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"house situated at **Bowbeeche** with all the barns, stables, stalls, orchards, gardens and one smith's forge"

witnesses: **Thomas Butt, Henry Ford**

The Tebolds of Seal and Sevenoaks

This name is often written "Theobald" or "Theobold" particularly later on in the period; here it has been standardised as Tebold. Three generations included a John Tebold and these have been differentiated as John(1), John(2) and John(3).

Tebold Wills

All of the wills in the first list are from Seal except for the Stephen whose will was written in 1631; he lived in Sevenoaks when he died. and the transcript of his will is in [History of Sevenoaks, Section 2](#)

written:				
Thomas	#4268 ¹	8 Dec 1454	CKS: Crb/Pwr 2.41	page t.12
Robert	#4269	1472	CKS: Drb/Pwr 4.35,37	page t.15
John(1)	#3774	9 Sep 1501	PCC: B lamyr 5	page t.17
Johane; widow of John(1)	#3804	19 Jan 1507	CKS: Drb/Pwr 6.201	page t.19
John(2)	# 673	16 Jun 1545	PCC: Alen 17	page t.27
Thomas	# 675	21 Jun 1550	PCC: Coode 19	page t.46

¹ # indicates a reference in the Seal database

Richard	# 352	1569/70	PCC: Lyon 34; Prob 11/52	page t.77
John(3)	# 1	1575	CKS: Drb/Pwr 15.99	page t.94
Clemence	# 2	10 Mar 1606	CKS: Drb/Pw 20	page t.101
Thomas	# 8	20 Oct 1613 19 May 1617`	PCC: Weldon 52	page t.137
Steven	# 312	Jul 1619	PCC: Parker 789	page t.151

Stephen	3 Oct 1631	PCC: St. John 107; Prob 11/160
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Alice , widow	12 Mar 1638 15 Mar 1638	CKS: Drb/Pw 30; Drb/Pwr 22.286	page t.159
Margerie (nuncupative)	20 Aug 1638	CKS: Drb/Pw 30; Drb/Pwr 22.285	page t.162

The will of James Charles, the husband of John(3)'s daughter Margaret Tebold has survived:

1 Sep 1606	CKS: Drb/Pw 20	page t.130
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Because the study of the Tebolds was the starting point for looking at the wills of the Seal/Sevenoaks area, details of the wills were not always produced as complete transcripts as became the later approach. Thus some of these wills, particularly those of John(2), Richard, John(3) and Steven are given as summaries. The land of John(2) and his three sons is also presented in one section since these wills were particularly detailed in listing the names of the pieces of land and the occupants. Thus the history of individual pieces of land can be followed from one generation to the next.

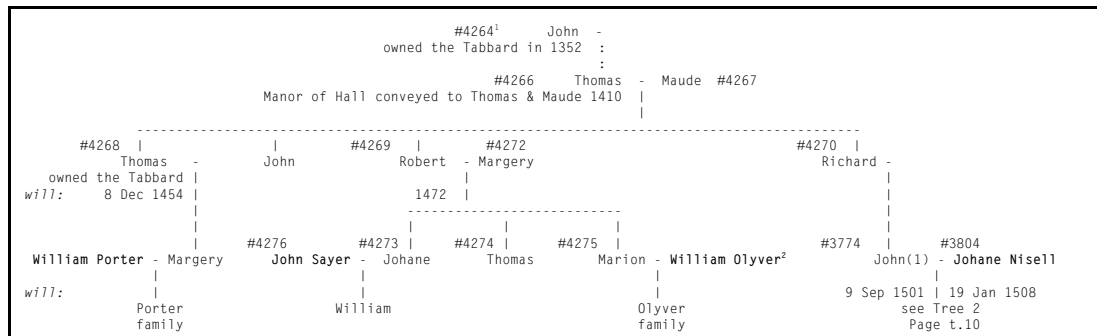
There are also some Tebold wills from other parishes:

Isabella	Chalk	1439		CKS: Drb/Pwr 1.35
John (senior)	Chalk	1458		CKS: Drb/Pwr 2.111
John	Chalk	1485		CKS: Drb/Pwr 5.64
Robert	Horton	1527		CKS: Drb/pwr 8.115
Thomas	Gravesend	1527		CKS: Drb/Pwr 8.122
Richard Theoball	Benenden	1616	clothier	CKS: Drb/32/45/143

The Early Tebolds

In 1352 there was a John Tebold who owned the Tabbard in Seal; one of his descendants was Thomas Tebold who was married to Maud. They had three sons, Thomas (will 1454), Robert (will 1472) and Richard, the father of John(1). It is the descendants of John(1) who feature prominently in the list of surviving wills.

Tree T.1: The 14th and 15th Century Tebolds

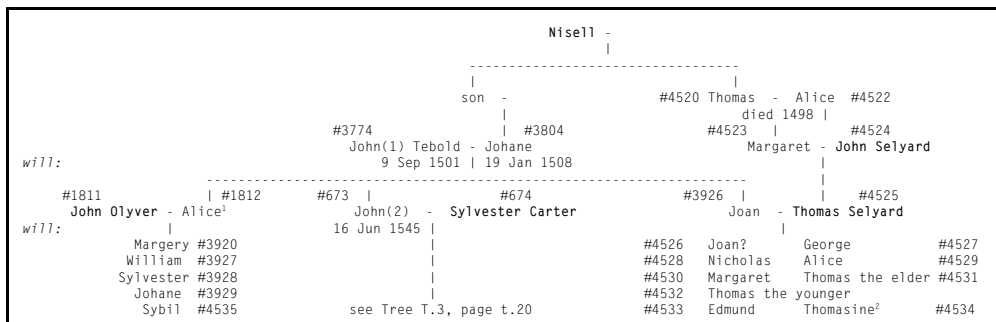


Johane Nisell, the wife of John(1), was the daughter of Thomas Nisell; another of his daughters married John Selyard (or Seyliard or Syliard) of Edenbridge and their son, Thomas, married Joan, one of John(1)'s daughters. Thomas and Joan, who lived at Delaware in Edenbridge, had a large family, at least eight of whom were alive when their grandmother, Johane, died in 1507.

¹ # indicates a reference in the Seal database

² probably the William Olyver who was one of the executors of Robert's will; the other executor was a William Porter

Tree T.2 - The Nisells, Tebolds and Selyards



There were also Tebolds in Ightham at least in the twenty years 1490 to 1510. On 28th October 1490, **Walter Fuller** complained against **William Tebold** for trespass but no particulars were recorded (Court Rolls, Ightham, 1937, p.212). William

- 1 married between 1501 and 1505 since Johane, in her will of January 1507, leaves a small sum of money to her granddaughter, Margery Olyver, presumably the eldest child of her daughter Alice
- 2 Johane, in 1507, left small sums of money to these Selyards who were probably her grandchildren, all of whom must have been born before 1507 which implies that Joan married in the early 1490s and was, therefore, likely to have been the eldest child of John(1) and his wife Johane. Were there two grandchildren called Thomas, or was Thomas Selyard, the elder, Joan's husband?

Tebold was described as a brewer. Also mentioned between 1490 and 1508 were **Agnes Tebold**, also a brewer, and a **John Tebold**.

Debts Owed by the Tebolds

In the early 1490s there were two complaints to the Court Baron at Ightham against the Tebolds for debt. See **Excerpts from the Ightham Court Rolls in XZ** for details of this Court.

On 28th October 1491 William a Ware complained against John Tebold for a debt of 8s. “He stated that the defendant, on 10th February 1490/1, bought from him an ox for 18s, of which he paid on the day aforesaid, 10s. Tebold was attached by two heifers to answer the claim which, however, was settled out of Court.” (CRI, 1938, p.20) This John could have been John(1) who, whilst living in Seal could have bought an ox in Ightham.

On 6th March 1491/2, “Sarah Chipstede, widow, as executrix of the will of William Chipstede, complained against William Tebold for debt of 7s 4d (£0.37). Orders were made at eight different Courts to distrain Tebold to answer the claim and there the case ends”. Harrison commenting on this case writes “He was probably not worth powder and shot”. (CRI, 1938, p.21) If William Tebold, possibly the

brewer, was connected with the wealthy Tebolds of Seal, it was probable that the widow thought it was not worth while chasing someone for a relatively small debt when they were in a position to use all the legal twists possible.

*Will of **Thomas Tebold**, 1454*

written 8th December 1454

translation from the Latin (CKS: Prb/Pwr 2.41)⁶

I, Thomas Tebold of Seal in the county of Kent, concerning all my lands and tenements with appurtenances in the county of Kent for which feoffment is made, will that my feoffees, that is to say, **John Bele** and **John Nysall** of **Sevenoaks**, **Robert Tebold** of Seal and **William Smyth of Kemsing**, after the discharge of my legacies, hand over all lands and tenements to rent for the term of 4 years next following, they to distribute the money arising there from to poor men and for other works of charity in the parishes of Seal and Kemsing.

And I will that after the said term my said feoffees should enfeoff **Margery Porter**, my daughter, in a certain annual rent of 6s 8d for the term of her life from a certain messuage in the town of Seal called the **Tabbard**. And that my said feoffees

⁶ phrases such as “as aforesaid”, etc. in the original have been omitted in the translation

should enfeoff **John Burgweashe** after the said term for the term of his life in one messuage called the Tabbard and a meadow at **Crowstilburg** in the parish of Seal.

And that my said feoffees should enfeoff after the said term **Thomas Tebold, son of Robert Tebold**, and his heirs male in two pieces of land called **Collelong** in the parish of Seal. And for default of heirs male lawfully begotten, to revert the said two pieces of land to Robert Tebold and **Richard, his brother**, and their heirs and (for default of)⁷ heirs male lawfully begotten to revert the said 2 pieces of land to John Bele, his heirs and assigns forever.

And that my feoffees enfeoff after the said term **William Porter** and his heirs male in one enclosure which **John Carter, senior**, holds for the term of his life in the parish of Seal in one piece of land called **Cortbernefeld and Sabetts** and for default of heirs lawfully begotten to revert the said close and piece of land to Robert Tebold and Richard his brother and their heirs male. And for default of heirs male lawfully begotten, to revert to John Bele, his heirs and assigns forever.

And that my said feoffees should enfeoff after the said term **Thomas Smyth, son of ?? Smyth, Christina, his wife, and John, son of the said Thomas**, in land called **Southfelds** lying in the parish of Seal between the land of Richard Tebold towards the south and the king's highway between Seal and **Godden** toward the west and

land called **Maredland** toward the north and land called **Lewyneslond** toward the east and to his⁸ heirs male and for default of heirs male lawfully begotten to revert to Robert Tebold and Richard his brother and their heirs male and for default of heirs male to revert to John Bele, his heirs and assigns forever.

And that my feoffees after the said term enfeoff **Thomas Burweashe, son of John Burweashe**⁹, and his heirs male in a messuage in Seal called the Tabbard with a close adjacent and meadow abovesaid and land called **Blundell, Latchet, Maredland, Hatter(er)island** with one meadow **Lewynesland** and the **Hoke** and for default of heirs lawfully begotten to revert the said messuage, etc. to Robert Tebold and Richard, his brother, and their heirs male. And for default of heirs lawfully begotten, the said messuage, etc. to revert to John Bele, his heirs and assigns forever.

And I will that my feoffees enfeoff all the aforementioned and by deed confirm, etc. on condition, etc. no waste to be made on land, etc.

8 translator notes that the word translated as “his” is ambiguous in the Latin (it could be their/his/her/its) but the clause continues “lawfully begotten of his body” not “their bodies” as elsewhere

9 “Burgweashe” above but “g” omitted here

I, Robert Tebold of Seal, leave to the high altar there 12d., one candle costing 6d for the light of the holy cross for 4 years. The same for the light of Mary. On the day of my burial, 6s 8d.; residue to my wife Margery. **William Olyver** and **William Porter** whom I ordain executors to dispose, etc.

This is the last will on me, Robert Tebold . . . that **Margery, my wife**, shall have all my goods, house and land during her life. And to keep the . . .

Also I will that **William, the son of John Sayer and Johanne, my daughter**, be at the governance of Margery, my wife and my sole executor until he come unto the lawful age to receive my place and all my land after the decease of my wife. And if the father and the mother of the child will not let the child be in the governance of my wife and my sole executor, then I will that all my land and my house shall be sold. And a priest shall sing for me and all my friends a whole year and Johanne, my daughter, to have the best part of the sum of the mney and any of my other daughters to have a part after the discretion of my executor. Also I will that if the child be at the governance of my wife and my sole executor for to go to school or to craft, this child to have my house and all my land. And if it need to be fill in out there of grounds . . to his finding.

John(1) and his wife Johane Nisell

John(1) wished to be buried in the church of the blessed Apostle Peter and Paul of Seal and he left £6 13s 4d (£6.67) for a cope for the church. This was in addition to the 10s left to the high altar for his "tithes forgotten or negligently witholden". He also willed "that a priest sing and pray for me and my friends in the church of Seal by the space of one year daily after my death". He had some connection with Bromley since he also left some money for the church there.

John had at least two shops, one in Seal and another in Sevenoaks, since he left all the cloth in them to his son John who was his main heir. Unfortunately he does not give any details of the property and land he owned just leaving to his son, on his wife's death or remarriage, all his "freehold lands and tenements, meads, pastures and feeding places, rents and shops". Even from this meagre information, it would appear that John(1) was a wealthy clothier.

Johane died six years later. She also willed that "an honest priest sing in the church of Seal for my soul and all people" but, in her case, only for a quarter of a year. Johane's treasured possessions were her beads: she left her daughter Joan her coral and jade beads, her daughter Alice her opal beads (plus a black gown and a pair of sheets) and her daughter-in-law some coral beads. She also left a small sum to each of her Selyiard grandchildren, children of her daughter Joan.

In Dei Noie Amen. The 9th day of the month of September in the year of our Lord God 1501, I, John Tebold the elder, of the parish of Seal in the county of Kent, sound of mind and of good memory, make this my testament in this wise: **Firstly** I do bequeath my soul to Almighty god, my maker, to the blessed Mary, his mother, and to all the company of heaven. My body to be buried in the Church of the blessed Apostle Peter and Paul of Seal aforesaid. **Item:** I bequeath to the high altar of the same church for my tithes forgotten or negligently witholden. 10s . . . **Item:** I bequeath to the church of **Bromley** . . . **Item:** I bequeath for a cope to the church of Seal £6 13s 4d.

Item: I bequeath to **John Tebold, my son**, all my cloth being in my shops in Seal and **Sevenoaks**. **Item:** I bequeath to the marriage of **Alice, my daughter**, . . . **Item:** I bequeath to **Johanne Selyiard, my daughter**, . . . to be paid within one year next after my decease that it to day . . . by the year. **Item:** I bequeath to every of my godchildren . . . **Item:** I will that a priest sing and pray for me and my friends in the church of Seal by the space of one year daily after my death.

The residue of all my goods nor bequeathed and my debts first paid, my bequests and funeral expenses fulfilled, I give and bequeath to **Johanne, my wife**, which Johane I make and ordain my executrix and John Tebold, my son, my executor.

This is the last will of the foresaid John Tebold, made the day and year abovesaid, of all my land, tenements, meads and pastures, feeding places, rents and shops? with all and singular lying and being in my feoffees' hands. **Firstly** I will that Johanne, my wife, have all my foresaid land, tenements, etc. above rehearsed for tenure of her life save she not be married. And after her decease, or if it happen the said Johanne to marry, then I will to John Tebold, my son, all my freehold lands and tenements. meads, pastures and feeding places, rents and shops? with all and singular . . . to him and to his heirs and assigns forever.

To this witnessing Masters **John Multon, Robert J. . , Robert Swaynsland, John ??, John Lamport** and **Thomas ??** , the day and year abovesaid.

In the name of god Amen. The 19th day of January in the year of our Lord God 1507. I, Joan Tebold, widow of John Tebold of Seal, do make my testament in this wise. **First:** I bequeath m soul to God and my body to be buried in the church of Seal. **Item:** I bequeath to the high altar ??d. **Item:** I bequeath to an honest priest to sing in the church of Seal for my soul and all people by a quarter of a year ?? **Item:** I bequeath to **Joan Selyard, my daughter**, a pair of coral beads, my best gown and best gridit? **Item:** to **Alice Olyver, my other daughter**, a pair of opal beads, my black gown and a pair of sheets. **Item:** to **Sylvester Tebold, my son's wife**, a pair of coral beads. **Item:** to Joan Tebold, my said daughter¹⁰, a pair of jade beads. **Item:** to **Agnes Tynker** my blue gown. **Item:** to each of my godchildren ??d. **Item:** to **Joan Selyard** ??d. **Item:** to **George Selyard** ??d. **Item:** to **Nicholas Selyard** ??d. to **Alice Selyard** to her marriage ??d. **Item:** to **Margaret Selyard** to her marriage ??d. **Item:** to **Thomas Selyard, the elder**, ??d. **Item:** to **Thomas Selyard, the younger**, 20d. **Item:** to **Edmund Selyard** 20d. **Item:** to **Thomasine Selyard** 20d. **Item:** to **Margery Olyver** 2 pairs of sheets.

10 why Tebold here when Selyard above and below? The Joan Selyard below could have been a granddaughter

The residue of my goods not bequeathed, I give and bequeath to **John Tebold, my son**, whom I ordain and make my executor.

Witnesses: Sir John . . . curate of Seal, **John Lamporte** and others.

The Family of John(2) and Sylvester

Tree T.3

		#673 John(2) - Sylvester Carter #674									
<i>born:</i>		probably 1470s									
<i>married:</i>		about 1500									
<i>will:</i>		16 Jun 1545									
<i>died:</i>						before Jun 1645					

#675	#676	#677	#678	#679	#352	#680	#681	#1		#682	
Thomas	Johanne	Anne	Agnes	Alice	Richard	Margaret	Dorothy	John(3)	-	Sylvester	
1500+	1505-18	<1510	1512-20	<1519	<1524		1520-28				
<i>born:</i>											
21 Jun 1550					25 Nov 1569					1575	
<i>will:</i>					2 Mar 1570					25 Feb 1578	
<i>died:</i>	1550	1565		1588			1575				

Wills have survived for each of John(2)'s three sons. John was definitely under 21 when his father died; his brother Thomas's will (1550) gives the impression that John was still underage but this seems unlikely since John(3)'s daughter, Elizabeth, married in 1568; Thomas was in Louvain and between 25 and 30 years older than John; perhaps he was not sure of his age and had no one to ask..

The Daughters of John(2) and Sylvester

Johane In January 1527/8, Alice Overy of Seal left to “**Johan Theobold, my goddaughter, the elder daughter of John Theobold, in Kent, a featherbed, bolster, ?? and a tapestry work, . . and a chest**” and 6s 8d (£0.33) to all John's other children - see **Overy**

Sometime in the 1530s Johane married **Thomas Palley** who was a Warden of the Fishmongers when he died in 1558. By that time they had at least five children. In 1559, Johane married **Thomas Hendley**, gentleman, of Otham in Kent. She died in 1565.

Anne married **Thomas Bishop** and, by 1545, they had five children; mentioned in her brother Thomas's will in 1550 when her husband was “of Lynton, Kent”.

Agnes married three times:

- **Thomas Bylle**, who died in 1551, was a physician to Henry VIII; he and Agnes had one daughter living in 1545
- **Percival Smalpage**, who died in 1558, was a Clerk of the Board of the Greencloth; he and Agnes had two sons

- **Barnard Randolphe**, who came from Ticehurst, East Sussex, was Common Sergeant of London from March 1563; he died in August 1583

Alice was the goddaughter of **Robert Idley** of Seal who wrote his will on 9th July 1619; Robert's wife was called Alice. John Tebold witnessed Robert's will and also that of **John Idley** in 1524 - see **Idley**.

By 1545, Alice and her husband, **John Wood** (of Waddon Court in Croydon, Surrey in 1550), had a son John.

Margaret married **Thomas Sharpey**, a clothier of Cranbrook, before 1545; in 1550 her brother Thomas left her an annuity of £1; John(3) left Richard Sharpey £1 in 1575

Dorothy sometime after 1545, married **John Croke**, a canon of St. Pauls and a Member of Parliament; they had one daughter - Dorothy. John died either in 1549 or before June 1550.

married **Christopher Allan**, Merchant of the Staple, in 1555

married **Roger Manwood** of Sandwich and Hackington sometime before 1558; Manwood was Chief Baron of the Exchequer from 1575 to 1592 and one of the founders of Sandwich School. They had three sons of which only one, Peter, survived infancy and two daughters.

Sylvester practically nothing is known about Sylvester; she was not married in 1545 when her father wrote his will. Thomas in his will of 1550 describes her as “[wife to John ??endry](#)”.

The Wealth of John(2)

Although John(2) is described as a yeoman in his will he was a very wealthy man. He owned a house in Seal, other tenements and houses in Seal, two tenements in Sevenoaks, a messuage in Kemsing, a tenement and messuages in Chiddingstone and Brasted, a shop in the market place of Sevenoaks, the rents and reversions of land in Seal, Shipbourne, Tudeley, Tonbridge and Leigh, together with numerous other pieces of land. See page t.106 for details of the Tebold land.

Given this amount of property, he does not seem to have been very generous to either his grandchildren or his servants::

grandchildren:

John Palley (godson):	10s
Thomas, William, Dorothy, Alice Palley	2s 8d each
Margaret Bylle	6s 8d
five Bishop children	6s 8d
John Wood (godson)	2s 8d

[are these 2s 8d misreads for 6s 8d?]

his servants:	Alice Barbour and Thomas Dogett	13s 4d each
	Margaret Miller	13s 4d
his son Thomas's servant	Richard Kyndersley	6s 8d

John's wealth is also shown by the items he left in his will, mainly to his three youngest children, Dorothy, John(3) and Sylvester:

John(3)	a little tub salt ¹¹ of silver and gilt with a cover six silver spoons with knobs of Lyons gilt a good feather bed and a bolster; two pillows one pair of blankets of lindsey wolsey; one covering of tapestry work six pairs of sheets (five flaxen, one canvas) three table cloths (one diaper, two plain) two towels (one diaper, one plain) twelve napkins (six diaper) twelve pewter plates (6 of the new fashion, 6 of the old) six pewter saucers; latin bell candlesticks six of the best cushions with flowers two brass pots, two brass pans, two iron spits a chest standing in the chamber
---------	--

11 "stubbe salte"

Dorothy and Sylvester	a featherbed, a bolster, a pair of blankets of lindsey wolsey a covering of tapestry work; six pairs of sheets two tablecloths (one diaper, one plain) six napkins (three diaper, three plain) six pewter plates, six pewter dishes, six pewter saucers three latin bell candlesticks; two brass pots, two brass pans
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The will was written by **Edmund Bright, a scrivener from London**, probably brought to Seal by his son-in-law Thomas Palley, who was one of the witnesses to the will.

John subscribed his name with his own hand.

In the following transcript those phrases, etc. given in *italics* give the sense of the text of the will but in an abbreviated form.

In the name of God Amen. The 16th day of June in the year of our Lord God a thousand five hundred and forty and five. And in the 37th year of the reign of our sovereign Lord Henry the eighth, by the grace of God King of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the faith and in verity the supreme head of the Church of England and also of Ireland. I, John Tebold of Seal in the County of Kent, yeoman, whole of mind and in good memory, thanks to be given to Almighty God, make and ordain this my last testament and last will in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul to almighty God, my maker and redeemer, to ever blessed Lady St. Mary the Virgin, his mother, and to all the company of heaven and my body to be buried in the church of Seal beside my wife. **Item:** I bequeath to the high altar there for my tithes negligently forgotten and withholden in the discharging of my conscience and to pray for my soul ten shillings. **Item:** I will that my executors by their discretion at the day of my burial shall distribute amongst priests and clerks, poor people and other charges, four pounds and more if they think it necessary at their discretion. **Item:** I will that my executors underwritten or their assigns in so convenient time as they may immediately after my decease by the advice of the Vicar of Seal and Kemsing for the time being and twelve of the most honest and substantial inhabitants there, or the most part of

them, shall distribute . . ten pounds of money within the parish of Seal and Kemsing aforesaid in manner and form following:

- ten marks . . to be distributed and laid out in the mending of the most foul and .. ways and to the relief of the poor people inhabiting within the province of Seal aforesaid
- five marks residue . . in like manner to be distributed within the parish of Kemsing aforesaid.

Also I will that my executors underwritten shall provide an honest priest to sing for my soul and my wife's soul, my friends' souls and all Christian souls in the parish church of Seal aforesaid by the space of a whole year and a quarter next and following my decease and they give him for his salary ?? **Item:** I will further that my executors immediately after my decease distribute amongst the poor people inhabiting within the parish of **Chiddingstone** 20s in monies. **Item:** I give and bequeath to every of my godchildren twelve pence if they ask it. **Item:** my will is further that my executors of their assignees during twenty years next after my decease keep a torch alight with . . . ordained to pray for our souls to be kept in the parish church of Seal aforesaid and there at the same time to distribute yearly amongst priest clerks and poor people inhabiting within Seal and Kemsing aforesaid six shillings and eight pence.

*John(2)'s two youngest daughters, **Dorothy** (#681) and **Sylvester** (#682), were each to receive £40 when they married* And if it fortune any of the said Dorothy and Sylvester to die before their marriage, then my will is that the said money to her

that so dies before her marriage shall be paid to the other of the said Dorothy and Sylvester, otherwise not to be paid.

Item: I will and bequeath to my son-in-law **Thomas Palley** my feather bed of down with the bolster to the same lying in my great chamber.

*Three of John's married daughters, **Johanne Palley** (#676). **Alice Wood** (#679) and **Margaret Sharpey** (#680) were each to receive "20s to buy her a black gown".*

*John owned a lease for a term of years of and in the parsonage of Kemsing and Seal not yet ended and his will was that **Richard Tebold**, my son, shall have the said lease and term of years immediately after my decease, to him, his executors and assigns, forever if he be then living; and if he be then deceased, then my will is that **Thomas Tebold**, my son, shall have the said lease for term of years yet to come of and in the said parsonage, to him and his executors and assigns forever.*

His son, John(3), was to receive the items listed in the table above.

Item: I will, give and bequeath to each of **Alice Barbour** and **Thomas Dogett**, my servants, 13s 4d and to my sister, **Alice Olyver**, 20s. **Item:** I will and bequeath to **Walter Palmer's widow** 6s 8d and to **Joan Palmer, widow**, 4d every week of her life to be paid weekly after my decease. **Item:** I will and bequeath to **John Palley, my godson**, ten shillings. **Item:** I will and bequeath to **Thomas Palley, William Palley,**

Dorothy Palley and **Alice Palley**, to every of them 2s 8d. **Item:** I will and bequeath to **Margaret Bylle** 6s 8d and to the five of my son **Byshopp**'s children, to every of them 6s 8d¹². **Item:** to **John Wood**, my godson, my son Wood's son, 2s 8d"¹³

*In addition to a black gown like their married sisters, John's daughters, **Dorothy** and **Sylvester** were each to receive the items listed in the table above.*

Item: I will and bequeath to **Richard Kyndersley**, my son **Thomas's** servant, 6s 8d. **Item:** I will and bequeath to **William Wigsall of Kemsing** 6s 8d. **Item:** I will and bequeath to **Margaret Miller**, my servant, 13s 4d. **Item:** I bequeath also to my cousin, **John Selyarde**, 20s desiring him to see this my testament and last will To be made accorsing to the order of the law changing no matter of instance. The residue of all my goods and chattels and debts above not bequeathed, my debts and legacies paid and all the charges in this present testament contained to be done and fulfilled, I give and bequeath to **Thomas Tebold** and **Richard Tebold**, my sons, which **Thomas** and **Richard** I ordain and, my this present testament, do make to be my sole executors.

12 Margaret Bylle was the daughter of John's daughter Agnes (#678) who is not mentioned in John's will; Agnes's first husband died in 1551 and she married twice more. The mother of the Bishop children was John's daughter Anne (#677) who is again not mentioned in John's will; she was alive in 1550 when her brother Thomas remembered her in his will

13 These are all John's grandchildren; are the sums given as 2s 8d misreadings of 6s 8d?

In witness whereof I have subscribed my name with my own hand, the day and year above written, by me, John Tebold. Those being present at the reading and subscribing hereof **John Denman**, gent. of Seal, Thomas Palley, **John Denman**, **William Thomlyn**, **William Denman** and me, **Edmund Bright of London**, scrivener.”

This is the Last Will and testament of me, the said John Tebold, as concerning all my lands, tenements, rents, reversions and fines with all appurtenances wheresoever they lie within the parish of Seal aforesaid or elsewhere made and declared in writing this 16th day of June in the 37th year of the reign of our said sovereign Lord King Henry eighth. **First:** I do will that my executors shall take and receive the profits of all my lands and tenements, rents, reversions and fines, with all and singular the apportioning, for one whole year in most and year part after my decease towards the payment of my debts and the fulfilling and payment of my legacies and bequests.

And after the said year ended, I give and bequeath to **Thomas Tebold, my son**, his heirs and assigns forever,

- my house in Seal aforesaid in the which I do inhabit and dwell withall the . . . And also all the houses, barns, stables and buildings belonging and adjoining.
- And all my land and messuages called **Frogdych fields, leyland, lefans** and **Blundell** lying together; **Pyngeland and Dygons** lying together, my land

called **Chawsor** in the occupation of **William Cripps** and the house and gardens that he dwells in of mine.

- And also my tenement called the **Chirke** in Seal with the appurtenances which is in the occupation of **John Hills**.
- Also my house or tenement in Seal where one **Joan Sherewood** dwells in which house my will is that the said Joan Sherewood shall live during her life rent free.
- And also all my lands called **Rogers land** in the occupancy of **William Denman** and **Robert Warner**.
- And the meadow lying beyond **Wruton Common**¹⁴ being in the occupation of **James Porter**.
- And also my meadow lying in **Cristolbridge**¹⁵ and west to Seal Park in the occupation of **William Fremlyn**, the younger.
- And certain parcels of land called **Challoncrosses** in the occupation of **William Tomlyn** of Seal.
- And one parcel of land called **Penfield** lying to Seal Park.
- And all **Seal Park** lying in Seal and Kemsing, every parcel that following which be parcel of the said Park, that is to say:

14 In Thomas's will of 1550 he owned a "mead beyond Winterbourne bridge in Seal now or late in the tenure of James Porter". Was this the same meadow?

15 is this Childsbridge?

- one parcel of the said Park in the occupation of **John Gregory**, one croft of the said Park in the occupation of **William Knyght** lying to **Dynes** on the south part and to my great mean on the north part and . . . by estimation 7 acres of land
- one other part of bush¹⁶ and rough land in the occupation of **John Miller, the elder**, lying to the said croft on the west part containing by estimation fifteen acres of land
- . . . also seven and a half acres of land in the occupation of **John Fremlyn**
- and one meadow in the occupation of William Knyght containing by estimation five acres lying to the mill pond¹⁷ in the said park and the mill pond mead
- and the same parcel of land of the said Park which **Richard Kipps** doth occupy
- and also the same parcel of the said in the occupation of William Wigzell

All which parcel above expressed, my will is that the foresaid Thomas, my son, shall not have all which lands before expressed except before excepted I give to

¹⁶ "Busshie "

¹⁷ "myle ponnde"

the said Thomas and his heirs and assigns for evermore. And also I will and bequeath to my said son Thomas, his heirs and assigns, for evermore,

- my tenements, rents and fines with appurtenances called **Dalis and Chadewell** in the parish of **Sevenoaks** in the said county of Kent.
- And all my lands and tenements in the said parish¹⁸, if I have any other not remembered, and my shop being in the market place of Sevenoaks, to him the said Thomas, his heirs and assigns, forever after the said whole year next and . . . after my decease.

Also I devise, will and bequeath to **Robert Tebold, my son**, his heirs and assigns, forever:

- my tenement or messuage in Kemsing called **Dynes** with all the yards, orchards, gardens and . . . thereunto belonging and adjoining, now in the tenure of **John Myller**
- and all and all manner my lands and tenements lying in the east and west fold of Kemsing aforesaid and also in **Everham**¹⁹ and all my parcels of land called the **church crofts** and a croft called the **parsonage croft** lying to the parsonage of Kemsing
- one parcel of land called **Little Colbury**

18 i.e. Sevenoaks

19 Heverham

- and one parcel of land called **Wortherthe meade** containing by estimation 7 acres, in the occupation of **Thomas Wybourne**
- and one parcel of land called **Cottman**²⁰ in the occupation of **Gilbert Miller** and **William Smith**
- and one parcel of land called **Colbirk** in the occupation of **James Frenche**
- one parcel of wood land lying in the parish of Seal to . . . by estimation 7 acres butting to the highway that leads from **Rodderidell** to **Stakes Cross** on the east
- and one other parcel of wood land lying to the highway leading from **Moletmiddle** to **Lamparts** pale on the west in the said parish of Seal.

And also I do will and bequeath to the said Richard Tebold, his heirs and assigns, all the said lands, meadows, pastures, . . . lying in the parishes of Kemsing and Seal, parcels of the said Seal Park with appurtenances which before I have excepted from my son Thomas Tebold, to have and to hold to the said Richard Tebold, my son, and to his heirs forever.

Also I devise, will and bequeath to the said Richard Tebold, my son, and to his heirs forever,

- all that my tenement . . . lying in the parish of **Chiddingstone** in the said county of Kent withall and singular the appurtenances and all other my

lands and messuages lying in the same parish of Chiddingstone and in the parish of Brasted in the county aforesaid as they be now in the occupation of **William Pulling, the younger**.

To have and to hold all the said premises to the said Richard Tebold, his heirs and assigns, forever after the said whole year now after my decease.

Also I will that Richard, my son, or his assigns, shall pay, or cause to be paid, to his brother John Tebold the sum of 5th of . . . and . . . of the said land in Brasted, to be paid to the said John when he, the said John, comes to the age of 24 years if the said John live so long²¹. Or if not (paid?) And the said forty? Pounds be reasonably required of his, the said John or his assigns, of the said Richard Tebold, his heirs or executors, and for default of payment of the said forty pounds so being lawfully asked and the payment thereof refused, that then, the said devise and gift made of all my said lands lying in the parish of Brasted aforesaid to the said Richard shll be utterly void and of none effect. And then I will and bequeath all the said lands in Brasted aforesaid unto my son John Tebold and his heirs for ever.

Also I will and bequeath unto the said **John Tebold**, my son:

- all the residue of my lands and rents, reversions and fines lying and being in the said parish of Seal

21 John was about fifteen in 1545

- and also in the parish of **Shipbourne** as well all those that one **John Goodhew** does occupy as others.
- And also one . . . purchased by me, the said John Tebold of **Richard Carter of Under River**
- and also this my land and tenements, rents and reversions and fines lying and being in the south side of the highway leading from **Kettell** in Seal parish unto **Fawk Cross** and from there to **Stonestreet**.
- And all my woodland and heath land lying at **Godden Hoath** at a place called the **Stake** in the parish of Seal which some time were **William Carter's**.

To have and to hold to the said John Tebold, my said son, to his heirs and assigns forever after the said whole year ended next and . . . following my decease. And when the said John cometh to his full age of 25 years.

And my will is that in the meantime before my said son John Tebold shall come to the age of twenty and one years that my said executors shall . . . and take all the . . . profits of all the same lands and tenements and other the premises with the appurtenances to my said son John before willed, they paying all the rents and other charge gains out of the same as forty pounds yearly to be paid to my **Aunt Mary Carter, widow**, during her life as it . . . in a pair of indentures made between the late Earl of Wiltshire and her and being sufficient reparation in the mean time. And immediately after he comes to the said age of twenty and one years, then

they, their executors or assigns, to deliver the overplus of the profits of all the said lands to my said son John coming or growing before his said age of twenty one years.

Item: I will and bequeath to the said John Tebold:

- the reversion of the first part of the **Manor of Tudeley** in the parish of Tudeley in the said county of Kent
- And the reversion of the first part of certain land and tenement called .a..urell and **Lomans** lying within the parishes of **Tonbridge** and **Leigh**²² in the said county of Kent which I late purchased of **Reynold Carter of Chiddingstone**.

To have and to hold to him, his heirs and assigns, forever.

Also my will is that my sons Thomas and Richard, each of them within one whole year and a quarter next after my decease, shall release each to other wise do or suffer to be done by fine . . . Deed or otherwise as shall be devised and admitted by their learned counsel for the further assurance to . . . of them of this my desire and last will of all those tenements, lands, rents, reversions, fine and hereditaments, with their appurtenances, to each of them by me before willed. And if they do not release each to other or otherwise do suffer to be done as is before mentioned, if any of them by his brother be reasonably before two honest

and substantial men thereunto required . . . refuse so to do, then I will by this my last will and testament, that if it fortune any of them by the other to be molested, vied or troubled of any parcel of ground so to him given and devised by this my testament and last will whereby this my last will cannot be performed according to the tenor thereof, that then I will and devise that he that is so disturbed and . . . of his said part by his said brother shall have so much land and tenements of his said brothers that so disturbs and . . . the other of any part so to him devised as shall amount to the double value of the said lands whereof the disturbance was made, to have and to hold the said overplus of land in manner and form by law expressed to the other brother and his heirs and assigns for ever.

In witness whereof I, the said John Tebold to this my last will and testament have set my seal and subscribed my name with my own hand the day and year above written in the presence of John Denman, Vicar of Seal, Thomas Palley, John Denman, William Thomlyn, William Denman, **John Hills** and me, Edmund Bright of London, scrivener
John Thebolde”

Thomas Tebold, Scholar

Thomas, born at the beginning of the sixteenth century, was at Eton at the end of the 1510s and had been installed as Vicar of Kemsing and Seal by 24th February 1525. He was a B.A. of Cambridge in 1527-28 and he studied at **Louvain University** in 1531 and at **Tubingen University** in the late 1530s. He returned to Louvain in 1549, his registration on 15th January, reading:

“Thomas Theobaldus de Selle, Anglus Dominus, Noblis”

During the intervening years he travelled throughout Europe writing letters to **Thomas Boleyn** (who was his godfather), **Thomas Cranmer** and **Thomas Cromwell** and meeting many of the well known scholars of the time. He matriculated at **Tubingen University** on 18th July 1536. His will was written in **Louvain** on 21st June 1550 and he was buried in the Grey Friars in Louvain; his will was proved on 11th August 1550. It is followed by 1½ pages in Latin which are very difficult to read and have not been translated. It concerns land which Thomas owned on the Continent and notes on it follow Thomas's will.

Although in mid-life he appears from his letters to support the Reformation, he returned to the Catholic faith before he died.

Thomas's Will

After the preamble to his will, Thomas's first instruction is "that all such legacies as are yet of my father's will unsatisfied or unpaid to be performed before any other bequests". Although his father had died previously, he left a large amount of land which was to be divided between his three sons and there could easily have still been items outstanding,

He left £6 for the maintenance of the highways of Seal and Kemsing, £4 to Seal and £2 to Kemsing. This was "to be delivered . . into the hands of the vicar there or his deputy and of six honest and substantial men" of each parish. This is the only will investigated where the phrase "or his deputy" is included; was this because Thomas himself had been vicar of Seal and Kemsing but had been abroad for considerable periods and would therefore have had to leave a deputy to carry out the task of administering money left to the parish? The vicar's deputy was also mentioned regarding the distribution of money to the poor.

Another unusual phrase occurs at the end of his bequest to his cousin, Thomas Selyard, parson of Brasted, the son of his aunt, Johane. He left him £9 "to pray for my father's and mother's souls, brothers' and sisters' and mine and all Christian souls as he shall have leisure and opportunity thereunto at his pleasure". Again, was the reason for him giving his cousin so much latitude that Thomas's

experience as a vicar had shown this to be necessary or was it that Thomas knew that, since it was 1545, prayers for souls were forbidden in the Church of England?

John(2) left six of his “best cushions with flowers“ to Dorothy and another six to Sylvester, implying that he had other cushions. Whether or not the cushions Thomas bequeathed had been inherited from his father, he certainly owned a considerable number. Amongst other things, he left to his sisters Anne and Agnes:

- ; two cushions of verdure²³,
- ; two cushions of red with white harth²⁴
- ; a cushion of black velvet.
- ; a cushion of black taffeta with brenches? of gold,
- ; two cushions with white harth,
- ; two cushions of ?? black velvet with the princes arms wrought in gold.

Another sign of his wealth was the two candlesticks of Hanover fashion which he left to Sylvester.

23 a grassy-green coloured? also a coverlet on line 49

24 harden?; this was a coarse fabric made from hards: coarse fax or hemp

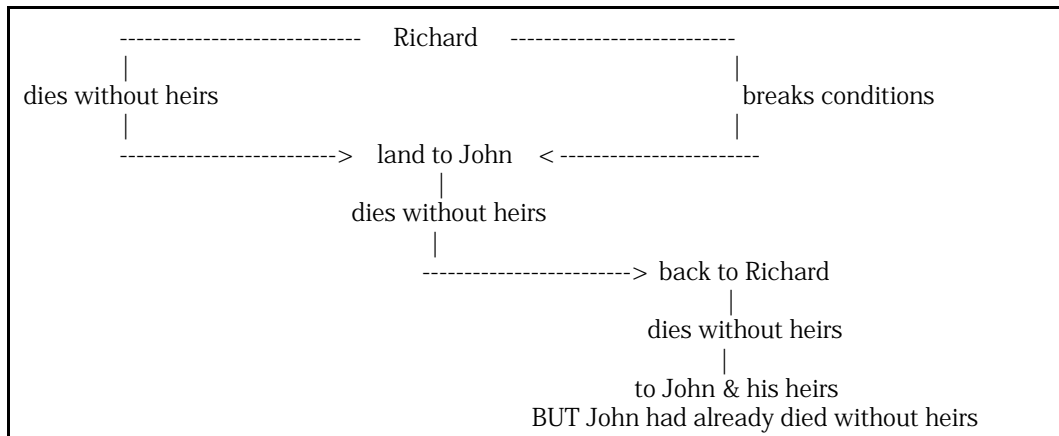
Although he left his brother Richard a large amount of land he did not make him an executor but he did give him his “best gown of french black cloth garded with velvet and faced with satin”. The residue of his goods, etc. in England was to be divided amongst all his sisters according to the discretion of the men he made the executors for my “goods, cattall, ??²⁵, debts, credits, matters and things in England”. These were Mr. Thomas Selyard, parson of Brasted, Mr. John Fryer, doctor of physik, and Thomas Palley, Johane's husband and therefore Thomas's brother-in-law.

This appointment of executors for his property and goods in England shows the problems to be faced since Thomas also owned property in Louvain. For five years after his death, Thomas's executors were to have the “rents, revenues and profits” of his “leases, lands, tenements and other premises towards and upon the payment of my debts and fulfilling and performing of my legacies and bequests”. Only at the end of this period were his heirs to come into their inheritance.

John(3)'s Inheritance

Thomas's younger brother, John(3), does not seem to have been of age when Thomas wrote his will in 1550. When he does come of age, Richard is to transfer to him the land left to John by his father in 1545. But the various provisos on this transfer, given by Thomas in lines 138 to 140 become very complicated, so much so that if, written down logically become impossible.

lines	
138-140	if the said Richard Tebold dies without heirs male . . or breaks any of the conditions , . . then, after the said
141-	five years, . . all the said leases, etc. before . . willed to Richard Tebold . . shall remain to John Tebold, my
145	brother, and to the heirs male. . without any condition. And for lack of such issue (i.e. John's heirs), the
146	remainder thereof to the said Richard Tebold and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten upon all conditions aforesaid. And for
147	lack of such issue, (i.e. Richard's heirs) the remainder thereof to the said John Tebold and to the
148	heirs of his body lawfully begotten without any condition.



Thomas's Tenants

Thomas also specified how his tenants were to be treated:

"I instantly require my said brother Richard and my said brother John and all my said executors, that they permit and suffer the foresaid John Hylls, William Cripps and William Denman to occupy and enjoy such of my land and tenements as they now severally occupy or have of me, they paying ans doing such rent and duties as they have paid and done for the same since my said father's death, I requiring

my said brothers to have in remembrance the request and commandment of my said father in his deathbed in that behalf”

Thus they were to continue their occupancy without any increase in their rent..

Will of Thomas Tebold, scholar

written 21st June 1550 in Louvain
transcript from probate copy

1 **In the name of god Amen.** The 21st day of June in the year of our lord god
2 a thousand, five hundred and fifty. And the fourth year of the reign of our
 sovereign lord
3 Edward the sixth, by the grace of god king of England, France and Ireland,
 etc. I, Thomas
4 Tebold, late of Seal in the county of Kent, whole of mind and in good
 memory, thanks be given unto
5 god, make and ordain this my present testament concerning my goods,
 chattels, debts, credits, ?? ,
6 matters and things in England in manner and form following: **First** I
 bequeath my soul unto
7 Almighty god, my maker and redeemer, to our blessed lady saint Mary, the
 virgin, his mother and

8 to all the company of heaven. And I will that all such legacies as are yet of
my father's will
9 unsatisfied or unpaid to be performed before any other bequests²⁶. **Item:** I
bequeath to the vicar of
10 Seal aforesaid for my tithes negligently forgotten and withholden, in
discharging of my conscience
11 and to pray for my soul 6s? **Item:** I will and bequeath to the highways of
Seal and Kemsing
12 six pounds to be delivered within two years after my decease into the
hands of the vicar there or his
13 deputy and of six honest and substantial men of either²⁷ parish. Whereof
£4 to the highways of
14 Seal and 40s to the highways of Kemsing. **Item:** I will and give unto **my**
cousin, Mr. Thomas
15 **Selyard, parson of Brasted** nine pounds to pray for my father's and mother's
souls, brothers'
16 and sisters' and mine and all Christian souls as he shall have leisure and
opportunity thereunto at his

26 Thomas and his brother Richard were executors of their father's will

27 "either" then meant "each"

17 pleasure. **Item:** I give to the poor householders and parishioners of Seal
and Kemsing four pounds to be
18 distributed by mine executors with the advice of the vicar there, or his
deputy, and four honest
19 men of either parish. **Item:** I give to the poor parishioners of
Chiddingstone²⁸ three pounds. **Item:** to the poor parshioners of my **prebend**
called Dornford in Wiltshire, three pounds. **Item:** to my
20 **godson, Thomas Palley**, £25 to be paid to him at the age of 22 years. And if
he die before that
21 age, then the same £25 to be to his brother **William** at the said age of 22
years. And if he die
22 before that age that then the said £25 to his sister **Dorothy Palley** at the age
of 23 years. And if
23 she die before that age then to **Alice Palley**²⁹, her sister, at the age of 23
years. **Item:** I give to my
24 **sister Byshop** £25 to be paid within two years after my decease. And to her
two cushions of

28 Thomas had been rector of Chiddingstone 1538/39 under the patronage of Cranmer

29 the children of his sister, Johane (#676)

25 verdure, two of red with white harth and three diaper³⁰ napkins. **Item:** I
give to my **sister Bylle**
26 £25 to be paid within two years after my decease. And two pairs of flaxen
sheets, five diaper
27 napkins and a cushion of black velvet. **Item:** I give to my **sister Wood** £25
to be paid within
28 two years after my decease. And two pairs of flaxen sheets, one pair of
hempen sheets, a plain
29 towel, six plain napkins, a cushion of black taffeta with brenches? of gold,
two cushions
30 with white harth, three platters and a charger³¹. **Item:** I give to my **sister**
Croke³² an obligation of
31 debt of her husband of £20 and also I give her the same debt, And to her
two cushions of ??
32 black velvet with the princes arms wrought in gold. **Item:** I give to my
sister Sylvester forty

30 a linen fabric with a small diamond pattern

31 a flat dish capable of holding a large joint

32 these sisters were Anne (#677), Agnes (#678), Alice (#679) and Dorothy (#681) respectively

33 pounds to be paid within two years after my decease. And two pairs of
flaxen sheets, one pair of
34 canvas, a fine towel of plain cloth, six napkins, two candlesticks of
Hanover fashion,
35 two platters, two pewter dishes and a charger. **Item:** I give to my **godson**
Byshop my best
36 featherbed. **Item:** I give to mine **aunt Olyver**³³ five pounds to be paid
immediately after my decease³⁴

37 And to either of her daughters unmarried, **Sylvester and Sybill**, five pounds
a piece to be paid at
38 the day of her marriage. And the survivor of them if any of them chance to
die before that time
39 to have the other part. **Item:** I give to my **servant Richard Findershey** five
pounds , a pair of
40 canvas sheets, a coarse towel, a mattress and one of my red coverlets in
case he dwell with

33 Thomas's aunt Alice (#1812) married John Olyver

34 why immediately when every one else had to wait two years?

page 2:

41 me at that time of my departing from this world. **Item:** I give to **Walter**
42 **Palmislove** £4,
43 to **Joan Model** 24s, to **William Wigsall** of Kemsing 20s, to **Mother Arvey** at
44 London and her maid 40s and to every of them both a furred gown. **Item:** I
45 give to
46 the Almshouses of Seal to maintain some aged body there by the space of
47 ten years
48 after my decease every Sunday 4d during the said term to be paid monthly
49 or weekly.
50 **Item:** I give to **Thomas Tybe, my servant**, and one that kept my house, 24s.
51 **Item:** I
52 give to my **brother Richard** my best gown of french black cloth garded with
53 velvet and
54 faced with satten. **Item:** I give to my sister Palley my blue curtains³⁵ of silk,
55 a coverlet of
56 verdure³⁶ and a diaper tablecloth. **Item:** I give to **my sister Margaret**
57 **Sharpley** 40s to buy

35 "blew curtyns"

36 a grassy-green coloured coverlet?

50 her a gown, a pair of sheets, two pillowberes and a diaper towel. **Item:** I
give to my
51 cousin, parson Selyard, a featherbed, a coverlet of tapestry, a diaper
tablecloth, a flaxen towel,
52 two pillowberes and six plain napkins. **Item:** I give to **John Tebold, my
younger brother,**
53 my second coverlet, two pillows, the hangings in the parlour, hall and great
chamber
54 in my house at Seal. **Item:** I give to **Doctor Fryer** ten pounds and all my
stuff that
55 I left with him with all my latin books there saving a great Bible in latin
which I will
56 my cousin parson Selyard shall have. **Item:** I give my french and italian
books to **Mr. Germyn**
57 **Cyoll.** **Item:** I give to the said Mr. Germyn Cyoll £8 for his labours and
pains taking for me. **Item:**
58 I give to **John Palmislove** and **Therodlove** ?? to help them in their age.
Item: I give to
59 **my cousin Gilbert Myller** of Kemsing 40s. **Item:** I give to **John Knivett** of
Gracechurch parish
60 in London 40s. **Item:** I will and desire that all the portable? cupboards,
bedsteads, tables, tubs

61 to brew in and all wainscot³⁷ and iron work in my house at Seal and such
other things there
62 as cannot easily be taken away as in the bakehouse and the brewhouse,
shall be and remain
63 to the use, profit and commodity of him that shall, by my will, have mine
house at Seal and
64 that they shall not be removed for no cause³⁸. All which foresaid legacies
and bequests, I will
65 shall be paid and performed with and of my goods and cattalls³⁹ being or
remaining now in
66 England and with such debts as be, or shall be, owing to me in England
and of such money or
67 profit as rise or come of any land that I have sold and of such money or
profit as
68 shall rise or come to mine executors, or to any of them, by reason of
anything contained or

37 usually wood panelling on an interior wall

38 "shall not be removed for any cause" in modern usage

39 chattels would be expected here but was usually spelled starting "ch"; "cattalls" would normally be taken as meaning animals

69 specified in my will of my lands and of such money as I have or shall cause
or appoint to
70 be delivered for the performance of the promises. Also I will the residue of
mine household stuff,
71 apparel and moveable goods in England, except the legacies and bequests
aforesaid and
72 except my debts, money, plate, leases and such profit and money as shall
rise or come of my
73 lands, or of any land that I have sold, shall be divided among all my sisters
according to the
74 discretion of them whom I here under ordain and make mine executors for
my goods,
75 cattall, ??⁴⁰, debts, credits, matters and things in England. And the
residue of my goods,
76 cattalls, debts, credits and things in England and the residue of such
money or profit as
77 shall rise or come of any land that I have sold and the residue of such
money or profit
78 as shall rise or come to mine executors, or to any of them, by reason of any
thing contained

79 or specified in the last will of my hand except here before bequeathed and
willed, I reserve
80 wholly to be distributed for my soul by the discretion of mine executors that
I here under
81 ordain and make for my goods, cattalls, ??, debts, credits, matters and
things in England.
82 And of all my goods, cattells, ??, debts, credits, matters and things in
England and of
83 such money or profit as shall rise or come of any land that I have sold⁴¹ and
of such money or
84 profit as shall rise or come to mine executors or to any of them by reason of
anything
85 contained or specified in my last will of my lands. I here ordain and make
mine executors
86 Mr. Thomas Selyard, parson of Brasted, Mr. John Fryer, doctor of physik,
and Master
87 **Thomas Palley** of the Company of Fishmongers of London, giving to every
of them six
88 pounds for his labours and if any of them do die before me, or refuse to be
mine executor,

41 it would seem that, although Thomas was living with the Grey Friars in Louvain, he was actively managing his estates in England.

89 for me aforesaid, then the said six pounds so to him bequeathed to the
other of them aforesaid
90 which take upon the executorship. In witness whereso to those present I
have set
91 my seal and subscribed my hand the day and year abovesaid. I ?? by me
Thomas Tebold
92 Read, subscribed and sealed the day and year abovesaid in the presence of
us here under written.
93 And we were then desired to be witness of the testament aforesaid. By me
Richard Bromdybe,
94 By me **William Branche.** By me **Nicholas Carniconi.** By me **Lastramo**
Fondiro. By me **Frances**
95 **Founder.** By me **Hugh Powell.** By me **Domenco da Confrone**⁴²

96 **To all Christian people to whom this present writing**
97 **shall come.** I Thomas Tebold , late of Seal in the county of Kent,
gentleman, send greeting
98 in our lord everlasting. This is the last will and devise of me, the said
Thomas Tebold,

42 the introduction to this list of witnesses is unusual, as if it was written by the witnesses themselves who seem, from their names, to be his companions at the Grey Friars in Louvain.

99 concerning my lands, tenements and hereditaments in manner and form
following: whereas
100 the said Thomas Tebold by my testament in writing concerning my goods
and cattalls in

page 3

101 England have ordained or made, or shall ordain and make, mine executors
of my goods and
102 cattalls in England, Mr. Thomas Selyard, parson of Brasted, Mr. John Fryer,
doctor of
103 physik, and Mr. Thomas Palley of the Company of Fishmongers. **First:** I
will, devise and
104 bequeath to the said Thomas Selyard, John Fry and Thomas Palley all and
singular
105 my leases⁴³, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, fruces? and hereditaments
with their appertenances
106 in **Seal, Kemsing, Sevenoaks** and elsewhere in the county of Kent. To have
and to hold all
107 leases, lands, tenements and other premises to the said Thomas Selyard,
John Fry

43 from here onwards this word looks like "meases" although it occurs where "leases" would be expected

108 and Thomas Palley from the day of my death unto the end and term of five
years then
109 next and immediately ensuing to the intent that they shall expound and
employ the issue
110 rents, revenues and profits of the same leases, lands, tenements and other
premises
111 towards and upon the payment of my debts and fulfilling and performing of
my legacies and
112 bequests in the said testament. And I will and devise that immediately
after the end of the
113 said five years, my lands and tenements called **Challen Croft** with
th'appertenances in Seal
114 aforesaid, now or late in the tenure or occupancy of **William Tomlyn** . And
my land and
115 tenements called **Rogers Land** with th'appertenances in Seal aforesaid
now or late in the several
116 tenure or occupancies of **Robert Watts** and **William Denman**. And my little
mead at **Tanners**
117 **Cross** with th'appertenances in Seal aforesaid now or late in the tenure or
occupancy of the
118 said William Denman. And my mead with th'appertenances beyond
Wynterburne Bridge in

119 Seal aforesaid now or late in the tenure or occupany of **James Porter** shall
remain
120 and be to my brother Richard Tebold and to the heirs male of his body
lawfully begotten
121 upon the conditions hereafter ensuing,, that is to say, upon condition that
he, the said
122 Richard do not at any time after my death disturb or let, nor procure to be
disturbed, nor
123 let anything contained in this my present will concerning my lands and
tenements
124 nor any thing concerning the performance of the same will or any part
thereof. And also
125 upon condition that after my brother John Tebold shall, at the age of 21
years⁴⁴ and
126 within fourteen days after a lawful request thereof to the said Richard
Tebold made by the
127 said John Tebold. my brother or his assigns, the said Richard Tebold, at the
cost and charge

44 The eldest daughter of Thomas's brother John married in February 1568. If John was under 21 in 1550 when Thomas wrote his will, he must have married very soon afterwards since, even if his daughter was only sixteen when she married. Yet if Richard was not going to come into this land until five years after Thomas's death, surely John must have been over 21 by 1555. Since Thomas was about thirty years older than John, did he just not know his age when he came to write his will and, being in Louvain, would not have had anyone to ask?

