August,
2 the year of our lord god one thousand, five hundredth four score and
thirteen. And in the
3 five and thirteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth, by the
grace of god
4 Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. I, Thomas
5 Lamparde of Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being at the time of
the making hereof
6 in reasonable good health, thanks be²⁸⁵ to god, but beeing often times
visited with grief and diseases

7 and otherwise put in mind of my last end and sudden change of this mortal
and transitory
8 life and willing that a good order should be had after my decease of those
transitory possessions
9 which god hath made me steward of, Therefore I do ordain and make this
my present
10 testament and last will in manner and form following²⁸⁶: And **First** and
principally
11 I give, commend and bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty god, my
maker and to
12 Jesus Christ, my only saviour and redeemer by whose merits, precious
death and blood shedding
13 I trust only to be saved. And my body to the earth to be buried in the
churchyard of
14 Tonbridge aforesaid. **Item:** I will there shalbe bestowed at my burial,
among poor people
15 of Tonbridge, twenty shillings. **Item:** whereas **my friend Mr. Stockwood**,
now vicar of
16 Tonbridge, hath a cow of mine to keep the commodity of which cow by an
agreement between him and

286 "folowing", any feature of Nicholas Hooper wills

17 me shalbe to the use of **Margerie, my wellbeloved wife**, during her natural
life. My will and
18 mind is that the said Margerie shall have only the profit of the same cow
during the term of
19 four years from the feast of Saint Michael next, if the said Margerie shall so
long live, paying to the said Mr. Stockwood, his executors or assigns
20 yearly for and towards the keeping of the same cow 3s 4d lawful money
without
21 fraud or covin²⁸⁷.

probate copy:

- **Item:** I give and bequeath
- to the said Margerie, my wife, one annuity of
- a yearly rent of five pounds, thirteen shillings
- and four pence of lawful money which I have
- out of the lands called **houceland** to be paid
- to her, the said Margerie or her assigns, quarterly,
- during the whole term of her natural life

²⁸⁷ here the original has many alterations in it, including a sentence crossed out: "Also I will Margerie, my said wife, shall have the use and occupation of all other my household stuff and provisions of house as her wood, butter, cheese, wheat, malt and such other during all the term of her said natural life."

- with such advantage as to me appertaineth
- for non payment of the same by a conveyance²⁸⁸
- thereof from **John Dixon** to me made. Also
- I give and bequeath unto her, the said Margerie,
- one other annuity or annual rent of four
- pounds of lawful money which is due to me and
- her during our two natural lives, and the
- longer liver of us, out of certain house and
- lands sold by denture to **Mathew Lamparde, my**
- **brother**, and by him sold to **Abraham Willard**²⁸⁹ and
- to be paid half yearly during her said natural
- life according to the writing (and conveyance
- from me thereof made). Also I will that my said
- wife shall have the use and occupation of all that
- tenement, houses and backside which I dwell in
- and occupy in Tonbridge aforesaid during the
- whole term of her natural life, keeping the
- reparations and without paying any other rents
- therefore. **Item:** whereas I have remaining in the

288 "conveighaunce" in original; also me and be are spelt "mee" and "bee" in the original

289 the will of an Abraham Willard, written by John Hooper, Nicholas Hooper's son, in January 1622, has survived

- hands of **Nicholas Harris of Tonbridge, husbandman,**
- the sum of forty pounds due by covenant and
- bond to be paid at the feast of the Annunciation
- of the blessed Virgin Mary which shall be in the
- year of our lord god one thousand, five
- hundred, four score and fifteen, as by good
- speciality thereof appeareth, my will and mind
- is that the said Nicholas Harris, his executors
- or assigns shall pay, or cause to be paid to my
- overseer hereafter named, his executors or assigns,
- the same sum of forty pounds at the said day and time

original:

- according to the said speciality which, being done, I will that the said my
- overseer,
- his executors or assigns, shall within three months presently²⁹⁰ next after
- the said day and receipt
- of the same, pay over the said sum of forty pounds to all and every the
- children and parties hereafter

290 immediately

- presently named, by such sums a piece as hereafter shall be set down at or in the church of Tonbridge
- before the vicar there for the time being and 6 or 4 of the honest inhabitants of the
- said parish and to be recorded under the hand of the said vicar and inhabitants as an
- acquittance to the said Jasper, his executors or assigns, viz: to the seven children
- of **my brother John Lamparde** £7 of the sum, viz: 20s a piece, to **Jane Wall, my sister's**
- **daughter**, £4 and . . to **Elizabeth Heath, daughter of Richard Heath**, 20s of the sum to
- **Johane Hooper, daughter of Nicholas Hooper**, 20s of the sum to the children of **William**
- **Harris, the younger, tanner**, 40s equally between them, parcel of the same. To the children now living of **Elizabeth and John Manser**, forty shillings equally between them, parcel of the same. To the children now living of **Nicholas Dixon** and to the two children now living of **William Dixon**
- £4 equally between them, parcel of the same. To **Rowland Dixon** 20s parcel thereof. To
- **old goodwife Dixon, mother of the said Rowland**, 40s parcel thereof. To **my goddaughter, daughter**

- of **Thomas Walter, shoemaker**, 20s parcel thereof. To the **two daughters**, viz: **Anne and Martha**,
- of **Michael Playne**, £4 equally between them. To the **four children**, viz: **John, Humphrey, William** and

probate copy:

- **Marie, of John Reach**, four pounds
- equally between them, parcel thereof. To **old . .**
- **ten shillings** and to **William Plendman**, ten
- **shillings** parcel thereof. To the **two children**, viz:
- **Margaret and Elizabeth, daughters of William**
- **Wallis**, 30s equally between them, parcel thereof.
- to **Katherine Wilmot** 20s parcel thereof. To **Susan?**
- **Johnson, my late servant**, 20s parcel thereof. To
- **Margerie, now wife of Hodwell**, towards the buying
- of her a ??, 10s parcel thereof. And to **Jasper**
- **Plane, my overseer**, hereafter named, 40s towards
- his pains, residue thereof in full payment of the
- same. And if any of the said children or parties
- happen to decease before the time of payment aforesaid,
- then I will the brothers and sisters of the said party or
- parties so deceased herein nominated shall have the

- sum and sums of him, her or them so deceased (if
 - he have any). And if they have no brothers or sisters
 - living, then I will the part of him, her or them
 - so deceased shall be equally divided among the rest
 - being legatories herein mentioned without fraud
 - or guile. The residue of all my goods and
 - cattalls, as well moveable as unmoveable, my debts
 - and legacies being paid and funeral discharged,
 - I wholly, fully and with good effect, intent and
 - purpose, give and bequeath to **Margerie, my**
 - **wellbeloved wife**, which Margerie I ordain and
 - make my full, whole and sole executrix. And I
 - heartily desire the said **Jasper Plane, my**
 - **trusty friend**, to be supervisor and overseer of
 - this my will whom I desire to take some pains
 - to see the same (during his life) performed
 - according to the contents and true meaning of
 - the same.
-
- This is the last will of me, the
 - said Thomas Lamparde, made and declared the
 - day and year first above written concerning
 - the order and disposition of all my lands and

- tenements, of the nature of gavelkind, in
- Tonbridge and Lamberhurst or elsewhere.
- I will that my house and backside, with the
- appurtenances wherein the widow of Mathew
- Lamparde now dwelleth, situated near the
- cross in Tonbridge town shall be . .
- let to farm from the next feast of St.
- Michael or annunciation next after the decease
- of the said widow Lamparde, during the ??
- of seven whole years from time to time
- for ever, by the churchwardens then for the time being
- and afterwards by the churchwardens at the
- time being of the parish of Tonbridge for
- seven years and so from seven years and
- seven years forever, to whom they shall . .
- for . . by the best yearly price that they
- honestly may. And as well the said yearly
- rent, from time to time forever. At the
- yearly rent of three pounds yearly
- payable therefore during the life of the said
- widow shall be equally paid, divided and
- distributed by the churchwardens, from
- time to time being during her said life

- afterwards for the time being during her said life,
- afterwards for the time, from time to time,
- half yearly amongst those of the poor
- of the said parish of Tonbridge as the
- said churchwardens, from time to time,
- shall be thought most mete and requisite to be
- relieved. And I will that the said churchwardens,
- from time to time being, shall deliver . .
- of the said yearly sum unto . .
- for their pains every time 6d a piece
- and above the charges of reparations and
- rent (if they covenant to pay or do) without
- fraud or guile. And I further will that the
- churchwardens yearly, during the life of the
- said widow, shall have authority to distrain
- for non payment of the said yearly rent
- according to due form of law. **Item:** I give . .
- . . **my brother, John Lamparde of Staplehurst,**
- **shoemaker,** all that my mansion house or tenement with
- the lands (of freehold) within the parish of Lamber
- hurst in the said in the county of Kent thereto belonging
- to him and to his heirs the same, withall and
- singular the appurtenances, unto the said

- John Lamparde, my brother, his heirs and assigns,
- for ever. Notwithstanding, my will and meaning is that
- the said John Lamparde, my brother, his heirs or
- assigns, shall and will satisfy, content and pay,
- or cause to be paid, yearly out of the same lands
- and tenements for ever, the sum of fifty three
- shillings and four pence lawful money quarterly²⁹¹ at
- the feasts of St. Michael, the Nativity of our
- lord Christ, th'Annunciation of the blessed virgin mary
- and the nativity of St. John the Baptist, by equal
- portions, to one of the poorest scholars inhabiting
- within the parish of Tonbridge (if there be any) that
- shall be preferred out of the Free School there to one
- of the two Universities and to be paid to him, or his
- assigns, during the term and space of five years
- next after his such preferment, if he so long
- live, without fraud or guile. The first payment
- thereof to begin at the feast of Midsummer in
- every year after every change. And if it happen
- him or them to decease before the end of the said
- five years, then I will the same quarterly

291 this was one mark (13s 4d) a quarter

- payment shall be paid to the next poorest scholar of
- the said parish that shall be preferred out of the
- said Free School to either of the said universities
- for and during the space of five years. And I will
- that the said scholars, from time to time, shall be
- allowed and . . by the vicar and churchwardens
- of Tonbridge, from time to time for the time being,
- the child or children of the said vicar and
- churchwardens at any time to be one of the
- free scholars to be preferred. And if there shall not
- be, at the end of every five years, or at the
- decease of any of them preferred and . .
- . . .
- by the said vicar and churchwardens
- . . and thought mete to be preferred
- shall have the said yearly payment of the
- sum of fifty three shillings, four pence
- during the said five years from thence
- forever. And I will that for the first
- of the said gifts, **William Abraham, son**

original:

- of **Richard Abraham**, shall have the said yearly gift of 53s 4d if he shall live and shall be preferred
- as aforesaid. And I will for the next place **Parker Plane, son of William Plane**,
- deceased, shall have the said yearly gift if he shall live and shall be preferred as aforesaid.
- And I further will, and my full meaning is that, if any of the said scholars either by me their said quarterlie payments
- ??²⁹² or otherwise to be . . during their said times shall be unpaid, after any of the
- said feasts before specified being lawfully demanded by the space of twenty days,
- then I will my said brother and his heirs shall forfeit for ever time that they shall be so unpaid, other²⁹³ 13s 4d lawful money. And
- then then it shall be lawful to him or them, the said scholars, and his and their assigns, so unpaid,
- to enter and distrain in and upon all, every or any of my said freehold land in Lamberhurst

292 "unviated"? (same word further along the line)

293 another; the whole of this line was inserted

- with appurtenances. And the distress or distresses there so taken and found from there to
- bear, lead, drive and carry away and the same to detain, withhold, impound and keep until
- the said yearly sum of 53s 4d, or any parcel thereof so unpaid as also the said 13s 4d for every
- time in the name of a ?? so forfeited from time to time for ever, shalbe fully satisfied,
- contented and paid without all fraud or coven. Provided always, that if it shall happen
- the said Parker Plane not to be ready to be preferred to one of the said universities at the end
- of the said ?? or decease of the said William Abraham, that then also the election in the mean space
- shall appertain and belong to the said vicar and churchwardens until the said Parker Plane
- shalbe ready to
- be so preferred (any thing herein before mentioned seeming to the contrary hereof in any wise notwithstanding).

- In witness whereof I, the said Thomas Lamparde, to this my present
- last will and testament have set my hand and seal yeven the day and year first

- above written in the presence of
- **Jasper Plane,**
John Gregory,
John Hooper²⁹⁴
and **Nicholas Hooper, writer** hereof with others.

²⁹⁴ Nicholas's son John would have been fifteen when this will was written and, therefore, accompanied his father and thus was one of the witnesses.

1 In the name of god Amen²⁹⁵. the eighteenth day of
2 September in the year of our Lord god one thousand, five
3 hundred, four score and thirteen. And in the five and thir=²⁹⁶
4 tieth year of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth,
5 by the grace of God Queen of England, France
6 and Ireland, defender of the faith, I, Margery
7 Lamparde of Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **widow**,
8 being visited with old age, debility and impotence of
9 body but yet of perfect mind and remembrance, thanks
10 therefore be given to Almighty god, do ordain and make
11 this my present testament and last will in manner and
12 form following: And **First** I give, commend and bequeath
13 my soul into the hands of Almighty god who gave it, desiring
14 him for the merits and passion of his dear son Jesus,
15 my alone saviour and redeemer, that the same may be presented,

295 decorated "I"

296 "=" used where modern text would use a hyphen

without spot, before the throne of his majesty. And my body to the earth to be buried in the churchyard of Tonbridge aforesaid.

Item: I will there shalbe given and distributed among poor people resorting to my burial, those that shalbe thought most needy, at the discretion of mine executor hereafter named, the sum of two and twenty shillings. **Item:** I give and bequeath to my good friend and neighbour, **Mr. Stockwood, vicar** of Tonbridge, my furnace standing in the shop, my malt querne in the shop, a court table standing in the middle chamber. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my sister-in-law Walls children** one cow equally to be divided among them saving **Jane Wall** to be none of them.

Item: I give and bequeath to **Marjorie, wife of Lowdewell, my late servant**, a flockbed, a bolster, a covering?, a blanket and a pair of sheets. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Katherine Willmot, now my servant**, a bedstead?, a flockbed, a bolster, a coverlet, a blanket, one pair of sheets. **Item:** I give to my neighbour **James Earle** a trucklebed and a s--ve²⁹⁷ or cage to keep meat in and a round table, and to **his daughter Marie**, two pewter platters. The residue of all my goods, cattells, debts

37 and moveables whatsoever, I wholly, fully and with good effect,
38 intent and purpose, give and bequeath to my good friend and
39 kinsman, **Jasper Plane**, whom I ordain
40 and make my whole and sole
41 executor, to see this my will proved, my legacies paid and
42 funeral discharged. And I ordain, appoint and
43 desire my said good friend Mr. Stockwood, overseer
44 of this my will. To whom I give for and towards his
45 pains therein to be taken, besides his expenses thereabouts
46 to be laid out 20s lawful money. In witness whereof I have set my hand
and
47 seal yeaven²⁹⁸ the day and year first above written
48 In the presence of me, **Nicolas Hooper, writer hereof,**
49 and of **James Earle, Thomas Fisher** with others
Sig. **Jacobi Earle** sign. **Thomas Fisher**
Sig. **Margery Lampard**²⁹⁹

298 given, usually included in NH wills but here it is spelt "yeaven" instead of the usual "yeven"

299 all three names written By Nicholas Hooper; why the Latin for "James" here?

