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The name Raylyson is not mentioned in the parish records.

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The second and twenty day of November 1525,
in the first year of the reign
2 of our sovereign lord Charles, by the grace of god king of England,
Scotland¹, France and Ireland,
3 defender of the faith, etc. I, Thomas Raylyson of Seal in the county of
4 Kent, **yeoman**, sick in body but, thanks be given to God, of good and
perfect memory, I do make
5 and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following:
First: I give and
6 bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God, my creator and
redeemer, in whom and
7 by whom, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my saviour, I trust to be saved
and to have eternal

1 "Scotland" inserted; originally "and of Scotland the first" was written after "defender of the faith, etc". Obviously the scriptor was used to the different year for the king of Scotland as it had been necessary throughout the reign of James I of England.

8 life and, as for my body, I bequeath it to the earth from whence it came, the
same to be buried in
9 the parish churchyard of Seal aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
my sister
10 **Elizabeth Nouthon** sixty (of good and lawful money of England)² and if she
be deceased, my mind is to give it **my sister Carthen**
11 **Bexle's children** to be equal portions divided. **Item:** I bequeath to my sister
Bexle
12 thirty pounds of good and lawful money of England and to her children
after her decease. **Item:** I bequeath unto **Solomon Parces**
13 forty shillings of good and lawful money of England and to **Thomas Parces,**
his son, forty shillings and to **Alces Parces, his daughter,** forty shillings.
14 **Item:** I bequeath to **William Olyver**³ forty shillings of good and lawful
money of England, **Isabel?, his daughter,** forty shillings. **Item:** I bequeath
15 to **John Lawse?** twenty shillings of good and lawful money of England and
my gown. **Item:** I bequeath the poor of Seal the full sum
16 of twenty shillings of good and lawful money of England within ten days
after my decease at the discretion of my executor. **Item:**

2 phrase in brackets inserted; this phrase was also inserted in lines 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16

3 could have written the will; he could have been #1966 whose will of 1634 has survived

17 all the rest of my goods not mentioned? or bequeathed in this my will, my
debts paid, my legacies
18 fulfilled and my body brought to the earth with my funeral duties
discharged. **Item:**
19 I give and bequeath unto **John Becket**⁴ whom I make and ordain my full
and sole executor
20 of this my last will
William Olyver
the mark of Solomon Parce
the mark of Thomas Raylyson

4 could have been the son of the John Becket whose will of 1570 has survived - see *becketw.will*

The Reades of Tonbridge

Two wills have survived for Reade of Tonbridge:

Henry Reade 1579 CKS: Drb/Pw 12; Drb/Pwr 16.31

Robert Reade 1589 CKS: Drb/Pw 15; Drb/Pwr 17.376 page r.8

There is no obvious relationship between Henry and Robert since, although Henry had four sons, none of them were called Robert. The phrases used in Robert's will, for example, "[being visited with god's visitation](#)" are unusual and he had a living in Worcestershire which he left to his daughter, Francis Reade "[herself and my wife shall not meddle there](#)".

Robert's will was proved by John Stockwood, vicar of Tonbridge "by virtue of a commission".

Will of Henry Reade

probate 30th January 1578/9

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen.

2 I, Henry Reade of **North Frith** in the parish of Tonbridge,
3 being sick in body but of perfect remembrance, thanks be to
4 god, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form
5 following: **First:** I commit my soul into the hands of Almighty
6 god and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Tonbridge.
7 **First:** I give unto **Alexander, my eldest son**, twenty shillings
8 in money to be paid at ??⁵ payment within the year after my
9 decease and one coat and a pair of hose. **Item:** I give unto **Walter**
10 **my son**, 20s in money to be paid unto him within two years
11 after my death. **Item:** I give unto **Henry, my son**, a brown
12 yearling cow bullock and a brass cauldron. **Item:** I give
13 unto **Thomas, my son**, one red and white yearling bullock
14 and the greatest iron pot. **Item:** I make **Agnes, my wife**,
15 my whole executrix of all the rest of my goods seeing my
16 body to be buried in form as is aforesaid. Witnesses hereunto
17 **John Smyth, Humphrey Dixon and Thomas Lamperd**

1 In the name of god Amen. In the 16th day of
2 ?? 1589, I, Robert Reade of Tonbridge, being visited
3 with god's visitation and grievously pained,
4 committing my soul into the hands of god
5 and my body into the church yard of
6 Tonbridge, I will unto **James Druly** two ewes
7 and **John Combe** one ewe, **John Davies** one
8 ewe lamb and unto **Samuel Gerom and**
9 **his wife** six ewes and I will unto **Sylvian, my**
10 **wife**, and unto **Frances Reade, my daughter**,
11 all the residue of my goods to be my executrixes
12 and assignors to ?? debts and dues
13 as I my self and I will unto John Druly
14 all my wearing apparel and I will unto **Ellen**
15 **Druly** one ewe lamb and for a ??unch as in
16 ??bery in the county of Worcester, I have
17 some living lying, I will that my daughter,
18 Francis Reade, shall have it to her self and
19 that my wife shall not meddle there. If she

20 do, then shall she pay unto my daughter,
21 Francis Reade, ten pounds of good and lawful
22 money of England. Thus the Lord redeemer I ??
23 both now and evermore, Amen. In witness whereof
24 I myself Robert Reade being in good and perfect
25 memory and **Samuel Gerom** and **Edward Hutton**
26 have set our hands and seals and for witness one
27 **William Hawke.**

The Roberts of Seal and Kemsing

Two wills have survived for Roberts from Seal:

John Robert	2 Jan 1526/7	CKS: Drb/Pwr 8.77	page r.12
John Robert	22 Nov 1540	CKS: Drb/Pwr 9.326	page r.14

These were probably father and son. The John who died in 1527 had three sons and a daughter, Johane, who was to have "[at her commandment](#)" as long as she was unmarried the chamber in which John lay with freedom to go through the hall to it. It looks as if John's wife had already died and John, presumably the eldest son, was to receive all his father's land and tenement paying his two brothers only 6s 8d each.

The John whose will was written in 1540 was a carpenter whose wife, Margaret, was alive at that time. In addition to his son William, he had two daughters under twenty-six. If they married before they were twenty-six, they were to have 40s at their marriage but, "[if it fortune](#)" that either of them "[not to be married at the 26th year, then to be paid to do with it at her own will and pleasure](#)".

	#4573 ⁶ John -			
<i>will:</i>	2 Jan 1527			

	#4568	#4569	#4575	#4576 #4577
	John - Margaret		Robert	Thomas Johane
<i>born:</i>				> 1501
<i>will:</i>	22 Nov 1540			

	#4570	#4571		#4572
	William		Johane	Agnes
<i>born:</i>			> 1514	> 1514

A number of Robert families of Seal and Kemsing can be reconstructed from the parish registers. One of these consists of the children of a William Roberts born in Seal in the 1570s and 1580s; this William could have been a son of the above William. Details of these families are given after the transcripts of the wills.

1 In the name of god Amen . . 1526 the
2 second day of January, I, John Robert of Seal
3 whole in mind make my testament and last
4 will in this wise: **First:** I bequeath my
5 soul to god, my body to be buried in
6 the churchyard of Seal. **Item:** I bequeath
7 to the high altar 8d. **Item:** to
8 **Isabell Thomlyn**, my goddaughter, 8d. **Item:**
9 to my godson **Robert Hayt?**, 4d. **Item:** to **John**
10 **Baker**, my godson 4d. The residue of all
11 my goods unbequeathed, I give to **John, my son**
12 paying my debts and legacies whom I make
13 my executor and **John Theobold**⁶ overseer and he
14 to have for his labours 12d.

15 This is the last will of me the said John
16 Robert. **First:** I bequeath to my son John

the house he dwelleth in with a garden plot
and a parcel of land lying there unto and the
north part of the garden, paying to **Thomas
Baker** within the space of 3? years 10s. Also
I will to the said John, my son, two little plots
with one little (piece?) of wood paying to his
sister Johane, at her marriage 40s. Also I
will the said John, my son, shall pay to
the marriage of **Margaret Gibbyns** 40s.
Also I will that the said John, my son,
shall pay to his **2 brothers, Robert and Thomas**, to
each of them, 6s 8d 12 months after
my decease. Also I will Johane, my daughter,
have the chamber which I lie in at her
commandment as long as she is un-
married and her (departing?) and going to the
said chamber through the hall free and
fle . . during the said term. Also for the
default of payment, then I will that
the foresaid Margaret and Johane shall
distrain and ?? to parcel of land and ??
witness: ??

Walter? Alan?; ?? Baker; William Miller

1 In die nom. Amen. In the year of our lord god
2 1500⁷ and 40 on the 22nd day of November, I,
3 John Robert, otherwise called **Hopkins**, of Seal,
4 **carpenter**, make my will in this wise. **First**:
5 I bequeath my soul to god, my body to be buried
6 in the churchyard of Seal aforesaid. **Item**: to the
7 high altar 4d. **Item**: I bequeath at the day of
8 my burial 5 masses and 2 bushels of wheat
9 to be made into bread to be distributed to poor
10 people. Also at my month's day, five masses
11 and then weather to be made 3 pastes to be⁸
12 distributed to poor people at that day at the
13 discretion of my wife. The residue of all my
14 goods, my debts and bequests paid, I give to **Margaret**,

7 a particular symbol used for 1500 in, at least, the probate copy of this will and other probate copies of that time

8 it is relatively easy to read each word in this line but not to make sense of it

15 **my wife**, whom with **Sir Chroser Charparow**⁹,
16 I make my executors. And he to have for his
17 pains 12d. And **John Denman** of Seal my
18 overseer and he to have for his labour 12d.
19 This is the last will of the foresaid John
20 Robert made the day and year above written.
21 **First:** I will that Margaret, my wife, have my
22 tenement withall my lands lying in the parish of
23 Seal aforesaid during her widowhood. And if it fortune
24 her to marry, then I will that **William, my son**, shall
25 have my land and tenement aforesaid to him, his heirs
26 and assigns upon conditions following¹⁰: except a
27 chamber and loft on the east side of the
28 hall of my tenement which my said wife shall
29 have during her life. And then I will that William,
30 my son, his heirs and assigns, shall pay
31 during her life, to her and her assigns, 10s? by the
32 year, to be paid half yearly in equal portions.

9 Sir Christopher Sharepeharrow (spelled in a variety of ways) witnessed a number of other Seal wills between 1519 and 1526

10 "folowing" - this is a probate copy and thirty years prior to the Hooper wills where this spelling was fairly common

33 And for lack of payment to be lawful to the said
33 Margaret and her assigns to stress and strain in
35 the said tenement, or any parcel thereof, so being
36 behind. And I will that William, my son, to
37 keep reparations of the said chamber during
38 his mother's life. Also I will that **Johane,**
39 **my daughter,** have to her marriage 40s at the
40 day of her marriage if she be married at any
41 time before she come to the age of 26 years.
42 And if it fortune she not to be married at the age of
43 years, then to be paid to do with it at her
44 will and pleasure. Also I will that **Agnes, my**
45 **daughter,** have to her marriage 40s at the day
46 of her marriage if she be married at any time
47 before she come to the age of 26 years. And if it
48 fortune she not to be married at the 26th year,
49 then to be paid to do with it at her own will
50 and pleasure. And if it fortune any of them, Johane
51 or Agnes, my daughters, to decease before they are
52 married or before the age of 26 years, then
53 one to be an other's heir of the said money.
54 Also I will if any of my two daughters before
55 rehearsed, fortune to marry or come to the

56 age of 26 years, my wife living sole, my widow, at the
57 time of any of their marriage, then I will that
58 Margaret, my wife, do pay to either of my
59 daughters their marriage money to them bequeathed. **Item:** I will if it
60 fortune that Margaret, my wife, do marry or depart this world before
61 Johane and Agnes, my daughters, be married or come to their age of 26
62 years aforesaid, then I will that William, my son, his heirs and
63 assigns, shall pay to my daughters, aforesaid rehearsed, their
64 marriage money as is aforesaid. **Witnesses: Sir William Hill?**
John Theobald¹¹ and Richard Stow

William Roberts and John Tooth

John Tooth had a "message or tenement" in which William Roberts and Margaret Meed were living in 1588 when John wrote his will. Each of William's children were left 12d by John Tooth. See [Tooth in Families & Transcripts](#).

#773 ¹³ William -			

#775	#917	#1175	#1439
Dorothy	Richard	William	Rachel ¹⁴
bap: 16 May 1574	14 Jun 1579	11 Nov 1582	23 Jul 1587

One of the members of the jury which investigated the alleged infanticide of Benedicta Sherman in 1611 was a William Roberts who could have been either #1175 of his father, #773. See [Sherman in More Families & Transcripts](#).

¹³ # indicates a reference in the Seal database

¹⁴ married Richard Werye (#2038) on 24th May 1612 when she was twenty-four; nothing more is known of them

Richard Roberts

Eleven children "[of Richard Roberts](#)", including a pair of twins, were recorded in Seal between 1601 and 1635, the burial of three wives "[of Richard Roberts](#)" and the burial of a Richard Roberts himself on 19th October 1642. It is possible, but not all that likely, that there was one Richard who married four times. If there was only one, and he was #917 (William's son, see above), he married firstly at 21 or under (much below the average age), for the fourth time at 51 and died aged 63.

The sequence of events, however, make the proposition of one Richard seem plausible:

marriage	children		
	1601-1610	burial of wife Sybil	1620
	1621-1627	burial of wife Ann	1628
Sep 1628 to Joan		burial of wife Joan	1629
Dec 1630 to Susan	1633-1635		
		burial of Richard	1642
marriage of Susan in 1643			

Family 1

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
	<u>ROBERTS, Richard</u> -----		<1601		1 6	
#3348	<u>his wife, Sybil</u> -----				1 6	22 Feb 1620 in her 40s
!	#3349 <u>ROBERTS, William</u>	2 Aug 1601			0 0	
!	#2294 <u>Roberts, Alice</u>	14 Aug 1603	22 Aug 1630 married at 27	William CARTER #2293 - see Carter	1 2	17 May 1635 aged 31
!	#868 <u>ROBERTS, Edward</u>	25 Jan 1607	5 Aug 1633	Dorothy Fuller see below for their children	1 6	15 Jun 1647 at 40
!	#1458 <u>Roberts, Margaret</u>	5 Feb 1609			0 0	
!	#1459 <u>ROBERTS, Ruben</u>	28 Nov 1610	twin		0 0	17 Aug 1618 age 7
!	#1537 <u>ROBERTS, Lawrence</u>	28 Nov 1610	twin		0 0	
#868	<u>ROBERTS, Edward</u> -----	25 Jan 1607	5 Aug 1633 married at 26	Dorothy Fuller #3355	1 6	15 Jun 1647 at 40
!	#3356 <u>Roberts, Margaret</u>	13 Oct 1633			0 0	
!	#3357 <u>ROBERTS, Richard</u>	18 Oct 1635			0 0	
!	#3358 <u>ROBERTS, William</u>	17 Feb 1638			0 0	18 May 1638 at 3 mnths
!	#3359 <u>ROBERTS, Jane</u>	25 Jul 1639			0 0	
!	#3360 <u>ROBERTS, Edward</u>	20 Feb 1642			0 0	17 Aug 1642 at 6 mnths
!	#3361 <u>ROBERTS, Edward</u>	2 Feb 1644			0 0	

Family 2

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
	<u>ROBERTS, Richard</u> -----		1620/21		1	3	
#3350	<u>his wife, Ann</u> -----				1	3	17 May 1628
I #2028	<u>Roberts, Ann</u>	20 Dec 1621			0	0	
I #2916	<u>Roberts, Mildred</u>	31 May 1624			0	0	
I #2918	<u>Roberts, Dorothy</u>	28 May 1627			0	0	

Marriage 3

The marriage of Richard Roberts and Joan Underhill which took place in September 1628 in Kemsing lasted only a few months; Joan was buried (in Seal) on 22nd April 1629.

Marriage 4 and Family 3

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
	<u>ROBERTS, Richard</u> -----		9 Dec 1630	Susan Fremlyn	1	2	19 Oct 1642
#3351	<u>Fremlyn, Susan</u> -----	<1610			2	2	
I #3352	<u>ROBERTS, Richard</u>	19 Jul 1633			0	0	1 Sep 1633 at 6 wks
I #3353	<u>Roberts, Mary</u>	1 Jun 1635			0	0	

After Robert died in 1642, Susan married **Richard Rogers (#3354)** on 3rd July 1643

A Richard Roberts witnessed the will of William Porter in 1610 - see **Porter**

The Fremlyns were a large Kemsing family - see More Families & Transcripts - but Richard's wife cannot be identified.

The Kemsing Roberts

There were two small Roberts families in Kemsing, both in the 1580s to 1590s.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
k186 ¹⁴	<u>ROBERTS, John</u> -----		<1584		1 3	17 Oct 1604 in his 40s
I k188	<u>Roberts, Thabi tha</u>	30 Apr 1584			0 0	
I k189	<u>ROBERTS, Thomas</u>	26 Oct 1586			0 0	4 Apr 1590 age 3½
I k190	<u>ROBERTS, John</u>	17 Feb 1598			0 0	
			should this be 1588?			
k191	<u>ROBERTS, Robert</u> -----		<=1587	Elizabeth Roberts(m)	1 3	
				k192		
k192	<u>Roberts(m), Elizabeth</u> -----				1 3	1 Jan 1592 in her 30s
I k193	<u>ROBERTS, John</u>	20 Nov 1587			0 0	
		probably died before May 1590 when a brother was baptised				"John"
I k194	<u>Roberts, Anne</u>	30 Apr 1589			0 0	
I k195	<u>ROBERTS, John</u>	28 May 1590			0 0	

¹⁴ k indicates a reference in the Kemsing database

In the name of god Amen. The eighth and twentieth day of October in the year of our Lord God one thousand, five hundred, three score and seventeen . . I, Thomas Robinson, of **Bulihill** near the city of Rochester in the county of Kent, **notary publique and Registrar of the Reverend fathers in God, John Piers, Bishop of Rochester**, being whole and perfect of mind and memory, God be praised, therefore do make and ordain this my testament containing therein my last will in manner and form following, that is to say, **First:** I bequeath my soul to God and my body to be buried in the parish church of St. Nicholas in Rochester aforesaid as nigh to the burial of **Olive, my late wife**, as conveniently may be done. And I bequeath for my burial there six shillings eight pence. And my will is that a learned man shall preach at my burial and to have for his pains ten shillings.

The Rogers of Seal, Ightham, Kemsing and Shipbourne

Three early wills have survived for Rogers in this area, two from Seal and one from Shipbourne:

John Roger	Shipbourne	dated 1456; proved 1458	CKS: Drb/Pwr 2.107
John Roger	Seal	1462	CKS: Drb/Pwr 2.244
Elena Roger	Seal	27 Apr 1469	CKS: Drb/Pwr 3.29

Only Elena's will has been looked at and that has not been transcribed. In her will, Elena, widow of John Roger, deceased, left money to the high altar of Seal. Perhaps the John whose will was dated 1462 was her husband.

There are two later wills, John's from Seal and Francis's from Kemsing:

	dated	proved		
John Rogers	5 Sep 1625		CKS: Drb/Pw 27; Drb/Pwr 21.152	page r.26
Francis Rogers	5 Jul 1647	1 Jul 1648	CKS: Drb/Pw 32; Drb/Pwr 23.103	page r.29

See [More Families & Transcripts](#) for the will of Richard Rogers of Speldhurst

Roger(s) being a common name, the various small families in these villages may not have been related.

John Rogers, labourer of Seal

John, who was described as a labourer, wanted to be buried in Hartley which is about eight miles north of Seal and his burial would not therefore have been recorded in Seal. The will is very short but, although only a labourer, he owned a house in Seal which, together with all the furniture in it, he left to his wife Anne whom he made his executrix.

The Will of John Rogers of Seal

written 5th September 1625

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. the 5th September Anno
2 Dom. 1625, I, John Rogers of Seal in the county of Kent, **labourer**, being
3 sick in body but of good and perfect memory, do here make and ordain this
4 last will and testament in manner and form following: **First:** I commend
5 my
6 soul into the hands of almighty god, my maker and redeemer, with an
7 assured
8 confidence of eternal salvation by the only merits of Christ Jesus,
9 my only saviour and redeemer. And my body to the earth whence it
10 came to be buried in the churchyard of **Hartley** in such decent manner

9 as shall seem convenient. **Item:** my will is (that I) do give unto **Anne, my**
10 **wife,** my house in Seal withall the furniture stuff thereunto
11 belonging, to her and her heirs for ever. I do make her my only and sole
12 executor. The mark of John Rogers. Witesses of
13 this my will **Thomas Best, John Emery**¹⁵.

Francis Rogers from Kemsing

The will of Francis Rogers appears to be just the second part concerning his land but it includes the note that it is contained on "[half a sheet of paper](#)" so that it is, perhaps, the complete will as it was written.

Francis was living in a house called Chepsteds with "[orchards and gardens, barns, stables and outhouses](#)" and this he left to his son John together with three other pieces of land containing in total about 16½ acres; the parish in which these were situated is not given. Francis's son Robert was to inherit two other pieces of land, each containing about 3½ acres and these are stated as being in Kemsing. His

¹⁵ Thomas Emery had children in Seal between 1587 and 1593 but no John Emery was recorded

other two sons, Francis and Thomas, were left four pieces of woodland totalling 10 acres.

										k209 ¹⁶		k208		k216		
										Anne	-	Francis	-	Elizabeth		
<i>will:</i>																
k210		k211		k212		k213		k214		k215						
Agnes		John		Elizabeth		Robert		Francis		Thomas						
<i>bap:</i> 6 Jul 1628		28 Jul 1630		13 Nov 1632		28 Sep 1635		10 Jun 1638		30 May 1641		29 Sep 1644				

1 This is the last will and testament of me, the said
2 Francis Rogers, concerning my lands and tenements.

3 **First:** I give and bequeath unto **my son John**
4 **Rogers** the house wherein I now dwell called

5 **Chepsteds** together with the orchards and gardens,
6 barns, stables and outhouses thereunto belonging.

7 As also two pieces or parcels of land ??

8 ?? called by the name or names of

9 **Pettings** containing, by estimation, 13 acres, more or less. **Item:** I bequeath
unto my said son

10 John Rogers one other piece or parcel of land
11 called **Bury Croft** containing, by estimation,
12 three acres and a half, be it more or less.