128 in the law of the same John Tebold, shall, by his sufficient writing in the
law, release
129 unto the said John Tebold, my brother, all such right, title, interest and
demand as the
130 said Richard Tebold now hath had or at the making of the said release or at
any time
131 before shall have of and in all those leases, lands, tenements and
hereditaments which now willed,
132 bequeathed or given to the said John Tebold, my brother, by John Tebold,
my late father,
133 by his last will. And also upon condition that the said Richard Tebold and
his heirs
134 do, at all and every time and times hereafter, permit and suffer my said
brother John
135 Tebold, his heirs and assigns, peacefully and quietly to have, hold and
enjoy, to his
136 and their own proper use, all and singular those leases, lands, tenements
and hereditaments
137 which were willed, bequeathed or given to the said John Tebold, my
brother, by the said
138 John Tebold, my father, by his last will. And I will and devise that, if the
said Richard

139 Tebold do die without heirs male of his body lawfully begotten or if the said
Richard,
140 his heirs or assigns, do break any of the conditions aforesaid or do not
observe all the
141 conditions aforesaid, that then, after the said five years, all and singular all
the said leases,
142 lands, tenements and hereditaments before by these present willed and
devised to my
143 said brother Richard Tebold in form aforesaid shall remain and be to the
said John
144 Tebold, my brother, and to the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten
without any
145 condition. And for lack of such issue, the remainder thereof to the said
Richard Tebold
146 and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten upon all conditions aforesaid.
And for
147 lack of such issue, the remainder thereof to the said John Tebold and to the
148 heirs of his body lawfully begotten without any condition. And for lack of
such issue,
149 the remainder thereof to my sister Joan, now wife to the said Thomas Palley
and to my
150 sister Anne, now wife to Thomas Bishop of Linton in the said county of
Kent, and to

151 my sister Agnes Bill now wife to Mr. Thomas Byll, doctor in physik, and to
my sister Alice,
152 now wife to John Wood of Waddon Court in the parish of Croydon in the
county of Surrey,
153 and to my sister Dorothy Croke, now widow. And to my sister Margaret,
wife to Thomas
154 Sharpey of Cranbrook in the said county of Kent and to my sister Sylvester
now wife to
155 John ??ndry and to the heirs and assigns of my said 7 sisters to be equally
divided
156 between them. And I will and devise that immediately after the end of the
said five years
157 my mansion house in which the said John Tebold, my late father. dwelled
in Seal aforesaid,
158 with th'appertenances, and all my ground corn and crops thereto adjoining
and all my ??
159 ??, ??, ?? and buildings to the said mansion house appertaining or
160 adjoining and all my lands and tenements in Seal aforesaid called
Frogdichefold

page 4:

161 **Leyland, Kettle, Levans, Great Leveans, Blondels, Pyngland and Diggon**
with th'appertenances.

162 And all those my lands and tenements called **Chart** in Seal aforesaid with
th'appertenances
163 which now be, or latte were, in the occupancy or tenancy of **William**
Cripps. And also my
164 ??⁴⁵ house and gardens in Seal aforesaid with th'appertenances now or
late in the occupancy
165 or tenancy of the said William Cripps. And also all and singular my ??⁴⁶
land
166 and tenements called **the Cheker**⁴⁷ in Seal aforesaid with th'appertenances,
now or late in the
167 tenancy or occupancy of **John Hyllis**. And also my m-s-? or tenement with
th'appertenances now
168 or late in the tenancy or occupancy of **Joan Sherwood**. And also all my
meadows, lands
169 and tenements in Seal and Kemsing aforesaid with th'appertenances
which now or late in the tenancy or

45 ?? ase - not "mansion"

46 "meseferme"?

47 "Chequers"? But it was interpreted as "Chirke" in the will of John(2) - 1545

170 occupancy of **William Fremlyn**. And also my parcel of land or pasture
called **Penfield** in
171 Seal aforesaid lying to Seal park shall remain and be to my said brother
John Tebold
172 and to the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten. And I will and devise
that, if the said
173 John Tebold, my brother, do die without heirs male of his body lawfully
begotten, that then
174 all and singular the foresaid leases, lands, tenements and hereditaments
before by these present
175 willed and devised to my said brother John Tebold in form aforesaid shall,
after the said
176 five years remain to my said brother Richard Tebold and his heirs male of
his body
177 lawfully begotten upon all the conditions aforesaid. I will and devise that if
the said
178 Richard Tebold do die without heirs male of his body lawfully begotten or if
the said
179 Richard Tebold do break any of the conditions aforesaid ,or do not observe
all the conditions
180 aforesaid, that then all and singular the said leases, lands and tenements
and hereditaments

181 before by those present willed and devised to my said brother Richard
Tebold in form aforesaid
182 shall, after the said five years, remain to the said John Tebold, my brother,
and and to the heirs
183 of his body lawfully begotten without any condition. And for lack of such
issue, the remainder
184 thereof to the said Richard Tebld and to the heirs of his body lawfully
begotten upon all the
185 conditions aforesaid. And for lack of such issue, the remainder thereof to
my foresaid seven
186 sisters and to their heirs equally to be divided between them. Also I will
and devise
187 that, after the said five years, all my lands and tenements called **Dalis and**
Chadewell in **Sevenoaks**
188 aforesaid, with th'appertenances, shall remain and be to the foresaid
Dorothy Croke, my sisiter
189 and to the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten. And for lack of such
issue, the remainder thereof
190 to the said Dorothy and to her heirs and assigns forever, And
notwithstanding the devises aforesaid,
191 I will and devise to my said sister Margaret Sharpey an annual rent of
twenty shillings

192 of lawful money of England going out of my said land and tenements
called **Chance** and out of
193 my said mansion house and gardens withe th'appertenances now or late in
the occupation or tenancy of
194 the said William Cripps. To have, levy and pre— the said annual rent of
20s to the said
195 Margaret during her life, natural, payable yearly at the feast of Saint
Michel th'archangel
196 and the anniversary of out blessed lady Saint Mary, the virgin, by even
portions, the first
197 payment thereof to begin at the first of the said two feasts that shall first
happen three
198 years next after my decease. And I will and devise that, if it happen the
said Annual rent of 20s
199 to be behind, unpaid in portion or in all after any of the feasts aforesaid in
which it ought to be paid
200 That then it shall be lawful to the said Margaret, during her life in the said
land and tenements
201 called Chance and the said mansion house and gardens now or late in the
tenancy or occupancy
202 of the said William Cripps, to enter and distrain and the distress theresoo
taken to lead, drive and

203 carry away and with her to retain till she be satisfied and paid of the said
rent and of every parcel
204 thereof so being behind. Also I instantly require my said brother Richard
and my said brother
205 John and all my said executors, that they permit and suffer the foresaid
John Hylls, William
206 Cripps and William Denman to occupy and enjoy such of my land and
tenements as they now
207 severally occupy or have of me, they paying ans doing such rent and duties
as they have paid
208 and done for the same since my said father's death, I requiring my said
brothers to have in
209 remembrance the request and commandment of my said father in his
deathbed in that behalf.
210 In witness whereof to these present I have set my hand and seal the 19th
day of June in the year
211 of our lord god a thousand five hundred and fifty. **Item:** of Thomas Tebold
Memorandum
212 That this writing was read in the hearing of the within named Thomas
Tebold agreed
213 to the same and sealed it and subscribed it in the presence of these present
here under named and

214 he required them to be witness that this is his last will of his hand. By me
Randolph Bain
215 by me **Nicholas Harpfelde**, by me **William Branche**, by me **Thomas Martin**,
by me **Lombert**
216 **Bonust**, by me **Thomas Roper**, by me **Peter Growt**, by me **Nicholas**
Carniconi, by me **Thomas**
217 **Martin**. And by me **Francis Founder**, by me **Hugh Powell**.

Latin texts with Thomas Tebold will

The probate copy of Thomas's will (Coode 19; Prob 11/33) is followed, as usual by the probate clause (in Latin) which appears to be similar to the probate clause of the will preceding that of Tebold in the probate book It begins:

The last will and testament of the above was proved in the presence of the Lord archbishop of Canterbury in London on the second day of the month of November in the year of our lord 1550 . .

The rest of this probate clause is difficult to transcribe but does not appear to include the names of the executors.

What is very unusual is that the probate clause is followed by 1½ pages of Latin. This appears to have been written by Indocus Revesteyn, professor and master of arts at the University of Louvain who refers to “a writing that is written and set out on parchment concerning the lands, tenements and heriditaments of Thomas Tebold” dated 19th June 1550 (two days before the will was written). These appear to be lands, etc. on the Continent owned by Thomas Tebold.⁴⁸

In his will itself Thomas particularly mentions that his testament is concerned with his “goods and cattalls” in England (see lines 100-102) implying that he could also have property outside of England. Land he owned in Europe could have been detailed in a separate document - the subject of this Latin text.

At the end of this Latin document, there is a date in October 1550, over three months after Thomas wrote his will but a month before it was proved.

Lines 5 to 12 list a number of people:

- **Sebastian ffondus**, an Italin “anuncus”,
- **John Fryer**, English, doctor of physic living in England - one of the executors of the English will

- **John Palley** . . . university scholar . . son of **Thomas Palley**⁴⁹ ?? citizen of London in England where he lives,
- **William Branche**⁵⁰, cleric,
- **Nicholas Harpesfelde**, “inris civilis Bace”,
- **Thomas Roper** and **Francis Founder**⁵¹ of England and
- **Nicholas “Carniconi”**⁵² from Italy.

These names and others are repeated throughout the text and three other witnesses of the will appear on lines 31 and 32: Thomas Martin, sen., Thomas Martin, junior, Peter Growt and Hugh Powell, with Powell also being witness to the testament. There are references to land and tenements but no obvious location is given

49 when Thomas Palley, the husband of Johane, Thomas Tebold's sister, died in 1558 all his children, including his eldest son John, was still underage, thus in 1550 John could have been twelve at the most

50 a witness of the testament and the will and, since he was a clerk, he could have written these

51 Harpfelds, Roper and Founder were witnesses to the will but not the testatment

52 Carniconi witnessed both the will and the testament

Richard Tebold, Deputy to Queen Elizabeth's Remembrancer

Richard was admitted to the Middle Temple probably about 1540 and, in the early 1550s, he married Katherine Elliot when he was about thirty. In addition to land in Seal and Sevenoaks, he owned land in **Great Saint Bartholomews, London** where he most likely lived for a large part of his adult life being deputy to Queen Elizabeth's Remembrancer (Collector of personal taxes).

When not in London, Richard and his family initially lived at **Dynes, Kemsing**, later moving to **Stonepitts** to the east of Seal parish. Their gravestone in the south chancel of Seal church is inscribed: "**Richard Tybold, esquire, secondary of the queen's majesty's remembrancer in the exchequer**" and lists their eight children "**whose souls we beseech Jesu send a joyful resurrection**"

A Quitclaim

A quitclaim dated 20th September 1560 has survived from **Katherine Hartridge of Frittenden, Kent** (about 3 miles north of Cranbrook), widow and her seven sons, William, Matthew, John, Richard, Robert, Thomas and Michael, to **Richard Tebold**

of **Kemsing (#352)** of their share in the messuage and land in Kemsing and Seal⁵³. **Katherine Olyver (#3924)** married **Thomas Hartridge of Cranbrook** and perhaps the land her husband left her and their sons was part of her dowry.

The Family of Richard and Katherine

Richard married Katherine Eliot in the early 1550s. The children below, probably born in London, are listed in the same order as they are given on their parents' gravestone which is the only evidence for John (#3452).

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Di ed
#352	<u>TEBOLD, Ri chard</u>	<1524	1551-1553	Katherine Eliot #353	1 8	2 Mar 1570
!	#3452 <u>TEBOLD, John</u>				0 0	died young
!	#637 <u>TEBOLD, James</u>				0 0	
!	#3 <u>TEBOLD, John(R)</u>			Dorothy Morgan	1 13	8 Jul 1633
	see page t.86 for details of his descendants					
!	#638 <u>Tebol d, Anne</u>	<1556	5 Feb 1576	Thomas NEVINSON #318	2 12	1595 in her 40s
!	#639 <u>Tebol d, Katherine</u>	<1560	17 May 1580	William GOSNOLL #1020	1 3	
!	#1119 <u>GOSNOLL, Thomas</u>	16 Jul	1581		0 0	

⁵³ (British Museum Harl. 86H 21)

• #1159	<u>Gosnoll, Katherine</u>	9 Sep 1582	0 0	
• #1175	<u>Gosnoll, Avis</u>		0 0	8 Nov 1586
<hr/>				
• #640	<u>Tebold, Elizabeth</u>		0 0	29 Jul 1587 late teens
• #641	<u>Tebold, Sylvester</u>	20 Jan 1564 in Kemsing	0 0	
• #642	<u>Tebold, Mary</u>	1590s	Henry OXINDEN	1 0 27 Dec 1636
<hr/>				
Lady Mary Oxinden when she died; no children recorded				
<hr/>				

The lands left to Richard in 1550 by his elder brother Thomas, were bequeathed by Richard, in 1570, to his second surviving son John (#3) but the profits from them were to be used initially for the bringing up of his eldest son, James (#637) - about 15 when his father died - in "[Winchester School and the University of Oxford or Cambridge until he be of th'age of 17 years, 13s 6s 8d yearly](#)" and, after 17 until he was 21, "[his bringing up in learning in any Inn of Court to study the Laws of this Realm](#)" £20; James was admitted to the Inner Temple in 1576. He was mentioned in the will of his brother-in-law, **Thomas Nevinson**, written in 1590 - see [Nevinson in More Families & Transcripts](#).

It was Richard's daughter Anne who married Thomas Nevinson. They had nine children in 14 years but only the eldest **Roger**, baptised on 22nd January 1577, was born in Seal. Thomas died in 1590 and Anne married **Edward Fagg (#3475) of Faversham** by whom she had three children, again not born in Seal.

Eighteen months after Richard's death, on 8th November 1571, Katherine married **Thomas Wale** .

Richard's Will

The date given at the beginning of the will is 25th November 1569 but it is divided into two parts, the second being concerned with his land, etc. and the detailed arrangements for his children all of whom were under age. It ends "**whereof I, the said Richard Tebold, have written this will and subscribed the same with my own hand the day and year above first written**" but the signatures following this are dated later:

Richard Tebold

22nd February 1569 (i.e. 1570)

William Colshill

"**did set his hand
Tebold's will**"

28th February in affirmation of Richard

per me **William Colshill**

per me John --age

per me **William Agale**

per me **Gilbert Hills**

per me **John Everton**

per me **David Simpson**

per me **Richard Durant**

A codicil was annexed to the will signed by Richard Tebold but not dated or witnessed. Richard was buried on 2nd March 1570.

The will was made complex because both his sons were underage. Richard appointed his wife Katherine as his executrix and within one month of his decease

she had to "enter into sufficient bond obligatory with two sufficient sureties of the sum of five hundred pounds" to the overseers as a guarantee that she would perform "this my present testament in manner and form . . . declared". If she was not prepared to do this, then Richard's brothers-in-law were to be his executors. But, if she did "take upon her to be my executrix", she was to have all the "residue of his chattels, plate, jewels, household stuff, debts and others whatsoever".

Being the executor of Richard's will involved a large amount of work with many complex arrangements to be made but she was to be helped by his overseers who were her brother, **Richard Elliot**, and Richard's brothers-in-law, **Thomas Hendley and Roger Manwood** who were given the particular task of looking after his daughters' dowries.

In 1558, Richard Tebold had been a plaintiff in a case regarding land in Seal in which Thomas Loveles (Lovelace), Esq. was one of the defendants. In his will Richard refers to Lovelace (listed as "of the gentry" by William Lambard in 1570) as Master Thomas Lovelace and left him "for a remembrance" his "best doublet of crimson satin" - see **Seal Fines in More Families & Transcripts**.

The Parsonage of Kemsing and Seal

Richard was possessed, for a term of years to come, of the parsonage of Kemsing and Seal which, until the reformation, had been the property of the Abbey and convent of Saint Saviour in Bermondsey. Katherine was to have this, taking the yearly profit "to her own behoof and sole fee" until James was 21 . . "upon condition that she, with two sufficient sureties, shall enter into a sufficient bond obligatory . . of five hundred pounds to mine overseers . . and also upon condition that the said Katherine . . shall yearly continue and pay the rent . . due to our sovereign Lady, the Queen . . and she shall not do, permit, cause or suffer to be done . . anything or things whereby the said lease and term of years shall be forfeit, determind, made void or cease".

Katherine was to have the occupying and use, during her natural life, of Stonepitts and the household items there even though these were eventually to go to James. Each of Richard's five daughters (Anne, Katherine, Elizabeth, Sylvester and Mary) was to receive two hundred marks (£66.67) at their marriage, if they married before they were twenty, otherwise at the age of twenty. These amounts were to come from the profits of his lands as described in the second part of the will.

Like his father and brother, Richard left money for roads:

- £6 8s 4d for the mending of the "footpath leading over my great meadow between Seal and Kemsing with planks"
- reserve of the said ten pounds for the "mending of the house over the town well adjoining to the cross at Seal"

He also left money to be distributed to the poor of Seal and Kemsing, Chiddingstone, Sevenoaks and Great Saint Bartholomews in London.

A number of items were left "for a remembrance":

- my brother John Tebold "my gown furred with . . ."
 - Mr **George Multon**⁵⁴ "my best jacket of velvet"
 - master **Thomas Lovelace**⁵⁵ "my best doublet of crimson satin"
 - each of his brothers-in-law a ring of gold (space left for value)
 - their wives & each of his sisters a ring of gold of the same value
- "desiring them all to be good to my wife and children"

54 see page t.126

55 In 1570 Thomas Lovelace was listed by William Lambarde as of the gentry

- **Sir Robert Katlyn**, knight,
 "my very good lord" one ring of gold
 "in token of goodwill and remembrance, desiring him to be good
 lord to my wife and children as he hath always been"
- "my Lady, his wife" one ring of gold
- Roger Manwood "my grey gelding? or five pounds of money"

Household items, etc. bequeathed by Richard to his eldest son **James** to be given him when he reached the age of 21:

- my best featherbed of down
- my other great featherbed of feathers at London
- my best ring of gold with the seal
- a gilt bowl being that of silver and double gilt with the cover of silver and gilt
- 12 silver spoons of the best of all such spoons as I shall have at my death
- my best salt of silver and double gilt
- the hangings of Arras that are in my great parlour of Kemsing
- all and all manner of bedsteads, presses, cupboards, portals, wainscots, glass, great troughs, brewing vessels, copper tubs, forms, stools, shelves, chairs, bins for bread and all other sundries of household being in my houses at Kemsing and Stonepitts.

If all his children died before reaching the age of 20/21, a moiety of his daughters inheritance was to be used to purchase some land "for aid towards the better comfort, relief and maintenance of the School and almshouses at Sevenoaks". Half of the

other moiety (that is a quarter of the total) was to be bestowed at the discretion of Katherine or his overseers in alms and deeds of charity and the remainder for building two or three almshouses in Seal.

He ends this part of his will be desiring his brothers-in-law and overseers "for all love and for god's sake to be good and friendly to my poor wife and children".

Richard's Land and his Daughters

The inheritance of the Tebold land through from John(2) to the heirs of his sons is described later (see page t.106). Given here are some arrangements specific to Richard and his heirs. By the time Richard died in 1570 he had acquired considerably more land than that left to him by his father and elder brother. He had two sons, James and John with James no more than fifteen or sixteen.

(In the following description, the longer extracts from the transcript are not shown in blue)

His Daughters' Dowries

In the part of his will written "for the dispersion of all my lands and tenements wherever they be within the realm of England" his first request is that:

"my well beloved wife **Katherine Tebold**, my sole executrix, if she take upon her the administration of my last will . . as my large trust in her, shall receive and take issue, profits and revenues of all these several parcels of land, meadow and pasture called Seal Park and all other my lands, tenements, meadows and outhouses situated, lying and being within the parishes of Seal and Kemsing, Tonbridge and Sevenoaks within the county of Kent and within the city of London from the day of my death until the feast of Saint Michael th'archangel then next ensuing and so from the said feast . for the term of three years . . for the payment of my legacies . . to my daughters . . And I will that my said wife shall yearly and during the said term of three years make account of the said issue and profit . . so by her received to my overseers . . and the money upon the said account found yearly in her hands, all things being allowed, shall pay to my said overseers in manner and form following:

- the first year's money and profit . . with the overplus from the day of my death until the feast of Saint Michael th'archangel then next ensuing . . to the hands of master **Roger Manwood** . . within one month next after the said first year's

account made to the use of Anne, my daughter in part payment of two hundred marks . . before by me willed

- the second year's money and profit to the hands of Mr. **Thomas Hendley** . . for the payment of the residue of my daughter Anne's portion and of Katherine my daughter so far as the same will stretch
- the third year's profit to the hands of my brother-in-law Mr. **Richard Elliot** . . to the use of Katherine, Elizabeth, Sylvester and Mary my daughters so far as the same will stretch

taking from Roger Manwood, Thomas Hendley and Richard Elliot . . sufficient bonds for the repayment of the said money to the use expressed in this my last will . . And I will that the Roger Manwood, Thomas Hendley and Richard Elliot shall pay the said money and profits reserved to my said daughters at the days of their several marriages. And if they, or any of them, do not marry before they . . do come to their said age of 20 years, then I will that it shall be paid to them at their several ages of 20 years . . as is outlaid in my last will.

And the residue of the marriage money, I will to be paid by my executrix to my said daughters . . and . . the profits of my lands . . for my children's bringing up as much as shall be overplus above the charges of their education towards the marriage money of my said daughters requiring them to employ the sum in the meantime to the most advancement and commodity of my said daughters . . that if Katherine, my wife, shall be minded to keep the said money in her hands and

employ the same to the commodity and profit of my children, that then she, the said Katherine, putting in good and sufficient securities to the said Roger Manwood, Thomas Hendley and Richard Elliot for the first repayment of the sum accordingly as is aforesaid that then she . . shall have the use and keeping then towards the marriage of my said daughters

And if the said Katherine, my wife, do refuse to be my executrix and will not be bound by securities as is aforesaid, then I request my said loving brothers-in-law . . or the survivor of them to take and receive the issue and profits of all my said lands and tenements . . . (to the end of the part year plus three years) toward and for the payment of my foresaid testament to my said daughters.”

His Daughters' Marriages

Anne married in 1576 when she might just have been 20, Katherine in 1580 when again she might just have been 20 and Mary in the 1590s having reached her twentieth birthday before then. Elizabeth died in 1587 and nothing is known of Sylvester who was only six when her father died.

Thus Roger Manwood, Thomas Hendley and Richard Elliot would have had to look after this money for a considerable length of time. Thomas Hendley died in 1590

and Roger Manwood in 1592, by which time both before Sylvester and Mary would have reached their 20th birthday. It is not known when Richard Elliot died.

The Eventual Division of Richard's Land

Eventually, after the three plus years and when his sons reached 21, the land etc. was to be divided between Katherine, James and John. Richard first itemises the land etc. given in Table T.5 (page t.116) plus that in Chiddingstone and Brasted described in Table T.2 (page t.110), leaving it to Katherine "for term of her life" and then to James. After the three years, during the rest of the "nonage of James", that is until he reached the age of 21, Katherine was to receive the yearly revenue and profit of the land, etc. listed in Table T.6 (page t.117) plus Dynes (in Table T.2). Should James not live to be 21, Katherine (provided she did "so long live and observe the conditions and intents herein specified") was to receive the issue and profits from all the lands and tenements until "John Tebold, my son or my next heir at the common law" should reach the age of 21. It is not clear exactly how the land was to be divided between James and John since the items in Table T.6 are repeated at the end of the will together with some others not previously mentioned. These are shown in Table T.7 (page t.121) and both Tables T.6 and T.7 give the most likely recipient as it appears from deciphering the will.

The Bringing up of the Children

If it pleased god to send James "life until he shall be of th'age of 21 years and that my son John do also live" then the profits from all the land left to John were, until he was 21, to be received in a similar way to that from all the land for the first three years towards the marriage money of Richard's daughters.

Katherine was to bestow the profits "yearly coming and growing of the said lands and tenements . . in good . . bringing up of all my children and especially bringing up of my sons in learning at school in good and .. doctrine".

During the nonage of her daughters, Katherine was to give each of them a yearly sum and to "John Tebold, my son, yearly £13 6s 8d towards his finding" and the residue of the profits was to go:

"towards the necessities of my children and towards the preferment of my daughters in marriage to augment their contract money provisionally provided. And my meaning is that if the profits of my lands and other things before limited for my daughters' marriages shall not suffice within the time severally appointed . . for the payment of the same then, for supply of such want after my heirs shall be of th'age of 21 years, 20 marks yearly shall be paid out of the lands of the said James and John, viz: £6 13s 4d out of the lands of the said James and ?£6 13s 4d? out of the land of the said John Tebold . . . "

"And if it happen that the said Katherine my wife depart this trust . . before" James reached the age of 21 "or if the said Katherine or such husband or husbands as she may hereafter happen to marry do not set my said sons to school and bring them up and my daughters in learning and virtue according to that trust that I do expect in her and the meaning of this my will but suffer them to live at pleasure without good condition and bringing up, then I will my loving and trusted brothers-in-law, Mr. Roger Manwood, Mr. Thomas Hendley and Mr. Richard Elliot, esquire, . . to receive the issue and profits of said lands and tenements . . towards the said bringing up of my said children . . and of the surplus thereof, if any shalbe, to account to my next heir . . in which account be set all reasonable charges to be allowed . . . "

As already noted, Katherine did marry again well before any of the children came of age but it is not known who organised their up-bringing.

The Descendants of Richard and Katherine

When first married, John(R) and Dorothy lived at Dynes, Kemsing as had his father before him. They moved to Stonepitts about 1600.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
#3	<u>TEBOLD, John(R)</u>			Dorothy Morgan	1 14	8 Jul 1633
#1446	<u>Morgan, Dorothy</u>				1 14	
	-----	daughter of Sir John Morgan of Surrey				
• #3506	<u>Tebold, Kathleen</u>			Lawrence PIER ⁵⁶	1 ?	
• #1646	<u>Tebold, Johane</u>				0 0	10 Sep 1586
• #1448	<u>TEBOLD, Richard</u>	12 Nov 1587			0 0	21 Mar 1593(K) at 5%
• #1447	<u>TEBOLD, John(R2)</u>	<1591	1614	Dorothy Culpepper	1 8	
	-----	see page t.87 for his descendants				
• #3497	<u>TEBOLD, George</u>				0 0	"Mr. George Theobald, Esq." in 1619 ⁵⁷
• #3498	<u>TEBOLD, Samson</u>	24 Sep 1591(K) ⁵⁸			0 0	"Samson Theobald, gent." in 1619
• #3499	<u>Tebold, Ann</u>	25 Feb 1593(K)			0 0	
• #3500	<u>TEBOLD, James</u>	6 Jan 1595(K)			0 0	
• #3501	<u>Tebold, Dorothy</u>	30 Nov 1596(K)			0 0	
• #3502	<u>Tebold, Grysgen</u>	1597			0 0	
	-----	daughter; not in Seal or Kemsing registers				
• #3466	<u>TEBOLD, Richard</u>	22 Mar 1601			0 0	
• #3503	<u>TEBOLD, Morgan</u>	21 Feb 1602	son		0 0	
• #3467	<u>Tebold, Mary</u>	15 Mar 1604			0 0	31 Jan 1627 at 23
	-----	"Mistress Marie Theobald, daughter of John Theobald of Stonepitts, the elder, Esq." when she was buried				
• 3465	<u>TEBOLD, William</u>	7 Nov 1605			0 0	

56 see [Piers in More Families & Transcripts](#) for details of Kathleen's family

57 in will of Steven, 1619

58 baptised in Kemsing

When in 1619 he was left a gold ring of value forty shillings by his cousin Steven (#312, son of John(3)), he was known as "[John Theobald, senior, Esq.](#)" His sons John (#1447), George and Samson were left similar gold rings. Does this mean that all #3's younger sons died before 1619 or had they just moved out of Steven's orbit?

Dorothy Culpepper, the wife of John(R)'s eldest surviving son, was the daughter of **Sir Edward & Elizabeth Culpepper of Wakehurst Place, Ardingly, Surrey** where her first child was born.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
#1447	<u>TEBOLD, John(R2)</u>	<1591	1614	Dorothy Culpepper	1 8	
#1449	<u>Culpepper, Dorothy</u>				1 8	
!	#3504 <u>Tebold, Elizabeth</u>	1615			0 0	
!	#3473 <u>Tebold, Dorothy</u>	30 Nov 1617 no father given for the burial but #3473 must have died before March 1623 when a sister was baptised "Dorothy"			0 0	3 Jul 1619 at 19 mnths
!	#3468 <u>TEBOLD, John</u>	29 Apr 1619			0 0	27 Oct 1625 age 6
!	#3469 <u>Tebold, Margaret</u>	17 Jun 1621			0 0	
!	#3474 <u>Tebold, Dorothy</u>	22 Mar 1623			0 0	
!	#3472 <u>TEBOLD, Culpepper</u>	27 Mar 1625 son			0 0	21 Apr 1629 age 4
!	#3470 <u>TEBOLD, John(R3)</u>	7 Sep 1626			0 0	
!	#3471 <u>TEBOLD, William</u>	3 Oct 1630			0 0	

John(3) Tebold , his wife Clemence and their Children

John(3) and his wife Clemence had fourteen, possibly fifteen, children between 1552? and 1575 with the further possibility of a sixteenth child born after 1575. At her burial in 1605, when she would have been about 70, Clemence is described as "a most holy and virtuous woman, once wife of John Theobold of this town, gent.". John(3) wrote his will in 1575 but did not die until February 1578. In 1561 he was one of the witnesses to the will of Thomas Olyver (#233).

There are problems fitting in the births and marriages of some of the children. John(3) was not only under 21 when his father died in 1545, he was also underage when his eldest brother, Thomas, died in 1550. If John(3) was born in 1530, he would only have been 38 when his daughter Elizabeth married in 1568 so that both of them must have married at well under the average age (mid- to late twenties for both men and women), possibly John(3) at 21 (in 1551) and Elizabeth at 16.

Since the baptism of Elizabeth's first recorded child was not until 1574, the date of her marriage (which was not in Seal) could be incorrect. Even so, Steven, John(3)'s eldest son, must also have married at an early age since he was married before 1575 when his father wrote his will. Steven's second daughter was born in

April 1576 when John(3) could still have been no more than 46 and Steven had an elder daughter who married in 1598.

Where the time interval between births is known (nine between November 1561 and May 1575 - $13\frac{1}{2}$ years), it is about 1 year and 5 months for the first five increasing to $2\frac{1}{2}$ years between the last two. This is a much shorter interval than the average for Seal at this time - about $2\frac{1}{2}$ years for all births. With Elizabeth born in 1552, Clemence was childbearing for well over twenty years which shows that she also must have married young.

Two daughters called "Ann" are another problem: Ann Tebold, daughter of John(3), married Richard Holden in October 1581 but an "Ann, daughter of John Tebold" was buried in 1571. The Ann who married in 1581 must have been born before 1571 so that she could not have been given the same name as a child who had already died, as was fairly common. Although there are a lot of John Tebolds in the register, there does not seem another one who could have been the father of the Ann who died.

Perhaps the name was entered in the register incorrectly. However, since there is no time to "fit in" this birth between 1561 and 1571, she must have been born between 1554 and 1560 thus reducing the interval between births to nearer what it was when successive dates are known. Also, given fifteen births in 23 years, Clemence could have had very few, if any, miscarriages and no still births.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
#1	<u>TEBOLD, JOHN(3)</u>	1530?	1551?	Clemence Lynch	1 16	25 Feb 1578 late 40s; will 1575
	gent.					
#2	<u>Lynch, Clemence</u>	daughter of William Lynch and Elizabeth Baker			1 16	19 Nov 1606 about 70; will 1606
!	#272 <u>Tebol d, Elizabeth</u>	1552?	married twice, see page t.128		2 9	
!	#312 <u>TEBOLD, Steven</u>	1553?	Katherine Caryll		1 4	9 Jul 1619
	gent.	see page t.149 for details of his children				
!	#307 <u>Tebol d, Margaret</u>	<1560	17 Oct 1580	James CHARLES gent., #1025	1 0	alive in 1606
!	#308 <u>Tebol d, Dorothy</u>	<1560			2 1	died before March 1606
	<i>Marriage 1</i>		4 Jul 1580	Thomas COLLYNS #1022	1 0	
	<i>Marriage 2</i>		4 Nov 1588	Thomas DENMAN	1 1	see DENMAN #1350 in Families & Transcripts
!	#309 <u>Tebol d, daughter</u>				0 0	13 Jan 1571
!	#310 <u>Tebol d, Ann</u>	<1561	29 Oct 1581	Richard HOLDEN #1304	1 0	alive in 1606
!	#1750 <u>TEBOLD, John(4)</u>	24 Nov 1561			2 2	
	<i>Marriage 1</i>		1585	Katherine Tebol d(m)		
			married at 24			
!	#1751 <u>his wife, Katherine</u>				1 1	20 Mar 1589
!	! #3505 <u>TEBOLD, Steven</u>	3 Dec 1587			0 0	
	<i>Marriage 2</i>		>Mar 1589	Alice Walsingham ⁵⁸ #1759		
!	#1759 <u>Walsingham, Alice</u>				1 1	15 Mar 1638; will 12 Mar 1638
!	! #1760 <u>Tebol d, Clemence</u>	9 Apr 1592			0 0	

58 taken as Alice Tebold, widow, whose will has survived; in this case she and John(4) had six more daughters - see page t.158

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
!	#4	<u>Tebol d, Syl vester</u>	20 May 1563		0 0	died before 1606
!	#5	<u>Tebol d, Alice</u>	30 Oct 1564	?? Radcl i ffe	0 0	alive in 1606
!	#6	<u>Tebol d, Cle mence</u>	3 Mar 1566		0 0	18 Jun 1567 at 1.25 yrs
!	#7	<u>TEBOLD, Thomas</u>	17 Aug 1567		0 0	21 Oct 1568 at 14 mnths
!	#8	<u>TEBOLD, Thomas</u>	9 Jan 1569 gent. of Cliffords Inn		2 3	13 May 1617 at 48 will 20 Oct 1613
		Marriage 1		Ci cel y Tebol d(m)		
!	#2097	<u>hi s wi fe, Ci cel y</u>			1 3	8 May 1607
!	!	#3453 <u>Tebol d, Cle mence</u>	1 Jan 1603		0 0	
!	!	#3455 <u>Tebol d, Wal si ngham</u>	18 Oct 1604		0 0	
!	!	#3454 <u>Tebol d, Anna</u>	21 Sep 1606		0 0	
		Marriage 2		Fri deswi th Tebol d(m)		
!		<u>hi s wi fe, Fri deswi th</u>			1 0	
!	#9	<u>Tebol d, Agnes</u>	16 Dec 1570 must have died before summer 1575 when her father wrote his will		0 0	<1575
!	#10	<u>TEBOLD, Robert</u>	1 Nov 1572		0 0	18 Dec 1572 at 6 wks
!	#11	<u>TEBOLD, Ri chard</u>	11 May 1575		0 0	23 Oct 1575 5½ mnths
!	#311	<u>TEBOLD, son</u>			0 0	died young

John and Clemence's Children

Out of fourteen children, four died young (if there were sixteen, the other two also died young). Of the remaining ten, at least seven married with children recorded for four of them. Margaret, Dorothy and Ann probably lived outside Seal so that any children they had would have been recorded elsewhere.

In her will Clemence gives £5 to each of her “three daughters that are living” - Margaret, Ann and Alice - so that the other daughters must have died before 1606. It is only from Clemence's will that we know that Ann's married name was Radcliffe.

Their eldest daughter, **Elizabeth**, married twice and, like her mother, had children over a period of approaching thirty years - see page t.128 for details.

Their eldest son, **Stephen**, was married before 1575 when John(3) wrote his will. He became a wealthy lawyer owning a large amount of local land, granted arms in 1583 and becoming Commissioner to the king in **Deptford** in 1607 - see page t.149 for more details.

Margaret married **James Charles**, gent., whose will, dated 1st September 1606, has survived - see page t.130. From this, they had three children:

- **Richard**, “my natural son”, who was to have all his father’s “books and library and ... ” which was to be kept in “my brother John Tebold's hands until (Richard) shall come out of his apprenticeship so as he serve out his time as an honest servant ought”.
- **Ann** to whom he left “the silver spoons with all such implements and household stuff which she hath already in her possession”
- **Clemence** who was his “undutiful daughter” and was therefore to receive only 12d. Sometimes when a child was “cut off with a shilling”, it was because they had already had a share of the estate but here it looks as if Clemence was to suffer for having been undutiful.

Dorothy married twice - see Thomas Denman in **Other Denmans of Seal and Ightham** for more details. Her Denman sons were each left £16 13s 4d by their uncle Thomas.

Thomas was another wealthy lawyer, a member of Cliffords Inn but he died at only forty-eight. His wife, Cicely, had died ten years earlier. His will has survived and details of this are given below - see page t.132

John could have been the John Tebold, gentleman, who borrowed £20 from **John Duble, glover**, in 1586, a year after he married - see **section Z in More Families & Transcripts** for details of the indenture recording this transaction.

Clemence, the Matriarch

Clemence was about seventy when she wrote her will in 1606. By this time she had been a widow for twenty-eight years. From her will we get at least one glimpse of how she tried to (and probably did) keep control of her large family. Elizabeth, her eldest daughter married twice, her second husband being Robert Godden with three sons recorded in the parish registers. She seems also to have had a daughter, Clemence, who is remembered by her grandmother but will only get her inheritance if she follows the advice of her elders:

“if the said Clemence Godden do marry any person before her said age of 21 years without the consent and liking of my eldest son, Steven Theobald, and Thomas Theobald, my third son, or the survivor of them, that then she to have no benefit by this my will”.

The Will of John(3) Tebold

written summer 1575; codicil 24th February 1578

transcript from probate copy

Although he did not die until February 1578, John's will was written in the summer of 1575 "being touched by some sickness, grief and weakness of body, I am thereby put in remembrance that death is the end of all living flesh, the time and the hour whereof to all creatures is uncertain".

executrix: wife, Clemence

overseers: **Roger Manwood**

cousin **George Multon, Esquire** and **Humphrey Bridges, gent** (at arms?)

(see page t.126 for details of Multon and Bridges)

Each of the overseers were to receive 20s "for their pains".

witnesses: **Thomas Wale** who had married Richard's widow in 1571

main will **John Miller** **Ralph Dobble** **John Olyver (#70)**

John Miller was probably the husband of Sylvester Porter (#2955)

codicil: **Gilbert Jenyns (#15)**

William Denman (#1992)

John Wakelyn (#94)

John Olyver could have written the main will and Gilbert Jenyns the codicil.

John(3) wished to be buried in Seal church "[as near unto my seat there as conveniently may be at which burial my will is that there shall be given amongst the poor people there 40s in money or more if my executors think it needful . . within one year after my death 40s more shall be given amongst the poor people](#)" of Seal. In addition 6s 8d was to be distributed amongst the poor of **Shipbourne**.

Other than land, his main bequests were:

daughters: **Dorothy** 100 marks at the day of her marriage or at age 20
 Ann, Sylvester and Alice
 £50 each, when they married or reached the age of 20

Clemence, his wife: my goblet of silver and gilt
 all the residue of his goods and chattels

Steven, his eldest son:
 my best gold ring; my silver goblet with the cover
 all my armour, bedsteads, tables, cupboards, presses, wainscots, iron works
 and all manner of implements . . of household and my
 the copper vat and all other implements thereof

John(4), his second son:
 my stubb salt of silver and gilt; three silver spoons
 a joined bedstead standing in Margaret? chamber, a featherbed, a bolster
 my third covering of tapestry, two pillows, three pairs of sheets

Each of **his sisters:** "for a token of remembrance", a piece of gold of 10s.

sister Wale; that is his sister-in-law, Richard's widow: 10s
goddaughter, **Sylvester Tebold** (his niece, #641?): 10s

Richard Sharpey, (#680's son) 20s

sister **Hormenden??** 20s

To each of his men servants	6s 8d
his five maid servants	5s

John(3) had assigned his "principal house in Seal and diverse of my lands and tenements" to Steven when he married and "for the several jointures of Clemence, my wife, and Katherine, my daughter-in-law, as by the conveyance thereof" was still his "full intent and purpose", it was to stand for the lands and tenements therein mentioned but "the disposition and ordering" of all the rest of John(3)'s land, tenements and hereditaments was covered in his will and these details are given in Tables T.7 and T.8 - see page t.121, 122.

For four years after his decease, Clemence was to take all the issues, rents and profits from everything not covered by the conveyance "(and the wood and underwood upon the said land always excepted) to the intent that she, the said Clemence, may be the better therewith provided for in the maintenance of her living and shall virtuously and honestly bring up my children . . until such time as their portions and legacies shall be due unto them". By the time John(3) died, Thomas (#8) appears to be the youngest surviving child but he, who was eventually to go to **Cliffords Inn**, was only six when his father wrote his will and nine when he died.

"And to the intent also that she . . pay the legacies by me given to my said daughters and also for the better maintenance and in ease of living during her life

. . I give unto her . . over and besides her jointure all ready assured" the yearly rent charges or annuities from the land listed in Table T.7.

These annuities were to be paid half yearly at the feast of the Annunciation and of Saint Michael the Archangel, by equal portions. If any part of them was not paid within ten days of the said feasts then "it shall and may be lawful for the said Clemence and her assigns . . to enter into the premises . . and there to distrain . . and keep" until she was satisfied.

Later in the will, John(3) includes the item: "where before it was excepted that my said wife shall not take the profits of any of the wood in and upon the said land and tenements to her devised for the said term of four years, my will is that it shall and may be lawful for her during such time as she shall remain unmarried to have and take sufficient wood in and upon the said woodland called **Froydfelde** and . . . for her convenient and necessary fuel to be found at her dwelling house and not elsewhere".

All John(3)'s bequests to Clemence were on the assumption that she took on the execution of the will and accepted such benefits and legacies "for a full recompense unto her of any title of dower of any of my lands and tenements" and, if at any within the said 4 years she intended and was fully resolved to marry, she was to be "bound with sufficient sureties to my said son Steven and the overseers of this my will for the due answering and true ployment of the said legacies given

to my said daughters of the yearly issues of my said lands." Otherwise, Steven was to be the executor.

John also left an annuity to his youngest son, **Richard**, on the same terms as the annuities left to Clemence. Richard was born just before John(3) wrote the will but died in the October of 1575.

The Codicil to John(3)'s Will

dated: 24th February 1578 (John(3) was buried on 25th February)

I will that Clemence my wife shall sell the wood growing in the coppice lying at **Sowgate** in the occupation of John Olyver (#70) containing by estimation 7 acres and also the money coming of all the wood called Sows lying to **Jone Tannhouse** in the parish of Sevenoaks"

The details regarding probate cover over a page which (since it is in Latin) has not been deciphered except that it includes the names of Clemence and also Gilbert Jenyns and John Wakelyne, witnesses to the codicil.

The Dating of Clemence's Will and Burial

It is Clemence's original will which has survived. It is written in a "professional" scribe's hand and Clemence signed it "**Clemence Theobald**". The will is dated 10th March in the third year of the reign of James. James I became king on 24th March 1603 so that 10th March in the third year of the reign of James I is 1606; the thirty-ninth year of his reign in Scotland started July 1605 which also makes the date of the will 10th March 1606.

Although the memorial in Seal church to Clemence and her husband, John Tebold, gives her date of burial as 19th November 1605 this must be an error for 1606 since the parish register reports the burial of "**Clemence Theobald, wyddow, a most holy and virteouse woman, once wife of John Theobold of this towne, gent.**" in November 1606. Thus Clemence must have written her will eight months before she died; she was about seventy at the time. She asked to be "**decently buried in the body or chancel of the chapel of Seal**" - at that time Seal was a technically a chapel of Kemsing but was not usually referred to as such.

The name is written "Theobald" throughout.

The right hand side of the manuscript is damaged so that some lines cannot be deciphered to the end.

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The tenth day of March in the third year of the
Reign of our
- 2 Sovereign Lord James, by the grace of god king of England, France and
Ireland, defender of the faith . .
- 3 Scotland the Nine and thirtieth. **I, Clemence Theobald of Seal**, in the
County of Kent, **widow**, being in . .
- 4 and perfect remembrance (thanks be to Almighty god) therefore do make
and ordain this my last will and testament
- 5 in manner and form following: **First** I bequeath my soul to Almighty god,
my creator, hoping assuredly for . .
- 6 through the merit of Christ Jesus, my only saviour and redeemer, and I will
my body to be decently buried in the
- 7 body or chancel of the chapel of Seal aforesaid at the discretion of my
executor hereafter named. **Item:** I give
- 8 unto the poor people of Seal aforesaid twenty shillings to be distributed
amongst them on the day of my funeral

9 at the discretion of my said executor. **Item:** I give unto **my second son John**
10 **Theobald** the sum of ten pounds
11 to be paid unto him within two months after my decease. **Item:** I give unto
12 **my three daughters** that are
13 living, that is to say, **Margaret Charles, Ann Holden and Alice Radcliffe**, to
14 every of them five pounds to be paid,
15 unto every of them, within two months after my decease. **Item:** I give unto
16 **Katherine Mychell**, wife of **Edward**
17 **Mychell, gent.** and to **Margaret Polhill**, wife of **David Polhill, gent.**, my
18 grandchildren⁵⁹, to each of them . .
19 shillings to be paid to each of them within two months after my decease.
20 **Item:** I give unto **Walsingham**
21 and **Mystell Polhill, my goddaughters**⁶⁰, to each of them ten shillings to be
22 paid severally to them at their
23 21 years. **Item:** I give unto **Steven Theobald, my godson, eldest son of the**
24 **said John Theobald**⁶¹, the sum of

59 daughters of Clemence's eldest son Steven; Katherine married in 1598 and Margaret in 1600

60 Walsingham and Mystell are presumably daughters of Margaret and David Polhill. Mystell is also an unusual name for which no connections are known.

61 Steven (#3505) is the only son recorded for Clemence's son John; he would have been five years old in March 1606

16 of ten pounds to be paid unto him within two months after he, the said
Steven, shall accomplish his full age of ?
17 and twenty years. And if the said Steven do die before his said age of 22
years, then I will the sum (of ten)
18 pounds unto the said John Theobald to be paid him within three months
after the decease of the said Steven
19 if the said John be then living and, if the said John be then dead, then I will
the said ten pounds to be
20 distributed amongst the other children of the said John then living and to
be paid unto every of them (at their)
21 several ages of 21 years⁶². **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Clemence**
Godden, my grandchild and goddaughter⁶³, the
22 sum of five pounds and also one flock bed and one flock bolster, one great
standing chafer of brass and my
23 trunk to be paid and delivered her at her age of 21 years or day of marriage
which shall first happen provided
24 that, if the said Clemence Godden do marry any person before her said age
of 21 years without the consent and

62 the only other child recorded for Clemence's son John is a daughter by his second wife Alice Walsingham, baptised, at Seal, Clemence in 1592 but, if the will of Alice Theobald, widow, was that of Alice Walsingham, they had at least another six daughters.

63 Elizabeth, Clemence's eldest daughter, married Robert Godden, her second husband, in 1579 - see page t.128

25 liking of my eldest son, Steven Theobald, and Thomas Theobald, my third
son, or the survivor of them, that then
26 she to have no benefit by this my will. **Item:** I give unto **Johan Haytt**, my
servant, 20s if she, the said Johan be
27 dwelling with me at the time of my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath all
my wearing apparel and . .
28 my said three daughters, **Margaret Charles, Ann Holden and Alice Radcliffe**
to be equally distributed amongst them
29 by my said executor within convenient time after my decease. **Item:**
whereas I have heretofore given unto my said son,
30 **Thomas Theobald**, one featherbed and one feather bolster now being in the
chamber called Margaret's chamber, retaining
31 the use thereof only unto my self during my natural life, I will my said
executor to deliver the said bed and bolster unto
32 the said Thomas, or his servant, after my decease. **Item:** I will that there
shall be a sermon made at
33 my funeral and I give unto the preacher that shall make the same, for his
pains, 6s 8d. The residue of all my goods
34 and chattels unbequeathed, my debts paid and my funeral expenses
performed, I give
35 and bequeath unto the said **Steven Theobald, my eldest son**, whom I make
and ordain my sole executor of this my

36 last will and testament . And if the said Steven do refuse the said trust and
 legacies, then I nominate and ordain
 37 the said **Thomas Theobald, my third son**⁶⁴, to be my sole executor of this my
 said last will and to have the residue of the
 38 said goods therewith the better to perform this my will in the fear of god
 and
 39 a good conscience faithfully perform the same. In witness that this is my
 last will and testament, I have here unto set my
 40 hand and seal the day and year above said. These being witnesses
 The mark of **Robert Frenche** Clemence Theobald
 the elder
John ⁶⁵ **Beckett**
 mark
Thomas ⁶⁶ **Ralison**
 mark

64 why not her second son, John? It was Steven and Thomas who had to approve Clemence Godden's marriage.

65 mark a vertical cross; possibly #3970

66 mark an "S" on its side. A Thomas Ralison was present at the marriage of Clemence's daughter Margaret in 1600 and the will of Thomas Raylyson of Seal, dated 1629, has survived.

Tebold Land in the Sixteenth Century

John(2) owned a considerable amount of land, part of which was probably inherited and part acquired during his lifetime. Before 1525 he owned a tenement and some land in the parish of **Chiddingstone and Hever** and this he sold to **Thomas Boleyn** in exchange for 160 acres of land - the Park of Seal and Kemsing which was probably between Seal village and Kemsing.

The part of John(2)'s will concerning his "lands, tenements, rents and fines with all appurtenances wheresoever they lie within the parish of Seal aforesaid or elsewhere" starts with the request that his executors use the profits "for one whole year in most and year part after my decease towards the payment of my debts and the fulfilling and payment of my legacies and bequests". After this, the land, etc. was to be given to his sons Thomas, Richard and John(3).

Thomas died in **Louvain** in 1550 and seems to have spent most of the time between 1545 and his death at the university there. Thomas left the land he had inherited from his father mainly to his two brothers and the bequests to Thomas, from his father and those made by Thomas can be compared - see Table T.1.

Thomas required his brothers, Richard and John, who were his executors, to permit **John Hills, William Cripps (#180) and William Denman** to continue

occupying such land and tenements for which they were paying and doing such rent and duties as they had done since the death of his father. This John Hills was perhaps the father of #46 - see **Hills**.

But Thomas expected the profit from his lands to be taken up with the payment of his debts, legacies and bequests for longer than did his father. He "**devised and bequeathed**" to his executors for this purpose all his lands, etc. "**in Seal, Kemsing, Sevenoaks and elsewhere . . from the day of my death unto the end and term of five years.**" His sister **Margaret Sharpey** was not, however, to wait the full five years before starting to receive "**an annual rent of twenty shillings**" from lands in the occupancy of William Cripps - see Thomas's will lines 191-203.

Some of the land left by Richard in his will of 1570 can, in a similar way, be compared with that left to him by his father - see Table T.2 but Richard had acquired a considerable amount more by his death and this is listed in Table T.5.

Table T.1: Land left by John(2) and his son Thomas

<i>left to Thomas by John(2) (1545)</i>	<i>left by Thomas (1550)</i>	<i>to:</i>
"my house in Seal which I do inhabit and all the houses, barns, stables and buildings belonging and adjoining	"my mansion house in which John Tebold my late father dwelled in Seal with the appurtenances and . . crofts thereto adjoining and all my . . stuff and buildings to the said mansionhouse belonging"	John(3)
"all my land and messuages called Frogdych fields, leyland, lefans and Blundell lying together; Pyngeland and Dygons lying together"	"all my lands and tenements in Seal called Frogdichfield, leyland, little Levans, great Levans, blondels, pyngland and diggons "	John(3)
"my land called Chawsor in the occupation of William Cripps (#180) and the house and gardens that he dwells in of mine"	"all those my lands called Chart in Seal and also the house and gardens with the appurtenances which now be or late were in the occupancy or tenancy of William Cripps "	John(3)
"my tenement called the Chirke in Seal" occupied by John Hills	"my land and tenements called the Cheke in Seal" occupied by John Hills	John(3)

"my house or tenement in Seal where Joan Sherewood dwells in which house my will is that the said Joan Sherewood shall live during her life rent free"	"my tenement with th'appurtances now or late in the tenancy of Joan Sherewood "	John(3)
Rogers land in the occupancy of William Denman and Robert Warner (are Robert Warner and Robert Watts the same person?)	"my land and tenements called Rogers land ** ⁶⁷ in the several tenure or occupancies of Robert Watts and William Denman "	Richard
the "meadow lying beyond Winterbourne bridge " in the occupancy of James Porter (#229)	"my mead with th'appurtances beyond Winterbourne bridge ** in Seal now or late in the tenure of James Porter	Richard
"my meadow lying in Cristolbridge and west to Seal Park in the occupancy of William Fremlyn , the younger" (is this Childsbridge?)	"all my meadows, lands and tenements in Seal and Kemsing with th'appurtenances, now or late in the occupancy of William Fremlyn	John(3)
certain parcels of land called Challoncresses in the occupancy of William Tomlyn (#61)	my lands and tenements called Challen croft ** with th'appurtenances in Seal, now or late in the tenure or occupancy of William Tomlyn	Richard

one parcel of land called Penfield lying in Seal Park	my parcel of land or pasture called Penfold . . lying to Seal park	John(3)
my tenements, etc. called Dalis and Chadewell in Sevenoaks	my lands and tenements called Dalis and Chaldewell in Sevenoaks	Dorothy (sister)

Table T.2: Land left to and by Richard

<i>left to Richard by: John(2) (1545)</i>	<i>left by Richard (1570)</i>	<i>to:</i>
"my tenement or messuage in Kemsing called Dynes with all the yards, orchards, gardens and . . thereunto belonging and adjoining, now in the tenure of John Miller ⁶⁸	"my capital messuage or tenement with all barns, stables, outhouses, gardens, lands and tenements" . "called Dynes wherein I had late dwelled at Kemsing; all the lands of the same belonging late in the occupancy of William Best "	Katherine until James was 21

⁶⁸ this John Miller was probably the father of the John Miller who married **Sylvester Porter (#3267)** in the 1560s - see **Porter**

all lands, meadows and pastures in Seal and Kemsing and parcels of Seal Park with appurtenances except those left to Thomas"	several parcels of land, meadow and pasture called Seal Park	Katherine
"my tenement lying in the parish of Chiddingstone and all my other lands and messuages in the same parish and in Brasted . . now in the occupancy of William Pulling the younger	"my messuage or tenement called Sligh--res or Tebolds with all its lands and tenements, lying in the parishes of Chiddingstone and Brasted , now in the occupancy of William Pollinger	Katherine then James
<i>by his brother Thomas (1550)</i>		
Rogers Land , the mead beyond Winterbourne bridge ", Challon croft	Rogers Land , " Larkmers mead lying beside Winterbourne in Seal", Challencross	John
my little mead at Tanners Cross in Seal now or late in the tenure or occupancy of William Denman	Tanners mead	John

When John(3) reached the age of 24, Richard was to pay him forty pounds from the land in Brasted he had inherited from his father. For default of the payment, the bequest to Richard was to be "**utterly void**" and the land was to go to the younger brother.

Other Land left by John(2) 1545

Table T.3 shows the land left to Thomas and Richard by John(2) which cannot be identified in their wills. Other than the little mead at Tanners Cross, Thomas does not seem to have acquired any more land in England and probably sold that given in Table 3 to provide funds for his academic life in Europe. He does, however, seem to have had some land on the Continent - see page t.68.

The land John(2) left directly to his youngest son, John(3), is listed in Table T.4. Until John(3) was 21 (he could have been no more than 15 when his father died), John(2)'s executors were to take all the profits from the lands, etc. and pay John(2)'s aunt, **Mary Carter, widow**, £40 yearly (this payment seems to be connected in some way with an indenture made between her and the "[late Earl of Wiltshire](#)" - Thomas Boleyn). Immediately John(3) reached 21, the executors were to deliver to him "[the overplus of the profits of all the said lands coming or growing before his said age of twenty one years](#)".