William and John Lamparde of Barnestreete

Since both William and John are "[of Barnestreete](#)", John would be expected to be William's son John who was his father's executor. In 1601, William Harte of Tonbridge appointed as his executor his son-in-law John Lamparde, husband of his daughter Marie. William Harte also left his "[messuage or tenement lying in Tonbridge Town with the edifices and backside thereto belonging](#)" to his daughter and then to his grandson, George Lamparde. This could explain why John of Barnestreet left money to George and his messuage, land, etc. to his son William.

Some of the words in lines 9 and 10 of John's will cannot be deciphered but there is reference to "John" who could have been the testator's son, John Lamparde, the younger, who had already "been given ??", that is he had already been preferred. Two of the witnesses to William Harte's will in 1601 were "John Lamparde, the elder" and "John Lamparde, the younger".

Even if, in 1625, John of Barnestreet had an adult son would he have been old enough in 1601 to be known as "John, the younger" a term usually applied only when the son reached adulthood. It is just about possible:

Since Marie's husband John and son George were mentioned in the will of Marie's father, they have been included in the Tonbridge database although John was of Hadlow when he wrote his will.

Table L.2 - Possible Ages

Year	John, the younger	John, the elder	William Lamparde	William Harte
1601	aged 20	aged 43	aged 66	aged 68; died "sick and aged"
1615	aged 34	aged 58	aged 80; died "aged, impotent and weak"	
1625	aged 44	aged 68		

A very tentative reconstruction of the relationships between the Hadlow Lampardes and William Harte is:

1 In the name of god Amen³⁰¹. The two and twentieth day of August
2 in the thirteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord James, by the
grace
3 of God, King of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith,
4 And³⁰² of Scotland the nine and fortieth. And in the year of our Lord
5 God, One Thousand, Six hundred and fifteen. I, William Lamparde,
6 the elder, of **Barnestreete within the Parish of Hadlow** in the county of
7 Kent, **yeoman**, Being, at the time of making hereof, Aged, Impotent and
8 Weak of body (but yet of sound and good memory, lauded be³⁰³ god). And
9 being very willing to set in order such moveables as god of his goodness
hath lent
10 me for the Quiet enjoying of the same after my decease. Therefore

301 decorated "T"; small "Hooper" mark over "Amen"

302 capital letters as in original

303 spelt "bee" throughout and also "mee" used for me which was a particular characteristic of Nicholas Hooper

11 I do ordain and make this my present Testament and last will³⁰⁴
12 in manner and form following, that is to say: **First:** and principally
13 I give, commend and bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God,
14 my maker and Creator, And my body to the earth whence it came, in sure
and
15 certain hope of a joyful resurrection to life eternal. **Item:** I will there
16 shall be given and bestowed among the poor of Hadlow aforesaid, the sum
of forty
17 shillings of lawful money to be distributed at some convenient time within
one month next
18 after my decease by my executor hereafter named. **Item:** I give and
bequeath
19 unto **William Lamparde, my son,** the sum of one hundred pounds
20 of lawful money, to be paid unto him within one month³⁰⁵ next after my
21 decease by my executor hereafter named. **Item:** I give and bequeath
22 unto **my daughter, Hester Raynes,** the sum of forty shillings lawful
23 money over and besides all such money as shall oweth unto me, which
said forty

304 "and testament" was written at the end of this line and crossed out when the repetition was noticed

305 this implies that his executor would be able to raise £100 immediately from William's assets

24 shillings I will shall be paid unto her within one month next after my
decease by
25 my executor hereafter named. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Martha**
Lamparde,
26 **daughter of John Lamparde, my son,** the sum of one hundred marks
27 of lawful money to be paid unto her within two years next after my decease
28 by my said executor hereafter named (which said sum of one hundred
marks is
29 now remaining in the hands of the said John Lamparde, her father). **Item:**
30 I give and bequeath unto John Lamparde, aforenamed my son, One
31 Table with a frame, Carpet, form and bench thereunto belonging, standing
32 in the Parlour of my now mansion house at Barnstreete aforesaid in
Hadlow
33 aforesaid, One Brewing furnace, One Brewing vat with the T---
34 and one Bread kneader situated in the Brewhouse of my said mansion
house,
35 which said John Lamparde, my son, I make and ordain³⁰⁶ sole and whole
36 executor of this my will to see the same proved, my debts and legacies
37 paid and my body decently buried according to the true intent of this my
will.

306 ordain? - Citrideyne?

38 The rest and residue of my household whatsoever, not before given, I
39 will shalbe laid and divided into Two equal parts, so soon as may be after
40 my decease, by the said John Lamparde and William Lamparde, my sons,
41 and the said Hester Raynes, my daughter, with the help of my honest
42 neighbours (if need require). And after such equal division, I will one part
43 or half thereof, unto the said John and Hester equally between them and
they
44 to choose first. And the other part thereof I give unto the said William
45 Lamparde my son. In witness whereof, I the said William Lamparde,
46 the elder, have hereunto set my hand and Seal, The day and
47 year before dated and do acknowledge the same to be my True and
48 last will.

Read, Sealed, Pronounced and declared of William Lamparde

as the last will of the said William Lamparde the mark **M**³⁰⁷
the elder, in the presence of the elder

William Salmon and
Robert Hooper, writer

307 looks like a large, inverted "W"

1 In the name of god Amen³⁰⁸. The one and twentieth
2 day of August in the year of our lord one thousand, six hundred and twenty
3 and five, I, John Lamparde, the elder, of **Barnestreet** in the parish of
4 **Hadlow** in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, do ordain and make this my
testament and last will
5 in manner and form following: **First** therefore, yielding my soul to Almighty
God, my
6 creator with an assured hope of salvation through Jesus Christ, my saviour,
and my body to the earth
7 in decent manner to be buried. I will and give to the poor people of
Hadlow aforesaid Ten
8 shillings. **Item:** I give to the preacher that shall pray at my funeral (if any
shall be thereunto
9 performed) ten shillings. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **John ??**
10 **??**, unto whom I have already given that **??** of mine . . which I have to
each of them five shillings

308 decorated "T" with face with pipe

11 a piece, of lawful english money for a token of my love and remembrance of
them. **Item:** I will
12 and give to **Alice, my wife**, those parcels of my goods hereafter mentioned,
that is to say:
13 one white heifer with a brown head that ?? had a calf, my little bay mare
and such woman's
14 riding furniture as I have, one featherbed at her choice, the bedstead
whereon I now lie,
15 the bolster, two pillows, two blankets, one coverlet and the curtains and
curtain -ody thereunto belonging,
16 six pairs of sheets whereof two pairs to be of the best sort, two pairs of the
middle sort
17 and two pairs of the worse sort. also two tablecloths, two pillowberes and
18 six napkins. And also two loads of hay, the said hay to be delivered to her
unto her within one month next
19 after my decease. **Item:** I give to my said wife twenty pounds of lawful
english money to be paid
20 her within one year next after my decease. And if my said wife shall be
with child at the time of
21 my decease, then I give unto her ten pounds more to be paid at the end of
the said one year next after
22 my decease if such child shalbe then living. **Item:** I will to **George**
Lamparde, my son, ??

23 pounds of lawful english money to be paid him within one year and a half
next after my decease.
24 The residue of all my goods, cattels, debts and chattels, I give and
bequeath
25 to **my loving son, William Lamparde**, whom I make and ordain the full and
sole executor
26 of this my testament and last will, to see the same proved and all my debts
and legacies paid And
27 my body decently brought to the earth.

28 Farther towards the better enabling of the said William, mine executor, to
pay all my debts and
29 legacies which I ?? him faithfully to dischargd³⁰⁹, I will, give and devise
to him, the said
30 William, my son, and to his heirs and assigns forever, All that Messuage or
Tenement
31 Wherein I now dwell. And all the barns, houses, buildings, closes, yards,
gardens, orchards
32 and parcels of land with thappurtenances thereto belonging containing, in
the whole, by estimation

309 spelt "dischargd"

33 four Acres, whether more or less thereof be had together situated, lying
and being at
34 Barnestreet aforesaid in Hadlow aforesaid together with all and any my . .
35 . . of in and to the same, to have and to hold all the said Messuage or
Tenement
36 and all other the ?? with thappurtenances unto the said William, my son,
his heirs
37 and Assigns for ever, immediately from and after such time as the said
William, my son,
38 his heirs or assigns, shall have satisfied or paid to **Lawrence Pawley, my
son-in-law,**
39 his heirs or Assigns, the sum of Three score pounds for payment whereof
within one
40 year next after my decease and some other sums already paid the said
Messuage and premises
41 are by me mortgaged to the said Lawrence Pawley, his heirs and assigns.
And furthermore
42 I do hereby make and the said William, my son, mine heir and
43 lawful assign to pay the said three score pounds and to redeem the said
44 Messuage and premises to be had and ?? to him and his heirs forever
towards
45 the payment of all my debts and legacies according to the purpose and
tenor

46 meaning of this my testament and last will.

In witness whereof I have, to this my testament and last will, set my hand
and seal ??

the day and year first before written
being present and witnesses

Thomas Dynham
John Hooper, notary? public

John Lampard³¹⁰

³¹⁰ looks like a signature with the "par" abbreviated to "p", i.e. "Lampd"

1 In the name of god Amen. The 26th day of
2 April in the year of our lord god one thousand six hundred and three, I,
John
3 Lamparde of the parish of Cudham in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being
sick in body
4 yet of good and perfect remembrance, thanks be to God, do make and
ordain this
5 my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say, I
6 commit my soul to Almighty god, my creator and only redeemer. And my
body
7 to be buried in Christian burial. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Marie**
Wakered the
8 sum of twenty marks of good and lawful money of England to be paid by
mine heirs
9 and executors hereafter, in this my will, named and in manner and form as
followeth:

10 viz: within two years after my decease, twenty nobles³¹¹ and within the
third year
11 next after my decease, the other twenty nobles. **Item:** I do will to the said
Marie one
12 old chest which I brought from **Bigginhill** to my new dwelling house.
Item: I
13 will that my executor, who is also mine heir, shall pay after my decease,
yearly to
14 **Margaret Hall, my daughter**, during her natural life and so long as it shall
please
15 god she do live with **Robert Hall, her husband** that now is, the sum of ten
shillings
16 of lawful money of England, viz: every half year five shillings. And if it
happen her
17 said husband, Robert Hall, do depart this natural life before her, then I will,
and my
18 mind is that my said daughter, Margaret, shall have during her natural life,
my
19 little house to dwell in with the little hemp plat and the apple trees thereon
growing

311 a noble was 6s 8d, a mark 13s 4d

20 which house and hemp plat **Christopher Slibert, tanner**, now dwelleth in
and ??
21 ?? but, if so be my said daughter, Margaret, be not disposed to dwell in the
said
22 house her self, then my will is that **mine heir Edward Lamparde** shall pay
her 20s
23 yearly by equal portions, every half year ten shillings, during her natural
life
24 and she to have nothing to do with the said house and hemp plat unless
she will her
25 own self to dwell in the said house and occupy it, but that it shall remain
unto **my son**
26 **Edward Lamparde** and to his heirs forever. **Item:** I give and bequeath to
my godson, John
27 **Lamparde, my son Edward Lamparde's son**, one brandiron which now
standeth at my now
28 dwelling house in **Cudham**. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Marie Ownsted**
one ewe
29 sheep. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Susan Ownsted** one ewe sheep. **Item:**
I give
30 and bequeath to **Martha Ownsted** one sheep. **Item:** I give to **Thomasine**
Ownsted

31 one sheep. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Johane, my wife**, one cow and
also my grey
32 mare. **Item:** I give and bequeath to the said Johane, my wife, all my
household stuff
33 and all my implements now lying, remaining and being at or in my now
dwelling
34 house in Cudham except one chest and one brandiron which before have
been given
35 and bequeathed. All the residue of my goods unbequeathed, both cattell
and chattell,
36 I give and bequeath to **Edward Lamparde, my son**, whom I make sole and
whole
37 executor of this my last will and testament, to see my lawful debts paid
and
38 discharged and my body honestly buried.

39 This is the last will and testament of
me, the said John Lamparde as touching all my lands and tenements lying
and
40 being in the parish of **Sundridge** in the county of Kent. Also where I do
give
41 and bequeath all those my lands and tenements, with the appurtenances
there

42 unto belonging unto my son, Edward Lamparde, and to his heirs forever.
And I
43 do desire **David Lloyd, vicar of Cudham**, and also **Mr. William Selyard**, to be
over
44 seers of this my will and testament. Witnesses at the reading, publishing
and sub
45 scribing hereof, David Lloyd, John Lamparde his mark, **John Whiffins**,
Joseph
46 **Memiall** with others. **Item:** my will is that if there be any heriot due, to the
lord
47 or lords of the manor of Sundridge, out of my tenements or lands there, that
mine
48 executor, Edward Lamparde, see it paid and discharged.

John Lamporte of Seal

John Lamporte lived too early for any of the events in his life to be recorded in the parish registers. From his will we have:

<i>will:</i>		#3989	John Lamporte - Isabel	#4356 ¹
		9 Oct 1521		

#4378		#4379		#4380
John		Agnes		Thomas
<i>born</i> :	<1500		>1500	>1501

¹ # indicates a reference in the Seal database

John bequeathed a number of relatively small items to his sons:

To sons:	John	Thomas	Robert
table, folding	1		
great brass pot	1		
little brass pot		1	
brass pot at 3 gallons			1
latten basin	1		
silver spoons	2	2	2
platters	2		
pewter platters		2	2
pewter dishes	2	2	2
cauldron		1	
great pan			1

1 In the name of god Amen. The 9 day of October
2 A.D. 1521, I, John Lamporte of Seal,
3 **draper**, whole in mind, make my testament
4 in this wise: **First**: I commend my soul to
5 almighty god, my body to be buried in the
6 churchyard there. **Item**: I bequeath to the high altar for
7 my tithes forgotten 3s 4d. **Item**: at my
8 burying 2 dirige masses, that is to say 5
9 masses of the 5 wounds of god, 10s.
10 And in likewise at my month's mind 10s.
11 Also I bequeath to **Agnes, my daughter**,
12 to her marriage, 40s. **Item**: to **John, my**
13 **son**, one folding table after the decease of
14 my wife with one great brass pot, one
15 latten basin, 2 silver spoons, 2 platters,
16 2 pewter dishes. Also I bequeath to **Thomas**
17 **my son**, after the decease of my wife,
18 one cauldron standing in the fire ??
19 in the kitchen and one little brass pot,

20 2 pewter platters, 2 silver spoons, 2 pewter dishes. Also
21 I bequeath to **Robert, my son**, after the decease
22 of my wife, one brass pot at 3 gallons, one
23 great pan, 2 pewter dishes, 2 pewter platters,
24 2 silver spoons. The residue of all my
25 moveable goods, after my debts paid and
26 bequests And this my present testament fulfilled, I give
27 and bequeath to **Isabell, my wife**, ?? to do
28 therewith to do her free will, the which
29 Isabell, my wife, I make mine executrix.
30 And **John Swan** to be, with her, executor and he to
31 have for his labour 6s 8d. And I
32 make **John Tebold**³¹² overseer and he to have for
33 his labour 40d.