13 **Item:** I bequeath unto **my son Robert Rogers**
14 one piece or parcel of land called **Settings**
15 lying at Kemsing containing, by estimation,
16 two acres and a half, more or less. And also
17 one piece or parcel of land called **Randolls**
18 **Croft** lying also at Kemsing and containing,

19 by estimation, three acres and a half, more or less,
20 to the said Robert and his heirs forever. And
21 if the said Robert chance to die without issue
22 of his body lawfully begotten, then to **my two**
23 **sons, Francis and Thomas**, and their heirs forever.
24 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto my two said sons,
25 Francis Rogers and Thomas Rogers, four pieces or
26 parcels of woodland called **Boakes Leas?** containi=
27 ning, be estimation, ten acres more or less,
28 to them and their heirs for ever. In witness whereof

This is the end of this page but the two following items were written, at right angles to the main text, in the margin of the will:

I have to this, my last will and testament, containing half a sheet of paper,
set my hand and seal the fifth day of July 1647¹⁷

witnesses hereunto **Robert Baker, William Kipps, Nicholas Miller**

17 if there had been a page before this one, it would have been usual to refer to the date as the one above written

From the Parish Records

Roger(s) being a common name, the various small families in these villages may not have been related.

Three marriages were recorded with no children being recorded for any of them:

in Seal¹⁸:

Richard Rogers (#3371) married **Francis Holmes** (#3477) on 11th February 1621

in Shipbourne:

Thomas Rogers (\$1761) married **Mary Pullard** (\$1765) on 24th October 1639

Susan Rogers (\$1942) married **Thomas Tygh** (\$1926) on 7th September 1644

In Kemsing Robert Rogers (k218) was buried on 24th November 1633, his wife having been buried on 27th March 1631

¹⁸ # indicates a reference in the Seal database, i, k and \$ in the Ightham, Kemsing and Shipbourne databases respectively

A John Rogers was listed in the **Knole MS of 1648** for Stone Street and Bitchet:

<i>mar:</i>	29 Oct 1633	1 Nov 1642
	#2536 Margaret Thomas - John #2537	- Margaret Frenche #2095
<i>bap:</i>		29 Mar 1618
<i>bur:</i>	4 Jan 1641	

	#3311	#3312
	John	Dorothy
<i>bap:</i>	6 Dec 1635	5 Mar 1637
<i>bur:</i>	3 Feb 1636	

In Ightham:

a **Thomas Rogers** was mentioned in the Court records for 1586 to 1618.

Christopher Rogers, gent. (i1889) had a daughter, Etheldred (i1891) baptised on 9th September 1601 but his wife, Elizabeth, was buried on the same day.

On 2nd May 1622, Christopher Rogers witnessed the will of Elizabeth Peckham

The Rolfes of Hadlow, Seal, Speldhurst and Tonbridge

Rolfe/Rolf/Rolphe was a common name and about fifty wills for Rolfes were proved in the Rochester Consistory Court up to 1650; these come from all over the area with seven from Tonbridge and six from Chatham. The following have been investigated:

John Rolfe	Speldhurst	1 Nov 1576	CKS: Drb/Pw 12; Drb/Pwr 15.33	page r.34
John Rolfe	Tonbridge	25 Sep 1589	CKS: Drb/Pw 15; Drb/Pwr 18.60	page r.35
William Rolfe	Hadlow	29 Jun 1616	CKS: Drb/Pw 24	page r.40
Richard Rolfe	Seal	4 Jan 1624/5	CKS: Drb/Pw 26; Drb/Pwr 21.109	page r.49
Thomas Rolfe	Seal	30 Jun 1627	CKS: Drb/Pw 27; Drb/Pwr 21.317	page r.57

John Rolfe of Speldhurst

The will of John Rolfe of Speldhurst is unusual in that, although it was written in 1576, John commends his soul to "[all the celestial company in heaven](#)", a phrase which was not used generally after the mid-fifteen fifties and the year is given from the "[Incarnation of our Saviour Jesus Christ](#)".

In the name of god Amen. The first day of November in the year from the Incarnation of our Saviour Jesus Christ a thousand, five hundred, seventy six and in the 18th year of the reign of our sovereign lady, queen Elizabeth, I, John Rolfe of Speldhurst in the diocese of Rochester and in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being in my perfect memory, lauding god therefore, do ordain and make this my present testament and last will in manner and form ensuing: **First:** and principally I commend my soul unto almighty god, my creator and redeemer, and unto all the celestial company in heaven and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Speldhurst aforesaid.

Item: I will and give all my goods unto **Elnor, my wife**, whom I make my sole and whole executrix of this my present testament and last will and she to bestow for my soul's health according to her discretion. Also in confirmation and collaboration of this my said last will and testament, I have made and ordained **John Jeffre of Lymyngton** my faithful supervisor and overseer of the same to see the true and perfect execution of the ?? ?? to be executed and done in all points according unto the true meaning and effect of the same.

In witness hereof John Denton, clerke, parson? there, William Merres, John Skynner, Thomas Rolfe, Richard Holmby with others.

John Rolfe of Tonbridge

The will of John Rolfe from Tonbridge was written by Nicholas Hooper who wrote a large number of wills for the parishioners of Tonbridge and the surrounding villages. John had his will written because he was about "[to pass over the seas in her majesties' wars](#)" and, since the will was proved in 1590, it would seem that he died whilst away.

Two years earlier, in June 1587, Thomas Gibson "[servant to John Rolfe, innholder](#)," appointed John Rolfe, his master, to be the executor of his will. It is possible that this testator was Thomas Gibson's master. Gibson left money to each of his master's four children whom he names whilst in this John Rolfe just mentions children. See [Gibson in Families & Transcripts](#).

This will was proved 10th March 1590 before John Stockwood, vicar of Tonbridge and Thomas Thompson, vicar of West Malling and a number of other witnesses including Nicholas Hooper who wrote the memorandum giving these details.

1 In the name of god Amen. The 25th of September 1589 ?? 31¹⁹, I, John
2 Rolfe of Tonbridge in the county of Kent, yeoman, being at this time in
perfect good health
3 as well of body as of mind, thanks be²⁰ to almighty god, Notwithstanding
being at this time
4 to pass over the seas in her majesties wars and not knowing how now in
5 what manner I may be visited and willing that all my debts shall be
honestly paid
6 Therefore I do make my will in this manner following²¹. **First:** I commend
my soul into
7 the hands of the lord who gave it and for my body, I commit the same to
the earth
8 from whence it came in what manner or order it may please god to dispose
of the same.

19 the 31st year of the reign of Elizabeth

20 "bee", a spelling used throughout this will and frequently by Nicholas Hooper

21 "folowing" another spelling commonly used by Nicholas Hooper

9 And as for my goods, as well moveable as unmoveable, I will and give all
the same
10 whatsoever unto **Agnes, my wellbeloved wife**, towards the paying of my
debts. And
11 the overplus I will wholly to be given and disposed at her will and pleasure
12 among my children and herself which Agnes I ordain and make my whole
13 and sole executrix. And I desire my good neighbours and friends, **Mr.**
Stockwood,
14 **vicar of Tonbridge** and **Abraham Willard**, overseers of this my will whom
15 I will shall be honestly allowed for any pains by them to be taken about
this
16 my will. In witness whereof I have here unto set my hand and seal the
17 day and year first above written in the presence of
John Stockwood
Abraham Willard
George Chatfield
Nicholas Hooper²² and others

(seal looks like an animal with horns)

²² signature of Nicholas Hooper and the will is written in the same hand as that of Richard Day written on 10th June 1590; thus it can be taken that this will was written by Nicholas Hooper. The name "John Stockwood" was not written in the same way as in the text of Richard Day's will and so is probably John's signature. The other two witnesses possibly wrote their own names.

William Rolfe of Hadlow

In the summer of 1616, William Rolfe the elder, of Hadlow was "not only aged but also grieved with much sickness and infirmity of the body, yet of very good remembrance, (praised be god) and knowing that as all flesh is subject unto death and mortality, so I shall change and end this my mortal life". Since he was also "of nothing more uncertain than of the time thereof and being desirous to set such of my moveable goods in order as god of his goodness hath given me, that no contention fall out about the same after my decease, by those unto whom I have willed and meant the same unto" he decided to have his will written. This was done by Robert Hooper, probably one of Nicholas's sons.

William was a tailor with a wife, Elizabeth, two sons, William and Ralph, and a daughter, Alice, who was a widow in 1616. The son William was married with at least one son, another William. William appointed his wife his executrix and his overseers were to be his brother-in-law and nephew. Was this because his sons lived some distance away or because William did not trust them to carry out his wishes?

The first task appointed to them was assisting his wife to sell all his corn "whatsoever at the best price they can or may so soon as may be after my decease". In addition they were to sell as much of his household stuff as they

thought meet. The money thus received was to be "employed and put out" by his overseers "to the most profit and advantage they can" with the profit being given to Elizabeth towards her maintenance. It thus looks as if William grew corn the sale of which being used to supplement his income as a tailor.

On Elizabeth's death all William's goods, moveables and household stuff was to be divided between his two sons who were to pay £4 to their sister, £5 to William the elder's grandson and £2 to the shoemaker John Covell whose relationship to the family is not known. Examination of the parish registers may give more information.

h217	William	-	Elizabeth	h218	h125 Thomas Newman ²³	-	
will:	29 Jun 1616						

h219		h220		h221		h216	
William	-	Ralph		Alice	- ?? Filtues	Henry	
		h223					
	William						

²³ either Elizabeth's brother or the husband of William's sister; "h" indicates a reference in the Hadlow database

1 In the name of God amen²⁴. The nine and twentieth day
2 of June in the fourteenth 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 he nine and fortieth. And ²⁵ in the
5 year of our Lord God 1616: I, **William Rolfe**, the elder of
6 Hadlow in the county of Kent, **taylor**, being at the time of the making
7 hereof not only aged but also grieved with much sickness and infirmity
8 of the body, yet of very good remembrance, (praised be god) and knowing
9 that as all flesh is subject unto death and mortality, so I shall change and
10 end
11 this my mortal life. Yet being of nothing more uncertain than of the time
thereof
And being desirous to set such my moveable goods in order as god of his
goodness

24 decorated "I"; small decoration from "d" of "God"

25 "of Scotland" written here again and then crossed out

12 hath given me, that no contention fall out about the same after my
decease, by those
13 unto whom I have willed and meant²⁶ the same unto, **Therefore** do ordain
14 and make this my present testament and last will concerning the same in
manner
15 following, that is to say **First** and principally I give, commend and
16 bequeath my soul unto Almighty God, my most merciful creator trusting,
17 by an assured faith which I have in the merit and most precious death and
18 blood shedding of his dear son Jesus Christ, my only saviour and redeemer,
that
19 the same shall appear spotless and without blame before the throne of his
majesty
20 at the great and general day of judgement, and my body to the earth to be
buried
21 in the churchyard of Hadlow aforesaid not doubting of a joyful resurrection
unto
22 life immortal. **Item:** my will and mind is that **Elizabeth, my wife**, (with the
help
23 and assistance of my overseers hereafter named) shall sell all my corn
whatsoever

26 "given" crossed out and "meant" substituted

24 at the best price they can or may so soon as may be after my decease. The
money
25 whereof arising I will shalbe employed and put out by my said overseers to
the most

page 2:

26 profit and advantage they can. And also to sell such of my household stuff
as they shall think meet²⁷. The profit whereof arising I give and bequeath
unto the
27 said Elizabeth during her life towards her maintenance. **Also** my will and
mind
28 is that the said Elizabeth, my wife, shall have the free use and occupation
of all
29 other my goods and moveables whatsoever during her natural life. And
after her
30 decease I will, give and bequeath all and every my goods, moveables and
household stuff
31 whatsoever unto my **two sons, William Rolfe and Ralph Rolfe**, equally
32 to be divided betwixt them, they the said William and Ralphe paying
equally

27 this sentence inserted

33 between them (within one quarter of a year next after my said wife's
decease,
34 the sum of £11 lawful money in manner following, that is to say, unto **Alice**
Filtues,
35 **widow, my daughter**, four pounds parcel thereof. Unto **John Covell**,
shoemaker, forty
36 shilling more parcel thereof. And to **William Rolfe, son of the said William**,
37 **my son**, five pounds residue of the same. **Item:** I make and ordain the said
38 **Elizabeth, my wife, sole executrix of this my will. And my loving brother-**
in-law
39 **Thomas Newman** of Hadlow aforesaid, yeoman, and **Henry Newman²⁸, his**
son, overseers
40 of the same earnestly desiring them, to their uttermost endeavours, to see
the same performed
41 according to the purport and tenor of the same. **In witness** whereof I, the
said William
42 Rolfe, the elder, have hereunto set my hand and seal, the day and year
before dated, pronouncing
43 and declaring the same to be my true and last will.

28 this name looks like "Newman" when the name was written as the witness. On both occasions on this line it looks like "Newman"

Read, sealed, pronounced and declared to be²⁹ the
true and last will and testament of the said
Willim Rolfe, the elder, in the presence of

Henry Newman and
Robert Hooper, writer

William
Rolfe³⁰

The Rolfes of Seal

"Old Thomas Rolfe" was buried, in Seal, on 5th March 1597 but the two wills which have survived from the village are from much later. Richard Rolfe, who was buried on 24th January 1625, was probably the son of John Rolfe, blacksmith, who married twice. Thomas Rolfe, whose will was written in the summer of 1627, could also have been a son of #727:

29 the Hoopers often used "ee" in words such as "be", "me", etc. and sometimes "beeing"; here "bee" was used here and in lines 8, 24, 32 and 40 but with "be" in line 20

30 all three names look like signatures

<i>mar:</i>	25 Sep 1576	16 Jun 1583	
	#724 Agnes Olyver -	John #727 -	Mary Baker of Wrotham #1056
<i>bur:</i>	8 Feb 1583	9 Jul 1608	

	#1444	#1621	
	Richard	Sara	Thomas
<i>bap:</i>	24 Sep 1587	15 Aug 1591	
<i>will:</i>	4 Jan 1625		30 Jun 1627
<i>bur:</i>	24 Jan 1625		22 Nov 1627

On 10th June 1606 Richard Rolfe of Seal, yeoman, appeared at **Maidstone Quarter Sessions**, where he was ordered to keep the peace towards **Richard Buckley**, Clerk, Vicar of Kemsing and Seal (#2344); the sureties were John Rolfe, blacksmith and **John Haselden (#2808)**, yeoman of Seal. Was this #1444 with his father one of those standing surety for him? If so, at only nineteen he was young to be classed as a yeoman.

Sara Rolphe of Seal was mentioned in the Ightham Court Records for the period 1586 and 1618 as also were a **Ralph and Richard Rolphe**.

Two other marriages were recorded for Rolfe:

In Seal, on 12th September 1596, **William Rolfe** (#1705) married **Alice Walmisley** (#1706)

In Shipbourne, on 27th February 1626, **William Rolphe** (\$1400) married **Dorothy Wells** (\$1403); (\$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database)

From Thomas Rolfe's will we know that there were at least three butchers living in Seal in 1627 - Edward Atherfold and his two sons-in-law, John Whetley and Richard Lawrence.

Richard Rolfe of Seal

Richard Rolfe died when he was thirty-seven and apparently unmarried but he had a large number of friends not only from Seal but also from Wrotham, Leigh and as far afield as Buxted in Sussex. For a man living in a small village, he was wealthy, owning the messuage or tenement in which he lived and also another house in Seal and one in Ightham. The annual rents of two of his houses were £3 and £1 13s 4d, the tenants of these being given one year rent free as part of his bequests.

Richard left a total of over £100 to be distributed including £5 for a dinner for his friends on the day of his burial and 40s to the minister for a sermon at his burial "for the good and education of those which shall be there assembled". The following table gives details of these bequests:

To:		Total
for a dinner on the day of his burial	£5	£5
the poor of Seal	40s	£2
Mr. Baker, minister, for a sermon	40s	£2

Mr. William Blooms Richard Wheatley, Rolfe's godson	£5 £5	£10
George Baker of Fuller Street and his 3 sons	£5 each	£20
his good friends: Mr. Johnson of Knowle Park Thomas Poore, Anthony Houre Richard Polhill and Francis Baker	40s each	£10
Richard Baker, tenant, 1 year's rent	£3	£3
Thomas Webb and 1 year's rent	20s 33s 4d	£2 13s 4d
George Blooms, Edward Blooms, Richard Lawrence and Samuel Harman	20s each	£4
Lawrence Stake	20s	£1
John Wheatley	all his wearing apparel and wearing linen	
Elizabeth ?? of Buxted, Sussex Marie ??	20s 20s	£2
Giles Bishop	£20	£20

Giles Bishop's wife	little box with napkins and pillow beeres	
Susan Harrison, servant	40s	£2
William Kipps and Robert Wybourne, overseers	£10 each	£20
William Polhill of Leigh (executor)	residue	
TOTAL		£103 13s 4d

The Will of Richard Rolfe of Seal

written 4th January 1624/5; buried 24 January 1625

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. The 4th day of January
2 in the year of our lord god 1624, I, Richard Rolfe of Seal in the
3 county of Kent, **yeoman**, do ordain and make this my last will and
4 testament in manner and form following: **First** and principally, yielding my
5 soul to almighty god, my maker . . in assured hope of salvation
6 through his mercies in the merit of Jesus Christ, my only

7 saviour and redeemer. And my body to be buried in the churchyard
8 of Seal at the discretion of mine executor. And my will is
9 executor shall bestow five pounds upon a dinner for
10 my friends upon the day of my burial. **Item:** I will and give to the
11 poor of Seal aforesaid 40s to be distributed among them
12 either on the day of my burial or within one month next after.
13 **Item:** I desire that there may be a sermon at my burial for
14 the good and education of those which shalbe there assembled, to be
15 performed by **Mr. Baker, my worthy friend and minister**³¹, to whom
16 I will for his pains and labour 40s. **Item:** I give and bequeath
17 to **Mr. William Blooms** five pounds. To **Richard Wheatley, my**
18 **godson**³², another five pounds. And to **George Baker of Fuller**
19 **Street and his three sons**³³, to either of them five pounds of law
20 ful English money. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto **my good friends**
21 **Mr. Johnson of Knowle park, Thomas Poore**³⁴, **Anthony Houre,**

31 Robert Baker (#1293), vicar of Seal 1608 to 1644

32 there were Wheatley/Whetleys in Seal but no Richard was recorded; he may have been an unrecorded son of the John mentioned below

33 George Baker (#2118) and his sons John (#1508), George (#2121) and Thomas (#2174) who were aged twenty-one, eighteen and about sixteen in January 1625

34 probably the Thomas Poore who was Yeoman of the Wardrobe at Knole from about 1620 - see *poosev.will*

22 **Richard Polhill³⁵ and Francis Baker³⁶** to either of
23 them forty shillings apiece of lawful English money. **Item:**
24 I give unto **Richard Baker³⁷, my tenant**, one year's rent of
25 three pounds which he is to pay for my house with th'appurtenances
wherein
26 he dwelleth. **Item:** I give unto **Thomas Webb³⁸** 20s and one
27 year's rent of thirty three shillings and fourpence which he is to
28 pay for my house wherein he dwelleth. **Item:** I will and give unto
29 **George Blooms, Edward Blooms, Richard Lawrence and Samuel**
30 **Harman³⁹**, to either of them 20s. **Item:** I give unto **Lawrence**

35 The Polhills were an Otford family which spread into Seal and Ightham; Richard Polhill of Seal (#1141) would have been about seventy in 1625 but he had a son William (#1143), baptised in Seal in January 1582 and therefore five years older than the testator. This William could have been the William Polhill of Leigh who was the executor of this will.

36 the only Francis Bakers recorded (#2129 & #2169) died as infants

37 the only known Richard Baker this could be is #2066 who had children between about 1610 and 1629 - see *bakerw.wll*

38 #3513 had children in Seal between 1606 and about 1620 and was buried there in 1643

39 no Blooms were recorded in Seal, perhaps George and Edward were the sons of Mr. William Blooms; Richard Lawrence (#2036) married in 1617 and Samuel Harman (#1183) in 1620

31 **Stake**⁴⁰ 20s. **Item:** I give unto **John Whetley**⁴¹ all my wearing
32 apparel and wearing linen. **Item:** I give unto **Elizabeth ??**
33 of **Bucksted in Sussex**⁴² 20s. **Item:** I give unto **Marie ??**
34 20s. **Item:** I give unto **Giles Bishop of Town ??** ?? twenty?
35 pounds of lawful english money. And to **his wife** I give one
36 little box with napkins and pillow beeres. **Item:** if any legatory before
37 named shalbe within age⁴³, I will his parent shall receive his or her
38 legacy and quit an acquittance so my executor to be discharged.
39 **Item:** my will is that all the before mentioned legacies shalbe paid
40 by my executor and that he shall have one year spare after my
41 decease for payment of them all except to the poor and to the minister.
42 The residue of all other my goods, cattell, chattels, I
43 wholly and fully give and bequeath unto **my loving friend Mr. William**
44 **Polhill of Leigh next Tonbridge** in the county aforesaid whom
45 I make and ordain the sole and only executor of this my last will

40 #1617; his wife and two children had died of the plague in 1603 but he lived for another twenty-four years, his burial being recorded in 1637 - see *sss.fam*

41 #1809 married in 1618

42 Buxted, near Uckfield, about 24 miles from Seal

43 the ones definitely underage in 1624 were the two younger sons of George Baker and, most probably, Richard Wheatley

and testament. Except forty shillings which I will and bequeath unto
Susan Harrison, my servant, to be paid unto her by my executor
aforenamed within one year next after my decease. And I desire
my good friends William Kipps of Kemsing and Robert Wybourne⁴⁴ of
Wrotham to be overseers of this my last will and testament that
the same may be duly performed. And I give unto either of them
for their pains therein to be taken ten pounds apiece of current
English money to be paid unto them within one whole year next
after my decease by my executor afore named. This is also the
last will of me, the said Richard Rolfe, made and declared the day
and year first above written touching the ordering and disposing of
all my lands and tenements. **Item:** I will, give and devise unto the said
William Polhill and his heirs, for the better enabling of him to pay
all my debts and legacies and also for and in consideration of the love
and goodwill that I bear towards him, all that messuage or tenement
wherein I now dwell with the houses, backside, yards and ??
thereunto belonging. And all my house with th'appurtenances in **Ightham**,
my other house in Seal and all other my houses, lands and tenements with
their, and every their, appurtenances , to have and to hold all the said
messuages or tenements, houses and lands and all other the premises with

44 William Kipps (k11 - reference number in Kemsing database) was born in 1580; there were Wybornes in Seal at least until the beginning of the seventeenth century but no Robert was recorded

66 th'appurtenances unto the said William Polhill, his heirs
67 and assigns forever. In witness whereof I have to this my last will
68 and present testament set my hand and seal. And I do hereby revoke and
annul all
69 former testaments and wills by me made in whose keeping soever and
70 do pronounce and declare this to be my only true last will hereon
71 the day and year first above written, Richard Rolfe, yeoman, sealed,
72 subscribed, published and declared in the presence of us William
73 Kipps, **Thomas Wolfe**, his mark, **John Beckett**,

Thomas Rolfe of Seal

Thomas Rolfe, husbandman, who wrote his will in 1627, could have been Richard's brother. Like Richard, he does not seem to have been married and again he left money to a number of people whose relationship with him is not specified. These include:

- Elizabeth and Alice, the two unmarried daughters of Edward Atherfold, butcher of Seal, who was appointed executor; Elizabeth and Alice were to have £1 each and divide all Thomas's household stuff between them except for a little box without any feet but with a lock and a key

- the children of Steven Pennet, blacksmith, (probably of Shoreham); £3 to be divided between them.
- Margaret the wife of Robert Storm, probably of Ryarsh, whose was to have the little box; Thomas, their son was left £2.
- the children of Thomas Barton the elder, butcher of Seal; £5 to be divided between them.
- Thomas and Elizabeth, the children of Thomas Undrill?, yeoman of Tonbridge; £3 each
- Margaret, the daughter of Richard Lawrence, butcher of Seal; £1.
- Alice, the daughter of John Wheatley of Seal, tanner; £1

Elizabeth and Alice Atherfold were aged 25 and 22 in June 1627 and presumably unmarried. Edward had two other surviving daughters:

- Bennet, who was married to John Wheatley/Whetley to whom Richard had left his wearing apparel and linen in 1625 and whose daughter Alice was to receive £1.
- Ann who was married to Richard Lawrence, Thomas Rolfe's overseer, who had himself received £1 from Richard Rolfe. Their daughter Margaret was to receive £1.