Table T.3: Other Land left to Thomas & Richard by John(2) 1545

	<i>to:</i>
<p>all Seal Park lying in Seal and Kemsing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - one parcel occupied by John Gregory - one croft occupied by William Knight lying to Dynes on the south and to my great mead on the north and, by estimation, 7 acres - one other part of Busshie (bush?) and rough land in the occupation of John Miller the elder lying to the said croft on the west part containing, by estimation, 15 acres - seven and a half acres of land in the occupation of John Fremlyn - a meadow in the occupation of William Knight containing be estimation 5 acres lying to the mile pound (mill pond?) in the said park - the mile pound mead and the same parcel of land which Richard Kipps doth occupy - the same parcel of the said occupied by William Wigzell⁶⁹ 	Thomas
all my lands and tenements in the said parish (Sevenoaks) if I have any other not remembered and my shop being in the market place of Sevenoaks	Thomas
all and all manner my lands and tenements lying in east and west fold of Kemsing and also in Heverham and all my parcels of land called the church crofts and a croft called the parsonage croft lying to the parsonage of Kemsing	Richard

⁶⁹ Miller, Kipps and Wigzell are all Kemsing families

parcels of land called: - Little Colbury - Wortherthe meade containing by estimation 7 acres, in the occupation of Thomas Wybourne - Cottman (Cotmans Ash - in Kemsing) in the occupation of Gilbert Miller and William Smith - Colbirk in the occupation of James Frenche - woodland, by estimation 7 acres butting to the highway that leads from Rodderidell to Stakes Cross on the east - woodland lying to the highway leading from Moletmiddle to Lamparts pale on the west in the said parish of Seal	Richard
all the said lands, meadows, pastures, . . lying in the parishes of Kemsing and Seal, parcels of the said Seal Park with appurtenances which before I have excepted from my son Thomas Tebold	Richard

Table T.4: Land left to John(3) in 1545 by John(2)

all the residue of my lands, rents, reversions and fines in Seal and "also in the parish of Shipbourne as well as those that one John Goodhews (#328?) does occupy
one parcel? purchased "by me the said John Tebold of Richard Carter of Under River " (#2358 or #2362)
"my land, tenements, rents, reversions and fines lying and being in the south side of the highway leading from Kettell in Seal parish unto Fawke cross and from there to Stonestreet
all my woodland and heath land lying at Godden hoath at a place called the Stake in the parish of Seal which sometime were William Carters
"the reversion of the first part of the manor of Tudeley in the parish of Tudeley in the county of Kent"
"the reversion of the first part of certain land and tenements called .a..urell and Lomans lying within the parishes of Tonbridge and Leigh in the county of Kent which I late purchased of Reynold Carter of Chiddingstone

Land left by Richard in 1570

Table T.5: Land left to his wife Katherine for her Life

"my messuage or tenement caller Higher Stonepitts with all the lands and tenements to the same appertaining . in the parish of Seal and Kemsing as they late were in the tenure and occupancy of Richard Wigzell " (#82)
"my messuage or tenement with their appurtenances called Fuller Street "
"my messuage or tenement called Lower Stonepitt with all the land . . appertaining . . in the parish of Seal as were last in the tenure or occupation of Richard Wigzell and tenements to the same appertaining"
"four parcels of land and pasture and meadow lying in Kemsing and Seal containing by estimation 30 acres called Comlynes? park late in the occupancy of William Tomlyn and now in the occupancy of me, Richard Tebold late being part of . . Seal park"
"my great meadow called the great mead of Seal and Kemsing . . containing 42 acres" and also one acre of meadow in Seal "now in the occupation of the said Richard Tebold"

Table T.6: Land left by Richard to his sons John and James

the residue of lands, tenements, meadows and pastures in Kemsing in the occupancy of: Thomas Andrew James Gregory William Gregory ?? James Holnory Richard Wybourne of Otford the said Richard Tebold"	James
"my message or tenement called Stidalles ¹ with all the lands and tenements belonging in the parishes of Seal and Sevenoaks . . now in the tenure or occupation of William Best "	John
that parcel of ground called Chipmanford in Sevenoaks in the tenure of William Best	John
Nowell pond in Sevenoaks and the parcel of ground now in the occupancy of Thomas Wolfe "	John

¹ Stidulphes Place, later Wildernessee; Richard had bought Stidulfe's Place in Seal and Stidulfe's Hoath farm in Sevenoaks from Robert Olyver of Leybourne (probably #4168) "about the beginning of Queen Elizabeth's reign" - Hasted, p.55 - see [Olyver in Families & Transcripts](#)

five parcels of land in Sevenoaks and Seal "now in the occupancy of Thomas Rumney ⁷¹ lying together next to Stidalles from the park gate to . . in the bottom next to a croft in the occupancy of . . Narchyn ⁷² , sometime parcel of the said farm of Stidalles	John
"my messuage or tenement called Lamperdes (Lambards) " . "with all the barns, stables, outhouses and crofts of land to the same belonging" . . "in Seal now in the occupation of Thomas Rumney and all those my lands adjoining to the said tenement now in the tenure of Thomas Rumney and Thomas ...st . . in Sevenoaks and Seal "	James
"all those parcels of land, meadows and pastures . . in Kemsing and Seal which were late parcel of . . Seal park now in the occupation of: Richard . . James . . William Tomlyn William Best William . . the said Richard Tebold not now before bequeathed to Katherine, my wife, by this my testament"	James
"all that my part and property of all that tenement called .. Court with the lands to the same belonging now in the occupation of Cuthbert Allen lying in . . Tonbridge "	James

71 Thomas Rumney (#144) married twice in the 1560s and died in 1585 - see **Rumney**

72 the name in the will is difficult to read and no first name is given; a William Narchyn married in Seal in 1582 and his daughter Sara was baptised in 1584

"all those my messuages or tenements lying in the parish of Great Saint Bartholemew in the city of London . . in my own occupying"	James ⁷³
"my messuage or tenement called Wybournes Tenement with all the lands to the said belonging as they now be in the occupation of Thomas Andrew " in the parish of Kemsing and "all other my lands and tenements" in Kemsing	James
"my parcel of land lying in the bottom between Makelynnes Cross and the S---ch"	James
Diggs Fields and Okefield in Sevenoaks in the occupancy of Thomas Rumney	James
"the residue of all my lands and tenements" in Seal, Kemsing and Tonbridge in Kent and in the parish of Great Saint Bartholomews in London and elsewhere within the realm of England	James

One of the problems encountered with regard to the division of land between James and John is that posed by the land which Richard inherited from his brother Thomas. Stidalles, Chipmanford and Nowell pond are listed first as land which appears to be bequeathed to James and again later, with the addition of the five parcels of land next to Stidalles, as left to John on condition that John,

73 "upon condition that he shall suffer the said Katherine my wife to have the occupation, use and and profit of my said tenement and garden in Great Saint Bartholemews in London during her natural life . . paying therefore by the year"

within five years of reaching the age of 21, should make assurances to James for the recovery of the charges on the lands left to Richard by his brother Thomas (see Table T.2). Since the profits from these lands seems to have been earmarked for James's education, this part of the will is by no means clear.

Richard also specified that James and "his heirs male for the performance of their marriages . . shall make to his or their wife or wives in writing for term of life only . . so much of the lands and tenements before named as shall amount to the full value of £300 or £40 by the year or under".

John(3)'s Loan to Thomas Swaynsland

In 1564 Thomas Swaynsland gave John(3) two parcels of land as security for a loan of £40 which was to be repaid on 26th March 1569 - see **Section Z in More Families & Transcripts** for a transcript of the indenture of 1564 which details this transaction.

Also given is an indenture of 1586 which describes how John Tebold, gentleman, (probably John(3)'s son #1750) was to receive £20 from John Duble of Seal, glover, in return for which Duble was to receive an annuity or yearly rent of forty shillings

Clemence's Annuity

John(3) owned land in Sevenoaks, Tenterden, Tonbridge and Shipbourne as well as Seal. He left an annuity totally £28.33 which was to be paid from three separate parts of his land.

Table T.7: Land from which John(3)'s wife was to receive her Annuity

	annuity
"all my lands and tenements" in Sevenoaks	20 marks
"my lands lying at Under River called Shodes in the tenure of Robert Godwyn "	£6 13s 4d
"my lands and tenements in Tenterden "	£8

Table T.8: Land left by John(3) in 1575

"interest and term of years of and in my leases called Lovells Leas and Lordes Croftes besides Dalis "	Steven
"all my land and tenements and hereditaments" in Sevenoaks and Tonbridge and "all that my woodground and woodlands called Freydfelde (50 acres)"	Steven
"my house and lands lying at Under River and Shipbourne wherein Robert Godwyn dwells" (see Table T.7)	John(4)
"one yearly rent of four shillings going out of a parcel of land of Ralph Dobble ⁷⁴ called ??	John(4)
"all my woodland lying at the Stake " both sides over the way in the parish of Seal "	John(4)
"all my lands and tenements lying at Smalehead in the parish of Tenterden "	Thomas
"one yearly annuity or rent charge of £6 13s 4d going out of my lands lying at Stonestreet and Bitchet now in the hands of John Allingham, John Olyver (#70) and Henry Wilmot and out of my house called Waterden in the tenure of Richard Wybourne (#91) and Lawrence Porter (#278) "	Richard

74 Ralph Dobble was witness to John(3)'s will

"the said land lying at Stonestreet and Bitchet and the said lands and house called Waterden " on condition that he paid Richard at the age of 21 "(if he so long live) at the Church Porch in Seal" the sum of forty pounds; otherwise Richard was to inherit the land, etc. himself	Steven
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Index to Lands Mentioned in Above Tables

The names of the parcels of land, messuages, etc. given in the above tables are listed below by parish, the reference number being the Table(s) in which each appear. This amount of detail for land owned is very unusual for yeomen and parish gentry, at least for this period and the parishes from which wills have been investigated.

Seal	Table	Other Parishes	Table
Bitchet	8	Chiddingstne/Brasted	
Blondels/Blundell	1	Sligh-res or Tebolds (messuage)	2
Chawsor	1		
Challoncrosses/Challon croft	1,2		
Comlyns ⁷⁵	5	Kemsing	3,6
Chirke/Cheke (tenement)	1	church crofts	3
Colbirk(parcel)	3	Cottman (Cotman's Ash) (parcel)	3
Dygons	1	Dynes	3
Freydfelde	8	parsonage croft	3
Frogdichfield	1	Wybourne Tenement	6
highway from Kettle to Fawke			
Cross & then Stonestreet	4	Leigh	4
Larkmers mead	2		
Levans, Little & Great	1		
Leyland	1		
Little Colbury (parcel of land)	3	London: Great Saint Bartlomews	6
mansionhouse in which John(1)	1		
had lived			
		Sevenoaks/Seal	
		Lambards/Lamperdes	6
		Stidalles (messuage & land)	6

75 is this Challoncross since connected with Tomlyn?

Moletmiddle to Lamparts (woodland lying to the highway from)	3	Sevenoaks	7
Penfield/Penfold (parcel of land)	1	Chadewell (tenement)	1
Pyngeland	1	Chipmanford	6
Rogers Land	1,2	Dalis (tenement)	1
The Stake (woodland)		Diggs field	6
(7 acres) butting to the highway from Rodderidell to Stakes Cross on the east	3	Lordes Croftes	8
& heath at Gooden hoath at a place called the Stake	4	Lovells Leas	8
Stonepitts:		Nowell pond	6
Higher Stonepitts (messuage)	5	Okefield	6
Lower Stonepitts (messuage)	5	shop	3
Stonestreet	8	any other not remembered	3
Tanners Mead/Tanners Cross	2	Shipbourne: house & lands land, etc.	8
Under River:	8		4
Shodes	7	Tenterden	7
Waterden (house)	8	Smalehead	8
Winterbourne Bridge	1		
Wortherthe meade (7 acres)	3	Tonbridge	4
		land, etc.	8
		tenement	6
		Tudeley, manor of	4

Seal & Kemsing:		parish not given:	
Cristolbridge	1	Makelynnnes Cross	6
Great mead (42 acres)	5	Waterden (lands & house)	8
mill pond in Seal Park	3		
Seal Park lying in Seal & Kemsing	2,3,6		

George Multon and Humphrey Bridges

Richard, in 1570, left George Multon his best jacket of velvet and John(3), writing in 1575 made his "[cousin George Multon, Esquire and Humphrey Bridges, gent.](#)" overseers of his will. Multon and Bridges (as well as John(3) and Manwood) were listed as "[of the gentry](#)" by William Lambarde in 1570; a John Multon had been witness to John(1)'s will 74 years earlier.

The Multons were a notable family from Otford, a John Multon being a tenant of the archbishop in 1440 with 11 acres⁷⁶. The Tebold connection with the Multons to justify John(3)'s use of the term "[cousin](#)" is not known but the relationship could have been quite distant. George Multon is recorded as farming Otford demesnes in both a rental of 1536 and one of 1577 by which time he was in his seventies. He died in 1588 aged 83.

A survey of Otford palace was carried out in 1573 for which George Multon of St. Clere and his son-in-law William Lambarde were the second and third commissioners respectively. David Polhill, Multon's brother-in-law, "[the well-to-do yeoman who had purchased Broughtons, not quite socially acceptable among gentlemen everywhere](#)" was the chief juror. This David Polhill was possibly the grand-father of the David Polhill who married Margaret Tebold, John(3)'s granddaughter in 1600.

See also [Multon in Ightham](#)

⁷⁶ Clarke, Dennis and Stoyel, Anthony; Otford in Kent, Otford and District Historical Society, 1975, pages 91, 125 and 132. for the details in this and the next paragraph

The Family of Elizabeth, the Eldest Daughter of John & Clemence

Elizabeth's first husband was **Cirrac Ruse** (#273), gent.; they married on 18th February 1568 but no marriage was recorded in Seal. Their first child baptised in Seal was Clemence on 14th February 1574 who was buried on 21st May 1576. They could have lived elsewhere than Seal for the first years of their marriage, They had another daughter, Katherine, who could have been born before Clemence; she was buried on 27th July 1580 which was after her father had died and her mother had married again.

Elizabeth's second husband who she married on 24th May 1579 was **Robert Godden** (#245) - see **Robert Godden**. They had at least seven children:

- Robert, John and Thomas, born 1580, 1582 and 1583
- Elizabeth, Clemence and Mabell; all of age by 1617.
Clemence was the only one of the children mentioned by her grandmother in her will of 1606, perhaps because she was her goddaughter. Clemence could have been born in 1585 in which case she would have been 11 when her grandmother made her will
- Sylvester

Thomas seems to have died before 1613 but the other six were alive in the October of that year when their uncle Thomas (#8) wrote his will. Their father had died when the eldest, Robert, was still under age. This is known because Thomas was Robert Godden's executor and had the responsibility of paying the children's inheritances when each came of age. This was £43 each plus some linen. Sylvester had still not come of age and was therefore born after 1592.

Elizabeth thus had children from 1570 or soon after until the mid-1590s a period of about twenty-five years. She would have been in her mid- to late forties when Sylvester was born.

Margaret, wife of James Charles

Margaret Tebold, the second daughter of John(3) and Clemence, married James Charles on 17th October 1580. On 27th or 28th September 1580, George Moulton of Ightham and his son-in-law, William Lambarde, both JPs, "joined in certifying our knowledge to the bishop concerning the good behaviour of Margaret Tebold to be married, etc."⁷⁷. Gleason notes that perhaps Margaret (and another woman for

⁷⁷ Lambarde, Ephemeris, quoted by J.H. Gleason, *The Justices of the Peace in England 1558-1640*, Oxford, 1969, p.10-11

whom a certificate in connection with marriage was given in 1582) had "earlier been guilty of unchaste behaviour, for a certificate from a JP was hardly a standard preliminary to marriage." Perhaps Richard, whom Charles describes in his will as his "natural son" was the son of Margaret and James, born before they were married.

When James wrote his will, in 1606, he was clerk and vicar of St. Nicholas in Rochester.

Will of James Charles of Rochester

written 1st September 1606

transcript from original: CKS: Drb/Pw 20

- 1 This is the last will and testament of me **James Charles, clerk and vicar of**
2 **St. Nicholas**
3 in **Rochester**. **First** I commit my soul unto Almighty god and my body to be
4 buried in the
5 chancel of the said parish. And as for the disposing of my worldly goods,
6 **first**
7 I give to **Richard Charles, my natural son**, all my books and library . .
8 . . household stuff whatsoever shalbe . . the said to him and to his
9 heirs for ever. The same library to be (kept?) together . . remaining in

7 my brother **John Tebold**'s hands until he shall come out of his
apprenticeship so as
8 he serve out his time as an honest servant ought. I give him all my best
9 wearing apparel that is meet for his wearing and the silver ?? **Item** I give to
my
10 daughter **Ann Charles** the silver spoons with all such implements and
household stuff which
11 she hath already in her possession. **Item** I give to my undutiful daughter
Clemence Charles 12d of
12 lawful english money. All the residue of my goods and moveables
whatsoever I give to
13 **Margaret my wife** whom I do constitute my only executrix of this my
testament and last
14 will. In witness whereof I have to . . set my own hand this
15 first September 1606 in the presence of **John Stevens, John Tebold.**

Thomas of Cliffords Inn

Thomas and his wife Cicely had three daughters who were each left £20 by their uncle Steven (#312) in 1619; they were to receive this when they were 19 or married. Their second daughter (#3455) was baptised "Walsingham". The second wife of Thomas's brother, John(4), whom he married between 1589 and mid-1591, was **Alice Walsingham**. Steven's daughters Katherine (#1715) and Margaret (#889) both named one of their daughters (like #3455, born at the beginning of the seventeenth century) "Walsingham". Perhaps the Walsinghams were patrons of the Tebolds.

Thomas wrote his will in 1613 but did not die until 1617. His first wife, and mother of his three daughters, was Cicely who died in 1607. Thomas married again since his wife when he wrote his will was Frideswith. In Kemsing, on 15th April 1619, Frideswide⁷⁸ Theobald married William Kips and the bride was probably Thomas's widow.

78 The unusual name Frideswide also occurs in 1618 when the burial of Frideswith Baker is recorded on 18th March. One of the first religious houses to be suppressed in the 1520s was St. Frideswide's, Oxford.

The Preamble to Thomas's Will

Whereas sixty years earlier Thomas, the scholar, returned to Catholicism towards the end of his life, the lawyer from Cliffords Inn, from his long preamble, believed in justification by faith alone:

“I bequeath my soul unto almighty god, my creator, being fully assured of my salvation through Christ who, of his infinite mercy and love, freely without any desert of mine, hath with the price of his most precious blood redeemed me from everlasting damnation and reconciled me unto god, his father, and hath, by his most bitter death and passion purchased for me, a most miserable sinner, and for all others that believe in him and take hold of him by a lively faith, an everlasting crown of glory eternal in the heavens. I do constantly believe by the only merits of Christ to be saved and that upon the dissolution of my body, immediately I shall be received into his everlasting kingdom of glory and reign with him in endless felicity”.

He continues:

“And I do here beseech god, from the bottom of my heart, to have mercy upon me and for his son Christ Jesus sake, to forgive me all my sins, both the sins of my youth, my rebellious, my secret sins and all other my sins committed against his sacred majesty in thought, word or deed. And the lord grant me a . . . unfained repentance of my sins and wicked life and

give me grace to watch and pray continually that I fall not into temptation and that, by the assistance of his holy spirit I may be defended from all inconveniences and be found ready with my lamps of pure faith thereby burning whensoever it shall please him to call me out of this life which is a vale of misery that I may end my sinful days in peace and with a good conscience joyfully depart this world. And I do hereby renounce all other merits and means of my salvation then by thee alone all sufficient death and passion of Christ”

His Responsibility as an Executor

Robert had paid each of the Godden children their £43 and given them their portion of linen as they came of age. But Sylvester had not yet come of age and the responsibility of paying her now fell to Thomas's executors.. At the time appointed they were to pay her the £43 plus £4 “for the use thereof”. Her portion of linen had already been “shifted and parcelled out” but, in addition, “her three silver spoons” had to be delivered to her.

Thomas had invested the money for the Goddens wisely since there was “some overplus of money remaining in my hands arising of increase of their said portions” and, since he wanted to “truly and sincerely perform the will of the said

Robert Godden, deceased,” he had another £24 “to be paid unto the said children”. Robert, John, Elizabeth and Clemence were each to have £4 within six months of Thomas’s decease whilst Mabell and Sylvester were to get their £4 “at their days of marriage or age of one and twenty years”. Here it looks as if Mabell was still underage even though she had, according to the earlier part of the will, had her £43.

Thomas’s Bequests to his Family

Having left £80 and “such linen and woollen as she brought with her” to his wife, Thomas turned his attention to his brothers and sisters. We therefore know that those to whom he made bequests were alive in 1613:

to: Steven “my bell which I bought of **Edward Holman**, deceased, and so many of my books as he will.

Margaret, widow of James Charles £10

Ann

£ 1

John(4)

£20

But it was his bequest to his three underage daughters which show his real wealth - £100 each plus “their mother’s apparel and my boxes, coffers and small chests and such things as were their mother’s”. This was to “be paid, divided and

delivered between them at their several ages of eighteen years” and it is to be hoped that Thomas’s executors were as diligent in looking after his daughters’ interests as he had been regarding the inheritance of his sister’s. children.

They were also to have all the rest of his “household stuff and implements of household” with the proviso that he gave the administrator of his goods the discretionary power to sell them during his my daughters’ minority if he thought this would be to their benefit. The administrator was also to use the profits from the children’s portions for their bringing up.

Thomas appointed as his administrator Edward Mychell of Chichester, in effect his executor since he appointed his three underage daughters as his executrixes and Edward was given the responsibility for bringing them up “in the fear of god”. Katherine, the daughter of his brother Steven, had married Edward Michell of Sussex in 1598 and it is presumably Katherine’s husband who was to be Thomas’s administrator even though he described him as his brother-in-law.

Thomas’s Messuages, etc.

Thomas’s wife Frideswith was, according to his covenant, to have the occupation of his house and land adjoining it for a year after his decease when it was to go to

his daughters. He does not say where this house was. He also had some messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments in Tonbridge which he gave, “after the decease of the said Frideswith”, to his daughters. Until they came to the age of eighteen Edward Mychell was to “have the letting, setting and disposition of my lands and . . . receive the profits thereof . . . for the better enabling him to bring them up in all honest and virtuous education.” During this time he was “to make account of the receipts of my said land and overplus remaining in his hand unto every of my said daughters” reach the age of eighteen “deducting his reasonable costs, charges and expenses”.

Presumably this is what he had done whilst he managed the legacies left to the Godden children by their father.

Will of Thomas Tebold, 1613

written 20 Oct 1613

transcript from probate copy

- 1 In the name of God Amen: the twentieth day of October in the
- 2 tenth year of the reign of our sovereign Lord James by the grace of god king
of England,
- 3 France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. And of Scotland the six and
fortieth, I, Thomas

4 Theobald of Seal in the county of Kent, gent., being at this time in good
health and of sound and
5 perfect remembrance, thanks be therefore given to Almighty god, do make
and ordain this my
6 testament and last will in manner and form following, **First:** I bequeath my
soul unto almighty god,
7 my creator, being fully assured of my salvation through Christ who, of his
infinite mercy and love,
8 freely without any desert of mine, hath with the price of his most precious
blood redeemed me from
9 everlasting damnation and reconciled me unto god, his father, and hath, by
his most bitter death and
10 passion purchased for me, a most miserable sinner, and for all others that
believe in him and
11 take hold⁷⁹ of him by a lively faith, an everlasting crown of glory eternal in
the heavens. I do
12 constantly believe by the only merits of Christ to be saved and that upon
the dissolution of my body,

79 "hould"

13 immediately I shall be⁸⁰ received into his everlasting kingdom of glory and
14 reign with him in endless
15 felicity. And I do here beseech god, from the bottom of my heart, to have
16 mercy upon me and for his son
17 Christ Jesus sake, to forgive me all my sins, both the sins of my youth, my
18 rebellious, my secret sins and
19 all other my sins committed against his sacred majesty in thought, word or
20 deed. And the lord grant me
21 a twelve harty and unfained repentance of my sins and wicked life and give
22 me grace to watch and pray
23 continually that I fall not into temptation and that, by the assistance of his
24 holy spirit I may be defended
25 from all inconveniences and be found ready with my lamps of pure faith
26 thereby burning whensoever
27 it shall please him to call me out of this life which is a vale of misery that I
28 may end my sinful days
29 in peace and with a good conscience joyfully depart this world. And I do
30 hereby renounce all other merits

80 "shalbe"

22 and means of my salvation then by thee alone all⁸¹ sufficient death and
23 passion of Christ. And I do will my
24 body to be buried after the manner of Christians. **Item:** I do give unto the
25 poor people of the parish
26 of Seal twenty shillings and to the poor people of the parish of **Tonbridge**
27 thirteen shillings and
28 four pence to be paid and distributed amongst them by my executors
29 hereafter named at their
30 discretion within twenty days after my decease. **Item:** according to the trust
and confidence reposed in
me by **Clemence Theobald**, deceased, my mother, and in discharge of a
good conscience before god, I do will
and bequeath unto the three sons of **Dorothy Denman**⁸², deceased, my late
sister and wife of **Thomas Denman**,
that is to say, to **William Denman**, **Richard Denman** and **John Denman**, to
every of them sixteen pounds,
thirteen shillings and four pence of lawful money of England and also one
great new joined chest

81 Looks like "al" preceding the word "sufficient"

82 Dorothy (#308); Thomas Denman (#1350) was her second husband

page 2:

31 and the linen and other things therein and one little chest and the linen
therein, both standing in
32 the millhouse chamber and also the brass iron and other stuff standing in
the little room in the hall
33 chamber of all which linen and stuff there is a note in the said joinedchest.
The said money and goods
34 to be equally paid, divided and delivered between the said William, Richard
and John within one whole year
35 after my decease by my said executors and if they, or any of them, happen
to die before his or their said
36 legacies shall due unto them, then I will that the survivor or survivors of
them shall have his or their
37 parts so dying to be paid, divided and delivered as aforesaid. **Item:** whereas
I was executor unto **Robert**

38 **Godden**⁸³, my brother-in-law, and have already paid unto five of his
children, that is to say, to **Robert**
39 **Godden, John Godden, Elizabeth Godden, Clemence Godden and Mabell**
Godden, their portions, videst, to every of them

83 second husband of Elizabeth (#272), Thomas's eldest sister

40 four and thirty pounds and a portion of linen and to Mabell Godden four
pounds for use of her
41 portion and that **Sylvester Godden**, one other of his children, is yet unpaid.
I do hereby require and
42 charge my executors unto the said Sylvester, at the time appointed by her
father's will, the sum of
43 four and thirty pounds in money and four pounds for the use thereof⁸⁴ and
her portion of linen as
44 it is already shifted and parcelled out and to deliver to Sylvester her three
silver spoons. **Item:** there
45 being some overplus of money remaining in my hands arising of increase of
their said portions and for
46 that my mind and will is truly and sincerely to perform the will of the said
Robert Godden, deceased, I do.
47 in full performance of the same will, allow moreover to be paid unto the
said children of the said Robert Godden,
48 deceased, twenty and four pounds in money in manner following: videst: to
Robert, John, Elizabeth and
49 Clemence Godden, to every of them four pounds within six months after my
decease and to Mabell and

84 presumably £4 "interest" earned by the £34 since the death of Robert Godden

50 Sylvester Godden four pounds a piece at their days of marriage or age of
one and twenty years and,
51 if any of the said children die before their several sums of money shall grow
due unto them, the other
52 surviving to have the same equally between them to be paid as aforesaid.
Item: I give unto **Frideswith, my wife**⁸⁵,
53 four score pounds in money, and such linen and woollen as she brought
with her, to be paid and delivered
54 her within three months after my decease by my said executors. **Item:** I
give unto **my brother, John Theobald**,
55 twenty pounds in money to be paid him by my said executors within one
whole year after my decease.
56 **Item:** I give unto **my sister, Margaret Charles, widow**, ten pounds in money
to be paid to her within
57 six months after my decease. **Item** I give unto **my sister Holden**⁸⁶ twenty
shillings in money to be paid
58 her within six months after my decease. **Item:** I give unto **my brother**
Steven Theobald my bell which

85 his second wife

86 Ann (#310) married Richard Holden in 1581

59 I bought of **Edward Holman**, deceased, (and) so many of my books as he
will. **Item:** I give unto **my servant**,
60 **Susan Porter**, if she be dwelling with me at the time of my death, forty
shillings besides her wages
61 in recompense of her true and faithful service. **Item:** I give and bequeath
unto every of my daughters,
62 videst, to **Clemence Theobald**, **Walsingham Theobald** and **Anne Theobald**,
one hundred pounds of
63 lawful money of England and also all my plate, linen, woollen bedding
brass, pewter, iron, copper and
64 their mother's apparel and my boxes, coffers and small chests and such
things as were their mother's. To
65 be paid, divided and delivered between them at their several ages of
eighteen years. And if any of
66 my said daughters happen to die before their said age of eighteen years,
then the survivor or survivors
67 of them to have her or their portion or portions so dying to be equally
divided between them at their
68 ages aforesaid. **Item:** I give unto my said three daughters all the rest of my
household stuff and implements
69 of household to be equally shifted between them and to have their several
parts thereof at their

70 several ages aforesaid, provided that, if the administrator of my goods
hereafter named, during
71 my daughters' minority shall think in his discretion more behooffull and
beneficial for my daughters
72 to sell the said household stuff and utensils, then I will that he do sell the
same to the best advantage
73 he may and the money thereof coming to distribute equally between them
at their said several
74 ages and if any of my said daughters do happen to die before their said
several ages then I
75 will the survivor or survivors of them to have her or their portion so dying of
the said household
76 stuff and utensils or money for which they shall be sould to be delivered or
paid equally between
77 them at their several ages of eighteen aforesaid. **Item:** I will that there be a
sermon at my
78 funeral and I do give the minister that performeth the same, for his pains,
ten shillings.
79 **Item:** my will and mind is that my said administrator do bring up my
children with the profit of
80 their said several portions until their several ages aforesaid. All the rest of
my goods and

81 chattels unbequeathed, my debts and legacies first paid, and my funeral
expenses first performed⁸⁷
82 med, I give and bequeath unto my said three daughters whom I make my
sole executors of this

page 3:

83 my said last will and testament and my will and mind is and I do desire **my**
wellbeloved brother-in
84 **law** and true friend, **Edward Mychell of Chichester** in the county of Sussex,
gent. to take the administration of my goods during the minority of my said three daughters, to see
85 this my will faithfully performed
86 and my children brought up in the fear of god and give him for his pains
twenty pounds in money.
87 And I do make overseers of this my last will my wellbeloved brother Steven
Theobald and **my loving cousin**
88 **Robert Heath** of the **Inner Temple, London**, Esquire, requiring them to be
aiding and assisting unto my
89 said executors in the execution of this my said will with their best advice
and council and I do give unto
90 either of them for their pains therein twenty shillings. Thomas Theobald.

87 = used as a hyphen

91 This is the last will and testament of me the said Thomas Tebold made the
day and year
92 aforesaid as touching the disposition of all my lands and tenements. **First:**
my will and mind is
93 that according to my covenant, Frideswith⁸⁸, my wife, shall have the
occupation of my house and land
94 thereto adjoining for one whole year after my decease and after to my three
daughters aforesaid, their
95 heirs and assigns. **Item:** I give all my messuages, lands, tenements and
hereditaments whatsoever
96 situate, lying and being in **Tonbridge** in the said county of Kent after the
decease of the said Frideswith,
97 my wife, unto my said three daughters, Clemence Theobald, Walsingham
Theobald and Anne Theobald,
98 to have and to hold the same messuages, lands, tenements and
hereditaments, withall and singular their
99 appertenances, unto them, the said Clemence, Walsingham and Anne,
their heirs and assigns forever,

88 "Frideswide" here

100 provided always that my said executor⁸⁹ shall have the letting, setting and
disposition of my lands and
101 tenements before bequeathed to my said daughters so soon as the same
shall happen to come unto them
102 and also receive the profits thereof until my said daughters shall
accomplish their several ages of
103 eighteen years to the use of my said daughters and for the better enabling
him to bring them up in
104 all honest and virtuous education and then my said executor to make
account of the receipts of my
105 said land and overplus remaining in his hand unto every of my said
daughters at their several
106 ages of eighteen years aforesaid, my said executor deducting his
reasonable costs, charges and
107 expenses. In witness whereof to this my present will and testament, I, the
said Thomas Theobald,
108 hath put to my hand and seal the day and year abovesaid. Thomas
Theobald⁹⁰

89 Thomas appointed his daughters as his executors but, presumably, meant here his administrator who he had appointed to carry out the duties of executor until his daughters reached the age of eighteen.

90 no witnesses given

Steven, John(3)'s Eldest Son

#312 Steven - Katherine Caryll #820											
will:		Jul 1619									
bur:		9 Jul 1619				11 Oct 1582					

#1715		#1716		#821		#889		#1802		#1075	
Katherine -		Edward Michell		Sylvester		Margaret -		David Polhill		Dorothy	
bap:				16 Apr 1576		12 Oct 1578				7 Mar 1580	
mar: 8 May 1598						19 May 1600					
bur:				6 Jul 1577						8 Feb 1581	

#3458		#3459		#3460		#3461		#3462		#4068	
Theobald		Walsingham		Rachel		Edward		John		Walsingham	
										Mystell	
										John	
										Nisell	

Before the marriage of Katherine and Edward Michell, the bans were "[three several Sundays or holydays first proclaimed](#)"; the children are known from Steven's will written in 1619 in which Edward is described as "[of Stamerham in the County of Sussex](#)". In 1613 Thomas of Cliffords Inn made "Edward Mychell" (presumably Katherine's husband) his administrator describing him as "of Chichester".

Margaret's husband, David Polhill was a mercer of London and a gentleman of Otford. Margaret and David's second son was called "Nisell"; this was the maiden name of Margaret's great-great-grandmother, the mother of John(2). Margaret's father was granted arms in 1603 which would be have been a few years before

Nisell was born and the previous arms used by the Tebolds incorporated those of the Nisell family.

After Margaret died, David Polhill married a woman called Anne whom Steven described as “[my very well beloved Anne Polhill](#)” leaving her, and each of her children “[a piece of plate of five pounds value](#)”.

Stephen's wealth is shown by his legacies to his grandchildren - £100 each. He also says that he was making further provision for his Polhill grandchildren in his “[will of lands](#)” but, unfortunately, Steven's will of his lands does not seem to have survived.. These, with his other monetary gifts, total about £1000. All we know is that he owned some land near Dover and Sandwich which his executors were to sell if they needed extra money to pay his legacies.

His friends included the Lones a Sevenoaks family continually being charged with recusancy because of their Roman Catholicism - see [History of Sevenoaks](#). He left his “[very dear friend, Samuel Loan](#)” a piece of plate of value £10 and to his two sons, George and Ralph, a gold ring.

In 1596 Stephen bought 60 acres of land in Chiddingstone for £400 - see [section Z in More Families & Transcripts](#) for details.

Steven's Servants

Steven seems to have been unusually concerned about the welfare of his servants. His request (nor any similar) that they should all "be kept together as many as will five weeks after my death and to have meat and drink and lodging to the end that they may more conveniently provide for themselves and to have their wages paid full until that time" has not been found in any other will transcribed. This was in addition to the money left to them.

The Will of Steven Tebold, 1619

written July 1619

executors: **Edward Michell (#1716)**, son-in-law
Katherine (#1715), Steven's daughter and Edward Michell's wife
Theobald Michell (#3458), their son
each of his executors was to receive, for their pains, £100
Although Theobald was under twenty, he was described as "gent."
overseers: **David Polhill (#1802)** £50 "for his pains"
Thomas Brewer and John Godden (#1146) £20 "for their pains"
both Thomas and John are left bequests as nephews later

To **Mr. Baker (#1293)**, vicar of Seal:

40s

"and he have that part of my ground that now by permission I and my steward William Frenche do suffer him to have an easement to the further part of his vicarage chamber and to have it so long as he is vicar of Seal"

Charitable bequests to:

poor of:	Seal	£4
	Kemsing	£1
	Sevenoaks	£2
Hospital of:		
	St. Stephens founded by that Reverend Judge and Chief Baron of the Exchequer, Roger Manwood, Knight	£10
	Christchurch and Bartholomew in London	£5 13s 4d
	St. Thomas in Southwark	£5 13s 4d

Financial Dealings with Peter Manwood

Steven and his cousin, Dorothy's son Peter Manwood, had a number of financial dealings: "whereas **Sir Peter Manwood Knight** does owe unto me by one

obligation five hundred pound and by other obligations and reckoning three hundred, three score and five pounds in satisfaction of five hundred and fifteen pounds whereof I have accepted certain lands of the said Peter Manwood being in or near Dover and Sandwich upon the full perfecting of the assurance whereof I will my executors shall deliver to the said Sir Peter the obligation for the said five hundred pounds and the other of the said hundred pounds and the fifteen pounds to be allowed him on top the other lands and reckoning in part payment whereof I do . . to have received of him at Maidstone the . . of this only the sum of fifty pounds whereof he is to have allowance so that all reckoning further costs, it will appear that he owes me three hundred pounds as to two other obligations will appear and a . . under his hand also."

This would appear to be $\pounds 500 + \pounds 365 - \pounds 515 - \pounds 50 = \pounds 300$

Steven's will continues: "I will that no interest shall be taken for this half year now current for the obligation of this three hundred pounds. And if the said Sir Peter shall be desirous to have and keep the three hundred pounds for a year or two longer, my will is that putting in to my executors new and further assurances, he shall have it for a year or two longer and to pay interest thereof but two? in the hundred".

Remittance of Debts

Later on in his will, Steven "releases and remits all debts under the sum of seventy shillings". He also remits debts to two specific people:

- to **Thomas Dyll** all debts above the sum of ten pounds
- to **Thomas Still** "all arrerages? (mortgages?) and debts owing and due before midsummer last".

His servants

bequests to:

Thomas Rakinson ⁹¹ , my old servant	£20
every one of my other men servants	40s
my . . Richard Wykenden	25s 8d
Parnell Whitehead , if not moved away before my death	£6 13s 4d
Johane Underhill	£5 13s 4d
Mary Banks	£4
Richard Underhill	40s

Steven also requested that they should all "be kept together as many as will five weeks after my death and to have meat and drink and lodging to the end that they

⁹¹ A Thomas Ralison was noted as being present at the marriage of Steven's daughter Margaret in 1600; perhaps this was the same person - see [Polhill](#)

may more conveniently provide for themselves and to have their wages paid full until that time".

Bequests to his relations:

Clemence, Walsingham and Anna,

the daughters of Steven's brother **Thomas (#8)** £20 each
to be paid when they married or reached the age of 19

Thomas Brewer, nephew (on his wife's side?) £ 20

John Godden (#1146), nephew (son of sister Elizabeth) 100 marks

David Polhill (#1802), son-in-law and overseer £ 50

John Theobald (#1750), brother £100

To each of the following, a gold ring of 40s value:

- "my loving cousin Mr John Theobald, Sen. Esq." (#3)
- the sons of John Theobald, Sen.
 - "Mr John Theobald, Junior Esq.,
 - Mr. George Theobald, Esquire
 - Sampson Theobald, gent."
- cousin **Alexander Laker, gent.**

- cousin **Robert Olyver of Leybourne, gent.**⁹²
- niece **Brewer** (presumably Thomas Brewer's sister - see above)
- sister **Holden (Ann #310)** and **Kips** (was this the second wife of his brother Thomas who, earlier in 1619, had married William Kips?)
- niece **Frenche** ; if this is a daughter of one of Steven's sisters it must have been by a second marriage

grandchildren:

Walsingham, Rachel, Edward and John Michell,
children of Steven's eldest daughter Katherine £100 each

John and Nisell Polhill, sons of Steven's daughter Margaret (#889) £100 each
to be paid within one year of his death
in addition Steven writes "[it shall further appear in my will of lands
what further provision I have made for the said John Polhill and
Nisell](#)"; unfortunately Steven's will of his lands does not seem to have
survived.

⁹² John Olyver (#1811) married Alice Tebold (#1812) in the early part of the 16th century - see Tree T.2. They had a son William of Leybourne who had a son Robert (#4168) who was born after 1543 who would have been about 75 in 1619.

To "to my very well beloved **Anne Polhill**, now wife of David Polhill, and to every of his children by her, to each a piece of plate of five pounds value"

Other bequests to:

"my very dear friend **Samuel Loan, Esq.**" one piece of plate of the value of £10
Samuel's two sons, "**Mr. George and Mr. Ralph Loan**"
a gold ring of forty shillings value

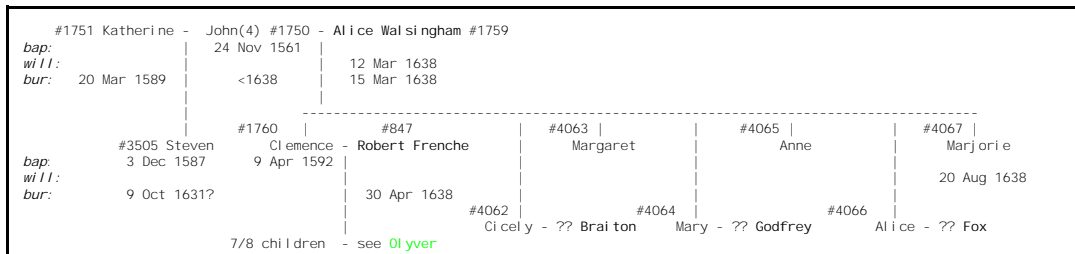
The will ends: "and all the residue of my goods and chattels, debts, bonds, obligations, penalties joint or several, estates or annuities joint or several, mortgages or interest, estate money and whatsoever executors have received or . . to the intent that they may the better pay the legacies, debts and bequests aforesaid. And if they may not conveniently pay the same out of my moveable estate, then I will the lands now near Dover near Sandwich shall be sold by mine executors . . for the purpose aforesaid and the surplus to be delivered to my executors."

Alice Tebold, widow

Alice Tebold, widow, had seven daughters alive in 1638, four of whom were married. One of the unmarried daughters was Margerie who died five months after her mother with her sister Clemence's husband having died in the meantime.

The second wife of John(4) Tebold (#1750) whom he married sometime after March 1589, was Alice Walsingham and they had a daughter Clemence baptised on 9th April 1592. Nothing more is known of this family but John(4) and Alice could have had another six daughters.

John(4)'s son, Steven, by his first wife is mentioned by John(4)'s mother in her will and he could have been the Stephen of Sevenoaks whose will of 1631 has survived.



Alice left her four married daughters a shilling each. Presumably it was because they had had their portions when they married rather than they had displeased her. Although Alice gives only Clemence's married surname, her sister in her will identifies her husband as Robert Frenche (#847).

Whilst neither Cicely nor Alice can be identified from the Seal records, the wives of both **Thomas Godfrey** and **Oliver Godfrey** were both called Mary. However, Thomas's first recorded child was born in 1642 but Oliver's not until 1647. It is thus more likely that, of the two, Mary Tebold was the wife of Thomas.

Will of Alice Tebold, widow

written 12th March 1637/8

transcript from probate copy supplemented by original

1 In the name of god Amen. I, Alice Theobald of
2 Seal in the county of Kent, **widow**, sick in body but whole in
3 mind and of good and perfect memory, thanks be given to god, do make
4 constitute and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form
5 following: **First:** I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty
6 god, my maker, hoping to obtain pardon and remission of all my sins
7 by the merits and satisfaction of Jesus Christ, my redeemer and my body

8 to be buried at the discretion of mine executrix hereafter to be named.

Item: I

9 give and bequeath unto **my daughter, Margaret Theobald**, one
10 down bed and bolster with one blanket with one bedstead stand
11 ing in the chamber next the Gatehouse. **Item:** I give and

12 bequeath unto **my daughter, Anne Theobald**, one featherbed and
13 bolster, one blue rug, one blanket and one bedstead

14 and curtains belonging to it standing in the parlour. **Item:** my will and
15 meaning is that my daughters aforesaid, Ann and Margaret, and **my**
16 **daughter, Margery Theobald**, shall have all my linen, brass,
17 pewter, spits and dripping pans equally to be divided amongst them.

18 **Item:** I give unto **Clemence Frenche, my daughter**, one shilling
19 and one wicker chair. **Item:** I give unto **Cicely Braiton,**

20 **my daughter**, one silver spoon gilt and one shilling in money.

21 **Item:** I give unto **Mary Godfrey, my daughter**, one shilling.

22 **Item:** I give unto **Alice Fox, my daughter**, one shilling.

23 The rest of my goods and chatells unbequeathed,

24 my debts being paid and funeral duties discharged,

25 I give unto **Margery Theobald, my daughter**, whom I

26 make my sole executrix of this my last will and testament.

27 In witness whereof I have herunto set my hand and

28 seal the twelfth day of March in the thirteenth year

29 of his Majesty's reign 1637. Alice Theobald, her mark.

witness hereunto **William Moore, William Cox**⁹³

Alice's Daughter, Margerie

From Margerie Tebold's nuncupative will it may be surmised that, whilst in Sevenoaks, she met with an accident from which she died after being able to state her wishes to two labourers who subsequently gave details which were written down and signed by two other men from Sevenoaks.

Margerie's will, while relatively short mentions a number of people and her bequests were fairly complex. Were these two labourers able to remember all these details or were they able to make notes in some form?

Margerie had "[lands, tenements and hereditaments](#)" which she left to her sister Clemence, "[relict of Robert Frenche](#)" and then to Clemence's four daughters; she also left a bible and a double Testament. From where did Margerie, one of seven

⁹³ these look like signatures; William Cox could have been either #1614 of his son, #2489

daughters, get her lands, etc.? Perhaps John(4), when he died, was able to leave some property to those which had not already had their portion when they married.

Will of Margerie Tebold

not dated but proved in 1638

transcript from original

1 **Memorandum** that Margerie Theobald of Seal in the county
2 of Kent, **spinster**, did, in the time of her sickness but in good and
3 perfect memory, declare her full will and meaning concerning
4 the disposing of all such goods, moveables and household stuff,
5 lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever as she, the said
6 Margerie, had at the time of her decease before us, **James**
7 **Mannyn and William Herrod of Sevenoaks** in the county
8 of Kent, **labourers**, as followeth: **In primis:** she, the said
9 Margerie Theobald willed and bequeathed unto **James Frenche**⁹⁴
10 of Seal aforesaid, **tanner**, one featherbed and a bible. **Item:**
11 she willed and bequeathed unto **Thomas Frenche of Cran**

94 #1829 had children in the 1590s and would have therefore been in his late sixties in 1638 (if he were still alive); he had a son (#2553) who was baptised in 1603 and had his first recorded child in 1639. It was probably #2553 who was the tanner.

12 **brooke** in the said county of Kent, **clothier**, four pieces of pewter and
13 one new pair of sheets. **Item:** she willed and bequeathed
14 unto **William Coxe, the younger son of William Coxe, the elder**,
15 of Seal aforesaid, **yeoman**, one double Testament and to either of his
16 daughters a chest⁹⁵. **Item:** she willed and bequeathed unto **her sister**
17 **Alice** three chests.

18 The residue of all her goods, moveables and household stuff what
19 soever, not before bequeathed, she willed and bequeathed unto
20 **her sister Clemence Frenche** of Seal aforesaid, **widow, relict**
21 of **Robert Frenche**⁹⁶, late of Seal aforesaid, **yeoman**, deceased.
22 **Item:** she willed and bequeathed unto the said sister Clemence
23 Frenche, during the term of her natural life, all
24 singular such lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever
25 which she, the said Margerie had at the time of her decease
26 and from and after the decease of her said sister, Clemence
27 Frenche, then her will and meaning was that all her said
28 lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever so given and bequea

95 The eldest son of William Coxe, #1614, was William (#2489), baptised in 1618 and therefore twenty when Margerie Tebold died. William Coxe the elder also had two much younger daughters, Marie born in 1631 and Anne in 1637 (#2428 and #2491) - see **Coxe**.

96 #847 who had children between 1614 and 2627 and who was buried on 30th April 1638

29 thed unto her said sister Clemence Frenche, **her four daughters**⁹⁷,
30 equally to be divided between them, their heirs and
31 assigns for ever.

The mark of the said **James Munnyon**

The mark of the said **William Herrod**

witness hereunto that the said James Munnyon and William Herrod
did affirm this by them so delivered to be the true intent and meaning
of the said Margerie Theobald in the presence of us
Ralph Stubblinge, John Pococke, the elder⁹⁸

⁹⁷ the baptisms of four daughters of Robert Frenche were recorded: Ann (#2559), Margaret (#2095), Francis (#2563)
and Marie (#2570) but Francis was buried three weeks before her father.

⁹⁸ Stubbling and Pococke signed their names

1 In the name of god Amen. The eleventh day of March
2 in the third year of the reign of our sovereign lord Charles,
3 by the grace of god king of England, Scotland and Ireland, in
4 the year of our lord Christ 1627. I, Elizabeth Terry, **widow**, of Leigh-next-
Tonbridge, though
5 sick in body yet of sound mind and memory (praised be
6 almighty god) do constitute and ordain this my last will
7 and testament in manner and form following: **First** and principally,
8 I bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty god, my creator,
9 redeemer and sanctifier, hoping assuredly to receive forgiveness
10 of all my sins and the salvation of my soul of his merit,
11 grace and mercy, through the merits of his son, Jesus Christ,
12 and my body I yield unto the earth whence it was taken to be
13 decently buried in the churchyard of Leigh. **Item:** I give and
14 bequeath to **my daughter, Dorcas Terry**, the featherbed upon
15 which I lie, together with the bedstead and all other furniture
16 belonging thereunto, and also my best gown and my best
17 petticoat. The rest of my goods and chattells, my debts and funeral
expenses paid and discharged, I give and

18 bequeath to **all my five children** to be equally divided amongst
19 them at the discretion of my loving brother **Mr. Thomas Beard**
20 whom I appoint executor of this my last will and testament
21 and hereby do renounce and cancel all former wills made either
22 by word or writing, publishing and declaring this to be
23 last will and testament whereunto I have set my hand
24 and seal the day and year above written.

Sealed, signed, published and declared in presence of
Lachaine Taylor

Elizabeth Terry

Will of Margaret Thomas, widow, of Tonbridge

written 9th November 1590;
transcript from probate copy

This will (CKS: Drb/Pwr 18.123, Drb/Pw 16) was written by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618. The only other Thomas wills which have survived for Tonbridge or the locality are those of a John Thomas proved in 1556 and a William Thomas dated 1469. Neither of these has been investigated.

Margaret, whilst "in good and perfect health as well of body as of mind" was "very aged and weakened" in her limbs. Looking at her will from a modern viewpoint, because of her age, she has had to give up her own home, put many of her possessions into storage (into "the hands and custody of William Homewood of Wrotham, . . . , tanner, all those particular goods as hereafter are named") and move around, from time to time, possibly staying with her children or other relatives in turn since she does not specify a particular parish in which to be buried: "and my body to the earth to be buried at the discretion of mine executor hereafter named where it shall please god."

1 In the name of god Amen. The
2 ninth day of the month of November in the
3 year of our lord god, one thousand, five
4 fourscore and ten and in the
5 32nd year of the reign of our sovereign
6 Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God, Queen
7 of England, France and Ireland, defender
8 of the faith, etc. I, Margaret Thomas of
9 Tonbridge in the county of Kent, widow,
10 being at the time of making hereof in good

11 and perfect health as well of body as of mind,
12 thanks be to god, notwithstanding very aged
13 and weakened in my limbs and thereby put
14 in mind of my last end and knowing assuredly
15 that I shall change my life but the time when
16 altogether very uncertain and willing that
17 these transitory goods and possessions which
18 god hath made me steward of here on earth
19 should be quietly enjoyed after my decease,
20 therefore I do ordain and make this my
21 present last will and testament in manner
22 and form following, that is to say, **First:** and
23 above all things, I give, commend and bequeath
24 my soul into the hands of Almighty god, my maker,
25 and to Jesus Christ, his dear son, my alone
26 saviour and redeemer, by whose merit, precious
27 death and blood shedding, I trust only to be saved
28 and my body to the earth to be buried at the
29 discretion of mine executor hereafter named
30 where it shall please god. **Item:** I will that there
31 shall be bestowed at my burial amongst poor
32 people thither resorting such portion of money,
33 bread or other such like as it shall please my

34 said executor, hereafter named. **Item:** I give to
35 the box or chest of the poor within that
36 parish in which I shall decease 6s 8d. **Item:**
37 I give and bequeath to **my-daughter-in-law,**
38 **the widow of my son Miller,** that bed
39 whereon I used to lie with the coverlet,
40 blanket and bolster thereto belonging. **Item:**
41 I give and bequeath unto my natural kinswoman
42 **Margaret Miller, daughter of my son John**
43 **Miller, deceased**⁹⁹, my best coverlet to be delivered
44 unto her by my said executor, hereafter named,
45 at her age of eighteen years, or at the day of
46 her marriage, which shall first happen. **Item:** I give
47 and bequeath unto **Isabell Williams, servant** to my
48 said daughter-in-law, five shillings lawful money.
49 **Item:** whereas I have remaining and being
50 in the hands and custody of **William Homewood**
51 of **Wrotham** in the said county, **tanner,** all those
52 particular goods as hereafter are named, viz:
53 three pounds which he oweth me for a horse,

99 Margaret would have been her granddaughter. Was the daughter-in-law, to whom the bed was left, John's widow and Margaret's mother? It would appear that Margaret Thomas had previously been married to ?? Miller.

54 also all those particular pieces of brass, viz. two
55 cauldrons, two latten bread pans or basins, one
56 brass pan, four brass pots, two brass kettles
57 without bonds or bayles and nine other brass
58 kettles, also two dozen of pewter great and small,
59 one new coverlet, one carpet and two gowns,
60 all which are in the custody and keeping of the
61 said William Homewood, all which sum of three
62 pounds together with all the said particular portions,
63 parcels of stuff above named and all other
64 goods of mine whatsoever which are in the
65 custody of the said William Homewood, I give
66 and bequeath to my loving and natural kinsman
67 **Anthony Deale, son of my daughter, Ursula, de**
68 **ceased**¹⁰⁰. Also I give and bequeath unto him, the
69 said Anthony Deale, all other my goods and
70 cattalls whatsoever, as well moveable as
71 unmoveable, to pay my debts and legacies and
72 to see this my will proved and my body honestly
73 and in decent manner brought to the earth which
74 Anthony Deale I make and ordain my whole

100 Anthony would have been her grandson

75 and only executor. And as touching all and
76 every my annuities, lands and hereditaments,
77 bonds and forfeiture of bonds and all other my
78 hereditaments, whatsoever, I likewise will and
79 give the same, and every of the same, unto the
80 said Anthony Deale to him and to his heirs, the
81 same withall and singular the appurtenances,
82 unto the said Anthony Deale, his heirs and
83 assigns, forever. In witness whereof, to this my
84 present last will, I the said Margaret Thomas
85 have set my hand and seal, yeven, the day and
86 year first above written. Read, sealed and
87 acknowledged in the presence of **John Wyek,**
88 **Richard Rogers and Nicholas Hooper** and others.

Nuncupative Will of Rowland Thrustcroft of Leigh

written 1st September 1597

transcript from original; CKS: Drb/Pw 18; Drb/Pwr 18.594

Although there is no Nicholas Hooper mark on this nuncupative will, it is taken as having been written by him because of the great similarity between the

handwriting and that of other wills known to have been written by him (see, for example, the "Nicolas" in line 16) and also because of the spelling of "following" (only one "l") and "hee".

1 **Memorandum** that upon the first day of September
2 in the year of our lord one thousand, five hundredth,
3 four score and Seventeen, Rowland Thrustcroft,
4 **Servant to Richard Polhill of Leigh** next Tonbridge
5 in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, did speak and utter
6 these words following or the like in effect touching his
7 last will, viz: that, in consideration that he had but
8 one only kinsman, that he made any account of, who
9 was now beyond the Seas, And that he had no
10 greater or better friend than the said Richard
11 Polhill, his master: Therefore he willed all his
12 goods whatsoever to the said Richard Polhill, his master¹⁰¹,
13 to use and dispose at his will and pleasure. And if
14 his said kinsman came again to bestow something
15 upon him, otherwise to use and dispose as aforesaid.
16 All which was spoken in the presence of **Nicolas Roberte**
17 and **Katherine Westerman**, the day and year

101 abbreviated to M^f

18 first above written

the mark of **Nicolas**
Roberte

the mark of **Katherine**
Westerman

The Tomlyns of Seal

Two Tomlyn wills have survived:

Johane Tomlyn	22 Jul 1556	CKS: Drb/Pwr 12.47	page t.176
William Tomlyn	24 May 1592 16 Jun 1592	CKS: Drb/Pw 16; Drb/Pwr 18.165	page t.179

Johane mentions two daughters, Agnes (whose married name was Hill) and Sylvester and two sons, Christopher and William. Sylvester was to receive the unusual legacy of "[a cow's milk unto Michaelmas next coming](#)" which would been for about three months. Nothing more is known of Agnes, Sylvester or Christopher but William was probably the William whose will of 1592 has survived.

A **William Tomlyn**, possibly Johane's husband, witnessed the will of **William Olyver** (#3910) in 1526 and that of **Henry Hadlow** in 1548 and was appointed joint executor to the will of **John Porter** (#3216) in 1533. He also witnessed the will of **John(2) Tebold** (#673) in 1545 and it was probably this William Tomlyn who occupied "[certain parcels of land called Challoncrosses](#)" (**Challen croft**) in 1545 - see **Tebold**.

The William Tomlyn who priced and valued the inventory of **John Becket** (#634) in 1570 was probably #61. The burial of one of William's servants, **Johane Oxley** (#605), was recorded on 21st December 1567.