34 This is the last will of me, John Lamporte,
35 made the day and year above written. **First:**
36 I will that Isabell, my wife, have all my
37 houses and land with th'appurtenances after
38 my decease lying in **Seal, Kemsing and Sevenoaks**,
39 during her life so be she keep her sole widow. And,

312 John(2) Tebold (#673) whose family was growing up in the 1520s

40 if she fortune to marry, then I will that my
41 said wife have all my whole tenement with the lands
42 and appurtenances that I purchased of **Robert Chesewell** 43
43 and **Richard Wellar** during her life. Also I will that
44 John, my son, have 2 parcels of land at **Crosshole**
45 and one croft of land called 5 yards, lying to the
46 lands of the **widow of Robert Joley**, to him, his
47 heirs and his assigns for evermore provided
48 that the said John, my son, shall not have part
49 parcels of land lying at Crosshole neither
50 5 yards which 2 parcels purchased of Robert
51 Chesewell and Richard Wellar till after the decease
52 of his mother, Isabell. Also I bequeath to Thomas,
53 my son, my house that I dwell in with the gardens,
54 barns and croft joining thereto, with the appurtenances
55 to him, his heirs and his assigns for evermore
56 paying to John, his brother, 40s after the decease
57 of his mother. And if the said Thomas pay
58 not the 40s to the said John, his brother, then
59 I will that the said John enter in one acre of
60 of land in the croft joining to my garden of
61 the ten which I willed to my son in the
62 . . . of the croft next to the land of

63 **John Joley** provided, if the said Isabell, my
64 wife, depart before Thomas, my son, come to
65 the age of 21 years, then I will the said
66 Thomas pay not the said 40s to John, his
67 brother, till the said Thomas come to the age
68 of 21 years. Also I will to Robert, my
69 son, that he have my house called **Spryn-gett**
70 and my house called **Richards** which **John**
71 **Dagget** dwelleth in with the appurtenances and my land
72 called **Tuppets land** to him and his heirs
73 and his assigns for evermore, paying to John,
74 his brother, 40s within one year after the
75 death of his mother provided that, if the forsaid
76 Isabell, my wife, die before Robert, my son,
77 come to the age of 21 years, then I will that Robert,
78 my son, pay not the 40s till he come to
79 the age of 21 years to his said brother, John.
80 And for fault of payment, then I will that
81 John enter in my tenement called Richards
82 that John Dogget dwelleth in. And if it fortune
83 that Isabell, my wife, marry again, then I
84 will that Robert, my son, have my lands
85 and tenements to him above bequeathed immediately

86 after the marriage of his mother paying unto
87 her yearly, during her life. 10s. And for fault
88 of non-payment of Robert, my son, of the
89 forsaid money to him bequeathed, if she marry,
90 I will her ?? and her assigns strain³¹³ in any
91 of his part for the portion assigned to be
92 paid to her. Also I will that Isabell, my
93 wife, have fire wood ?? for her to burn
94 during the time of her widowhood out of my land
95 called Tuppetts land. Also I bequeath to John, my
96 son, my shop at Sevenoaks, to him, his heirs
97 and his assigns forever more after the decease
98 of his mother. here witness: **Sir Christopher Sharpharrow³¹⁴,**
99 **John Tebold, John Fuller, Richard Gilbert.**

313 distraint

314 probably the curate of Seal and writer of the will

This will was probably written by John Hooper, notary public, and parish clerk of Tonbridge who was one of the four generations of Hoopers who wrote many wills in the Tonbridge, Hadlow, Seal area from the late 1550s up to the end of the period studied.

1 In the name of god Amen. The seventeenth
2 day of October in the three and fortieth year
3 of the reign of our sovereign Lady
4 Elizabeth, by the grace of God Queen of
5 England, France and Ireland, defender of
6 the faith. I, Edward Lawrence,
7 of Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being
8 sick in body but yet in perfect remembrance, thanks
9 therefore be given to almighty god, do ordain
10 and make this my present last will and testament
11 in manner and form following: And **First** and
12 principally I give, commend and bequeath my
13 soul into the hands of almighty god who gave

14 it, trusting by the merits of Christ Jesus to be
15 saved and my body to the earth from whence it
16 was taken to be buried at the discretion of
17 mine executrix hereafter named. **Item:** I give
18 and bequeath unto **my eldest son Edward Lawrence**
19 the bedstead standing in the chamber over the buttery
20 which was mine before I married with the
21 featherbed, feather bolster, covering and
22 blanket thereto belonging and also one sheet
23 which his grandmother gave him and one pair of
24 sheets besides, also one great joined chest
25 standing in the loft wherein I lie which was
26 mine also before I married and one joined chair.
27 And also I give unto my said son Edward
28 the sum of thirteen pounds six shillings and
29 eight pence of good and lawful money of England.
30 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Robert Lawrence,**
31 **my son,** one bounded chest and also the sum of
32 six pounds, six shillings and eight pence
33 lawful money. All which shalbe paid unto them,
34 and either of them, by mine executrix hereafter named, at
35 their and either of their several ages of one and
36 twenty years. And if it happen either of my

37 said sons Edward and Robert to decease
38 before they have attained their several ages of one
39 and twenty years aforesaid, then I will all and
40 every his gift, bequest and legacies so deceasing
41 shalbe and remain to the overliuer of them to be
42 paid to him so overliuing at his full age of one
43 and twenty years by my said executrix hereafter
44 named. Provided always, and my will, intent
45 and meaning is that, if **Margaret, my wellbeloved**
46 **wife**, mine executrix hereafter named, shalbe
47 minded at any time after my decease
48 to marry again, that then she, the said
49 Margaret or her assigns shall pay unto
50 **Robert Piper and Thomas Haselden, my**
51 overseers hereafter named, or one of them, all
52 and every sum and several sums of money
53 herein before bequeathed to my said two sons before
54 her marriage again and then shall likewise
55 deliver unto my said overseers all other
56 gifts and legacies whatsoever before given to
57 my said two sons which my said overseers
58 I will shall, immediately after the receipt
59 of the said sums of money, put out, employ

60 and bestow the same for and towards the
61 use, benefit and behoof of my said two sons
62 till their and either of their several ages of one
63 and twenty years and at their and either of
64 their several ages shall pay and be
65 accountable, to them and either of them, or if one
66 of them decease, then to the overliver of them,
67 or if both of them be then deceased, then to so
68 many of **my daughters** as shall then be
69 living, equally between them, for the ??
70 several sum and sums of money, profits
71 and implements thereof, other necessary
72 expenses and charges that way suffering
73 being deducted and likewise all and
74 every other gift and legacy before given
75 to my said sons which shalbe delivered
76 them as aforesaid, any thing herein
77 before mentioned to the contrary hereof
78 in any way notwithstanding. And my will
79 and meaning further is that, if both my
80 said sons, Edward and Robert, shalbe
81 deceased before the marriage again of
82 my said wife, that then my said wife,

83 Margaret, shall pay their and either of
84 their several gifts and legacies, as well
85 money as goods, before given them, to my
86 **daughters, Agnes and Joane**, equally
87 between them at their several ages of
88 eighteen years or, if either of them decease,
89 then wholly to the overliuer of them at her full
90 age of eighteen years. And my intent
91 and will is that my said wife Margaret,
92 in consideration of the executorship to her by
93 this my testament hereafter granted, shall
94 freely and at her own charges, bring up
95 my said two sons

- Edward and Robert till their and either of their several ages of fourteen years
- at which their and either of their said ages of fourteen years, I will my said overseers
- shall put out and place the said Edward and Robert, my sons, at their discretion. And

- my will, intent and meaning is, and be³¹⁵ it also further hereby provided that, if my wife
- be then not married again at their or either of their said ages of fourteen years, that
- then my said wife shall pay and deliver into the hands of my said overseers, or either of them,
- all and every gift, sum and several sums of money and other several legacies whatsoever
- herein before willed and devised to my said two sons at their said several ages of fourteen years for which said
- legacies I will my said overseers and either of them (upon the trust I repose in them), their of either
- of their executors, administrators or assigns, shalbe accountable as before in this my
- present testament is expressed (any proviso or other thing herein before mentioned to
- the contrary hereof in any wise notwithstanding. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my two**
- **daughters, Agnes and Johane Lawrence**, to each of them ten pounds a piece to be paid

315 spelt "bee" throughout (this is original)

- unto them at their several ages of eighteen years or days of marriage which shall first
- happen. And if either of them happen to decease before their several ages or days of
- marriages, then I will the said legacy so deceasing shalbe paid to the overliver of them
- at her said age of eighteen years. **Item:** I give unto the said Agnes Lawrence, one joined
- bedstead and bell?, one blanket and one covering and also one joined cupboard and
- one joined chest called the paperchest to be delivered to her at her said age of eighteen years or the
- said day of her marriage which shall first happen. Also I give unto the said Johane, my daughter,
- one great joined chest and one little square table standing in the hall to be delivered to her
- at her said age of 18 years or her said day of marriage which shall first happen.

- All the residue of my moveable goods, debts, leases, cattells and chattels unbequeathed,
- I wholly and fully give unto the said Margaret, my wellbeloved wife, she paying my debts,

- bringing up my sons as aforesaid and discharging³¹⁶ the legacies herein bequeathed according
- to the true tenor and effect of this my present testament, which said Margaret, I make
- and ordain the sole and only executrix of the same. And I desire and appoint my
- **good and trusty friends, Robert Piper, clothier, and Thomas Haselden of Tonbridge,**
- **yeoman,** overseers of the same, yeven³¹⁷ the day and year first above written.

316 "discharging"

317 given

Edward Lawrence³¹⁸

Present at the declaring, sealing
and subscribing of this present testament³¹⁹

Thomas Marshall

James ???

John Hooper³²⁰

318 looks like a signature

319 although "will and testament" is used at the beginning of the document, only testament is referred to later and there is no mention of any land, etc. Was there as separate document for this which did not survive?

320 all look like signatures; John Hooper, who was a notary public and wrote a number of wills between 1601 and 1641, was probably the scriptor

Lether Wills from Tonbridge

Two wills, one of which is nuncupative, have survived for Lethers of Tonbridge:

CKS: Drb/Pw; Drb/Pwr

William Lether spoken 10th March 1589	15; 17.393	page l.64
Alice Lether written 13th February 1591/2	17; 18.358	page l.66

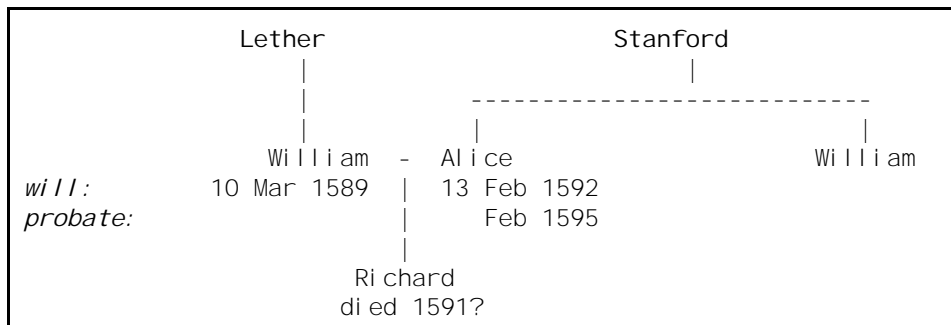
William was a saddler and Alice, his wife, died three years later. Both wills were written by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1578 and 1618. Nicholas Hooper was one of the witnesses of Alice's will and, although it is not decorated as many of his are, it is in the same handwriting as the wills where he describes himself as the scriptor. Although his name does not appear on William's nuncupative will and the decoration at the top is different from that which often appears on wills, the writing can be recognised as that of Nicholas Hooper.

There are two separate annotations in Latin at the bottom of the memorandum giving William's bequests. The first just appears to be the signing of the memorandum, on 25th May 1589, by **John Stockwood, clerk**, who was the vicar of Tonbridge and before whom some wills were proved. The second appears to be the standard paragraph written when the will was proved giving Alice Lether,

relict, as the executrix and a sum of money at the end of £6 18s 4d which may have been the total of William's debts.

One of the witnesses to William's will was John Rolf who was described as the **constable of Tonbridge**.

The date given for probate of Alice's will is 21st February 1594/5, three years after the will was written so that it looks as if Alice did not die until some time after writing her will. She does not mention her state of health but, whereas William leaves some of his clothes to his son Richard, Alice makes her brother her sole heir. Perhaps she wrote her will following the death of Richard.



written by Nicholas Hooper on 22nd May 1589 giving William's wishes which were spoken on the 10th March, ten weeks previously (1588/9).

1 Memorandum³²¹ that the tenth day of March in
2 the year of our Lord god, one thousand, five hundred, four score and
3 eight, William Lether of Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **saddler**,
4 die speak and utter these words following³²², or the like in effect (being
5 in perfect memory) touching his last will, in the presence of use whose
6 names are under written, viz. he willed all that he had, whatsoever
7 (except his hose, doublet and jerkin) to **Alice, his wife**, toward
8 the payment of his debts. And
9 which his hose, doublet and jerkin, he willed to **Richard, his son**.
10 In the presence of **John Rolf, Constable of Tonbridge, Anthony**
11 **Marden and Henry Syddon**.

321 decorated M and decoration at the top of the will

322 "folowing" in the original; a spelling used often by Nicholas Hooper

12 In testimony and witness of this being true,
13 the said John Rolf, Anthony Marden and
14 Henry Sydden have hereunto set their
15 mark, the 22 of May in the year of
16 our lord god, 1589.

the mark of **IR** John
Rolf the mark of Anthony
Marden
The mark of ³²³ Henry
Sydden

1 In the name of god Amen. the 13th day of February 1591
2 And in the 34th year of the Reign of our Sovereign
3 Lady Elizabeth. I, Alice Lether of Tonbridge in
4 the county of Kent, **widow**, make my last will in this
5 manner: **First**: I bequeath my soul into the hand of god
6 trusting that the same, through the mediation of
7 his dear son, shalbe³²⁴ presented without spot before the
8 Throne of his majesty and my body to the earth.
9 And as for all my moveable goods whatsoever, such
10 as it is, I wholly give and bequeath to **my natural**
11 **brother, William Stanforde**, which William I make
12 and ordain my whole and sole executor. In witness
13 whereof I, the said Alice Lether, have hereunto set my hand
14 and Seal, yeven³²⁵ the day and year first above
15 written in the presence of **Henry Sidden**,

324 spelt "shalbee"

325 given

16 **Thomas Chambers, Nicolas Hooper and others.**

Read and acknowledged
the day and year foresaid
in the presence of the witnesses
aforesaid

the mark of **Alice
Lether**

sign. ³²⁶ **Henry
Sidden**

sign. ³²⁷ **Thomas
Chambers**

³²⁶ a vertical cross

³²⁷ a capital "T"

Richard Lobley of Seal

At Maidstone Assizes in July 1596, **Richard Lobley, a shoemaker of Seal** was indicted for grand larceny. On 28 June 1596, at Seal, he stole a lamb from **Christopher Wade (#1103)**. He was at large³²⁸.

In the spring of 1595, **William Chittenden of Ightham (11304)** had been brought before the Court there for receiving strangers, namely Richard Lobley, his brother and wife, without sureties having been produced. Chittenden was to be fined 10s if they were not removed or sureties found. It looks as if Lobley moved to Seal and tried to set up as a shoemaker.

Nicholas Locke of Hadlow

This will (CKS:Drb/Pw 28) 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. No other Locke wills for this family have survived.

Nicholas had four sons, Nicholas, Thomas, William and Richard and three daughters, Katherine, Margaret and Anne; both Richard and Anne were under twenty-one in 1630. At the time of writing his will he had a "new dwelling house" in Hadlow and he left each of his sons some land:

Land Bequeathed by Nicholas to His Sons

Nicholas	all other lands, tenements, gardens, orchards and backsides with appurtenances, in Hadlow or elsewhere in Kent, not conveyed to him formerly (some land must have been given to him prior to the writing of the will). But Nicholas was to allow Thomas free access to the land given to him and also freedom to cross Nicholas's land, pitch ladders on it, etc. when repairing his house, use water from the well, stack wood and timber in the lane (providing he did not block it, etc.)
Thomas ³²⁹	Crossend (or Southend) of dwelling house; one little garden plot; one barn called the hay barn ³³⁰ ; one little orchard; one little pound; four pieces of land (½, 4, 8 and 3 acres).