Thus members of the Atherfold family mentioned in the wills of Richard and Thomas Rolfe were: (ʳ - mentioned in Richard's will; ʳ - mentioned in Thomas's will)

#520 Edward Atherfold ^t - Margaret Ford #185					

#3580	#1809	#2062	#2063	#2098	#2099
Bennet -	John Whetley ^{rt}	Ann -	Richard Lawrence ^{rt}	Elizabeth ^t	Alice ^t
<i>bap:</i> 29 Dec 1594		1595 or 96		28 Jun 1602	19 May 1605
<i>mar:</i> 15 Dec 1618		5 Jun 1617			
	Alice ^t				
		#2940 Margaret ^t			
<i>bap:</i>		20 Jun 1622			

Although seven Whetley children were baptised in Seal, no Alice was recorded but there was a six year gap after the first child so that Alice may have been born between 1620 and 1624. Richard Lawrence had had two daughters prior to the birth of Margaret one of who, at least, was alive in 1627.

The connection between the Rolfes and the Atherfolds is not known. Edward Atherfold's wife was Margaret Ford and the mother of Richard Rolfe (and possibly Thomas Rolfe) was Mary Baker of Wrotham. Edward Atherfold was sixteen years older than Richard Rolfe.

1 In the name of god Amen⁴⁵. The last day
2 of June in Anno dm 1627 And in the third year of
3 the reign of King Charles of England, Scotland,
4 France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. I,
5 Thomas Rolfe of Seal in the county of Kent, **husbandman**,
6 being of good and perfect remembrance and health of
7 body, God be praised for it, do ordain and make
8 this my last will and testament in manner and form
9 hereafter following viz: **First:** I give and bequeath
10 my soul to Almighty God, my maker, and to
11 Jesus Christ, my saviour, by whose death and passion
12 I hope to be saved. And my body to be buried
13 in the churchyard of Seal aforesaid at the
14 discretion of my executor hereafter named.
15 The goods and moveables which god hath lent me in
16 this world I will that they shalbe bestowed as

45 written in a similar way to the Hoopers with a much simplified form of decoration over the phrase not as expertly executed - see note at end of will

here after followeth:

Imprimis: I give and bequeath unto the poor people of the parish of Seal ten shillings to be paid unto them at the discretion of my executor.

Item: I give and bequeath unto **the daughters** of my executor, **Edward Atherfould**, first unto **Elizabeth Atherfould** and to **Alice Atherfould** all my household stuff whatsoever (except one box without any feet with a lock and a key to it) to be equally divided betwixt them by my executor. As also moreover, I do give and bequeath unto the said Elizabeth and Alice Atherfould twenty shillings a piece to be paid unto them by my executor within two years next after my decease.

Item: I give and bequeath unto the **children of Steven Pennet**⁴⁶ of the parish of **Shoreham?** in the county of Kent, **blacksmith**, the sum of three pounds good and lawful money of England to be equally paid betwixt them by my executor.

Item: I give and bequeath unto **Margaret Storm**, the **wife of Robert Storm** of the parish of **Ryarsh** in the county of Kent, husbandman, the aforesaid box

38 without any feet, as I leave it.

page 2:

39 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Thomas Storm, the**
40 **son** of the aforesaid Robert Storm of Ryarsh,
41 the sum of forty shillings of good and lawful
42 money of England to be paid within two years
43 next after my decease by my executor.

44 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **the children of Thomas**
45 **Barton**, th'elder, of the parish of Seal in the county
46 of Kent, butcher, five pounds of good and
47 lawful money of England to be put out for their
48 uses, by the discretion of my executor, until
49 such time as that the youngest child shall come
50 to the age of sixteen years. And to be equally
51 divided betwixt the seven youngest children
52 by even and equal portions⁴⁷.

53 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Thomas Undrill?**,
54 the younger, the **son of Thomas Undrill** of

47 #1177 who had children between 1603 and 1627 and died in 1638 - see **barton.wfs**; it is possible he had seven children alive in the summer of 1627, the eldest of whom, Thomas (#2082), was already married. The youngest child was baptised on 18th November 1627 but, knowing she was expected, was she included in "the seven youngest", omitting #2082 from those to whom he left his legacy?

55 **Tonbridge** in the county of Kent, yeoman, the
56 sum of three pounds of good and lawful money
57 of England to be paid within two years next
58 after my decease by my executor.
59 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Elizabeth Undrill**,
60 the **sister of the aforementioned Thomas Undrill**,
61 the younger, the sum of three pounds of
62 good and lawful money of England to be paid
63 within two years next after my decease
64 by my executor.
65 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Margaret Lawrence**
66 the **daughter of Richard Lawrence of Seal**
67 in the county of Kent, butcher, the
68 sum of twenty shillings of good and lawful
69 money of England to be paid within two years
70 next after my decease by my executor.

page 3:

71 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Alice Wheatly**, the
72 **daughter of John Wheatley of Seal** in the
73 county of Kent, tanner, the sum of twenty
74 shillings within two years next after my decease
75 to be paid by my executor to her father

76 to the behoof and use of the aforesaid Alice
77 Wheatly.
78 Lastly, all the rest of my goods, ungiven and unbequeathed,
79 as bills, bonds or private debts, whatsoever,
80 I give and bequeath unto Edward Atherfould
81 of Seal in the county of Kent, butcher,
82 whom I do ordain and make my sole executor
83 of this my last will and testament to see my legacies
84 paid, my will and testament proved and my
85 funeral expenses to be discharged. As also
86 my body to be comely and decently brought to the
87 earth.
88 Also I do ordain and make Richard Lawrence of
89 Seal, butcher, my overseer of this my
90 last will and testament to see it performed and
91 done according to my true meaning and intent
92 in the same set down.

93 In witness hereof I, the said Thomas Rolfe,
94 have hereunto this last will and testament set my
95 hand and seal the third day of July in
96 the year 1627 in the presence of

97 **Thomas Dixon⁴⁸** and **Richard Croure?**
 the mark of
 Thomas Rolfe

⁴⁸ an abbreviation after the name; Thomas Dixon was probably the scribe. Not only does the initial phrase look as if it was copied from a Hooper will, some of the phraseology is similar. John Hooper in particular wrote "discharged"; here, on line 85, it was originally written in this way but the "d" was then crossed out.

The Rudlands of Seal

The wills which have survived for the Rudlands of Seal are:

will: buried: CKS:

Thomas Rudland	1 May 1563	7 May 1563	Drb/Pw 7; Drb/Pwr 13.91	page r.65
Thomas Rudland	24 Mar 1592	2 Apr 1592	16; 18.183	page r.68

The testators could have been father and son. The John Rudland of London who married Katherine Olyver in 1575 could have been the younger son of the elder Thomas (#332⁴⁹) who was presumably only about sixteen when his father died since John Olyver of Fawke was to "[have the keeping of John's stock for five years](#)" after his father's decease. By 1575 he would have been in his late twenties and would have been able to have established himself in London by that time. John, Katherine's husband, died before mid-1586 since Katherine Rudland, widow, married Robert Olyver on 12th June 1586

		#332 Thomas	-	Johane	#250	-	John Lane	#249								
mar:									2 May 1564							
will:		1 May 1563														
bur:		7 May 1563														

	#219			#220			#714		#713							
	Thomas	-	Johane	Olyver			John - Katherine	Olyver								
mar:	30 Sep 1565						married 19 Jun 1575									
will:	24 Mar 1592															
bur:	2 Apr 1592		5 Mar 1592													

	#221		#670		#515		#761		#869		#4179		#1180		#1288	
	Abraham		Jane		Sara		Thomas		Judi th		Susan ⁵⁰		John		Ann ⁵¹	
bap:	19 Jan 1567				24 Aug 1571		24 Jan 1574		2 Mar 1578		17 Apr 1580		13 Jan 1583		28 Dec 1584	
bur:			20 Sep 1572													

Johane Rudland (#250) married John Lane (#249) on 2nd May 1564. John Lane and Johane Rudland, widow, were the plaintiffs in a Fine presented to the court a few weeks before they were married - see [Seal Fines in Section Z of More Families & Transcripts](#).

Jane Rudland (#459), daughter of John Rudland (#457), was baptised on 17th July 1569 but this was probably too early for her to have been #332's granddaughter.

⁵⁰ baptised at Sevenoaks the same day as William, son of Richard Stace (#1007)

⁵¹ eight children in just short of eighteen years; Jane, daughter of Thomas Rudland was buried in September 1572 and she could have been born between Abraham and Sara. There was hardly time for any other children who did not survive.

Thomas's sons, Thomas and John, in addition to a cow and a steer each and some sheep, inherited a considerable amount of timber: all his "asshing (ash?) timber except half a hundred", "six hundred birches timber brechen? of the bigger sort" and "two hundred of plough timber". But all his spokes were to go to Thomas who was also to receive all his working tools. William Claynes, whose relationship to Thomas is not given, was also to receive a considerable amount of ash, beech and plough timber.

Will of Thomas Rudland 1563

written 1st May 1563

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. The
2 first of May in the year of our Lord god one thousand five hundred
3 63 in the fifth year of the reign of our sovereign
4 lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God, Queen of
5 England, France and Ireland, defender of the
6 faith, etc. I, Thomas Rudland of the parish of Seal
7 within the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being sick
8 in body but, thanks be unto Almighty god, perfect
9 and sound of memory, do make last my will
10 and testament in manner and form following:

First: I bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty god, my redeemer and saviour, and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Seal aforesaid.

Item: I give to the poor men's box 4s. **Item:**

I give unto **Thomas, my son**, a cow and to **John, my son**, a cow. **Item:** I give more unto Thomas and John, my sons, all my sheep except ten. And further I give unto the said Thomas and John, 2 steers between them. And I give more unto them all my assing timber except half a hundred. And I give unto them more six hundred birches timber brechen of the bigger sort. I give unto them more two hundred of plough timber. I give unto Thomas only all my spokes. **Item:** I give unto **William Claynes** half a hundredth of ash timber and one hundred of beech timber if there be so much remaining or else to be made up of that 6 hundred that I gave and bequeathed unto Thomas and John, my sons. **Item:** I give more unto him one hundred of plough timber. **Item:** I give unto Thomas and John, my sons, six quarters of malt. **Item:** I give unto Thomas

34 only all my working tools. **Item:** I will that
35 if any of my sons depart out of this world
36 before they be of age of 21 years, that then
37 the other shall enjoy his bequests⁵². **Item:** I give
38 unto William Claynes one quarter of malt,
39 half a quarter of barley malt and one bushel
40 of wheat. **Item:** I give unto **Alice Claynes**
41 20s to be made and taken out of the stock
42 bequeathed unto Thomas and John, my sons. **Item:**
43 I give unto her more one lamb. **Item:** I give unto
44 William Claynes's 3 children, each of them a lamb.
45 All the rest of my goods and moveables, I
46 give and bequeath unto **Johane, my wife**, paying
47 my debts and fulfilling my legacies. In
48 witness of this my last will and testament
49 I have set my mark the day and year
50 above written, these being witness: **Gilbert**
51 **Jenyns, clerk**⁵³, **Andrew Porter, John Liver,**

52 if Thomas was not twenty-one in May 1563, he must have married when he was twenty-two at the most but, given the legacies from his father, could have been in a position to start married life at an earlier than average age

53 #15, vicar of Seal 1561 to 1603; probably the writer of this will

52 Lawrence Forde, Harry Johnson⁵⁴, with others.
53 I will that John Olyver of Fawke⁵⁵ shall have
54 the keeping of John, my son's, stock for five years
55 after my decease⁵⁶.

Will of Thomas Rudland 1592

written 24th March 1591/2; probate September 1592

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 The 24th day of March in the year of
3 our lord god one thousand, five hundred and
4 ninety one and in the fourth and thirtieth
5 year of the reign of our Sovereign
6 Lady, Queen Elizabeth of England, France

54 Andrew Porter (#303); Lawrence Forde (#183); Harry Johnson (#992 - see *johnson.fam*)

55 #70 - see *olyverf.fam*

56 Thomas does not seem to have appointed an executor although, by implication, it would appear to be his wife, Johane, he expected to carry out these duties

7 and Ireland, defender of the faith. I, Thomas
8 Rudland⁵⁷ of **Stone Street** in the parish of
9 Seal in the county of Kent, being sick
10 in body but of good and perfect memory,
11 thanks be to god, do make here my last will
12 and testament of all my goods and cattell
13 and leases and moveables, whatsoever
14 and for to testify my christian care of my
15 soul and body. **First:** I will my soul to the
16 keeping of Almighty god, most faithfully
17 in perfect hope of salvation through Jesus
18 Christ only, and my body, I request
19 my loving children to see buried in the
20 parish churchyard of Seal. **Item:** I will
21 and bequeath all my cattell and moveable goods
22 whatsoever, my debts being paid, unto **my**
23 **seven children** to be equally divided between
24 them by my executor, that is to say to
25 **Abraham Rudland, Sara Rudland, Thomas**
26 **Rudland, Judith Rudland, Susan Rudland,**
27 **John Rudland, Ann Rudland, my sons**

57 spelt here "Roudland"

28 **and daughters.** **Item:** my will is that my
29 son Abraham and my daughter Sara
30 shall stay for their portion, two years after
31 my decease. **Item:** my will is that my
32 other five children shall have their portion
33 at the age of 20 years⁵⁸ or at the day of
34 their marriages, whichever shall happen to be
35 first. **Item:** I will that Sara, my daughter,
36 shall have my best featherbed and joined
37 bedstead and a coverlet more than her
38 equal portion. **Item:** I will that my daughter
39 Judith shall have ten shillings more
40 than her equal portion also. **Item:** I will,
41 and my mind is, that my four daughters
42 shall have all my linen cloth equally
43 divided between them and not otherwise.
44 **Item:** I will and my mind is that, if any of
44 my foresaid children shall happen to decease
45 before the times of payment before written
46 and mentioned, that then the others shall

58 Thomas would have been twenty in January 1596 and could, therefore, have received his inheritance three months earlier than his elder brother and sister

47 have their portions equally divided between
48 them and not otherwise. **Item:** I make and
49 ordain **my brother-in-law, Robert Oliver⁵⁹**,
50 my whole and sole executor of this my
51 last will and testament. And to distribute
52 my goods as afore written, at his discre
53 tion, seeing my said children well brought
54 up to the time appointed to receive
55 their money. witnesses whereunto **William**
56 **Oliver, John Oliver⁶⁰, Robert Frenche⁶¹,**
57 **John Oliver, the elder, John Walton, Andrew**
58 **Brewer⁶².** **Item:** I do ordain to be my
59 overseers of this my last will and testa
60 ment, **William Oliver and John Walton.**

59 Johane Olyver, whom Thomas had married in September 1565, was buried on 5th March 1592, a month before Thomas; both would have been about fifty when they died.

60 could be Robert's brothers

61 probably the Robert Frenche who married in 1578 (#938)

62 Andrew Brewer (#276) was buried 15 May 1592

The Rumneys of Seal, Kemsing and Ightham

Although other Rumney wills from the Rochester diocese have survived, the only ones for Seal, Kemsing or Ightham are:

- the nuncupative will of the widow Alice Rumney (**PCC: Saville 27**) proved in 1622 which has not been investigated
- the will of Richard Rumney of Kemsing (**CKS: Dra/Pw 1; Drb/Pwr 19IIB.59**) written 16th May 1636 page r.77

Richard's will was written by John Hooper, notary public and parish clerk of Tonbridge. The Hooper family wrote many wills in the Tonbridge locality from the late 1550s until at least 1650, the date at which this study ends. It differs from the usual John Hooper style in a number of ways and these are detailed below.

The parish registers give some details of the Rumneys but there are a large number of isolated items.

At the beginning of the seventeenth century Edward Rumney (#3365⁶³) married Agnes Holloway (#3366) and they had three sons between 1607 and 1612 - see [Holloway](#)

In 1613, a John Rumney was living in a "[messuage or tenement](#)" in the Town of Sevenoaks belonging to George Pococke (s49) - see [Pococke](#)

Thomas Rumney (i2340) married **Agnes Olyver** (i2341) on 19th January 1629 in Ightham; no children were recorded for Thomas Rumney. Although the Olyvers were a large Seal family, it has not been possible to identify this Agnes.

The Sixteenth Century Rumneys

On 14th October 1565, Agnes Rumney (#200) married **John Smale** of Sevenoaks (#199); no children were recorded in Seal but they probably lived in Sevenoaks. The connection between the Rumneys and Smales continued since, seventy years later, Richard Rumney appointed his kinsman, **Robert Smale**, to be one of the overseers to his will.

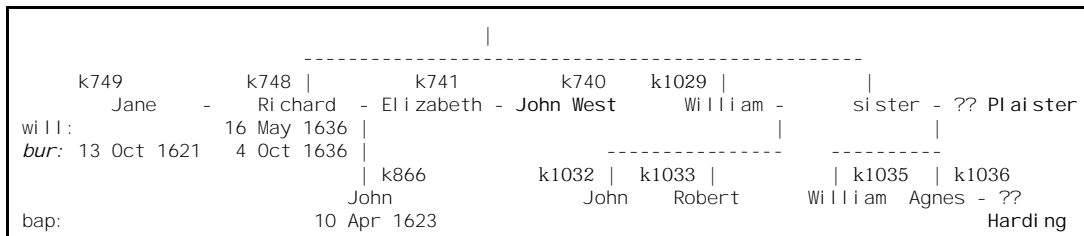
⁶³ # indicates a reference in the Seal database and k, i and s in the Kemsing, Ightham and Sevenoaks databases respectively

Richard Rumney of Kemsing

From the parish records we have:

- burial of "Jane, the wife of Richard Rumney" in Kemsing on 13th October 1621
- baptism of John, son of Richard Rumney in Ightham on 10 April 1623
- burial of Richard Rumney in Kemsing on 4th October 1636
- the marriage of John West and Elizabeth Rumney, widow, on 1st July 1639 in Kemsing.

When Richard, whose name is sometimes given as "Romney", wrote his will his wife was Elizabeth but he does not mention any children so that John probably died as a child. Richard's heirs were to be his nephews and nieces. These items give the following tree:



Richard's main heir was to be John, William's son and he was to inherit Richard's land (which was mainly in Shoreham) on the death of Elizabeth. Who was to be responsible for seeing that the various legacies were paid and that the land was transferred to Richard's nephews when Elizabeth died? There were no provisos in the will regarding the possibility of Elizabeth remarrying which she seems to have done. Probably the overseers, Richard Fletcher and Robert Smale, were to see that Richard's wishes were fulfilled but this could have been difficult.

Elizabeth, with a son born in 1623, could have been under forty when Richard died and it is possible that she had a child by her second husband, John West. She could have lived for thirty years after Richard's death. Would his land, which she (and her husband and family) had enjoyed for that long then have reverted to her husband's nephew? It is to be hoped that he received his grandfather's table, "one brass pot, one spit and one pair of pothangers" straight after his uncle's death.

Richard's Will

Richard's will differs from the "usual" John Hooper will in a number of ways:

- May 1636 was in the twelfth year of the reign of Charles I but "[Caroli Augher Duodecimo](#)" was a most unusual way of expressing this
- the religious preamble is in brackets with the bequests to the poor in the almshouses apparently taking precedence
- Richard's goods and chattels were described as "[of what name, nature or kind soever](#)"
- various legacies were to be paid only after the death of himself and his wife but this is expressed in a different way each time:
 - "[within one year next after the decease of me the said Richard Romney and Elizabeth, my wife](#)"
 - "[within two years after the decease of me and my wife](#)"
 - "[within three years after our two deceases](#)"
 - "[within four years after the deceases of me and my wife. And the longest liver of us](#)".