The Will of Johane Tomlyn of Seal

written 22nd July 1556

transcript from probate copy; original has not survived

1 In the name of god Amen. The 22nd day of
2 July in the year of our lord god 1556 and
3 in the second and third year of our
4 sovereign lord and lady Philipp and Mary
5 by the grace of god king and queen of
6 England, France and Ireland. I, Johane Tomlyn, of
7 Seal in the county of Kent, **widow**, being
8 of good and perfect memory do make and
9 ordain this my present testament and
10 last will in manner and form following:
11 That is to say, **First:** I bequeath my soul to
12 Almighty god, my maker and redeemer and to all

13 the blessed company of heaven. And my body to
14 be buried in the churchyard of Seal. **Item:** I
15 bequeath to the high altar of Seal, for
16 tithes and oblations forgotten, 12d. **Item:** I
17 bequeath and will that there be given at my
18 burial the bread of a bushel of wheat
19 to the poor to pray for me and a diridge and 5
20 masses. **Item:** I bequeath to **Johane Hill, the**
21 **daughter of my daughter Agnes**, one of the
22 young heifers. **Item:** I bequeath to **Marion Stormer**
23 one of my kirtles and 12d in money to pray
24 for me. **Item:** I bequeath to **my daughter Sylvester**
25 my best gown and a cow's milk unto
26 Michaelmas next coming. **Item:** I bequeath to
27 **Margaret Fylde** a petticoat cloth of cloth
28 russett and 20d. **Item:** I bequeath to **Richard**
29 **Fylde** an ewe lamb to be delivered at the
30 discretion of **my sons Christopher and William**.
31 **Item:** I will that 6 years after my decease there
32 shall yearly be given the bread of a bushell¹⁰⁶
33 of wheat and diridge and mass to be done

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

34 for me and at the time of my burial as is
35 before specified with 5 masses and diridge. All
36 the residue of my goods I bequeath to
37 Christopher and William, my sons, what
38 soever it be, these parcels excepted, that is
39 to say, my ?erches and Railes to me
40 belonging. And I do make them my execu
41 tors that they shall have full possession
42 in all parcel and parcells of my goods whatsoever
43 it be without any let of any man, paying
44 my debts and legacies. And I do make **James**
45 **Porter**¹⁰⁷, my overseer and I will him 12d
46 to give to the poor children. To this my last
47 will I have set my seal and my own
48 hand in witness of this now following.

William Cripps, John Wilcocke, Thomas Monk

107 #229, died in May 1563; perhaps he was Johane's brother

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 The 24th day of May in the
3 34th year of the reign¹⁰⁶ of our
4 sovereign lady Queen Elizabeth, I,
5 William Tomlyn, the elder, of Seal
6 in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being sick
7 in body and whole in mind and of
8 perfect memory, laud and praise be
9 to almighty god, do ordain and make
10 this my present testament and last will
11 in manner and form following: **First:**
12 I bequeath my soul to almighty god, my
13 maker and to Jesus Christ, his son, which
14 redeemed me with his precious blood,
15 beseeching him of his infinite mercy
16 to pardon it and to receive it to his
17 mercy and my body to be buried in

18 the churchyard of Seal aforesaid. **Item:**
19 as touching the disposition of all my goods,
20 chattells and implements of household
21 which god hath lent me, I bequeath and
22 devise them in manner and form
23 following: that is to say, I bequeath and
24 give to **John Tomlyn, my eldest son,**
25 the sum of five pounds lawful
26 money of England to be paid unto him,
27 or his assigns, within two years
28 after my decease. **Item:** I give unto
29 **Thomas, one other of my sons,** the like
30 sum of five pounds of like lawful
31 money of England to be paid unto him,
32 or his assigns, within three years
33 after my decease. **Item:** I give and
34 bequeath unto **Leonard Tomlyn, one**
35 **other of my sons,** the sum of ten
36 pounds of like lawful money to be
37 paid unto him, or his assigns, within
38 four years after my decease.
39 **Item:** I give **my two daughters,**

40 viz: **Elizabeth and Katherine**¹⁰⁷, and to
41 either of them, the sum of four pounds
42 of like lawful money to be paid unto
43 them, and either of them, within one
44 year next after the days of their and
45 either of their several marriages
46 provided always, and my will is, that
47 if it shall fortune my said two daughters,
48 or either of them, to marry without the
49 consent and good will of my executors
50 hereafter named that then her or their
51 portion above bequeathed shall be void. **Item:** I
52 give unto **Grace, my daughter, wife**
53 of **William Walker**¹⁰⁸, the sum of twenty
54 shillings to be paid unto her within
55 one half year next after my decease.
56 **Item:** I give unto **Richard Walker** and

107 see tree for their marriages

108 they had married in 1585 when Grace was only twenty; Richard was baptised in 1586 and Christopher in 1590. Grace and William had five more children, the last, Grace, being born in 1607 when her mother, who lived to the age of 71, was 42. "Walker" was spelt "Waker" in William's will as it sometimes was in other documents. See [Walker](#) or more details.

57 **Christopher Walker**, my daughter
58 Grace's children, and to either of them,
59 one ewe lamb. The residue of all
60 my goods and chattells, leases, lands,
61 tenements, rents, reversions, rights,
62 tills and interests, moveables and
63 unmoveables whatsoever I will, devise
64 give and dispose unto **Margery, my**
65 **wellbeloved wife** and to **William Tom**
66 **lyn, my son**¹⁰⁹, their heirs and assigns
67 which said Margery and William, my
68 son, I ordain and make my whole and
69 sole executors of this my last will
70 trusting and hoping that they will see
71 my debts truly paid and my lega
72 cies performed. In witness whereof
73 unto this my present last will I, the
74 said William Tomlyn, thelder, have
75 put to my hand and seal the day
76 and year first above written. Witnesses
77 unto the last will and testament: **Edmond**

109 William was his father's second son, baptised 5th October 1562

The mark of William Tomlyn, thelder

This memorandum (**CKS: Drb/Pw 22**) has the Nicholas Hooper "mark" at the end and was therefore written by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618. It is, however, very faint with only the original having survived; it has not been transcribed.

*The **Tooths** of Seal and Ightham*

The will of John Tooth (or Tothe) of Seal, who was buried 12th September 1588, has survived (**CKS: Drb/Pw 15; Drb/Pwr 17.307**) although the left hand side of the original is badly damaged. It was written on 13th July 1588 by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618.

John Toothe married Agnes Stace, widow, on 15th June 1567; Agnes and Ann are often used interchangeably for the same person but John and Agnes/Ann do not seem to have had any children (or none that survived) since John leaves his land to his nephews. Agnes Stace had nine children by her first husband, William Stace (#31¹¹⁰), whose will has survived. - see **Stace in Families & Transcripts**

```

mar:      <1544      15 Jun 1567 | #286      #4591 |
      #31 William Stace - Agnes/Anne #32 - John      Richard -
will:      1 Jan 1566 |      13 Jul 1588      |
bur:      19 Jan 1566 |      12 Sep 1588      -----
      |      #4592 | #4594 | #4595 | #4596 |
      9 children including Richard
      born between 1543? and 1563
      William John Richard Elizabeth

```

The only other Tooths mentioned in the Seal, Kemsing or Ightham parish registers were:

Ightham:

William Tooth (i1612¹¹¹), who was mentioned in the Court Records sometime between 1586 and 1618, married Elizabeth Leake (i1613) on 12 March 1593 and they had a daughter, Lydia, baptised on 2nd September 1593, six months after the marriage.

111 i indicates a number in the Ightham database, # in the Seal database

Seal:

Elizabeth Tooth (#1352) married John Cacott (#1351) on 8th December 1588. If Richard and John Tooth were about the same age as William Stace (or a little younger), Richard's children could have been born in the 1550s/1560s so that the Elizabeth mentioned in John's will could have been the Elizabeth who married in 1588.

*The Will of **John Tooth** of Seal*

written 13th July 1588

transcript of beginning and end from original, rest from probate copy

Nicholas Hooper's
mark

- 1 In the name of god Amen¹¹². The thirteenth day of July in the
- 2 thirtieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of
- 3 God, Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc.

¹¹² this phrase is written in a similar way to that on Thomas Rootes's will (CKS: Drb/Pw 15) but, with the left hand side having decayed, the "I" has disappeared.

4 And in the year of our lord god one thousand, five hundredth, four score
and
5 eight. I, John Tooth of Seal in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being
6 at the time of making hereof visited with god's visitation with sickness and
thereby put
7 in mind of my last end and, notwithstanding of good and perfect mind and
remembrance,
8 thanks therefore be¹¹³ given to god almighty, do ordain and make
9 this my last will and testament in manner and form following¹¹⁴, that is to
say,
10 **First:** I give and bequeath my soul to Almighty god, my maker and to
11 Jesus Christ, his dear son, my only saviour and redeemer, by whose merits
12 precious death and bloodshedding¹¹⁵ I trust to be saved. And my body to
the
13 earth to be buried in the Churchyard of Seal aforesaid. **Item:** I
14 give and bequeath to the box or chest of the poor within the parish of Seal

113 "bee" and also below but "being" (not "beeing") on line 5 above; "beelonging" on the last page of the will

114 "folowing" which is another Nicholas Hooper characteristic

115 "bludshedding"

- 15 aforesaid 3s 4d. **Item:** I will and bequeath to every of the children of
William
16 **Roberts**¹¹⁶ 12d a piece. **Item:** I will and bequeath to **John Lambard** £5
which I will

from probate copy:

- shall be paid by my wife to **John Doble**¹¹⁷,
- **my neighbour**, within 4? years next after
- my decease if he be then living or else
- to such other honest man whom she will,
- to be by the said Doble, or that
- other party if he be deceased, employed
- to the most benefit that maybe till the
- full age of one and twenty years of
- the said John Lambard¹¹⁸ and, at the said
- age, I will the same, with the use thereof,

116 William (#773) had four children baptised in Seal between 1574 and 1587 - see [Roberts in Families & Transcripts](#)

117 probably John Doble, #877, who was born in the 1550s and died in 1602 -see [Doble in Families & Transcripts](#)

118 John (#1272), son of John Lamberd (#1270) was baptised on 19th July 1584

- shalbe paid on to the said John Lambard,
- his heirs and assigns. The residue of all
- my goods and cattells, as well moveable
- as unmoveable, my debts paid and
- legacies being paid and funeral discharged,
- I wholly, fully and with good effect, intent
- and purpose, give and bequeath to **Anne,**
- **my well beloved wife**, which Anne I
- make and devise my whole and
- sole executrix of this my will to see
- the same proved, my debts paid and
- my body honestly brought to the earth.
- And I desire my good neighbours and
- trusty friends, **Robert Children**¹¹⁹
- and **William Masters**¹²⁰ to be my overseers
- of this my will to whom I give for their
- pains therein to be taken, over and besides their charges
- and expenses therein to be paid out, two

119 John Toothe had land in Tonbridge so that this is probably Robert Children of Tonbridge (t3) whose will was written, also by Nicholas Hooper, in June 1590 (see [Robert Children in More Families & Transcripts](#))

120 #105, buried May 1599 - see [Masters in Families & Transcripts](#)

- shillings a piece.
- This is the last will of me the said
- John Tooth, made and declared that day and
- year first above written concerning the order
- and disposal of all my lands, tenements and
- hereditaments whatsoever, situated, lying and
- being in Seal aforesaid, **Kemsing, Chevening**
- and **Tonbridge** in the county of Kent and
- **Brightling**¹²¹ in the county of Sussex or else
- where within the said counties of Kent or
- Sussex aforesaid or either of them and **First:**
- I will and give to **William Tooth, John Tooth**
- and **Richard Tooth, sons of my brother,**
- **Richard Tooth,** all my lands, tenements
- and hereditaments whatsoever, with all and
- singular th'appurtenances, situated, lying and
- being within the parish of Chevening aforesaid,
- To have and to hold the same, withall and
- singular th'appurtenances to them, the said William,
- John and Richard, the sons, their heirs

121 about 17 miles south of Tonbridge

- and assigns forever, to the only use and behoof of
- the said William, John and Richard, their
- heirs and assigns forever. **Item:** I give and
- bequeath to the said Ann, my wellbeloved
- wife, all that messuage or tenement wherein
- one **William Roberts and Margaret Reed**
- now dwell, together with a garden and th'apper
- tenances there to belonging together, situated
- lying and being in the town of Seal
- aforesaid. And all those parcels of land and
- meadow which I have as well in mortgage as
- also which are already forfeit to me of **William**
- **Willard**, situated, lying and being within the
- parish of Kemsing aforesaid and also all
- that parcel of land called **Southcroft**,
- by estimation three acres, whether more
- or less, lying and being in Tonbridge
- aforesaid. And also all those lands, tenements
- and hereditaments whatsoever which I late
- bought, had and purchased of **Anthony Cowper?**
- in the of the parish of Brightling in the said
- county of Sussex. To have and to hold all
- the same withall and singular th'appurtenances

- to the said Ann, my wellbeloved wife, her
- heirs and assigns¹²² forever. **Item:** I will and
- bequeath to the said Anne, my wellbeloved
- wife, all those my lands called **Rabletts**
- with the barn thereon standing and
- also one parcel called the **Hook**, containing
- in all, by estimation, ten acres whether
- more or less thereof be had together lying
- and being in Seal aforesaid. And
- also all those four parcels of land lying
- together at **Shortcross in Seal**
- aforesaid which I late purchased and
- exchanged with **Nicholas Miller**, To
- have and to hold all the same withall and
- singular th'appurtenances unto the said Anne,
- my wife, for, by and during the whole
- term of the natural life of her, the
- said Anne without ?? of waste
- other than in razing and pulling down
- of the said barn and keeping the

122 "of and ?? the said Ann and assigns forever" inserted here

- reparations thereof. And after the decease
- of the said Anne, then I will

from original:

- and bequeath all the said land and Barn called Rablets, Hook and four parcels
- Shortcross withall and singular th'appurtenances unto the said William Tooth, son
- of my said brother Richard. To have and to hold the same withall and singular
- th'appurtenances unto the said William Tooth, his heirs and assigns for ever. **Item:**
- I will and bequeath to **Richard Stace**¹²³ all that new messuage with the garden and
- ?? thereto belonging now in the occupation of **William Little** living in Seal Town
- ?? sometime parcel of the tenement herein before given to the said Anne and now in the occupation
- of the said William Roberts. To have and to hold to the same withall and singular the

123 this could have been John's eldest stepson who would have been about forty in 1588

- appurtenances unto the said Richard Stace, his heirs and assigns, to the only
 - use and behoof of the said Richard Stace, his heirs and assigns for ever.
 - Provided always and my very will is that the said William Toothe, his heirs or assigns
 - satisfy, content and pay, or cause to be paid, to Elizabeth Tooth, sister of the said William, her executors or assigns, the sum of fifteen pounds lawful money
 - one whole year next after the decease of the said Anne, my wife,
 - without fraud or coven. And if the said fifteen pounds shall not
 - be paid according to the tenor of this my will, then I will the said Elizabeth, her
 - heirs or assigns, shall enter upon the said parcel called the Hook with th'appurtenances to
 - ?? to hold the same with th'appurtenances to her, the said Elizabeth, her heirs and assigns
- 124
- to the only use and behoof of the said Elizabeth, her heirs and assigns for ever. In
 - witness whereof to this my present last will I, the said John Tooth, have set my hand

- and seal yeven the day and year first above written in the presence of
Robert Children

William Master

the mark of **RC** Robert

?? **Dobble**¹²⁵

Children the mark **T** of

John

Nicholas Hooper and others

Tooth

¹²⁵ probably the John Dubble mentioned at the beginning of the will

7 maker, redeemer and sanctifier, hoping assuredly through the only merits
of Jesus
8 Christ, my saviour, to be made partaker of life everlasting in the kingdom of
heaven.
9 And I commend my body to the earth to be buried where it shall please
God. And
10 touching such money, goods and chattels as I have, I give and bequeath
them in manner
11 and form following after my burial expenses discharged. That is to say, to
my nephew,
12 **Ralph Mylner, mine eldest sister Alice, her son,** the sum of five pounds. To
John
13 **Towne, my brother, Nicholas, his son,** the sum of five pounds. To **John**
Jeynes, my sister
14 **Anne, her son,** the sum of five pounds. To **Thomas Seyliard** of Delaware
aforesaid,
15 Esquire, a piece of gold of twenty shillings to make him a ring. To
Elizabeth, the wife of
16 **the said Thomas Seyliard,** a piece of gold of two and twenty shillings to
make her a
17 ring. To the **children of the said Thomas Seyliard and Elizabeth** the sum of
ten pounds

18 to be equally divided among them but to be delivered into the hands of the
said Thomas
19 Seyliard, their father, to be paid or employed by him for their benefit. To
the poor of
20 the parish of **Edenbridge** in the said county of Kent the sum of ten shillings
to
21 be distributed among them by the discretion of mine executor. And to
those servants of
22 Delaware aforesaid that shall carry my body to burial the sum of ten
shillings to be
23 divided among them. The residue of all my goods, chattels and money I
give and bequeath
24 to **Robert Towne, son of my brother William Towne**, whom I make the sole
executor
25 of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I, the said John
Towne, have
26 hereunto set my seal the day and year first above written. Sealed and
published to be
27 the last will and testament of the said John Towne in the presence of **John**
Seyliard,
28 **Thomas Bassett.**

The Wills of Abraham and Margery Tribe of Tonbridge

Abraham Tribe's will (CKS: Drb/Pw 29; Drb/Pwr 22.41) was written by John Hooper, notary public, who, with other members of his family, wrote a large number of wills in the Tonbridge area.

The will of Abraham's widow, Margery Tribe's (CKS: Dra/Pw1; Drb/Pwr 19IIB.128) was nuncupative . Both wills are very short with Abraham's, which has the date as a heading, probably being the shortest will John Hooper wrote.

Will of Abraham Tribe, shearman

written 24th November 1634

transcript from original

24th day of November Ann. Die. 1634

- 1 I, Abraham Tribe of Tonbridge in Kent,
- 2 **shereman**, do make this my testament
- 3 and last will in manner following:
- 4 **First:** recommending my soul to the mercies of
- 5 God through Jesus Christ, my saviour. And

6 my body to the earth in decent manner to
7 be¹²⁶ buried. I will and give to **Margery**,
8 **my loving wife**, all my goods and chattels
9 of what name, nature, kind soever. And
10 I make her the sole executrix of this my
11 testament and last will, to see the same proved
12 and all my debts and legacies paid. And I
13 desire **my good neighbour Thomas Brafeld**
14 to be overseer that this my will be
15 performed. In witness whereof I have here
16 set my hand and seal the day and year first
17 above written. the mark of the said

Abraham Tribe

Sealed, published and
declared in the presence of
Thomas Diker,
John Laughton alias Collier
and **John Hooper**

126 "bee" here and below

1 Memorandum that upon the fourth day March
2 in the year of our Lord God 1638, Margery Tribe of
3 Tonbridge, widow, being of good and perfect memory, did
4 utter and speak these words following, or that very like in
5 effect, touching her testament and last will, viz: she
6 willed to her two **kinswomen, Susan, the wife of**
7 **Richard Rootes, and Ann, the wife of James Fuwl**, should
8 have all her goods and chattels and what ever else
9 she had and should shift the same equally between
10 and appoint their said husbands should be equal
11 executors. These being present and witness thereto and
12 also that she did revoke all former wills by her made.
Alice Marlow and Elizabeth Morecross. the mark
of Alice Marlow and the mark of Elizabeth Morecross

The Tryces of Hadlow

Four Tryce wills from Hadlow have survived:

Walter Tryce	28 Jan 1587/8	PCC: Leicester 9	
Bartholomew Tryce	30 Apr 1603	CKS: Drb/Pw 19; Drb/Pwr 19I.382	page t.209
John Tryce	23 Jan 1622/3	CKS: Drb/Pw 26; Drb/Pwr 21.12	page t.211
Jane Tryce	4 Nov 1633	CKS: Drb/Pw 29; Drb/Pwr 22.76	page t.221

Bartholomew Tryce's will was nuncupative; the writing looks very much like that of Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618. Not only the writing but also the spelling of "following" with one "l" and "he" with double "ee", both of which Nicholas Hooper used practically always.

The will of Walter Trice, the elder, proved at the PCC, has not been investigated but it was not written by a Hooper. Bartholomew had a brother called Walter but he was living in 1603 when Bartholomew's will was written; this Walter had died when their father, John, wrote his will in 1623.

Bartholomew seems to have been something of a dandy giving the specific items of clothing he leaves to his brother and brothers-in-law:

Walter had a large number of children of which only Elizabeth, Bartholomew's goddaughter, was mentioned by her uncle in 1603 who left his brother Walter a lamb or 4s "to be employed to the use of his daughter" Elizabeth. She is unlikely to have been the eldest child since, by 1623, there were three daughters married and with children. The dates of birth for these children given in the tree and listed in Table T.9 have been estimated from details given in John's will. Jane gave the number of her nieces and nephews but the names of only a few.

When John died in 1623 he had a number of great-grandchildren and must have been in his seventies but his son Walter, the grandfather of these children, had died earlier.

Of John's grandchildren, three granddaughters were married and each of their husbands was appointed to be the guardian of one of John's underage grandsons. Thomas, the fourth grandson was to have for his guardian his sister Dorothy who herself was under age in 1623 so that John's executrix (his granddaughter Johane) was to pay over the sum due to Thomas only when Dorothy reached the age of twenty-one. If any of the four children refused "their guardians by me herein appointed and will not be ordered and ruled by them, as their lawful guardians" then he was to "loose the gift and benefit" of their grandfather's will.

John also left a large number of items to his grandchildren but they were to receive these only on the death of "Johane King, widow", their grandmother who

must have been Walter's mother-in-law. It would have seemed reasonable if the timing of these gifts had depended on the death of John's wife (who had, in any case, predeceased John) but what connection could there have been between the children's other grandmother and John's household items? Perhaps the two grandparents, widow and widower were living in the same house. Details of these items are given in Table T.10.

Table T.9: John Tryce's Grandchildren; Walter's Children

John's grandchildren; Walter's children	married to:
Mary, Jane's eldest sister; born before 1597	Thomas Hodge; guardian to Walter
Johane, her grandfather's executrix; born before 1598	Gabriel Woodgate; guardian to John
Anne; born before 1600	Henry King; guardian to Francis
Elizabeth; born before 1603; not mentioned by grandfather	
Walter, born after 1602	
Francis, Jane's brother, born after 1603	

Dorothy, born after 1605; guardian to brother Thomas	Francis Pawley
John, born after 1606	
Jane, born after 1608	
Thomas, youngest son, born after 1609	

Table T.10: John's Bequests to his Grandchildren

Mary	- one quarter of "my pewter commonly used abroad"	20s
Johane executrix	- residue and all other my moveable goods whatsoever unbequeathed	
Anne	- my cupboard standing in the parlour - my table and frame standing there - a joined stool with a drawer - one quarter of "my pewter commonly used abroad"	20s
Walter	- my two biggest spits - my biggest dripping pan - my biggest pair of iron backs	£10
Francis		£10

Dorothy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - one quarter of "my pewter commonly used abroad" - my iron pot - my silver spoon which was my wife's 	20s
John	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - my featherbed whereon I used to lie with the two best feather bolsters, pillows, blankets, best covering and all other furniture thereto belonging except the bedstead. - my Bible and all other my books - my biggest sheepchest - a great pair of cast brand irons - my best joined bedstead - my brass mortar and pestle - my musket with the snaphance 	£10
Jane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - one quarter of "my pewter commonly used abroad" - one iron kettle 	20s
Thomas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - one silver spoon - my two brass skillets - my fowling piece 	£10

Jane's bequests were mainly 6s 8d to each of her nieces and nephews which it was her desire they should each **bestow in buying** a bible. Her grandfather had left a bible, together with all his other books, to her brother John so that the

Tryces seem to have been a bible owning family and John's long preamble shows the intensity of his faith. Jane's preamble is, however, much shorter.

It is interesting that Jane also left 6s 8d "to buy him a sheep".

Will of Bartholomew Tryce of Hadlow

written 30th April 1603

transcript from original

1 **Memorandum** that upon the last day of April in the year
2 our lord Jesus Christ one thousand, six hundred and
3 three, Bartholomew Tryce of Hadlow in the county of
4 Kent, **yeoman**, did speak and utter these words, or the
5 like in effect, following¹²⁸, touching his last will, viz: he¹²⁹ willed
6 unto **his father, John Tryce**, one pair of stockings and his
7 best boots. **Item:** he gave unto **his brother, Walter Tryce**,
8 his buff jerkin. **Item:** he willed and gave to **his brother-in-law,**
9 **Stephen Wraight**, his best doublet and hose. **Item:** he

128 "folowing"

129 "hee", "bee" throughout

10 willed and gave to **William Wood, his brother-in-law¹³⁰**, a blue coat
11 and a canvas doublet. **Item:** he gave to **his brother, Walter Tryce**,
12 one lamb or else 4s in money to be paid to him at midsummer
13 next and by him to be employed to the use of his daughter
14 **Elizabeth and goddaughter to the said Bartholomew Tryce.**
15 **Item:** all the residue of his goods whatsoever he willed and
16 gave to **Margaret Tryce, his wellbeloved wife**, which Margaret,
17 his wife, he made his full and whole executrix. All which
18 words were spoken the day and year above written in the presence
19 of **James Bell, John Tryce and John Keble, Ellis Keble.**
20 wife of John Keble, and **Jane Fasters, wife of John Fasters.**

¹³⁰ since his father, in his will of 1623, also refers to a William Wood, it is suggested that he was the husband of a sister of Bartholomew rather than the brother of his wife

1 In the name of god Amen. The three and twentieth day
2 of January in the twentieth year of the reign of our sovereign Lord James
by the
3 grace of God king of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith,
etc. And
4 of Scotland the six and fiftieth, 1622. I, John Tryce, of Hadlow in the
county of
5 Kent, **yeoman**, being at the time of making hereof Aged, Impotent and full
of aches
6 and infirmities of the body (but yet of sound and perfect memory, praised
be¹³¹ god) and
7 knowing assuredly that I shall change this my life, the time thereof
altogether uncertain,
8 Therefore, to avoid trouble after death, I do ordain and make this my
present testament

131 "bee", "hee" throughout but "me" not "mee"

9 and last will in manner and form following, that is to say, **First** and above
10 all things, I do, most
11 willingly, bequeath and resign my soul unto Almighty god, my most
12 merciful saviour, trusting
13 assuredly, by a true and lovely faith which I have in the merits, precious
14 death and blood shedding
15 of his dear son, Christ Jesus, my only saviour and redeemer, to have free
16 pardon and
17 remission of all my sins. And my body to the earth to be in the churchyard
18 of Hadlow aforesaid in sure and certain hope of a joyful resurrection unto
19 life
20 eternal. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto the poor people of Hadlow
21 aforesaid forty
22 shillings of lawful money to be distributed among them by my executrix
23 hereafter
24 named within one month next after my decease. **Item:** I give and forgive
25 **William**
26 **Wood of Tudeley** all that debt of forty shillings which he oweth me. **Item:** I
27 give and forgive **Thomas Hodge** all that debt of four pounds which he
28 oweth me.
29 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Walter Tryce, one of the sons of Walter**
30 **Tryce**
31 **my son,** deceased, the sum of ten pounds of lawful money to be paid

22 and delivered over by my executrix within one quarter of a year next after
my decease
23 unto the said Thomas Hodge. And he to be guardian unto him and use?
the said ten pounds
24 to the use of the said Walter until his age
25 of one and twenty years and then to be accountable unto him for the same
without any which he has paid¹³². **Item:** I
26 give and bequeath unto **Francis Tryce, an other son of the said Walter, my**
son, the
27 like sum of ten pounds to be likewise paid over by mine executrix within
one quarter
28 of a year next after my decease, unto **Henry King** and he to
29 be guardian unto him. And he to keep the said sum until the said
30 Francis shall attain his like age of one and twenty years and then to be
accountable
31 for the same without any which he has paid¹³³. Also I give to the said
Walter, the son, immediately after the decease

132 a short insert here which is difficult to read; looking at the same phrase regarding Francis's legacy (which is also inserted) it seems to be "without any which he has paid" - that is Thomas Hodge is to pay Walter the original sum plus the profits earned but less Hodge's expenses. The beginning of this line "put out the said ten pounds to profits" was crossed out

133 this presumably means that his expenses are to be deducted

32 of **Johane King, widow**, his grandmother¹³⁴, my two biggest spits, my
biggest dripping pan
33 and my biggest pair of iron backs. And if either the said Walter or Francis
happen to
34 decease before their said ages of 21 years, my meaning is the survivor
shall be heir
35 to the deceased. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **John Tryce, one other son**
of the
36 said Walter, my son, the sum of ten pounds of lawful money to be paid
37 over, by my executrix, unto **Gabriel Woodgate** within one quarter of a year
next
38 after my decease and the said Gabriel to be Guardian unto the said John
and to put
39 the said ten pounds unto profits until his age of 21 years and then to be
40 accountable for the same without any which he has paid. Also I give to the
said John my featherbed whereon I used to lie
41 with the two best feather bolsters, pillows, blankets, best covering and all
other
42 furniture thereto belonging except the bedstead. Also I give to the said
John my

134 presumably Johane King was the mother of Walter's wife; what relation, if any, was she to Henry King, the wife of Walter's daughter Anne?

43 Bible and all other my books, my biggest sheepchest and a great pair of
44 cast brand irons.
45 Also I give to the said John my best joined bedstead, my brass mortar and
46 pestle now
47 standing in **William Tierall's** shop and my musket with the snaphance¹³⁵.
48 All which I will
49 shall be delivered immediately after the decease of the said Johane King
50 unto his said Guardian
51 by whom to be kept to his use until his age aforesaid. **Item:** I give and
52 bequeath unto
53 **Thomas Tryce, the youngest son of the said Walter, my son,** the like sum of
54 ten
55 pounds to be paid over unto **Dorothy Tryce, sister of the said Thomas,** by
56 my said executrix within
57 one month next after that the said Dorothy shall attain her age of 21 years
58 and then she
59 to be Guardian to the said Thomas and to keep the said ten pounds in her
60 hands till the
61 age of 21 years of the said Thomas. And then to be accountable for the
62 sum but no use

135 a flintlock

53 to be therefore paid. Also I give to the said Thomas one silver spoon, my
two brass
54 skillets and my fowling piece to be delivered to the said Dorothy by my
executrix immediately
55 after the decease of the said Johane King. And the same to remain with
the said Dorothy
56 until the said age of the said Thomas. And if either the said John or
Thomas happen
57 to decease before their said several ages, I will the survivor shall be heir to
the
58 deceased. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Mary, now the wife of the said
Thomas**
59 **Hodge**, to **Anne, now the wife of the said Henry King**, to the said Dorothy
Tryce and
60 unto **Jane Tryce, four of the daughters of the said Walter Tryce**, my son, to
each
61 and every of them twenty shillings a piece to be paid unto them and every
62 of them, within half a year next after my decease by my executrix. Also I
give and
63 bequeath unto the said Anne, my cupboard standing in the parlour, my
table and
64 frame standing there, one ?? standing in the hall and a joined stool with

65 a drawer. All which I will shall be delivered unto her immediately after the
decease
66 of the said Johane King. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto the said Mary,
Anne,
67 Dorothy and Jane, all my pewter commonly used abroad to be equally
68 divided and shifted among them presently after the decease of the said
Johane
69 King. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto the said Dorothy Tryce my iron pot
and my
70 silver spoon which was my wife's. Also I give and bequeath unto the said
Jane Tryce
71 one iron kettle to be in like manner delivered presently after the decease of
the said Johane
72 King. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Mary Hodge, daughter of the said**
Thomas Hodge,
73 the sum of five pounds of lawful money to be paid to the said Thomas, her
father,
74 to her use by my executrix within one month next after my decease. **Item:**
I give and
75 bequeath unto **Alice Woodgate, daughter of the said Gabriel Woodgate,** the
like sum
76 of five pounds. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Elizabeth Jeames** five
shillings.

77 The residue and all other my moveable goods whatsoever unbequeathed, I
fully and
78 wholly give and bequeath unto **Johane Tryce**, the now wife of the said
Gabriel
79 Woodgate and the other daughter of the said Walter, my son, which said
Johane I
80 make my whole and sole executrix to see this my will proved, my debts and
legacies
81 paid and discharged, my body decently buried and all things, on her part,
performed
82 according to this my will and meaning. Provided always that, if the said
Thomas
83 Hodge, Henry King and Dorothy Tryce when she cometh to age shall not
enter into
84 sufficient bonds unto the said Gabriel Woodgate, on the said Johane, his
wife (if he
85 shall be deceased) for the discharge of the several portions as of money to
them to be delivered
86 as is before expressed, at such time and times as is before limited, my will
and meaning
87 is that he, she and they so refusing to enter bonds, that portion and
portions which should have

88 been by him and them so refusing and received, shall rest and remain in
the hands of my
89 said executrix until the ages and times of payment before mentioned (any
thing in this my
90 will contained to the contrary notwithstanding. Provided furthermore that
if the said
91 Walter, John, Francis and Thomas Tryce, or any of them, shall refuse their
guardians
92 by me herein appointed and will not be ordered and ruled by them, as their
lawful guardians,
93 my will and meaning also is that he, they or every of them so refusing shall
lose the
94 gift and benefit of this my will, any thing also herein mentioned to the
contrary
95 notwithstanding. Furthermore, my will and meaning is that the said
Thomas Hodge,
96 Gabriel Woodgate, Henry King and Dorothy Tryce shall equally receive and
take
97 up the rents, issues and profits of the lands and tenements of the said
Walter, John,
98 Francis and Thomas Tryce until their several ages of 21 years aforesaid
99 and then to be accountable and make payment of so much money as they
shall

100 severally receive as aforesaid and without any use or farther allowance to
be therefore
101 made. **Item:** I make and ordain my loving neighbours **Henry Keble** and
John
102 **Chalklyn** overseers of this my will heartily entreating them, so far as in
them shall
103 or may lie, to be assisting and aiding in the performance hereof. Unto
whom I
104 give, as a token of my love, five shillings apiece over and besides their
105 charges, any money about the same to be expended. In witness whereof I,
the said
106 John Tryce, have hereunto put my hand and seal, the day and year before
107 dated, revoking all former wills by me made and acknowledging this same
to be
108 my true and very last will.

Read, sealed, pronounced and declared
to be the true and last will
and testament of the said John Tryce
in the presence of

John Pattenden
Henry Keble
Robert Hooper

The mark of **John**
Tryce

1 In the name of god Amen. The fourth day of November in the year of our
2 lord god 1633, I, Jane Tryce of Hadlow in the county of Kent, **spinster**,
being sick
3 and diseased in body but whole of mind and of good and perfect
remembrance, praises
4 be to almighty god, do make and ordain this my present testament
containing herein
5 my last will in manner and form following, that is to say, **First:** I commend
my
6 soul to god, my maker and redeemer and preserver, my body to be buried in
the church
7 yard of the parish of Hadlow aforesaid. **Item:** I will that after my debts paid
and
8 my funeral expenses discharged, there be paid by my executor hereafter
named, out of the
9 residue of my goods, to the poor inhabitants of the parish of Hadlow ten
shillings in bread
10 or otherwise according to the discretion of the minister and churchwardens
of the said parish. **Item:**

11 I give and bequeath unto **my eldest sister Mary, the wife of Thomas Hodge,**
all my wearing
12 apparel whatsoever (except one flaxen apron) and one pair of coarse sheets
of tow¹³⁶ and in
13 money forty and five shillings which she oweth me and also ten shillings
more to be
14 paid by my executor. **Item:** I give unto the four children of my sister Mary,
15 that is to say **Mary, Thomas, Bartholomew and Frances,** twenty six
shillings and eight
16 pence equally to be divided between them which my desire is they should
bestow in buying
17 four bibles. Moreover, I give unto Mary Hodge, the elder of the said
children, one silver
18 spoon. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my sister Johane, the wife of**
Gabriel Woodgate, twenty
19 shillings and to the **five children of my said sister** thirty and three shillings
and four pence
20 equally to be divided between them and to be bestowed in bibles. **Item:** I
give and bequeath
21 unto **my sister Anne, wife of Henry King,** all that linen of mine which she
hath in her

136 the shorter or inferior flax fibres

22 custody, also one joined table and two joined forms, one kettle of iron and
ten shillings in
23 money. Moreover, I bequeath unto the **two children of my said sister Anne**
thirteen shillings and
24 four pence to be bestowed likewise in bibles. **Item:** I give and bequeath
unto **my brother**
25 **Walter Tryce** ten shillings and to the **three children of my said brother**
Walter twenty
26 shillings to be equally divided between them and also to be bestowed on
bibles. Moreover I
27 bequeath unto **Walter, the eldest son of my said brother**, one brass pot and
the biggest of my
28 silver spoons. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my brother Francis Tryce**
one bed and bol
29 ster, one little iron pot, one little brass kettle, one linen wheel, one pair of
hempen sheets and
30 ten shillings in money. **Item:** I give to **the children of my sister Dorothy, the**
wife of
31 **Francis Pawley**, twenty shillings to be equally divided between them to be
bestowed on

32 bibles likewise¹³⁷. Moreover, I give unto **John, the second son of my said**
33 **sister Dorothy**, one pair
34 of flaxen sheets. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my godson Robert, son of**
35 **Edward**
36 **Hodge** of Hadlow aforesaid six shillings and eight pence to buy him a
37 sheep¹³⁸. The
38 residue of my goods after all my debts paid, my funeral expenses performed
39 and these my
legacies contained in this my present testament published, I wholly give
and bequeath to my
brother-in-law Francis Pawley whom I make and ordain the sole executor
of this my present
testament¹³⁹. And of the execution of the same I make and ordain **Wyat**
Salmon of Hadlow
aforesaid, overseer and I utterly revoke and annul all and every other
former

137 presumably Dorothy had three children

138 so all the children given 6s 8d to be "bestowed on a bible" could, alternatively, have each bought a sheep

139 Jane does not mention her younger brothers John and Thomas who were included in her father's will of 1610. Had they died or just moved away?

40 testament, wills, legacies, bequests, executors and overseers by me, in any
wise, made
41 named, willed and bequeathed. In witness whereof I have set my hand
and seal to this my
42 present testament. **Item:** I give and bequeath, moreover, to my sister
Johane, the wife of Gabriel Woodgate, twenty shillings.
Read, sealed, published and confirmed in the presence of
us **Samuel Grimes**
 John Lorning
 Arthur Turke **Jane Tryce**
 his mark her mark

This will (CKS: Drb/Pw 18; Drb/Pwr 19I.170) was written by John Hooper, notary public, parish clerk of Tonbridge and the son of Nicholas Hooper. The Hooper family wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1650 (when this investigation finishes). Other wills have survived for other Turners in the area but the only one for Tonbridge is dated 1471. Phillip was the son-in-law of John Bishop (whose will has survived) who died only four months prior to Phillip writing his will; Phillip inherited Trewes lodge from his father-in-law whose executor he was. He was buried on 9th September 1601.

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The ninth day of August in the year of our Lord
god, one thousand,
- 2 six hundredth and one and in the 43rd year of the reign of our Sovereign
Lady Elizabeth,
- 3 by the grace of god, Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of the
faith, I, Philip
- 4 Turner, of **Trewes Lodge** within the parish of Tonbridge in the county of
Kent and diocese of Rochester,

5 **carpenter**, being sick in body but of good memory, thanks be¹⁴⁰ given to
god, do ordain and make this
6 my present testament and last will in manner and form following¹⁴¹: **First:**
I give and bequeath my soul
7 into the hands of Almighty god, my Saviour and redeemer, by whose merit,
precious death and blood shedding,
8 I trust only to be saved and by body to the Earth from whence it came to be
buried at the discretion
9 of mine executrix hereafter named. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **William**
Turner, my son, one
10 cow and one sheep which his grandfather gave unto him. **Item:** I give to
the said William the
11 sum of twenty shillings of good and lawful money of England and to **his**
Two brothers,
12 **John Turner and Edmond Turner**, to each and either of them, forty shillings
a piece,
13 which said several sum and sums of 20s and 40 shillings I will shall be paid
to them and

140 spelt "bee" throughout

141 spelt "following" unlike Nicholas Hooper who always wrote "folowing"

14 either of them at their several ages of one and twenty years or their several
15 days of marriage¹⁴² which shall first happen. **Item:** I give to my said two sons, John
16 and Edmond
17 Turner, to each of them one sheep to be delivered to them within one
18 month next
19 after my decease. **Item:** to **Margaret Turner, my daughter**, the sum of five
20 pounds
21 lawful english money and also one joined bedstead, one featherbed, one
22 pair of sheets, one
23 bolster, one blanket and one covering to be paid and delivered to her at her
age of one
and twenty years. All which my foresaid legacies and gifts, I will shall be
paid and delivered
according to the tenor of this my will by my executrix hereafter named.

All the residue of my moveable goods, cattels, credits and debts
unbequeathed, I wholly will and
bequeath to **Anne, my wellbeloved wife**, she paying my debts and legacies
and seeing my body decently buried

142 spelt "marriage"; it is unusual for this alternative of payment on marriage before coming of age to be given for sons as distinct from daughters

24 and this my will proved which Anne I make the whole and sole executrix of
 this my present
 25 Testament. And I devise and appoint overseer of the same **my wellbeloved**
friend, Thomas Bowle,
 26 desiring his aid and furtherance in and about the probation of the same, to
 whom I give as a token over
 27 and above all the charges¹⁴³ and towards his pains taken herein two
 shillings
 Present at the declaring, sealing and ?? of this present¹⁴⁴ Philippe Turner
 testament **William Elliott ?? Eldridge** **Thomas Latter**
Thomas Bowle **John Hooper**

143 spelt with a "d"

144 mark

This will (PCC: Harte 46), written by the testator, has a very personalised preamble giving a great amount of detail of his beliefs. In 1596 Roger Twysden was witness to (and possibly the writer of) the will of Dame Elizabeth Golding of East Peckham which shows great similarity regarding these beliefs.

In the name of god Amen. The tenth day of March in the five and fortieth year of the reign of Elizabeth . . . I, Roger Twysden, of East Peckham, **Esquire**, being in perfect health and good memory, the lord be thanked, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First: I do give to the Almighty and ever living God, as due is, all glory, praise and thanks for ever. And I do humbly beg of him forgiveness of all my sins and, through his mercy in the death and passion of Christ Jesus, having an assured trust in his promise that at what time soever a sinner doth return to him with unfeigned repentance and sure trust in his mercy, he will hear his request and pardon his sins. Oh lord that art my creator and redeemer, my trust is only¹⁴⁵ in

145 should this be "not only"/

the being sorry for my former offences but quickened by a lively faith and trust in the ?? beloved son Jesus Christ and to thy loving grace and protection.

Oh my god, I commend not only my self, body and soul, but also my children that thou hast given me and that I do leave behind me in this earth, most humbly beseeching the creator, orderer and disposer of all things in heaven and earth, to preserve us to thy glory that we may live in thy fear and die in thy grace that, having our names written in thy book of life, may live eternally in all glory and felicity with the fellowship of them, his most blessed children.

And, touching my body, expecting a joyful resurrection, I will the same to be buried at the discretion of my executor in such place, and in such convenient sort, as shall be fit and to accompany earth to earth. I will twenty black coats to poor men and ten black gowns to poor women at the time of my burial. And over the place, or as near as convenient may be, where I am buried to have a tomb or memorial for me and my wife. And touching my goods, chattels, debts and legacies . .

I do give to **my son Thomas Twisden** one trunk covered with black leather with all the writings, deeds and evidences therein which do and may touch on certain the messuages, lands or tenements by me conveyed, ?? willed and bequeathed to my said son Thomas.

In witness whereof I, the said Roger Twisden have not only written this my last will and testament with mine own proper hand but also have subscribed my name to those present: Roger Twisden¹⁴⁶.

¹⁴⁶ No witnesses are given (at least in the probate copy).

U

Will of Nicholas Usmer of Wrotham

written 18th June 1627?

transcript from original

The year this will (CKS: Prs/w/17/79) was written is not decipherable but it was proved on 19th September 1627. Nicholas Usmer, who had some money and goods but did not mention any land, had three children and his wife, True, could have been pregnant when he died. He left each of his children twenty nobles (£6 13s 4d) to be paid to them when they reached the age of fourteen. All his "household stuff and goods within doors" was to be divided equally between his wife and children but the latter's portions were to remain in the hands of his wife until they reached the age of twenty-one.

1 In the name of god Amen. The 18th day of June in the ??¹⁴⁷
2 year of the reign of our sovereign Lord Charles, by the grace of God,
3 king of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the
4 faith. etc. I, Nich. Usmer of Wrotham in the county of Kent, **yeoman**,
5 being sick in body but of good and sound remembrance, laud and praise
6 be to almighty god, do make this my last will and testament
7 in manner and form following: **First:** I bequeath my soul to al
8 mighty God, my creator, by whose mercy in Jesus Christ I hope
9 for salvation and my body to the earth to be buried in the church
10 yard of Wrotham aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath to
11 **my three children, Thomas, Alice and Amy**, twenty nobles
12 a piece to be paid to them, and every of them, at the age of fourteen
13 years by my executrix. And if it fortune that my wife be with
14 child at my decease, than I do give to it also this like sum
15 of twenty nobles to be paid at the age of fourteen years.
16 And if it, or any of the others do die before they shall come to
17 the said age, then my will is the portion of the deceased
18 shall be equally divided amongst the survivors. **Item:** I
19 give and bequeath to my aforesaid children and **True, my beloved wife**, all
20 my household
stuff and goods within doors to be equally divided between them

21 all within one year next after my decease by even portions yet
22 provided always and my will is that my foresaid children shall
23 not have and receive into their hands any of their said portion
24 or portions of household stuff and goods before they come to the
25 age of one and twenty years. And in the mean space my will
26 is that my foresaid wife shall have the use and possession of
27 the said household stuff and goods until they come to the said sever=
28 al ages of one and twenty years (if she do so long live). Else
29 my will is they shall receive them immediately after her de=
30 cease. All the rest of my goods, cattle, debts and chattels, whatso=
31 ever, I give to True, my beloved wife, whom I make sole execu=
32 trix of this my last will and testament, and **Mr. Nich. Quiller**, overseer. In
witness

33 whereof I have hereunto set my hand in the presence

34 and witness of us Nich. Usmers

Char. Hutchinson, clerk mark

Thom. Castleton

mark

V

Will of John Vaughan of West Peckham	page v.2
Will of Raph Vere of Wrotham, gent	page v.10
Will of Thomas Vinton of Tonbridge	page v.12

This will (PCC: Dorset 77; Prob 10/267) was written by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618. The preamble, whilst basically similar to many of the others written by Nicholas Hooper, includes some interesting additions: "assuring myself that whatsoever he (god) taketh charge of cannot perish but endure everlasting. And my body (as to the mother of all living creatures) I commit unto the earth".

Nicholas Hooper's
mark

- 1 In¹⁴⁸ the name of god Amen. The three and twentieth day of May in the
year of
2 our lord God, one thousand six hundredth and nine, and in the seventh
year of the reign

3 of our Sovereign Lord James, by the grace of God, king of England, France
and Ireland,
4 defender of the faith, etc. And of Scotland the two and fortieth. **I, John
Vaughan,**
5 of Westpeckham in the county of Kent, **Gent**, being¹⁴⁹ sick and weak in
body but yet of perfect
6 mind and remembrance, thanks therefore be given to God almighty, And
willing to set in order
7 those small transitory possessions which God hath made me Steward of
here in this world, that no
8 contention fall out about the same after my decease: Therefore I do ordain
and make this
9 my present last will and testament in manner and form following¹⁵⁰: And
First: above all
10 other things, I humbly submit and commit my soul into the hands of
Almighty God who gave it,
11 humbly desiring and beseeching him, for his dear son Jesus Christ's sake,
that the same may be

149 "beeing", "mee", "hee", etc. throughout, including "beefore"

150 "folowing" here and on line 20; Nicholas Hooper's usual spelling

12 presented pure, before the throne of his high majesty, assuring my self that
whatsoever he taketh charge
13 of cannot perish but endure everlasting. And my body (as to the mother¹⁵¹
of all living creatures)
14 I commit unto the earth, whence it came, to be buried in the Church or
Churchyard of Westpeckham
15 aforesaid, which it shall please mine executrix hereafter named, in sure
and certain hope of a joyful
16 resurrection to ??¹⁵² immortal. **Item:** I will there shalbe given and
distributed among the
17 poor resorting to my burial 10s at the discretion of mine executrix and other
her assistants.
18 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my Godson John Blythe** twenty shillings of
lawful money to be
19 employed and paid unto him by his Aunt, mine executrix, to his use and
benefit at her discretion. **Item:**
20 I give and bequeath to **my son William Vaughan**, the sum of forty pounds of
lawful money

151 "moother"

152 "ivies"; "life" is the expected word

21 to be paid to him in manner following, viz. one twenty pounds thereof
22 within one year next after my
decease and the other twenty pounds within the second year next after my
decease.

23 **The¹⁵³ residue** of all my goods and cattells, debts, credits, bonds,
specialities and all other my
24 moveable goods whatsoever, I wholly, fully, and with good effect, intent
and purpose, give and bequeath to
25 **Griesild, my wellbeloved wife**, whom I make and ordain my whole and sole
executrix of this my will,
26 to see the same proved, my debts and legacies paid and my body honestly
and decently buried.

27 **This¹⁵⁴ is the last** will of me, the said John Vaughan, made and declared
the day and year
28 first above written, concerning the order and disposition of all my lands,
tenements and hereditaments whatsoever

153 small version of Nicholas Hooper "mark" in the margin hanging vertically from the crossbar of the "T"

154 slight decoration of the "T"

29 in Westpeckham aforesaid and **Ightham** in the said county. **And First** I
give and bequeath unto the
30 said Griesild my wife, as well all that my little tenement and lands, withall
and singular th'appurtenances, situated,
31 lying and being in Westpeckham aforesaid, as also all that my little
tenement and lands withall
32 and singular th'appurtenances, situated, lying and being in Ightham
aforesaid, To have and to hold the same
33 and own the same, withall and singular th'appurtenances, unto the said
Griesild, my wife, and her assigns, for and during
34 the whole term of her natural life, keeping the houses thereof well and
sufficiently repaired and doing no
35 wilful waste in or upon the same. **And** after her decease, I give and
bequeath all my said messuage
36 or tenement, and all the edifices, lands, meadows and appurtenances,
lying and being in West Peckham
37 aforesaid, unto **Elizabeth Vaughan, my daughter**, her heirs and assigns for
ever. **And** like wise
38 after my said wife's decease, I give and bequeath all my said messuage or
tenement and the edifice, land
39 and appurtenances, lying in **Ightham** aforesaid, unto **Marie Vaughan, my
daughter**, her heirs and assigns

40 forever. **Provided** notwithstanding, and my full intent and meaning is,
41 that if the said Elizabeth, my
42 daughter, shall happen to decease without heirs of her body lawfully
43 begotten, that then I will that
44 all the said messuage and premises in Westpeckham shall remain and
45 come to my said daughter, Marie, and
46 to her heirs and assigns forever. **And** that if my said daughter Marie
47 happen to decease
48 without heirs of her body lawfully begotten, then I will that all the said
49 messuage,
50 lands and premises to her given, lying in Ightham aforesaid, shall remain
and come to my said
daughter Elizabeth and to her heirs and assigns for ever any thing in this
my will
to the contrary thereof, in any wise, notwithstanding. **Provided**
furthermore,
and my like full intent and meaning is, that if both my said daughters,
Elizabeth and
Marie, happen to decease without heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten,
then I will
that all and every the said two messuages and all other the premises
whatsoever, before herein

51 given to my said daughters, either in Westpeckham or Ightham aforesaid,
withall and singular th'appurtenances
52 shall remain and be wholly to my said son William Vaughan¹⁵⁵, his heirs
and assigns for ever
53 (anything also herein contained to the contrary in any wise
notwithstanding) **In witness** whereof
54 to this my present last will and testament I, the said John Vaughan, have
set my hand and seal and
55 I do hereby revoke all other wills whatsoever heretofore by me made and do
publish and declare this to
56 be my true and last will yeven the day and year first above written.

Nicholas Hooper's
mark
with initials

Signum John
Vaughan

Read, sealed and acknowledged
as the true and last will of the

¹⁵⁵ had William already had some land that none was left to him directly in the will?

said John Vaughan in the
presence of me, **Nicolas Hooper**, writer
hereof and of **William Balden**

Signum **W** William
Balden

21 July 1609

Greisilda Vaughan inrata per
me **Ro. Masterman**

1 In the name of god Amen. I, Raph Vere
2 of Wrotham, gent, being sick and weak in
3 body but of good memory, thanks
4 be given to god, do make and ordain this my
5 last will and testament in manner and
6 form following:

7 **First:** I bequeath my soul to Almighty
8 god not doubting but fully, steadfastly
9 believing to be saved by the merits of my
10 saviour, Jesus Christ; my body I commit
11 to the earth to be buried at the discretion
12 of my executor. And as for such temperate
13 goods as it hath pleased Almighty God to bestow
14 on me, I give and bequeath as followeth:

15 **Imprimis:** to my daughter Seriant, the wife of
16 **John Seriant**, I give the bed, bolster, rug,
17 blankets and curtains which are now furnishing in
18 my lodging chamber.

19 **Item:** I give to **my daughter Elizabeth Vere,**
20 one featherbed, bolster, one rug, one pair of
21 curtains and three white blankets.

22 **Item:** my will is that my house, lands in Wrotham
23 and all the rest of my household goods, my debts
24 paid and funeral discharged, shalbe ??
25 and sold and the ?? thereof to be disposed
26 of and equally divided amongst my four
27 children, viz, **John Vere, Thomas Vere, my two**
28 **sons, Am Seriant** and Elizabeth Vere, my
29 two daughters and I do request and desire **my**
30 **brother-in-law, and Mr. Charles Burges,** whom I
31 make and ordain executor of this my last will
32 and testament, to see it executed and performed ??
33 to this my intent and meaning. In witness whereof I have
34 hereunto set my said hand and seal the 9th day of October 1637.

Sealed and ?? in the
presence of ??
the mark of **Abraham Best?**
the mark of ?? ??

This nuncupative will (CKS: Drb/Pw 18; Drb/Pwr 19I.58) was written by Nicholas Hooper since it includes not only the mark characteristic of Hooper at the top but also the mark with the initials "N.H" at the end. The writing also looks like that of Nicholas Hooper and it includes "folowing" (always used instead of following by NH). Other similar nuncupative wills also thought to have been written by Nicholas Hooper have survived.

This written record was not made until six weeks after Thomas Vinton had stated his wishes.

Nicholas Hooper's
mark

- 1 **Memorandum** that the two and twentieth
- 2 day of November in the year of our lord god, one thousand
- 3 five hundredeth, four score and eighteen, Thomas
- 4 Vinton of Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **hammer**

5 **man**, of perfect mind and remembrance at that time, did
6 speak and utter these words following, or the like in effect,
7 touching his last will, in the presence of **Walter Kipping**,
8 **Robert Newman**¹⁵⁶, **William Fathers** and **Richard**
9 **Rogers**, viz: he gave to **his kinsman, Richard Vinton**,
10 one acre of wheat upon the ground. To his **maid servant**,
11 **Elizabeth Hills**, 10s. And all the residue of his moveable
12 goods, his debts being paid, he willed that **Johane Vinton**,
13 **his wife**, should have during the term of her natural
14 life. And after her decease, he willed that the same
15 should be equally divided between all the children
16 of **Abraham Vinton, late of Tonbridge, his kinsman**,
17 deceased. In witness whereof the said Walter
18 Kipping, Robert Newman, William Fathers and
19 Richard Rogers have hereunto set their hands
20 and marks, the Twelfth day of January in
21 the One and fortieth year of the reign of our
22 Sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace of god,
23 Queen of England, France and Ireland,
24 defender of the faith.