329 Thomas to pay £40 to William

330 Nicholas to have use of this for six months after his father's death

William	little messuage at Palmer Street in Hadlow with the close, garden, orchard and croft of land with th'appurtenances belonging to it and one parcel of land (7 acres); one parcel of land with appurtenances called Bumbers (3 acres)
Richard	all those lands with appurtenances called Crudds in Hadlow (15 acres)

Will of Nicholas Locke of Hadlow

written 16th September 1630

transcript from original (probate copy has not survived)

- 1 In³³¹ the name of god Amen. The sixteenth day of September
- 2 in the year of our Lord God one thousand six hundred and thirty and in the sixth year
- 3 of the reign of our sovereign lord Charles by the grace of God, king of England

331 decorated "I", Hooper decoration above "name of God Amen"

4 Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. I, Nicholas Lock³³²
of
5 Hadlow in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being³³³ of sound and perfect mind
and memory (thanks be
6 therefore given to Almighty god) do ordain and make this my testament
and last will in manner
7 following: **First:** therefore recommending my soul to my creator, God the
father, with an assured
8 hope of salvation through his mercies in the merits of Jesus Christ, my
saviour. And my body
9 to the earth in decent manner to be buried. I will to the poor of Hadlow
aforesaid forty
10 shillings to be distributed amongst them in the day of my burial. **Item:** I
give and
11 bequeath to **Katherine, my daughter**, the sum of three score pounds of
lawful english
12 money to be paid to her within one whole year next after my decease by
my executor hereafter

332 "Lock" throughout except "by me Nicholas Locke" at end of the will, the only time that "Nicholas" includes "h"; did the testator write this himself?

333 "beeing", "bee", throughout

13 named. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Margaret, my daughter**, the sum also
of three score
14 pounds to be paid also within one whole year next after my decease by my
said executor. **Item:** I will
15 and give to **Anne, my daughter**, the sum also of three score pounds to be
paid to her at her
16 age of twenty and one years by my said executor. And I will that if any of
my said three
17 daughters shall decease before the times appointed for them to receive
their several legacies
18 aforesaid, that her and their portions so deceasing shall remain and be
paid to the survivors of
19 them (equally to be divided) or to the survivor of them the whole. **Item:** I
will and give to every
20 of my said three daughters, two good pairs of my sheets. **Item:** I will to
Richard, my
21 **son**, twenty pounds to be paid to him at his age of twenty and one years by
my executor.
22 **Item:** I will and give to **William Lock, my son**, twenty pounds to be paid
within two years next
23 after my decease by my said executor. And also I give to the said William
one pair of

24 sheets. **Item:** I will to **my good brother, Mr. Thomas Lock**, for a token of my
25 love, ten shillings to
buy him a ring to keep in remembrance of me.

26 The residue and all other my goods, cattell, chattels and credits?³³⁴ I wholly
give and
27 bequeath to **Nicholas Lock, my son**, whom I make and ordain the sole and
full executor
28 of this my testament and last will to see the same proved, my debts and
legacies by him herein
29 appointed to be paid truly to be discharged³³⁵ and my body decently to be
brought to the
30 earth. And I desire my good brother Mr. Thomas Lock and **Richard Daye**
and **Robert Daye** of
31 **Tonbridge** to be overseers that this my will may take effect according to my
mind therein
32 declared.

334 "creadith"

335 "dischargdged"

33 This is also the last will of the said Nicholas Lock made and declared the
day and
34 year first above written touching the ordaining and disposing of all my
lands and tenements. **Item:**
35 I will, give and devise to **Thomas Lock, my son**, all that the **Crossend** or
new building of
36 my new dwelling house in Hadlow aforesaid being the south end thereof,
one little garden plot
37 adjoining to the close at the west side of the said new building, one barn
called the hay barn,
38 one little orchard thereto adjoining and one little pound at the north end of
the said barn, one
39 piece of land by estimation half an acre bounding to lands by me assured
to Nicholas Lock, my son,
40 toward the south and west, to lands herein by me willed to William, my
son, north and to
41 the lands by me herein willed to Thomas, my son, towards the east. And
also all those two parcels of
42 land with th'appurtenances, the one called the four acres and the other the
eight acres lying also
43 in Hadlow aforesaid and bounding my lands called **Crudds** towards the
north and to the highway

44 leading between Tonbridge and Hadlow toward the east. And also all that
one parcel of land
45 by estimation three acres in Hadlow aforesaid bounding to a lane leading
from my house to
46 **Kernes green** and to the garden and orchard belonging to my dwelling
house towards the west,
47 to the before mentioned half acre of land north and to the two last before
mentioned parcels given
48 to the said Thomas towards east. To have and to hold all the said
Crossend or Southend of my
49 said dwelling house with th'appurtenances and all other the premises by
me formerly willed to the said
50 Thomas, my son, to the only use and behoof of him the said Thomas, his
heirs and assigns
51 forever, upon condition that he, the said Thomas, his heirs and assigns, do
and shall pay to
52 William Lock, my son, his brother, twenty pounds of lawful english money
within one
53 year next after my decease and other twenty pounds of like money within
the second year next
54 after my decease without fraud or coven. The said William, my son, at the
several payments thereof giving

55 several acquittances to the said Thomas, my son, and his heirs for the
discharging³³⁶ of him and them and the
56 tenements and lands aforesaid from the same. Notwithstanding my will
and mind is that Nicholas Lock,
57 my son and his assigns, shall have the use and occupation of the hay barn
aforesaid, formerly willed
58 to my son Thomas, during the space of six months next after my decease
without anything
59 therefore to be allowed (anything before herein mentioned to the contrary
hereof notwithstanding).
60 **Item:** I will, give and devise to William Lock, my son, and to his heirs and
assigns for ever
61 all that my little messuage wherein **Jasper Stanford** now dwelleth and the
close, garden, orchard
62 and croft of land with th'appurtenances thereto belonging lying at **Palmer**
Street in Hadlow aforesaid,
63 one parcel of land adjoining called the seven acres and one parcel of land
with th'appurtenances
64 commonly called **Bumbers**, containing, by estimation, three acres lying
also in Hadlow aforesaid.

336 "discharging"

65 To have and to hold the said messuage and premises to the only use and
behooof of the said William, my
66 son, his heirs and assigns for ever. **Item:** I will, give and devise to Richard
Lock,
67 my son, his heirs and assigns for ever all those my lands with
th'appurtenances commonly called
68 **Crudds** lying in two seneralls in Hadlow aforesaid, containing, by
estimation, fifteen acres,
69 to hold to the said Richard, my son, his heirs and assigns for ever. **Item:** I
will, give and
70 devise to Nicholas Lock, my son, all other my lands, tenements, gardens,
orchards and backsides³³⁷
71 with th'appurtenances not formerly by me to him conveyed nor formerly, by
this my will, given,
72 lying and being in Hadlow aforesaid or elsewhere in the county aforesaid.
To hold to the said Nicholas
73 Lock, his heirs and assigns, to his and their use and behoof for ever.
Notwithstanding
74 my will and mind is that the said Nicholas, my son, and his heirs and
assigns, shall quietly permit

337 "basides"

75 and suffer Thomas Lock, my son, his heirs and assigns. And I do hereby
give and grant free
76 liberty and full power for him, the said Thomas, his heirs and assigns, to
pitch ladders and the like
77 and to come upon and in the garden to my dwelling house aforesaid
belonging and by me given to the said
78 Nicholas for the doing of such reparations only as shalbe to be done at any
time and times hereof unto
79 the said Crossend or new building before willed to the said Thomas. And
likewise liberty for him,
80 the said Thomas, his heirs and assigns, to come and go, lead, drive, carry
and recarry over and upon
81 the close of the said Nicholas and his heirs and the lane thereto leading to
and from the hay barn
82 aforesaid at all times after the end of six months next after my decease.
And to take water
83 and wash at the well belonging to my said dwelling house at all times
hereafter for ever. And
84 also to come, go, ride, carry and recarry upon all necessary occasions ??
?? upon the lands of
85 the said Nicholas, his heirs and assigns, to and from the said Crossend or
new building, to and from

86 Palmer Street at all times for ever in the way and ways, and in such place
and places, where passage
87 (without any wilful spoil to be done thereby to the common or grass of the
said Nicholas, his heirs
88 or assigns). Together also with free liberty of ingress, egress, way and
passage, to and from the said
89 new building unto Kernes green in and through the lane thither leading
from my said dwelling house
90 at all times for ever. And in the said lane (near to the said new building) to
bring, stack and lay wood, ??
91 timber or any other materials for firing or for reparations thereto ?? ?? at
all times for ever.
92 leaving always sufficient room and passage for carrying in and through the
said lane any gift or devise
93 of the said garden, close or lane to the said Nicholas or his heirs to the
contrary notwithstanding. In witness
94 whereof I have to this my testament and last will set my hand and seal
yeven the day and year first above written

Read, sealed, published and declared in the presence of
by me Nicholas Locke³³⁸

Jasper Stanford X Richard Daye
John Hooper, notary pubq.

338 see note to line 4 above

William Loker, gardener of Penshurst

The will of William Loker of Penshurst (CKS: Prs/w/10/100)

page 1.84

is the only surviving Loker will; there were Lockyers in Speldhurst but only between 1515 and 1557. Loker is written as Lockyer in the parish records. This will was written by George Segars in 1619 but "Old William Lockyer" was not buried until 8th March 1623/4.

William Loker is given as being of Penshurst which is where he asks to be buried but his land is given as being in Leigh. He is also described as a "gardiner" which could be a "gardener" but this is a very unusual description.

He had two sons, William and Allen; although he made William his executor leaving him the residue of his goods and chattels, he left all his land and tenements to Allen. Perhaps William had already had some land from his father or had been preferred in some other way. The will is also unusual in that William left one of his married daughters (Susan) an annuity of sixteen shillings and another (Ruth) a life interest in a "little tenement".

The latter could have been the Susan who was married to George Terry by the time the will was written. The baptisms of the twins, William and Elizabeth were recorded and it is taken that this Elizabeth was the mother of Elizabeth Lawrence.

Will of William Loker of Penshurst

written 12th April 1619; proved 27th November 1624

transcript from original

1 In the name of god Amen. The twelfth day of April Anno Dm. 1619
2 and in the seventeenth year of the Reign of our sovereign Lord James, by
3 the grace of God, of England, France and Ireland, king, defender of the
faith,
4 etc. And of Scotland the two and fiftieth. I, William Loker,
5 of Penshurst in the county of Kent, **gardiner**, being of good health and
perfect
6 memory, thanks be given to almighty god, do make and ordain this my
7 present testament and last will in manner and form following: That is to
8 say, **First** and principally I commend my soul into the hands of almighty
god,
9 my maker and creator, and to Jesus Christ, my alone saviour and redeemer,

hoping by the merits of his death and passion to have everlasting life. And
my
body I bequeath to the earth from whence it came, to be buried in the
church
yard of Penshurst aforesaid at the discretion of my executor hereafter
named.
Item: I give and bequeath to the poor of the parish of Penshurst aforesaid
the sum
of ten shillings of lawful english money to be paid, by my executor
hereafter named, to the churchwardens there for the time being to the use
of
the said poor within one whole year next after my decease. **Item:** I give
and bequeath to **my daughter Susan, now the wife of George Terry,**
of **Wrotham**, one featherbed, three bolsters whereof two are filled with
feathers, two cotton blankets, one coverlet coloured yellow and red and
together with the bedstead and all other furniture thereunto belonging now
standing and being in the chamber wherein I now lodge and also three
great chests being in the same chamber withal the linen, woollen and
other
things in the same chests being, and likewise my Bible. **Item:** I give and
bequeath unto **my eldest son, Allen Loker**, my table and all such
other goods and household stuff as are now in my messuage or tenement
in the

26 occupation of **John Woodgate**. And I do make and ordain **William**
27 **Loker, my son**, sole executor of this my last will and testament to
28 I give and bequeath all the residue of my goods and chattels
29 whatsoever not formerly bequeathed, my debts and legacies being paid
30 and my funeral expenses discharged.

31 This is the last will and testament of me the said William Loker
32 made and declared the day and year aforesaid as touching the disposition
33 of all my lands and tenements whatsoever within the parish of **Leigh next**
34 **Tonbridge** in the county of Kent or else where within the realm
35 of England. I do wholly give and bequeath the same (except one
36 little tenement in which one **Walter**³⁴² now dwelleth)
37 unto my son Allen Loker and to his heirs and assigns for ever,
38 paying out of the same, unto my said daughter Susan, yearly and every
39 year during her natural life, the sum of sixteen shillings
40 of lawful english money to be paid at two usual feasts in the year,
41 that is to say, at the feast of Th'annunciation of the blessed virgin
42 Mary and St. Michael Th'archangel, by even and equal portions,
43 the first payment thereof to begin at such of the said feasts as shall first
44 happen next after my decease. Also my will and meaning is that
45 if the same sum of sixteen shillings shalbe unpaid at any of the same

342 space left here for surname which was never entered

46 feasts unto my said daughter Susan during her natural life, that
47 then and so often it shalbe lawful for her and her assigns to enter into
48 and upon all or any of my said messuages, lands and tenements and
49 there to distrain and the distress or distresses there taken to lead, drive
50 and carry away and the same to detain and keep until the same sum
51 of sixteen shillings, together withal the arrearages thereof, shalbe
52 fully satisfied and paid. **Item:** my will and meaning further is that
53 son Allen shall also pay unto **my two grandchildren Elizabeth**
54 **Lawrence** and **Susan Brooke**, to each of them twenty shillings which
55 I do hereby give and bequeath unto them to be paid unto them within
56 one year next after my decease. And if the same shalbe unpaid above the
57 space of one whole year next after my decease, then my will and meaning
58 is that it shalbe lawful for the said Elizabeth Lawrence and Susan Brooke,
59 either of them so unpaid and their assigns, to enter and distrain in and
upon
60 any of my said lands and tenements and the distress or distresses so found
61 and taken to detain and keep until they shalbe fully paid the said
62 sums of twenty shillings a piece. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
63 **my daughter Ruth, now wife of Lamuell Ashen** of Penshurst aforesaid
64 the little tenement before excepted, to have and to hold the same little
65 tenement to the said Ruth and to her assigns for and during the term
66 of her natural life. And after the decease of the said Ruth I wholly
67 give and bequeath the same tenement to my said son Allen Loker and

68 his heirs and assigns for ever. In witness whereof I,
69 the said William Loker, to every leaf of this my present testament and
70 last will containing in all three sheets, have set my hand and to the
71 last sheet or leaf thereof have put my hand and seal and do hereby
72 revoke all former wills whatsoever the day and year first above
73 written.