The Will of Richard Rumney of Kemsing

written 16th May 1636

transcript from original

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The sixteenth day of May in the year of
- 2 our Lord God one thousand six hundred, thirty and six, Aoq regni dm ??
- 3 Caroli Augher Duodecimo. I, Richard Rumney, of Kemsing in the county of

4 Kent, **yeoman**, being⁶⁴ aged and weak in body, but of good and perfect
memory (thanks therefore
5 be given to almighty God) do ordain and make this my testament and last
will in
6 manner and form following: **First:** (recommending my soul to the glorious
acceptance of
7 my heavenly father through his dear son Jesus Christ, my saviour. And my
body to the
8 earth in decent manner to be buried) **I will** to four the poorest people in the
Almshouse
9 of **Shoreham** one shilling a piece. And to four the poorest of Kemsing
aforesaid (in the
10 discretion of mine executor likewise one shilling a piece. **Item:** I will to
Anne Elloe
11 one sheep. **Item:** I will to **Johane Wells** ten shillings. **Item:** I will to **John**
Romney,
12 **my brother's son**, the table in the parlour (of the house wherein I now
dwell) which table was

64 "beeing", "bee", "shalbee", etc. throughout as was usual for the Hoopers but "me" not "mee"

13 his grandfather's⁶⁵, and the frame thereto belonging. And also one brass
14 pot, one spit and
15 one pair of pothangers. And I will that all the legacies before given away
16 shalbe paid
17 and delivered by mine executrix hereafter named, that is to say, **Elizabeth,**
18 **my wife**, to
19 whom I give the residue of all my goods and chattels of what name, nature
20 or kind
21 soever. And whom I do make the executrix of this my testament and last
will, to see the same
proved, my said legacies and all my debts discharged⁶⁶ and my body
decently brought to the
earth. **Item:** I will that these legacies hereafter mentioned shall be paid out
of my
lands, viz. I will that **Thomas Plaister** shalbe paid ten shillings within one
year
next after the decease of me the said Richard Romney and Elizabeth, my
wife. I will that

65 the father of Richard

66 "discharged"; usual for John Hooper

22 **Robert Romney, son of my brother William Romney**, shall be paid four
pounds out of
23 the same within two years after the decease of me and my wife. I will
William Plaister,
24 **my sister's son**, shalbe paid also four pounds out of the same within three
years
25 after our two deceases. And that **Agnes Harding, my sister's daughter**
shalbe paid
26 ten shillings out of the same within four years after the deceases of me and
my wife. And
27 the longest liver of us. And as touching and concerning my lands and
tenements in
28 Shoreham or elsewhere in the county of Kent, my will is And I do dispose
thereof
29 And devise the same as followeth: viz. **First:** I will, give and devise to the
said
30 Elizabeth, my wife, all my said lands and tenements with their profits and
appurtenances
31 for term of her natural life. And from and after the decease of the said
Elizabeth,
32 I will, devise and give all my said lands and tenements and their
hereditaments and

33 appurtenances whatsoever to the before named John Romney, the son of
my brother William
34 Romney. And to the heirs, male, of the body of the said John Romney,
lawfully to be begotten
35 forever. And for want of such issue male, all my said lands and tenements
to be and remain
36 to the said Robert Romney, the brother of the said John. And to the heirs
and assigns of the said
37 Robert Romney, forever. Provided always, if any of the legatories aforesaid
shalbe unpaid
38 their legacies aforesaid given out of my said lands contrary to the purport
of this my will,
39 I will that all and so many of them as shall be so unpaid, shall and may
enter upon my said
40 lands or upon any part thereof. And the same shall or may hold and enjoy
til their said several
41 and respective legacies shall be paid unto them (Any devise of my said
lands to the contrary
42 thereof notwithstanding). Lastly my will is that every one of the said last
mentioned
43 legatories shall make acquittance for their several legacies as they shall be
paid the

44 same. And I do request my **kinsmen Richard Fletcher** and **Robert Smale**
whom I have
45 also requested to be witnesses to this my will, to be overseers thereof that
the same may take
46 effect according to my mind therein declared.
47 In witness whereof I, the said Richard Romney, have to this my testament
and last will set my
48 hand and seal. Dated the day and year first above written.
Read, sealed, published and the mark of Richard Romney
declared in the presence of
Robert Smale⁶⁷ W
Richard⁶⁸ Fletcher
John Hooper, scr.

⁶⁷ looks like a signature

⁶⁸ vertical cross

I, Leonard Reyley, of **Somerhill** in the parish of Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **gentleman**, being weak of body but in good and perfect memory, thanks be given to god therefore, do make and ordain this my present last will and testament in manner and form following: **First:** I commend my soul into the hands of my sweet saviour and redeemer, Christ Jesus, and all the blessed company of heaven. And my body to the earth to be buried in Christian burial at the discretion of my executor.

no apparent bequests to poor

Witnesses: John Smith, Ambrose Fenwick

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Will and Inventory of Edmond Sale of Tonbridge

Most unusually, an inventory has survived for Edmond Sale who was a broadweaver.

Nuncupative will of Edmond Sale

written 12th September 1610

CKS: Drb/Pw 21; transcript from original

1 Memorandum. that upon the 12th day of September in
2 the year 1610, Edmond Sale, the younger, of Tonbridge in the county
3 of Kent, **broadweaver**, in the presence of **Robert Parret**
4 and **William Morgan**, which were called as witnesses did utter and
5 speak these words, or the like in effect, touching his last will as followeth:
6 I will that all such goods and moveables as I have shalbe sold and
7 the money thereof coming I will to my **two brothers, Francis** and
8 **Richard**, they putting forth the same and paying the use and profit
9 that shall be made hereof yearly to **Marie, my mother**, during
10 her natural life, leaving the principal to them forever.
11 the said witnesses have hereunder set their marks
mark of the said Robert Parret
mark of the said William Morgan

A true inventory of all the goods, chattels and ?? of Edmond Sale, the younger of Tonbridge in the county of Kent and diocese of Rochester, weaver, taken by **John Pickerell, yeoman, William Harris, clothier, Robert Boardman and John ??** and praised the third day of February 1610/1.

Item:

Item princ.	such apparel as was to be found	}	
	after his decease not given away before in the	}	2s
	sickness time by himself or afterwards	}	
	when as it . . . out to be	}	

Item:	certain wool by estimation 12 stone ⁶⁹	4s
--------------	---	----

Item:	one broadcloth	10s
--------------	----------------	-----

Item:	one broadloom and ?? reeds and certain other ..ling yards belonging	40s
--------------	--	-----

69 12 x 14 = 168 pounds; valued at a penny for 3½ pounds

Debts owing to the deceased:

Item:	to Francis, his brother, owing as the . . . in his sickness	3s
12d ⁷⁰		
	John Pickerell }	
	William Harris }	
mark of	Robert Boardman }	praisers
	John ??	

⁷⁰ why not 4s? The total net amount was £3 8s 4d

The Sandhills/Sandells of Seal

Two wills have survived for Sandhills of Seal but with 140 years between them:

	written	proved		
John Sandhill	18 ?? 1505		CKS: Drb/Pwr 6.174	page s.12
Thomas Sandell	7 Nov 1632	30 Dec 1645	PCC: 153 Rivers; Prob 11/194	page s.13

From his will we know that the John who wrote his will in 1505 had two sons, John and William but, even if there were a continuous line of descent between John and Thomas, #3373⁷¹ (see tree below) would have been a great-great-grandson of John.

Thomas Sandhill (or Sandell) wrote his will in November 1632 (the eighth year of the reign of Charles I) but it was not proved until 1645. His son Thomas was baptised on 19th October 1629 and thus would have been only three in 1632 but sixteen in 1645.

71 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

1 In the name of god Amen. The 18th day of ?? in the year of our lord god
2 1505, I, John Sandhill of the parish of Seal in the diocese of Rochester
3 whole in mind but sick in body, make and ordain this my testament
4 and last will as followeth: **First:** I bequeath my soul to almighty god
5 my body to be buried in the churchyard there. **Item:** I bequeath to the
6 high altar in the same church 6s 8d⁷². The residue of all my goods not
7 bequeathed, my debts paid and ?? ?? I bequeath to **Lore, my wife,**
8 to dispose for the health of my soul where that she think the most
9 expedient, whom I ordain and make mine executrix of this my will. These
10 being witness: **John Ch..pplyn,** ?? ??, **William** ??
11 and others more.

12 This is the last will of me, John Sandhill, made the day and year
13 abovesaid. **First:** I will that Lore, my wife, have my house and lands lying
14 and being at **Chart** in the parish of Seal, the time of her life. And
15 at her decease, I will that **John Sandhill, my son,** have the said
16 house and lands to him, to his heirs and assigns, paying to **William**

72 or just 8d?

17 **Sandhill, his brother**, 8 nobles to be paid within 8 years after the
18 decease of the said Lore, my wife, beginning the first year after her
19 decease paying, every year, 6s 8d⁷³ unto the time the 8 nobles
20 be fully paid. And if the said William die afore his
21 brother, I will that the said John have it freely. And if it so be
22 that John die before his brother and his mother, then
23 I will that William have it freely. And if it so be that both John
24 and William die without any heirs, then I will the said house and
25 land to be sold to the most ?? And the money there from
26 to be divided that one part to the behoof of the church of Seal
27 And the other to an honest priest to sing in the church of Seal afore
28 said for my sons? souls and for all christian souls.

Will of Thomas Sandell of Seal

written 7th November 1632; proved 30th December 1645

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 I, Thomas Sandell of Seal in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being in

⁷³ a noble was a coin with the value of 6s 8d

3 good and perfect health and memory (thanks be⁷⁴ given to God) do make
and
4 ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following: **First:**
and
5 principally I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God, my creator,
6 believing assuredly that, through the death and passion of Christ Jesus, my
7 saviour, I am become a member of his mystical body and shall, after the
8 dissolution of my soul from the tabernacle of this my flesh, be received into
9 the everlasting tabernacles of the just which Christ, my saviour, is gone
10 before to prepare for me and all his elect. My body I recommend unto
11 the earth from whence it came and to be disposed of by comely and
christian

page 2:

12 burial in some such convenient place as my executor or overseers
hereunder
13 named shall think fit. And as touching such small estate wherewith it
14 hath pleased god to bless me, I do hereby dispose, give and bequeath
15 the same in manner and form following: And **First** I give, bequeath and
16 devise unto **Mabell, my now wife**, all the state, term and interest which I,

74 "bee" but probate copy

17 the said Thomas, shall have to come and unexpired at the time of my
decease
18 of, in and to the messuage or tenement wherein I now dwell which I hold
19 by lease yet in being from one **William Polly** which said messuage
20 or tenement is situated in Seal aforesaid and known by the **Sign of the**
21 **Swan**. To hold to her and her assigns from the day of my decease
22 unto the full end and term of such years which shalbe therein to ??, come
and
23 unexpired (she, the said Mabell, my wife paying the rent and performing
the covenant
24 in the said lease). **Item:** I give, devise and bequeath unto my said wife the
use and
25 occupation of all my household stuff, implements and utensils of household
which
26 I now have within the said house and wherewith the same is now
furnished,
27 for and during such term I shall have in being in the said house by virtue of
28 the said lease at the time of my decease. And after the end or
determination of
29 the said lease or term aforesaid, I give and devise the same equally to be
divided
30 amongst **my three sons, Henry, Thomas and Oliver Sandell**. All which
goods and

31 household stuff I value to be well worth at this present forty pounds. **Item:**
I give,
32 devise and bequeath unto my son Thomas Sandell the sum of three score
pounds
33 to be paid unto him out of the monies of mine which now are in the hands
of
34 **my Master, the Rt. Honourable Sir Henry Vane, knight, Comptroller of His
Majesty's**
35 household when my said son Thomas shall accomplish the age of eighteen
years.
36 And also I give and bequeath the residue of the said money remaining in
37 my honourable Master's hands unto my said other two sons to be equally
divided
38 between them, the same to be paid when they shall accomplish the age of
eighteen
39 years as aforesaid. And if it shall please god to send any more children,
40 then my will is that such children of mine so hereafter to be born, shall
have
41 equal share of my said goods and household stuff and also of such monies
as
42 are in my master's hands (the three score pounds given to son Thomas
excepted). The
43 same to be to them as aforesaid. And further my will is that my said

44 wife shall have the profit of the said money after my decease for and
towards the
45 education of my children. And if any of my children shall happen to die
before
46 they come to the age of eighteen years, then his or her portion so dying
47 shall go equally amongst the rest. And further my will is that if it should
48 please god to take away all my children before they, or any of them, shall
accomplish
49 the age of eighteen years as aforesaid, then I give and bequeath to **my**
brother
50 **David's son (my godson)** the sum of ten pounds. And also I give to my
51 brother David Sandell (if my said children should happen to die as
aforesaid)
52 all the rest of my goods and chattels (provided always that my said wife
53 shall have the use and occupation of my household stuff and implements of
54 household during the term of the lease in being at the time of my decease.
55 And my will and intent is that my said brother shall divide the same
between
56 himself and my other brothers (my children failing as aforesaid). And of
57 this my last will and testament, I make my said brother David Sandell
executor
58 in trust only, desiring him to perform this my will in all things according to
59 my true meaning. And to be careful of my said children. And for his pains

60 therein I give and bequeath unto him the sum of forty shillings. **Item:** I
humbly
61 desire **my very good friend Thomas Everest, the elder, of Tonbridge** to be
62 overseer of this my last will, to see the same duly performed desiring him to
be
63 careful that my said children be not wronged. And in token of my love
unto

page 3:

64 him, I give and bequeath unto him twenty shillings for a ring desiring him
to
65 accept the same. In witness whereof I, the said Thomas Sandell, have
hereunto set
66 my hand and seal the seventh day of November in the eighth year of the
reign of our
67 Sovereign Lord Charles, by the grace of God of England, Scotland, France
and Ireland
68 king, defender of the faith, etc. The mark of Tho: Sandell. Read, sealed
and published
69 in the presence of **Hen. Kingley, Thomas Warde.**

This will (CKS Drb/Pwr 4.230) was written in a mixture of dog Latin and English and is therefore difficult to read and it is impossible to sort out the arrangements to be made regarding the Tabbard.

Is the name interpreted as Richard Gaunt, actually "Richard, my son"? which would make more sense.

. . 2nd day of the month of April . . 1475, I Robert Sankyn of the parish of Seal . . will and testament in manner and form following: First I give . . . to the poor people of the parish of Seal **Item:** I give . . obits 8d. **Item:** I give **Richard, my son**, . . . I give **Johane⁷⁵ my wife**, . .

- 1 This is the last will of Robert Sankyn of the parish of Seal made on 2
- 2 day of the month of April in the year of our lord 1475 and
- 3 in the year of the reign of king Edward 4 the 15 year . .
- 4 . . called ?? lying and being in the parish of Seal

75 reads as "Johane" here but "Juliana" below

5 as marked and bounded . . **First** the will of the said
6 Robert Sankyn is that all such state (stake?) as **John Tybold** hath in the
said tenement
7 called the **Tabbard** the same John Tybold shall deliver unto **Richard Gaunt**
of ?
8 I desire? all debts and covenants to the said John Tybold to be performed
9 and fulfilled. And if it be needful to be sold, he will put ? ?
10 sell it and, with the money thereof received, the said Richard Gaunt shall
buy a
11 house, the proceeds 10 marks which house the said Robert Sankyn willeth
12 and ordaineth that **Juliana, his wife**, shall have and hold for the time of her
13 life and, after the decease of the said Juliana, the said Robert Sankyn
willeth
14 and ordaineth that the said house shall remain to Richard his son and
15 to the child the which the said Juliana goeth with if it be a man child
16 and, if it be a woman child, the said Robert Sankyn ordaineth that she
17 shall have 13s 4d. Furthermore, it is the will of the said Robert
18 Sankyn that, if the said tenement called the Tabbard be sold, that then the
said
19 John Tybold shall buy it afore another man . . and within the said 13s 4d
20 so that the said John Tybold will give for the said tenement as much as an
21 other man will give.

There are other complications regarding the **Tabbard**:

- Thomas Tebold who died in 1454 owned the "Tabbard"⁷⁷ which had been owned by a John Thebaud in 1352. Was Robert Sankyn's "Tabbard" the same house?
- the amounts of money mentioned by Robert Sankyn (10 marks and 13s 4d) seem very small if the reference is really to the selling of a house

Cade's Rebellion

In the summer of 1450 there was a rising in Kent led by Jack Cade who assembled an army of several thousand men, all summoned by the constables of the districts, and led them to London. Many of these men were yeomen and they included:

*"Ricus Sankee de Seele, yeoman, ac omes alii, etc."*⁷⁸

The above testator was probably a young man in 1450 and could have been Ricus Sankee.

⁷⁷ will of Thomas Tebold of Seal; written in Latin on 8th December 1454 (CKS: Drb/Pwr 2.41)

⁷⁸ Cooper, W.D.J.; John Cade's Followere in Kent; A.C. Vol.7. p.247; see also [Chapter 2 of HOS](#)

The will of John Savage (written Savedge in the will) (**PCC: Cambell 6; Prob 10/625**) 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 1643 mainly from Penshurst and Chiddingstone.

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The twenty seventh day of April Ao. Dm. 1641
- 2 in the seventeenth year
- 3 of the reign of our Lord King Charles, I, John Savedge of the parish of
- 4 Chiddingstone in the county
- 5 of Kent, **husbandman**, being at this present time in bodily health and of a
- 6 good and perfect memory (praised be god)
- do make and declare this my last will and testament in manner and form
- following: **First:** I commend my
- soul to Almighty god and to Jesus Christ, my only saviour and redeemer, by
- whose death and
- passion I fully trust, with an assured hope, to have all my sins freely
- forgiven and to attain to the

7 joyful resurrection of eternal life, committing my body to the earth from
whence it was taken in decent
8 sort to be buried at the discretion of my executrix hereafter named. **Item:** I
give unto a preacher
9 that shall preach at my funeral ten shillings. **Item:** I give unto the poor
people of Chiddingstone
10 ten shillings. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Susan, my wife**, one joined
bedstead with the flockbed
11 and bolster whereon I lie with covering and blankets and all belonging to
it. **Item:** I give to my
12 said wife two pairs of sheets and half a dozen of pewter of the sort
commonly used and one iron pot
13 and one of the joined chests she brought and all her wearing apparel, linen
and woollen. **Item:** my
14 mind is that **Elizabeth and Joane Savedge, my daughters**, shall equally
allow unto Susan,
15 my said wife, convenient meat, drink, dwelling and maintenance during
the term of her
16 natural life (which, if the said Susan, my wife, shall refuse to be at my said
daughters'
17 maintenance and finding and not willing to dwell with them, then I will
and devise that the

18 said Elizabeth and Joane, my daughters, their executors, administrators or
assigns, shall equally
19 pay unto the said Susan, my wife, five pounds of lawful money of England
yearly, and
20 in every year, during the term of her natural life at the four usual feasts or
21 term in every year. Provided always, that if Susan, my wife, shall happen
to marry
22 again after my decease, then my will is that my said daughters, their
executors or assigns,
23 shall pay but three pounds yearly unto the said Susan, my wife, after her
second marriage
24 at the four usual feasts or terms aforesaid. The residue of all my moveable
goods,
25 cattell, chattels and household stuff whatsoever, my debts, legacies and
funeral discharged⁷⁷,
26 I give and bequeath unto the said Elizabeth and Joane Savedge, my
daughters, to be
27 equally divided between them whom I do make the joint and full
executrixes of this
28 my last will and testament. And I do make my loving friends, **Ralph
Weston**

77 "dischardged"

29 **of Bromley and Robert Curde of Penshurst**, supervisors hereof to whom I
give and
30 bequeath five shillings a piece over and above their charges any ways
taken herein, to see
31 this my last will performed according to my mind. **Item:** I give unto all my
godchildren
32 twelve pence a piece to be paid them upon demand thereof, by mine
executrixes.
33 In witness whereof to this my present testament and last will, revoking all
34 former and other wills, I, the said John Savedge, have set my hand and seal
35 the day and year above written.

John ⁷⁸ Savedge
his mark

Sealed and declared
in the presence of
William Spenser
his ⁷⁹ mark
Thomas Leddall, scr.

⁷⁸ a vertical cross

⁷⁹ and inverted "W"

This will (CKS: Drb/Pw 26; Drb/Pwr 21.232) was written a week before the parson was buried on 21st July 1626⁸⁰

1 In the name of god Amen. I, Miles Scottow, being about to make
2 my last will and testament. I, in the first place, bequeath my soul
3 in the Christian faith of our lord Jesus Christ, unto the arms of
4 his mercy and my body to the grave in the hope of a blessed resurrecti
5 on. **Item:** for my worldly goods, ten pounds for the king's first
6 fruits. **Item: my kinsman, Spenser Fell**, first my two great trunks
7 and hampers; secondly all my apparel, thirdly all my books,
8 manuscripts and writings⁸¹. **Item:** to **my cousin, Mary Fell**,
9 that has been partaker with me in all my misery and troubles -
10 first I bestow my three trunks below with a box above; **Item:**
11 all the all the darnicks, canopies, all the cushions. **Item:** all my bedding
that is in the house;

80 Charlton Parish Register 1562-1653 Extracts

81 "wrightings"

12 **Item:** all my linen⁸². **Item:** I bestow further upon **my cousin,**
13 **Ann**⁸³, all my brass and pewter and iron. **Item:** to my sister,
14 I give the mortar and the silver table and the
15 hangings about the Hall and chamber. **Item:** the diall post,
16 **Item:** I bestow upon him all wooden stuff about the house, bedsteads
17 and stools and chairs, a musket and other articles, the drinking pots that is
his portion and the lord bless
18 it to him. **Item:** I bequeath further, twenty shillings to the
19 poor of this parish to be paid by my kinsman Spenser Fell; five
20 shillings to Goodwife Waters and five to the almshouses and
21 the other then to be at the churchwardens disposition.
22 Thus with my hearty prayer to god for his blessing on our en-
23 deavours. **William Fell, my brother**⁸⁴, being full exe-
24 cutor for the execution of ?? business
Made the 14 of July Anno. dom. 1626

Witnesses:

82 "linning"

83 was this "Ann Fell" or should the name have been Mary?

84 brother-in-law?

Spenser Fell, curate of Charlton⁸⁵
Henry Coth
the mark of **Robert**
Scott.

85 from the writing it looks as if this will was written by Spenser Fell, the curate of Charlton

The Selbys of Ightham

Sir William Selby (i2188⁸⁶), from the Scottish borders and unmarried, retired to **Ightham Mote** in 1592 after a long military career⁸⁷. He bought the Mote and the lands belonging to it from Charles Allen.