156 John Hooper wrote Robert Newman's will in December 1603

Walter Kipping
Robert Newman¹⁵⁷
William Fathers

Nicolas Hooper's
mark
with initials

sign. ¹⁵⁸ Richard
Rogers

¹⁵⁷ Robert Newman signed his name but the other names are written by the scriptor of the memorandum

¹⁵⁸ mark of Richard Rogers

W

Christopher Wade

see [Atherfolds](#)

The Will of Thomas Walchyn of Stone page w.5

The Walkers and Vennors of Seal page w.7

Richard Walker's Extended Family page w.7

Richard's Legacies page w.10

William Walker, Richard's Cousin and Executor page w.11

Another William Walker page w.13

The will of Richard Walker of Seal page w.14

Will of John Walleth of the Navy page w.21

The Walters of Seal page w.25

John Walter, will 1564 page w.28

John Walter, will 1587 page w.34

Will of Agnes Wamsley, widow, of Shipbourne (extract)	page w.39
Will of Robert Wanmer of Chiddingstone	page w.40
Andrew Waters of Ightham	page w.42
William Waters of Ightham	page w.43
John Weekes/Wicks of Seal	page w.44
Will of John Weekes/Wicks of Seal	page w.50
Will of Anthony Welden, gent, of East Peckham	page w.59

The Welfares of Seal and Ightham	page w.61
Giles Welfare	page w.61
Mary Welfare, nee Kerwyne	page w.62
Will of Mary Welfare	page w.64
Will of William Wells, yeoman, of Hadlow, 1595	page w.66

Henry Wells see [Wells in Knole MS \(in Z\)](#)

Baptist Weston, mercer, of Penshurst	page w.68
Will of Baptist Weston of Penshurst	page w.69
The Westons of Ightham	page w.74
Arthur Weston	page w.74
Mentioned in the Court Rolls	page w.75

Edward Weston	page w.75
William Weston, gent.	page w.76
William Weston, testator	page w.77
Harbouring Strangers	page w.79
William Weston's Cousins	page w.79
The Scriptor of the Will	page w.80
John Weston of London	page w.86

Robert White, Esquire of Hadlow	page w.87
Will of Robert White of Hadlow	page w.90
Will of Thomas White of Rochester	page w.102

Will of Mary Wickenden of Chiddingstone	page w.105
Will of William Wilkyn of Seal	page w.108
Will of William Wilmot of Chiddingstone	page w.110
Nuncupative Will of John Winter of Sundridge	page w.111

The Wodes of Seal see [att Wode](#)

Will of Henry Wood of Wrotham	page w.113
Will of William Wood of Tudeley (extract)	page w.114

The Woodhams of Pembury, Speldhurst and Penshurst	page w.115
John Woodham of Pembury	page w.117
Stephen Woodham, yeoman of Pembury	page w.121
Marriane Woodham, widow of Stephen	page w.140
Peter Woodham of Speldhurst & John Woodham of Penshurst	page w.144

The Woods/Woody of Tonbridge	page w.153
Anne Woody, widow of Tonbridge	page w.155
Nuncupative Will of Thomas Woody of Cobham	page w.159
Will of Thomas Wright of Tonbridge	page w.160

Thomas Walchyn was buried in Seal

1 Die Amen. The 15th day of August in the year of our lord
2 1487, I, Thomas Walchyn, of the **parish of Stone** in
3 the county of Kent, being in whole mind, make my testament
4 in this wise. **First:** I bequeath my soul to almighty god,
5 my body to be buried in the churchyard of Seal. And I be
6 queath to the reparation of the church of Seal 6s 8d. The
7 executors of my testament, I make **Johane, my wife**, and **John**
8 **Tebold of Seal**¹⁵⁹ to which John I bequeath 40d for his
9 (pains?). **Witness** of this testament **John Colman of Stone**
10 John ?? of ?erying and **Thomas Stodde?**

11 This is the last will of me, Thomas Walchyn, made the day and
12 year abovesaid ?regarding? all my goods, moveable and unmoveable,
13 ?? to **my wife** during her life ?finding? children
14 ?? And after her decease

159 probably the John Tebold who died in 1501 (#3774) - # is the reference in the Seal database

15 ?? my tenements, lands, ?? be sold by my
16 executors. And the money to be distributed among my children
17 equally. And if there be but one child lives after
18 the decease of my wife, I will it? have all my lands
19 and tenements with their appurtenances. And if my wife out
20 outlive all my children, I will after her decease my
21 tenements and lands with appurtenances to mine next
22 heirs. **Witness** to this my last will, **John**
23 **Colman, John Deynes? and Thomas ?? of ??**

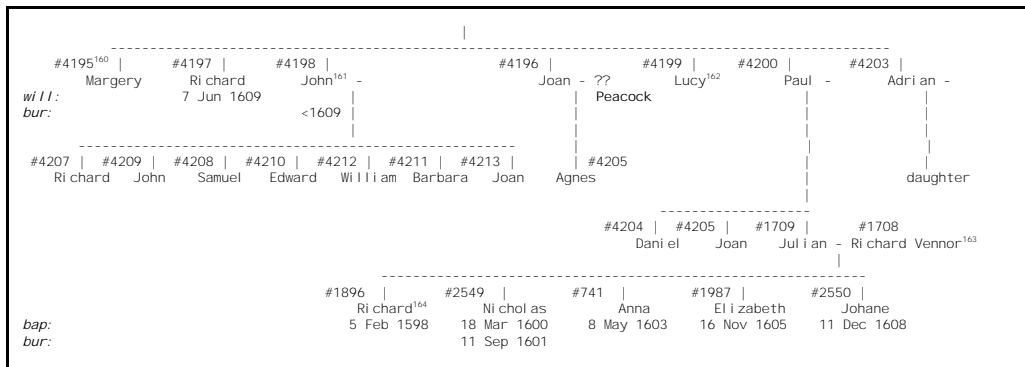
The Walkers and Vennors of Seal

The will of Richard Walker of Seal has survived (PCC: Dorset 91; Prob 11/114):
page w.14

This will was written on 7th June 1609 by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618. It was proved on 11th October 1609 and, since only the probate copy has been investigated, it is not known if it was decorated.

Richard Walker's Extended Family

Richard mentions three sisters and three brothers in his will but did not have a wife, or any children, in 1609 when he was "[sickly and aged and very much grieved with aches and debility of body](#)". The daughter, Julian, of his brother Paul, married in 1597 and so was probably born in the 1570s with Paul being born about 1550. None of Richard's other nieces or nephews is mentioned in the parish records.



It would appear that Richard's sister Margery had not married; he left £10 which his executor was to "either keep in his hands or put out to her use and to pay her" twenty shillings a year for the rest of her life, a net annual interest rate of 10%.

160 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

161 a John Walker witnessed the will of **John Frenche** in 1578; this could have been Richard's brother

162 Richard left 40s to **John May**, **Johan Burchett** and **Joane Nightingale**, children of his sister Lucy; did Lucy marry three times? None of these names are recorded in the Seal parish registers.

163 married 17th April 1597

164 the godson of his great uncle, the testator of 1609; the only one of these children mentioned in the will

Except that, if his executor saw that she had "[need of any or all the said principal](#)", he was to pay her more as she required it "[until the whole ten pounds be paid](#)". As the principal decreased "[so likewise the said yearly sum of twenty shillings to be abated proportionally](#)".

Richard appointed his cousin William Walker, who he described as a ploughwright, as his executor. This William can be identified from his children mentioned in Richard's will whose baptisms in Seal were recorded - see page w.3 for details. All the legacies, even those to underage children, were to be paid within eighteen months of his death but all those not of age at that time were to have their portion paid in the parish church of Seal before the minister and one or more "[of the parishioners and the same recorded either in the church book or in some other place \(for that purpose\) under their hands](#)", with this being an acquittance to his executor.

Also, if Richard's overseer could see that his executor could not get in from the debts owed to him sufficient money to pay all his debts, gifts and legacies with "[some reasonable proportion](#)" remaining to his executor, then "[every legatory](#)" was to be "[abated proportionally so much of their legacies as shall so want of the payment of my debts and as shall be allowed](#)" by his overseer. And his executor was not to be sued for any more than his overseer allowed. See page w.4 for details of his legacies, all of which were sums of money.

Richard's Legacies

Margery, sister		£10
children of brother John:		
- godson, Richard		£ 5
- goddaughter, Barbara		£ 3
- five others	£2 each	£10
daughter of brother Adrian		£ 2
3 children of sister Lucy	£2 each	£ 6
children of brother Paul: - Daniel		£ 5
- Joane and Julian	£2 each	£ 4
daughter of sister Joan		£ 2
seven children of his executor, William	£ 2 each	£14
godson, Richard Vennor		£ 3
debts forgiven: - John Walter		£ 4
- Richard Stevens		£ 6 4d
TOTAL		£64
plus debts forgiven		£10 4d

William Walker, Richard's Cousin and Executor

William's wife was the daughter of William Tomlyn (#61) - see **Tomlyn**. They married on 30th May 1585 when Grace was twenty. Since Grace is not a common name, "**Grace Walker, widow**," who died in 1636 is taken as the Grace Tomlyn who married William Walker; she would have been seventy-one in 1636. All the children of William and Grace are mentioned in Richard Walker's will so that they were all alive in 1609

In 1614, John Cornford (#1189) appointed a William Walker as overseer of his will; this could have been Richard's cousin - see **Cornford**.

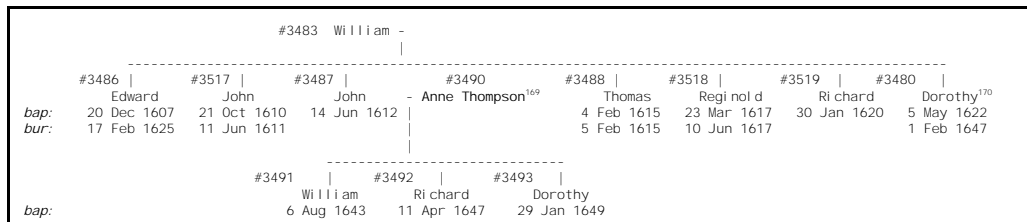
James was described as the son of William "Walker" when he was baptised. The man who married the widow Isabel Hunt (nee Coult) and had two children baptised in Seal was given as "James Waker". Since William's son would have been twenty-six when Isabell married, he is taken as her husband. Isabell Coult (the daughter of William Coult and Johane Baker) married **William Hunt** on 5th June 1615; no children were recorded for her first marriage - see **Baker**. A James Walker of **Chart** was listed in the Knole manuscript of 1648.

	#1223		#154		#1219		#1218		#4192		#4193								
	William	-	Grace Tomlyn		Elizabeth	-	John Walter ¹⁶⁵		Susan	-	Richard Stevens								
bap:			21 Jan 1565																
bur:	<Aug 1636		27 Aug 1636																
	#1338		#1592		#1792		#2073		#2053		#2285		#3481		#3482		#946		
	Richard		Christopher		James	-	Isabel Coul t		Clemence		Sara ¹⁶⁶		William ¹⁶⁷		Grace		Thomas		
bap:	13 Mar 1586		8 Feb 1590		13 May 1593		29 Sep 1591				7 Feb 1602		9 Dec 1604		22 Nov 1607		21 Feb 1580		
mar:			24 Jan 1620						22 Sep 1616		8 Dec 1623								
			#3489				#3514				#3515								
			Isabel l a				James ¹⁶⁸				- Susan Porter								
bap:			10 Aug 1623				13 Jul 1628												
mar:							7 May 1654												

-
- 165 married on 31st January 1585; they had five children baptised in Seal between 1586 and 1597 - see [Walter](#)
- 166 Clemence married Timothy Brewer (#2052) and Sara married Roger Boghurst (#2284)
- 167 another "William, son of William" was baptised on 28th May 1606; he could have been the son of #1223, this William having died, or the eldest son of #3483
- 168 James, "son of James and Isabell of Seal" and "Susan Porter, daughter of Edward and Amy" married in Sevenoaks when James was twenty-five; although the Porters were a large Seal family, there was no Edward Porter married to Amy; Susan probably came from Sevenoaks since she was married there.

Another William Walker

There was another William Walker (#3483) having children in Seal from at least 1607 onwards.



The children of Julian Walker (#1709), who married Richard Vennor, were born between 1598 and 1608. The William above started his family just as the youngest of the Vennor children was being born.

¹⁶⁹ married 29th September 1642 when John was thirty

¹⁷⁰ #3517, #3518, #3519 and #3480 were recorded as the children of "William Waker" when they were baptised; #3487 and #3488 as the sons of "William Walker of Godden"; #3480 as the daughter of "William Walker and Bridget" when she was buried, at the age of twenty-four

Julian's father, Paul, had a brother John with a son William; John's son was Julian's cousin and so of a similar age (see page w.8). Thus John's son (#4212) could have been the father of the above children

Edward (#3486) could not have been the son of Richard's executor (#1223) since Edward was baptised on 20th December 1607, one month after #1223's daughter Grace who has been taken as #1223's youngest child named after her mother. All the children "of William" born after 1607 have been taken as the brothers and sister of Edward.

The will of Richard Walker of Seal

written 7th June 1609

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. The seventh day of the month
2 of June in the seventh year of the reign of our sovereign lord James,
3 by the grace of God king of England, France and Ireland, defender of the
4 faith, etc. And of Scotland the two and fortieth. And in the year of our Lord
5 God, one thousand, six hundredth and nine. I, Richard Walker of Seal in

6 the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being at the time of making hereof sickly and
aged
7 and very much grieved with aches and debility of body whereby (as also
8 by divers examples otherwise) I am put in mind of my last end and of the
9 sudden alteration of this life. And willing that such transitory possessions
or
10 goods which god hath lent me here in this world might be moved with
qui=
11 etness after my decease by those to whom I have meant the same by this
my will,
12 Therefore I do ordain and make this my present last will and testament in
13 manner and form following, that is to say, **First** and principally I give,
com=
14 mend and bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God (who gave it)
15 trusting by an assured faith which I have in the merits and mercies of his
16 dear son, my only Lord and saviour, Jesus Christ, that the same shalbe
17 presented pure and without spot before the throne of his majesty. And my
18 body to the earth where it shall please god in sure and certain hope of a
joyful
19 resurrection. **Item:** I will there shalbe bestowed at my burial either in
bread or
20 otherwise among the poor of the parish where I shall happen to be buried
21 what and how much mine executor hereafter named (in his discretion shall

22 think good). **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Margery Walker, my sister**, the
sum
23 of ten pounds of lawful money which I will that mine executor hereafter

page 2:

24 named shall either keep in his hands or put out to her use and to pay her
yearly for
25 a sum during her natural life twenty shillings quarterly by equal portions,
26 that is to say every quarter five shillings. And if it shall happen that mine
execu=
27 tor, his executors or assigns, shall see that she have need of any or all the
said
28 principal, then I will that he or they shall pay her more at such time and
times
29 as he or they shall see need until the whole ten pounds be paid. And that
as she
30 doth so little the stock, so likewise the said yearly sum of twenty shillings
to be
31 abated proportionally according to the rate of the stock so lessened. **Item:** I
give
32 and bequeath to **John Walker, Samuel Walker, Edward Walker, William
Walker**

33 and **Joan Walker**, children of my brother **John Walker**, deceased, to every of
them
34 forty shillings a piece of lawful money. And to **Richard Walker** (also his
son)
35 my godson, five pounds. And to **Barbara Walker**, his daughter, my
goddaughter,
36 three pounds. **Item:** I give to the daughter of my brother **Adrian Walker**
forty
37 shillings. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **John May**, **Johan Burchett** and
Joane
38 **Nightingale**, children of my sister **Lucy**, to either of them forty shillings a
piece.
39 **Item:** I give to **Daniel Walker**, son of my brother **Paul Walker**, five pounds
40 and to **Joane Walker** and **Julian Walker**, his sisters, to either of them forty
41 shillings a piece. **Item:** I give to **Agnes Peacock**, daughter of my sister
Joan,
42 forty shillings. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Richard Walker**, **Christopher**
Wal=
43 **ker**, **James Walker**, **Clemence Walker**, **Sara Walker**, **William Walker** and
Grace
44 **Walker**, children of my cousin **William Walker** (mine executor hereafter
named)

45 to every of them forty shillings a piece. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my**
46 **godson**
Richard Vennor three pounds. All which sum and sums above or before
47 here=
48 in by me severally willed (except the said ten pounds given to my sister,
49 Margery) I will shalbe paid to all and every the parties before named within
50 the space of one year and a half next after my decease. And I will that all
51 and every the legators herein before named that shall not be of age at the
52 time of the receipt of their portion and portions herein before to them
53 severally
54 willed, shalbe paid in the parish church of Seal aforesaid before the
55 minister
56 at the time being) and one or two (or more) of the parishioners and the
57 same
58 recorded either in the church book or in some other place (for that purpose)
59 under their hands, the which I will shall stand effectually as an
60 acquittance
61 or acquittances for mine executor, his executors or assigns. **Item:** I forgive
62 unto **John Walter, husband of my cousin Elizabeth Walker**, all that sum of
63 four pounds for the which I have his bill of his hand. **Item:** I forgive unto **Ri**
64 **chard Steven, husband of my cousin Susan Walker**, the sum of six pounds
65 and fourpence for the which I have his bond with also the forfeiture of the

61 same bond. The residue of all my goods and cattells, debts, specialities,
bonds,
62 bills, forfeitures of bonds and all other my moveable goods and chattels
63 whatsoever, I wholly, fully and with good effect, intent and purpose give
and
64 bequeath to my loving kinsman William Walker of Seal, ploughwright, (in
65 respect of the great good will, loving affection, kindness, pains and
diligence
66 with me taken and towards me showed) to see my debts and all my
legacies,
67 above or before in this my will given, well and truly paid according to the
tenor
68 of this my will, which said William Walker, my kinsman, I make and ordain
69 my whole and sole executor of this my will, having confidence that he will
per=
70 form the same and see my body honestly and decently buried. And I desire
71 my loving and good neighbour, **William Monk**, to be supervisor and
overseer of
72 whose charges (every way) I will shalbe borne. And I give unto him,
73 in token of my good will, five shillings. Provided, nevertheless, and my full
74 and true meaning is that if it shall seem to my overseer afore named that
75 my said executor cannot get in and receive my debts in such wise that by
the

76 same my debts, all my gifts and legacies may be paid with some
reasonable
77 proportion to remain to him, my said executor, that then every legatory
herein
78 named shalbe abated proportionably so much of their legacies as shall so
want
79 of the payment of my debts and as shalbe allowed by my said overseer, his
ex=
80 cutors or assigns. And my said executor, his executors or assigns shall
81 not be sued for any more than to my said overseer, his executors or assigns,
shall
82 allow of (anything herein before mentioned to the contrary in any wise
notwith=
83 standing. In witness whereof I, the said Richard Walker, to this my present
84 last will have set my hand and seal yeven the day and year first above
85 written. And I do hereby revoke all other former wills whatsoever
heretofore
86 by me made. The mark of the said Richard Walker. Read, sealed and
declared as the
87 true and last will of the said Richard Walker in the presence of **John Porter,**
88 **William Monke and Nicholas Hooper, sen., writer** hereof. The mark of John
Porter.

- 1 In¹⁷¹ the name of god Amen. The fourth day of February an. dommo 1564,
I, John Walleth, one of the company
2 of the navy and, of late, Master in this marine? affair, being sick in body
but whole in mind and of good and perfect remembrance,
3 laud and praise be unto Almighty god, here do institute and make my last
will and testament in manner and form following:
4 That is to say, **First**, as the duty of a christian man, I bequeath my soul into
the hands of Almighty god whom, by and by the¹⁷²
5 and by the shedding of his son's most precious blood, most earnestly trust
and hope to be saved to whom be praise both now and
6 evermore, amen. And my body to bestowed where it shall please Almighty
god to appoint and of most right I owe it.
7 **Item:** imprimis, I institute and make my trusty and faithful executor and
administrator, **Jonne Walleth, my wife**, of all my

171 decorated "I"

172 reads quite clearly but does not seem to be correct

8 goods and moveable and duties towards me wheresoever it, or they, be to
be reasoned or demanded, and as well to pay
9 all such debts as herein my will is mentioned. **Item:** also, if it be
understanded that, if my wife be delivered of a man
10 child that I left her with when I am from home, I give and bequeath him £7
that **William Brone of Howe** oweth me and my best
11 featherbed with all thereunto belonging. **Item:** I give unto the poor of the
parish of **Chatham** 40s. **Item:** I give unto **Thomas Dyckson,**
12 **Master**¹⁷³ **gunner** in the **menyon** my best gown and my crossbow. **Item:** I
give unto **Edward Williams of St. Margarets**¹⁷⁴, my best
13 bow and quiver of arrows. **Item:** I give unto **William Pamer**, my sword and
my other bow and arrows. **Item:** I give unto
14 **Master Wynall**¹⁷⁵ my fowling piece. **Item:** I give unto my godson, **John**
Pamer, my laryett¹⁷⁶ and rapier. **Item:** I also give unto
15 **John Fuller** my harquebus and my headpiece. **Item:** Also I owe unto
Master Brown, master in the menyon, 40s for a gown; the whole

173 throughout abbreviated as "Mr"

174 Rochester?

175 or Wynatt

176 or "laxgett"

16 gown I give unto him. **Item:** I owe unto **Lawrence Rendall** 15s. **Item:** unto
the **Master Ch--te** for 3 shirts 5s, 2 pair of hose
17 and two pair of shoes?. **Item:** also **Lawrence Killingbanke** oweth me 21s.
Item: **Biller**, purser? of the **lyon** 26s 8d.
18 **Item:** **Thomas Foster**, mariner, sailing in Bristowe, oweth me 13s 4d. **Item:**
I left with my wife's sister **Cateran** 26s 8d.
19 **Item:** **Master Brown** hath in money 11s 8d. **Item:** **Walter Carre** oweth me 2s
6d. **Item:** all ??¹⁷⁷ forgive my ??
20 **James Robinson** all such time and duty of service as he oweth unto me and
bequeath unto him all such sea
21 apparel as belonged unto **Paul Saunders**. **Item:** my ??¹⁷⁸ desire is that my
wife should agree with father ?? ??
22 that was sent for **Ralph Coxon** and, for the more witness of a sufficient
brother, I have caused this my
23 will to be made and set my hand and seal in the witness as followeth the
day and year above mentioned.
24 Sealed and delivered in the presence of **Ralph Brown**, master of the
menyon,

177 "sonlerly?"

178 "will and" ?

- 25 and **Thomas Dyckson**, master gunner in the said ship and **Peter Rogers**,
Master Matt?
26 and published by me, **John Fuller**, gunner, in the said ship.

Summary of Debts

	amount owed by	amount owed to
Master Brown, master of the menyon	11s 8d	40s (for gown)
Master Ch --te		5s (for shirts, etc.)
Lawrence Killingbanke	21s	
Biller ?? of the lyon	26s 8d	
Thomas Foster, mariner	13s 4d	
Cateran, wife's sister	26s 8d	
Walter Carre	2s 6d	
TOTAL	£5 1s 10d	

The Walters of Seal

Four wills have survived for the Walters of Seal:

	written		
William Walter	4th Sep 1450	CKS: Drb/Pwr 1.81	
William Walter	26th Mar 1505	CKS: Drb/Pwr 6.96	page w.26
John Walter	13th Mar 1564	CKS: Drb/Pw 8	page w.31
John Walter	28th Jul 1587 ¹⁷⁹	CKS: Drb/Pw 15; Drb/Pwr 17.436	page w.36

There is no clear relationship between the various generations.

William Walter's will of 1450 is difficult to read but it mentions two sons, William and John. Fifty five years between the wills of the two Williams makes it unlikely they were father and son and they might not have been directly related at all.

179 John Walter buried 26th February 1590

```

      |
      |-----|
#4599181 |      #4601      #4600 |
      William - Sara      Thomas
will:    1505      |
          |
          |-----|
#4602 |      #4603 |
      Thomas      John

```

Will of William Walter of Seal, 1505

written 26th March 1504/5

transcript from probate copy (original has not survived)

1 In dei nomine Amen. The 26th day of March in the year of our lord 15
2 04, I, William Walter of Seal, whole in mind but sick in body, make
3 my testament in this wise: **First:** I bequeath my soul to almighty
4 god, my body to be buried in the churchyard of Seal there. **Item:** I
bequeath
5 to the high altar in the same church 40d. **Item:** I bequeath to the
6 reparations of the church of D-- bregge? 3s 4d. **Item:** to the reparations

181 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

7 of the church of **Leigh?** 12d. **Item:** I bequeath to the chapel of saint Ede¹⁸⁰
8 in **Kemsing** 20d. **Item:** to the **friars of Aylesforde**¹⁸¹ 20d. **Item:** I bequeath
9 to the wife **John a Pol--** 20d. **Item:** to every of my godchildren 4d.
10 **Item:** I bequeath to **Marian Sayl**, a calf. **Item:** I bequeath to **John Clarke**
11 of **L---sonde**, my best golline? and a sheep?. **Item:** to
12 **Thomas Walter, my brother**, my other golline and a sheep. **Item:** I
bequeath
13 to **Sara, my wife**, 2 of my best kine and my ---- ----. And I make
14 and ordain **William Denman** and **John Pelsett** mine executors. I bequeath
to
15 either of them 6s 8d for their labours. The residue of all my goods not
16 bequeathed, my debts first paid, I give and bequeath to **Thomas Walter**,
17 **my son**. Witnesses: **Sir John ---plyn, Richard Stirblest,**
John Sandell and others

18 This is the last will and testament of me William Walter made the day and
year a
19 bove said. **First:** I will that **John Walter, my son**, have to him,

180 Saint Edith

181 large landowners in Hadlow made bequests for masses to the Carmelite Friars of Aylesford at this time (CKS: TR1335/6A)

20 and to his heirs forever more, my rented 3 acres of land lying
21 there called **Cogger**?. Also I will that Thomas, my son, have
22 to him, his heirs and assigns forever more, all my other lands and
tenements
23 lying in the parishes of **Seal and Ightham** paying to mine executors
24 . . . all my debts and . . . to find
25 a priest to pray for my soul in the church of Seal by the space
26 of a whole year. Also . . . that John Pelsett have my lands
27 lying in the parish of **Shipbourne called Symonds** paying to John
28 Walter, my son, £13 . . . year after my decease, that
29 is to say, yearly 40s at the feast of the nativity of our lord.

the rest of the will is unreadable

John Walter, will 1564

Again the sixty years between William's will in 1505 and John's in 1564 means that, if there was a direct relationship, John was likely to be William's grandson. John's will consists of a large number of small bequests mainly to people whose

relationship to him is unknown - see table below. He mentions his wife, Annes, and a son Thomas but leaves them 20s and 3s 4d respectively; there are bequests to other Walters but no relationships are given.

Annes, his wife	20s	Elizabeth Walter	a brass pot
John Walter, son	3s 4d	Jone Walter	2 pairs of sheets a frying pan
Jone Walter, sister of Thomas Sherwood	3s 4d		
Margery Flaxman Elizabeth Flaxman Jone Flaxman	20s 20s 3s 4d	Jone Walter, the younger	a posnett, a saymer? 3 of the best pieces of pewter
Thomas Sherwood	20s	Thomas Walter	my best shirt ----- doublet my best hose
John Lysten, the elder	3s 4d		
William Haratt	3s 4d		
Thomas Jonson?	20s	Elizabeth Layman	a pair of sheets
Jone Jonson	3s 4d	Jone Swan	a pair of sheets
William Hadlow	20s	Alice Laryman	2 pairs of sheets a trivet a chafing dish

Jone Crabb?	3s 4d	John Lay	1 of my best sheets a worsted jerkin a sensett jacket
Jone Ister	3s 4d		
Jone Hytte of East Malling	3s 4d		
John Pynden	13s 4d		
--- & ---- each	6s 8d		
John Trybly of Ash	3s 4d	John Mayn's daughter	the rest of the pewter
Martin Hadlow	3s 4d		
Allyn Bennett	3s 4d		
Anne Main	10s		
John Brythet	6s 8d		
every godchild	12d each		
Harry Dewe	3s 4d		
Steven Mayn	5s		
John Hassett, witness	6s 8d		
John le Amy	3s 4d		

John Mayn, executor & overseer	6s 8d		
TOTAL excluding godchildren	£11 8s 4d		

Will of John Walter of Seal 1564

written 13th March 1563/4

transcript from original (probate copy has not survived)

- 1 In the name of god Amen. the 13th day of March in the year of our lord god 1563,
- 2 I, John Walter, of the parish of Seal within the county of Kent, yeoman, being sick
- 3 and diseased in body but, thanks be to god, in perfect mind and memory, doeth ordain and
- 4 make this my last will and testament in manner and form following¹⁸²:
- 5 **First:** and before all other things, I bequeath my soul unto almighty god, my saviour and Redeemer and

182 "folowing", i.e. only one "I"

6 my body to be buried in the churchyard of Seal? at the east end. **Item:** I
will and bequeath
7 to **Annes, my wife**, 20s. **Item:** I bequeath to **Margery Flaxman** 20s and to
Elizabeth Flaxman another
8 20s. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Thomas Sherwood** 20s, to **Jone Walter**,
his sister, 3s 4d¹⁸³, to **John**
9 **Lysten, the elder**, 3s 4d, to **William Haratt**, 3s 4d and to **Jone Flaxman**, 3s
4d. **Item:** I will
10 and bequeath to **Thomas Jonson?** 20s and to **William Hadlow** 20s and to
Jone Johnson, widow, 3s 4d.
11 I will and bequeath to **Jone Crabb?** 3s 4d and to **Jone Ister** 3s 4d, to **Jone**
Hytte of East Malling
12 3s 4d and to **John Walter, my son**, 3s 4d. **Item:** I will and bequeath to
Elizabeth Walter my
13 brass pot and to **John Pynden**¹⁸⁴ 13s 4d, to **Elizabeth Layman** a pair of
sheets, to ----- and to
14 --- **Crossed?** each of them 6s 8d. **Item:** I will and bequeath to **John Trylby**
of Ash 3s 4d and to **Martin**

183 originally 4s, crossed out and replaced with 3s 4d; had Jone Sherwood married a Walter?

184 the William Pynden who mentions John Walters (#1218) in his will in 1590 had a son John baptised in December 1561; was this John Pynden?

15 **Hadlow** 3s 4d and to **Allyn Bennett** 3s 4d, to **Jone Swan** a pair of sheets.
Item: I will and bequeath
16 to **Anne Main** 10s and to **John Brythet** 6s 8d and to every godchild that I
have 12d. Item: I will
17 and bequeath to **Alice? Laryman** 2 pairs of sheets, a trivet, one chafing dish
and to **Jone Walter**
18 2 pairs of sheets, a frying pan, and to **Harry Dewe** 3s 4d and to **Steven**
Mayn 5s and to **John Lay** one
19 of my best sheets and a worsted jerkin and a sensett jacket and to **Thomas**
Walter my best shirt
20 and a b--skin doublet and my best hose. Item: I will and bequeath to
Jone¹⁸⁵ Walter the younger
21 a posnett and a saymer? and 3 of the best pieces of pewter and 2 bell
can?¹⁸⁶. All the rest of my
22 pewter I will and bequeath to the **daughter of John Mayn**. Item: I will and
bequeath to **John Hassett**
23 6s 8d and to **John le Amy** 3s 4d. Item: I will and bequeath to **John Mayn**,
mine executor and

185 or is it "John"?

186 candlesticks?

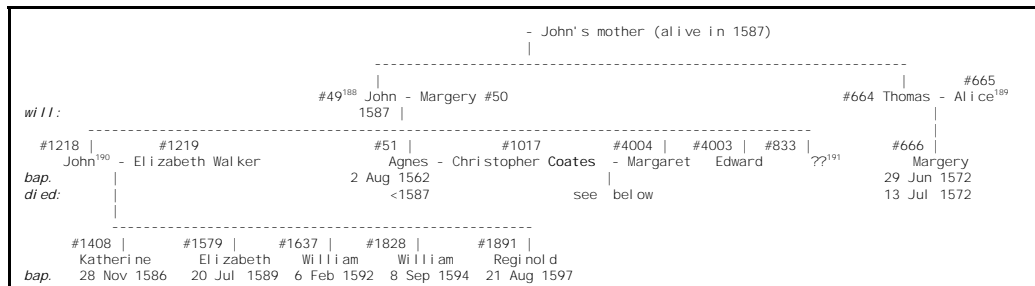
24 overseer of this my last will and testament, 6s 8d. **Item:** I will that all these
my bequests
25 and legacies be delivered and paid within one whole year after my
decease. Witness hereof:
 John Hassett
 John Trylby

John Walter, will 1587

By the time of this John Walter a tentative family tree can be built up from information derived from the wills and from the Seal parish records. The Thomas whose wife was buried in 1575 is known only from the parish records but he could have been the brother of the John who wrote his will in 1587.

The son of the John Walter who wrote his will in 1587 (#1218¹⁸⁷), and his brother-in-law Christopher Coates, were mentioned in the will of William Pynden written in March 1590. It was probably this John Walter who was one of the witnesses to the nuncupative will of John Allingham (#1963); the original of the Allingham will is difficult to read but the names of the witnesses look like signatures.

187 reference number in Seal database



Agnes Walter, the daughter of John Walter, baptised 2nd August 1562, married Christopher Coates on 31st January 1580 when she was only 17½ years old. In this will, John writes of his daughter Margaret Cote (or Coates) and when Christopher Coates writes his will in 1595, his wife is Margaret. Did Christopher marry one of John Walter's daughters and then, after she died, marry his other

188 reference in Seal database

189 Alice was buried, in Seal, on 16th June 1575; their daughter was baptised in Ightham, perhaps the village from which Alice came, but was buried in Seal

190 A John Walter married, in Seal, on 31st January 1585 with five baptisms recorded in the parish register; he could have been the son which John mentions in his will of 1587. Christopher Coates, in his will of 1595, appoints his "brother" John Walter as his overseer. In 1590, John and Christopher Coates were bound unto William Pynden (#22) to pay him £5.

191 no details given, not even whether the child was a son or a daughter

daughter? This would have been against the church's rules of consanguinity but not impossible. John (#49) mentions his grandchildren, Thomas and Elizabeth Coates, in his will of 1587.

Will of John Walter of Seal 1587

written 28th July 1587; buried 26 Feb 1590

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 In the year of our lord god 1587 at 28th
3 of July, I, John Walter, of the parish of Seal
4 being whole in mind but sick in body,
5 thanks be to almighty god, do make and
6 ordain this my last will and testament
7 in manner and form following: **First:** I give
8 my soul into the hands of Almighty god,
9 my maker and redeemer, by the merit of
10 whose passion I trust assuredly to be
11 saved, my body to be buried in Christian
12 burial at the discretion of my executrix.
13 **First:** I give unto **Thomas Coates**, one

14 sheep. **Item:** I give to **Elizabeth Coates**¹⁹²
15 one other sheep. **Item:** I give to **Christopher**
16 **Coates, my son-in-law**, one cow which he hath
17 in his custody. I give unto **John**
18 **Walter, my son**, my eldest cow
19 and her calf? which is weaned this summer.
20 All other my moveable goods and cattells
21 whatsoever unbequeathed, my debts paid, I
22 give and bequeath to **Margery, my wife**,
23 whom I make my only executrix.
24 Also I give unto Margery, my wife,
25 that part? of all my tenements and
26 lands lying at **Stone Street** during her
27 natural life without making any
28 waste.

29 This is the last will and testament of me the
30 foresaid John Walter concerning all my
31 lands and tenements which I give and bequeath
32 unto John Walter, my son, immediately after
33 my mother's decease, to him and to his

34 heirs for or upon condition that he
35 pay to **Margaret Coates, my daughter,**
36 five pounds four years after my
37 mother departs this present life and
38 two years after the end of the four years
39 another five pounds to be paid to **Elizabeth**
40 **Coates,** if she live, or else to remain to
41 Margaret Coates, my daughter, and
42 to her heirs. I give unto **Edward**
43 **Walter, my son,** five pounds of
44 money to be paid ?? years
45 after my wife do die?, also to be
46 paid by my son John Walter out
47 of my land. These being witnesses
48 at the ?? and sealing hereof
William Denman¹⁹³, John Olyver¹⁹⁴

193 probably #1992, the William Denman who died, "aged", in 1599

194 #70, the elder of Fawke, died March 1596; probably the scriptor of the will; he was probably also the scriptor of the will of John's son-in-law, Christopher Coates written in June 1595. In October 1595 a William Walter witnessed John Olyver's will.

This will was written by William Masters.

"First and principally, above all earthly things, I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty god, my creator, saviour and Redeemer whom I trust, through the ?? of Christ's passion, to become the child of Salvation. And my body I commit to the earth from which it was taken."

Written by Thomas Leddall who wrote wills over a long period of time; wills have survived from 1615 until 1643 mainly from Penshurst and Chiddingstone.

1 In the name of god Amen. The tenth day of December Ao dm 1638 in
2 the fourteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord king Charles, etc. I
3 Robert Wanmer of Chiddingstone in the county of Kent, **husbandman**,
being at this
4 present not well in body but of good and perfect remembrance (praised be
God) do make
5 and declare this my last will and testament in manner and form following:
First: I bequeath
6 my soul to Almighty God and to Jesus Christ, my only saviour and
redeemer, by whose
7 death and passion I fully trust to have all my sins freely forgiven and to
attain to the
8 joyful resurrection of eternal life, committing my body to the earth in
decent sort
9 to be buried in the churchyard of Chiddingstone. **Item:** I give and
bequeath unto

10 **Hellen, my loving wife, and Robert Wanmer, my son,** all my moveable
11 goods, cattell and chattels and household stuff whatsoever whom I do
make
12 the full and joint executrix and executor of this my last will and testament,
13 they paying unto **Henry Ourd, Thomas and William Ourd, my sons-in-**
14 **law,** to either of them, twelve pence a piece which I do give and
15 bequeath unto them¹⁹⁵. In witness whereof to this my present testament
16 and last will I, the said Robert Wanmer, have set my hand and
17 seal the day and year above written.

Read, sealed and declared to Robert Wanmer
be the last will of the said Robert

Warner in the presence of his **X** mark
Jasper Burges¹⁹⁶
Mathew m Ashdowne
his mark
Thomas Leddall

¹⁹⁵ were Henry, Thomas and William step-sons? And was 12d each to ensure that they did not contest the will on account of having been left out of it?

¹⁹⁶ this name could have been written by Burges in that it is written with a finer pen and looks to be written in a different hand

Andrew Waters of Ightham

On 4th October 1605, **Jane Hamon** was before the Court for having received a "stranger" - **Andrew Waters** - and was to be fined 10s if he stayed without sureties being found. A year later, on 13th October 1606, **Jane Hamon** forfeited the 10s and was to be fined another 10s if Andrew Waters continued to stay without any sureties. (CRI 1938, p.18)

Jane Hammond, daughter of **John Hammond** would have been 33 in 1605 - see **Hammond**. Was she the woman who received Andrew Waters? Was Jane Hamon (or Hammond) the mother of "**Joan, daughter of Andrew Waters**" baptised in May 1607 with the pair having married in the meantime? Since nothing more was recorded for them, perhaps they then moved away from Ightham.

William Waters of Ightham

William Waters 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)

Three years earlier a **William Waters of Borough Green** had been fined for assaulting Walter Staley - see **Staly**. It was at this same Court (17th October 1594) that **Christopher Romney** was fined 3s 4d for having, on the previous 20th July, assaulted William Waters at Ightham, striking him and drawing blood. (CRI 1938, p.5)

John Weekes/Wicks of Seal

John Weekes's will (**CKS: Drb/Pw 20**) was written, in 1607, by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618. The original has survived so that the Nicholas Hooper decorations can be seen, but the right hand sides of the pages have rotted so that, since the probate copy has not survived, the month in which it was written is not known.

No burial for John Weekes was recorded in Seal and the will was not proved until 1609. A John Weekes (#173¹⁹⁷) married Elizabeth Hills, widow, (#174) on 30th September 1568. Nothing further was recorded for Weekes but #173 could have been the testator.

¹⁹⁷ # indicates a reference in the Seal database

John mentions neither wife nor children in his will but he did have a large number of kinsmen, kinswomen, godsons and goddaughters:to whom he left legacies:

??, son of George Baker	godson ¹⁹⁸
son of Thomas Banister	godson ¹⁹⁹
son of James Barry	godson
John Becket	overseer
daughter of Bowle	of Blackhall ²⁰⁰
Ralph Dubble Walter Dubble* William Dubble*	kinsman of Tonbridge of Underriver (executor) ²⁰¹
Agnes Dunnowle, widow her daughter	of Sevenoaks, kinswoman goddaughter

198 George Baker (#2118) had a son George (#2121) baptised in June 1606 - see *bakerw.will*

199 Thomas Banister (#1834) had a son, Richard (#1836), baptised on 27th November 1594 and a daughter, Mary (#1892), baptised on 31st November 1597. Nothing more is known about this family.

200 there were Bowles in the area (see *bowle.fam*) but none recorded with children at the right time

201 William Dubble (#2526) had a daughter Elizabeth baptised in December 1603 (#2528) and a son Edward (#2529) in May 1607 which could have been before John wrote his will

Lawrence Frenche, son of William Frenche	godson; large number of Frenches but no Lawrence son of William
daughter of Henry Fuller	goddaughter ²⁰²
Richard Goodhewghe (Goodhews) Richard son of Richard	landlord and overseer ²⁰³ godson
John Hills* #391	kinsman ²⁰⁴
John Jeffrey* William Jeffrey als. Smith	there were a large number of Jeffreys in the area of Sundridge of Blackhall ²⁰⁵
William King* #1160	had three children living in 1607

202 Elizabeth (#3654), daughter of Henry Fuller (#842) was baptised on 17th July 1603

203 there were Goodhews in the area (see *goodhews.fam*) but no Richard

204 John Hills (#391) had three children between 1592 and 1604

205 in 1639, Richard Hills of Sevenoaks mentions "one Smith of Blackhall" in his will

Richard Pelsett* Robert Pelsett	#178 #3156	²⁰⁶ godson
?? Phillips		daughter of cousin John Dubble, deceased ²⁰⁷
Blanche Richardson*		kinswoman; no Richardsons recorded in Seal
John Rogers and his wife Dorothy Rogers, servant		Rogers recorded in Seal were all later than this
Thomas Tomlyn		there were Tomlyns in Seal including Thomas born in 1567 - see <i>tomlyn.fam</i>
Edward Wheteley		godson ²⁰⁸

²⁰⁶ Richard Pelsett (#178) married Mildred Dubble (#879) in 1598; they had two daughters and a son Robert (#3156) born before John Weekes wrote his will

²⁰⁷ Mildred who married Richard Pelsett (see above) was the daughter of John Dubble (#877); he was buried in 1602 and therefore died before John Weekes wrote his will. Perhaps he had another daughter who married a Phillips.

²⁰⁸ Thomas Whetley (#1390) had a large number of children baptised, in Seal, between 1586 and 1609; Edmund was baptised in May 1597 but no Edward was recorded

daughter of Thomas Wigsell	goddaughter ²⁰⁹
----------------------------	----------------------------

- * - legacies left to the children of those named; the payments of the legacies to all the children not of age at the time of receipt were to have the payment recorded in the church of Seal, before the vicar and a number of honest parishioners and this was to be an acquittance and discharge to John's executor.

²⁰⁹ Thomas Wigsell (k370 - in the Kemsing database) had two daughters, Elizabeth baptised in 1602 and Margery in 1604; since Margery married but nothing is known of Elizabeth, John's goddaughter was probably Margery (k378)

Nicholas Hooper's
mark

- 1 In²¹⁰ the name of god Amen. The six and twentieth day of . .
2 year of our lord God one thousand six hundredth and seven . .
3 of the reign of our Sovereign Lord James by the grace of God (king of
England)
4 France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. And of Scotland . .
5 **I, John Weekes**, of Seal in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being²¹¹ . .
6 body but yet of good and perfect memory, thanks therefore be given to . .
7 do ordain and make this my present last will and testament (in regard that
. .
8 transitory goods that god hath lent me, may be enjoyed quietly after . .

210 decorated "I" with the mark "attached" to the "h" in "the"

211 "beeing", "mee", etc. throughout including

9 manner and form following²¹²: **And** first and principally I give, commend
and bequeath
10 my soul into the hands of Almighty God, my maker, and to Jesus Christ . .
11 saviour and redeemer, by whose merits, precious death and blood
shedding²¹³ I . .
12 be saved. And my body to the earth to be buried in the churchyard (of Seal)
13 aforesaid. **Item:** I will there shalbe given and distributed among the poor of
Seal
14 either resorting to my burial or otherwise within the parish dwelling, at the
discretion of mine
15 executor and overseers hereafter named the sum of forty shillings . .
16 **Item:** I will that mine executor hereafter named, his executors,
administrators . .
17 shall pay yearly unto **Agnes Dunnowle, widow of Sevenoaks, my**
(kinswoman, the sum)
18 of twenty²¹⁴ shillings of lawful money during her natural life every year (she
remain)

212 "folowing" which was usual for Nicholas Hooper; also on line 22

213 "blud shedding" which was usual for Nicholas Hooper

214 this originally read "of Seal . . ten shillings" paid half yearly

19 unmarried and so long yearly as she shall live unmarried, quarterly . .
20 portions viz. at the feasts of Th'annunciation of the virgin mary, the nativity
of . .
21 Th'archangel and the nativity of our saviour Christ, the first payment to be
and begin at the next of the said . .
22 feasts which shall next follow after my decease. **Item:** I give and
bequeath (unto . .
23 **Dunmoule, my goddaughter**, daughter of my said kinswoman, one chest
with a spring (lock . . pair)
24 of sheets and such other small linen as shalbe in the same chest at the
time of (my decease).

page 2:

25 And also the sum of ten pounds of lawful money. All which money, chest .
26 shalbe paid and delivered to her at her age of 21 years or day of her
(marriage which shall first)
27 happen. Notwithstanding I will that if mine executor, his executors or . .
28 good (upon and occasion him moving) he shall give and deliver the said
chest . .
29 at any time before at his pleasure. And for the £10 (if my said goddaughter
30 decease before her such age or marriage, I will shalbe paid to the said
Agnes,

31 my kinswoman, her mother, if she shalbe then living at the
32 time as my said goddaughter should have attained her said age of one (and
twenty years)
33 **Item:** I give to every of the daughters of **Blanche Richardson, my**
kinswoman, 6s 8d
34 a piece to be paid to every of them within one year next after my decease.
Item: I give
35 to every of the children of **Walter Dubble of Tonbridge 6s 8d** a piece to be
paid . .
36 **Item:** I give to the children of **William Dubble, mine executor** hereafter
named . .
37 be paid in like manner. **Item:** I give to the children of **Richard Pelsett . .**
38 a piece to be paid in like manner. And I give unto **Robert Pelsett, my**
godson, a featherbed, a bolster, two blankets, a coverlet and . . ²¹⁵ **Item:** I
give to every of the children of **John Hills,**
39 **my kinsman, 6s 8d** a piece to be paid in like manner. **Item:** I give and
bequeath unto ??
40 **Phillips, daughter of my cousin John Dubble, deceased,** one pair of sheets .
.

215 this sentence inserted, there are many insertions in this part of the will

41 and 10s in money to be paid in like manner. And I forgive her husband all
the debts which he oweth me. **Item:** I give to **my goddaughter** . .
42 of **Henry Fuller** the like sum of 6s 8d to be paid in like manner. **Item:** (I
give)
43 to **my godson, the son of Thomas Banister**, the like sum of 6s 8d to be paid
44 in like manner. **Item:** I give to the children of **John Jeffrey of Sundridge**
the
45 like sum of 6s 8d a piece to be paid in like manner. **Item:** I give to the
daughter . .
46 **Bowle of Blackhawle**²¹⁶ the like sum of 6s 8d to be paid in like manner.
Item: (I give)
47 to **William Jeffrey als Smith of Blackhawle** the sum of 30s to be paid in like
manner

page 3:

48 **Item:** I give to **Dorothy Rogers** now my servant 20s to be paid in like
manner and
49 unto **John Rogers and his wife** my cupboard in the hall, the joined bed

50 wherein I lie, a flockbed under the featherbed in the chamber wherein I lie,
 . .
 51 kitchen loft, a blanket and a coverlet and six young sheep to be delivered . .
 52 decease and all my wedges, pitcher, spoons, mattock, houlting axe and . .
 53 **Item:** I give to **Thomas Tomlyn** now my servant 10s to be paid in like
 manner . .
 54 give to **my godson Robert Goodhewghe** 10s to be paid within one year next
 (after my decease)
 55 **Item:** I give to **my godson Edward Wheteley** 20s of lawful money to be . .
 56 **Item:** I give to every of the children of **William King** the sum of 5s a piece .
 .
 57 **Item:** I give to **my godson, the son of James Barry**, 6s 8d to be paid in like
 manner. **Item:**
 58 I give and bequeath to **Ralph Dubble, my kinsman**, fifty shillings to be paid
 in like manner And
 59 do wholly forgive him all such debts as he oweth me. **Item:** I give to ??
 60 **Dubble** 40s to be paid in like manner. **Item:** I will that these parcels of . .
 61 named shall stand and remain to the use of my godson Robert
 Goodhewghe in the house wherein . .
 62 that is to say, the joined bedsteddle in the chamber wherein I lie, the great
 chest . .

63 and the table in the hall which did stand in the parlour and a great trough
in the . .
64 in the kitchen a great cheese-press and also all wainscot and benches . .
Item: I
65 my godchildren hereafter specified, viz. **Lawrence French, son of William
French, ??**
66 son **George Baker** and the daughter of **Thomas Wigsell**, to every of them 5s
. .
67 **Item:** I forgive to Henry Fuller, my kinsman, £4 of the debt which he oweth
me . .
68 out of my debt at the time of my decease, then I give unto him £4 lawful
money . .

69 **The Residue** of all my goods and cattells, debts, credits and chattels . .
70 moveable goods whatsoever I fully, wholly, and with good effect, intent
and purpose . .
71 unto **William Dubble of Underriver**, my kinsman, which William Dubble I

page 4:

72 ordain my whole and sole executor of this my will, to see the same proved, .
.
73 legacies paid and fulfilled and my body honestly and decently buried. And
I . .

74 landlord **Richard Goodhewghe** and my loving neighbour **John Becket**²¹⁷ . .
75 overseers of this my will desiring them to take some pains that . . .
76 according to the true meaning thereof. To whom I give as a token of . .
77 to either of them. And I further will that all and every the children leg..²¹⁸
78 specified which shall not be of age at the time of receipt of their portions at
the
79 time herein by me limited, in the church of Seal, before the vicar and . .
80 honest parishioners then to be present and the payment to be recorded
within the church . .
81 other record and the same shall stand as a sufficient acquittance and
discharge to mine executor . .
82 the same. **In witness** whereof I, the said John Weekes, to this my present
83 testament have set my hand and seal even the day and year first . .

217 The will of John Becket (#634) who died in 1570 has survived; it could have been his son, John (#3970) - known only from #634's will - who was John Weekes's neighbour and overseer

218 legatees above?

Read, Sealed, pronounced and
declared the day and year first above
written in the presence of me **Nicolas
Hooper**, writer hereof and of

the mark of John
Weekes

John Denman and
John Beckett
Richard Goodhewghe
the mark of John Denman

the mark of Richard Goodhewghe

signum John
Becket

1 In the name of god Amen. the 12th day of December
2 in the tenth year of the reign of our sovereign lord, king James of England,
3 France and Ireland, king, defender of the faith. I, Anthony Welden, of
4 East Peckham, the elder, in the county of Kent, **gent.**, being of good and
perfect
5 memory, praised be god, do make and ordain this my last will and
testament.
6 **First:** I commend my soul to the mercy of Jesus Christ, my redeemer, and
my body
7 to be buried at the discretion of my executor. **Item:** I give to a learned
preacher
8 twenty shillings. **Item:** I give to the poor of East Peckham three pounds six
shillings
9 and eight pence. I give to the poor of **Swanscombe**²¹⁹ twenty five shillings
and eight

219 near Gravesend

10 pence.

Witnesses: George Turke, Richard Betts, the mark of Richard Rise.

The will of **Anne Welden of East Peckham** was written on 20th August 1586 by Thomas Tuttesham, senior; it was not proved until November 1591

The Welfares of Seal and Ightham

In addition to the two small families described below, two sons were born to John Welfare (#3739) of Seal:

Richard #3741 baptised on 15th June 1618

John #3742 baptised on 1st November 1619.

see page w.65 for details of John Welfare

Giles Welfare

At least three separate small families named Welfare appear in the parish records of Seal and Ightham. **Giles Welfare** married **Elizabeth Huntick** in Seal in 1592 by a licence from the faculties. The dates of the baptisms of two sons in Ightham are as might be expected from the date of the marriage; a Giles Welfare was mentioned between 1553 and 1574 in the Ightham Court Records; perhaps he was the father of #1648²²⁰.

John, son of Giles Welfare of Sundridge, was baptised in Seal on 4th March 1604. Had Giles and Elizabeth moved to Sundridge by this time?

²²⁰ # indicates reference in Seal database

#1648 Giles - Elizabeth Huntick #1649		

#4035	#4036	#3229
Robert	Thomas	John
bap: 8 Jul 1593 in Ightham	8 Jun 1595 in Ightham	4 Mar 1604 in Seal
bur:	20 Oct 1596 in Seal (son of - Welfare)	

Mary Welfare, nee Kerwyne

Mary Olyver married **George Welfare of Lingfield**, in Seal, on 4th February 1601 and their **daughter, Katherine**, was baptised on 14th March 1602. The Olyvers were a very large Seal family but, from the will of Robert Kerwyne of Penshurst it is known that the Mercy/Mary who married Welfare was the Mary Kerwyne (#1021) who had married John Olyver in 1580.

Mary's will, written at the beginning of 1632, has survived and, by then, she was in her seventies and a widow again. Except for Katherine, a daughter of her second marriage, all her children (who could have been just Olyvers or Olyvers and Welfares) had had "**their portions already**". Katherine was her mother's executrix but probate was not granted until February 1639 so that Mary may have lived another seven years after writing her will.

A Katherine Welfare married **William Coxe (#2489)** in January 1639 which would be soon after Mary died. If William's wife was Mary's daughter, she was thirty-six when she married but she and William had two daughters baptised in 1640 and 1643. A Willaim Coxe from Seal was listed in the Knole MS of 1648 and this could have been Katherine's husband.

		married 4 Feb 1601	#1021	married 20 Jun 1580
<i>born:</i>	#2020 George Wel fare of Lingfield	-	Mary Kerwyne	- John Olyver ²²¹
<i>di ed:</i>		before 1632	in late 1570s end 1638	before 1601

	#2321 Katherine - William Coxe #2424	? ?	?	
<i>bap:</i>	14 Mar 1602			

	#2493 Isabella	Ethel dred #2494		
<i>bap:</i>	13 Oct 1640	3 Apr 1643		

²²¹ it has not been possible to identify which John Olyver was Mary's husband - see [Olyvers](#)

1 In the name of god Amen. The fifteenth day
2 of January, Anno Dom. 1631, I, Mary Welfare of Seal in
3 the county of Kent, **widow**, being at this time sick in
4 body but of good and perfect remembrance, praised be
5 God therefore, do make and ordain this my present testament
6 and last will in manner and form following: **First:** I bequeath my
7 soul into the hands of Almighty god, my maker, steadfastly
8 trusting to have full forgiveness of all my sins by the
9 only merits, death and passion of Jesus Christ, my only
10 saviour and redeemer, and my body to the earth from whence
11 it came. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Katherine, my daughter**,
12 all and singular my goods, chattles, cattel and household stuff
13 whatsoever. And I do make my said daughter executrix of
14 this my will. All my other children²²² have their portions already.
15 In witness whereof I have to this my present testament and last
16 will, the day and year above written, put my jand and seal,
17 published and declared the day and year above written

222 these could have been children from her marriage to John Olyver

18 in the presence of us John ?? , Lawrence Olyver¹, John Besse,
19 the mark of Elizabeth Olyver, wife of Robert Olyver of Fawkeham²

John Welfare of Seal

On 5th August 1647, Francis Bacon (Judge of the Common Pleas or Upper Bench) issued a writ at Sevenoaks against John Welfare of Seal, **victualler**. The purpose of the writ is not known but it was recorded at the March 1648 Assizes. At the same Assizes, John Welfare, **labourer** of Seal, was indicted for keeping an unlicensed tippling-house at Seal between 1st August 1647 and 7th March 1648³. See [Section Z in More Families & Transcripts](#) for more information on tippling houses.

It looks as if the same John Welfare was concerned in the two cases. If he was #3739, the father of the two children given on page w.61, he would have been in his late fifties; if he was the son (#3742) he was twenty-nine.

1 #1199 who had children in Seal between 1616 and 1628

2 Robert Olyver of Fawke, #1773

3 Cockburn (Char.I); 2586, 2600

- **First:** and principally I give, commend and bequeath my soul into
- the hands of Almighty God, humbly beseeching him through the merits of his
- dear son, Jesus Christ, my only lord and Saviour, that the same may be presented,
- without spot, before the throne of his divine majesty. And my body to ye earth
- from whence it came, to be buried in the churchyard of Hadlow, aforesaid.

mentions many people including:

sister Pawley and numerous children,

sister Wells

Bartholmew Tryce whose nuncupative will has survived (CKS: Drb/Pw 19; Drb/Pwr 19I.382) - see Tryce in Families & Transcripts

land in Wrotham, Hadlow,

Westfield in Tonbridge in occupancy of **Thomas Harris, the butcher**

written in the presence of **Robert White** (signature) and **John Starkey** who could have been the scriptor.

"By virtue of a commission bearing date 5th March 1595 directed to me, **John Stockwood**, vicar of Tonbridge, this will was by me²²⁵ in the parish church of Tonbridge proved the 12 of March 1595/6, by me John Stockwood, vicar of Tonbridge"

225 spelt "mee" in both cases

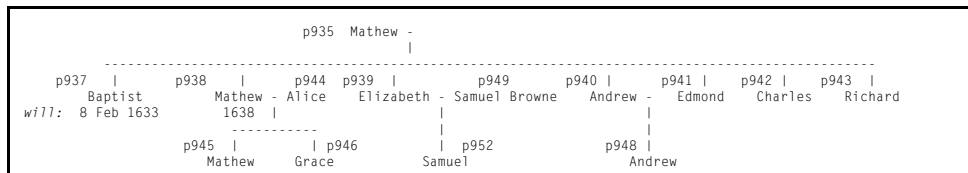
Baptist Weston, mercer, of Penshurst

The will of Baptist Weston (CKS: Drb/Pw 29; Drb/Pwr 22.19) was written by Thomas Leddall who, like the Hoopers, wrote wills over a long period of time; wills written by him have survived from 1615 until 1641 mainly from Penshurst and Chiddingstone.

Baptist left legacies to his five brothers, his sister, his niece and three nephews but his executor, to whom the residue of his goods and chattels and his land was left was his father, Mathew Weston. The will of Mathew Weston (p938) of **Billingshurst, Sussex**²²⁷, the "[son and heir of Mathew Weston of Penshurst](#)" was proved at the PCC in 1638 (PCC: Lee 38). This will has not been investigated but his executrix was his wife, Alice, and it is probable that this is the will of Baptist's brother.