William Loker³⁴³

Sealed, published and declared
in the presence of

Geor: Segars³⁴⁴

George Cristie

David Willard

343 his signature

344 followed by a small "decoration"

"**First** and principally, above all,

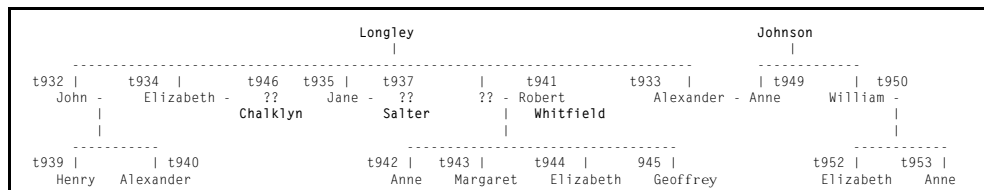
- I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty god,
- the father, son and holy ghost, my creator and
- redeemer and sanctifier, most humbly craving
- pardon and forgiveness of all my sins of his
- divine majesty, trusting by his great mercy
- and for the merits of my sweet saviour, Jesus Christ,
- to be made partaker of the joys that are
- prepl .. ed for the elect chosen of God,
- and my body I commit to the earth to be
- buried at the discretion of my executors
- hereunder named."

witnesses include **William Proctor, minister**"

Alexander Longley of Tonbridge

This will (CKS: Drb/Pw 30; Drb/Pwr 22.444) was written by John Hooper, notary public and parish clerk of Tonbridge, who wrote a large number of wills between 1601 and 1641. Written on 14th July 1641, this is the last John Hooper will to have survived and possibly the last he wrote since this was only two months before he died. The original was not decorated at all but does not appear to be a copy since the mark of the testator and one of the witnesses are given. No other Longley wills have survived for the Tonbridge locality.

Although Alexander Longley was married he does not appear to have had any children or, at least, none who survived until 1641; he was buried on 20th July 1641.



1 In the name of god Amen. The fourteenth day of July
2 An. dom. one thousand, six hundred, forty and one, I, Alexander
3 Longley of Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **husbandman**, being³⁴⁵
4 sickly and weak in body but of perfect and good memory, I
5 praise God for it, do ordain and make this to be³⁴⁶ my
6 testament and last will as followeth: **First:** yielding my soul to
7 the gracious acceptance of Almighty god, through Jesus
8 Christ, my saviour, and my body to the earth in decent
9 manner to be buried. I will to **my loving brother, John**
10 **Longley**, for a token of my love, ten shillings of lawful
11 english money to be paid him within one month next after my decease.
12 **Item:** I will to **Henry Longley, his son**, five pounds of like
13 lawful money to be paid to him at his age of twenty and one
14 years if he shall live to accomplish that age. **Item:** I will
15 to **Alexander, my godson, son of my said brother John**, five

345 "beeing", "bee", throughout

346 "bee" throughout

16 shillings to be paid to his father for his use, by mine
17 executrix upon payment whereof accordingly by my executrix shalbe
18 discharged³⁴⁷. **Item:** I will to **Elizabeth Chalklyn,**
19 **widow, my sister,** for a token of my love, ten shillings.
20 **Item:** I will to **my godson, the son of Goodman Young of**
21 **Mayfield**³⁴⁸, five shillings to be paid to his father for his use
22 within twelve months immediately after my decease. And so my executrix
23 to be discharged thereof. To **my sister Jane Salter,** I will
24 one shilling³⁴⁹. I will to **Elizabeth Johnson, son**³⁵⁰ of
25 **William Johnson, my wife's brother,** five pounds to be paid to
26 her at her age of 21 years or day of marriage which first
27 happeneth if she shall live to accomplish either of these times.
28 **Item:** I will to **Anne Johnson, my goddaughter, the daughter of**
29 **the said William,** five shillings to be paid to him to her use.
30 **Item:** I will to **Anne Whitfield** five shillings, to **Margaret, her**
31 **sister,** five shillings, to **Elizabeth, her sister,** five shillings. And

347 "discharged" here and on line 23

348 in East Sussex about twelve miles due south of Tonbridge

349 no "token of love" here!

350 definitely appears to be "son"

32 to **Geoffrey Whitfield, their brother**, my redbald colt. **Item:** I give
33 to **Joane Rooth, my goddaughter**, one shilling³⁵¹.
34 The rest and residue of my goods, cattells, chattels and debts, I will and
give
35 to **Anne, my loving wife**, whom I make the full and sole executrix
36 of this my testament and last will to see the same proved
37 and all my debts and legacies paid. And further
38 **my brother-in-law, Robert Whitfield**, and my good friend
39 **John Polhill** of Tonbridge aforesaid, yeoman, to be
40 overseers of this my testament and last will. And I will
41 to either of them for their pains hereunto to be taken
42 five shillings a piece. And I further will that
43 if my said wife shall marry again after my decease
44 that she shall, before her marriage, put in good bond
45 to my said overseers, or one of them, for the payment
46 of the legacies aforesaid of five pounds a piece
47 by me given to my brother's son and my wife's brother's
48 daughter according to the purport of this my will.
49 And my will is that if the said Henry Longley shall decease before
50 his age aforesaid, that his legacy shall remain and be to my executrix.
51 Likewise if Elizabeth Johnson shall decease before her age aforesaid,

351 quite often the amount left to a godchild

52 unmarried, that her legacy shall likewise remain with my executrix.
53 In witness whereof I have, to this my testament and last will
54 set my hand and seal the day and year first above
55 written.

the mark of ³⁵² the said Alexander Longley
Read, sealed, published
and declared in the presence of
Robert Whitfield
John Polhill
John Rootes of the Ty...
John Hooper, sen.

352 an inverted "Y"

All that has survived of the original of Henry's will is two pieces of paper in very poor condition with the beginning, end and right hand edge missing. The preamble has been transcribed from the probate copy with some extracts from the original regarding Henry's land³⁵³.

. . I, Henry Lovelace of Chalk in the county of Kent, gentleman, being sick of body but, thanks be unto God, of perfect remembrance, constitute, ordain and make this my present testament and last will in manner and form following: **First:** I bequeath to my soul to Almighty God, my saviour and redeemer, trusting by the merit of his passion assuredly to be saved and to have the fruition of his deity. And my body to be buried decently in the parish church of Chalk aforesaid, by the discretion of my executors undernamed. And I will to the vicar there for my tithes and oblations negligently forgotten, two shillings.

. . .

353 extracts from original provided by Zena Bamping, Nov. 2000

This is the last will of me the said Henry Lovelace made the day and year above written concerning the disposition of all my lands and tenements and their appertenances in the said County.

First I will and . . unto the said **Thomas, my son**, all that my principal messuage called **Gnattes**³⁵⁴ with all the land unto the same appertaining as they now are in the tenure of **William Fletcher** and also other tenements called **Lompettes** now in the tenure of **Thomas Edwards** with all the lands unto the said two several tenements appertaining lying and being in the parishes of **Kingsdown, Maplescombe, Shoreham and Woodland** . .

354 now Knatts Farm

The Lovelaces of Kingsdown and Chalk

The will of Leonard Lovelace, Esquire, of Kingsdown has survived page 1.101

(PCC: Cope 97; Prob 11/128, it was written on 24th June 1616 and proved on 15th October of the same year.

The will Leonard's widow who remarried has also survived (PCC: Savile 97; Prob 11/140):

will of Margaret Clarke, written on 21st March 1621/2 page 1.115

The wills of Leonard and Margaret are both interesting. Leonard Lovelace, Esquire, was obviously a rich man engaged in a variety of financial deals but it is not known where he fits into the Lovelace family tree. Leonard and Margaret do not appear to have had any children and, after his death, Margaret was a rich widow. Margaret was a Molyneux by birth which also appears to have been a rich family with some of whom Leonard carried out his financial activities. One of Margaret's sister was the Lady Cornwallis.

It was probably this Leonard Lovelace from whom 2 pigs were stolen in 1601 - see [Unlicensed Tippling-houses in Section Z of More Families & Transcripts](#).

Margaret's second husband was Thomas Clarke, Esquire, of Kingsdown but at the beginning of 1622, "**being sick of body but of good and perfect memory**" Margaret made her will with the consent of her husband.

The arrangements appear complicated with Margaret owning land in her own right This will illustrates how a rich widow, could on remarriage, arrange for at least some of her wealth to be passed on to her relatives rather than all of it becoming her new husband's property.

Leonard Lovelace, Esquire

Leonard does not mention any children in his will and his heir was his brother Richard Lovelace who was also his executor. Leonard's will was written by Thomas Jadwyn and, from the dealings described in his will, Leonard would have had considerable need of a scribe during his lifetime.

Leonard made a number of quite large bequests; these included £15 to Mary Milles, a poor kinswoman who lived with him but, since he specifies it was to be paid within five years of his death, she could have had a long time to wait for it. Mary, the wife of William Symonds, Leonard's deceased coachman, was to have a tenement and the lands belonging to it for her natural life but not until after the

decease of Bartholomew Carryer and his wife who were then living there. Thus, if she die not outlive them she would never inherit. She was to pay a yearly rent of £5 and be responsible for carrying out any necessary reparations, etc. Leonard hoped that his wife would ratify this bequest.

William Romney, "[an honest poor labouring handed man](#)", was to have his rent reduced by ten shillings a year "[for the better provision and bringing up of his poor children](#)".

Leonard had some silver utensils including three salts, thirteen spoons, three bowls and two stone jugs with covers of parcel gilt which his wife Margaret could use during her lifetime "[for the better garnishing of my house](#)" but, if she wanted to keep them she had to pay his executor "[according to the value thereof](#)".

Amongst Leonard's cattle were some sheep, kine and hogs which were his wife's, "[marked with her special mark and so watched and known by my servants and neighbours](#)"; these she was to have as her own.

It would appear that some complicated arrangements had been entered into regarding money owed to Margaret for there were various "[debts and monies owing to her which, by the law, I may or might be interested](#)" some of which were made in Leonard's name and "[some in the name of other her friends](#)". But "[the deeds and conditions of obligations](#)" were such that the money was to be paid to

Margaret "to her own proper use". Leonard specified that she was to retain this money "without any challenge, claim or demand thereof to be made".

But these arrangements seem simple compared with those for various bonds:

- "bonds of very good value as first bonds made by Edmond Lassells, Esquire, John Gwynne,. gent. and others" of £600
- bonds of £200 and £10 "by Edmond Lassells to one Joseph Ward, gent. to the money whereof I am interested".
- a note indented under Lassells hand made in 1613 acknowledging that he owed Leonard Lovelace £500 and Leonard's executor is to "take notice of" this note
- Sir John Molyneux³⁵⁵, knight, had "very unkindly" used him "in long detaining of a debt" of £300 for which Leonard was prosecuting him with a hearing in the Court of Chancery being the next stage. This prosecution was to be continued by his executor "with effect for the speedy obtaining of the same monies the better to pay my debts".
- From an order made in the Chancery Court about seven years previously, Sir John Molyneux also owed him £40 and this was also to be given his executor's consideration "that the Court may be moved and so to get the said money".

355 Margaret was a Molyneux (she mentions her brother Jervis Molyneux in her will)

Leonard had also been bound as surety for various people "out of my love and kindness" for which he had several counter bonds but most of these debts he had paid. Here his executor was to "speedily take course of law or otherwise call for the said monies, the better to perform the legacies and bequests of this my testament and last will".

Will of Leonard Lovelace of Kingsdown

written 24th June 1616

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. I, Leonard Lovelace of
2 Kingsdown in the county of Kent, **Esquire**, sick in body but of good and
perfect
3 mind and memory (thanks be therefore given to Almighty God) calling to
my
4 remembrance the uncertainty of this life and the surety of death and that
5 all flesh is born to die and therefore, in this my good and perfect memory,
make
6 and declare this my present testament and last will in manner and form
7 ensuing, that is to say, And **first** and before all things, I commit my
8 soul to the hands of the holy trinity, god the father, god the son and god the

9 holy ghost, hoping and most assuredly believing through the precious
death,
10 bloodshedding and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the second person in the
trinity, my
11 only saviour and redeemer, to have free and clear remission of all my sins
and to be
12 saved. My body I bequeath to the earth decently to be buried by the
discretion
13 of my executor hereunder named. And for and concerning such goods and
chattels,
14 lands and other things god hath blessed and endowed me withall in this
vale
15 of misery, I will, ordain and dispose as followeth. And first I will that all
such
16 debts as I do owe in right of conscience to be truly paid or order taken for
payment of
17 them. **Item:** I give and bequeath to the poor of Kingsdown the sum of five
pounds
18 of lawful money of England. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my poor**
kinswoman Mary
19 **Milles**, now resident with me the sum of fifteen pounds of lawful money of
England,

20 to be paid unto her within five years after my decease. **Item:** I give and
bequeath
21 to the **eldest daughter of my cousin Launcelot Lovelace of Canterbury** the
sum
22 of fifteen pounds of lawful money of England to be paid to her within one
year
24 next after my decease. **Item:** my will is that **Mary, the wife of William**
Symonds,
25 **my late coachman,** shall have and hold the tenement called **Sextons** with
the
26 lands thereunto belonging from and after the decease of **Bartholomew**
Carrier
27 and his now wife who hold the same (if it shall please god the said Mary
28 them shall overlive) for and during the natural life of the said Mary, under
and
29 for the yearly rent of five pounds of lawful money of England and the doing
30 the reparations of the said tenement and amending the hedges and En-les-
res
31 thereof from time to time as need shall require. Which said devise and
bequest
32 my hope is my wife will for her life ratify and confirm and which I devise
her

33 so to do they demeaning themselves in dutiful manner to her. **Item:** I give
and
34 bequeath to **my servant James Martin**, the sum of thirty pounds of lawful
35 money of England to be paid to him within one year next after my decease.

page 2:

36 **Item:** I give and bequeath to and amongst the **children of Henry Marsh,**
late of London,
37 **vintner**, deceased, the sum of fifteen pounds of like English money, part
and part
38 like to be divided to be paid unto the men children at their several ages of
twenty
39 and one years. And to the female children at their like age of twenty and
one years or
40 days of marriage which shall first and next happen. And that if any of the
said
41 children shall die or deceased before he, she or they shall have received
his, her or their
42 part and portion, that then the part and portion of him, her or them so
deceasing
43 shall be and remain to the survivor or survivors part and part alike to be
divided.