At the beginning of 1593, he was trespassed against by **William Balcombe** (i1423): On 26th April 1593, **William Selby**, esquire "would lately have impounded [a blank, ? cattle] of a certain **William Balcombe** for trespass made against him, the said William Selby. William Balcombe, by his wife, took the [? cattle] so impounded out of the pound and escaped, without the licence or consent of the said William Selby or by form of law. Fined 3s 4d."⁸⁸. Balcombe had a daughter, Brigitt, baptised in Ightham on 20th April 1589.

In October 1597, **William Selby, esquire**, was one of the residents within the View of Frank-pledge who made default but was pardoned because he had not been

⁸⁶ "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

⁸⁷ Edward V. Bowra, Ightham, Ightham and District Historical Society, 1978

⁸⁸ Harrison, Edward; 1938, p.32

sufficiently summoned to the Court⁸⁹ . But the Court was not frightened of bringing the owners of the Mote before it and fining them if necessary as shown by them ordering **Charles Allen** to cut his hedge in 1589 under penalty of 10s.

On 1st April 1602 **William Selby** was ordered, under penalty of 5s, to remove before 30th June his sullage which he had "allowed to lie in the highway leading from **Ivy Hatch to Buds plain** in detriment of the highway there and of passers-by." Buds plain was south-west of the Mote and outside the manor.⁹⁰

The Court held on 7th October 1612 recorded that "**Sir William Selby, sen.**, who lately held of the lord of this manor the messuage . . . of the Mote and divers lands thereto belonging, has died since the last Court. **Sir William Selby, jun.**, (his nephew, i2585) should enjoy the premises, by virtue of the last will of the said William, senior."⁹¹ .

89 Harrison, Edward, 1938, p.33

90 Harrison, Edward; 1937, p.201 and 1938, p.68

91 Harrison, Edward, 1938, p.40 which gives a list of the lands belonging to the Mote

The only other mention of Sir William Selby, junior, in the Court Records concerns "one **Simon, gardener to Sir William Selby**" who on 30th December 1614 was assaulted by **Robert Stuborne**⁹²

The will of Sir William Selby, senior, has survived (**PCC: Fenner 18**); it was written on 14th May 1610 when he was "weak in body but of good and perfect mind and remembrance, laud and praise be given to Almighty god". He did "make and declare this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say, **First** and principally I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty god, my creator, and my body to the earth from whence it came". But Sir William lived for another nineteen months, being buried on 4th January 1612.

The wills of Sir William Selby, jun. (i2585) and his wife, Dame Dorothy (i2586), have also survived having been proved at the PCC (Lee 15, proved 1637/8 and Campbell 36, proved 1641/2, respectively. They did not have any children and Dame Dorothy "devoted herself to good works".

Sir William was born in 1550 and buried on 1st March 1638, aged eighty-eight. His will was written nearly a year earlier on 14th April 1637. The witnesses were: R. Amherst, John Howell, Peter Saunders, Nevill Cradock, William Twisseton, Thomas Atley, John Donne, Thomas Beecher, William Burdell, Andrew Shanford.

92 Harrison, Edward, 1938, p.8

Dame Dorothy's will was written on 22nd June 1641; the witnesses were William Dixon, William Polley, James Miller, Peter Saunders, John Stanford, John Kim, William Burdett. The monument to Dame Dorothy was erected at the charge of Richard Amherst, Esq., the R. Amherst who had witnessed Sir William's will .

Both William and Dorothy made bequests to the Amherst family and also to the Cradocks and Howells - see [Amherst and Cradock in More Families & Transcripts](#) for details.

On 25th January 1620 the house of Sir William Selby at Ightham was burgled and, at the February 1620 Assizes, Timothy Berry and John Sharpe were charged with this. They were found guilty of larceny but allowed benefit of clergy. They had stolen a hat (3s), a pair of shoes (1s) and a pair of stockings (6d) belonging to John Barbor.¹

At a number of the Assizes between July 1630 and March 1634, Sir William Selby was served with a writ *distringas*². The actual purpose of such a writ is not known but it was issued to a wide range of people “[the inhabitants of Barclay hundred, Shipbourne, Smeeth and the county of Kent](#)”, gentlemen and labourers.

1 Cockburn (James I) 826

2 Cockburn (Chas.I), 622, 719, 802, 851, 915, 986, 1069

The Seyliards of Ightham

This name can be spelled in a variety of ways including "Selyard" and the family is known in the Brasted and Sundridge area from at least the end of the fifteenth century. The will of William Seyliard, gentleman, of Sevenoaks has survived.

Henry Seyliard, gent. was rector of Ightham from 1586 to his death in 1616 and also, at the same time, rector of Addington. Perhaps he was a son of the **Thomas Seyliard** who was parson of **Brasted** in 1550; Henry transcribed the original Ightham parish records for 1559-1603 and continued to keep them until 1615. His son Nicholas referred to his father's will but this has not survived.

On 1st April 1602, **Andrew Homewood**, one of the churchwardens of Seal was brought before the Manor Court of Ightham for having "unjustly and unlawfully moved certain posts and rails from the lands of **Henry Seyliard, clerk, in Bromyfield**, in the occupation of **Thomas Gunning** and lying to the lands of **William Bruer called Cooks, to the south**." (CRI 1938, p.32⁹³). There were several fields bearing names such as Bromyfield or other variations of broom; "the shrub,

93 CRI 1938, p.32 - Harrison, Edward, The Court Rolls and Other Records of the Manor of Ightham, Archaeologia Cantiana, volume 48 (1937) and volume 49 (1938)

broom, is common in the district and probably accounts for the name." (CRI 1938, p.68). Cooks was immediately west of Ightham village (CRI 1938, p.70). Thomas Gunning was an borsholder and ale taster and also a churchwarden of Ightham.

When Stephen Swan wrote his will in March 1615, he had mortgaged his land to Henry Seyliard who he hoped would buy it .

The will of Henry's son Nicholas has survived (**CKS: Prs/w/14/261**). Nicholas was "born 12th day of May and baptised the 27th day of May following" when he was 15 days old; he was thus only twenty-seven when he died. A **Nicholas Selyard** was mentioned in the Court Records for 1586 to 1618 (presumably towards the end of this period if it was the same Nicholas).

Nicholas's financial position was complicated by the yearly amount of twenty marks (£13 6s 8d) due to him from his father's will being nearly £50 in arrears and also to him having stood surety, with his brother John, for the sum of £60 with the payment of £30 plus interest being overdue.

Another problem which his executor would have to handle was that his father had left him some lands and tenements which were to come to him on his mother's death. The twenty marks a year were to be paid to him during his mother's lifetime, presumably because on her death he would have inherited the land. Who was it who had not paid him for nearly four years? Presumably his father's

executor who could have been his mother which was perhaps why he had not brought into effect the "clause of distress for non-payment thereof as by the said will⁹⁴ may at large appear".

Nicholas mentions his brother Henry (to whom he gave his best cloak and holland shirt "in token of my fraternal respect towards him") and his brother John. The only sister he mentions is Dorothy whose daughter, Elizabeth, was his god-daughter; Nicholas remembered in his will all five of Dorothy's children who were born before 1632 and made her husband, John Drainer (or Draynor) his executor. (Some of John Draynor's children were baptised in Ightham and some in Seal.)

One of the witnesses to the will was Elizabeth Seyliard who looks to have signed her own name. Was this his sister Elizabeth whom he does not mention is his will? Or could it have been his mother?

Over thirty years before Henry became rector of Ightham there was a Henry Selyard in Seal or Ightham. In 1555 Thomas and Agnes Olyver called upon him to stand warranty for them when William Olyver was contesting the ownership of some land - see [Seal Fines in Section Z of More Families & Transcripts](#).

94 i.e. his father's will

<i>bur:</i>		i 1330 ⁹⁵ Henry - ??		9 Jan 1616 >Apr 1632 ⁹⁶			

i 1332		i 1353		i 1594		i 1595	
Henry ⁿ		Esther		Marie		Dorothy ⁹⁸	
<i>bap:</i> 7 Feb 2588		12 Nov 1590		30 Sep 1594		7 Dec 1596	
<i>will:</i>						- John Draynor	
<i>bur:</i>						i 1596	
						El i zabeth	
						13 Feb 1599	
						i 1597	
						John ⁿ	
						- 8 Dec 1600	
						i 1998	
						Ni cholas	
						12 May 1605	
						2 Apr 1632	
						6 Apr 1632	
#3943		#3945		#2518		#2520	
Dorothy ⁿ		Wi l l i a m ⁿ		John ⁿ		Henry	
<i>bap:</i> 10 Oct 1619		28 Nov 1624		20 May 1631		12 Sep 1636	
<i>bur:</i> 24 Jul 1632						3 Apr 1639	
						i 2339	
						John	
						15 Dec 1629	
#3944		#2517		#2519			
Mary ⁿ		El i zabeth ⁿ		Ri chard			
<i>bap:</i> 14 Feb 1622		24 Jul 1627		23 Apr 1634			
<i>bur:</i>		10 Jun 1647		26 Jan 1635			

95 i indicates a reference in the Ightham database

96 Nicholas's mother was alive in April 1632 when he wrote his will

97 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

98 married John Drainer (or Draynor), in Shipbourne, on 28th July 1618 when she was twenty-one; the first three of their children were baptised in Ightham but the rest in Seal - see [Draynor](#) Dorothy died in November 1636, three months after the birth of her youngest son, Henry. Although Henry was baptised in Seal, she was buried in Ightham.

1 In the name of god Amen. The second day of
2 April in the year of our Lord God 1632 and in the
3 eighth year of the reign of our sovereign Lord Charles,
4 by the grace of God king of England, Scotland, France
5 and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. I, Nicholas
6 Seyliard of the parish of Ightham in the county of
7 Kent, **gent.** being sick of body but of good and perfect
8 remembrance, thanks be unto almighty god, therefore do
9 make this my last will in manner and form following: **First:**
10 and principally I commend my soul to God Almighty
11 who gave it and assuredly hoping and steadfastly
12 believing through his mercy in Christ Jesus, his son,
13 my only saviour and redeemer, to be partaker of his heavenly
14 kingdom, there to enjoy with his saints everlasting blessedness.
15 And my body, by mine executor hereafter named, fittingly
16 and decently to be brought unto the earth and buried. **Item:** I
17 give unto the poor of Ightham forty shillings to be paid
18 within one month next after my decease by mine executor.
19 **Item:** I give unto **Henry Seyliard, my brother,** my best cloak

20 and my holland shirt in token of my fraternal respect
21 towards him. **Item:** I give unto my said brother Henry Seyliard
22 the sum of six pounds and unto **my brother John Seyliard**
23 the sum of thirty pounds to be paid unto them, and either
24 of them, by mine executor, out of the arrearages of a certain
25 rent charge of twenty marks given unto me by the will
26 of my father being now behind and unpaid amounting to
27 the sum of forty nine pounds three shillings four pence⁹⁹,
28 within one month next after my said executor shall ?? and
29 receive the said arrearages, or sufficient part thereof, to pay
30 the said legacies. And whereas I, together with my said
31 brother John Seyliard, and as his surety, stand bound unto
32 one **Nicholas Cod of Trottiscliffe** by bond in the penal sum
33 of threescore pounds or thereabouts for the payment of
34 thirty pounds with interest at a time now past, my mind
35 and meaning is that if mine executor shall, before the
36 ?? of the set arrearages be enforced to pay the said money
37 to the said Cod, that then the said legacy of thirty pounds

page 2:

38 shall not be paid at all to the said John Seyliard as
39 aforesaid but my executor shall retain the sum to his
40 own use. **Item:** I give to my said brother John Seyliard the moiety or
41 one half of my woollen wearing apparel unbequeathed.
42 The other moiety thereof, and all other my goods and chattels
43 unbequeathed, I give unto **John Drainor, my brother-in-law,**
44 whom I make the sole executor of this my will. Concern=
45 ing the disposing of my lands and tenements which were to me
46 given by the will of my said father and wherein I have
47 an estate in ?? to me and mine heirs after the death
48 of my mother, by reason of a ?? suffered by my said
49 mother and will to discontinue the estate-tailed ??
50 in the will of my father. **First:** I give and devise unto
51 **Dorothy Drainor, my sister,** all the messuage or tenement with the gardens,
52 orchards and backsides with other th'appurtenances thereunto
53 belonging lying in Ightham aforesaid ?? **old Clary Hill**
54 as the same and now in the tenure of **Richard Nutts** and
55 purchased by my said father of **Boardman,** to have and
56 to hold to my said sister during her life immediately
57 after the decease of my said mother. And after the decease
58 of my said mother and sister, I give and devise the
59 said messuage or tenement unto **Elizabeth Drainor, my**

60 **god-daughter and daughter of my said executor** and to
61 her heirs for ever. And my will and meaning is that my
62 said god-daughter, or her heirs or assigns, shall within
63 within two years next after the death of my said mother and
64 sister pay, or cause to be paid, out of the rents and profits
65 of the said messuage and premises unto **William, John, Dorothy and**
66 **Mary Drainor, the brothers and sisters of my god-daugh=**
67 **ter,** the sum of forty shillings a piece, if the said William,
68 John, Dorothy and Mary shall, at the end of the said two years
69 be of the several ages of one and twenty years; if not
70 then to be paid at their several ages of one and twenty years¹⁰⁰.
71 The residue of all my lands and tenements I give and
72 devise unto my said brother John Seyliard and his

page 3:

73 heirs for ever. Notwithstanding, my meaning is that my said
74 brother, John Seyliard, his heirs and assigns, shall yearly,
75 from and after the death of my said mother, pay or cause
76 to be paid out of the rents and profits of the said lands

100 Nicholas's sister died in November 1636; in 1638 William, John and Mary would have been fourteen, seven and sixteen respectively. Dorothy had died in July 1632, only a few months after her uncle. Elizabeth, who was to have inherited her godfather's land and tenements, died in 1647 just before her twentieth birthday

and tenements to him devised (as aforesaid) to my said brother Henry Seyliard and his assigns during his life the sum of twenty shillings of lawful money at the feast of St. Michael th'archangel and th'annunciation of the blessed virgin Mary, by equal portions, the first payment thereof to begin at the feast of feasts aforesaid which shall first happen next after the decease of my said mother. **Item:** whereas my said father, by his last will and testament did give unto me and my assigns a certain rent charge of twenty marks by the year issuing out of diverse lands and tenements in Ightham and **Wrotham** in the said county to be paid during the life of my said mother with clause of distress for non-payment thereof as by the said will may at large appear, I do hereby give and bequeath unto my said brother John Seyliard the said rent to have and to hold to him and to his assigns in as large and ample manner to all intent and purposes as the same is given unto me by the said will of my father. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year first before written.

Read, sealed, published
and declared for the last
will of the said Nicholas
Seyliard in presence of us

John Dubble

Henry Carnell

Elizabeth Seyliard¹⁰²

Nicholas Sey
Lyard¹⁰¹

101 looks like a signature

102 all these also look like signatures; "John" of John Dubble is very different from the "John"s which occur in the will. The will of Henry Carnell of Wrotham has survived and the signature here is the same as on his own will. Henry Carnell was also a witness to the will of Mary Moyse of Penshurst, written in September 1629. Again the signature is the same but the writing of Nicholas Seyliard's will looks to be in a different hand from that of Mary Moyse.

Thomas & Reginald Shawe of Tonbridge

The wills of

	dated:	Ref.:	
Thomas Shawe	4 Jan 1570/1	CKS: Drb/Pw 9; Drb/Pwr 14.8	page s.45
Reginald Shawe	6 Jul 1588	CKS: Drb/Pw 15; Drb/Pwr 17.345	page s.48

have survived but there does not seem to be any relationship between the two men.

Thomas Shawe, who was buried on 17th January 1570/1, was a shearman, a man who shears cloth and, in addition to the implements and tools used for the "[science of shearman's occupation](#)" he had a great brass cauldron used for dyeing and making colours. Although he seems to have had a number of sons, only John, who was to be joint executor with Thomas's wife, was left anything in the will. George was to be supervisor and Richard ("[one of the sons of the said Thomas Shawe](#)") was a witness. Had George and Richard already been set up? Thomas also had two daughters who were each to receive £1 but not until the death of their mother.

Reginald's will was written by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618. The initial letter "T" is decorated and it has a small Nicholas Hooper mark at the beginning.

It was written with double spacing between each of the original lines so that the amendments took the form of crossing out the original lines and inserting the new ones between them. Originally, Reginald seems to have bequeathed his messuage, etc. directly to his daughter but later he makes his father-in-law guardian of his daughter and leaves his property to him with £30 to his daughter on her nineteenth birthday or when she married, if that was earlier. The right hand side of the original has rotted away and the probate copy is very difficult to read.

Most unusually, Reginald mentions both his mother and father-in-law:

		- Elizabeth t978		Edward Maplesden - t987 ¹⁰⁷
t980				
	Reginald	-	Marie t989
<i>will:</i>	6 Jul 1588			
<i>bur:</i>	12 Jul 1588		t990	
			Katherine	

107 "t" indicates a reference in the Tonbridge database

1 In the name of god Amen. The 4th day of
2 January in the year of our lord and saviour Jesus
3 Christ one thousand, five hundreth, three score and
4 ten. And in the 13th year of the reign of our most
5 gracious sovereign, Lady queen of England, I, Thomas
6 Shawe, of the parish of Tonbridge in the diocese of Rochester
7 within the county of Kent, of good and perfect memory,
8 thanks be to god, do make and ordain this my last
9 will and testament in this manner and form
10 following: **First** and principally I commend my soul
11 into the hands of the living god, my maker, saviour
12 and redeemer and my body to be buried in the church
13 yard of the parish church of Tonbridge aforesaid.
14 **Item:** I will and give unto **Agnes, my wife**, all my
15 moveables and household stuff, goods, cattell, ready
16 money and all other chattels in whose hands or custody
17 soever they be or may be found in (except and always
18 reserved out of this present gift and gifts before given to Agnes,
19 my wife, all the implements and tools belonging to

20 my science of shearman's occupation¹⁰³ remaining and
21 being in my shop and also one great cauldron of
22 brass which I do, or did, use to dye and make colours in,
23 which implements, tools and dyeing cauldron of
24 brass before mentioned, I will and give them to **John**
25 **Shawe, my son**, which John, my son, and
26 Agnes, my wife, I ordain and make my sole and
27 whole executors of this my present testament and
28 **George Shawe, my son**, supervisor of the same.

29 This is the last will and testament of me the
30 said Thomas Shawe made and declared the day and
31 year first above written as touching the disposition of all
32 my tenements and gardens, houses and buildings to the
33 same belonging and also all other orchards, closes,
34 severally to the same, in any wise, appertaining which
35 said tenement, withall and singular th'appurtenances,
36 I will that Agnes, my wife, shall have the same for
37 and during the whole term of her natural life.
38 And after the decease of Agnes, my said wife, then
39 I will and give all the said tenement, withall

40 and singular th'appurtenances before expressed, shall
41 wholly remain to John Shawe, my son, and to
42 his heirs forever in fee simple, yielding and paying
43 unto **my two daughters, Margery and Agnes**, to
44 either of them 20s a piece of lawful money of England
45 within one year next and immediately after the decease
46 of Agnes, my wife. And if it so happen any of my
47 said two daughters, Agnes or Agnes, to decease
48 before the death of Agnes, my wife, then I will
49 that she so departed this mortal life, her portion of
50 20s to be to the only use and behoof of the said
51 John Shawe, my son. And shall not be charged with
52 the payment of her 20s so deceased. In witness whereof
53 I, the said Thomas Shawe, have unto this my
54 present will set my mark and seal in the presence
55 of us, **Martin Drews, Richard Sped**, mark, and
56 **Richard Shawe**, one of the sons of the said Thomas Shawe.

Nicholas Hooper's
mark

1 In the name of god Amen. The sixth day of July in year of our
2 Lord god one thousand five hundreth, fourscore and eight. And in the
3 thirtieth
4 year of the reign of our sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth ??
5 I, Reginald Shawe, of Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **tanner**, being
6 extremely visited with sickness, but yet notwithstanding of good mind and
7 perfect
8 remembrance, thanks therefore be¹⁰⁴ to almighty god, do ordain and make
9 this my present testament and last will in manner and form following¹⁰⁵.
10 **First** and principally I give, commend and bequeath my soul to almighty
11 god, my maker, and to Jesus Christ, his only son, my redeemer and saviour,

104 "bee", etc. throughout

105 "folowing" and also on line 42

- 10 by whose merits, precious death and blood shedding¹⁰⁶ I trust to be saved.
And my
11 body to the earth from which it came. **Item:** I will and give to the poor
12 within the parish of Tonbridge aforesaid 6s 8d to be distributed among such
of them
13 as **Mr. Stockwood, minister** of Tonbridge shall think good. **Item:** I give
14 ¹⁰⁷ to my loving and natural **mother Elizabeth Shawe, widow,**
15 ten pounds lawful money to be paid to her¹⁰⁸ at the feast of Great
Bartholomew next coming
16 At or in the house called the sign of the horses in **Islington.**
- 17 The residue of all my goods and cattall, as well moveable as unmoveable,
my ??
18 and legacies paid and funeral discharged, I wholly, fully and with good
intent

106 "bludshedding"

107 "and bequeath" crossed out

108 here the following section has been crossed out: "within one whole (year) next after my decease. And if she happen to de cease before, then I will the same shalbe shared? between **my sister Marie and her daughter Elizabeth** within the time aforesaid. I will and bequeath to **my daughter Katherine** the sum of twenty pounds lawful money to be paid to her (at her) age of 19 years or the day of her marriage which shall first happen by mine executrix hereafter named" the words in brackets having been omitted. Between lines 16 and 17 a considerable amount of blank space has been left.

19 and purpose, do give and bequeath to **Marie, my wellbeloved wife**, whom I
20 make and ordain my whole and sole executrix of this my will to see the
21 same proved and my body honestly brought to the earth. And I ??
22 my faithful friend and good **father-in-law Edward Maplesden** to be
23 overseer of this my will whom I desire to deal faithfully ??
24 **my daughter Katherine** whom I commit to his governance and
25 as I repose faithful credit and trust in¹⁰⁹
26 until her age of 19 years
27 or the age of her marriage which shall first happen.

28 This is the last will of me the said Reginald Shawe made and declared the
29 day and year first above written concerning the order and disposition of all
30 my
31 lands and tenements whatsoever. **Item:** I will and bequeath to the said
32 ¹¹⁰ Edward Maplesden, my said overseer, all that my messuage or tenement
with the buildings,
land and woods with th'appurtenances thereto belonging, situated, lying
and being in

109 the following section is crossed out: "him the which Edward also I ?? have the revenues and profits of all the land and hereditaments ?? to her. And also of the £20 herein before given to her". Again there is a considerable space before the next section of the will.