²²⁷

about six miles south west of Horsham; "p" indicates a reference in the Penshurst database



Will of Baptist Weston of Penshurst

written 8th February 1632/3; proved 28th March 1633

transcript from original

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The eight day of February
- 2 Ao dm 1632 in the eight year of the reign of our sovereign Lord king
- Charles, etc.
- 3 I, Baptist Weston of Penshurst in the county of Kent, **merc**er, being weak of
- 4 body but of sound mind and perfect remembrance, thanks be to Almighty
- God, do
- 5 ordain and make this my last will and testament in manner and form
- following: **First** and
- 6 principally, I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God, my maker
- and

7 creator and to Jesus Christ, my alone saviour and redeemer by whose
death and blood shedding
8 I fully trust with an assured hope, to have full pardon and forgiveness of all
my sins and
9 to attain to the joyful resurrection of eternal life, committing my body to the
earth
10 and to be²²⁷ buried in the churchyard of Penshurst aforesaid. **Item:** I give to
the poor
11 of the said parish ²²⁸ to be distributed to them by mine
12 executor hereafter named. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Mathew**
Weston and Andrew
13 **Weston, my brothers,** to each of them forty shillings a piece to be paid to
them
14 within three months next after my decease by my said executor. **Item:** I
give and
15 bequeath unto **Edmond Weston, my brother,** seven pounds and ten
shillings of lawful money
16 to be paid to him within three months next after my decease by my said
executor.

227 "bee" throughout

228 a long gap left here

17 **Item:** I give unto **Charles Weston, my brother**, fifteen pounds of like lawful
money
18 to be paid unto him by my said executor at the time as aforesaid. **Item:** I
give
19 and bequeath unto **Richard Weston, my brother**, seven pounds and ten
shillings of lawful money to be paid
20 to him by my said executor at the time as aforesaid. **Item:** I give and
bequeath unto
21 **Elizabeth Browne, my sister, the now wife of Samuel Browne**, forty
shillings to be paid her
22 by my executor at the time as aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
23 **Mathew and Grace Weston, the son and daughter of my brother Mathew**,
to each
24 of them twenty shillings to be paid unto them by my executor at the time
25 as aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Andrew Weston, the son of**
26 **my brother Andrew Weston**, twenty shillings to be paid him by my
executor
27 at the time as aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Samuel Browne,**
the son
28 **of my brother-in-law Samuel**, twenty shillings by my executor at
29 the time as aforesaid.

30 The residue of all my moveable goods and chattels whatsoever, my debts
and
31 funeral discharged, I give and bequeath unto **my loving father, Mathew**
32 **Weston**, whom I do make the full and sole executor of this my last
33 will and testament
34 This is the last will and testament of me, Baptist Weston,
35 made and declared the day and year aforesaid, touching or concerning
36 the disposing of my messuage or tenement lying and being in
Edenbridge²²⁹
37 **Town or Street** in the county aforesaid, which I late purchased of **Robert**
Palmer. Item:
38 I will, devise, give and bequeath unto my said loving father, Mathew
39 Weston, all the said messuage or tenement with the backside and
40 appurtenances there unto belonging or appertaining, lying and being in
Edenbridge
41 as aforesaid, to have and to hold to the said Mathew, his heirs and
42 assigns forever. In witness whereof, to this my present testament
43 and last will one sheet and this part of sheet of paper, I have
44 hereunto put my hand and seal the day and year aforesaid.

229 "Eatonbridge"

Read and acknowledged to be
the last will and testament of
the said Baptist Weston
in the presence of
Thomas Leddall, scr.

Baptist Weston²³⁰

230 could be a signature

The Westons of Ightham

One will has survived for a Weston of Ightham:

William Weston written 3 Mar 1624/5 proved 30 Nov 1625
CKS: Prs/w/17/135 see page w.81

But see page w.86 for an early bequest by a Weston to Ightham church.

Arthur Weston

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
i 248	<u>WESTON, Arthur</u> ----- 	<1540		Agnes Weston(m) i 1872	1 1	18 Nov 1570 in his 30s
i 1872	<u>Weston(m), Agnes</u> -----	<1540			1 1	27 Jan 1597 about 60
I i 249	<u>Weston, Aldred</u>	15 Dec 1561	daughter		0 0	

Arthur Weston was mentioned in the Court Records between 1553 and 1574. His wife was "**Agnes, widow of Arthur Weston**" when she died in 1597 having been a widow for 26 years. An Agnes Weston was mentioned in the Court Records between 1586 and 1618; she who could have been either Arthur's widow or "**Agnes, wife of William Weston**" who was buried 17th January 1617.

Mentioned in the Court Rolls

A number of Westons were mentioned in the Court Rolls but only in the two periods 1553 to 1574 and 1586 to 1618. A **William Weston** was one of the witnesses in the Bing v. Hooper case in 1564-6 - see *Excerpts from the Ightham Court Rolls*.

Some of those mentioned in the later period were parish gentry: **James Weston, gent.**, **Peter Weston, gent.** and **William Weston, gent.** with only a William appearing in parish register.

Edward Weston

On 11th April 1597, **Edward Weston** was presented to the Court for having received a "*stranger*" - **George Broome** - and Weston was to be fined 40s if Broome stayed without sureties being found (CRI 1938, p.18). George Broome (i1742²³¹) had married **Joane Blackman** (i1743) in Ightham fifteen months earlier and they had a **son, John** (i1744), baptised there on 29th June 1597. This could be the same George Broome since it would take some time to present someone for receiving a

²³¹ i indicates a reference in the Ightham database

stranger and, in April, he might have been allowed to stay until after the birth of the child.

On 16th February 1596, **Alice, the wife of Edward Weston**, was buried in **Seal**, their **twin daughters, Agnes and Dorothy**, being baptised there on the same day. Perhaps the Alice who had married Edward Weston of Ightham came from Seal and returned there for the birth.

William Weston, gent.

There was a William Weston having children in the 1560s:

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i 109	<u>WESTON, William</u> ----- gent	<1539		Marie Weston(m)	1	3	27 Mar 1590 in his 50s
i 110	<u>Weston(m), Marie</u> -----	<1539		"Marie Weston, widow" when she was buried	1	3	8 Sep 1598 in her 50s
I i 111	<u>Weston, Marie</u>	18 Feb 1560			0	0	
I i 128	<u>Weston, Katherine</u>				0	0	28 Oct 1565
I i 161	<u>WESTON, Charles</u>	24 Sep 1564			0	0	17 Feb 1589 age 24

This William could have been the father of William, the testator who could have been an elder son whose baptism was not have been recorded because it was

before 1560. This would make the testator in his forties at the turn of the century and about seventy when he died.

In 1590 William Powell was charged with “neglecting to maintain his fence lying south-east opposite the land of William Weston and adjoining the road leading from Ightham to Oldbury” (CRI 1937, p.217). Thus a William Weston, who could have been i109 above, owned land in the Oldbury area. William Weston, the testator, owned land at Oldbury Hill in 1625 which he could have inherited from his father.

William Weston, gent. stood surety for the “stranger” **John Goffe** in October 1587 who appeared a number of times in the Court Records - see **Goffe**. The **Mary Weston** mentioned in the Court Records between 1586 and 1618 could have been William's wife recorded as Marie at her burial.

William Weston, Testator

i2206 **William Weston** was buried on 16th October 1625 when he was described as a “householder”.

This William was obviously the testator of the will written on 3rd March 1624/5 in which he was described a "[yeoman](#)". Many men were described as householder in the parish registers and yeoman in their wills.

When William wrote his will he had neither a wife nor any children. The burials of two wives of William Weston were recorded:

i1871 **Julian Weston** on 25th April 1596

i2207 **Agnes Weston** on 17th January 1617

These could both have been the wives of the William Weston buried in 1625 but there is no evidence to link the three events.

William's sister Mabel was "[the widow of Robert Balden, deceased](#)" and he gave her "[the messuage or tenement, barn, orchard and garden](#)" where she was then living for the rest of her life. On her death it was to go to Mabel's granddaughter, Dorothy Balden who was born in the summer of 1617; she was also to have £30 paid in three yearly instalments of £10 starting when she was twenty-two. Thus the administration of William's estate would have lasted until 1641.

Harbouring Strangers

The testator could also have been the **William Weston** who was presented to the Court on 20th October 1601 for having "taken into his cottage **Christopher Budd, Finche, widow, and John Curde** as inmates, without sureties." He was "to find sureties or remove them, under penalty 10s." All three appear to have remained but the Court was a long time before exacting the penalty, it being 5th May 1603 when William Weston "forfeited 10s to the lord of the manor" for not having removed them from his cottage. "The bailiff was ordered to levy the penalty to the use of the lord." (CRI 1938, p.16). In between these two appearances, on 1st April 1602, the jury of the View, with the assent of the Steward of the Manor, ordered that the penalty for permitting a stranger to stay without sureties being found should be £5 - see **Excerpts from the Ightham Court Rolls**. Weston, however, seems to have avoided this increased penalty.

William Weston's Cousins

William remembered a large number of cousins in his will. Thomas and Arthur, sons of William Olyver, were each left £6 13s 4d. The Olyvers were a large family living mainly in Seal but the name "Arthur" does not occur at all so that it is impossible to identify the particular Olyvers to whom William Weston was related.

The children of Ralph Croft (or Craft) were also his cousins (the eldest was thirty-two and the youngest twenty-three); three of them, Thomas, Arthur and Mary, were each to receive £5. However, the fourth, William, had upset William Weston by "the late regard (he) hath had of me and his unkindness to me" which had diverted William's "mind from doing of that which I fully intended to have done for him yet, notwithstanding, I do give and bequeath unto him two shillings and sixpence for a remembrance". See Craft in More Families & Transcripts.

Two more cousins were Thomas Petley, left £5, and John Petley, gent. whom William appointed his executor and to whom he left the "messuage or tenement" in which he lived and another one called Walders.

The Scriptor of the Will

With its decorated "I" at the beginning and the highlighting of words such as "Item", this will was definitely written by a professional. Francis Johnson, the first witness,, looks to be the most likely writer. The corrections detailed at the end and the space left for a name on line 63 could be a result of the scriptor first coming and making notes and returning with the written will which was then read to the testator. This procedure could obviously lead to the need for corrections.

1 In²³² the name of god Amen. The third day of March
2 Anno Dm 1624, I, William Weston of Ightham in the county of Kent,
3 **yeoman**, being in good and perfect memory, thanks be given to God, do
4 make and declare my last will and testament in manner and form
following:
5 **First:** I commend my soul in to the hands of my heavenly father
6 who gave it me, hoping assuredly to be saved by the death and passion
7 of Jesus Christ, my only saviour and redeemer, and by his only merit to be
made
8 partaker of life everlasting and I commend my body to the earth
9 whereof it is made to be buried at the discretion of my executor hereafter
10 named. **Item:** I give and devise unto my loving **sister Mabell**
11 **Balden, the widow of Robert Balden**, deceased, the messuage or tenement,
12 barn, orchard and garden thereunto belonging with their appurtenances
13 in Ightham aforesaid wherein she now dwelleth to her during her
14 natural life. And immediately from and after her decease, I give and

232 decorated "I" but not in the "Hooper" style

15 devise the said messuage or tenement, barn, orchard and garden with their
16 appurtenances in Ightham aforesaid and all the estate right by the interest
17 and demand of me, the said William Weston which I now have or which
18 I, my heirs, executors or administrators at any time hereafter may or
19 ought to have of and in the said messuage or tenement, barn, orchard
20 and garden with their appurtenances, to the only use and behoof of my
loving
21 **niece, Dorothy Balden** and her heirs for ever, **daughter of**
22 **Reynold Balden** deceased²³³. Also I give and bequeath unto
23 the said Dorothy Balden thirty pounds of lawful english money to be paid
24 her in manner and form following: that is to say ten pounds part thereof
25 when she come to the age of two and twenty years and ten pounds
26 other part thereof when she comes to the age of three and twenty years
27 and ten pounds residue thereof when the said Dorothy comes to the
28 age of four and twenty years. Moreover I give and bequeath
29 unto the said Dorothy Balden one joined cupboard standing in my dwelling
30 house at **Oldbury Hill**²³⁴ in the hall there and one joined chest and
31 joined box standing in my bedchamber in my said house. **Item:**

233 Mabel Balden, widow, died in April 1629; Reynold was her second son who had a daughter, Dorothy, baptised on 26th July 1617 and was therefore eight when her great uncle (rather than uncle) wrote his will - see *balden.fini*

234 "Ouldburiehill", about ½ mile south west of the centre of Ightham

32 I give and bequeath to **my loving nieces Mary Balden and Ann Balden**²³⁵
33 forty shillings a piece of currant english money to be paid unto them
34 within seven years next after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath
35 to **my loving cousin Thomas Oliver, son of William Oliver, gent.,**
36 six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence of currant english
37 money to be paid him within one year next after my decease. **Item:**
38 I give and bequeath unto **Arthur Oliver, son of the said William**
39 **Oliver,** six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence of currant
40 english money to be paid unto the said Arthur within two years next
41 after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my loving cousin**
42 **Thomas Petley of Broandly** five pounds of currant english money
43 to be paid him within three years next after my decease if the said Thomas
44 Petley happen to live so long. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto my
45 **loving cousin Thomas Croft** five pounds of lawful english money
46 to be paid him within four years next after my decease. **Item:** I give and
47 bequeath to **my cousin Arthur Croft** five pounds of current english money
48 to be paid him within five years next after my decease.

235 Mabel had two daughters, Marie born in 1588 and Anne born in 1593, who would have been William's nieces. But Marie married in 1613 and it is more likely that Mary and Ann were younger sisters of Dorothy whose baptism was not recorded in Ightham

49 The late regard **my cousin William Croft** hath had of me and his
unkindness
50 to me hath diverted my mind from doing of that which I fully intended
51 to have done for him yet, notwithstanding, I do give and bequeath unto
52 him two shillings and sixpence for a remembrance. **Item:**²³⁶ I give and
bequeath unto **my loving cousin Mary Croft**²³⁷ five pounds of current
English money to be paid unto her within five years next after my decease.
All the residue of my
54 goods and chattels I give and bequeath unto **my loving cousin**
55 **John Petley**²³⁸ of Ightham aforesaid, gent., whom I make and ordain sole
56 executor of this my last will and testament.
57 This is the last will and testament of me, the said William Weston,
touching
58 the disposition of my lands and tenements undevised made the day and
59 year abovesaid. I give and devise the messuage or tenement, barns,
stables,

236 this item inserted

237 Thomas Craft/Croft, son of Ralph and Audrey Craft/Croft was baptised 29th December 1592, William on 17th February 1595 and Marie on 2nd August 1601 but there is no record of an Arthur Craft/Croft - see Craft in More Familes & Transcripts

238 this could be John Petley, gent. (i1055) who had children in Ightham between 1626 and 1641 - see [Petley](#).. However there was no Thomas who could have been William Weston's cousin (see line 42)

60 orchards, gardens and all the lands thereunto belonging with their
appurtenances
61 lying at or near Oldbury Hill wherein I now dwell, and one other messuage
62 or tenement called or known by the name of **Walders** in the occupation
63 of ²³⁹ **Corke, widow, and Elizabeth Courde**²⁴⁰ with the gardens, orchards
64 and all the lands thereunto belonging withall and singular their appurte=
65 nances lying and being in the parish of Ightham in the county of
66 Kent, to my loving cousin John Petley, his heirs and assigns,
67 for ever. In witness whereof I, the said William Weston have here=
68 unto set my hand and seal the day and year above written.

the mark of
William Weston

Signed, sealed and published
to be the last will and testament
of the said William Weston in the
presence of us

Francis Johnson
William ??

239 space left for a first name to have been entered

240 was there any connection between Elizabeth and the John Curd, one of the "strangers" William Weston had taken in twenty-four years previously

William Kipps Francis Harksup

The legacy of five pounds given to Mary Croft in the third page was interlined before the publishing and sealing hereof and the words £5 of current english money was interlined on the second page¹ before the sealing and publishing hereof. The word Robert² was interlined on the first page and some ?? words put out with a pen in the said first page. All done before the sealing and publishing hereof.

William ?? Francis Johnson

Francis Harksup

John Weston of London

John Weston (i2782) of Wrotham and with connections to St. Olave's, London, in his will of 1420 (PCC: 20 Marche) left 13s 4d for the building of Ightham church³

1 on line 47

2 line 11, was originally Reynold

3 Testamenta Cantiana, London 1906, A Series of Extracts from 15th and 16th Century Wills, p. 43

Robert White, Esquire of Hadlow

This will (PCC: Parker 61; Prob 11/133) was written 25th March 1619 and proved on 15th July 1619. It has an interesting introduction, Robert humbly requesting god's "[direction, help and blessing](#)" in the writing of the will and all his other actions. After the preamble, commending his soul to Jesus Christ and bequeathing his "[sinful body to the earth](#)", he "[earnestly entreats](#)" his executors that, if it appears to them there are any he has wronged or trespassed against without them being recompensed, they will "[make good satisfaction for the same](#)".

Robert bequeathed £100 to the parish of Hadlow with which four or five Hadlow men, chosen by his executors and overseers, were to purchase land to be used for the benefit of the poor. The minister, churchwardens and overseers of the poor were to lease out the land at a reasonable value for periods of up to seven years with the rents and profits being employed for ever for the relief of the most poor, aged and impotent persons of the parish. A similar bequest of £100 was made to the parish of Christchurch in Hampshire; Robert owned land in Hampshire as well as in Kent.

Anne, Robert's wife, had had four children by an earlier marriage but she and Robert do not appear to have had any children. He makes Anne and his nephew

Henry Lea his heirs but does include, in the form of a proviso that he leaves all his land "to the heirs of the body of me, the said Robert White" but, if he should die "without heirs or heir of my body begotten", then they were to go to Henry and his heirs. Anne and Henry Lea were each to have half of his "cattle, plate and goods" with Anne's half going to her son William, the testator's godson, on her death.

The monetary bequests are given in list form and, even when the bequest is specified in marks, the amount in the list is in £ s d; of these three are annuities which are to be paid from the rents of his lands his Hampshire. The others are to be paid from money due to Robert or his executors from Mr. Andrews and Mr. Dawry, "as they shall grow and be due, which moneys amount yearly to three hundred pounds or thereabouts and shall be, or ought to be paid in within four or five years or thereabouts".

These monetary bequests come to a considerable amount; giving them in the order in which Robert specified they were to be paid as the money owed to him came in:

Patience Saye, his stepdaughter, at the age of eighteen	£300
Robert Saye, at the age of twenty-one	£100
Sir Henry Fane	£ 20
Sir Henry Fane's children	£100

Sir Henry Fane's brother, Richard, whom the testator described as his cousin	£ 20
Sir Henry Fane's two sisters, also described at the testator's cousins	£ 20
Edward Saye, his eldest stepson	£100
William Saye, the testator's godson	£100

But, in addition to these there was £100 to be paid to Anne Welles at her marriage or when she was eighteen, £50 to his cousin, friend and overseer Justinian Champeneis and about £90 in a number of smaller bequests. These total about £1000 with, in addition, the £200 to the parishes of Hadlow and Christchurch. £300 for four or five years should, however, have more than covered them.

The "[parsonage or tithings of Gouldwell Ward](#)" must have been worth a considerable amount since Robert's wife, who was to have them during her widowhood, was to pay Henry Lea £40 a year from them.

				h304	h300	h301		
				?? Saye - Anne	- Robert	Alice - ?? Lea		
will:					25 Mar 1619			

h305	h306	h307	h308			h24	h16	
Edward	William	Patience	Robert			Henry - dau. of Thomas Barton		

"h" indicates a reference in the Hadlow database; see [Thomas Barton in Families & Transcripts](#)

1 In the name of god (whose direction
2 help and blessing I most humbly request in this and all other actions) I,
Robert
3 White of Hadlow in the county of Kent, **Esquire**, being of reasonable health
and
4 good memory but respecting the certainty of death and the uncertainty of
the time
5 thereof, do ordain, make and declare this my last will and testament upon
the five
6 and twentieth day of March in the year of our Lord and saviour one
thousand
7 six hundred and nineteen as followeth. **First:** and principally I most
humbly
8 commend and bequeath my soul unto Jesus Christ, my redeemer and
saviour upon
9 whose only merit and mediation I rely and rest for my redemption and
salvation

10 in his name, beseeching God, the father, to accept for me²⁴³ the sacrifice of
his death
11 and the obedience of his life, that by the one I may be clearly acquitted of
all my
12 sins and the penalties thereof and by the other received into his heavenly
kingdom.
13 Secondly I bequeath and render my sinful body to the earth to be buried in
the
14 parish of Hadlow or elsewhere as shalbe thought fit. And my will and
earnest desire
15 is that all my debts be ?? paid within six months next after my decease.
And if it
16 shall appear to my executors that I have done trespass or wrong to any
person or
17 persons that have not been recompensed for the same, I earnestly entreat
and my
18 will is that they shall make good satisfaction for the same. And I will and
bequeath
19 unto the poor of the parish of Hadlow, to be distributed about the time of
my death,

243 "mee", "bee", throughout (probate copy, not Hooper)

20 by the ministers, churchwardens and overseers of the poor, forty shillings.
21 **Item:** I will and bequeath one hundred pounds to the said parish of Hadlow to be
22 bestowed
23 upon lands, to be purchased by four or five men of the said parish to be
24 chosen and
25 nominated by my executors and overseers. Of all which lands, the
26 minister, church=
27 wardens and overseers of the said parish shall have power to make lease or
28 leases
29 for a yearly rent or rents according to the reasonable value thereof for seven
30 years. And
31 so from time to time for the like or less term respectively for ever. And all
32 the
33 rents and profits thereof shall yearly be employed for ever for the relief of
34 the
35 most poor, aged and impotent persons of the said parish by the discretion
36 of the minister,
37 churchwardens and overseers from time to time respectively. **Item:** I will
38 and
39 bequeath one hundred pounds to the parish of **Christchurch in Hampshire**
40 to be paid within one year

31 next after my decease to be likewise bestowed and employed as in the
 32 former bequest
 33 by the parishioners there and for the poor thereof to all intent and purpose
 34 according
 35 to the last mentioned hundred pounds.
 36 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my servant John Crud** the sum of ten
 pounds £ 10-0-0
 37 **Item:** to **my servant Margaret Lee** five pounds £ 5-0-0
 38 **Item:** to **Anne Welles**, to be paid at her marriage or when she shall be
 39 eighteen
 40 years of age, one hundred pounds £100-0-0
 41 **Item:** to **Thomas Dynham** five pounds £ 5-0-0
 42 **Item:** to **William Smith** five pounds £ 5-0-0
 43 **Item:** to **Richard Sumner**, to the use and benefit of **Dorothy Welles, his**
 44 **sister**, twenty pounds £ 20-0-0
 45 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my loving sister Alice Lea** a yearly rent
 46 of ten pounds during her life to be issuing and to be paid unto her out of all
 47 my
 lands in **Ringwood** in Hampshire
 halfyearly at the two usual feasts of Saint Michael Th'archangel and
 the Annunciation of our Lady the virgin Mary, by even portions with power
 from time to time respectively to distrain for the same £ 10-0-0

- 48 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my half brother John Jerman** a yearly rent
 49 of four pounds to issue and be paid out of my said lands in Ringwood
 50 as the rent last before mentioned £ 4-0-0
 51 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my cousin Margaret Hart, widow**, a yearly

page 2:

- 52 rent of forty shillings to issue and be paid unto her during her life
 53 out of all my lands and tenements in **Fording Bridge, Hampshire** at the
 54 foresaid feasts and in the same manner as the rents next before
 bequeathed £ 2-0-0
 55 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my servant Mary Barton**²⁴⁷ five marks £ 3-6-8
 56 **Item:** to **Elizabeth Vipde** five marks £ 3-6-8
 57 **Item:** to **Thomas Double** twenty shillings £ 1-0-0
 58 **Item:** to **John Donton** twenty shillings £ 1-0-0
 59 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Sir Henry Fane, knight**, twenty pounds £ 20-0-0
 60 **Item:** to all the children of the said Sir Henry Fane, to be distributed
 61 amongst them, as by his lady, their mother shall seem good and be
 62 required, one hundred pounds £100-0-0
 63 **Item:** to **my cousin, Richard Fane, his brother**, twenty pounds £ 20-0-0
 64 **Item:** to **my cousin, Elizabeth ??, his sister**, ten pounds £ 10-0-0
 65 **Item:** to **my cousin, Margaret Cutts, his sister**, ten pounds £ 10-0-0

247 probably the sister of Henry Lea's wife

- 66 Item: to my cousin, Anne Collier of Fording Bridge, aforesaid ten pounds £ 10-0-0
- 67 Item: to my cousin, Eleanor Culpepper ten pounds £ 10-0-0
- 68 Item: to my godson Thomas Jerman, ten pounds £ 10-0-0
- 69 Item: to my cousin, Justinian Champeneis, fifty pounds £ 50-0-0
- 70 Item: to my wife's eldest son, Edward Saye, one hundred pounds £100-0-0
- 71 Item: to her third son, Robert Saye, one hundred pounds £100-0-0
- 872 Item: to her daughter, Patience Saye, three hundred pounds £300-0-0
- 73 Item: to my good neighbour Walter Kipping, forty shillings £ 2-0-0
- 74 Item: to Thomas Barton, my servant Mary's father, forty shillings £ 2-0-0
- 75 Item: to my servant Christopher Sumner, forty shillings £ 2-0-0
- 76 Item: I will and bequeath unto Anne, my loving and faithful wife, all the right
 77 and interest which I have in my farm of Barn Place wherein I dwell with all
 78 profits thereunto belonging according to a former conveyance that I made
 79 for and during her life only. And after her decease to William Saye, her
 80 son and my godson, for ever. Item: I will and bequeath unto the said
 William
 81 Saye one hundred pounds - £100, for and in respect of the sum of one
 82 hundred pounds for ?? given to the said Anne, my wife, by Edward
 Former,
 83 her uncle whereof fifty pounds is received and the other fifty pounds shalbe

84 paid when it shalbe received. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto the said
Anne, my wife,
85 all my **parsonage or tithings of Gouldwell Ward** during her widowhood only
86 yielding and paying for the same to my **nephew Henry Lea**, his heirs or
assigns
87 yearly during her widowhood the rent of forty pounds to be paid half yearly
88 at the two usual feasts, that is to say, of Saint Michael Th'archangel and of
89 the Annunciation of our Lady the virgin Mary, by even part and the first
payment
90 to begin from the feast of the said feasts which shall first happen after my
decease.
91 **Item:** I will that all the lands and tenements conveyed or assured to her
formerly
92 for her jointure, she shall quietly and peaceably enjoy according to equity
and
93 my true intent. **Item:** I will and bequeath, all my stock of cattell and all my
94 household stuff, linen and woollen, bedding, brass, pewter and all my
95 implements of household and all my plate and goods in and about my
house,
96 (saving and excepting my ready money and my seal ring and my bonds,
97 bills and notes of debt and my debts owed unto me) unto the said Anne,
my wife,
98 and unto the said Henry Lea, to be equally divided between them. **Item:** I

99 give and bequeath my ready money and my said seal and the bonds, bills
and
100 notes of debts and the debts owed unto me and all my leases not
mentioned
101 before to my said nephew Henry Lea. **Item:** touching the plate and linen
102 which my wife had before our marriage and is or was to be divided
103 between her and her children, or any of them, my will is that all the said

page 3:

104 plate and linen shall remain wholly to her and them as fully as if we had
never
105 intermarried. **Item:** touching the one half of all my said stock of cattell,
plate,
106 household stuff and goods formerly mentioned to be divided between my
said wife
107 and the said Henry Lea, my will is that my said wife at the time of the
appraisement
108 of the said cattell, plate and goods, or within six weeks next after the same,
shall
109 give unto my executors and overseers of this my last will and testament
here
110 after nominated, reasonable security that, at the time of her next marriage

111 or death, which shall first happen, or within three months next ensuing the
same, there
112 shall be truly paid by her, or her next husband, or by her executors or
administrators
113 unto her said son William Saye, such a sum of money as to my said
executors and
114 overseers, or to the survivors or survivor of them, at the said time of
appraisement or
115 within the said six weeks, shall seem reasonable and be required so as the
said sum
116 be under the value of the said her moiety or half part. Now touching the
payment
117 of all the legacies of money as are not to have continuance by yearly rent
but are
118 to be paid entirely together, my will and intent is that they shalbe paid out
of the
119 moneys which ought to be paid unto me, or my executors or assigns, by **Mr.
Andrews**
120 and **Mr. Dawry**, as by my writings thereof may appear, as they shall grow
and be
121 due, which moneys amount yearly to three hundred pounds or thereabouts
and shall

122 be, or ought to be paid in within four or five years or thereabouts. Of the
which my
123 will is that Patience Saye shall have her whole legacy and portion when
she shall
124 come to the age of eighteen years. And Robert Saye his legacy at his age
of
125 one and twenty years. And that the legacies of Edward Saye and William
Saye shalbe paid next after the legacies of Sir Henry Fane and his children,
his brother
126 and his sister. And their legacies next after the legacies or residue thereof
expressed
127 in this my will. All which residue shalbe truly paid within as short time
after my decease
128 as may be conveniently and that by the direction and discretion of my
executors and overseers.

129 **This is furthermore** the will, testament and devise of me, the said
Robert
130 White of, and concerning, all my lands, tenements and hereditaments in
the counties
131 of Kent and **Southampton**. I will, devise and give all my lands, tenements
and
132 hereditaments lying and being in Ringwood and Fording Bridge in the
county

133 of Southampton, and all also lying and being in **East Peckham** and in
Hadlow
134 in the county of Kent, to the heirs of the body of me, the said Robert White,
to
135 have and to hold all that the said lands, tenements and hereditaments, to
them and
136 their heirs for ever. And if it shall happen that I, the said Robert White,
shall die
137 without heirs or heir of my body begotten, then I will, devise and bequeath
and give
138 all the said lands, tenements and hereditaments to my nephew Henry Lea
and to
139 his heirs for ever. Provided always that the foresaid Anne, my wife, shall
140 peaceably have, hold and enjoy all the lands and tenements by my deeds
141 and will conveyed, appointed and bequeathed unto her, this my will or
testament
142 notwithstanding. Lastly of this my last will and testament concerning my
143 goods and chattels I constitute and make my said nephew Henry Lea of
144 **St. Toolies in London, haberdasher, and my beloved friend Thomas**
Barton²⁴⁴ of
145 Hadlow in Kent, **gent.** my executors. And **my approved friends Justinian**

244 was this Thomas Barton the father of his servant Mary?

146 **Champeneis of Wrotham, gent,** and **Walter Kippington of Tudeley** in the
county
147 of Kent, **gent.**, my overseers. Robert White. This will was signed
148 and sealed by me, Robert White, in the presence of **John Davies**, Justinian
149 Champeneis, Thomas Barton, Thomas Dynham

- 1 In the name of god Amen. I, Thomas White, of the
2 city of Rochester in the county of Kent, being crazy²⁴⁵ in body but of good
and
3 perfect memory (God be praised) do make this my last will and testament
in manner
4 and form following, that is to say, **First:** I give and bequeath my soul to
God, my
5 maker and to his son, Jesus Christ, my saviour and redeemer. And my
body to be
6 buried either in the belfry, if possible it may be, or in the first aisle next
unto the
7 northside in the church and as near the belfry as may be. And without any
sermon.
- 8 **Item:** I give unto my old friend and true neighbour, **John Skoly?**, my gown.
9 All the rest of my goods and whatsoever is due unto me, or may come due
unto me

²⁴⁵ in the sixteenth century "crazy" could mean of unsound health

10 by reason of my clerk's wages or other ways, I freely and wholly give unto
11 **my wife,**
12 **Alice White,** whom I do make my full executrix, she seeing me honestly
13 laid in
14 ground according unto my last will and testament.
15 Also she shall truly and honestly see that my debts? be discharged or
16 agreed with all.
17 Otherwise, if she do not, or will not, then I leave **Master Daling** to be
18 executor
19 and to see me buried and himself satisfied and to return unto my said wife
20 the rest.
21 But I trust in God that she will have a care unto it herself.
22 All the debts which I owe besides Mr. Daling is but ten shillings to **Mr.**
23 **Bennett, the**
24 **brewer.** And about some ten shillings more is all that I owe in this world.
25 And I do make and ordain to be overseers of this my last will and
26 testament, my
27 good friend **Mr. Raphe Rickner of the College** and **Mr. John Oekelie,**
28 entreating them
29 to see that it may truly be performed. And I will that my executrix shall
30 bestow
31 on them five shillings apiece to buy them gloves, or what else, within two
32 days after my burial.

23 And to all this that I have written I do confirm in witness whereof I have
24 hereunto set my hand and seal this five and twenty day of November 1626.

(signed) Tho. White

sealed and signed in the
presence of us:

John Nicolson, Raphe Rickner

Mary left her nephew a number of items which he was to receive "if it please god to lend the said Thomas Watters life until one and twenty years".

Watters											"x" indicates a ref. in the misc. database										

x1895				x1900				x1896				x1897				x1898				x1899	
John		-		Elizabeth				Mary		-		?? Wickenden		Joan		Elizabeth		-		John Ri sbrucke	
will:								22 Apr 1639												children	
				Thomas		x1901															

1 In the name of god Amen. April the 22th 1639, I, Mary
2 Wickenden, **widow**, living in the parish of Chiddingstone, being sick
3 of body but of good and perfect memory, praised be the Lord,
4 do ordain this my last will and testament in manner and
5 form following: **First:** I commend my soul to the hands of
6 God, my maker, hoping assuredly, through the only merits of
7 Jesus Christ, my saviour, to be made partaker of life
8 everlasting. **Secondly** I commend my body to be buried in the
9 churchyard of Chiddingstone. **Item:** I give **Thomas**

10 **Watters, son of my brother John Watters**, the table and
11 the form in the hall, the new chairs and the Amery, the
12 bigger kettle and the better postnett²⁴⁶, two fruit dishes, two platters
13 of pewter and two salteses, one pair of hempen sheets if it
14 please god to lend the said Thomas Watters life until
15 one and twenty years. If it please god he die, I will it
16 to the next heir. **Item:** I give **my sister, Joan**, six pence.
17 **Item:** I give **my sister John Risbrucke** six pence. **Item:**
18 I give **my sister Elizabeth Risbrucke's children**²⁴⁷ three shillings
19 a piece, those that are now living. **Item:** I give **Francis Hound**
20 one new waistcoat. **Item:** I give **Elizabeth Watters**, my
21 gown. **Item:** I give **Ann Winter** one of my best pewter
22 platters. **Item:** I will these legacies to be paid when they are,
23 or shall be, demanded. **Item:** I give **Ann Winter, wife of Michael**
24 **Winter**, one ell of cambric²⁴⁸, one say apron, the best I have.
25 **Item:** I give **Francis Winter** two stone of flax. **Item:**
26 I give **Richard Winter** five shillings. **Item:** I give **William**,

246 a type of skillet, that is, a long handled metal pot with legs

247 should the line above read "my sister's husband John"?

248 45 inches of fine white linen; "say" was a woollen material like serge

27 **their brother**, five shillings.
28 **Item:** I make my brother, John Watters, full and sole
29 executor of this my last will and testament where unto
30 I have set my hand and seal
In the presence of the mark
Lewis Morgan, cleric²⁴⁹
the mark of and seal of
Michael Winter
Peter Pernell Mary Wickenden

²⁴⁹ probably the writer of the will; "bee" and "mee" used throughout

1 In de. no. Amen. the first day of January
2 in the year of our lord 1516. I, William
3 Wilkyn of Seal, whole in mind, make my
4 testament in this manner. **First:** I bequeath my
5 soul to god, my body to be buried in the
6 churchyard of Seal. **Item:** I bequeath to the
7 high altar 12d. **Item:** to the reparation of the
8 church 6s 8d. **Item:** to **my youngest**
9 **daughter**, a house with half an acre of land
10 longing²⁵⁰ thereto. Also I will that **my wife** have
11 the other house with 16 acres of land longing
12 thereto for time of her life. And after her
13 decease I will that **my eldest daughter** shall
14 have it. The residue of all my goods not
15 bequeathed I give to **Joanne, my wife**, whom I
16 make mine executrix that she so dispose

250 both here and on the next line "longing" is, presumably, "belonging"

17 for the health of my soul. **Witnesses:**
Robert Powell, John Clark, Thomas Daniell

1 In the name of god Amen. I, William
2 Wilmot, of Chiddingstone in the county of Kent, **labourer**, being of whole
mind
3 and of good and perfect remembrance, praised be god, do make and ordain
this my present testament.
4 **First:** I commend my soul unto Almighty god, my maker and redeemer, and
my body to be buried in
5 the church of Chiddingstone. I ordain and appoint **my wife Jane** whole
and sole
6 executrix and bequeath to **my son John Wilmot** 12d to be paid within a
month after my
7 decease. **Item:** I bequeath to **my daughter Elizabeth** 12d to be paid as
above. **Item:** I bequeath to my
8 **son William** 12d to be paid also within a month after my decease. In
witness whereof I have
9 set to my hand and seal. The mark of **William Wilmot**. In the presence of
us
10 **Jervis Morgan, William Everest, Richard Beecher.**

1 In the name of god Amen. The eleventh day of March
2 in the year of our Lord god one thousand six hundred and eighteen, John
Winter of
3 the parish of Sundridge in the diocese of Canterbury²⁵¹ and the county of
Kent, **carpenter**,
4 sick in body but of perfect sense and good remembrance, being moved by
Nicholas
5 **Hall** to make his will and to set in order and dispose of his lands and goods,
did
6 make his will in manner and form following: viz. **Imprimis** it was his will
and he
7 did give to the poor of the parish of Sundridge five pounds. **Item:** he did
give his house
8 and lands that descended unto him by the death of his father, late
deceased, lying in
9 the parish of **Miewood**? in the said county of Kent to **Thomas Cowper** of the
same parish

251 Sundridge was in the Exempt Deanery of Shoreham

10 of Sundridge, carpenter, and willed him to sell the said house and lands
and pay his
11 debts, discharge²⁵² his legacies and funeral expenses. **Item:** he did will
Thomas Cowper
12 to give some legacies to **his brother William Cowper** and some other of his
friends at his own
13 discretion when he had sold the land and made the said Thomas Cowper
his executor.
14 Witnesses to the will William Cowper, Nicholas Hall, **John Hall** and
Frances Montagne.

Presumably John Winter had no close relatives - or none to whom he wished to leave any of his money. It was Nicholas Hall who "moved" him to make his wishes known and Thomas Cowper, whom he appointed his executor, was given carte blanche to divide the proceeds of the sale of John Winter's house and lands after he had paid his debts, funeral expenses and £5 to the poor of the parish.

252 "discharge" but probate copy

Wood, Hen:

1 In the name of god Amen. I bequeath my
2 soul to almighty god, my saviour and redeemer, and my
3 body to the earth to be buried at my executor's dis
4 posing. **Item:** I give to **my son, William Wood,**
5 in lawful English money ?? ?? to be
6 paid ?? months after my decease. **Item:** I give
7 to **John Colling and Nicholas Colling, the sons of Steven**
8 **Colling,** five shillings a piece to be paid ?? months after my
9 decease. I ?? **Henry Colling, my grandchild,** my
10 sole executor of this my last will. I make my cousin
11 ?? **Nicholas Wood** of ?? and **George Carter, the elder,**
12 of Wrotham, the overseers of this my will and I
13 give them for their pains three shillings and
14 fourpence a piece as recompense.
and **George Carter, the younger,** witness

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The ?? day of October in the year of our lord
god 1579 and . .
- 2 year of the reign of our sovereign lady Queen Elizabeth, I, William Wood of
Tudeley
- 3 in the county of Kent, **blacksmith**, sick in body but being of good and
perfect memory,
- 4 thanks be to god, do ordain and make this my present testament and last
will in manner
- 5 and form following: **First:** I commit my soul unto the hands of Almighty
god (my saviour
- 6 and redeemer, by whose merit, death, passion and resurrection, I trust
assuredly to . .
- 7 and my body to be buried in decent burial . .
- And for all the implements, tools and furniture belonging to my shop . .

The Woodhams of Pembury, Speldhurst and Penshurst

Four wills from before 1650 have survived for Woodham, Peter was from Speldhurst, the other three from Pembury:

	written	proved	CKS: Drb/Pwr	Drb/Pw	
John Woodham, (al.Odam)	22 Jan 1564/5	28 Jul 1565	13.184	8	page w.118
Stephen Woodham	16 Oct 1593	23 May 1594	18.322	17	page w.125
Marriane Woodham	26 Jun 1606	16 Oct 1606		20	page w.141
Peter Woodham	10 Feb 1633/4	1634	22.71		page w.146

In addition, the will of **John Woodham of Penshurst written on 1st March 1669** and proved on 4th May 1671 is included - see page w.147.

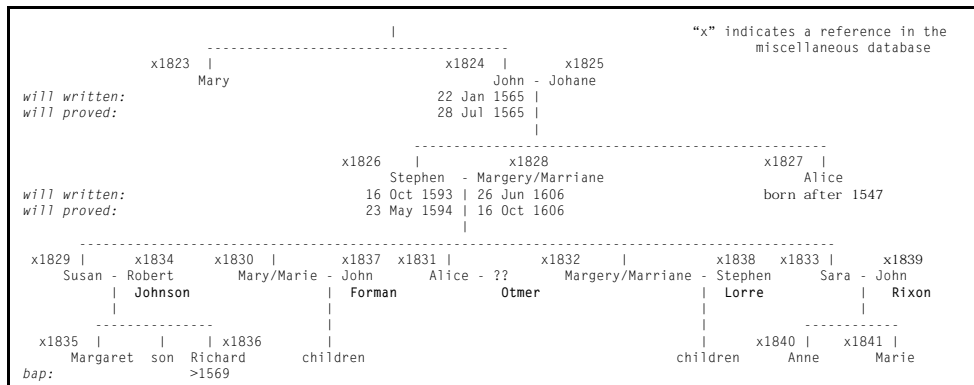
John Woodham who died in 1565 had a son Stephen and daughter Alice. Stephen could be the yeoman who wrote his will in 1593. Both John and Stephen were wealthy pastoral farmers probably making a lot of money from the wool of their sheep.

Stephen gives his wife's name as Margery and he had five daughters, Susan who was married with children and Alice, Mary, Margery and Sara, the latter two being under twenty-one when their father wrote his will. In October 1593 Susan

had at least three children so that she could not have married any later than 1588 and was likely to have been born about 1565, the year her grandfather died, perhaps a little later since John does not mention that his son was married. In 1593, Stephen left to Margaret, Susan's daughter, a ewe which was to be delivered immediately after his death but, with a mother in her late twenties, Margaret could have been only a little girl. It is unlikely that Alice and Mary were married in 1593 and, if the above reasoning about Susan's age is correct, they were only in their early to mid-twenties.

Stephen appointed his youngest and underage daughter Sara as his executrix appointing two of his friends as supervisors and overseers to act as his executors until Sara either married or reach the age of twenty-one.

Marriane, who died in 1606, was a widow with a daughter unnamed married to Richard Johnson, another also unnamed married to John Rixon and three others: Alice Otmer, Marie Forman and Marriane Lorre. Thus Margery/Marriane was Stephen's widow and it must have been Sara, John's executrix, who was married to John Rixon.



John's son Stephen was to look after his aunt Mary, providing her with sufficient of "all manner of needful things necessary as meat, drink and clothing all the time of her natural life".

Will of John Odam, (alias Woodham), of Pembury

written 22nd January 1565

transcript from original supplemented by probate copy²⁵³

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The 22 day of January in the year of our Lord
god 1564, I, John Odam otherwise alias
2 Wodam of the parish of Pepingbury in the diocese of Rochester, being sick
of body but good
3 of mind and memory, thanks be to god, do ordain this my last will and
testament in manner
4 and form following: **First:** I bequeath my soul to Almighty God and my
body to be buried
5 within the churchyard of Pepingbury aforesaid. **Item:** I bequeath to the
poor men's box 12d.
6 **Item:** I bequeath to my daughter Alice Odam at the day of her marriage, if
she be-

253 only the first seven lines can be read without the help of the probate copy

7 fore she come to the age of 18 years, or else at the age of 18 years, I will she
shall have 13s 4d
8 of lawful money²⁵⁴ and a flock²⁵⁵ bed with a bolster and a coverlet and half
a dozen of pewter, that
9 is to say, two saucers, two pewter dishes and two platters, and also a cow,
the which cow to be delivered
10 immediately after my decease. **Item:** I bequeath to **Margery Durrent** a cow
immediately after my decease. **Item:** I be-
11 queath to **Nicholas Bennett** a brass pot that was his mothers and also one
ewe to be delivered when
12 he cometh to the age of 21 years. **Item:** I bequeath to **Henry Baker** one ewe
to be delivered when he cometh
13 to the age of 16 years. **Item:** I bequeath to **Robert Cowstock** one ewe to be
delivered at the age of
14 16 years. **Item:** I bequeath to **Thomas Durrent** one ewe. Also I bequeath to
Edward Durrent one ewe to be delivered

254 the probate copy has "of England" inserted here, presumably the clerk was so used to writing the longer phrase he included it here

255 flock was wool unsuitable for spinning

15 to either²⁵⁶ of them when they come to the age of 16 years. **Item:** I give and
bequeath the rest of
16 all my moveable goods and cattle, as well within doors as without, not
given nor bequeathed,
17 indifferently to **Johane, my wife**, and to **Stephen, my son**, whom I do ordain
and make my executors
18 of this my last will and testament. Provided always that Johane, my wife,
mine executrix and
19 Steven, my son, mine executor²⁵⁷ shall pay all my debts and legacies and
shall sufficiently keep
20 **Mary, my sister**, with all manner of needful things necessary as meat, drink
and clothing
21 all the time of her natural life. Also I ordain to be mine overseer of this my
last will

256 "either" was used where current usage would be "each"

257 it is possible to see that the original has "*my son, mine executor*"

22 and testament **William Baker**²⁵⁸ and he to have for his pains above his expenses 2s.

Witnesses hereof: **George Austin, William Lever, Walter Broke and Thomas Baker**²⁵⁹

Stephen Woodham, yeoman of Pembury

Given that the assumptions made above about the age of Susan, his eldest daughter, Stephen was probably born about in the late 1530s and perhaps married soon after his father died, when he had come into his inheritance. If this is correct, he was only in his fifties when he died.

258 the will of William Baker of Pembury, written in February 1582, has survived

259 in the original, these names are written in one line without any mention of marks but are unlikely to have been signatures

Amongst a large number of household items, he left his wife a quarter²⁶⁰ of wheat and a quarter of oaten malt and enough wool to make a gown. Strangely, he made his underage youngest daughter his executrix rather than his wife. Since he provided well for her, this might not have been because he did not trust her to manage his estate but rather that he considered she would not want the responsibility of it. By leaving the management of it to the three "loving and trusty friends" whom he appointed to be his overseers, he was perhaps planning that his wife would not be worried by the responsibility and the family would be well looked after.

Like his father, Stephen left animals to members of his family, etc.:

- to his daughter Susan two yearling bullocks
- a ewe, immediately after his decease to:
 - to Susan's daughter, Margaret
 - to Stephen Otmer, the son of Henry Otmer
 - to Elizabeth, the daughter of William Harris
 - James Mernier
 - Christopher Crowder, "sometime my servant", - 2 ewes

Did the Stephen Otmer to whom Stephen left an ewe eventually marry Alice?
Thirteen years later Stephen's wife left 5s to Thomas Harris.

²⁶⁰ a quarter of a hundredweight (112 lbs), i.e. 28 lbs

Stephen's "beloved wife" Margery was to receive immediately after his decease, one of his best kyne, his "best featherbed with a joined bedstead", other furniture, linen, brass and pewter utensils, "as much of my wool now being in my house as will make her a gown, one quarter of wheat and one quarter of oaten malt".

Stephen's daughter, Margery, was to have, again immediately after his decease, a flockbed with a flock bolster and two ewes "withall her own sheep" and, lie her mother, "as much of my wool now being in my house as will make her a gown".

As long as she remained unmarried, his wife was to have three rooms in the house in which Stephen lived in Pembury. These included a parlour and an upper chamber called a garret and she was to have "full ingress, egress and regress at all times through the hall of the said message to the said several chambers or rooms . . . with like liberty at all convenient times for the using . . . of the oven in the kitchen belonging to the said message and . . . liberty to fetch water at all times in any place of the lands belonging to the said message without any denial or contradiction".

In addition, Stephen's overseers were to arrange for his wife to receive each year "four loads of fuel wood" and "twelve bushels of apples of such fruit as god shall send and shall yearly grow upon the land belonging to the said message". She

was also to have an annuity of £4 10s paid for with money from the lands and tenements bequeathed to his daughters Mary, Sara and Margery and another annuity of £1 10s to be paid by Richard Johnson from a messuage and land which he had received on marrying Stephen's daughter Susan.

If Stephen's wife remarried, she would lose the use of the rooms and all that went with them but the above annuities were to be replaced with one of £5 which was to be paid from the lands of Mary, Sara and Margery.

The arrangements for the inheritance of Stephen's land are interesting. He bequeathed to his three overseers a tenement at Rowleyhill in Pembury, together with some other lands, "for and during only the natural life of Alice, my daughter. And after her decease . . . to the eldest son of the said Alice which shall be living at the time of the decease of the said Alice and to the heirs male of her body lawfully begotten and for lack of such issue to remain to the right heirs of the body of the said Alice lawfully begotten and to their heirs for ever".

In a similar way he bequeathed to them a messuage and some land, also in Pembury, for the lifetime of his daughter Mary with it then going to her eldest son or other heir. But his capital messuage and all its lands was to go to his youngest daughter Sara directly. His other underage daughter, Margery, was also to inherit her land directly but Sara was to pay her £20 within two years of Stephen's decease, presumably because the land left to her was less valuable.

Stephen's overseers were to have the custody and education of Sara and Margery until they were twenty-one "**except they shall be bestowed in marriage before**". In order to carry out their responsibilities and pay their expenses they were to have all the issues and profits from the land left to the two girls but they had to keep an account of everything that had been spent to be delivered to Sara and Margery when they received the land for themselves.

What was the purpose behind the complex arrangements made for the land inherited by Alice and Mary? Since Stephen's overseers were presumably not much younger than Stephen himself, it is likely that Alice and Mary would have outlived them. Would the heirs of the overseers have taken over their duties?

Stephen, and his wife when she died thirteen years later, left 3s 4d for a sermon to be preached at their burials.

Will of Stephen Woodham, yeoman, of Pembury

written 16th October 1593

transcript from original

1 In the name of god Amen. The sixteenth day of October in the

2 five and thirtieth year of the Reign of our Sovereign lady
3 Queen Elizabeth etc. and in the year our lord god one
4 thousand five hundred ninety and three. I, Stephen
5 Woodham, of Pepingbury in the diocese of
6 Rochester in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being sick in body
7 but of perfect mind and remembrance (thanks be given to god) do
8 ordain and make this my testament and last will in manner and
9 form following (that is to say) **First:** I give and bequeath my
10 soul to almighty god, my Saviour and redeemer, by and through
11 whose death and passion I hope assuredly of everlasting
12 salvation and my body to be buried in the same place where it shall
13 please god to call me out of this world. **Item:** I will there shalbe²⁶¹
14 a Sermon made at my burial by some decent preacher (or very shortly
15 after) unto whom I give for his pains in that behalf 3s 4d.
16 **Item:** I will there shalbe bestowed among the poor people of
17 the said parish of Pepingbury at the day of my burial 3s 4d
18 and at Christmas then next following after 3s 4d and at
19 Christmas the next ensuing after 3s 4d. **Item:** I give and

page 2:

20 bequeath unto **Margery, my beloved wife**, one of my best kyne,

261 used sometimes for "shall be"

21 my best featherbed with a joined bedstead, 2 pairs of my best sheets
22 and all other furniture to the same belonging, a mildred tablecloth,
23 one joined cupboard with a table to the same, one brass cauldron,
24 one brass bottle, one little brass pot, four pewter platters, four
25 pewter dishes and four saucers, one of my best chests and one
26 other small chest and as much of my wool now being in my house as will
make her a gown²⁶², one quarter of wheat and one quarter of
27 oaten malt. All which I will shalbe delivered unto the said
28 Margery, my wife, immediately after my decease. **Item:** I give and
29 bequeath unto **Susan, my daughter, now the wife of Robert**
30 **Johnson**, two yearling bullocks and to **Margaret, the daughter**
31 **of the said Susan**, one ewe to be delivered immediately after my
32 decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Stephen Otmer, the**
33 **son of Henry Otmer** and to **Elizabeth, the daughter of William**
34 **Harris**, to each of them one ewe to be delivered to them immediately
35 after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Margery, my**
36 **daughter**, one flockbed with a flock bolster and two ewes to be
37 delivered likewise immediately after my decease together withall her

262 from "and as much " inserted

38 own sheep and as much of my wool now being in my house as will make
her a gown²⁶³. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **James Mernier** one
39 ewe and to **Christopher Crowder**, sometime my servant, 2 ewes to be
delivered

page 3:

40 unto them immediately after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath
41 unto **Richard Johnson, the youngest son of Richard Johnson,**
42 of Pepingbury abovesaid, twenty shillings of current money of
43 England to be paid unto him at the age of 24 years. The rest
44 of all my goods and cattells, moveable and unmoveable (not before
45 given nor bequeathed) my debts being paid, my legacies performed and
46 my funeral honestly discharged, I give and bequeath unto **Sara**
47 **Woodham, my daughter**, whom I make and ordain my sole
48 executrix of this my last will and testament to be delivered unto
49 her when she shall accomplish the age of one and twenty years or
50 the day of her marriage which shall first happen. and I
51 ordain and appoint my loving and trusty friends, **Richard Amherst, the**
younger of ??, gent.²⁶⁴, **Walt Kipping**

263 phrase from "and as much" inserted as above

264 this name inserted

52 and **William Lorkin of Tudeley** in the said county of Kent, yeoman,
53 supervisors and overseers of this my testament and last will
54 and I give to either of them for their pains therein to be taken, ten
55 shillings besides their expenses in and about the ?? of the same.

page 4:

56 This is the last will of me, the said Stephen Woodham, made and
57 declared the day and year abovesaid concerning the order and disposition
58 of all my messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments what
59 soever within the several parishes of Pepingbury, **Capel and Tonbridge**
60 or elsewhere in the said county of Kent. **First:** I will and
61 appoint that the said Margery, my wife, shall have and enjoy
62 for her dwelling, so long as she keepeth her self sole and unmarried,
63 certain rooms or chambers in the messuage or tenement wherein I now
64 dwell, situated in Pepingbury aforesaid, that is to say, three
65 chambers as the parlour wherein is a ch???ndy, and one other chamber
called
66 the long ?oste, and one upper chamber called the garret, with full
67 ingress, egress and regress at all times through the hall of
68 the said message to the said several chambers or rooms here before
69 assigned unto her with like liberty at all convenient times for the using
70 and ?? of the oven in the kitchen belonging to the said

71 message. And further that my said supervisors or overseers and the
72 survivors of them, by
73 virtue of that my last will and testament, shall have full power
74 and authority to assign and appoint unto the said Margery, my wife,
75 a convenient place for a wellsinken? near to the said message and also
yearly
to assign and appoint unto her as long as she keepeth herself sole

page 5:

76 and unmarried as aforesaid, four loads? of fuel wood to be taken upon the
lands
77 hereafter in this my present last will devised and willed unto the said
78 Sara, my daughter. And further, my will and mind is that
79 the said Margery, my wife, and her assigns (during her widowhood
80 as aforesaid) shall have liberty to fetch water at all times in any
81 place of the lands belonging to the said message without any denial
82 or contradiction. And moreover I will and appoint that my said
83 overseers and the survivors of them²⁶⁵ shall yearly deliver, or cause to be
delivered, unto the said
84 Margery, my wife, during her widowhood as aforesaid, twelve

265 "and the survivors of them" inserted (should it not have been "or ...")? There is a similar insertion on lines 229 and 236

85 bushels of apples of such fruit as god shall send and shall
86 yearly grow upon the land belonging to the said messuage. And
87 also I give and devise unto the said Margery, my wife, one annuity
88 or yearly rent of four pounds ten shillings of lawful english
89 money in manner and form following: that is to say, thirty shillings
90 yearly to be issuing out of the lands and tenements hereafter willed and
91 devised unto **Mary, my daughter**. And forty shillings yearly to be
92 issuing out of the lands and tenements hereafter willed and devised
93 to Sara, my daughter and twenty shillings yearly to be issuing
94 out of the lands and tenements hereafter willed and devised to Margery

page 6:

95 my daughter. To have and receive the same annuity or yearly rent of
96 £4 10s unto the said Margery, my wife, and her assigns so long
97 as she keepeth herself sole and unmarried, quarterly to be paid by even
98 portions,
99 the first payment thereof to be made at the next quarter day which shall
100 happen next after my decease. And that it shalbe lawful to and for the
101 said Margery, my wife and her assigns, during her widowhood as
102 aforesaid, ?? and distrain at every quarter day of payment, or at any time
after, in those
lands and tenements where the said annuity or rent shalbe behind

103 or unpaid, for the arrearage of the said annuity then being behind and
unpaid²⁶⁶, and the distresses there so taken lawfully to lead, drive
104 and carry away and the same to detain and keep until she be paid
105 the said annuity or yearly rent, fully satisfied, contented and paid
106 with th'arrearages thereof ?? owing as shalbe behind. And further, I will
107 and appoint that the said Margery, my wife, shall have paid unto her yearly
and quarterly during
108 her widowhood as aforesaid (besides the said annuity of £4 10s
109 here before assigned and devised unto her) towards her maintenance and
110 living, thirty shillings of lawful english money to be issuing out
111 of that messuage and lands thereto belonging now in the occupation of
112 **Edward Durrant** or his assigns situated in Pepingbury aforesaid. The
113 which said messuage and lands I gave unto the said Richard Johnson in

page 7:

114 marriage with the said Susan, my daughter, in discharging of my wife's
115 widowright or dowry. And if the said 30s be not well and
116 truly paid unto the said Margery, my wife or her assigns, according to
117 the true intent and meaning of this my last will, that then
118 I will that the said Margery, my wife, if she shall so think good
119 shall claim and demand such dowry and widowright out of the

266 this phrase inserted

120 same message and lands as the laws of this realm will allow
121 unto her. **Item:** I devise, give and bequeath unto the foresaid Richard
Amherst,
122 Walt Kipping
123 and William Lorkin, my said overseers and trusty friends, my tenement
124 at **Rowleyhill** in Pepingbury aforesaid withall the lands to the same
125 belonging the which I lately purchased to me and mine heirs of **Edmond**
126 **Willard** of Tonbridge in the said county of Kent bought, also with
127 one meadow plot called **Rowleymeade** and one parcel of land
128 called the **Uppercroft** and a little parcel of land to the same
129 belonging called **Collep** being and lying at Rowleyhill aforesaid.
130 To have and to hold the said tenement and parcels of land aforesaid
131 with th'appurtenances unto the said Richard Amherst, Walt Kipping
132 and William Lorkin and the survivor of them, for and during only the
133 natural life of **Alice, my daughter**. And after her decease I will and
134 devise the said tenement and lands unto the eldest son of the said Alice
135 which shalbe living at the time of the decease of the said Alice and to the
heirs
136 male of her body lawfully begotten and for lack of such issue
137 to remain to the right heirs

page 8:

138 of the body of the said Alice lawfully begotten and to their heirs for ever.