44 **Item:** Whereas I have certain pieces of silver utensils now in my house, as
three salts,
45 thirteen spoons, three bowls, a Tunne parcel gilt, two stone jugs with
covers
46 parcel gilt, my will and mind is that the same plate and all other my
household stuff
47 whatsoever shall remain to my wife's use for the better garnishing of my
house during
48 her life (not altering the property thereof). And if she have desire to have
the same
49 to her own use according to the value thereof making payment
50 therefore to my executor. **Item:** my will and mind is that all my linen and
napery
51 whatsoever shall be indifferently and equally parted and divided into two
parts,
52 The whole³⁵⁶ half part whereof I hereby give and bequeath to **Margaret, my**
wellbeloved
53 **wife.** And the other half I leave to the will and disposition of my executor.
Item:
54 my will and mind is that **William Romney**, an honest poor labouring
handed man,

356 "one" changed to "whole"

55 for the better provision and bringing up of his poor children, be abated ten
shillings
56 a year of his yearly rent during his natural life. And I give and bequeath to
Johane
57 **Fletcher, my servant**, the sum of five pounds of lawful money of England for
her
58 preferment in marriage or other well doing to be paid to her within six
months next
59 after my decease. **Item:** I give to **my servant, Dorothy**, the sum of forty
shillings of
60 like money. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Robert Averrall** the sum of five
marks
61 like money to be paid within one year next after my decease. **Item:** I give to
my
62 **servant, William Cripps**, the sum of ten shillings. And whereas amongst
my
63 cattle³⁵⁷ in and about Kingsdowne and **Hever**³⁵⁸, there are divers cattle as
sheep,
64 kine and hogs which are my wife's cattle and which are marked with her

357 spelled "cattell" throughout

358 Hever Place in Kingsdown, the Lovelace's mansion house

65 special mark and so watched and known by my servants and neighbours,
my will
66 and mind is and I hereby give and bequeath the same cattle to my said
wife
67 to her own proper use. And further, where my said wife hath divers debts
68 and monies owing to her which, by the law, I may or might be interested
unto
69 some of which debts are as she sayeth made in my name and some in the
name of
70 other her friends. And in the deeds and conditions of obligations made for
such debts
71 and monies are made to be payable to her own proper use. All which said
debts
72 so appearing to be made to her use, my will and mind is she shall retain to
her
73 own proper use without any challenge, claim or demand thereof to be
made
74 by my executor. **Item:** where furthermore I have bonds of very good value
as first
75 bonds made by **Edmond Lassells, Esquire, John Gwynne,. gent.** and others
of six
76 hundred pounds of lawful money of England, one other bond of two
hundred

77 and ten pounds by the said Edmond Lassells to one **Joseph Ward, gent.** to
the
78 money whereof I am interested. And likewise the said Lassells hath by a
note
79 indented under his hand made in the eleventh year of the reign of the
king's
80 majesty, that is now acknowledged himself to be indebted to me in the
sum
81 of five hundred pounds which note indented I would have my executor to
82 take notice of. **Item:** Furthermore, where **Sir John Molyneux, knight**, hath
very unkindly
83 used me in long detaining of a debt of three hundred pounds from me for
which
84 debt suit hath been by me prosecuted. And now the cause thereof
dependeth upon
85 hearing in the Court of Chancery which said suit my will and mind is
86 my executor shall prosecute after my decease with effect for the speedy
obtaining

page 3:

87 the same monies the better to pay my debts. And likewise the said Sir
John Molyneux oweth

88 to me the sum of forty pounds as by an order made for me in the Chancery
about seven
89 years since³⁵⁹ may appear for obtaining whereof also I require my executor's
consideration
90 that the Court may be moved and so to get the said money. **Item:** Further-
more, where I have,
91 out of my love and kindness, been bound for divers several persons as
sureties for divers sums
92 of money for which I have several counter bonds (the most of which debts I
have paid)
93 my will and mind is my said executor do grow in consideration of the
several bonds. And
94 for so many of the said debts as he shall find and shall truly appear I have
paid, he
95 speedily take course of law or otherwise call for the said monies, the better
to perform the
96 legacies and bequests of this my testament and last will. And for and
concerning such
97 lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever as I am in any wise
interested as by

359 "sithens"

98 inheritance or otherwise, I give, will and bequeath the same to **my**
99 **wellbeloved brother**
100 **Richard Lovelace**, my heir at the common law. To have and to hold to him
101 and his heirs
102 forever. The estate of my said wife for her jointure for the term of her life
103 only
104 excepted, which I formerly have made and passed to her use (as by former
105 assuring
106 thereof made may appear). And lastly I do by these present renounce and
107 revoke all
108 former wills before this time by me made. And I hereby make and ordain
109 my said
110 wellbeloved brother Richard Lovelace my full and sole executor of this my
111 last will
112 and testament. In witness whereof I, the said Leonard Lovelace, have
113 hereunto set my
114 hand and seal the four and twentieth day of June one thousand six
115 hundred and
116 sixteen. And in the year of the reign of our sovereign Lord James, by the
117 grace of
118 god king of England, Scotland, France and Ireland the fourteenth and of
119 Scotland
120 the nine and fortieth. Leonard Lovelace. Sealed, signed and acknow-

110 ledged this by the testator the day of the date above written, containing
with this
111 sheet of paper, five sheets of paper having these interlining following³⁶⁰,
viz. in the
112 first leaf **Item:** I give and bequeath to the poor of Kingsdown the sum of five
pounds
113 of lawful money of England. I give and bequeath to the eldest daughter of
my cousin Launcelot
114 Lovelace of Canterbury the sum of fifteen pounds of lawful money of
England to be
115 paid to her within one year next after my decease. **Item:** in the second leaf
thirty
116 amended. And all other my household stuff whatsoever shall (not altering
the property
117 thereof or household stuff) interlined in the third leaf (which by the law I
may
118 or might be interested unto all) All interlined before sealing and delivery in
the
119 presence of us **William Lovelace, Robert Bossvile, Henry Knollys, Thomas**
120 **Jadwyn, scr.**

360 "folowing" (probate copy, not Hooper)

Margaret Clarke, widow Lovelace

Margaret, widow Lovelace, married Thomas Clarke who had two sons, both married when Margaret wrote her will. Thomas Clarke was alive when, with his consent, Margaret wrote her will.

No children are mentioned by Margaret in the main part of her will but there is a note at the end of it which is difficult to interpret:

“All the apparel bought by my husband I give to his 2 daughters-in-law to be divided. My daughter Susan to have the choice and some of it to the children”.

This implies that Thomas Clarke, Margaret's second husband, had two sons, one of whom was married to her daughter Susan. Or is Margaret just using the term “daughter” because this how she regarded the wife of one of her stepsons?

Margaret Clarke, like her first husband, lent money to her relatives. Her brother, Jervis Molyneux was to receive £100 but only upon condition that he paid the rest he owed her “for which two hundred and fifty pounds I have his bond of five hundred pounds”. Her nephew Henry Knowles owed her £100 of which his children were to have £80.

Apparently her husband, Thomas Clarke, owed her money which was to be used to satisfy an agreement made between her and William Skinner of Stamford, making "[such assurance in the law as I or my executor shall think fit or by learned counsel shall be advised](#)". By this agreement, some land was to be conveyed unto her niece Faith Molyneux "[and her heirs forever](#)". In additions, some people had, at Margaret's request (and presumably expense) purchased four houses in Farningham and these were to be conveyed to Amy Bullin and, on her death, to her son Thomas.

Margaret's cousin Edmond Molyneux, who was her executor, and Thomas Chapman had purchased land in Shoreham "[to the intent to convey it unto persons as I shall nominate and appoint](#)". This was eventually to be conveyed to Vivian Molyneux, the son of Sir John Molyneux but not until he was twenty one. Presumably Vivian was the son of the John Molyneux who had very unkindly used her first husband. Whilst Vivian was growing up, her executor was "[to receive the profits of the said lands and to be guardian unto him . . . and . . . yearly to allow unto him the annual profits thereof for his maintenance and education](#)".

There were further complications. James Martin, who had been Leonard's servant continued to work for Margaret and, like Leonard, she left him £30. Faith Molyneux and Martin were, however, obviously attracted to each other, perhaps Martin was courting her knowing that Faith was likely to be one of his mistress's heirs. But her aunt added a further rider to her will "[if she marry with James](#)

Martin she shall have none of (the legacy) but it shall be equally divided amongst her brothers and sister”.

It is interesting to note that whereas James Martin had been a witness to all of the will prior to this last addition and would have thus have heard it read out and know about Faith's prospects, the witnesses to this last addition were Elizabeth Cornwallis and John Molyneux. Did Faith and James come to know of it before the death of Faith's aunt (the will was proved in November 1622)? Did they marry with Faith losing her inheritance? Margaret might not have wanted James Martin to marry her niece but he still appeared to be in her favour since, as well as the £30, she gave him a mourning cloak.

With the will is an "inventory of those goods which were given by Margaret Clarke in her life time". Was this again a means of making sure that gifts she had made were not queried by her husband?

There is also a "note of her mournings black given". This includes details concerning some of her other belongings including "physic books" and a "petigree", an old spelling of “pedigree”?

1 In the name of god Amen. I, Margaret Clarke,
2 **wife of Thomas Clarke** of Kingsdown in the county of Kent, Esquire, being
sick of body but of
3 good and perfect memory at this present, thanks be to the Almighty god,
therefore by the consent of my
4 husband do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner
and form following: And **First**
5 I bequeath my soul into the hands of my blessed saviour, Jesus Christ,
hoping to stand
6 reconciled unto god by him and to have all my sins washed away in his
most precious blood.
7 And my body to be decently buried in the parish church of Kingsdown
aforesaid near
8 unto **my late husband Leonard Lovelace** at the discretion of my executors
hereafter to be named.
9 Touching my present estate wherewith it hath pleased god to bless me
withall, after my debts
10 and funeral expenses discharged, my will and meaning is to be distributed
in manner and form

11 following: **Item:** I bequeath unto my husband Thomas Clarke one hundred
pounds. And unto
12 **my goddaughter, Margaret Clarke**, fifty pounds. And one hundred pounds
to **my brother**
13 **Jervis Molyneux** upon condition that he do pay the other without suit of
law. Otherwise
14 my will and meaning is he shall not have one penny by this my will.
Which said money I will
15 my executors shall pay within one month after my executors shall receive it
of my said
16 brother or his assigns and not otherwise. For which two hundred and fifty
pounds I have his bond of five
17 hundred pounds. **Item:** I do bequeath to **my sister, the Lady Cornwallis** ten
pounds. And to **my niece**
18 **Knowles** ten pounds. Also I will four score pounds to **all the children of my**
nephew Knowles
19 equally to be divided. Which said legacies shalbe paid by my executor
within one month after
20 he shall receive of my nephew Henry Knowles³⁶¹ one hundred pounds for
which I have his bond.

361 probably the Henry Knollys who witnessed Leonard's will

21 And if he do not receive it, my meaning is my executor shall nor be charged
with the payment of
22 these legacies. **Item:** I give to **my niece Faith Molyneux** one hundred
pounds to be paid at the age
23 of 24 years or upon the day of her marriage which shall first happen, in the
meantime
24 my executor to pay her the profit of that hundred pounds. **Item:** I give to
my nephew
25 **William Molyneux, the son of my brother Edmund Molyneux,** fifty pounds
to be paid to him,
26 by my executor, within six months after my decease. **Item:** I give to **my**
nephew, John
27 **Cornwallis,** fifty pounds to be paid within six months after my decease by
my executor.

page 2:

28 **Item:** I give to **my servant James Martin** thirty pounds to be paid by my
executor within
29 three months after my decease. **Item:** I give to **my nephew Edmond**
Molyneux twenty pounds
30 to be paid to him within six months after my decease. **Item:** I give to **my**
goddaughter Mary

31 **Bruer** five pounds to be paid within one year after my decease. **Item:** I give
to **my godson**
32 **Thomas Bosseville** the sum of five pounds to be paid within one year after
my decease.
33 **Item:** I give to **my goddaughter Margaret Carrier** forty shillings to be paid
within three
34 months after my decease. **Item:** I give to **my goddaughter Margaret**
Theobald three pounds
35 to be paid within three months after my decease by my executor. **Item:** I
give to **my god**
36 **daughter Margaret Crofts** forty shillings to be paid within one year if she
then be
37 living. **Item:** I give to **my servant Elizabeth Chapman** the sum of four
pounds to be
38 paid within three months after my decease by my executor. **Item:** I give to
my servant
39 **Marie Chapman** twenty shillings. **Item:** I give to all the rest of **my servants**
ten shill
40 ings a piece. **Item:** I will that the poor shall have distributed at my burial
the
41 sum of five pounds and five pounds more I will shall be given to the poor of
42 **Kingsdown** within one year after my decease. **Item:** I give to **my old**
servant

43 **Mary Symons** four pounds to be paid within one year after my decease.
Item: I
44 give to **my servant Robert Addill** twenty shillings. Item: I give to **Mary**
Bullin twenty
45 nobles to be paid within one year after my decease. Item: I give to my ??
servant Jane
46 **Fletcher** forty shillings to be paid by my executor out of four pounds which
he oweth
47 me. Item: I give twenty shillings for one ring to **Mrs. Dorothy Theobald**
th'elder³⁶². And
48 of this my will and testament I do constitute and appoint **my very loving**
cousin Mr.
49 **Edmond Molyneux of Westerham** in the county of Kent, gent., my sole
executor not doub
50 ting but that he will have a special care in the performance thereof. And
lastly I do
51 make and ordain **my loving friends John Theobald, th'elder, and John**
Theobald, the younger

362 John Tebold (Theobald), son of Richard Tebold of Seal married Dorothy Morgan about 1580 and their son John married Dorothy Culpepper about 1614. Thus Dorothy Morgan would be Mrs. Dorothy Theobald, the elder. John and Dorothy Culpepper had a daughter baptised Margaret, in Seal, on 17th June 1621, nine months before Margaret Clarke wrote her will. She could have been Margaret's goddaughter.

52 **Esquires**, overseers of this my last will and testament desiring the, and
either of them, that
53 this my will may be only executed and do give to either of them forty
shillings a piece
54 to buy them rings. In witness whereof to this my present and last will and
to every sheet
55 thereof, being three in number, two whereof do concern legacies of chattels
56 personal and the other of lands which certain persons are to dispose
according to my true
57 intent and desire, I have set my hand and seal the one and twenty day of
March in
58 the nineteenth year of the reign of our sovereign Lord James, by the grace
of god
59 of England, France and Ireland, king, defender of the faith, etc. and of
Scotland five
60 and fifty. An. dm. 1621. **Memorandum** that my will and meaning is that all
the overplus of my
61 goods not before bequeathed, my executor shall have, my funeral
expenses, legacies
62 and debts discharged. This was written before the sealing and declaring
hereof, the
63 mark of Margaret Clark. Sealed and declared in the presence of Ja. Martin
64 **Thomas Clarke, junior, Nicholas Hayman, William Songhurst.**

65 And for as concerning all those lands which divers and several men are
and stand seized of an
66 estate in fee simple or otherwise to the intent that they shall make estates
and convey
67 ances of the lands unto such persons as I shall at any time nominate and
appoint or by my
68 will define them so to do. **First:** Whereas I have entered into articles of
agreement
69 between me and **William Skinner of Stamford** upon payment of ?? monies
by me or my executor unto him the said Skinner, the which money is to be
paid out of the money that
70 my husband Thomas Clarke, Esquire, doth owe me that he shall then make
such assur
71 rance in the law as I or my executor shall think fit or by learned counsel
shalbe
72 advised. Now my will and desire is that the said William Skinner shall
assure the se
73 curity to my niece Faith Molyneux and to her heirs forever. And I will all
those lands
74 wherein **William Johnson** dwelleth and occupieth shalbe by the purchasers
thereof
75 conveyed unto my said niece and her heirs to which she is joint purchaser.
Item: my

76 will and desire is that such persons as have at my request purchased four
houses in
77 **Farningham** with th'appurtenances shall assign and convey them unto
Amy Bullin for
78 term of her life and after her decease to **Thomas Bullin, her son**, and his
heirs forever.
79 Also my will and desire is that, whereas my cousin Edmond Molyneux and
Thomas Chapman
80 have purchased land in **Shoreham** to the intent to convey it unto persons
as I shall nomi
81 nate and appoint, my desire is that they shall, at the age of one and twenty
years, convey and
82 appoint it to **Vivian Molyneux, the son of Sir John Molyneux**, and to his
heirs forever. And my desire
83 is to have my cousin Edmond Molyneux to receive the profits of the said
lands and to be guardian unto
84 him until he shall accomplish the age of four and twenty years³⁶³ and in the
mean time
85 yearly to allow unto him the annual profits thereof for his maintenance and
education. In

363 definitely twenty-four here although, according to line 81, the land was to be conveyed to him at the age of twenty-one

86 witness whereof to this my will and declaration I have hereto set to my
hand and seal, the one
87 and twenty day of March in the year of our Lord god 1621. The mark of
Margaret Clarke.
88 Sealed and delivered in the presence of Ja. Martin, Thomas Clarke, junior,
Nicholas Hay=
89 man, William Songhurst. **Item:** whereas I have given to my niece Faith
Molyneux
90 lands and other goods by this my last will, my meaning is that if she marry
with James
91 Martin she shall have none of it but shalbe equally divided amongst her
brothers
92 and sister Margaret. Witnesses to this last addition Elizabeth Cornwallis,
John
93 **Molyneux.**

94 An inventory of those goods which were given by
95 Margaret Clarke in her life time in the presence of
96 us whose names are here under written

97 **Item:** to my husband: A ?? silver and gilt. **Item:** to the Lady Cornwallis
two great silver tankards

98 **Item:** to Mr. Ed. Molyneux A silver basin and ewer. **Item:** to **Mr. Coot** a
maudlin cup of silver. **Item:**
99 **Mrs. Knowle** one wrought silver cup [to Mr. John Theobald the younger
the other]³⁶⁴ cup of wrought
100 silver. **Item:** to Mr. Faith Molyneux³⁶⁵ a silver tankard, a sugar box and a
spoon of silver, to little Mark
101 great Clerk, a silver porringer and spoon. **Item:** I give to **Leonard Carrier**
three pounds.