110 "Katherine, my daughter" crossed out

33 **Kenthatch in Westerham**¹¹¹ in the county of Kent, to have and to hold,
34 with th'appurtenances to¹¹² him, the said Edward, his heirs and assigns, to
the only use and behoof
35 of the said Edward, his heirs and assigns forever upon condition that he, the
said Edward,
36 his heirs, executors or assigns, shall honestly, godly and ?? ??
37 ?? my daughter, Katherine, until she shall come and attain to her age of 19
38 years or until she shalbe married, which it shall please god to come first. ??
39 satisfy and pay, or cause to be paid, to her the said Katherine, or her assigns,
40 the sum of thirty pounds of lawful money at the day of her said marriage or
??
41 which she shall accomplish her said age of 19 years which shall first happen,
or within the space of one month
42 following upon notice or warning of the said age or marriage to be given and
??
43 in the porch of the parish church of Tonbridge aforesaid, without any fraud,
44 coven or further delay. And if it shall happen the said Katherine to decease

111 The Surrey/Kent border is on the east side of Westerham; was this Kenthatch?

112 from here to the end of line 38 replaced "to her, the said Katherine, during the whole ?? of her life and, after her decease, to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten. Then I will the said messuage and all other the premises shall remain to the ?? heirs of me the said Reginald Shawe".

45 before her said age or marriage, then I will and give to my said wife the said
??
46 to be paid to her within one month next after the decease of the said
Katherine
47 if the said Marie, my wife, shalbe then living. And if she be then also
deceased
48 then I will the said £30 shalbe paid to that child which my said wife now
goeth with,
49 if she be with child, to be paid at the age of 19 years of the said child or
50 day of marriage if the said child which shall first happen, without any fraud,
51 coven or further delay. In witness whereof to this my present last will, I, the
52 said Reginald Shaw, have set my hand and seal, yeven, the day and year
53 first above written in the presence of

the mark of Reginald
Shawe

by me **Edward Mapleseden, William Harris,**
Timothy ??, Moyses Pawley¹¹³,
Nicholas Hooper, writer hereof and others
in whose presence this will was read and published.

113 The will of Moyses Pawley of Hadlow was proved in 1591

This will (CKS: Drb/Pw 20, Drb/Pwr 20.20) was written by John Hooper, notary public and parish clerk of Tonbridge. The Hooper family wrote many wills in the Tonbridge locality from the late 1550s until at least 1650, the date at which this study ends.

Henry's heir was his nearest kinswoman Helen, wife of Daniel Prickney of Maidstone and he appointed the pair joint executors. Maidstone is only about twelve miles down the river Medway from Tonbridge and there would have been continuous communication between the two towns. Henry also left small legacies to three other kinswomen: Margaret married to Peter Starkey of Woolwich (20s), his cousin Marie living in Essex (10s) and Margaret Sidden living in Wiltshire (10s). These were to be paid "[when the same shall be demanded](#)" and, particularly for the latter two, it may have been some time before they heard of Henry's death. Would the executors have sent messages to them?

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The seventh day of January?
- 2 Ao dm 1609 in the seventh year of the reign of
- 3 our sovereign lord James, by the grace of God king of

4 England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith.
5 And of Scotland the 42nd. I, Henry Sidden of
6 Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **beer brewer**, being¹¹⁴ aged, lame
7 and diseased and thereby put in mind of my last end, notwithstanding
8 of good remembrance (thanks be to God) to the end that no contention
9 may arise about any my goods after my decease, do therefore
10 ordain and make this my present testament in manner following:
11 **First:** I commend and commit my soul to almighty God, my maker,
12 with an assured hope of salvation through the merits of Jesus Christ,
13 my saviour, and my body to the earth from whence it was taken. **Item:**
14 I will and give to **Margaret (the wife of Peter Starkey of Woolwich),**
15 **my kinswoman**, twenty shillings. To **Marie Sidden** dwelling in
16 **Essex, mine uncle's daughter**, and to **Margaret Sidden** dwelling in
17 **Wiltshire**,
18 to either of them ten shillings. All which legacies I will shall be paid
19 by mine executor after my decease respectively when the same
20 shalbe demanded. **Item:** I will to the poor of Tonbridge 10s
21 to be distributed in the day of my burial or the Sunday following
at the discretion of the churchwardens of the said parish.

114 "beeing": the Hoopers usually used the double e in "me", "be", etc. and this form is used throughout this will (including "shalbee" on line 19) except for the "be" on line 7.

22 The residue of all my goods, as well moveable as unmovable, debts,
cattle¹¹⁵
23 and chattels, my debts paid, I wholly and fully give to **Daniel Prickney**
24 of **Maidstone** and **Helen, his wife, my nearest kinswoman**, whom I make
25 my whole and joint executors, to see this my will proved and my debts
26 discharged¹¹⁶ and my body decently brought to the earth. In witness
27 whereof I, the said Henry Sidden, have to this my present testament
28 set my hand and seal (revoking hereby all former wills by me made) yeven
29 the day and year first above written.

Read, sealed, published and declared the mark of Henry Sidden
in the presence of
Richard Darrell
William Larrys
John Hooper, sc.

115 "cattells"

116 "dischardged" another common Hooper spelling

The Siflets of Ightham

This name is variously spelt: Siflet, Syflete, etc.; for purposes of indexing, "Siflet" is used throughout.

Mentioned in the Court Records

A **John Syflete** was mentioned in the Court Records for 1490-1508; this was perhaps the father of "**John Syfflett, being a man of the age of 60 years**" in the mid-1560s when he was a witness in the Bing v. Hooper case (see *Excerpts from Ightham Court Rolls*). Throughout the sixteenth century there were a large number of Siflets in Ightham but no baptisms recorded between 1595 and 1650 and no Siflets were mentioned in the Court Records for 1697 to 1707 (the book in which the proceedings were recorded for 1619 to 1696 is missing). The burial of **Margaret, wife of John Siflet**, on 28 May 1620 at least shows that there was still a John Siflet living in Ightham in 1620.

A **John Syffleyt** and a **Richard Syffleit** were both tithing men (borsholders) between 1553 and 1574. Richard was perhaps the one who had a son over twelve in 1586: On 4th October 1586 "**Thomas Syfelett, son of Richard Syfelett, and**

William Crouchley have dwelt within the precincts of this View of Frank-pledge for the space of one year and more and are twelve years of age and above and yet have not hitherto been sworn to the allegiance of our Lady the Queen, wherefore they were sworn here in Court to be faithful, obedient and loyal subjects." (CRI 1938, p.9) No father was given for William and there is no other mention of a Crouchley in either the Court or Parish Records. See *Excerpts from the Ightham Court Rolls* for more details of this oath taking.

This **Richard Syfelett** could also hve been 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) **Richard Syflett** was an **ale taster** sometime between 1586 and 1618. A **Richard Siflet** was buried on 9th April 1601; if this was the father of the boy Thomas, above, he was probably in his fifties when he died.

The "land of **Richard Syfflet**" was referred to when **William Webb** was presented to the court in April 1590 (see **Webb**) and, in 1593, he was on the receiving end of a "common breaker of hedges" - see **Jane Powell**.

There was a **Richard Siflet (#139)** whose son, Richard, was baptised on 26th October 1589 and this is possibly the one referred to in the Court records but the baptism of Thomas who took his oath in 1586 and was therefore born about 1572, was not recorded in the parish register.

On 27th April 1587, **David Syfelett**, a tenant of the manor, alienated to "**John Syfelett** part of a house with a yard of land and one daywork¹¹⁷; John was admitted tenant and did fealty and was given till the next Court to bring his evidence (of title) and to pay relief." (CRI 1938, p.41) There was a John Siflet who married in 1589 (see page s.59) but he was only twenty-three in 1587.

On 5th October 1591, **George Staly** was fined 3s 4d for having assaulted **David Siflett**, striking him with a stone and drawing blood. "**David Siflett then and there assaulted George. Fined 12d.**" (CRI 1938, p.4)

Also mentioned in the Court Records for 1586 to 1618, but not in the Parish Records, was **Thomas Syfelett, borsholder**.

¹¹⁷ yard - or rod (virga); a daywork was sometimes 4 rods or perches, that is, one fortieth of an acre.

The Siflet Families

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Di ed
i 129	<u>SIFLET, William</u> -----	mentioned in the Court Records 1553-74			1 7	29 Jan 1565
!	i 131 <u>SIFLET, James</u>	11 Aug 1560			0 0	7 Sep 1560 at 3 wks
!	i 132 <u>SIFLET, Robert</u>	16 Nov 1561			0 0	
!	i 133 <u>Siflet, Joane</u>	25 Apr 1563			0 0	30 Apr 1563 at 1 wk
!	i 134 <u>SIFLET, John</u> 	19 Apr 1564	24 Jan 1589	Elizabeth Hawke	1 2	<Mar 1608 in early 40s
!	i 142 <u>Hawke, Elizabeth</u>	14 Feb 1563			1 2	28 Mar 1608 aged 45
			married at 26; widow when she died			
!	! i 143 <u>Siflet, Jane</u>	2 May 1591			0 0	
!	! i 144 <u>Siflet, Margery</u>	18 Nov 1593			0 0	

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Di ed
i 136	<u>SIFLET, Daniel</u> -----	<1567			2 2	8 Feb 1601 in late 30s
	<i>Marriage 1</i>				1 0	
i 148	<u>Siflet(m), wife of Daniel</u> -----				1 0	18 Jan 1588
	<i>Marriage 2</i>			Joane Medhurst #145	1 2	
i 145	<u>Medhurst, Joane</u> -----	25 Jun 1590			1 2	26 May 1608 in her 40s
	widow when she died two months after the wife of #134, above					
! i 146	<u>Siflet, Katherine</u>	12 Mar 1592			0 0	
! i 147	<u>SIFLET, James</u>	17 Feb 1595			0 0	

On 27th April 1587, Daniel was fined 20d because his wife was "a common breaker of hedges and abstractor of the wood of the lord of the manor." (CRI 1937, p.207)

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Di ed
i 151	<u>Si flet, Margery</u> -----				0 0	4 Jan 1563
i 152	<u>SI FLET, John</u> -----	labourer			0 0	2 Apr 1564
i 153	<u>Si flet, Agnes</u> -----	servant of Christopher Allen, knight			0 0	9 May 1564
i 154	<u>Si flet, Marian</u> -----				0 0	1 Apr 1589
i 155	<u>Si flet, Margaret</u> -----				0 0	30 Jan 1598

The marriage of **Richard Cornford** and **Isabel Siflet** was recorded in Ightham on 16 May 1571. **John Cornford** was the father of two children baptised in Ightham and Isabel Cornford (no further details) was buried, also in Ightham, on 26th February 1592. At the marriage, was "Richard" written in error for "John". There was a John Cornford (#1189) in Seal - see **Cornford in Seal**.

Thomas Simon was a labourer but, in addition to corn, 3 acres of wheat, two leather doublets and his working tools, he had a wide variety of animals which he left to his two daughters and his nephew:

hogs, geese, hens, kine, oxen, steers, colt, rams

In addition he instructed his brother to sell his bull and mare and three acres of wheat to pay his debts and bequests.

1 In the name of god Amen. The
2 23rd day of January in the year of
3 our lord god 1557. And in the
4 fourth and first years of our Sov
5 reigns lord and lady, king Philip
6 and queen Mary, by the grace of god,
7 king and queen of England, France

8 and ¹¹⁸, I, Thomas Simon of the parish
9 of Hadlow in the county
10 of Kent, **labourer**, and within the diocese of
11 Rochester, being sick in body and whole in
12 mind, Lord be praised, ?? do make and ordain and make this my present
testament and last will in manner and form following: **First:** I submit my
soul¹¹⁹ unto god's
13 mighty power, my body I will to be
14 buried in the churchyard of Hadlow
15 aforesaid. **Item:** I will and give unto
16 **Nicholas Milner and Lewes Payne**
17 **Robert Crow and Thomas Janson,**
18 12d a piece to bring my body to the
19 churchyard of Hadlow aforesaid. **Item:** I
20 will unto **Lewes Payne's daughter**
21 my godchild 4d. **Item:** I will and
22 give unto **Anne Simon and Agnes Simon,**
23 **my 2 daughters,** all my household stuff
24 and all my corn that is in my house

118 no space left here

119 long insertion in this line

25 that I dwell in at my departing and
26 all my hogs and geese¹²⁰ and my hens and
27 four of my kine. And if it happen that
28 any of my two daughters before named
29 do die before the day of their marriage,
30 then I will and appoint that the
31 overliver shall have the whole. **Item:** I will
32 unto **John Simon, my brother's son**, my
33 4 oxen and my 4 steers, my colt,
34 2 rams, all my raiment saving two
35 leather doublets and all my working tools.
36 **Item:** I will unto Nicholas Milner and
37 **Godley's man** my two leather doublets.
38 **Item:** I will and appoint that **my brother**,
39 **Humfrey Simon** shall take and have to
40 sell to pay my debts and bequests
41 my bull and my mare and 3 acres
42 of wheat lying at **Southbarrow**
43 and he to have for his pains
44 13 4d whom I institute, ordain and
45 appoint to be my sole executor of

120 "gisse"

46 this my last will and testament.
47 And that that is left by my executor, my
48 debts and legacies discharged and performed, and
49 that that is left unbequeathed I will and give it
50 unto Agnes Simon, my daughter. These being
51 witness **William Reve, Nicholas Milner,**
52 and **Walter Trysse**¹²¹ with others more.

121 the will of Walter Trice, the elder, written in January 1588, has survived

The Smalhams of Seal

The will of John Smalham of Seal, written in December 1565, has survived (**CKS: Drb/Pw 8; Drb/Pwr 13.212**) It was written by **John Hooper** who wrote a number of wills in the vicinity of Seal in the 1560s.

There are a few entries in the parish register which give additional details about John Smalham's family but, although the death of his first wife Alice was recorded, the children of this marriage are known only from his will, presumably because they were born before the surviving parish register starts.

John Smalham witnessed the will of **John Goodhews** (#4080) in 1563; this will was also written by John Hooper.

	#317 Alice	-	John #159	married 29 May 1564 at Ightham	
<i>will:</i>			5 Dec 1565	- Margery Pordge #126 ¹²²	
<i>bur:</i>	3 Jun 1562		12 Dec 1565		

	#4054	#4056	#4057	#4058	#161
	Francis?	Henry	Walter	James	Amy ¹²³
<i>bap:</i>					Francis (son)
<i>bur:</i>					8 Mar 1565
					Mary
					20 Feb 1566 in Ightham
					14 Mar 1565
					7 Apr 1566
					#589

There was also a **Johane Smalham** (#1247) who married twice, in Seal; it is likely that she moved to Sevenoaks when she married for the second time but returned “home” for the birth of her first child.

<i>marr:</i>	15 Jul 1577	15 Jul 1587	
	#388 John Robinson -	Johane -	Edmund Dixon #1246
<i>bur:</i>	26 Jun 1587		of Sevenoaks
			#1594
		Edmund	
<i>bap:</i>		5 Apr 1590	
<i>bur:</i>		7 Nov 1590	

122 Margery married again on 7th July 1566, her second husband being Thomas Hastlyne (#125)

123 these children are known only from John's will; the eldest must have been born 1554 or earlier (allowing a two-year gap between each child).

1 In dei nome amen. The 9th day of December in the year of our lord god
1565, I, John Smalham of Seal in the diocese
2 of Rochester, yeoman, being sick and weak of body yet of a perfect mind
and good remembrance, thanked therefore be god, do or
3 dain and make this my present testament and last will in manner and form
as followeth¹²⁴. **First** and principally I give and bequeath my soul
4 to god Almighty, mine only Saviour and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, And my
body to be buried in the churchyard of Seal aforesaid beside
5 **my late wife** there buried¹²⁵. **Item:** I will to the chest of the poor in Seal
aforesaid 12d. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my son James**
6 Smalham my folding¹²⁶ silver spoon. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto **my**
daughter, Amy, one Gold Ring with a Tur? which was late her mother's,

124 "foloweth"; "folowing" on line 19

125 John's first wife, Alice, was buried on 1st June 1562

126 "fowlding" but what was a folding spoon?

7 one joined bedstead now standing in the parlour?, my second best feather
bed with its bolster and two pillows of feathers, my second¹²⁷ best coverlet,
my
8 second best pair of blankets, two pairs of sheets, my great brass pan, 3
pewter platters, 3 pewter dishes, 2 salvers and a salt cellar of bone or
9 ivory. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto that child which my wife now goeth,
whether it shall please god that it be a man or woman¹²⁸,
10 my silver salt cellar with the cover and half a dozen of silver spoons, a
Spresse Table with the foot wherein it now standeth and also a ??
11 to set a ?? to be delivered unto him or her by mine executor at th'age of 21
years. **Item:** I will and bequeath to **John Johnson**
12 **servant to my Lord of Canterbury's Grace**, mine ambling colt with the flaxen
mane and flaxen tail. **Item:** I will, give and ?? unto

127 ii^{de} here and on the next line but "second" earlier in this line

128 Mary Smalham was baptised, in Ightham, on 20 February 1566, two and a half months after her father died; however she died at under two months, being buried, in Seal, on 7th April 1566. This is the only mention of this expected child who would therefore have been dependent on her mother for her bringing up and a dowry.

13 my trusty friends and wellbeloved in Christ, **John Stace**¹²⁹ and **William**
14 **Polhill**¹³⁰, **yeomen**, and to either of them jointly and severally, full power
15 and lawful authority by virtue of this my present testament and last will to
16 bargain¹³¹, ??, sell and assure all those my land, meadows,
17 pastures and woods called **Shinglehills** with appurtenances, lying and
18 being in Seal aforesaid, now in the occupancy of me the said John and of
one **John Stephen**, to whatsoever person or persons, in fee simple, to and
for the most profit and advantage that they, and either of them, shall or can
do.
And also to sell to and for the most profit and advantage mine 3 fat oxen,
my 20 fat wethers and my two best geldings and the money and
profit whatsoever¹³² coming by them to be employed to the only use and
behoof of my 4 sons and daughter, that is to say, **Francis?**, **Henry**,

129 although no John Stace appears in the Seal parish register, a John Stace was overseer and witness to the will of John Goodhew in 1563; John Smalham also witnessed John Goodhew's will.

130 there was a William Polhill who died in Seal in 1595 (#151) when he was probably in his sixties; his children were born in the 1550s so that he was probably a contemporary of John Smalham, possibly slightly younger

131 "/" used generally instead of a comma

132 an insertion here which cannot be deciphered

19 **Walter, James and Amy**¹³³. And to be paid, delivered and equally to be
divided between them, and only of them, in manner and form hereafter
following
20 ?? to my said sons at their several age and ages of 23 years at the mansion
house of the said John Stace now situated in **Leigh**
21 next to Tonbridge in the said county. And to my said daughter Amy at her
full age of 20 years at the said place or within 28 days after
22 notice given of the said age and ages of my said sons and daughter being
full being full past. And if it shall happen any of my said sons or daughter
to
23 decease before their said several age, ages or payment aforesaid made that
then I will that the part, portion or portions of him, her and them so
24 deceased shall be equally divided between the survivor or survivors of them
to be paid to them, and every of them, by the said John Stace and William
at the
25 said place within one month after notice given of the said age and ages
being full past. Provided always and my very will is that mine
26 executor hereafter named shall have the occupation and use of the money
which shall rise and grow of the said sale of the 3 oxen and 20 wethers,
27 she, my said executor, putting the said John Stace and William Polhill in
such sufficient assurance as by them shalbe devised for the repayment

133 all children of his first marriage

28 thereof to them or either of them (to the use aforesaid) at or on this side the
feast of the nativity of our lord god 1567¹³⁴.

29 The residue of all my goods and cattalls, moveable and unmoveable, not
before by me limited and devised to the said John Stace and William
30 Polhill to the use of my said sons and daughter in manner and form
aforesaid to be paid, I wholly, fully and with effect will, give and bequeath
unto

31 **Margery, my wellbeloved wife**¹³⁵, whom I do constitute, ordain and make
my whole and sole executrix of this my present testament
32 and last will. And also I do desire and ordain **my worshipful friend, Mr.
Robert Rogers, Esquire**, to be supervisor of this my present testament
33 and last will to be assistor and an helper to my said executrix to the better
performance of the of the ?? by me above devised, to whom for his pains
34 and diligence therein taken I give and bequeath my grey, young, ambling
gelding.

134 that is two years from the writing of the will

135 John married Margery Pordge, in Ightham, on 29th May 1564, practically two years after the death of his first wife. Neither their son Francis nor their daughter Mary, born two months after John's death, survived. Margery married Thomas Hastlyne on 7th July 1566.

35 **Item:** I will that my trusty friends, John Stace and William Polhill, shall
devise, give and let farm all the said lands called
36 Shinglehills (before willed to be sold) to the most advantage and profit until
the time of the said sale thereof in form aforesaid devised to be made.
37 And the money and rent thereof coming and issuing to be employed by
them to the only use and behoof and bringing up of my said children. **Item:**
I will that my said
38 executrix shall keep to school? and bring up my said son James Smalham
during the time of 4 years next ensuing after my decease.
39 And shall keep and bring up my said son Henry during two years next
ensuing¹³⁶. Also I will that the said John Stace and William
40 Polhill shall account unto my said 4 sons and daughter of all the money and
profit by them received of and for my said lands and cattall.
41 **Item:** I will to the said John Stace for his payment ?? my black colt going
in Nothlands and to the said William Polhill, my
42 little hang? or woodbrif?. Witness hereof the said **John Stace, William
Polhill, Robert Godden¹³⁷ and John Hooper** with others

136 had the other two sons already been apprenticed or engaged in service?

137 Robert Godden (#245) married in 1563 (# indicates reference in Seal database)

43 yeven¹³⁸ the day and year above written.

Below this is a paragraph, written in a different hand (apparently that of Gilbert Jenyns) concerning probate but very difficult to read:

. . . me probate first And hoc . . . testamentum

. quod . . .

probate at Seal ?? day, month, January 1565 me Gilbert Jenyns¹³⁹, clerico

138 "yeven" (given) is often used in Hooper wills

139 #15, vicar of Seal; a few wills were proved in the village church by the vicar

The Skinners, Robert Wyborne and the Bridge at Ightham

Ightham had problems with the bridge adjoining a house in the village and leading to the church for a long time: from at least 1554 (no records have survived from 1509 to 1552 inclusive) until 1594.