139 And also I give and devise unto the foresaid Richard Amherst,
140 Walt Kipping and William Lorkin, the messuage or tenement
141 withall the lands to the same belonging, now in the occupation of
142 **Augustine Herman** or his assigns, situated in Pepingbury
143 aforesaid. To have and to hold the said messuage or tenement with
144 all the lands to the same belonging with th'appurtenances unto the
foresaid
145 Richard Amherst, Walt Kipping and William Lorkyn and the
146 survivor of them for and during the natural life of the foresaid
147 Mary and, after her decease, I will and devise the same messuage or
148 tenement and lands unto the eldest son of the said Mary which
149 shalbe living at the time of her decease of the said Mary
150 and the heirs male of her body lawfully begotten. And for
151 lack of such issue to remain to the right heirs of the
152 body of the said Mary lawfully begotten and to their heirs forever.
153 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto Sara, my daughter, my capital
154 messuage or tenement wherein I now dwell together withall
155 the barns, ?? , orchards, stables? and other
156 edifices to the same belonging. Also all the lands, meadows and
157 pastures with th'appurtenances lying and being in Pepingbury
158 aforesaid ?? ?? following, that is to say,
159 ?? ?? ?? **Pollet gate**, to

page 9:

160 Capell towards the north, to the lands of the heirs of **John Mills**
161 towards the east, to the tenement and lands called **Mitchells** and
162 ?ileshis ?? lands called the **Hothes**, to the parsonage lands
163 of Pepingbury aforesaid towards the east and south and
164 to the lands late ²⁶⁷ ??, now the heirs of **John Harrison**
165 towards the west as the ?? and bonds do devise and show.
166 To have and to hold the same messuage or tenement withall
167 and singular the said lands, meadows and ?? (within the boundaries
168 aforesaid with th'appurtenances) unto the said Sara, my daughter,
169 for and during her natural life and after her decease to th'eldest
170 heir male of her body lawfully begotten and to the heirs male of
171 her body lawfully begotten and for lack of such issue male
172 to the right heirs of the body of the said Sara,
173 my daughter lawfully begotten and their heirs forever. **Item:** I give and
bequeath
174 unto Margery, my daughter, one orchard called **Criwher? Garden**
175 lying in Pepingbury aforesaid and two parcels of land called **Denne**
176 ?? lying in Pepingbury and Tudeley aforesaid. And one piece of
177 land called ?? field and one other piece of land called **Eldermhall**

²⁶⁷ space left here, this often meant the scribe left room to add a name, etc. when the will was read and declared

page 10:

178 together with one little garden plot called **Corkeshill Garden** lying in
Tudeley aforesaid (or by whatever other
179 name or names by which the same, or any of them be now called or
known)
180 containing in the whole by estimation ²⁶⁸ acres
181 (more or less). To have and to hold the said parcels of land last
182 remembered²⁶⁹ with th'appurtenances unto the said Margery, my daughter,
for
183 and during her natural life and after her decease to th'eldest heir
184 male of her body lawfully begotten and to the heirs male of his
185 body lawfully begotten. And for lack of such issue to the right
186 heirs of the body of the said Margery lawfully begotten and their heirs for
ever.
187 And further I will and devise that the said Sara, my daughter,
188 (or my said overseers or one of them in her behalf) shall well and truly pay,
or
189 cause to be paid, unto my said daughter Margery the sum of twenty
190 pounds of lawful english money within two years next after my

268 space left for number which was never entered

269 "mentioned" or similar would be expected here but the word used is definitely "remembered"

191 decease. And if ?? the said £20 is not paid unto the said Margery
192 as abovesaid, that then I will and devise that the said Margery,
193 my daughter, shall have and ?? her and her assigns in lieu
194 thereof two years profits then next following the said two years next after
my decease of all and singular the lands and tenements
195 with th'appurtenances the which I have before devised unto the said Sara,
196 my daughter, being by her received and paying the lords rent yearly
issuing

page 11:

197 out of the same, saving and excepting unto the said Margery, my wife,
198 all such benefit and commodity issuing out of the same as I have
199 devised and given unto her in manner and form aforesaid²⁷⁰. Provided
200 nevertheless, and my will is, that if the said Margery, my wife,
201 at any time after my decease do claim ?? ?? ??
202 any dower or widowright out of all or any of my said lands and
203 tenements other than the said annuity of £4 10s and other than
204 the said yearly payment of thirty shillings out of the said messuage
205 and lands in the occupation of the said Edward Durrant or his assigns
206 and in default of payment of the said thirty shillings yearly (?? ??

270 that is, if Margery did not receive her £20 she was to receive the profits from the land, etc. left to Sara after the lord's rent and their mother's annuity, etc. had been paid.

207 as by the right of the common laws of the realm she may claim out
208 of the same), that then and from thenceforth, and at all times
209 after, the said yearly annuity to her devised as aforesaid shalbe frustrated
??
210 and of non effect in the law, nothing herein mentioned or expressed
211 to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding. And if it shall fortune
212 the said Margery, my wife, do marry at any time after my decease by
213 reason whereof she shall loose the benefit of that which I have
214 devised unto her out of my said lands and tenements, yet my very

page 12:

215 will and mind is that the said Mary, Sara and Margery, my daughters,
216 their heirs, executors or assigns, shall yearly by four equal payments during
217 the natural life of the said Margery, my wife, quarterly pay, or cause to be
218 paid, unto her or her assigns one annuity or yearly rent of five pounds
219 of lawful english money to be issuing out of their lands and tenements
220 before willed and devised unto them, that is to say every of them thirty
221 three shillings four pence by even portions. And for none payment thereof
222 that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Margery, my wife,
223 or her assigns during her natural life, to enter and distrain at every quarter
day of payment or at any time afterwards,
224 in those lands and tenements whereof the said annuity or rent shalbe
225 behind and unpaid and the distresses thereof taken lawfully to lead, drive

226 and carry away and the same to distrain until she be of the same
227 fully satisfied and paid according to the true intent and meaning of
228 this my last will. And further I will and appoint that my said
229 overseers, and survivors of them, shall have the custody and education of
Sara and
230 Margery, my said daughters, until they shall accomplish and be of the age
231 of 21 years except they shalbe bestowed in marriage before. And also
232 shall receive expenses and take for them and to their use all the issues and
233 profits of those lands and tenements to them severally by me devised

page 13:

234 as aforesaid until they accomplish the said age of 21 years or be bestowed
235 in marriage as aforesaid. And then my will and mind is that my several
236 overseers, or survivors of them, shall make and yield a ?? account unto my
said two
237 daughters, Sara and Margery, of all such issues and profits and
238 other things as shall appertain unto them, or any of them, by reason of
239 this my last will and testament, deducting and allowing reasonably
240 out of the sums ?? for their education as also for such annuities
241 and other duties as shalbe due and payable out of the said
242 lands and tenements b reason of this my said last will and testament.
243 In witness whereof I have set my hand and seal
244 the day and year abovesaid. In the presence of

Richard Amherst, th'elder
Richard Johnson, sen.

The mark
of the said
Stephen Wodham

the mark
of the said ²⁷¹
Richard Amherst

Richard Johnson, ye younger²⁷²

Marriane Woodham, widow of Stephen

It is from the will of Stephen's wife, Margery (or Marriane as she had become in her will) that we learn that her four younger daughters had all married. She left all her household stuff and apparel to be equally divided between the three middle daughters, Alice Otmer, Marie Forman, Marriane Lorre.

²⁷¹ a vertical cross

²⁷² looks like a signature; there are two other names at the bottom of the will which are unreadable but could be signatures

The residue was left to the husbands of the Susan and Sara who were appointed executors but with the proviso that after her funeral charges, debts and legacies had ben paid "**and all other things that of right ought to be done**", they were "**with the consent of John Jeffries, my neighbour, whom I make my overseer**", to give to such of the "**children of themselves and Alice, my daughter, and to such of the children of Stephen Lorre and Marriane, my daughter**" (that is her grandchildren) such goods and at such time "**as they shall think fit and convenient**".

Will of Marriane Woodham, widow, of Pembury

written 26th June 1606

transcript from original

1 In the name of god Amen. The 26th of June in the year of our lord
2 god 1606, I, Marriane Woodham, of Pembury, widow, being sick in body
3 but of perfect memory, thanks be to god, do ordain this my last
4 will and testament. **First:** I bequeath my soul to almighty god and to
5 Jesus Christ, my only saviour and Redeemer. And concerning all
6 my transitory goods, **Item:** I give to a learned preacher for one
7 sermon to be preached at my burial 3s 4d. **Item:** I give
8 unto the poor of the parish of Pembury 6s 8d to be distributed
9 presently after my burial. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Agnes Durrant**
10 one brass pot. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Dootes Hautes, my**

11 **servant**, one apron, one ?? and one ??²⁷³. **Item:** I
12 give and bequeath unto **Elizabeth ??**, one joined box with a frame. **Item:**
13 I give unto **Thomas Harris** 5s. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **John Forman**
14 5s ?? three the **children of my daughter Marie**. **Item:** I give and bequeath
15 unto **my godson, one of Robert Johnson's sons**, 5s and to all the rest of
16 Robert Johnson's children 12d a piece ?? or now living. **Item:** I give and
bequeath unto
17 **Ann Rixon and Marie Rixon**, to either of them 5s. **Item:** I give and
18 bequeath unto **Alice Otmer, Marie Forman, Marriane Lorre, three of my**
19 **daughters**, all my household stuff and apparel equally to be divided by my
20 executors and overseer hereafter named. The residue of all my goods
21 and chattels, my funeral being discharged and my debts and
22 legacies being paid and all other things that of right ought to be
23 done, I give and bequeath unto **Robert Johnson and John Rixon,**
24 **two of my sons-in-law**, whom I make and ordain my whole
25 executors upon condition and in trust that they, or one of them, shall,
26 with the consent of **John Jeffries, my neighbour**, whom I make my
overseer,
27 give and bestow such goods as shalbe ?? in their hands to such of
28 the children of themselves and Alice, my daughter, and to such of the
children

273 these words look like "netetcher" and "forcher"

29 of **Stephen Lorre** and Marriane, my daughter, to either of them so much
and
30 at such time or times as they shall think fit and convenient.

Read and sealed in the presence of
John Hearman?

bottom of will not survived

Peter Woodham of Speldhurst and John Woodham of Penshurst

There is no obvious connection between the Woodhams of Pembury and those of Speldhurst and Penshurst. There does, however, seem to be some connection between Peter of Speldhurst and John of Penshurst. Peter made his daughter Susan and her husband executors of his will rather than his sons. He does not mention any land and was probably not as well off as the other Woodham families.

		x1342	Peter -		"x" indicates a reference
will:		10 Feb	1633/4		in the miscellaneous database
proved:			1634		

x1844	x1845	x1846	x1848	x1847	x1849
John	Thomas	Mary -	William Ashem	Susan -	Thomas Mate

John Woodham of Penshurst had a goddaughter Jane Mates when he wrote his will in 1669; Jane could have been Susan's daughter. He also described Mary Ashem as his kinswoman but, since there was thirty-five years between the writing of these two wills, Mary is more likely to have been Peter's granddaughter

than his daughter. The following tree includes details from the Penshurst parish register as well as John's will; no burial was recorded for John in Penshurst.

"p" indicates a reference in the Penshurst database																		
will:	p1088		John - Jane		p1089													
	1 Mar 1669																	

	p1090		p1091		p1092		p1093		p1094		p1095		p1096		p1100			
	John		Amas ¹		Thomas ²		John		Thomas ³		-		William		Susan ⁴	-	David	
bap:			3 Apr 1633		23 Feb 1636		25 Mar 1637		6 Apr 1640				15 Jan 1643		9 Dec 1644			Hammond
bur:	14 Feb 1636		14 Feb 1636															

									p1098			p1099			p1101			p1102
bap:									Ann		John				John		Anne	
									29 May 1666		24 Mar 1668							

Elizabeth, daughter of John and Elizabeth, was baptised on 28th June 1678.
 Martha, daughter of John and Elizabeth, was baptised on 15th February 1691/2.
 William, son of John Woodham of Penshurst, yeoman, was baptised on 8th November 1698 having been born on 24th September.

- 1 Amas (daughter) when baptised, Ann when buried
- 2 since another son was baptised "Thomas" in 1640, this Thomas most likely died and, since John was baptised only thirteen months later he probably died very young
- 3 Thomas and Elizabeth Woodham had two children baptised in Penshurst; John in his will does not say who was the father of his grandchild John Woodham but it was presumably Thomas and this would explain why his property was left to his eldest son John only for his life and then to the grandson
- 4 Susan Woodham married David Hammond on 27th June 1665 when she would have been twenty; no children were baptised in Penshurst but they could have lived elsewhere

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 The tenth day of February 1633, I, Peter Woodham
3 of the parish of Speldhurst in the county of Kent,
4 **farmer**, being aged and sickly in body but of good
5 and perfect remembrance, thanks be given to Almighty
6 God, I do make this last will and testament
7 in manner and form following: **First** and principally
8 I give and bequeath my soul unto Almighty
9 God and my body to the earth. **Item:** I give unto
10 **John Woodham, my eldest son**, twenty shillings
11 lawful money to be paid by my executor hereafter
12 named within six months after my decease.
13 **Item:** I give unto **Thomas Woodham, my son**,
14 twenty-five shillings lawful money to be paid within
15 one year after my decease. **Item:** I give unto
16 **Mary, my daughter, the wife of William Ashem**
17 **als. Jenshen**, ten shillings lawful money to be paid
18 within one year and a half after my decease and
19 ?? The residue of my goods and

20 cattell, ?? and chattels, I wholly give and
21 bequeath unto **Thomas Mate, my son-in-law**
22 and **Susan, my daughter**, whom I do make
23 executors of this my last will and testament,
24 to see my debts and legacies truly paid and my
25 body decently buried. In witness whereof I,
26 the said Peter Woodham, have hereunto set
27 my hand and seal in the presence of **Robert**
28 ?? ?? Robert ?? **Peester Woodham**²⁷⁸

Will of John Woodham, yeoman, of Penshurst

written 1st March 1669

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 The first day of March in the year of our lord one thousand six
3 hundred sixty and nine, I, John Woodham of Penshurst in the
4 county of Kent th'elder, yeoman, being of sound and perfect memory
5 do make, ordain and declare this my last will and testament in manner
6 and form following: **Imprimis** I give and bequeath my soul to God,

²⁷⁸ was this how Peter spelled his name or was this a witness?

7 my creator through the mercies of Jesus Christ, my only saviour,
8 my body to be buried in the earth at the discretion of my executors.
9 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto the poor people of Penshurst aforesaid
10 twenty shillings to be distributed amongst them by the discretion of my
11 executors within three months next after my decease. **Item:** I give
12 and bequeath unto the poor people of the parish of **Ashurst** the sum
13 of ten shillings to be likewise distributed amongst them within three
14 months next after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto the
15 poor people of **Speldhurst** the sum of ten shillings to be likewise
16 distributed amongst them within three months next after my
17 decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my daughter Susan now**
18 **wife of David Hammond**, the sum of forty shillings to be paid to her
19 within one year next after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath
20 to **John Hammond, my grandchild, son of the said David Hammond**,
21 the sum of twenty pounds to be paid to my overseer of this my will
22 hereafter named within one year next after my decease. And to my
23 **grandchild Anne Hammond** the sum of ten pounds to be paid within
24 one year and a half next after my decease for the use of my said grand-
25 children. And I desire my said overseers to make the best use of it they can.
26 And to put the same upon good security for my said grandchild's
27 use and benefit until mu said grandchild, John Hammond, shall accom-
28 plish his full age of one and twenty years. And then to pay the said
29 sum of twenty pounds, and all the profits thereof, to him my said

30 grandson John Hammond. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto my **god-**
31 **daughter, Jane Mates**, the sum of twenty shillings to be paid to her
32 within one year next after my decease. And my will and meaning is
33 and I do will, devise and appoint that one iron slate, one joined
34 bedstead, one settle and one table with the frame and trestles shall
35 forever remain and be in my now dwelling house where they now are
36 and be appurtenances and standard to and in that same one message.
And I do
37 will and appoint that my executors shall permit and suffer **Jane, my**

page 2:

38 **loving wife**, to have, hold, possess and enjoy all other my household
39 stuff and utensils of household which at the time of my decease shall
40 remain or be in or about my now dwelling house, with th'appurtenances
41 for and during the term of her natural life. . .
42 . And after the decease of my said wife, I give all the said house=
43 hold stuff and utensils of household unto **my son Thomas Wood=**
44 **ham** for ever. And I give and bequeath unto **Mary Ashem, my**
45 **kinswoman**, the sum of ten shillings to be paid her within one year
46 next after my decease. All the residue of my goods, chattels and perso=
47 nal estate, my debts, legacies and funeral charges being paid, I give
48 and bequeath unto **my sons John Woodham and Thomas Woodham.**
49 And I do constitute, ordain and make them, my said sons John

50 Woodham and Thomas Woodham, executors of this my last will and tes=
51 tament. And I do devise, constitute and appoint **my loving friends,**
52 **Robert Turner of Withiham** and **Richard Constable of Groombridge**, to
53 be overseers of this my last will and testament.

54 This is also the last will and testament of me, the said John
55 Woodham, made, declared and ordained the day and year above written,
56 of, for, touching and concerning my messuages, lands and tenements.
57 **Imprimis** I give, will and devise unto **John Woodham, my grandchild,**
58 one annuity or yearly rent of five pounds of lawful money of England
59 for and during the term of the natural life of my said grandchild,
60 John Woodham. To be issuing and going and to be had and received and
61 taken out of and in all, every or any my messuage or tenement called
62 **Styne ??** in Penshurst aforesaid. And all the land ?? or by
63 this my will and testament I do, or shall, give, will, devise or appoint
64 to my son John for and during the term of the natural life of
65 my said son John Woodham. And to be paid at or upon the feast

.
.
80 . . . I give and devise to Thomas Woodham,
81 my son, and to his heirs and assigns forever, all my messuage and
82 tenement wherein I now dwell in Penshurst aforesaid. And all the
gardens,

83 orchard, closes, buildings and land with the appurtenances to the said
messuage
84 or tenement taken, reputed or ?? ?? or appertaining or there
85 withal used, held, purchased or enjoyed. And also one other piece or
parcel
86 of land with th'appurtenances called or known by the name of **Cornfield?**
87 in Penshurst aforesaid, late the land of **John Hart**, deceased. And my will
88 and meaning is and I do will, give and devise to my said son Thomas
89 Woodham, and his heirs and assigns, full power, authority, leave and

page 3:

90 liberty at all, any and every seasonable and fitting time and times
91 in the year, forever, to have, dig, take and carry away all and as much
92 marl as my said son Thomas, his heirs and assigns, shall please or
93 think fit in and out of and from one parcel of land called the **Marl pit**
94 **Field** being parcel of the land which in or by this my will I do or shall
devise
95 or give to my son John Woodham in Penshurst aforesaid. To be employed
96 and bestowed in or upon some or any part or parcel of the lands in or by
97 this my will given or devised to him, my said son Thomas Woodham, as
98 aforesaid. And also to and for my son Thomas Woodham, his heirs and
99 assigns, forever, to have, take and carry away any water in, out of and from
100 the close and backside at or of **Stone Cross House** in Penshurst aforesaid,

101 to be spent, used and employed for necessary uses in or at the said
dwelling
102 house of me in Penshurst aforesaid. **Item:** I give and devise to my son
103 John Woodham, for and during the term of his natural life, one messuage
104 or tenement called or known by the name of **Stone Cross House** in
105 Penshurst aforesaid, by me purchased of John Hart, deceased. And all the
106 buildings, barns, gardens, orchards, closes and land with th'appurtenances
107 to the said messuage or tenement taken, reputed or esteemed to belong or
108 appertain or therewith used, held, purchased or enjoyed, except the said
109 parcel of land called **Soonefield** charged and chargeable as in and by
110 this my will is ?? And after the decease of the said John Woodham
111 my son, I will, give and devise all the said messuage or tenement called
112 or known by the name of Stone Cross House, and all the said barns,
113 buildings, lands and tenements and premises therewith held, purchased
114 or enjoyed except the said parcel of land call Soonefield, unto my
115 said grandchild John Woodham and to the heirs and assigns of my
116 said grandchild John Woodham forever. In witness whereof I, the said
117 John Woodham, to this my last will and testament have put my hand
118 and seal the day and year first above written. John Woodham, senior, his
119 mark. Acknowledged, published and declared by the above named John
120 Woodham, the testator, to be his last will and testament. And by him sealed
121 and delivered in the presence of us **Thomas Weller, Robert Turner,**
122 **Rich. Constable**

The Woods/Woody of Tonbridge

Three wills have survived for Woods/Woody of Tonbridge:

William Wood	1st Jun 1627	CKS: Drb/Pw 27; Drb/Pwr 21.278	page w.154
Mary Wood	20th Apr 1629	PCC: Ridley 46	
Anne Woody	10th Aug 1638	PCC: Lee 135; Prob 10/579	page w.156

Only the beginning of the will of Mary Wood, widow, has been investigated; it was not written by a Hooper:

"I bequeath my soul unto Almighty god, my maker and redeemer, trusting to be saved by the merits and passion of our saviour, Christ, and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Tonbridge or elsewhere as shall please God".

witnesses: **John Harris, George Brookes, William Dryver.**

Even though in her will the name given is "Woody" Anne could have been William's widow and this is how she is shown on the tree given below. She has also been indexed as Anne Wood.

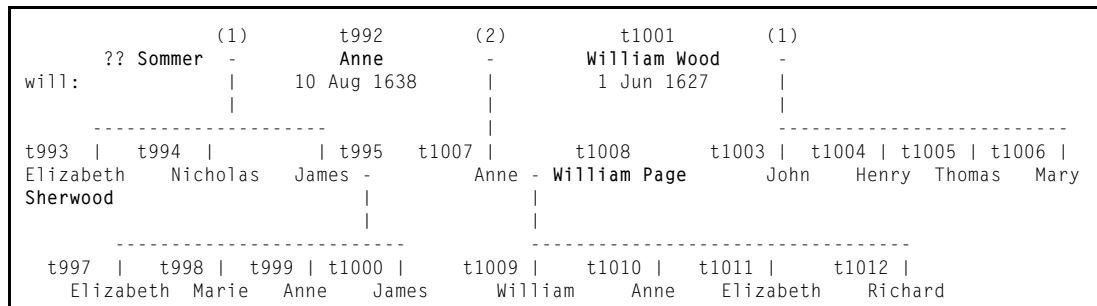
This will is most unusual in that, although nuncupative, it mentions the deceased person's soul and specifies what is to be done with the body. The name of William's wife was Anne so that it is possible that William was the husband of the widow of 1638.

June the first 1627

1 The last will and testament of William
2 Wood, late deceased. **First:** his soul into the hands of
3 Almighty god and his body to the earth; his goods, cattles
4 and chattels to be disposed in manner and form following:
5 that **his wife, Ann Wood,** and his **two sons John** and
6 **Henry** should be joint executors for payment of his debts
7 and the equal enjoyment of the residue of all the rest
8 of his goods. Next that **his other son, Thomas Wood, Mary**
9 and **Ann Wood, daughters** to the said William should have
10 twenty shillings a piece at the death of the forenamed
11 Ann, his wife. In the presence and hearing of ?? **Rogers,**
12 **Edward Willard,** by me **Thomas Tarry, writer.**

Anne Woody, widow of Tonbridge

If Anne was William's widow, their family tree could be on the lines shown below, the twelve years between the two wills being sufficient for their daughter Anne to have married and had four children.



Nicholas could have been the son of either husband but William does not mention him. Anne appointed her daughter Anne her executrix and it was she who proved the will

Anne's will was written by John Hooper, notary public and parish clerk of Tonbridge, who was 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. The end of

the will is damaged but John Hooper's signature can be seen at the bottom. There is no decoration and the writing of some words, for example, "God Amen" are very different from those in other wills. Others, however, are identical with the same phrase in different wills written by John Hooper, for example, "[my goods and chattells](#)" here and in the will of Richard Hatch.

Will of Anne Woody of Tonbridge

written 10th August 1638

transcript from original

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The tenth day of August Anno Dom. 1638 I,
Anne
2 Woody of Tonbridge in the county of Kent, widow, being sick in body but
of
3 good and perfect remembrance, thanks be given to God, do make and
ordain this
4 my last will and testament in manner and form following: **First:** I give and
bequeath my
5 soul into the hands of Almighty god, my maker and redeemer, by whose
6 precious death and passion I hope to be saved and my body to be buried in
the
7 churchyard of Tonbridge aforesaid. **Item:** I will to **Elizabeth Sherwood,**

8 **my daughter**, one shilling. **Item:** I will to **James Sommer**, **my son**, fourty
shillings.
9 **Item:** I will to **Elizabeth Sommer**, his eldest daughter, forty shillings, to
Marie
10 **Sommer**, **Anne Sommer** and **James Sommer**, the other children of the said
James
11 **Sommer**, twenty shillings a piece. **Item:** I will to **William Page**, son of
William Page²⁷⁹,
12 **my son-in-law**, three pounds. And the feather bed, three blankets, one
bolster, one coverlet
13 and one pillow which is at the **schoolhouse in Tonbridge**. **Item:** I will more
to the said
14 **William Page**, the son, one cauldron and also one iron pot, if **Nicholas my**
son, cometh
15 not to demand the said pot which pot, else I give to the said Nicholas.
Item: I will to **Anne, Elizabeth and Richard**, the three
16 other children of the said **William Page**, my son-in-law, twenty shillings a
piece.
17 **Item:** I will to the wife of **Thomas Chambers of Tonbridge** two shillings and
six pence

279 there were a large number of Pages in Shipbourne but no William

18 to be paid presently after my decease. And all the other legacies within
two years

19 next after my decease.

20 The residue and all other my goods and chattells I will and give to **Anne**
21 **Page, my daughter**, whom I make the full and sole executrix of this my ??
22 and last will.

The mark of the said Anne Woody

Subscribed, published and
declared in the presence of

??

Thomas Chambers

John P Pigott

John Hooper ??

January 16 Anno Domini 1633

1 Thomas Woody late of Cobham, deceased, by a nuncupative
2 will did bequeath unto **his son John** one fowling
3 piece and all the rest of his goods he gave unto his wife
4 Johanna? whom he made hos sole executrix of this his last
5 will and testament in the presence of us whose names
6 are underwritten.

Reynold Trigg his mark

Thomas L ?ease

William Hooper²⁸⁰

²⁸⁰ it is not known if William was one of the Hooper family of scriptors but the name "William" has not been met with elsewhere

This will was written by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618. "Old Thomas Wright" was buried on 3rd August 1608. No other wills for Wrights of Tonbridge have survived.

Thomas Wright had held a mortgage of Christopher Badner of Lenham, glover, for three parcels of land and woods in Lenham totalling 16 acres for £65 taken out on 20th September 1603. This should have been paid in the autumn of 1607 so that it appeared that the three parcels of land and wood were forfeited to Thomas. Thus he gave them "together with the said deed and bond thereupon made, and all my forfeiture and all other my demands out of and in the same unto the said Johane, my wellbeloved wife, her heirs and assigns for ever".

But Thomas was lenient to the mortgagor. If Christopher Badner (or his heirs, executors or assigns) paid the £65 "such money as shalbe due for the rent of the same parcels" to Johane within a year after his decease then Johane was to "redeliver the said deed and bond and make a release or deed of the same land and wood to the said Christopher . . the said Christopher or his heirs paying and bearing not only the charges of the said release or deed but also all the expenses and charges that my said wife shall be at . . then I will that the said

Christopher Badner shall enjoy the said parcels of land and wood . . to him and to his assigns for ever".

1 In the name of god Amen. The
2 eight and twentieth day of June in the year of our lord god one thousand,
six hundred and eight and
3 in the sixth year of the reign of our sovereign lord James, by the grace of
God, king of England,
4 France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. and of Scotland the one and
forty. I, Thomas
5 Wright of Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **saddletree maker**, being sickly
and very weak in body
6 but of sound and perfect remembrance, thanks therefore be given to the
Lord, and willing to set in
7 order such small possessions which god hath made me steward of that no
contention fall out
8 about the same after my decease, Therefore I do ordain and make this my
present last will and
9 testament in manner and form following, that is to say, **First** and
principally I commend
10 and bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God who gave it,
trusting by an assured

11 faith in the merits of his dear son Christ Jesus that the same shalbe
preferred and made
12 partaker of his everlasting kingdom. And my body to the earth from
whence it came to be buried
13 in such honest sort and manner as it shall please mine executrix hereafter
named. **Item:** I will if
14 it happen that I die in the parish of Tonbridge in the time of **Mr.**
Stockwood's life that
15 he shall have five shillings to make some godly exhortation at my burial
paid by mine executrix.
16 **Item:** I give and forgive unto **Thomas Blundell and Elizabeth, his wife,** the
sum of five pounds of
17 lawful money which he oweth me and it in his hands now at the making of
this my will. **Item:**
18 I give and bequeath to **James Bright of Wrotham, my kinsman,** ten pounds
of lawful money
19 to be paid to him within one half year next after my decease. **Item:** I give
and bequeath to **Helen**
20 **Barnard** forty shillings to be paid within half a year next after my decease.
Item: I give and

21 bequeath to **Julyan now the wife of** ²⁸¹ **Crowherst** forty shillings of like
money to be
22 paid her in like manner. **Item:** I give and bequeath to the **three children of**
the said Helen Barnard,
23 that is to say **Mathew, Christopher and Susan,** to every of them forty
shillings to be paid to
24 every of them within two years next after my decease. The residue of all
my goods, cattells,
25 debts, bonds, bills, specialities and chattels and all other my moveable
goods whatsoever, I
26 wholly, fully and with good effect, intent and purpose give and bequeath
unto **Johane, now my wellbeloved**
27 **wife** which Johane, my wife, I make and ordain my whole and sole
executrix of this my will to see my
28 debts and legacies paid, this my will proved and performed and my body
honestly and decently
29 buried. This is the last will of me, the said Thomas Wright, made and
declared the day and year

²⁸¹ space left here; presumably a space was left here when the will was initially written so that the first name could be entered

30 first above written touching a mortgage which I have in **Lenham**²⁸² of
certain lands there.

31 **Item:** whereas I hold in mortgage of one **Christopher Badner of Lenham,**
32 **glover,** three pieces or parcels
of land and woods called **Upper Westkyn** containing in the whole by
estimation sixteen acres for
33 the sum of threescore and five pounds which should have been paid upon
the feast day of
34 Saint Michael in the year of our lord god one thousand six hundred and
seven as by a deed
35 thereof made bearing date the six and twentieth day of September in the
first year of the
36 reign of our sovereign lord king James and a bond of one hundred and
twenty pounds
37 thereupon made, it may appear which said three parcels of land and wood
are forfeited
38 by virtue of the same deed to me the said Thomas Wright and mine heirs
for ever. I give
39 and bequeath all the said three parcels of land and woods withall and
singular th'appurtenances,

²⁸² about sixteen miles east of Tonbridge, halfway between Maidstone and Ashford

40 together with the said deed and bond thereupon made, and all my
forfeiture and all other
41 my demands out of and in the same unto the said Johane, my wellbeloved
wife, her heirs and
42 assigns for ever. Notwithstanding my will and meaning is that if the said
Christopher Badner,
43 or his heirs, executors or assigns, the said sum of threescore and five
pounds of lawful money with
44 such money as shalbe due for the rent of the same parcels. And at or the
dwelling house
45 of my said wife where she shall happen to dwell, at any time within one
whole year next
46 after my decease, giving my said wife one month's warning before for the
payment thereof,
47 then my said wife (upon the payment thereof) shall redeliver the said deed
and bond
48 and make a release or deed of the same land and wood to the said
Christopher to hold to him and
49 his heirs being required thereunto ?? the said Christopher or his heirs
paying and bearing
50 not only the charges of the said release or deed but also all the expenses
and charges that

51 my said wife shalbe at it, any travail or otherwise about the finishing of the
said release
52 or deed which release or deed shall contain warranty only against the said
Johane and
53 her heirs and all other claiming by or under her. And then I will that the
said Christopher Badner
54 shall enjoy the said parcels of land and wood with all and singular
th'appurtenances to him and
55 to his assigns for ever. In witness whereof to this my present last will I
have
56 set my hand and seal. And I do hereby revoke all other wills whatsoever by
heretofore
57 made and I do allow and approve this my will to be my true and last will
yeven the day
58 and year first above written. Signed Thomas Wright, sealed and
acknowledged to be the
59 true and last will of the abovesaid Thomas Wright the day and year first
above written
60 In the presence of **Nicholas Farmer, Thomas Walter and Nicholas Hooper,**
writer hereof.
61 Signed Thomas Walter.

Z

This section includes a number of general documents.

Excerpts from Ightham Court Rolls

page z.2

The Knole Manuscript - Men of Seal, 1648

page z.64

Excerpts from Ightham Court Rolls

In the paper "*The Court Rolls and Other Records of the Manor of Ightham*", Archaeologia Cantiana, Volume 48, 1937 and Volume 49, 1938, Sir Edward Harrison gives items some of which relate to people identified from the parish records. These items are generally given in the individual family documents but, whilst the Court Rolls cover a number of periods between 1425 and 1707, generally only those items between 1560 and 1640 have been included in the family documents.

At least some records have survived for six periods: 1425-6, 1461-75, 1490-1508, 1553-74, 1586-1618 and 1697-1707. The parish registers cover all of the fifth period and the later two-thirds of the fourth.

Although Harrison does not give details of all items in these periods, he lists all the names mentioned in each. Even for the period 1586-1618, there are some names which appear in the Court Records but not in the parish registers and vice versa. In some cases this would be expected; some people would have stayed only a relatively short time in the village and, whilst during that period may have come before the Courts for one or more reasons, might not have had a child baptised in that time and may have moved elsewhere before dying. In other

- g) Ways and Bridges - The records contain references to ancient ways and bridges which can still be identified - see **Balden, Cripps, Gunning, Hawke, Skinner, Woodie**
- | | | |
|----|---|-----------|
| h) | Encroachments and Nuisances Affecting Highways | page z.11 |
| i) | Ightham Sand | page z.12 |
| | The Digging of Sand | page z.13 |
| j) | Ightham Common | page z.14 |
| | Taking the Lord's Wood | page z.15 |
| | To be put in the Stocks or Not | page z.17 |
| k) | Trespass, Encroachment, Obstruction, Neglect and the Like | page z.19 |
| | Small Fines Ineffective | page z.19 |
| | Neglect of a Fence | page z.20 |
| | A Poor Widow in Need of Wood | page z.20 |
| | John Haberdejoh | page z.21 |
- l) Poaching - All the cases given under this heading, which are for rabbit poaching, are for the period 1492 to 1506.

m)	Breakers of the Peace	page z.22
	Thomas Castleton	page z.23
	Robert Averill	page z.24
	Richard Mathew	page z.24
	William Willmott, yeoman	page z.25
	Simon, gardener	page z.26
n)	Public Duties and the Public Welfare	page z.27
	The Assize of Bread and Ale	page z.27
	Fines for not Exhibiting the Sign of a Brewer	page z.28
	A Family of Bakers and Brewers	page z.
	Overcrowding, Bad Sanitary Conditions and Pollution	
	of the Water Supply	page z.29
	Widow Beverley and her Geese	page z.29
	The Inhabitants' Public Duties	page z.30
	Public Duties	page z.30
	The Keeping of Bowling Alleys, etc. Prohibited	page z.32
	Richard Chowning, alias Gregorie, brewer	page z.33
	Persons of Bad Reputation	page z.33
	John Burghe and a Woman of Bad Name	page z.34
	The Wilners and Adam Alexander	page z.35

(o)	Strangers Come Into Ightham Christopher Budd. Richard Pelsett's stranger Receiving Strangers	page z.37 page z.39 page z.40 page z.40
(p)	Small Debts William a Forde vs Thomas Pelsett William Fuller's debt for the carriage of fish	page z.44 page z.44 page z.45
(q)	Contempt of Court William Pelsett Fined for Contempt	page z.46 page z.46
(r)	Local Officers and Their Function The Steward The Borsholder Method of Choosing a Borsholder The Bailiff	page z.47 page z.47 page z.48 page z.48 page z.49
(s)	Manor Business Suit of Court	page z.50 page z.50
t)	Title to Land Who was John Lovegrove's Heir?	page z.52 page z.54

u)	Customary Tenure or Copyhold	page z.55
v)	Personal Names Occurring in the Records	page z.56
w)	Notes on Place Names Occurring in the Records	page z.57
x)	Bing v. Hooper, an Elizabethan Tithe Case	page z.58
y)	The Staleys and Their Acre - see Staley for details of this case.	
z)	Review	

Harrison ends his paper: "There are many individual extracts, printed in these pages, about which something might be said but they must be left to speak for themselves for everything must come to an end, even this long paper."

By relating some of the extracts given by Harrison to the information abstracted from the parish records and some other sources, it is possible to place some of the people mentioned in a wider context. Study of the original surviving records would no doubt fill in some of the gaps but these are written "in medieval Latin with numerous contractions" and I am very much indebted to Harrison for his translation into English. In my transcripts I have modernised some of the spellings from those given by Harrison.

The fines to be paid by those presented to the Court are often stated. To give some idea of the amounts demanded, between 1580 and 1626, a labourer's daily

wage was about 8d a day²⁸³ so that a fine of 3s 4d represented about five days wages for such a man but, earlier in the sixteenth century would have taken considerably longer to earn.

283 Phelps Brown, H and Hopkins, Sheila V.: *A Perspective of Wages and Prices*, London, 1981, quoted by Boulton, Jeremy: *Neighbourhood and Society*, CUP, 1987

(d) *The View of Frank-Pledge and the Court Baron*

These were the two Courts held periodically in Ightham.

"The View of Frank-Pledge was the descendant of the Saxon institution of that name, under which the freemen within a tithing were pledges for the good behaviour of one another. It was concerned principally with the keeping of the public peace and order and, therefore, it was the King's Court. The View was a half-yearly court."

"The Court Baron was the civil court of the lord of the manor. Its primary business was the business of the manor, e.g. the registration of title to land and the collection of the dues to which the lord was by custom entitled. It was also for a time a court for the collection of small debts and its functions included some fragments of local government. The Court Baron was a three-weekly court but it was held irregularly even in early times and by the beginning of the seventeenth century it usually met only once a year."

"Both courts were presided over by the steward of the manor who acted at the View as the King's representative, unless the sheriff or his deputy was present. The jury of the View was drawn from persons resident within the manor, the jury of the Court Baron, called the homage, was chosen from tenants of the manor." (1937, p 178-179).

(e) *The Jurisdiction of the View of Frank-Pledge at Ightham*

There was a long standing dispute concerning the jurisdictions of the Ightham and Wrotham courts, both Ightham and Wrotham being part of the hundred of Wrotham. It started in the 1560s with the judgement given in 1570 still being queried in 1612. The following is one example:

William Wybourne (i881)

During the dispute between **Robert Byng, lord of the manor of Wrotham** and **Thomas Willoughby, lord of the manor of Ightham** which started in the 1570s (see CRI p. 179-183), "it appears that Robert Byng had taken distresses and had brought actions against certain tithing men in Ightham in connection with their refusals to be sworn at the hundred court or to present there offences committed in Ightham and an undefended action of debt for 40s was stated to be pending in the Court of Common Pleas at Westminster against **William Wybourne** of Ightham" (CRI 1937, p.180)

William had a daughter, Elizabeth (i883), baptised on 3rd December 1576.

See also **Swan** and **Willoughby** for items relevant to those participants but Harrison, 1937 p.179 to 183 needs to be consulted for the details.

(f) *The Court Rolls of Ightham Manor*

The Court Rolls "were kept, till 1707, in medieval Latin, with numerous contractions but, with rare exceptions, the extracts reproduced in this paper have been turned into English . . . In translation the general sense has been preferred to a literal rendering . . ." (1937, p.170).

Court Rolls survived for only 107 of the 362 years from 1425 to 1786 but there is "a concentrated group of fifteenth and sixteenth century records (1490-1508) which is not far from complete and a second valuable group covering the period 1586-1618" (1937, p.185).

h) *Encroachments and Nuisances Affecting Highways*

One case amongst many was that of **Robert Stace** who, on 2nd October 1587, was presented to the Court for having "allowed his hedge to grow to the hindrance and grave inconvenience of travellers, against the highway leading from **Ivy Hatch to Plaxtol**. Fined 6d and ordered to amend it before the next Court, under penalty 3s 4d." At the next Court, held on 17th April 1588, it was reported that Robert Stace had cut his hedge as ordered. (CRI 1937, p.198)

- see also John Wilner (page z.5, 35) and Aldridge, Baker, Balden, Chownings, Cooper, Fox, Hadlow, Hawkes, Hunt, Homewood, Millis, Mugge, Olyver, Pelsett, Petley, Richardson, Rootes, Selby, Stretfield, Swan, Terry, Walklyn, Woodie

(i) *Ightham Sand*

"When, several hundred years ago, an inhabitant of Ightham needed a few loads of sand he dug a hole, sometimes by the highway, sometimes on the lord's common, and took away what he required, with or without lawful authority." (1937, p.202)

"Some of the extracts recite that the offenders were not tenants of the manor, implying that the tenants had the right to dig sand on the common, probably at prescribed places." (1937, p.203) One particular case is this taking of sand:

The Digging of Sand

On 5th October 1591, **Richard Collen** was before the Court because, in September last, he "not being a tenant of this manor, took and carried away a cartload of sand from the common of the lord called Ightham Common, by digging holes called 'pitts' for the sand, by the labour of **John Egles**, by order of the said Richard, to the considerable damage of the lord of the manor and his tenants. Fined 3s 4d and given till the next Court to fill in the pit, under penalty 10s."

At the same Court, **William Bawcom** and **John Walter** "not being tenants of the lord of the manor, on 10 September last, took and carried away a cartload of sand from Ightham Common which sand they dug on the said common without licence from the lord, namely the said William Bawcom by the labour of **Christopher Cotes**, by the order of the said William, and **Stile**, by order of the said John Walter. Fined 3s 4d each and given till the next Court to fill in the 'pitts' under penalty 10s each." (CRI 1937, p.203)

Nothing else is known of Richard Collen or John Walter but William Balcom may have been the "certain William Balcombe" who trespassed against William Selby in 1593 (see the **Selbys of Ightham**). These three men, who were not tenants of the manor, seem to have been in Ightham only for a short time. Of the men who actually did the work of getting the sand, only the name **Christopher Cotes** appears in the parish records and then only once - his son John was buried on 15th January 1581, ten years before the sand digging occurred.

Christopher Coates (or Cotes) of Seal married in 1580 and died in 1595; his wife's brother was John Walters. Were these two of the men who took the Ightham sand? See **Coates of Seal**

(j) *Ightham Common*

The common of Ightham "covered the greater part of the western side of the manor and, roughly speaking was bounded on the east by the line of the present road running from Ightham village to **Ivy Hatch**. Taking the area of the manor as a little over 2,000 acres, we may attribute about 560 acres, or 28 per cent of the whole, to the common, including the woodland of **Oldbury Hill**. It was mainly a tract of birches and beeches, furze and heath, with some pasture near Ivy Hatch."

"The timber and underwood were cut periodically and were a source of profit to the lord of the manor as records going back to 1586 show" (1937, p.204). See **Willoughby** for details.

There were numerous cases brought to the Courts of people cutting wood to "the damage of the lord". Four examples are given below but see also: **Chownings**, **Hasden**, **Rootes**, **Shoebridge**, **Siflet**, **Walklyn**, **Ware**.

Taking the Lord's Wood

On 4th April 1554, **Elizabeth Collyn**, wife of **John Collyn**, and **John Crongger** appeared before the Court as "common fellers of wood of the lord upon the common of **Oldebury**. Collyn was amerced 4d and 40d, Crongger 2d and 20d. The smaller amounts may represent the fines and the larger sums the damage which had to be paid for." (CRI 1937, p.206)

A **Richard Brandfeld** was mentioned in the Court Records for 1553-74 and in 1587 it "appears from a passage which is partly obscure that Richard Branfield was fined 3s 4d on 27th April 1587, as a common breaker of hedges and fences and wood. He was also presented by the jury for cutting the lord's woods and for obstruction [? of his officers] and carrying away firewood from the common against the peace of the Queen, in bad example of the inhabitants of the View and in prejudice of the lord of the manor. But he was only fined 6d for these offences because 'he was fined twice'." (CRI 1937, p.206)

Agnes Curd was fined 12d at the Court held on 8th May 1598 for having "cut down and carried away the lord's wood about Christmas last". (CRI 1937, p.208)

On 8th May 1598, at the same time as Agnes Curd, **Robert**, "[servant of Richard Butcher](#)" was fined 2s for cutting down and carrying away the lord's wood on the common of Ightham "[about Christmas last](#)". (CRI 1937, p.208)

At the same Court, **widow Turner and Matthew Johnson** were to be fined 40s if "[the stranger](#)", Richard Butcher, was not removed or sureties found for him. (CRI 1938, p.18). Given that these two entries are for the same date, it looks as if they refer to the same Richard Butcher.

Matthew Johnson could be the man who had ten children baptised between 1571 and 1592 (i699) - see [Johnsons of Ightham](#)

On 5th April 1592, **Lawrence Stone, William Brampton, Loder²⁸⁴ and Thomas Pennet** were each fined 12d for cutting wood (or allowing it to be cut) on Ightham Common (1937, p.207). All these seem to have been men living in Seal - see [Stone, Brampton and Pennet in More Families & Transcripts](#)

²⁸⁴ No Loders were recorded in Ightham; Lawrence Loder was baptised in Seal on 28th February 1592

To Be Put in the Stocks or Not

On 11th April 1597 there were two cases whose extracts follow each other and the reference to bodily punishment in the second one probably means that the offenders were not to be put in the stocks as had been ordered in the first case.

"**John Bennet, senior**, husbandman, **Robert Launder**, labourer, the wife and children of **John Deane**, labourer, **Jane Burrowes**, wife of **John Burrowes (Burroughs)**, labourer, since Michaelmas last have severally cut down and carried away various 'byrches and beeches' in the lord's wood at the common of Ightham. Fined 6d each and each of them to be put in the stocks at Ightham for one hour on every feast day before Michaelmas next, by the bailiff of the lord of the manor and the borsholder of the View of the Frankpledge."

The second case was at the Court Baron: "**John Skeile**, labourer, **Edward Smyth of Seal**, labourer, **Adam Alexander**, labourer, the wife and servants of **John Cornford**, husbandman and the wife and servants of **John Bramfield**, husbandman, since Michaelmas last have severally cut down and converted to their own use various 'beeches and byrches' in the lord's wood upon the common of Ightham, to the serious damage of the lord. Fined 6d each but no bodily punishment was imposed because the homage left it to the lord to say whether they should not be punished in the Queen's Court for their trespass." (1937, p.207)

"The earliest reference to the protection of the common pasture from excessive use by individuals occurs in a list of fines imposed in 1561" (1937, p.208) - see **Fuller**.

On 17th October 1594, **Christopher Pelsett**, **William Petley**, **Theophilus Hadlow**

and **Thomas Woodie** were each fined 3s 4d for overburdening the common "with more sheep than they ought to keep there." (1937, p.209) See also **Hasden** and **Warren**.

"The beating of boughs for mast by unauthorised persons was an infringement of the rights of the tenants." (1937, p.209) See **Hadlow**, **Hasden**, **Millis** and **Shawe** and, in Seal, **Hubble** .

Encroachment by unauthorised enclosures, as well as use of the common without right, seems to be aimed at in the following passage:-

24.4.1587 "The homage were given till the next Court for consideration of an order against sub-tenants, and builders of new buildings, and creators of poor new holdings, who without right oppress the common of the lord and of the free tenants" (1937, p.209)

See **Williams** for an example of someone persistently encroaching on the common.

(k) *Trespass, Encroachment, Obstruction, Neglect and the Like*

Many of these cases are concerned with the cutting of wood, "no doubt to be explained by an acute need for firewood among the poorer inhabitants" (1937, p.212). Hedge breaking was a continuing problem.

Small Fines Ineffective

In October 1587, the wives of **Robert Bownde** and **John Burghe** were presented to the Court as "common hedge-breakers" and fined 6d each.

But a small fine seems to have been ineffective. Eighteen months later, Robert Bownde's wife was again before the Court, this time with the wife of **Richard West**. This time their husbands were each fined 3s 4d. But this was still not considered an effective deterrent and "at this Court it was ordered, with the assent of the jury, that if anyone hereafter offends in this respect, he shall pay for each bundle of wood so taken from the hedge 12d, one half going to the lord of the manor and the other half to the person whose wood was taken; and, moreover, the delinquent is to be put into the stocks until the said sum has been paid." (1937, p.217)

Neglect of a Fence

On 22nd April 1590, **William Powell** was found to have "neglected to maintain his fence lying south-east opposite the land of **William Weston** and adjoining the way leading from Ightham to Oldbury. Given till Michaelmas to repair it properly, under penalty 3s 4d, of which one half will go to the lord of the manor and the other half to the said **William Weston**." (CRI 1937, p.217)

A Poor Widow in Need of Wood

At the Court held on 26th April 1593, **Jane Powell, widow**, was found to be a "common breaker of hedges" who had lately broken and plundered the hedges of **Thomas Gunning, Richard Syfflet, Robert Balden and John Hammond**. She was fined 3s 4d, and "if she refuses to pay that sum she is to be put into the stocks for four hours for the said offence." (CRI 1937, p.218) This sounds like a poor woman desperately in need of firewood. Was she the widow of the **William Powell**, above, who had failed to maintain his fence?

She was presented to the same Court for having received a "stranger" - **Widow Bullinge**. If the widow stayed, without sureties being found, **Jane Powell** was to be fined 10s. Six months later, on 5th October 1593, **William Webb** (i1247) was found to have received a number of strangers including **Agnes Bullinge, widow**. (CRI 1938, p.17).

Jane Powell was buried on 20th May 1597.

See also Chownings, Colvyn, Johnson, Launder, Tunbridge, Ware, Warren, Webb, and Winter.

John Haberdejoh

At the Court held on 5th April 1592, **John Haberdejoh** was found to have "encroached upon the land of **William Hache, near Tricewell, with his hedge there. Given till the next Court to amend it, under penalty 10s.**" (CRI 1937, p.217) Trice well was a spring, east of Ightham village (CRI 1938, p.82).

A year earlier, John Haberdejoh had been assaulted **Henry Peckham, gentleman**, who came before the Court on 5th October 1591 for having assaulted Haberdijohn at Ightham in Haberdijohn's house on the 1st September prior to the Court. He "**then and there struck him with his dagger, drawing blood. Fined 3s 4d.**" (CRI 1938, p.4)

This attack on John Heberdejoh leads into the next section - Breakers of the Peace.

(m) *Breakers of the Peace*

"Cases of breaking the peace are found in considerable numbers in the 1586-1618 group of Court Rolls, most of them consisting of street fights and common assaults of a not very serious nature. It will be noticed that in some of the later entries the value of the instrument with which a blow was struck is commonly stated, suggesting that, on the analogy of deodands, the offending weapon or its value, was forfeited" (1938, p.3).

The three men whose indictments are described first illustrate the less serious cases but the attack on William Wilmot seems more of a genuine attack even though William was able to retaliate. Another victim was "one Simon, gardener to Sir William Selby" who was attacked by a gang of men led by Richard Stuborne on 30th December 1614 but the case did not come before the court until 2nd October 1615. Details are given below.

Thomas Castleton

There are a number of entries for Thomas Castleton (Castleden or Caselton) in the Court Records. He was recorded as a borsholder sometime between 1586 and 1618 (CRI 1938, p.57) but his behaviour as recorded in the other items does not seem to be what would be expected from a borsholder:

- three days before the Court held on the 5th April 1594, Thomas Castleden "assaulted in the village of Ightham a certain man living at Gravesend. Fined 12d." (CRI 1938, p.5)
- on 24th April 1599, he was fined 3s 4d for having assaulted **John Huntick** (i784) on 10th March, striking "him with a stick and drawing blood" (CRI 1938, p.5)
- on 16th April 1601, he was again fined 3s 4d, this time for having assaulted **Alexander Thompson** in the highway on 20th March; he was also fined 5s for being "a common drunkard in prejudice and bad example of his neighbours". (CRI 1938, p.7, p.14)
- a year later, he and **Robert Averill** assaulted **George Bownde** (i215) "in the highway at Ightham and drew blood. Fined 3s 4d each." "The said George Bownde then and there assaulted the said Thomas and Robert. Fined 12d." (CRI 1938, p.7)

Thomas Castleton, householder, was buried in Ightham on 21st December 1631. In his youth did he drink too much and easily become drawn into a fight? The case recorded in 1602 sounds like three men in a fight. As he grew older, did he become more responsible and so was appointed borsholder sometime between, say, 1610 and 1618? Unfortunately, since his burial is the only recorded Castleton in the parish records, no more details are known of his life.

Robert Averill

Robert Averill, associated with Thomas Castleton in the assault on George Bownde, seems to have been a similar type to Castleton, easily provoked into "assaulting" someone. Prior to the attack on Bownde:

- on 24th April 1599, he and William, servant of John Wood, gent., were each fined 12d for assaulting each other
- on 20th October 1600 he was fined 12d for assaulting an unknown person (CRI 1938, p.6)

Richard Mathew

Richard Mathew is another man who appears in the Court Records but not the parish register. Both extracts are for his appearance at the Court held on 16th October 1604:

- "**Thomas Couchman**, on 4 October last, assaulted **Richard Mathew** in the house of **Robert Ward** at Ightham and struck him with a stick, drawing blood. Fined 3s 4d. Richard Mathew on the same day assaulted Thomas Couchman. Fined 6d." The day previous to his fight with Couchman Mathew had been assaulted by **John Wyborne** who, at the same Court, was fined 12d. (CRI 1938, p.7)

If this were the only entry, it could be thought that Richard Mathew was only in the parish for a short time but another entry, for the same date, gives the impression that he was living in the parish. He, and William Chowning, had allowed "[their geese and ducks to foul the water at Redwell](#)" - see [Chowning](#) for details. Even so, a man with a wife and possibly children could live in a parish for a few years without there necessarily being a marriage, baptism or burial within the family so that such examples may not always be due to omissions in the parish register.

William Willmott, yeoman, victim of an attack

The Court held on 8th May 1598 heard that "**Richard Austin, labourer**, attached himself to five other armed persons in the night of Saturday, 6 May 1598 and they assaulted William Willmott in the mansion house called **Ightham Court Lodge** and, with an iron-shod stick which he held in his hands, he broke the head of William Willmott and drew blood, against the peace of our Lady the Queen and to the alarm of her people. Fined 5s."

However, it appears that Willmott was not so severely injured as to be unable to retaliate. The same Court heard that "**William Willmott, yeoman**, on 7 May 1598, broke the head of **Richard Austin** with his dagger and drew blood. Fined 5s - remitted because he is in the service of the lord." (CRI 1938, p.6)

A Henry Wilmott (i1433) was baptised on 8th June 1589 but no first name was given for his father who could have been Walter. A **John Willmott** was also mentioned in the Court Records between 1586 and 1618.