102 A note of her mournings black given

103 **Item:** to the person a mourning gown and twenty shillings of money for his
breaking his ground and
104 his burnings. Black gown for Faith, black gown for **Bess Chapman**,
105 James Martin a cloak. Twelve black gowns for poor women, scutchen and
cloaks
106 for them that carry her to the church. A cloak for Mr. John Theobald,
junior; one for Mr.

364 words in brackets crossed out

365 is this "Mrs." Faith Molyneux and Margaret's niece? On line 111, it is definitely "Mrs." Was Mrs. Faith the mother of Margaret's niece?

107 William Molyneux, one for my husband and one a piece for his two sons
and 2 gowns for
108 their wives. A cloak for Vivian Molyneux. A cloak for **Sir H. Bosseville**. A
gown
109 for his lady. A gown for my Lady Cornwallis. ³⁶⁶
110 A C--- for **little Tom Clarke**. A gown for Amy Bullin.
111 **Item:** The bedding in my chamber and Mr. Lovelace's chamber is given to
Mrs. Faith Molyneux.
112 A great yellow rug in the great chamber to her. All the apparel bought by
my husband I give to his 2 daughters-in-law to be divided. **My daughter**
Susan to have
113 the choice and some of it to the children. All the rest of my apparel to Mrs.
Faith, linen
114 and woollen. Crossclothes? and quoinies to be given to the women that did
minister and attend her
115 I give to my wellbeloved husband my best cloak. To Mrs Faith Molyneux
the physic
116 books. My petigre³⁶⁷ to Mr. Thomas Molyneux, my brother; if he die
without heirs to

366 "If it hold out a cloak for old Mr. Theobald" crossed out

367 pedigree

117 Mr. Edmund Molyneux of Westerham. John Theobald, junior. James
Martin **Item:** my diaper
118 and damask I give to my niece Faith Molyneux. The rest of my linen I give
the one
119 half to my niece Faith and the other half to my cousin **Ellen Molyneux and**
Marie
120 **Molyneux**, daughters to my cousin Edmond Molyneux. Witness to this
John
121 Molyneux, **Christian Williard**

This will seems much more muddled than others attributed to Nicholas Hooper but, from the handwriting, it is definitely written by the same person who wrote the will of Henry Reynolds where Nicholas Hooper describes himself as "writer hereof" and there is also Nicholas Hooper's "mark" at the top of the will.

Nicolas Hooper's
mark

- 1 In³⁶⁸ the name of god Amen. The last day of December in the year of our
2 Lord god one thousand five hundred, four score and six and in the nine and
3 twentieth
4 year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of god
Queen of
England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith. I, Thomas Lowe

5 of Tonbridge in the County of Kent, **Baker**, being very sick of body but yet of
good
6 . . . mind and remembrance, thanks therefore be given to almighty God,
Do ordain
7 and make this my present testament and last will in manner and form
following, that is
8 to say, **First** and principally, I give, commend and bequeath my soul to
almighty
9 god, my maker, and to Jesus Christ, his dear son, my only saviour and
redeemer, by
10 whose merit, precious death and bloodshedding, I trust to be saved and my
body to the
11 Earth to be buried in the Churchyard of Tonbridge aforesaid. **Item:** I give
and
12 bequeath to the poor people within the Town and parish of Tonbridge to be
divided
13 between them, at the discretion of my executors hereafter named, at my
burial 20s.
14 And in respect of the goodwill which I ?? to the poor, **my natural mother,**
Johane
15 **Browne**, being poor, I give and bequeath to her, my said mother, the sum of
five
16 pounds lawful money to be paid to her within one half year next after my

17 decease if she be then living. And also I give to my said mother, That bed
with
18 the stead and all that belongeth and apportioneth to the same and with
one now used
19 with the same ?? she now lieth to be delivered immediately after my
decease.
20 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Elizabeth Atherfold, my servant, 5s. Item:** I
give
21 and bequeath to **my three sons, viz.: William, Richard and Thomas,** to
either of
22 them the sum of fifteen pounds of lawful money apiece to be paid to them
and
23 . . . of their age and several ages of One and twenty years.
24 (And if it shall happen) either of one of them to decease before his, their or
any of them
25 . . . Then I will his, and their part and parts so deceased, shall
26 remain . . . to the overliuer of them and . . . to be equally divided between
them. And if it happen all my said sons
27 decease their and every of their age aforesaid, Then I will all their portions
shall
28 remain to **my daughter, Mavis,** if she be then living. **Item:** I will and
bequeath

29 to my said daughter, Mavis, the sum of Ten pounds of lawful money to be
delivered to
30 her at her full age of One and twenty years or at the day of her marriage
which
31 shall first happen. And if it happen my said daughter to decease before her
32 said age of 21 years or marriage aforesaid, then I will her said portion shall
remain
33 to my said sons, equally between them, or as many of them as shalbe then
living.
34 **Item:** I give and bequeath to my son Thomas Lowe my greatest joined
chest
35 And to William, my son, my next greatest new chest to be delivered to
them and either of
36 ?? ??³⁶⁹ age and age aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Mavis**
Lowe, my
37 ??³⁷⁰ ?? the sum of five shillings to be paid into the hands of my overseers
38 ?? to be employed to the necessity of her at the discretion of the said
overseers.

369 this looks like "god my maker" which does not make sense at this point - see also line 63.

370 looks like "whose merit"

39 The residue of all my goods and Chattels, as well moveable as
unmoveable, my debts
40 and legacies being paid and ??³⁷¹ discharged, I wholly, fully and with
good effect
41 intent and purpose, give and bequeath to **Alice, my wellbeloved wife,**
toward the bringing
42 up of my children and payment of my debts, which Alice I make, constitute
43 and ordain my whole and sole executrix of this my will to see the same
duly and
44 ?? proved and my body honestly brought to the Earth. And I make and
45 ordain **my trusty and wellbeloved in Christ and trusty neighbour and**
friend, John
46 **Brokes, Richard Darrel and Thomas Baker, the younger,** to be supervisors
and overseers
47 to this my will whom I earnestly desire and request to take some dutiful
pains
48 to see this my will executed and performed according to the true meaning
of the same.
49 To each one I give, for their pains therein to be taken, over and besides
their charge to
50 be laid out in and about the same, the sum of six shillings and eight

371 looks like "asmerit"

51 pence apiece. Provided always, and my very will and mind is that, if it
shall
52 happen my said wife and executrix to marry again, Then the said Alice³⁷²
shall
53 . . marriage shall enter bond of one hundred pounds with one or two
sufficient
54 sureties . . with her, to my said overseers, or two of them, their Executors
55 or assigns, for the true . . payment of all the said sum and sums and
56 portions before herein by me willed to my aforesaid three sons and
daughter
57 above named at their one and twenty age and age before herein ??
according
58 to the true meaning of this my will. Or otherwise shall and will before her
said
59 marriage satisfy and pay, or cause to be paid, to my overseers, or two of
them, their
60 executors or assigns, all the said portion and portions, sum and sums, and
every of them
61 before herein by me willed to my said sons and daughter. And then I will
that my said overseers

372 Elizabeth crossed out and Alice substituted; is this the sign of a "professional" scribe, not knowing the people concerned particularly well, writing in the wrong name and having to change it?

62 ?? so using of them as shall have the said sum and sums, or any parcell
thereof, shall put out the same
63 ?? ??³⁷³ ?? that he and they honestly may, and the profit and benefit
arising
64 whose merit³⁷⁴ the same shall yield, satisfy and pay to my said wife, or her
executors, for
65 Earth³⁷⁵ to be the education and bringing up of my said children.
66 And then I will that my said Overseers, or so many of them as shall have
the said
67 portion or any of the same their executors or administrators according as I
?? satisfied ?? in them, shall faithfully, duly
68 and truly pay over the said Stock of money so by them, or any of them,
reserved, unto
69 my said children and every of them or the overliver of them, at the age
age³⁷⁶, time and

373 the first three words are the same as on line 36

374 this is the same two words as at the beginning of line 37; they are easy to read but make sense in neither context

375 definitely "Earth" but what does it mean here?

376 "age" was also repeated on line 36 above but here both the duplicated words and their context are very clear to read

70 times herein before mentioned, according to the reason of this my will any
thing herein
71 before mentioned to the contrary hereof in any wise notwithstanding. In
witness whereof
72 I, the said Thomas Lowe, to this my present, last will and testament, have
set my hand
73 and Seal ?? the day and year first above written in the presence of **John**
Brooter, Roger? Zacherie
?? ??, Thomas Bokes,
William Children, Nicolas
Hooper and others the mark **Thomas**
Lowe
(a vertical cross)

*The **Lucks** of Penshurst*

Three wills have survived for the Lucks of Penshurst:

	dated	buried		
Anne Luck		2 Feb 1611	PCC: Wood 19	
Richard Luck	7 Nov 1612	30 Jun 1613	PCC: Prob10/305; Capell 81, Prob 11/122	page l.140
John Luck	6 Mar 1625/6	Mar 1625/6	CKS: Prs/w/10/101	page l.151

A transcript of Anne's will is given in [More Families & Transcripts](#)

Richard's will was written by John Hooper, notary publique of Tonbridge who, like his father Nicholas before him and his son George after him, wrote numerous wills for people in the surrounding villages. It was proved on 1st September 1613, Richard having been buried on 30th June 1613.

The will of John Luck was written by Thomas Leddall, another scrivener who wrote a large number of wills for people in the Penshurst area.

Wills, which have not been investigated, have also survived from Hadlow, Shipbourne and West Peckham:

Edward Luck	West Peckham	1590	CKS: Drb/Pw 15; Drb/Pwr 18.20
Ellinor Luck	Hadlow	1595	CKS: Drb/Pw 17; Drb/Pwr 18.413
Ellen Luck	West Peckham	1604/5	CKS: Drb/Pw 19; Drb/Pwr 19I.406
George Lucke	Shipbourne	1622	CKS: Drb/Pw 25

See [More Families & Transcripts](#) for George Lucke's family.

Edward Luck's will was written by Thomas Tuttesham

The first Luck (Lock or Lucke) recorded in the parish register was the Richard (p169³⁸²) who was buried on 27th December 1558; he could have been the grandfather of the Richard whose will has survived.

An Elizabeth Locke was buried on 15th July 1574 but she has not been identified.

Richard Luck, yeoman

Richard Luck, a yeoman owning land and tenements in Penshurst and Asherst, was married to Susan Johnson. They had no children but Richard was only twenty-nine and they might not have been married very long. Richard made his father-in-law and uncle supervisors of his will and specified complicated

³⁸² "p" indicates a reference in the Penshurst database

alternative arrangements should his wife have been pregnant which is unlikely since no child of Richard was baptised in Penshurst.

Richard had a brother William who was to be his main heir if his wife was not pregnant and he mentions four sisters, one of whom, Elizabeth, was married to William Beecher. Although there were Beechers in Penshurst, it has not been possible to identify the William who married Elizabeth Luck. No baptism was recorded for her but, particularly since she was married with a son by 1612, she was probably the eldest child and possibly born and baptised in her mother's parish which might not have been Penshurst.

From the parish records, Richard originally had three other sisters in addition to the four mentioned but only one brother, William. The burials of two of his sisters were recorded in Penshurst, both in 1611 but the baptism of Jane on 20th June 1580 was recorded; she possibly died as an infant. If the William Lock who was buried in 1596 was Richard's father, he left a family of eight or nine children, the eldest about twenty and the youngest two. The 1596 burial could have been that of another William but the father of Anne and Marjorie died before 1611.

If Elizabeth was born about 1576 (the other children are too close together for her to have been born later), William is likely to have been born in the late 1540s and in his early fifties when he died. The family tree below can be assembled from the will and parish register.

p171 William - Clemence p174																				
7 Nov 1596																				

bur:	p175	p176	p179	p173	p191	p187	p190	p199												
	Margery	Jane	Anne	Richard	- Susan Johnson[R] ³⁸³	Margaret[R]	Sara[R]	Clemence[R]												
bap:	1 Feb 1578	1 Jun 1580	4 Feb 1581	29 Dec 1583		27 Mar 1586	15 Dec 1588	11 Apr 1591												
will:				7 Nov 1612																
bur:	16 Aug 1611	2 Feb 1611 ³⁸⁴		30 Jun 1613	-----															
	p178						p180		p188	p203										
	Elizabeth[R]	- William Beecher	p172					Mary	- William[R]	- Ann ³⁸⁵										
bap:																				
bur:								24 Dec 1618	2 Jun 1594	17 Sep 1649										
	p177						p202													
	Richard[R]						Elizabeth													
bap:	before 1612						17 Dec 1618													

	p181	p183	p204	p184	p205	p185	p186													
	Francis (son)	William	Sara	John	Margaret	Richard	Thomas													
bap:	28 Aug 1620	25 Feb 1624	18 Jan 1625	22 Apr 1628	5 Sep 1630	14 Feb 1633	25 Dec 1635													
bur:	31 Aug 1649 ³⁸⁶							23 Nov 1641												

William's wife, Clemence, married again - see [Streafielde in More Families & Transcripts](#)

- 383** [R] indicates a person mentioned in Richard's will
- 384** both Margery and Anne were recorded, on their burials, as the daughters of William Locke, deceased
- 385** Thomas, the youngest son, was recorded as the son of William and Ann but the name of the "wife of William Locke" who was buried in September 1649 was not given
- 386** Perhaps this William was rather old to be described as "son of William Lucke", the burial could have been of p188 with his wife Ann buried a fortnight later but p188's father (p171) must have died before 1649 since his older children were in the late 1570s.

The widow of the William heading this tree is known to be the Clemence Luck who married Richard Streatefelde (p735) since he left money to his step-children in his will of 1606 - see [Streatefelde in More Families & Transcripts](#).

Whilst Richard's wife, Susan, was living in his dwelling house in Penshurst (a year if she was not pregnant; otherwise for as long as the child lived or until he/she was twenty-one) she was allowed to have nine cords of wood yearly for firewood and fuel. A cord was 128 cubic feet of cut wood originally determined by the use of a cord or string; this means she was to have an amount of fuel which, if it had all been collected at the same time (most unlikely) would have occupied a space 10 feet by 20 feet and 6 feet high. It was to be cut only from pollard and other trees which were not timber trees, that is from such "[wood as may best be spared and without making any wilful waste in the taking thereof](#)".

She was also allowed "[competent timber . . . for her needful repairing of my said dwelling house and the barns and buildings thereto belonging as often as need shall require](#)" and also hedgeboot, that is keeping the hedges in repair, which was to be "[taken in good and husbandlike order and manner](#)".

1 In³⁸² the name of God Amen. The seventh day of November Ao dm 1612.
And in the tenth year of
2 the reign of our sovereign Lord King James of England, France and Ireland
and of Scotland the
3 six and fortieth. I, Richard Luck, of Penshurst in the county of Kent,
yeoman, being³⁸³ at this time weak
4 and sickly and thereby, as by many examples, put in mind of my last end,
notwithstanding
5 of perfect remembrance, thanks be given to God, do ordain and make this
my testament and last
6 will in manner following: **First:** I commit my soul to Almighty God, my
maker, with an assured
7 hope of salvation through his mercy in the merit of his dear son Jesus
Christ, my saviour, and

382 decorated "I"

383 "beeing"; the Hoopers usually used "bee", "mee", "shalbee" (shall be), etc. In this will "bee" was used throughout except for in lines 5 and 23 but "me" rather than "mee".