Initially the property was the responsibility of **Thomas Skinner**, perhaps the father of the **Valentine Skinner** who later lived there and had a daughter, **Elizabeth**, baptised in Ightham on 27th March 1581. The following extracts are from CRI 1937¹⁴⁰, pages 191 and 192.

- 7.10.1554 "**Thomas Skynner** has neglected to repair the bridge . . to the great inconvenience of the subjects of the King and Queen [Philip and Mary]. Fined 5s, the bridge to be repaired before the next Court, under penalty 20s."
- 11.10.1555 "**Thomas Skynner** has encroached upon the highway in Ightham Street in building his house, to the inconvenience of the subjects of

¹⁴⁰ Harrison, Edward, The Court Rolls and Other Records of the Manor of Ightham, Archaeologia Cantiana, volume 48 (1937)

the King and Queen. To be amended before the next Court, under penalty 10s."

- 4.10.1586 "The homage present that there is a certain bridge not well repaired, adjoining the house of **Valentine Skinner** who is legally bound to repair and maintain it. Ordered to repair it sufficiently before the next Court, under penalty 10s."
27. 4.1587 "**Valentine Skynner** has well and sufficiently repaired the bridge adjoining his house, as ordered."
- 22.4.1590 "**Valentine Skynner** has allowed the bridge which formerly stood opposite his house in Ightham to become useless, to the inconvenience of passers-by. To be repaired before 7 June, under penalty 10s."

Whether or not it was the work entailed in keeping the bridge in good state which decided Skinner to move elsewhere, the Court held on 5th April 1594 heard that "**Valentine Skynner** who lately held a messuage and orchard in Ightham Street has alienated the premises to **Robert Wiborne**."

But this was not the end of the village's problems with the bridge. Six months later, on 17th October 1594, the Court found that "**Robert Wyborne of Wrotham** has

allowed the foot-bridge opposite his house in Ightham, leading to the church of Ightham, to be ruinous and out of repair, to the inconvenience of inhabitants of the village of Ightham who pass by. Given till 1 November to repair the bridge, under penalty 20s." Two weeks does not seem very long to carry out the repairs if the bridge was really ruinous. The Court was obviously getting tired of the repeated inconvenience and decided to be strict with the new owner.

This was not the last heard about **Robert Wyborne**; he 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** (i1197)¹⁴¹, see **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)

"**Skinner's house** (later Wybourne's) stands at the lower end of Ightham village, at right angles to the George and Dragon Inn, facing up the street. It is marked by its construction and appearance as a sixteenth century house. The second extract (above) dates it precisely, 1555."

"The Shode stream, or Busty, passes immediately along the front of this house and the way leading from the village to the church, mentioned in the last extract,

¹⁴¹ i indicates a reference in the Ightham database

crosses the stream beside the house by a substantial stone bridge. The extracts make it plain that in Tudor times there was only a wooden footbridge for pedestrians at this spot and point to the certain inference that animals and vehicles had to ford the stream."

. . . I, Thomas Smith of Tonbridge, . . . **First** and principally, I give and commend my soul into the hands of Almighty god, my maker, creator and redeemer, trusting to be saved by the merits and passion of our lord and saviour, Jesus Christ; my body to be buried in christian burial in the churchyard of the parish of **Goudhurst**, if I die there, or otherwise else where in what place soever it pleaseth God.

witnesses: **William Moor, Elisha Waters**

The will of William Smith, who was buried on 24th September 1615, was written by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618

1 In the name of god Amen. The two and twentieth day of the month of
2 June in the year of our lord god one thousand, six hundred and fifteen
3 . .
4 . . I, William Smith,
5 of Ightham within the deanery of Shoreham in the county of Kent,
husbandman, being at the time
6 and making hereof sickly and weak in body and withall aged and subject to
many infirmities which do
7 put me in mind that I shall change this life by death but the time thereof
being altogether
8 uncertain and willing to set in order these small and transitory goods which
I enjoy here for
9 reason that no contention fall out about the same after my decease,
therefore in my perfect memory

10 being, I thank god, I do ordain and make this my present testament and
11 last will in manner and
12 form following: And **first** and principally, I give, commend and bequeath my
13 soul into the
14 hands of Almighty god who gave it me, humbly beseeching him, for his
15 dear son Jesus Christ,
16 his sake, in whom and by whom I hope to have overall redemption that the
same shall be presented pure and
without spot before the throne of his majesty in his everlasting kingdom of
heaven. And my body to
the earth to be buried in the churchyard of Ightham aforesaid in sure and
certain hope of a joyful
resurrection to life eternal.

Isaac Smith, son, already had his portion, twelve pence

Margery Smith, daughter, £9 at age 21 or marriage

John Smith and Richard Smith, sons, £9 in 1622¹⁴²

Thomas Smith, son, £9 at age 21, to be paid "with profit and
increase thereof . . . such as mine executor shall reasonably make of
the same"

142 were they twins?

supervisors and overseers:

brother Thomas Kyrke and

loving neighbours: **Walter Hubble of Wrotham, husbandman**
Thomas Coates of Seal, shoemaker¹⁴³

residue to **son, William, executor**

And I do hereby revoke all other wills by me formerly made yeven the day and year first above written. Signum William Smyth, read, sealed and acknowledged as the testament of the said William Smith in the presence of me, **Nicholas Hooper, senior, writer hereof** and of **Thomas Kyrke** and **Walter Hubble**.

¹⁴³ Thomas Coates (#1139) married in 1609 and died in 1626 - see **George Coates of Seal in Families & Transcripts**

The original of this will (CKS: Drb/Pw 12 has survived but it is in a damaged state and the film is difficult to read; the transcript below is therefore from the probate copy (CKS: Drb/Pwr 16.68).

1 In the name of god Amen. The 23rd
2 day of September Annum Dm. 1579. I Peter Smyth of
3 the parish of Wilmington in the county of Kent, fruiterer,
4 being sick in body but whole in mind and of good remembrance,
5 thanks be given to god, do make this my last will and testament
6 in manner and form following: **First:** I bequeath my soul into
7 the hands of almighty god, my maker, and Jesus Christ, my

page 2:

8 redeemer, by whose blood I am sure of my salvation. And my body to
9 be buried in the churchyard of Willmington aforesaid. **Item:** I give
10 **my son William** six bushels of wheat to be delivered into the
11 hands of his godfather, **William Scudder** of the same parish to the
12 behoof of the William, my son. Further, so that William, my son,
13 do willingly help and be a stay to his mother, I give him all my

raiments both made and unmade. **Item:** I give **my son Timothy** half a quarter of barle to be delivered at the decease of my wife. **Item:** I give to **Katherine, my daughter**, one bullock priced at 20s, or so much in value, to be delivered within one year after my decease. **Item:** I give **Jane, my daughter**, one red bullock priced as 16s or so much in value, to be delivered when the said Jane, my daughter, shall be¹⁴⁴ at the age of 16 years. **Item:** I give to **my daughters, Ellen and Agnes**, either of them, half a quarter of barley to be ¹⁴⁵ at the age of 16 years. The rest of my goods and cattell whatsoever, my debts being paid, my legacies performed and my funeral discahrged, I give to **Jane, my wife**, whom I make my sole executrix of this my last will and testament. Witnesses: William Scudder, **Hugh Browne, Thomas Goodborow and David Howell.**

144 "shalbe"

145 symbol presumably an abbrevaiton for "delivered"

Henry Sone of Shoreham

Henry Sone (or Soane), whose will has survived, was a wealthy yeoman with land in St. Mary's Cray, Orpington and Knockholt. Since it would appear from the will that the profits from this land would continue after his death, most of the income probably came from rents.

Henry had four sons and four daughters; his eldest son Thomas (or, if he died before he was twenty-one, the second son, Henry) was to inherit the land and tenements and be his father's executor. Thomas was 14½ when his father wrote his will, 16 when he died. Henry and Johane had twins born eighteen months after Henry wrote his will but they did not live more than a few days and Henry himself died six weeks later. The other eight children for whom baptisms were recorded survived infancy and no burials were recorded after his death; the average time between each birth was just under two years.

Provided his elder brother lived to inherit, Henry was to receive £100 and the other two sons £80 each when they became of age. The four daughters were each to receive £60 when they were twenty. If these legacies were to be paid out of the profits of the land, £420 would be required over little more than twelve years, about £35 a year.

	x1662				x1665				x1663				x1664											
	Henry - Johane				Jone - Simon Medhurst				married 25 Jan 1601/2															
will:	14 Jan 1615																							
bur:	30 Aug 1616																							
proved:	30 Apr 1617																							
	x1666				x1668				x1670				x1672				x1674				x1675			
	Thomas				Joan				Anne				Jane				John				Hiswith			
bap:	6 Jul 1600				17 Feb 1603				20 Oct 1606				7 Oct 1611				15 Jun 1616							
bur:																	16 Jun 1616				18 Jun 1616			
	x1667				x1676				x1669				x1679				x1671				x1673			
	Henry - Joan				Richard - Marie Payne				William				Mary											
bap:	23 Nov 1601				10 Dec 1604				19 Feb 1609				18 Jan 1614											
married:																								
bur:					14 Feb 1635																			
	x1677				x1678																			
	Alice				Sara																			
bap:	31 May 1630				3 Aug 1631																			
bur:	1 Jun 1630																							

"x" indicates a reference in the database covering a number of parishes

Henry's overseers, one of whom was his brother-in-law Simon Medhurst, look as if they could have had a difficult and busy few years after Henry's death. They were given full power and authority to prove the will and "if any ambiguity or doubt happen to arise in any point or part" of the will, the overseers were to decide what was to be done and get agreement for this.

Henry also left his household stuff to be divided between his wife and the son who became his executor and the overseers were to see to this division. They also had

to take an inventory of Henry's cattle and implements of husbandry which his wife was to have the use of until her eldest son was twenty-one but then she had to deliver them to him "in as goodcase as the same shall be at the time of her taking the same, or else the true value of them". In order to ensure that she would be able to do this, she had to put in a bond with sufficient sureties to the overseers who had to decide what was sufficient and when was a convenient and fit time to do this.

When the immediate tasks had been carried out, the overseers had to "receive and take all the issues and profits" of the lands and tenements until the son was of age to take on the executorship. Out of these they were to pay Henry's wife £8 a year towards the bringing up of the younger children, carry out any necessary reparations and pay the lord's rent, etc.; an account of everything had to be kept ready for the executor when he took over his duties. It was after this period of stewardship that the various legacies would have become due to the younger children.

Nicholas Hooper's
mark

- 1 In¹⁴⁶ the name of god Amen. The fourteenth day of January in the
year of our
2 lord God one thousand six hundredth and fourteen and in the twelfth 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 eight and fortieth. **I, Henry
Sone,**
5 of Shoreham in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being¹⁴⁷ at the time of writing
hereof in reasonable

146 decorated "I"

147 "beeing", "bee", "mee", etc. including "beefore" throughout which was usual for Nicholas Hooper

6 good health of body and of perfect mind and remembrance (thanks
therefor be given to almighty
7 God), notwithstanding subject to diseases which make me think upon my
last end, knowing that
8 I shall change this life but the time thereof being altogether uncertain, and
willing to set in
9 order my transitory possessions which God hath lent me, that no
contention fall out about the same
10 after my decease, Therefore I do ordain and make this my present
testament and last will in
11 in manner and form following¹⁴⁸: **And First** and principally I give and
commend my soul
12 into the hands of Almighty God, trusting (by an assured faith which I have
in the merit and
13 passion of my lord Jesus Christ, his son, my alone saviour) that the same
shalbe presented
14 pure and without spot before the Throne of his majesty. And my body to
be buried in
15 the church of Shoreham aforesaid in the space against the seat where I
use to sit in, in

148 "folowing", also usual for Nicholas Hooper

16 sure and certain hope of joyful resurrection. **Item:** I will there shalbe
distributed among
17 the poor resorting to my burial 10s. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Johane,**
my wellbeloved wife,
18 my lease of the house and farm wherein I now dwell and which I now
occupy living in Shoreham
19 aforesaid (except the felling of those coppice woods hereafter named, that
is to say the **Scrubb, Petspring, Long**
20 **Spring, Westwood Spring, Hollowswood Spring and Barnett**). To have and
to hold the same
21 lease (except before excepted) unto the said Johane, my wife,¹⁴⁹ during
22 the term of years therein to come after my decease, if she, the said Johane,
so long live and keep herself a widow¹⁵⁰, paying all the rent in the said
lease ??
23 and doing and performing all the covenants and agreements in the said
lease on my part to be
24 performed. **Also** give unto her, my said wife, the moiety, or one half of all
my goods commonly

149 "her executors and assigns" originally written here and then crossed out

150 this last phrase inserted

25 called household stuff, to be equally divided after my decease between
her, my said wife, and my
26 **son, Thomas** and executor hereafter named, by mine Overseers hereafter
named. **Further**
27 I will that my said wife shall have the use and occupation of all my
working house and cattell
28 with their furniture for husbandry until my son and executor shall attain to
his full age of One and twenty years
29 without allowance of anything for the same, She, my said wife, putting
herself in such sufficient
30 bond, with two such sufficient sureties with her, to my two Overseers
hereafter named, within
31 convenient time after my decease as my said two Overseers shall think fit
and convenient,
32 that she, my said wife, her executors or assigns, shall well and truly deliver
to my said son and
33 executor, all my said working house and cattell, with their furniture for
husbandry aforesaid, in
34 as goodcase as the same shalbe at the time of her taking the same, or else
the true value of them.
35 And to that effect I will that they shalbe all prized and taken in an
inventory by my said Overseers,

36 and others whom they shall please, within convenient time after my
decease. **Also** I give unto her, my
37 said wife, two kyne to be taken at her choice. **Item:** I give and bequeath
to **my son Henry Sone**
38 the sum of one hundred pounds of lawful money to be paid to him at his
age of One and twenty years.
39 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my two sons, Richard Sone and William**
Sone, the sum of four score
40 pounds a piece of lawful money to be paid to them and either of them, at
their several age and ages of
41 One and twenty years. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my four daughters,**
viz. Johane, Agnes,
42 **Jane and Mary Sone**, to every of them the sum of three score¹⁵¹ pounds a
piece of lawful money to be paid
43 to them and every of them at their full ages of twenty years a piece. **And** I
will that if any
44 of my said daughters happen to decease before their several ages
aforesaid, that the portion of her and them

151 this started as "forty", was changed to "fifty" and then to "three score"

45 so deceased shalbe equally divided between the several of them living.
46 **And** I further will that if
47 any of my sons happen to decease before their said several ages, that the
48 portion of him and them so
49 deceased shalbe equally divided among my other sons and daughters then
50 living (except my said executor). **And** I further provide that if my
51 said son Thomas Sone, mine executor hereafter named, happen to decease
52 before his said age of One
53 and twenty years, Than I make my said son Henry Sone mine executor.
54 And if the said Henry
55 Sone happen to come to be mine executor, then I will he shall loose his
portion of £100, the which £100
I will shalbe divided between all my children, as well sons as daughters.

52 **The residue** of all my goods, Cattells, Chattels and all other my
53 moveable goods whatsoever, with my said
54 houses, Cattell and implements of husbandry aforesaid, I wholly, fully and
55 with good effect, intent and purpose,
give and bequeath to my said sons Thomas or Henry aforesaid, to see all
my legacies and debts paid,
and discharged according to the true meaning of this my will. **And I** do
ordain and make my ??

56 **brother-in-law Simon Medhurst and my trusty friend James Stile** to be
Overseers of this my
57 will, to whom (jointly or severally) I give full power and authority to prove
this my will to the use of
58 my said sons Thomas or Henry, which of them shalbe living as afore in this
my will is declared. And I
59 will like liberty to my said Overseers, that they shall receive and take all
the issues and profits of all
60 my lands and tenements (except those hereafter limited to my said wife) to
the use and behoof of those of my sons,
61 Thomas or Henry which shall happen to be mine executor, until the age of
him which shall come to be mine
62 executor ¹⁵² my said wife, to the use aforesaid,
63 making a true and ?? account to him, my said son and executor, of all and
every the same according to the
64 true meaning of this my will. And I give unto my said Overseers, or either
of them, full power to
65 take the bond aforementioned of my said wife and sureties according also
to the true meaning of

152 there is a crease here in the will so that the film cannot be read except for the word "coppice" which was inserted in the line

66 this my will. As also if any ambiguity or doubt happen to arise in any
point or part of this my
67 will, that the same shall be decided and set and made plain and agreed by
my said Overseers. To
68 which my said Overseers, I give 10s a piece, desiring them to take some
pains in the probation of
69 this my will and in the true performance thereof to their powers (as my
trust in them lieth) according
70 to the true meaning thereof. All their expenses and charges every way
about this my will to be laid
71 out, I will shalbe deducted out of their account aforesaid, together with
such other expenses as shalbe
72 by them laid out about reparations, lord's rent or otherwise.

73 **This** is the last will of me, the said Henry Sone, made and declared the
day and year first above
74 written, concerning the order and disposition of all my lands and
tenements whatsoever. **Item:** I give and
75 bequeath unto the said Thomas Sone, my son, all my lands, tenements
and hereditaments whatsoever within

76 the parishes of **St. Mary's Cray, Orpington and Ocolt als. Nocholt**¹⁵³ or
elsewhere within the
77 county of Kent. To have and to hold to the said Thomas, his heirs and
assigns, forever after his
78 said age of 21 years. **But** if it shall happen my said son Thoams to
decease before his said age,
79 Then I will and give all and every the same, withall and singular
th'appurtenances, unto my said son Henry Sone,
80 his heirs and assigns for ever. **Provided** always that my said Overseers,
or their assigns, shall
81 pay out yearly out of the revenues and profits of my lands, to my said wife,
the sum of eight pounds
82 towards the bringing up of my younger children until the age of the said
Thomas or Henry, my sons, which
83 of them shall happen to come to my lands aforesaid. **In witness** whereof
to this my last will, I, the said

84 Henry Sone, have set my hand and Seal, containing four sheets of Paper,
yeven the day
85 and year first above written.

Nicholas Hooper's
mark
with initials

Henry Soane¹⁵⁴

Read, Sealed and acknowledged
as the true and last will of the said
Henry Sone in the presence of
Robert Gurr and
Nicolas Hooper, sen. writer

¹⁵⁴ this is the only time Henry's surname is written "Soane" instead of "Sone". Was this the way Henry wrote it himself?

Thomas Spackman was buried on 25th May 1615¹⁵⁵

1 The last will and testament of Thomas Spackman made
2 the 23rd May in the year 1615. **Item:** I bequeath my soul
3 to our lord Jesus Christ and my body to the earth. **Item:**
4 I give my daughter twenty pounds in money and two
5 bullocks of three years old and a young mare of three years
6 old and all the rest of my goods and chattels, as well within
7 as without, I give to my wife. Made in the presence of **Henry ??**,
8 **Clerk** and **Thomas Stule**.

1 In the name of god Amen. I, John Spencer
2 of Penshurst in the county of Kent, being sick in body but of perfect mind
and
3 remembrance, thanks be to god, have considered the substance or riches
which god
4 hath given unto me and do bequeath them as follows: **First:** I bequeath
my
5 soul to Almighty god. **Item:** I will that **Marie, the wife of John Chapman**
shall
6 have twenty shillings and **her son, John, my godson**, ten shillings. **Item:** I
7 give to **Joane, my daughter, the wife of Joseph Barnes**, likewise twenty
shillings
8 and to **her three sons** now born each of them a sheep to be paid unto them
9 within one half year after my decease. Also I give to **John Spencer, my**
son, six
10 pounds thirteen shillings four pence, the one half thereof to be paid within
one
11 year next after my decease. **Item:** I give unto **Margaret Saunder, now my**
maid,
12 ten sheep, which are now in the keeping of **John Groombridge of**
Ashurst¹⁵⁶, indifferently

156 a small parish adjoining Speldhurst and to the west of it

13 to be taken out of one score that I have there. Also I give to Margaret, my
maid,
14 one box to lay ruffs in. **Item:** I give to **Daniel Moyse** twelve pence. **Item:** I
give to
15 ten poor folk twelve pence a piece to be paid unto them at my burial at the
16 direction of **Jasper Jessup**. I give to **John Chapman, my son-in-law**, one
bedstead standing
17 in the loft over against the hall loft and three of the smallest chests
standing now present in
18 the hall loft where I now lie and also one of the best whistles and another
of the
19 second. **Item:** I do give or forgive John Chapman thirteen shillings four
pence which
20 he owes me for a bullock¹⁵⁷. **Item:** I give to John Chapman, half my sheets
and half
21 my tablecloths and all my shirts. **Item:** I give to my son John Spencer
fifteen shillings
22 to be paid unto him on the day of my burial. **Item:** I give to John Spencer,
my son,
23 the bedstead standing in the parlour with all that is at this present lying
upon it

157 does this imply that a bullock cost 13s 4d at that time?

24 except the sheets with the yellow covering which lieth upon me. **Item:** I
make
25 and ordain **William Spencer, my wellbeloved son**, my whole executor to
whom I
26 give all the rest of my goods unbequeathed, my debts and funeral
expenses paid
27 and discharged. Also I have appointed **my neighbour, Jasper Jessup**, my
overseer with
28 **Thomas Savage** to join with him. Witnesses hereunto put **Thomas Savage,**
Jasper
29 **Jessup, Thomas Woodgate, Joseph Jessop.**

George Springfield of Halstow and Stephen Gatlande of Shipbourne

In his will of 1610 George Springfield mentions his sister Margaret Gatland. The will of Stephen Gatland of Shipbourne, written in 1614, has also survived and in it he mentions his wife's brother, George Springfield. Halstow is about six miles northeast of Rochester whilst Shipbourne about fifteen southwest but, regardless of the distance between the two parishes, George and Margaret were obviously brother and sister. Thus the two wills are given here.

George had a daughter, Susan, under the age of eighteen and his wife, Anne, could have been pregnant. He had thirty pounds to leave to his children and this was all to go to Susan provided that Anne did not "[have a child within three quarters of a year](#)". If this did happen, the child was to have ten of the thirty pounds.