Simon, gardener, victim of an “assault and affray”

On 30th December 1614, a number of men were involved in an “assault and affray” the victim of which was “one Simon, gardener, to Sir William Selby” whose surname appears to have been **Price**. **Richard Stuborne** assaulted him first, striking him “with a hanger, value 12d, drawing blood.”. “**William Willard, Stephen Mellis, Peter Mellis**²⁸⁵, **Robert Launder and John Launder**²⁸⁶ then and there took part in the assault and affray and Price was struck with a certain dagger, value 6d to the effusion of blood but by whom the jury are utterly ignorant.”

This did not come before the Court until 2nd October 1615 when Stuborne was fined 3s 4d and the other attackers 12d each. (CRI 1938, p.8)

Richard (i2044) married William Willard's sister, Helen, in the November or December of 1611 three years before this incident - see **Willard**. They had a daughter, Francis, baptised on 1st March 1612.

See also **Balden, Barret, Bennett, Bownde, Burroughs, Brissenden, Butler, Fuller, Gardiner, Goffe, Greentree, Hasden, Hawke, Huntick, Johnson, Lambarde, Launder, Martin, Meere, Millis, Petley, Richardson, Selby, Siflet, Sigas, William and George Staley, Stretfield, Ward, Waters, Willard, and Williamson**.

²⁸⁵ could be Steven Millis, born 1584 married 1611 and his brother Peter, five years younger ; - see **Millis**

²⁸⁶ Robert and John were probably the sons of Robert Launder (i1350) - see **Launder**

(n) *Public Duties and the Public Welfare*

"All lads reaching the age of twelve years had to take the oath of allegiance, or, in earlier language, to be sworn into the Assize. Parents, guardians, employers and others were required to bring to the View for this purpose the youths in their charge. The records of these cases are all in substantially the same for, and only a few examples are given here" (1938, p.8). Unfortunately only two for the period studied were included - one for 1556 (see **Terry**) and one for 1586 (see **Siflet**).

"The **Assize of Bread and Ale** was designed to ensure that the food and drink of the people should be of good quality and full weight or measure . . . At each View the ale taster for Ightham usually presented the names of several persons who had brewed during the preceding half year. A separate taster for Ivy Hatch often presented only one or two names, sometimes none at all, the explanation being, no doubt, that Ivy Hatch was so small a hamlet that little brewing for sale was done there" (1938, p.9).

No details are given by Harrison for the Courts held between 1553-74 or 1586-1618 except for:

- in 1556, the fines of 2d detailed
- the fine of 3s 4d imposed on **Thomas Stretfield** in April 1599 for "selling ale in unlawful stone cups, breaking the Assize" (1938, p.10) (see **Stretfield**).

Fines for not Exhibiting the Sign of a Brewer

On 31st May 1556, the **wife of Henry J effrey and William Parker** were found not to have "exhibited the sign of a brewer. Fined 2d each and to remedy it before the next Court." (CRI 1938, p.10)

A Family of Bakers and Brewers

The **Geffreys (or Jeffreys)** were obviously **bakers and brewers**; in the list of names occurring in the 1553-74 records there are: **Agnes Jeffrey**, baker and brewer, **Ann Jeffrey**, **George Jeffrey**, baker and brewer, **Henry Jeffrey**, **borsholder**, baker and brewer, and **William Jeffrey**, baker and brewer. But there is no mention of any Geffreys or Jeffreys in the 1586-1618 records. Perhaps, as is implied by no baptisms in the parish records, there was no next generation to carry on the business.

Henry Geffrey was buried on 30th October 1573 and Ann Geffrey (who could have been his wife) on 16th April 1574

Overcrowding, Bad Sanitary Conditions and Pollution of the Water Supply

"The evils of overcrowding and bad sanitary conditions were recognized even so long ago as Elizabethan days" (1938, p.10). See **Gardiner**, **Olyver** and **Ware**.

"Many cottages at Ightham had till recently no water supply other than rain and the springs which trickle out of the Sandgate beds and fill small, hollowed-out pools, called wells. These were once common in the district and several still remain in use today (i.e. 1938). These public wells, together with the intermittent Shode stream or Busty, were of great importance to the inhabitants and the authorities were alert to protect them from pollution." (1938, p.11)

Widow Beverley and her Geese

On 2nd October 1587, **Widow Beverly** was fined 6d because she had "corrupted and contaminated with her geese the common water necessary for the daily use of the inhabitants, to their damage." (CRI 1938, p.11).

A Thomas Beverly had a son baptised in Ightham on 7th February 1585.

For another similar example see Richard Mathew and William Chowning above.

See also **Stretfield** and **Wooden**.

The Inhabitants' Public Duties

"The inhabitants at large had their own public duties to perform, of which, probably for no other reason than the slow movement of rural life, they had to be reminded from time to time. Neglects in connection with the stocks, the public weights and measures, and the local crow-net were dealt with at the Court."

(1938, p.11). The following examples are given (1938, p.12):

Public Duties	
11.4.1589	"The common stocks of the village of Ightham are broken and defective. It was ordered by the steward that they should be repaired by the inhabitants before Whitsunday next, under the penalty provided in the Statute in that behalf."
22.4.1590	"The jury present that there is not within this View a common net called a "crow-net", according to the form of the Statute. By the grace of the lord of the manor the inhabitants were given till the next Court to provide a suitable net, under penalty 10s."
24.4.1590	"The common measures of the village of Ightham are out of repair. The inhabitants are to repair them before Midsummer Day under penalty 20s."

26.4.1593	But three years later, the stocks and measures still needed attention: "The inhabitants of the village of Ightham were given till Midsummer Day next, under penalty 20s., to repair sufficiently the measures and stocks of the village."
25.10.1614	Over twenty years later, the stocks and measures were again in disrepair: "The inhabitants of the village of Ightham were given till the next Court to make good the stocks of the village under penalty."
16.10.1614	"The inhabitants of the View of Frank-pledge were given till Lady Day next, under penalty 20s., to repair the stocks and weights."
23.10.1617	"The inhabitants of the village of Ightham have forfeited to the lord of the manor the sum of 20s. for neglecting to buy "waytes" for the necessary use of the ale taster of the manor, as they were required to do, within a fixed time, at the last Court. They have now till the next Court to get them, under a like penalty."

However, the village seems to have found a different way out of a problem when it seemed to have need of a ducking stool. On 27th April 1587, the jury presented "the wife of **William Webb** and the wife of **Robert Huntick** as common brawlers, quarrellers and disturbers of the peace, against the peace of our Lady the Queen and in bad example of the neighbours. Wherefore, since there are no convenient means of punishing them, they are to be punished at discretion."

"The above entry, which has the side note 'The Jury doth revoke *ambo*', may mean that Ightham had no ducking stool for scolds and that it was, therefore, left to the jury to devise a suitable punishment for the offenders. This they failed to do and got out of the difficulty at the following View" on 2nd October 1587 by revoking their previous presentment: "The jury present that the wives of William Webb and Robert Huntick are not common quarrellers, as was previously represented." (1938, p.3)

The Keeping of Bowling Alleys, etc. Prohibited

"The Act of 33 Henry VIII, the preamble of which recited that archery was 'sore decayed' owing to the invention of 'slydethrifte or shovegrote' and other games, required all men to practise shooting with the long bow and prohibited the keeping for gain of common houses, bowling alleys and other places of unlawful games. The effects of this legislation are seen in a number of passages." (1938, p.12)

Richard Chowning, alias Gregorie, brewer

On 19th April 1604, Richard Chowning was brought before the Court for "being a common ale house keeper" at Borough Green, and allowing "in his house the unlawful game of common dicing. Fined 2s.." (CRI 1938, p.11).

An Alice Grigorie, brewer, was also mentioned in the records for 1586-1618

See also **Rootes** and **Swan**.

Persons of Bad Reputation

"Persons of bad reputation and living and houses of bad name were also the subjects of presentments at the Courts" (1938, p.13).

Some cases were apparently resolved fairly simply:

John Burghe and a Woman of Bad Name

John Burghe was presented to the Court held on 2nd October 1587 because he "had received in his house a certain woman stranger of bad name (as the jury think)." He was ordered to remove her within a month under penalty of 10s. On the 17th April 1588, it was recorded that he had "removed the woman stranger of bad name previously received by him." (CRI 1938, p.13)

But, on the second occasion, his name was given as "Bourghe" and it is possible that he was the same man as the John Burroughs who appeared a number of times in the Court Rolls - see **Burroughs**.

Two men who appeared before the courts for, amongst other things, keeping a tippling or victualling house without a licence were John Wilner and Adam Alexander:

The Wilners and Adam Alexander

John Wilner (i1591) had two sons baptised in Ightham:

- John (i1593) on 26 Aug 1594
 - Henry (i1741) on 13 Jun 1597
- no first name was given for Henry's father.

On 24th April 1595 the Court recorded that **John Willner** had "neglected to cut his hedge on his land at Ightham leading to **Tricewell**. Given till 1 May to cut it under penalty 10s." (CRI 1937, p.200) Tricewell, "strictly speaking a spring", was to the east of Ightham (CRI 1938, p.82).

On 11th April 1597, **John Willner** was presented to the Court for keeping "a tippling house without licence or other lawful authority and has often received and entertained there persons suspected of evil name and conversation to the alarm of the Queen's subjects. And he keeps in his house unlawful games of dice and painted cards. Fined 3s 4d and ordered to reform these things before Whitsunday, under penalty 20s." (CRI 1938, p.13)

Adam Alexander (i2700), labourer, was presented to the same Court for the same reason: for keeping "without licence or other legal authority 'a victualling house' and he has often received and entertained there persons suspected of bad name and conversation to the alarm of the Queen's subjects; and he keeps in his house unlawful games of dice and painted cards. Fined 3s 4d and ordered to reform these things before Whitsunday, under penalty 20s." (CRI 1938, p.13)

In addition, **John Willner** was before the same Court for having received a "stranger" - Lee - without having found sureties for him. If Lee stayed without these being found, Willner was to be fined £5. (CRI 1938, p.18)

On 25th October 1614, **widow Willnar** was found not to have "cut her hedge leading from **Millende Lane to Basted Mill** to the inconvenience of passers-by. Given till 25 December to cut it, under penalty 3s 4d. (CRI 1937, p.202) Basted Mill was 1 mile south-east of Ightham village and Millende Lane ran from just south of Ightham village towards the mill. (CRI 1938, p.66, p.76) Whether or not this hedge was part of the boundary of the same land as John Willner occupied in 1597, it is difficult to tell but widow Willnar might have been John's widow.

Helen Willner, also a brewer and perhaps John's wife, and **Henry Willner** were also mentioned in the Court Records between 1586 and 1618.

See also **Lambarde**.

(o) *Strangers Come Into Ightham*

"The evils associated with the unrestricted movement of poor persons resulted in such movement being controlled under the old Poor Law and, after the Restoration, in the law of settlement. Earlier experimental remedies, some of them fruitless, can be traced back to the reign of Henry VII. In the Court Rolls of 1586-1618, there are many records of strangers being received into houses in Ightham without sureties for their good behaviour having been found. The orders made by the Courts were for sureties to be produced or, failing security, for the strangers to be removed before the following Court under penalty." The detailed cases and those "cut down to the bare names of the persons concerned and the amounts of the penalties.". (1938, p.14) are given in the individual family documents.

At the View held on 1st April 1604 "it was ordered by the jury, with the assent of the Steward of the Manor, that if any inhabitant or tenant of the manor shall have introduced any stranger into the parish of Ightham to dwell there or shall permit such a person to dwell in his cottages, without sufficient sureties . . [for] any such strangers so seized there before Midsummer Day next, following upon the notice of this Court, he is to forfeit the sum of £5, of which one half is to go to the lord of the manor and the other half to the use of the poor of the parish."

"At the View of Frank-pledge held on 28 October 1608, the following order was made in English:- {the spelling has been updated from that given by Harrison to make reading easier} "We, the jurors and inhabitants of the said parish of Ightham present at this Court, do for the better good of the said parish and inhabitants thereof, constitute and ordain that every such person and persons which shall at any time hence forth:

- demise, let or set any tenement or cottage within the said parish of Ightham to any person or persons which hath not been an inhabitant there by the space of one whole year last past before the day of the date of this Court
- or
- shall suffer, receive or take as a resident within the parish of Ightham any person or persons which hath not been an inhabitant there by the space of one whole year next before as aforesaid
- and
- doth not first put in security in the sum of ten pounds to the Church wardens and Overseers of the said parish for the time being to discharge, or save harmless the parishioners of the said parish of the said person or persons and of his, her and their charge then being or likely after to issue, shall forfeit and lose to the Lord of this Manor the sum of twenty shillings for every month that any such person or persons shall be so resident or dwelling in any such tenement or cottage in the said parish of Ightham, the

one moiety whereof to be to the use of the lord of the said Manor, the other moiety to the use of the poor of the said parish of Ightham." (1938, p.16)

Even with all these provisions, some of the "strangers" were very persistent, for example:

Christopher Budd.

On 11th June 1592, Joane, daughter of Christopher Budd, was baptised in Ightham.

Fifteen months later, on 5th October 1593, **William Webb** (i1247, see **Webb**) was immediately fined 10s for receiving a number of strangers including Christopher Budd who was himself to be fined 3s 4d if he stayed without sureties being found.

Another year later, **Robert Gardiner**, an ale taster who appears a number of times in the Court Records, (i769, see **Gardiner**) was to be fined 10s if Christopher Budd was not removed or sureties found.

Another seven years on, on 20th October 1601, **William Weston** (see **Weston**) was found to have taken into his cottage as inmates without sureties, **Christopher Budd, Finche widow and John Curde**. Weston was "to find sureties or remove them, under penalty 10s." Budd, widow Finche and Curde evidently stayed for at least another eighteen months since, on 5th May 1603, Weston forfeited 10s because he had not removed them from his cottage. Like Budd, Curde had also been a "stranger" in 1592 when **George Hawke** (i400) had taken him in and in 1593 when **John Bownde** had received him- see **Hawke** and **Bownde** (CRI 1938, p.17,16).

It seems to have been the responsibility of the “stranger” to produce sureties:

Richard Pelsett's stranger

The Pelsett family were substantial land holders in Ightham for several generations (see **Pelsett**). The Court held on 4th October 1586 heard that “by the reception and toleration of **Richard Pelsott**” a certain “stranger, had come within the precincts of this View of Frank-pledge and had not found two good and sufficient sureties for his good behaviour: wherefore, by the authority of this Court it was ordered” that the stranger should produce sureties by the next Court or depart or Pelsott would be fined 3s 4d.” (CRI 1938, p.15).

Being brought before the Court for harbouring a stranger was one of the most common of offences to be recorded and shows the concern which the parish had about finding itself with poor people to support. Below are a number of other cases.

Receiving Strangers

?? Alchin, clerk	presented to the Court on 8th May 1598 for harbouring John Lay and his wife, strangers , without sureties; to be fined 40s if they were not removed or sureties found. (CRI 1938, p.18) Amy Alchin was mentioned in the Court Records 1586-1618
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Gabriell Brewer	<p>brought before the Court on 19th April 1604 for harboring the stranger James Butler. If Butler was not removed, or sureties found, Brewer (described as an armourer of London) was to be fined £5. (CRI 1938, p.18)</p> <p>It is likely that Brewer was the Gabriole Brewer (#2207) whose wife, Johane, and daughter died from the plague and were buried in Seal on the 28th and 26th October 1603.</p>
John Emerson	<p>presented to the Court held on 16th October 1604 for having received a "stranger"; he was to be fined 10s if he stayed without sureties being found. (CRI 1938, p.18). In the list of names (CRI 1938, p.58) he is given as "John Emerson of London"; was he the stranger who was to be fined?</p>
Henry Emerson	<p>also mentioned in the Court Records for 1586-1618.</p>

Richard Hayward	<p>was presented to the Court on 8th May 1598 for having received a "stranger" - Richard Moody - and was to be fined 40s if Moody stayed without sureties being found for him. (CRI 1938, p.18)</p> <p>A year later, on 13th April 1599, "James, son of -- Moodie" was baptised but he died four months later being buried on 2nd September 1599.</p> <p>According to the list of names (CRI 1938, p.58), Richard Hayward was from Chiddingstone but, from the above extracts, appears to have been living in Ightham. Other Haywards mentioned in the Court Records for 1586-1618 were Alice, Elizabeth and Jane.</p>
William Porter	<p>was presented to the Court on 18th October 1608 for having received a "stranger" and, if he stayed without sureties being found, Porter was to be fined 30s. (CRI 1938, p.18)</p> <p>The Porters were a large Seal family but this William seems to have lived in Ightham. A John Porter was also mentioned in the Court Records for 1586 to 1618.</p>
Widow Stephen	<p>was brought before the Court, on 20th October 1601, for receiving a "stranger" - John Rawlins. She was to be fined 10s if he stayed without sureties being found. (CRI 1938, p.18)</p>

William Walter	was presented to the Court on 5th April 1592, for having received a "stranger" - Thomas Stace . He was to be fined 10s if Stace stayed without sureties being found. (CRI 1938, p.17)
Robert Wyborne	was presented to the Court held on 11th April 1597 for having received two "strangers" - Edward West and his wife . If they stayed without sureties being found, he was to be fined £5.
Six months later Thomas Gunning	was to be fined 40s if Edward West (no mention of his wife this time) stayed without sureties being found. (CRI 1938, p.18)

This still does not exhaust all those recorded - see also Burroughs, Chittenden, Chownings, Colvyn, Day, Gardiner, Goffe, Greentree, Gunning, Hadlow, Hammond, Hasden, Hawke, Hammond, Hunter, Lambarde, Launder, Martin, Meere, Shawe, Terry, Thrupp, Usmer, Ware, Warren, Webb, West, Weston, Wooden, Wilner.

(p) *Small Debts*

"The Court Baron acted for a period as a court for the recovery of debts not exceeding 40s. . . Cases of debt occur mainly in the 1490-1508 group of Court Rolls." (CRI, 1938, p.19) and entries of these cases cover the ten pages 19 to 29. Some of these involved **John Tebold and William Tebold** (see **Tebold**).

Whilst the Pelsetts were a wealthy family "they included one impecunious member, Thomas, who was sued for debt on several occasions" (CRI, 1938, p.24):

William a Forde vs Thomas Pelsett

On 8th December 1491 "**William a Forde** complains against **Thomas Pelsowth (Pelsett)** for debt 11s 4d. The defendant was attached by 13 sheep, value 13s. The plaintiff, by his attorney, **William James**, stated that on 10th October, 1485, the defendant borrowed from him 4s. He was surety for the defendant to **Thomas Levesoth** of **Gowdeherst** for 2s., and the residue, 5s 4d, was for fresh fish which the plaintiff delivered to the defendant at Ightham." (1938, p.20)

plus numerous occasions between 1499 and 1506 (see CRI, 1938, pp.24-25). Thomas and Walter Pelsworth mentioned below were brewers with Thomas also being an ale taster (CRI, 1938, p.54)

In 1491, William a Forde, above, was represented by an attorney, William James.. In 1499, **Walter Pelsowth (Pelsett)**, "attorney to the defendant", asked for "time to imparl." (1938, p.23). Did these "attorneys" have training in the law? Both William James and Walter Pelsworth appear to be men from Ightham.

Was the "Gowdehurst" mentioned in William a Forde's 1491 case **Goudhurst**, fifteen miles southeast of Ightham but between there and Rye? Ightham is known to have been on one of the fast land routes used to transport fish from **Rye** to London and another John Pelsouth was a rippier, a carryer of fish (see **Pelsett**).

Another entry mentions "Godehurst" in a similar context:

William Fuller's debt for the carriage of fish

On 1st May 1497, **John Forde** complained "against **William Fuller** for debt 5s 5d. He says that the defendant owes him 12d for one "jaket" bought from him at Ightham and the remainder of the debt for the carriage of fresh fish from Godehurst to Ightham on various occasions". (CRI, 1938, p.22)

(q) *Contempt of Court*

"A few cases of contempt of court are on record, the most important being that of **William Pelsett**, a man of substance and respectability. We may suspect that he and his neighbours found irksome the duty of attending the courts, as tending to delay farming operations and other business and that his protest arose in that way. He assumed the part of the "village Hampden" but without success. Indeed the half-yearly View of Frank-pledge was so universal and well-established that any informed person would have advised him that he had no case." (CRI,1938, p.30)

William Pelsett Fined for Contempt

On 17th April 1588, **William Pelsett**, a tenant of the manor, "denied openly here in Court that the lord of the manor ought to hold a Court Leet of our Lady the Queen oftener than once a year, at the feast of St. Michael the Archangel; and because he would not assess the fines of the inhabitants making default at this Court, when elected as affeerer of the Court, saying that it was against his conscience, both in contempt of the Court of our Lady the Queen and in bad example of stubbornness, he was fined by the steward 10s."

"It is worth noting that although Pelsett's contention was technically bad, his case may have had some commonsense foundation and a body of public opinion behind it, for it is surely significant that less than a score of years after this time

the courts in fact ceased to be held oftener than once a year." (CRI, 1938, pp.30-31)

For two others cases of contempt of court, see [Allen, Hawkes](#).

(r) *Local Officers and Their Function*

The Steward

"The principal officer mentioned in the Court Rolls is the **steward of the lord of the manor** presided over the courts and acted generally on behalf of the lord whose interests he had to guard. The steward or his clerk also kept the records of the proceedings at the court. The first steward of the manor to be mentioned by name is **John Addams** who signed a list of fines imposed at a court held on 14 April 1596." (CRI, 1938, p.32) He could have been the ?? Adams whose daughter, Judith, was baptised on 13th February 1597.

The Borsholder

"The tithing man, or borsholder, attended the Views of Frank-pledge and, during the time covered by these records, presented the names of persons who had baked bread or brewed ale for sale during the preceding half-year and had broken the Assize of Bread and Ale. At the View held in the autumn a tithing man for the succeeding year, from Michaelmas to Michaelmas, was chosen. The office, which in early times was an essential part of the system of joint security - frank-pledge - became of less importance as conditions changed." (CRI, 1938, p.32)

Method of Choosing a Borsholder

On 3rd October 1588, "The jurors have nominated **Robert Baldwin** 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)

"In 1606, for the first time, a newly-chosen borsholder was recorded as being sworn in by a justice of the peace" (1938, p.34).

See **Balden** and **Hadlow** for more details of these men

Percival Willoughby succeeded to the lordship of the manor and held his first court in April 1597. Apparently he found many indications of slackness in the administration of the manor and steps to improve this were taken in October. First a number of men who owed suit at the Court but had not attended it had to be “[pardoned because they were not sufficiently summoned to the Court](#)” It was the borsholder's responsibility for summoning people to the court - see [Willoughby](#) for more details.

The Bailiff

In addition to summoning the men to the Court Baron, the bailiff's duties “[included distraints and the collection of the fines and dues payable to the lord of the manor. After each court an extract or list of all sums falling to be collected, as determined at the Court, was prepared in English by the steward and, by him, transmitted to the bailiff with a written order to distrain for the amounts due.](#)” (1938, p.35 which includes an example of such a list).

(s) *Manor Business*

"The formal records of alienations of land, deaths of tenants of the manor and other proceeding at the Court Baron contain a good deal of local history but their interest is, in general, too narrow to call for reproduction on a large scale. . . The Ightham manorial incidents were those commonly obtaining and may be summarised as:

- **fealty** - in taking an oath of fealty, the tenant undertook to be faithful to the lord and to perform the services due from him.

- **Suit of Court**

"Attendances at the Courts Baron and the performance there of customary duties, such as serving on the homage - the tribunal which heard and determined matters arising in that Court - or assessing the fines to be imposed, was required of all tenants²⁸⁷ of the manor and was known as common suit of Court. The proceedings usually opened with the calling of the Suit Roll by the bailiff, a record being made of tenants doing suit, sending by others excuses for non-attendance or making default in

²⁸⁷ a "tenant" of the manor was a freeholder

attendance. The duty to attend the courts was burdensome and it was common for the lord of the manor to accept, in many cases, a composition payment freeing a tenant from liability to do suit for a period of one year." (CRI, 938, p.36,37).

In the list given for remissions for a year to tenants who owed suit every three weeks, dated 28 October 1490, the standard fine was 4d with 6d for **James Peckham, esquire**.

- **quit rent** - "the annual quit rent, originally a substantial charge, became with the lapse of time a trifling burden, owing to the altered value of money." (1938, p.37) "On the division of land subject to a single quit rent, the rent had to be apportioned by the homage." (1938, p.42)
- **heriot** - "A heriot of the best living beast became due on the death of a tenant and fell to be satisfied by his estate. It was often compounded for a money payment" (1938, p.37).

"A record of alienations and deaths was essential to the collection of the manor dues and, if the Court Rolls were complete, it should be possible to trace the devolution of land from owner to owner continuously to modern times. The gaps in the rolls make such a course impracticable." (1938, p.38).

Harrison uses the example of **Ightham Mote** to illustrate this problem, there being a gap between 1505 and the 1580s when it was owned by **Christopher Allen**. See **Allen** for some of the extracts relating to Christopher Allen's ownership. **Sir Richard Clement**, who died about 1538 and who is the subject of the oldest brass in Ightham church, bought Ightham Mote in 1521.²⁸⁸

(t) *Title to Land*

"Evidence of title to freehold land was produced at the Court Baron as occasion required and disputes between claimants to copyholds might be determined at that court. In the absence of rival claimants, the object of the steward in getting on the rolls such entries as those given below was:

- a) to ascertain the identity and extent of the lands in respect of which he claimed the lord's dues

or

- b) to discover whether any landholder really had no title and, if so, to claim an escheat for the lord."

²⁸⁸ Edward V. Bowra, *Ightham, Notes on Local History*, 1978, p.15

"The absence of reliable maps in early times must have been a constant source of difficulty to the steward who had to collect the lord's dues, often without knowing the holdings." (CRI, 1938, p.43) An example of an order made on 4th October 1586 shows the type of detail he needed to collect:

"By the order of the Court it was ordered that every member of the homage and every other free and customary tenant of this manor making default at this Court should bring to the next Court and deliver to the steward a brief terrier²⁸⁹ in writing of all messuages, houses, stables, barns, lands, tenements, with all singular their appurtenances within the manor of Ightham, held of this manor, with the rents, customs and services to the lord of the manor and his heirs of right accustomed, with their names, qualities and bounds, and this under penalty 10s for each free and customary tenant." (CRI, 1938, p.44)

It is most unlikely that all these tenants would have been able to produce such a complex and detailed document themselves. Would this order have meant more work for **Nicholas Hooper**, the scriptor of wills who originated in Ightham? Or were there local attorneys as there had been in the 1490s - see page z.44 above.

289 a register or roll of a landed estate

An example of the type of information which had to be collected is:

Who was John Lovegrove's Heir?

John Lovegrove died sometime between 1592 (when he was charged with harbouring a stranger) and the spring of 1599. He had had two children, Anne and John, baptised on 17th July 1586 and 8th September 1588 respectively. It seems, however, that they had died before him since, on 24th April 1599, the jury “were given till the next Court to inquire whether John Lovegrove, lately a tenant of this manor, died without any heir and afterwards to certify to the Court.”

At the Court held eighteen months later, on 20th October 1600, “at the instance of the jury, a time was named for anyone who as next heir of John Lovegrove could claim a tenement and garden containing half an acre of land in Trice Lane, to come to the next Court, or else the premises should be seized into the hands of the lord as escheat” (CRI, 1938, p.44,45).

What happened to the tenement and land during the two or more years there was no acknowledged owner?

(u) *Customary Tenure or Copyhold*

"The number of references in the Court Rolls to copyhold tenure is not large and it seems likely that customary holdings were never very numerous in Ightham Manor. Permissions to enclose, and hold by copy of Court Roll, portions of the common may account for most, perhaps all, of such holdings which, as far as the indications go, were of no great size." (CRI, 1938, p.47)

See **Hawke** for an example of the procedure followed in order to obtain admittance to copyhold lands as successor to a tenant who has died. See **Terry** and **Ware** for more details of procedures concerning copyholds.

(v) *Personal Names Occurring in the Records*

".. the names occurring in the Court Rolls and other records, when grouped over a short period, approximate, however imperfectly to a list of persons residing within the View. Such a list usually includes some names that do not belong to Ightham and also omits the names of many residents. Further, a list drawn up from a group of Court Rolls cannot be directed to a single point of time, while the names to be found in any one roll are too few to be of any use as a list of inhabitants."

"In attempting to estimate how nearly the lists approach complete lists of heads of families (together with some others) we are faced with the question of the population of the manor at the significant times. To this question no answer can be given; we can only work backwards from the census of 1801, when the population of Ightham numbered 709." (CRI, 1938, p.49-50)

Harrison gives lists which cover six groups of rolls: 1425-6, 1461-75, 1490-1508, 1553-74, 1586-1618 and 1697-1707. Details of the entries are not given by Harrison for all the names listed so that it is not possible to give the actual year when all the listed names occurred, for example, the year when Nicholas Barret was borsholder is not known from Harrison's paper; to find this it would be necessary to go back to the original records .

"Aliases, no doubt, point often to illegitimacy." (CRI, 1938, p.51)

(w) *Notes on Place Names Occurring in the Records*

"Philipott derives the name Ightham from the eight hamlets of **St. Clere, Oldbury, Ightham (village), Borough Green, Redwell, Bewley, Ivy Hatch and the Mote**. This derivation is looked on coldly by modern archaeologists and other suggestions have been made but the question remains open as none of the conjectures has any substantial evidence to support it." (CRI, 1938, p.63)

Bowra gives the earliest recorded spelling as "Ehteham - Ehta's homestead. Ehta was a personal name which came over with Hengist during the Jutish invasion, subsequently dying out. The suffix 'ham' belongs to the earliest Anglo-Saxon period so that the first settlement may be accepted as being in the early sixth century."²⁹⁰.

The Alphabetical List of Place Names given by Harrison, together with brief details (if any are known) "includes all the Ightham place names, and a few others, which have been found in the records."

²⁹⁰ Edward V. Bowra, Ightham, Notes on Local History, 1978, p.9

(x) *Bing v. Hooper, an Elizabethan Tithe Case*

"A deep indentation in the northern boundary of Ightham parish (as it existed before 1934) brings the **Wrotham** border to the door of an old farmhouse at **Oldbury** and takes into Wrotham the farm buildings which lie immediately behind the house. This indentation consists of a field now called Barn Field which was formerly three small fields known as the Borne Crofts. The tithe of **Middle Borne Croft** was claimed by the tithe owners of both parishes, Ightham and Wrotham, and about the years 1564-6 there was litigation to determine the parish in which the field lay. The judgement seems to have gone in favour of Wrotham but we are here concerned less with the result of the case than with some of the statements made by witnesses whose written depositions have been preserved."

"**Robert Bing, or Byng**, the plaintiff, was the lord of the manor and tithe owner of Wrotham; **John Hooper**, the defendant, was the rector of Ightham. **Thomas Willoughby**, lord of the manor of Ightham and **William Herde**, rector of Ightham in 1552 when an inventory of the Parish Church goods was taken, were also cited in the case. The dispute was one of long standing." John Hooper was parson of Ightham from 1569 until his death in 1574; although Harrison does not give the year the following depositions were made, it was during the time that Hooper was parson (or rector as Harrison describes him).

"The depositions include statements by eleven witnesses for Ightham and ten for Wrotham. The tenor of the evidence of the Ightham witnesses is all to the effect that the field was known to them to lie in Ightham parish while the Wrotham witnesses all testified to the contrary. There is much repetition in the evidence . .

William Pelsett heard "one **John Siflet** say at a lord's court held in Ightham parish . . that he and **William Siflet**, his father, did carry tithe corn out of the same ground called Borne Croft, alias Middle Borne Croft, unto the parsonage barn in Ightham, to the use of **Sir William Staneger**, the farmer of the parsonage of Ightham under Master **Dr. Broke**, parson of the parsonage of Ightham."

"And . . in the first or second year of the reign of our Sovereign lady Queen Elizabeth²⁹¹, this deponent went with certain old men of the parish of Ightham in the Rogation Week unto the same ground . . where he did hear **Henry Hadlow**, being a man of the age of 76 years, and **John Siflet**, being a man of the age of 60 years, say that the same ground . . was lying within the parish of Ightham."

Stephen Swan said that "he himself . . did fetch tithe hay out of a little meadow nigh unto the same Borne Croft . . and brought the same hay unto the parsonage barn at Ightham. . "

"**William Weston** stated that 'at eleven years past he . . took to farm the parsonage at Ightham and all the tythes.' In the first year of his farm, Borne Croft was sown with wheat of which he took the tithe. In the second year the field was sown with oats and 'in the harvest time that year this deponent being then in London when the oats were felled . . Mr. Bing caused his servants to fetch away the tithe of the same oats and to convey them unto the parsonage barn of Wrotham.'

He continued . . "And the next day following, this deponent came unto one **William Tyrrie (Terry)**, being a man of the age of 60 years and upwards, being a parishioner and lying on his death bed sick of a sickness, of the which he deceased, and declared unto the said Tyrrie that the said Master Bing had caused his servants to fetch away the tithe oats out of the said Borne Croft . . to whom the said William Tyrrie made answer again and said I am the more sorry and you have the more wrong. And adding, said, for that I am god's prisoner and like to go no more upon the earth, I pray you bear witness what I shall say. Sixty years have I known this same parish and in thirty years in the same time I did carry quietly nine times the tithe corn of the same ground unto the parsonage barn of Ightham. And I never knew or heard that ever the tithe of the same ground was carried unto Wrotham but when **Mr. Peckham** had the parsonage of Wrotham and Ightham, both at one time to farm and then he might carry the same wither he would: being then present and hearing the same William Tyrrie so report and say (as he hath before deposed), this deponent, **Marie his wife, Sir Godfrey, then curate of Ightham, John Syflett and William Perrie.**'

Richard Staley, husbandman, said that 'at 7 or 8 years past, when certain of the parishioners of Ightham and the curate of the same parish went in deambulation in the Rogation Week, this deponent went with them and did see them compass in the same ground . . as ground lying within the . . parish of Ightham.'

"**John Talbot** related how, when farmer of the parsonage of Ightham, he noted the coppes of wheat on one occasion and perceived that 'there was one coppe due for the tithe'. He intended to go for this coppe within a day or two but one, **Henry Charlton**, farmer of the parsonage of Wrotham, forestalled him and carried the tithe wheat to Wrotham. Upon this, Talbot 'went unto the said parsonage of Wrotham to speak with Henry Charlton . . and when he came there the said Charlton was not at home. Notwithstanding, this deponent declared unto the said Charlton's wife that her husband had done this deponent wrong in taking away the said coppe of wheat . . The said Charlton's wife making answer again said if he (meaning her husband) have done you any wrong, he will make you recompense of the same.' He afterwards received 'in recompense of the same, at sundry times . . half a quarter of wheat and other grain wherewithall' he 'took himself satisfied for the tithe of the same wheat.'

"In a second deposition, **Stephen Swan** tried to create prejudice against several Wrotham witnesses. '**Reginald Pelsett** is tenant . . to Mr. Bing . . and very familiar with him as most part of the rest of his witnesses are.' '**John Paine**, **Morgan Hills** and **Beatrix Stale** are poor folks having little or nothing to live upon.' He had

heard Beatrix Stale confess that 'she knew 3 closes . . named Borne Croft but knew not within what parish they lay.'

"**Richard Thrupp** said that about five or six years ago **Morgan Hills** took upon himself 'to direct and guide . . Mr. Bing and others, parishioners of Wrotham, in their perambulations over . . lands lying in the parish of Ightham . . And that **Mr. Willoughby** had him . . in suit and was allowed 4 marks against him for costs and damages and by reason hereof . . Morgan is enemy as much as in him lieth . . to . . Mr. Willoughby and no indifferent witness.'

"**William Staley** stated that he was present with one **Henry Geffrey** and by his 'commandments' went to plough in Borne Croft which was then in the occupation of **John Bennett**. 'At what time . . a mare of the said **Henry Geffrey** which this deponent had brought thither to plough did, being let forth of her harness from plough, foal a colt, for the fall whereof . . Henry Geffrey did pay to the said John Bennett, then being a gatherer of the tithes for the Ightham parsonage . . one penny at Easter following.'

"**John Appleby, vicar of Wrotham**, said that 'about the third year of King Edward the sixth' he was 'vicar of Wrotham and there continued vicar . . until he was deprived thereof in Queen Mary's time for marriage.' 'About the second year of the Queen's majesty that now is' he was 'restored to the said vicarage of Wrotham.'

"**William Miller** tried to restore the reputation of the Wrotham witnesses who had been attacked. He said that **John Paine, Morgan Hills, Reginald Pelsett, Beatrix Stale, Henry Charleton, John Bennett, Thomas Hills and Thomas Powle** were 'persons of honest fame, name, credit and conversation . . well able to live of themselves . . and that, by their true labour and travail, they get and have competent and sufficient to maintain and keep their wives and families . .' Reynold Pelsett, he said, 'is a freeholder of the lord of Wrotham . . and for his just dealing in matters was chosen this last year one of the seizers for the subsidy due to the queen's majesty in the parish of Wrotham.' (1938, p.83-87)

The Knole Manuscript - Men of Seal in 1648

A list of the inhabitants (that is men and probably only householders) of Seal on 3rd April 1648 survived as a manuscript at Knole. The following list comes from notes made by Commander Stagg and now with his papers in CKS.

Seal Village	page z.67
Fuller Street and Chart	page z.72
Chart	page z.74
Stone Street and Bitchet	page z.76
Godden and Fawke	page z.80
Not Listed but Expected to be	page z.83

The men were divided into five geographical areas:

	identified	unidentified	total
- no heading - taken as Seal village	23	9	32
- Fuller Street and Chart	5	2	7
- Chart	8	5	13
- Stone Street and Bitchett	15	8	23
- Godden and Fawke	11	8	19
	----	----	----
	62	32	94

Thus a third of those listed cannot be identified.

The numbers in the Seal database are given for those in the MS who can be identified with men recorded in the parish registers and more details of these can be found under the specific family heading. The headings are similar to those used for the families but with date died replaced with age in April 1648. Where an approximate age in 1648 has been given, it has been calculated on the basis that the man was 24 when he married and, if marriage date is not known, the first child was born when he was 25. The dates between which children were baptised are also given.

In addition, there are ten heads of families which would be expected to appear in the list; these are given on page z.83.

More details of children, etc. may often be found under the section for the family of the given surname. even if there is no reference to another section.

Seal Village

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Age	Children born
#2254	ADLINGTON, Robert	16 Feb 1617	<1645		1 1	31	1645
#2100	ATHERFOLD, Edward	5 Jul 1607		Ann Atherfold(m)	1 4	41	1633 to 1643
	"dutherfield" in the list						
#1593	BAKER, William	8 Mar 1590			2 11	58	1623 to 1643
	The likeliest William Baker to be the one listed is #1593 who married Mary Swaynland in 1621 - see Baker in Families & Transcripts						
#2724	BROWNE, Thomas		<1640	Alice Browne(m)	1 2	about 33	1641 & 1644
#2262	BRYAN, John				2 7	about 34	1640s & 50s
	"Briant" in the MS; #2262 married twice, in 1639 and 1643 with five children of the second marriage born 1640s/50s - see Bryan . #2262's father, also John, could still have been alive in 1648						
#2431	COGGER, George		26 Apr 1620	Susan Reynolds	1 4	about 53	1627 to 1653
	George was buried 3 April 1653						
#1598	DARKER, John	25 Apr 1590			1 6	58	1619 to 1632
	married Susan Nicoll/Webb and had 6 children - see Elizabeth's Family in Webbs in More Families & Transcripts						

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Age	Children born
#3900	FANE, Robert, Esquire and Senior				1 1	24	1649
	"Faune" in list; first child baptised March 1649 but it is likely that he married before April 1648						
	FRENCH, John						
	there are a large number of John Frenches but none having children at a time to fit in with the 1648 MS; a second John Frenche is listed for Godden and Fawke. There is, however, a James Frenche (#2553) with eight children born between 1639 and 1651 who could possibly have been listed as John in error.						
#2600	FRENCH, Lawrence	15 Oct 1607		Elizabeth Frenche(m)	1 7	41	1630s & 40s
	see Frenche in Families & Transcripts for more details						
#842	FULLER, Henry	9 Feb 1577	9 Nov 1601	Elizabeth Colfe	1 1	71?	
	was this Henry Fuller still alive in 1648? or did he have a son Henry whose baptism was not recorded in Seal?						
	GARLAND, Thomas						
#2778	GODFREY, Thomas			Mary Godfrey(m)	1 4	about 31	1642 to 1651

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Age	Children born
#1318	HIGH, Gregory	12 Sep 1585	4 Aug 1608	Dorothy Fuller	1 5	53	
	Gregory was 53 when his wife died in 1638; it could have been this Gregory or his son Gregory (#2660, born 1620, nothing else recorded) who was listed in 1648 - see High						
#2657	HIGH, Richard	26 Nov 1609	1 Nov 1636	Elisabeth Frenche	1 0	41	
	#1318's eldest son						
	LADSWELL, Stephen						
	LATANCE, Richard						
	MADOX, Neckbase						
#1910	MASTERS, Samuel	10 Oct 1598	9 May 1631	Amy/Ann Sislev	1 8	50	1633 to 1647
#3856	MAYNARD, Timothy			Martha Maynard(m)	1 7	about 40	1634 to 1648
#3108	NICHOLSON, George, gent			Eliz. Nicholson(m)	1 6	about 52	1622 to 1639
	In 1649/50 George was living in one of Seal's three parsonages which was owned by his eldest daughter, Marie. See Nicolson in More Families & Transcripts.						

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Age	Children born
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#3862 OLYVER, George Elizabeth Olyver(m) 1 1 about 26 1646
 Elizabeth, daughter of George and Elizabeth was baptised 6 Dec
 1646 but otherwise nothing is known about them - see [Olyver](#)

PEAS, Andrew

PORTER, William

there are a number of William Porters; #832 was still alive in
 1648 (he died in 1657, aged 80) but is given as of Godden; his son,
 #3253, did not marry until October 1648

#3313 RANDOLL, James

2 ?

There were two James Randolls:

the first wife of one of them was buried 21 Dec 1648 just after the
 birth of their second son, himself buried 27 Dec 1648; this is the
 most likeliest to be the James listed

there were two marriages in 1649, either of which could have been
 #3313 marrying for the second time:

- 3 May 1649 James Randoll and Joane Maddocks who had two,
 probably three, children:
 - Margaret, baptised 3 May 1650, daughter of James and Joane
 - Richard, baptised 24 Mar 1652, son of James
 - Mary, baptised 17 Sep 1654, daughter of James and Joane
- 9 Oct 1649 James Randoll and Ann Walters; Richard could be
 their son since no mother is given - see [Randoll in More Fam. & Tran.](#)

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Age	Children born
	RATTLY, William	could this be William ROCKLEY, #2877? see page z. 72, 84					
#3865	STILL, Thomas			Grace Still (m)	1 2	about 26	1648 & 1651
	They had a son and a daughter:						
	#3867	STILL, Thomas		baptised:	26 Mar	1648	
	#3868	Still, Francis			12 Jan	1651	
#3425	SWAYNSLAND, Edward	12 Feb 1621		Elizabeth Fuller	1 13	about 51	1622 to 1646
	"Sausland" in the list						
#3427	SWAYNSLAND, Henry	11 Feb 1622	20 Aug 1645	Katherine Theobald	1 3	26	1648 to 1655
	"Sausland" in the list						
	TENNAN, Robert						
#3568	WELLS, Henry	1 Aug 1630		Elizabeth Roberts	1 4	about 43	1631 to 1642
	They had four children:						
	#3570	Wells, Elizabeth		baptised:	24 Aug	1631	
	#3571	Wells, Francis		(daughter)	31 Jan	1636	
	#3572	WELLS, Thomas			25 Oct	1639	
	#3573	Wells, Joan			21 Aug	1642	
#587	WINDGATE, John	"Winget" in the list			2 6	about 38	1635 to 1647
	John's wife, Elizabeth, must have died autumn 1647 to spring 1649 since John married again in May 1649 - see						
	Windgate in More Families & Transcripts						

Fuller Street and Chart

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Age	Children born
#2240	ADGOE, Thomas		24 Apr 1638	Katherine Hall	1 7	about 34	1638 to 1649
	BULLING, Thomas	- see page z. 77					
	LANKES, Richard						
#2464	MILLIS, Stephen	26 Jan 1643	Mildred Collins	1 1	about 29	1646	
	" -- wife of Stephen Millis" was buried on 9 Apr 1644						
	Ann Millis (#2465) "daughter of Stephen and Mildred Millis" was baptised over 2 years later on 26 Dec 1646. Was there another Stephen Millis whose wife, also called Mildred, died in 1644? Or did #2464 marry another woman called Mildred? There are a number of Millis families in Lghtham.						
	"Stephen Millis" was also listed for Godden and Fawke which, unless this was a duplication/error, points to there being two Stephens. There was also a John Millis of Chart - see below						
#3250	PORTER, John	25 Nov 1610	17 May 1636	Elizabeth Chawlyn	1 7	38	1639 to 1654

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Age	Children born
#3870	SMITH, James				2 3	about 25	1648 to 1655
	James's first wife, Rachel (#3873), died in 1649, they having had a daughter, Elizabeth (#3874) baptised on 13 Feb 1648. James married again and had two more daughters:						
				#3876 Smith, Ann		baptised: 14 Jan 1651	
				#3877 Smith, Sarah		11 Jan 1655	
#3416	STONE, Richard	30 Oct 1630		Elisabeth Chittenden	1 3	about 44	1631 to 1636
	Richard's wife, Elisabeth died in April 1638; see Chittendens in More Families & Transcripts						

Chart

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Age	Children born
#2333	BRIGHT, William				2	7	about 48 1625 to 1641
	William married Elizabeth Pickenden 22 Sep 1624 and they had six children before Elizabeth died in October 1639; William remarried and he, and his second wife, had a daughter in November 1641 - see Bright in More Families & Transcripts						
	CARVER, Richard						
	could be Carter but no Richard Carter is recorded for the appropriate time						
#2489	COXE, William(5)				2	3	about 36 1637 to 1643
	this William had a daughter by his first wife in 1637 and married again in January 1639, his second wife being Katherine Welfare - see Coxe in Families & Transcripts						
	ELLIS, William						
#2580	FRENCH, Peter	20 Sep 1629			1	2	19
	this Peter, with children born in 1652 and 1654, was probably too young to be the Peter Frenche listed but his father, if he was still alive, would have been 78; there was an elder brother (by Peter Frenche, senior's first marriage) baptised in Kemsing in 1601 but nothing else is recorded for him.						

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Age	Children born
#855	GISLING, Edward		18 Jun 1620	Clemence Hills	1 5	about 52	1624 to 1643
				see Gisling in Families & Transcripts			
#3903	HARTWELL, Ralph		14 Jun 1649	Elizabeth Taylor(m)	1 0	??	
	married Elizabeth over a year after the list was drawn up but she was a widow, was this also Ralph's second marriage with nothing recorded for his family for the earlier years?						
#2812	HASELDEN, John	29 Nov 1607	13 Apr 1629	Ann Beale	1 9	41	1631 to 1651
				see Hasden/Haselden in Families & Transcripts			
#2463	MILLIS, John		24 Sep 1637	Margaret Bird	1 5	about 35	1640 to 1647
	They had five children:						
	#2467	MILLIS, John		baptised:	17 May	1640	
	#2468	MILLIS, Stephen			27 Dec	1641	
	#2469	MILLIS, Anne			2 Jan	1644	buried 15 Sep 1646
	#2470	MILLIS, William			6 Jul	1645	
	#2471	MILLIS, Thomas			10 Oct	1647	
#3852	SCRAWN, Thomas			Ann Scrawn(m)	1 2	about 28	1643 and 1647
	They had two children:						
	#3854	SCRAWN, Peter		baptised:	9 JUL	1643	
	#3855	Scrawn, Dorothy			28 Mar	1647	
	SHINGNELL, Richard						
	TUPPE, William						

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Age	Children born
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WALKER, James

there are a number of Walkers but no James; John Walker, #3487, married Anne Tompson in September 1642 and they had three children baptised 1643, 1647 and 1649. Thus we would expect #3487 to be included in the list and perhaps "James" should have been "John" - see [Walker in Families & Transcripts](#)

Stone Street and Bitchet

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Age	Children born
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#1275 ALLINGHAM, William 6 Sep 1584 2 7 63 1615 to 1629
 "Esquire" as he is listed in the MS; William's first wife, Elizabeth, died in 1628 after bearing six children and he then married Ann Baker by whom he had a daughter in 1629 - see [Allingham in Families & Transcripts](#)

#2082 BARTON, Thomas 4 Sep 1603 3 8 44 1626 to 1642
 "Bartine" in the list; Thomas and his first wife had six children before she died in 1640; his second wife must have died very soon after the birth of their son in 1641 and Thomas had one more recorded child by his third wife, Anne - see [Barton in Families & Transcripts](#)

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Age	Children born
	BULLIN, Thomas, senior			was he the father of Thomas Bulling? - see page z. 72			
	CARTER, John			no John Carter recorded for the 1640s			
#2391	CHRISTOPHER, John						
	This could be #2391, born July 1620 and possibly the father of 2 sons baptised in Seal in 1643 and 1646 - see Christopher in Fam. & Tr.						
#3682	COATES, Edward	3 Sep 1592?		Alice Coates(m)	1 4	56	1622 to 1633
	see Coates in Families & Transcripts for more details						
	FRENCH, Francis						
	a Francis French was baptised 2 Feb 1601 but nothing more is known about him						
	HADSWELL, Henry						
	there are Hadsolls in Seal including Steven Hadsoll who would have been expected to be listed - see #2986 on page z. 83						
#2848	HAWES, Richard	21 Sep 1606	9 Sep 1632	Jane Polhill	1 5	41	1636 and 1648
	see Hawes in More Families & Trans.						
	KETTELL, Christopher						
	A Robert Kettells (#3885) had children in 1648, 1650 and 1652 but no record of a Christopher Kettell has been found						

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Age	Children born
#1436	MONKE, Henry	5 Jul 1587	15 Jun 1617	Mary Cock	1 1	61	1620
	there is no other Henry Monke recorded who could have been in Seal in 1648 - see Monke in Families & Transcripts						
#3097	NEWINGTON, Gabriel			Susan Newington(m)	1 2	about 46	1646 & 1649
	They had two children:						
	#3099	NEWINGTON, Gabriel		baptised: 2 Aug 1646			
	#3100	Newington, Elizabeth		15 May 1649		buried: 25 JUL	1649
#3878	NICHOLAS, John			True Nicholas(m)	1 2	about 24	1650 & 1652
	John and True could have married before April 1648; they had two children:						
	#3880	Nicholas, True		baptised: 22 Sep 1650			
	#3881	NICHOLAS, Francis (son)		19 Apr 1652			
#3892	PENYALL, Thomas		8 Jul 1647	Mary Pullen	1 2	about 25	
	They had two children:						
	#3894	Penyall, Elizabeth		baptised: 10 Sep 1648			
	#3895	PENNYALL, Thomas		10 Aug 1651			
#2537	ROGERS, John				2 2	about 39	1635 & 1637
	John married Margaret Thomas in 1633 and, after her death in 1641, he married, Margaret Frenche - see Rogers in Families & Trans.						

SHEWBRI DGE, John

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Age	Children born
#2967	SMITH, Thomas		24 Sep 1626	Jane Smale	1 4	about 46	1627 to 1640
	They had five children:						
	#2969	SMITH, John		baptised: 8 Jul 1627			
	#2970	SMITH, Thomas		19 Apr 1630			
	#2971	Smith, Jane		11 Mar 1632			
	#2972	Smith, Mary				buried: 8 Feb 1647	
	#2973	SMITH, John		7 Sep 1640			
	Mary, when she was buried, and John, when he was baptised were recorded as the children of " Thomas and Jane Smith "						
#3405	STEVENS, Richard	23 Jan 1620			2 1	28	1651
	Richard's first wife was buried 1649/50 (register not complete) and he then married Alice Cots - see Stevens in More Families & Transcripts						
#3231	THOMSON, William			Mildred Porter	1 2	about 33	1640 & 1641
	see Family of Andrew Porter in Families & Transcripts						
#695	WARE, John			Dorothy Ware(m)	1 3	about 25	1648 to 1654
#3553	WEBB, John		1 Dec 1632	Mary Chary	1 4	about 40	1642 to 1651
	nothing is known of John and Mary between 1632 and 1642						
	WIGZELL, Thomas						
	The Wigzells were a Kemsing family						
	WOOD, Hugh						

Godden and Fawke

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Age	Children born
#2343	BUDGEON, John			Jane Budgeon(m)	1 5	about 32	1641 & 1655
	CARNER, Stephen						
#2293	CARTER, William	18 Jan 1607			2 6	41	1631 to 1648
	William married Alice Roberts in 1630 and they had two children before she died in 1635; he then married Elizabeth Woodgate - see Carter						
	CLAGETT, George						
#2447	COLLYNS, Nicholas		18 Oct 1636	Thamar Porter	1 9	about 36	1637 to 1652
				#2451 see Collins in More Families & Transcripts			
	FRENCH, John	see John Frenche, page z.68					
#2607	FRENCH, Lawrence	24 Sep 1620		Elizabeth Frenche(m)	1 3	27	
	Lawrence and Elizabeth's first recorded child was born in 1650 but, other than #2600 given as the Lawrence Frenche listed for Seal village, there is no other Lawrence recorded who could have been a householder in 1648						

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Age	Children born
#2595	FRENCH, Robert	26 Aug 1621		Frances Frenche(m)	1 2	27	1645 & 1648
#2609	FRENCH, Robert	18 Jun 1626	11 Apr 1647	Mi zael Ashdown #2632	1 2	22	1647 & 1650
#3120	GODDEN, Thomas	"Goding" in list		Dorothy Godden(m)	1 7	about 47	1626 to 1638
	MILLIS, Stephen	see #2464 under Fuller Street and Chart (page z. 72)					
	OLYVER, John	although there are a number of John Olyvers born at the beginning of the seventeenth century, no children of a John Olyver are recorded in the 1630s/40s					
#3165	OLYVER, Robert	21 Sep 1600		Elizabeth Olyver(m)	1 8	47	1624 to 1639
	RI CH, Thomas						
#3397	SOANE, John	1 3 about 58 "John Soane, sen." in the list; a John Soane had children, including a John, between 1615 and 1623: #3399 Soane, Elizabeth baptised: 22 Jan 1615 #3400 SOANE, John 15 Sep 1616 #3401 Soane, Joan 23 Nov 1629 nothing, other than their baptisms, is recorded for these children					

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Age	Children born
#3400	SOANE, John		15 Sep 1616			31	
	"John Soane, jun." in the list was presumably the son of John Soane, senior, who have been old enough to be a householder by 1648						
	TAMSON, Thomasm,						
	WANKER, John						
#2699	WOOD, Roger		22 Aug 1626	Johane Gardner #1839	1 6	about 46	1627 to 1638
				see	Roger Wood in Gardner in More Families & Transcripts		

Not Listed but Expected to be

The following men with families would be expected to have been in th Knole MS.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Age	Chi l dren born
#2083	BARTON, William	7 Sep 1606	26 Aug 1638	Anne Polhill	1 5	41	1639 to 1651 see Barton
#3708	BREET, Samuel			Gertrude Breet(m)	1 3	about 28	
	They had three children:						
#3710	BREET, Nicholas		baptised:	13 Jul 1645			
#3711	Breet, Mary			28 May 1648			
#3712	BREET, Samuel			1 Jun 1652			
#2560	FRENCH, Thomas	25 Feb 1616		Clemence Frenche(m)	1 4	32	1642 to 1654
	In the list there are two John Frenches and also a Francis who cannot be identified but not a Thomas						
#2665	GARDNER, John		11 Jun 1637	Adria Hunt	1 5	about 35	1638 to 1651 see Gardner in More Fam. & Trans.
2779	GODFREY, Oliver			Mary Godfrey(m)	1 3	about 26	1647 to 1653
2986	HADSOLL, Steven		8 Jul 1638	Dorothy Cozens	1 4	about 34	1638 to 1648 see Hodsoll in More Fam. & Trans.
	Steven's burial is recorded for 27 Jun 1652						
#3051	MASTERS, Edward	23 Jan 1620	23 Jul 1643	Joane Frenche	1 3	28	1644 to 1650 see Masters in Families & Trans.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Age	Children born
#3601	RAVEN, John				2 4	about 42	
	John had two children in the 1630s by his first wife who died in May 1640 and another two by his second wife in 1642 and 1644; although he could have then moved from Seal, his burial is recorded at the end of 1648 - see Raven in More Families & Trans.						
#2877	ROCKLEY, William			Elizabeth Rockley(m)	1 4	about 33	
	They had four children:						
#368	Rockley, Dorothy		baptised:	12 Apr 1640			
#2900	ROCKLEY, Lawrence			19 Feb 1643			
#3841	ROCKLEY, George			18 Jan 1647			
#3842	Rockley, Elizabeth			10 Jan 1652		(name given as "Rogtlee")	
#3556	WEBB, Austin	28 Nov 1641		Elizabeth Jones	1 3	about 30	1642 to 1649
	see Webb in More Families & Transcripts for the Webb families						

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