8 my body to the earth from whence it was taken with an assured hope of
resurrection to eternal life
9 through Jesus Christ, my redeemer. **Item:** I will 40s to be distributed in the
day of my burial
10 to the poor of Penshurst and 10s to the poor of **Asherst** to be paid to the
churchwarden and
11 overseers there for them within half a year next after my decease. The
residue of all my goods,
12 cattles³⁸⁴ and chattels I wholly and fully give and bequeath to **Susan, my**
wellbeloved wife,
13 whom I make and ordain my sole and only executrix to see this my will
proved, my debts
14 and my body decently brought to the earth.³⁸⁵ And I make and ordain
supervisors of this

384 "cattells"

385 the following was inserted here; it was written at the side of the will in what looks like the same hand but with a different pen and not so neatly:

Item: Whereas I should pay unto **my brother William Luck** five pounds good and lawful money by the gift of **my sister Anne Luck**, I will that my brother, William Luck, in consideration of this my gift shall not demand it of my executrix. **Item:** I will and give unto **Richard Beecher, my godson**, five pounds to be paid by my wife to **his father, William Beecher**, within three years next after my decease.

15 my testament and last will **my loving father-in-law Richard Johnson of**
16 **Tonbridge and mine uncle**
17 **Robert Stretfield of Penshurst, yeoman**, to whom I give for a token of my
18 goodwill, over and above
19 any charges³⁸⁶ that they, or either of them, shall sustain about this my will
20 or the execution of anything
21 contained in the same, the sum of three shillings and four pence a piece.

19 This is the last will also of me, the said Richard Luck, made and declared
20 the day and year abovesaid touching
21 the ordering and disposing of all my lands and tenements. **Item:** I will unto
22 the said Susan my wife
23 in lieu and recompense and instead of such jointure as I did make to her or
24 to any other person to her use
25 at or before my intermarriage with her, one annuity or annual rent of
26 twelve pounds of good and
27 lawful money of England, issuing and to be taken by her out of and in all
28 my lands and tenements in
29 Penshurst aforesaid and Asherst in the said county for by and during the
30 whole term of her natural life

25 upon the feasts of the nativity of our Lord Christ, Th'annunciation of the
blessed virgin Mary, the nativity
26 of Saint John the Baptist and Saint Michael Th'archangel by equal portions
27 or within fourteen days next ensuing every of the same feasts. And for
default of payment thereof accordingly
28 I will it shall be lawful for my said wife and her assigns to enter and
distrain³⁸⁷ upon all or any of
29 my said lands and tenements and the distress or distresses there so taken
and found lawfully to bear,
30 lead, drive, carry away, detain and keep until the said annuity of £12 be
paid to her according
31 to the tenor and true meaning of this my will. The first payment whereof
shall be at that feast
32 of the feasts aforesaid that shall come and be next after the end of one
whole year next after my
33 decease, during which said one year I will my said wife shall have the
occupation of all my said
34 lands and tenements unletten and receive the rents of such thereof as are
letten during the one year. Provided
35 always, if my said wife shall claim any other jointure or dower than the
said £12 out of, in or to my said lands or tenements or

387 "disteigne"

36 any of them, then i will that this my gift and grant of the said £12 yearly to
her during her life shall be void.
37 And likewise I do provide and ordain that if my said wife to be with child at
the time of my decease,
38 that then my said wife shall have and hold all my said lands and
tenements until the full age of
39 twenty and one years of the same child, towards the bringing up of the
same child till his said
40 age, or if ir decease before the said age, then till the decease of the same
child and one

end of first page of original

- and one whole year next
- after the decease of the same child. And then the said annuity of £12 shall
not take
- place till the age of 21 years of the same child or, if the same child decease
within the

page 2 of probate copy:

1 said age, then not till one year after the said decease thereof. And further I
will and

2 devise to the said child, if it be a man child, all my said lands and
tenements situated in
3 Penshurst aforesaid and elsewhere to hold to the same man child after his
age of 21
4 years to the only use and behoof of the same man child and his heirs
forever. But if it
5 shall be a woman child, then I will all my lands in Penshurst only to the
same woman child
6 and to her heirs and assigns forever, to come to the same woman child at
her age of 21
7 years. And then all other my lands in Asherst aforesaid or elsewhere
except in Penshurst
8 aforesaid, I will to **William Luck, my brother**, and his heirs forever, to come
to him and them
9 at the age of 21 years to be accomplished by the said woman child, or if
she decease within
10 the said age, then at the end of one year after the decease of the same
woman child. Provided
11 always, if the said Susan, my wife, shall not be with child at the time of my
decease,
12 then I will and give all my said lands and tenements in Penshurst and
Asherst to the said

13 William Luck, my brother, to come to him at the end of one whole year next
after my
14 decease and then to hold to him for, by and during the whole term of the
natural life of
15 the said William. And after his decease, I will all my said lands and
tenements to the heirs
16 of the body of the said William lawfully begotten forever. But, if the said
William, my brother,
17 decease without such heirs or heir of his body lawfully begotten, then I will
that all my
18 said lands and tenements with th'appurtenances shall be and remain to
Richard Beecher, my sister
19 **Elizabeth's son**, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten; and for
default of such heirs
20 to **Elizabeth, Margaret, Sara and Clemence, my sisters**, and to the heirs of
the said Elizabeth,
21 Margaret, Sara and Clemence forever. Provided always, if my said lands
and tenements
22 in Penshurst and Asherst aforesaid, shall come to the said William, my
brother, by virtue of
23 this my will, then I will the said William, his heirs or assigns, shall pay out
of my said

24 land and tenements, to my said four sisters the sum of forty pounds of
lawful
25 english money equally between them, that is to say, to every of them the
sum of ten pounds
26 of lawful english money to be paid to them within three whole years next
after my said lands and
27 tenements shall come to my said brother. And for default of payment
thereof accordingly,
28 I will it shall be lawful for my said sisters, and every of them, so unpaid to
enter upon my
29 said land and tenements and the same to hold and enjoy till they, and
every of them, be
30 fully paid thereof according to the intent and true meaning of this my will.
Item: I will
31 and provide that my said wife and her assigns, for, by and during so long
time as my
32 said land and tenements shall be and belong to her to be by her enjoyed by
virtue of this
33 my will, shall and may have and take for her and their necessary firewood
and fuel to be
34 spent in the now dwelling house of me, the said Richard, situated in
Penshurst aforesaid,

35 nine cords³⁸⁸ of wood yearly to be cut and taken only of the topping of such
pollard
36 and other trees upon the premises as are not timber trees. And of willows,
olihallon,
37 pollard, stubbs and such other wood as may best be spared and without
making any wilful
38 waste in the taking thereof. And further I will that during and so long as
the same
39 my lands and tenements shall be by her holden by virtue of this my will,
she, my said wife,
40 shall and may have competent timber upon my said lands for her needful
repairing
41 of my said dwelling house and the barns and buildings thereto belonging
as often as need
42 shall require to be by her maintained and kept without making of any
waste in the taking
43 thereof. And without making of any other strip or waste or felling or taking
any of the
44 wood or underwood upon my said lands and tenements further than is
limited and appoin

45 ted by this my will except only for hedgeboot to be also taken in good and
husbandlike
46 order and manner. In witness whereof I have to this my present testament
and last will
47 set my hand and seal yeven the day and year first above written. Richard
Luck.
48 Sealed, subscribed and acknowledged by the said Richard Luck in the
presence of Richard
49 Johnson and **John Hooper, notary public.** The mark of **Thomas Budgen,**
William Beecher.

John Luck, yeoman

The relationship between Richard and John, the two testators is not known. No baptisms were recorded, in Penshurst, for John's older children who are known only from his will. Since John mentions his grandson, Richard Heath, Dorothy was probably born about 1600 and John himself about 1570. Thomas whose baptism was recorded was most likely the Thomas Luck buried in 1613 since he was not mentioned in his father's will. Although John's younger children were underage in 1626, the youngest, Clemence, was twelve.

<i>will:</i>	p140 John - Clemence[J] ³⁸⁹ p135										
<i>bur:</i>	6 Mar 1626 Mar 1626										
<hr/>											
	p133 Elizabeth[J]	p139 Richard Burckham[J]	p144 Richard[J]	p131 Dorothy[J]	p 130 - ?? Heath	p183 Edward[J]	p210 Marie[J]	p193 Thomas	p189 John[J]	p192 William[J]	p197 Clemence[J]
<i>bap:</i>											
<i>bur:</i>	9 Aug 160 9 Dec 1613										
<i>born:</i>	2 Jun 1611 30 Jan 1614										
	p134 Richard[J] before 1626										

John owned a mansion house, a messuage, tenement and lands called Durgates and Bodfield in Wadhurst in Sussex which is about twelve miles southeast of Penshurst. Richard, probably John's eldest son, was to receive all this land, etc, directly on his father's death plus all the household stuff from Durgates, the mansion house. Perhaps John had lived in Wadhurst for the first part of his married life; this could be the reason his elder children were not recorded in Penshurst.

His wife, Clemence, whom he appointed his executrix, was to have his messuage, tenement and lands in Penshurst for the rest of her life; on her death, Edward, the second son, was to inherit them.

John's two married daughters were each to receive £2 whilst Marie was left 100 marks (£66.33) to be paid within a year of her father's death. She was therefore

389 [J] indicates a persn mentioned in John's will

probably nearly twenty-one at the beginning of 1626, born about two years before Thomas. Clemence was also to receive 100 marks when she reached the age of twenty-one but, whilst Marie's legacy was to be paid by John's wife (who was his executrix), Richard was to pay Clemence out of the tenement and lands he had inherited in Wadhurst.

John and William, John's two underage, surviving sons were each to have £200 paid to them by Richard at the rate of £20 a year for the ten succeeding years after John's death.

Will of John Luck of Penshurst

written 6th March 1625/6

transcript from original

1 In the name of god Amen. The sixth day of March in the
2 first year of the reign of our sovereign Lord King Charles. And in the
3 year of our Lord God, one thousand six hundred twenty and five. I, John
4 Luck of Penshurst in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being sickly and weak
5 of body but of a sound and perfect memory, thanks be to Almighty God,
6 do ordain and make this my last will and testament in manner and form
7 following: **First** and principally I bequeath my soul unto Almighty God,
8 my maker, and to Jesus Christ, my only saviour by whose death and
passion

9 I trust to be saved, committing my body to the earth and to be buried in the
10 churchyard of Penshurst aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath to the
11 poor people of the said parish thirty shillings to be distributed to them on
12 day of my burial by mine executrix hereafter named. **Item:** I give and
bequeath unto **Elizabeth,**
13 **my eldest daughter, the wife of Richard Burckham,** forty shillings of lawful
english
14 money to be ^{*390} paid unto her within one whole year next after my decease
by
15 mine executrix hereafter named. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Richard**
Luck,
16 **my son,** all my household stuff standing and being in my mansion house
17 situated in **Wadhurst in the county of Sussex** commonly called **Durgate.**
Item:
18 I give and bequeath unto **Dorothy, my daughter,** forty shillings of lawful
19 money as aforesaid to be ^{*} paid unto her within one whole year next after
my
20 decease by mine executrix hereafter named. **Item:** I give and bequeath
unto

21 **Richard Heath, my said daughter Dorothy's son**, five pounds of like lawful
22 money as aforesaid to be^{*} paid unto him or his assigns within one whole
23 year next after my decease by mine executrix as aforesaid. **Item:**
24 I give and bequeath unto **Marie Luck, my daughter**, one hundred marks³⁹¹
25 of lawful english money to be paid unto her or her assigns within one
26 whole year next after my decease by mine executrix hereafter named.

page 2:

27 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Clemence Luck, my daughter**³⁹², one
hundred marks
28 of lawful english money to be^{*} paid unto her or her assigns when she^{*} shall
29 accomplish the full age of one and twenty years or day of marriage which
shall first
30 happen by Richard Luck, my son, out of my tenement and lands lying in
Wadhurst
31 aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **John and William Luck, my sons**,
32 unto either of them two hundred pounds a piece of lawful english money,
to

391 £66 13s 4d

392 the top of page 2 is damaged so that to whom this bequest was to be paid cannot be read but that it was 100 marks to his daughter Clemence is clear from later on in the will

33 be paid unto them, or either of their assigns, by Richard Luck, my said son,
34 in manner and form hereafter in my will expressed. The residue of all
35 my moveable goods, cattle³⁹³, chattels and credits whatsoever
unbequeathed, my debts, legacies and
36 funeral discharged³⁹⁴, I give and bequeath unto **Clemence, my wife**, whom
I
37 do make my full and sole executrix of this my last will and testament.
38 And I do make my loving brother Thomas Luck of Wadhurst supervisor
39 thereof to see my will performed, to whom I give and bequeath two
shillings
40 over and above his charges and pains taken therein.

41 This is the last will and testament of me, John Lucke, made and
42 declared the day and year first above written concerning the ordering and
43 disposing of all my lands, tenements and hereditaments lying and being
within the
44 parishes of Penshurst and Wadhurst aforesaid or elsewhere, etc. **First:** I
give

393 "cattell"

394 "dischardged"; also "chardges" on line 40

45 and bequeath unto Clemence, my wife, all my messuage, tenement and
lands
46 lying and being in Penshurst aforesaid, to have, hold and enjoy unto the
said
47 Clemence, my wife, during the term of her natural life. And after the
48 decease of the said Clemence, my wife, then I will and devise all the said
49 messuage, tenement and lands lying in Penshurst aforesaid shall be* and
50 remain to **Edward Luck, my son**, to have, hold and enjoy to the
51 said Edward, my son, his heirs and assigns, forever.
52 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto Richard Luck, my said son, all my
53 messuage, tenement and lands called Durgates and **Bodfield**, or by what
54 name or several names they or either of them be called or known,

page 3:

55 together, situated, lying and being in Wadhurst aforesaid, to have, hold
and
56 enjoy unto the said Richard, my son, his heirs and assigns forever.
Conditionally
57 that he shall pay, or cause to be paid, unto John and William Luck, my
58 said sons, or unto either of their assigns twenty pounds a piece, yearly and
59 every year during the term of ten years next after my decease,
60 of lawful english money until the sum of two hundred pounds a piece be*
paid as abovesaid. And

61 if the said Richard, my son, his heirs and assigns, shall refuse to
62 pay the said yearly rent of twenty pounds a piece unto the said John and
63 William, or either of their assigns, during the term aforesaid, or likewise
64 refuse to make payment of the said sum of one hundred marks unto my
said
65 daughter Clemence at her age of one and twenty years or day of marriage,
66 which shall first happen as aforesaid, then I will and devise that the said
John and
67 William, my sons, and Clemence, my daughter, shall enter in an upon all
68 my said tenement and land before given and bequeathed to Richard, my
son,
69 and the same to have, hold and enjoy until the said sum of two hundred
70 pounds a piece and one hundred marks be fully satisfied and paid
71 with all arrearages of the same, if any be* ?? ?? or any thing herein
72 contained to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding. In witness whereof
73 to this my present will and testament containing three sheets of
74 paper, I have set my mark and to the last my hand and seal, yeven the
75 day and year first above written.

John Lucke

Sealed published and
acknowledged in the
presence of
Tho: Leddall, scr.