George's wishes were also unusual in that, although his wife was to be his executrix, his sister Margaret was to look after Susan's thirty pounds until she was eighteen using it "[towards her bringing up](#)". There seems to be considerable ambiguity with regard to who was meant by the various "she"s but a reasonable interpretation would be that, if Margaret Gatland was alive when George died, she was to have the use of the thirty pounds towards the bringing up of George's

daughter, Susan, with Susan receiving the money outright when she was eighteen. If Margaret died before George his overseers were to look after the money to Susan's use.

The distance between Halstow and Shipbourne may have made this arrangement difficult but, although Stephen and Margaret had five children by 1614, when Stephen wrote his will, only the youngest Christopher, born in 1613, had his baptism recorded in Shipbourne. Perhaps the Gatlands moved to Shipbourne after the death of George.

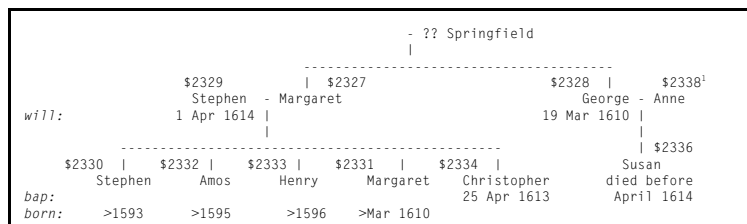
George also added instructions regarding this money if Susan died before she reached the age of eighteen. In this case it was to be divided between Margaret's children. From Stephen Gatland's will, written four years later, Susan died in the interim since the money was to be divided between his children.

George Springfield, in his will of 1610, left his daughter Susan £30. If she was to die before reaching the age of eighteen then George's "sister's children" were to receive the £30 "divided between them".

In his will Stephen says that George left the money to "[three of the children of me the said Stephen . . . without naming either of them or appointing any time of payment of the same, which said money I have in stock remaining in my hands](#)".

Stephen then ordained that his three eldest sons, Stephen, Amos and Henry should each have £10 when they reached the age of twenty-one.

Not only does this imply that George's daughter Susan died before April 1614 but also that only the three sons between whom he divided the money were born before George wrote his will with Stephen interpreting this as excluding his two younger children. Margaret and Christopher thus received just the ten shillings left them by their father.



Will of George Springfield of Halstow

CKS: Drb/Pw 22; Drb/Pwr 20.145

written 19th March 1609/10; transcript from original

1 In the name of god Amen. The nineteenth day of March in the

1 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database in which both families are included

2 year of our lord god 1609. I, George Springfield of the
3 parish of Halstow, **husbandman**, being sick in body
4 but whole in memory, thanks be¹⁵⁸ to god, do make
5 this my last will and testament in manner and
6 form as followeth: **First**: I bequeath
7 my soul into the hands of god, my maker and saviour
8 and my body to be buried in Halstow churchyard.
9 **First**: I give and bequeath unto **my daughter, Susan**, thirty
10 pounds to be paid to her within three quarters of a year
11 after my decease. If my wife happen to be with child
12 and have a child within three quarters of a year, my will
13 is that the child shall have ten pounds of my daughter
14 Susan's thirty pounds. My will is that **Margaret Gatland, my**
15 **sister**, shall have the use of the thirty pounds towards her
16 bringing up if she be alive. If she be dead then my
17 will is that my overseers shall have the disposing of it
18 to her use. If she chance to die before she come to
19 eighteen years of age¹⁵⁹ then my will is that my sister

158 "bee" and "shee" throughout, an example of a will not written by a Hooper but with the "ee" being used consistently

159 "adage" and also again in line 25

20 **Gatland's children** shall have the said thirty pounds
21 divided between them. Also I give unto **William Collins, my**
22 **wife's sister's son** twenty shillings to be paid him
23 within one year after my decease to **William Childs**
24 of **Strood** for the use of William Collins till he come
25 to the age of eighteen years. Also I give unto **Edward**
26 **Heldeway** a bushel of wheat and a bushel of rye.
27 Also I give unto the said Edward one sheep
28 to be delivered to him within one month after my
29 decease. All the rest of my goods unbequeathed,
30 I give and bequeath to **Anne, my wife**, whom
31 I make my whole executrix and I ordain and appoint
32 **William Childs and John Baker** overseers to this
33 my last will and testament and for their pains
34 I give unto them two shillings a piece.

The mark of **George Springfield**
witnesses:

William Scott

the mark of **William Wessam**

This will, for which the probate copy has not survived, was written by Robert Hooper, one of the Hooper family, members of which wrote wills in the locality from the 1570s until at least 1650, the date at which this study ended.

1 In¹⁶⁰ the name of god Amen. the first day of April Ao. dm. 1614. And in the
2 twelfth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord James by the grace of god
3 king of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. And
4 of Scotland the seven and fortieth. I, Stephen Gatland¹⁶¹ of
5 Shipbourne in the county of Kent, **husbandman**, being at the time of
making
6 hereof very sick and weak in body but yet sound and of perfect memory,
7 thanks therefore be¹⁶² given to Almighty God. And knowing assuredly
8 that I shall change this my mortal life yet the time thereof being

160 decorated "I"

161 "Gatlande" here, everywhere else "Gatland".

162 "bee", "mee", etc. but "being"

altogether uncertain: And being also desirous to set in order those little moveables which God, of his goodness, hath lent me here in this world, that no contention arise concerning the same after my decease, by those unto whom I have willed the same, Therefore I do ordain and make this my testament and last will in manner following, that is to say **First** and principally I give and commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God, my creator and my body to the earth whereof and from whence it came,
to be buried in the churchyard of Shipbourne aforesaid. **Item:** I give unto **Margaret Gatland, my daughter**, the sum of ten¹⁶³ shillings lawful money, to be paid unto her (by my executrix hereafter named) at her age of eighteen years.
Item: whereas **George Springfield, my wife's brother**, deceased, in and by his last will and testament, (amongst other things therein mentioned) willed and gave unto three of the children of me the said Stephen, the sum of thirty pounds between them without naming either of them or appointing any time of payment of the same, which said money I have in stock remaining in my hands, I do ordain

163 changed from "forty"

24 and appoint the same to be paid in this manner following: That is to say
unto
25 **Stephen Gatland, my eldest son**, ten pounds parcel thereof
26 to be paid unto him at his age of one and twenty years. And
27 unto **Amos Gatland, my son**, the like sum of ten pounds to be paid unto
him
28 at his like age. And unto **my son Henry Gatland** the like sum of ten pounds
to be
29 paid unto him at his like age of one and twenty years. And that if any of
them
30 die before their said ages, then I will the portion of him so deceasing shall
be paid unto
31 **Christopher Gatland, my youngest son**¹⁶⁴, at his age of one and twenty
years.
32 **Item:** I give unto the said Stephen, Amos, Henry and Christopher, ten
shillings a piece as my own gift.

33 The residue and all other my moveables whatsoever, I give and bequeath
34 unto **Margaret, my wellbeloved wife**, whom I ordain and make sole
executrix

¹⁶⁴ was Christopher, perhaps, born after the death of his uncle?

35 of this my will, to see the same proved, my children brought up and debts
discharged
36 and paid and my body honestly and Christian like buried according to
37 the true intent and meaning of this my will. In witness whereof I,
38 the said Stephen Gatland, have hereunto set my seal, dated the
39 day and year herein before written, acknowledging the same to be my
mind and
40 will.

Read, Sealed, pronounced and declared
to be the testament and last will of the said
Stephen Gatland in the presence of

Christopher Fathars
Frances Everest and
Robert Hooper

The mark **T** of Stephen
Gatland

The Staces of Seal, Leigh and neighbouring parishes

A large number of Stace wills have survived, many of them from the fifteenth century. Those investigated are listed below; the wills of both the John Staces were written by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618. Those of Thomas of Seal and the two Johns from Leigh were all proved, in London, in 1591:

			dated	proved	ref. ¹⁶⁵	
John Stace	Speldhurst	22 Dec 1563	16 Apr 1567p	CKS: 13.292; 9	page s.115	
William Stace (Stacey)	Seal	1 Jan 1565/6	19 Jan 1566b	CKS: 13.218; 8	page s.120	
Joan Stace	Tonbridge		24 Apr 1584	CKS: 16.273; 14	page s.124	
Robert Stacye	Wrotham	1 Apr 1590	27 Apr 1591p	PCC: Sainberbe 27; Prob 11/77	page s.126	
Thomas Stace	Seal	7 Mar 1591	Apr 1591p	PCC: Sainberbe 28	page s.133	
John Stace	Leigh	3 Feb 1591	8 Jun 1591p	PCC: Sainberbe 53; Prob 10/136	page s.145	
John Stace, the elder	Leigh	12 Jun 1591	1591p	PCC: Sainberbe 61; Prob 10/137	page s.158	
William Stace, vicar	Hadlow	3 Oct 1593	1595p	CKS: 18.414; 17	page s.179	

¹⁶⁵ CKS references are Drb/Pwr followed by Drb/Pw

The wills of Thomas Stace of Seal and Robert Stacey of Wrotham were written by **William Masters of Seal** - see **Masters** for more details of William Masters. There is no obvious connection between the two Seal testators; the only two known to be related are the two Johns from Leigh.

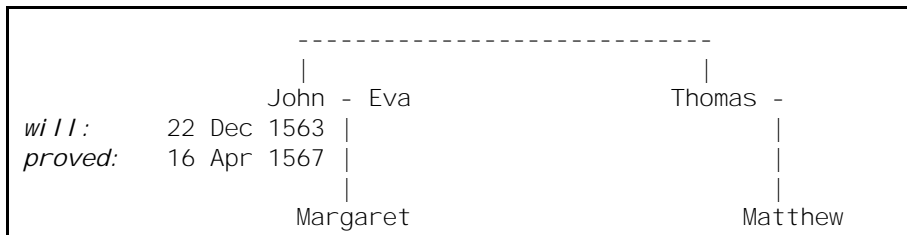
The Leigh Staces owned land in Tonbridge, Seal, Shipbourne, Yalding and Cobham. Cobham is west of Rochester and about fourteen miles from Leigh; a large number of wills of Staces from Cobham have survived from the fifteenth and early sixteenth century but the latest is 1531. There are also others from the Cobham area, for example, from Strood, Cooling and Halstow. None of these have been investigated and since not only are they so much earlier than the wills detailed here but they are before parish registers were kept, it is unlikely that they would lead to the establishment of links between the Staces in the various parishes.

It was not only the Leigh Staces who owned land outside the parish in which they lived. Thomas Stace, butcher of Seal, owned a messuage with seven acres of land at Brightling in East Sussex and had connections with Tonbridge and Ticehurst. Robert Stacey of Wrotham owned some freehold land in Westerham.

There were also Stacys in Westerham and Orpington and information on them is given below after details of the above Staces. but, from the small amount of information collected, there is nothing to connect Robert Stacey with them.

John Stace from Speldhurst

John Stace of Speldhurst was survived by his wife Eva and daughter Margaret and, if Margaret did not have any heirs, his land was to go to Matthew, son of his brother Thomas.



1 In the name of god Amen.
2 The 22nd day of December in the year
3 from the nativitation of our saviour Jesus
4 Christ a thousand five hundreth 63.
5 I, John Stace of the parish of Speldhurst and
6 in the diocese of Rochester and in the
7 county of Kent, **yeoman**, being in my
8 perfect memory, lauding god therefore,
9 do make and ordain this my present
10 testament and last will in manner and
11 form following: **First** and principally
12 I commend my soul unto Almighty god,
13 my creator and redeemer and unto all
14 the celestial company in heaven and
15 my body to be buried in the church
16 yard of Speldhurst aforesaid. **Item:** I
17 will and bequeath all my moveable goods
18 unto **Eva, my wife**, during her life if
19 she do not marry and, if she do marry,

20 then I will the goods to be divided between
21 **my daughter, Margaret**, and my wife
22 equally. Also if it fortune that my wife
23 do not marry, my will is that such
24 goods as doth remain unspent at the
25 time of her death do remain wholly unto
26 Margaret, my daughter, and unto her
27 heirs or assigns. **Item:** I will there
28 shall be bestowed at my burial 3s 4d.
29 **Item:** I give unto the church of Speldhurst
30 12d. **Item:** I ordain and make Eva, my
31 wife, full and whole executrix of this my present
32 testament and last will. Also, in consid
33 eration of this my said last will and
34 testament, I have made **my brother, Thomas**
35 **Stace**, supervisor and overseer of the same
36 and to have for his pains 20d, his charges
37 borne when so ever he taketh any pains
38 about this my present testament and
39 last will. These being witnesses at this
40 will and testament publishing: **Sir John Denton**, clerke,

41 parson there. **William Curde¹⁶⁶, William** - - dew
42 **William Medhurst, Julian Nicholas**, with
43 others.

44 This is the last will and testament
45 of me the said John Stace concerning
46 the disposal of all my lands and tenements
47 made, declared the day and year
48 above written. **First:** will all my
49 land and tenements, lying and being
50 within the parish of Speldhurst or else
51 where within the county of Kent unto
52 Eva, my wife, during the term
53 of her natural life, making neither
54 strip nor waste. And after the
55 the decease of Eva, my wife, my daughter
56 Margaret to have all my foresaid
57 land and tenements, to her and to the
58 heirs of her body lawfully begotten and
59 for lack of heirs of her body lawfully

60 begotten, my land to remain unto
61 **Matthew, my brother's son**, and unto
62 his heirs for ever. Witnesses as is above
63 said.

William Stace of Seal

William left money to nine children all of whom, except Elizabeth, were under twenty-one at the beginning of 1566. Elizabeth was to receive £5 within a year of her father's death. Richard, Susan, Mildred and Johane £3 each and Thomas, John, Agnes and Bridget 30s each to be paid when "[they cometh to the age of 21 years](#)".

Elizabeth is the last mentioned of William's children but it might be expected that the others were given in order of age with the eldest first. The parish records, however, which started in 1560, record the baptisms of Joan and Thomas, daughter and son of William Stace as taking place on 29th March 1562 and 19th September 1563 respectively. This would make them amongst the testators youngest children with the possibility of one other being born between 1563 and 1566.

```

                                #31174      William - Anne/Agnes  #32 - John Tooth #286
will:                          1 Jan 1566 |
bur:                          19 Jan 1566 |
                                |
-----
#4110 | #1007 | #4112 | #4113 | #4114 | #4115 | #4116 | #33 | #97 |
      Elizabeth Richard Susan Mildred John Agnes Bridget Johane Thomas
born/bap: <1545 >1546 29 Mar 1562 19 Sep 1563

```

marriage either in the parish records or John Tooth's will. (see [Tooth in Families & Transcripts](#))

John left a message to "Robert Stace" who could have been his eldest stepson but William did not mention a Robert; no mention is made of any other Stace but, by 1588, even the youngest of John's stepchildren would have been well into their twenties.

Richard Stace married Isabel Isack (#1008) in Seal on 5th July 1579 and their son, William, baptised in Sevenoaks on 17th April 1580. William's son Richard would have been about thirty in 1579 and could, therefore, have been this Richard.

Margaret Stace (#723) married Wallis Bosevill (#722) on 13th May 1576 but whether or not she was related to the other Staces of Seal is not known.

Will of William Stace of Seal

written 3rd January 1565/6
transcript from probate copy

- 1 In the name of god Amen. the 3rd
- 2 day of January in the year of our lord

3 god 1565, I, William Stace of Seal,
4 being sick of body and in good remembrance
5 doth ordain this my present testament
6 and last will in form and manner following:
7 **First:** I bequeath my soul to Almighty god
8 and my body to the earth. I will and bequeath
9 to **Richard Stace, my son,** £3
10 to be paid him when he cometh to the
11 age of 21 years. I will and bequeath
12 to **Susan, my daughter,** £3 to be paid
13 to her when she cometh to the age of 21
14 years. **Item:** I will and bequeath to **Mildred,**
15 **my daughter,** £3 to be paid to her when
16 she cometh to the age of 21 years. I
17 will and bequeath to **Johane, my daughter,**
18 £3 to be paid to her when she cometh
19 to the age of 21 years. If any of these
20 four die before they come to the age of
21 21 years, the one to be the others heir. I will
22 and bequeath to **Thomas Stace, my son,**
23 30s to be paid to him when he cometh
24 to the age of 21 years. I will and
25 bequeath to **John Stace, my son,** 30s to

26 be paid to him when he cometh to the
27 age of 21 years. I will and bequeath to
28 **Agnes, my daughter**, 30s to be paid to
29 her when she cometh to the age of
30 21 years. I will and bequeath to **Bridget**
31 **Stace, my daughter**, 30s to be paid to
32 her when she cometh to the age of 21
33 years. If any of these four die before
34 they come to the age of 21 years,
35 Thomas, John, Agnes and Bridget, the
36 one to be the others heir. I will and
37 bequeath to **Elizabeth, my daughter**, £5 to
38 be paid to her within one whole year
39 after her father's decease. All the residue
40 of my goods I will and bequeath to **Anne,**
41 **my wife**, whom I make and ordain
43 to be my whole executrix, discharging
43 my legacies and paying my debts. And if
44 she do not pay my legacies to all my
45 children, then I will my overseers shall
46 take and sell so much of the goods as
47 shall pay all the legacies unto all my

48 children. I will that **Raph Dawbell**¹⁶⁸
49 and **Robert Pelsett**¹⁶⁹ to be my overseers
50 of this my will. In witness hereof **William**
51 **Polly**¹⁷⁰, Raph Dawbell and Robert Pelsett.

168 probably the Ralph Duple of Seal who died in 1587 having written his will five years earlier - see *dublew.will*

169 #43; also witnessed will of Thomas Stace - see page 140

170 could possibly be the William Polley of Great Peckham (#237) who married Johane Blacher, widow, in Seal on 9th August 1563

There is nothing to connect Joan with any of the other Staces; she was the widow of Thomas Stace and had two daughters, Alice and Elizabeth.

1 **Memoranda.** that the 24th day of April in
2 the year of our lord god a thousand, five hundred, four
3 score and four, Joan Stace of the parish of Tonbridge within the county
4 of Kent, **widow**, of **Thomas Stace, deceased**, being sick and on her
5 deathbed
6 spoke these words concerning her last will and testament in the presence
7 of
8 **Thomas Latter, senior**, and **Margerie East, widow**, in manner and form
9 following: That is to say, **First** she did bequeath unto **Alice Stace**,
10 her daughter, three pounds of good and lawful money of England and
11 she did likewise bequeath unto **Elizabeth Stace, her daughter**, forty
12 shillings of good and lawful money of England. And all the residue
13 of her moveable goods she did bequeath unto her two daughters, Alice
14 Stace and Elizabeth Stace aforesaid to be equally divided between
15 them. And the same Alice Stace to be executrix of her last will
16 and testament.

Robert Stacye of Wrotham

Robert (\$198) has no obvious connection with the Seal Stages even though William Masters of Seal wrote his will.

He had three children, Mary, Elizabeth and Robert, and a sister married to Robert Barton. All his children were under age in 1590 and his wife, Joane (\$199), could have been pregnant, his description of this possibility being described in a most unusual way: "if it shall hereafter prove and appear the said Joane, my wife, to breed child at this present time or shortly after, that then my will is that the same child, whether male or female, shall have the said freehold mansion house . . .". Robert owned land in Westerham as well as Wrotham where he had "late bought" three acres which included a "messuage or tenement called **Sticklehills**, one barn and other edifices thereunto belonging, two gardens, two orchards and three parcels of land"

Robert's children were baptised in Shipbourne and the family has, therefore been included in the Shipbourne database:

- | | | | |
|---|-----------|-------|-------------|
| - | Elizabeth | \$200 | 31 Dec 1581 |
| - | Robert | \$298 | 27 Jul 1584 |
| - | Mary | \$328 | 30 Oct 1585 |

1 In the name of god Amen. the first
2 day of April in the year of the reign os our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth, by the
grace
3 of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. the
two and
4 thirtieth. And in the year of our Lord god one thousand, five hundreth
fourscore and ten,
5 I, Robert Stacye of Wrotham in the county of Kent and diocese of
Canterbury¹⁷¹
6 **yeoman**, being sick of body but of perfect remembrance, thanked be god,
do make and ordain
7 this my present testament and last will in manner and form following:
First: I will and
8 bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God, my maker and
redeemer, in whom I trust

171 actually in the diocese of Rochester

9 to be saved. And my body to be buried in the churchyard of Wrotham
aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath to the poor men's box of Wrotham
aforesaid¹⁷² three shillings
10 four pence. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto **Mary, my daughter**, twenty
pounds of good and
11 lawful money of England to be paid unto her, the said Mary, at one and
twenty years of age.
12 But if it happen the said Mary to decease before the said years be expired,
that then my
12 will is that **Elizabeth, my daughter**, shall have the said twenty pounds at
the age of one and twenty
14 years. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto **Charles Barton, my sister's son**,
twenty shillings of
15 lawful money of England to be paid unto the said Charles at the age of one
and twenty
16 years. If he die before he shall accomplish the said age, then my will is
that every one of his
17 brethren shall have the said money equally divided amongst them at their
age of one and
18 twenty years. All the residue of my goods, moveables and unmoveables,
cattells and chattels,

19 whatsoever, I give and bequeath unto **Joane, my wife**, in cause and
20 consideration of the bringing
21 up of **my three children, Elizabeth, Mary and Robert**, paying all my debts
22 and legacies and
23 bequests whatsoever whom I do make my whole and sole executrix. **Item:**
24 I constitute
25 and ordain **Richard Barton, my brother-in-law**, and **John Budgin** the
26 supervisors and
27 overseers of this my last will and testament having for their pains each of
28 them two
29 shillings and all other their charges and expenses to be sustained and born
30 by mine
31 executrix aforesaid.

page 2:

26 This is the last will and testament of me,
27 the said Richard Robert Stacye¹⁷³, concerning all my lands, tenements and
28 possessions whatsoever
29 which I give and bequeath unto Joane, my wife, during her natural life,
30 maintaining and keeping

29 the reparations and paying all rents and dues thereof issuing and
30 belonging, not committing any
31 waste in or upon any part of the said premises. And after her decease, I
will and bequeath
32 unto **Robert Stacye, my son**, all my freehold lands lying in the parish of
Westerham in the
33 county of Kent aforesaid or elsewhere. But if it shall happen the said
Robert, my son, to decease
34 before he shall come to them or inherit the same, that then my will is that
Elizabeth, my said
35 daughter, shall have my freehold mansion house or tenement in the said
parish of Westerham
36 called **Garlands** with a barn thereunto belonging together with all freehold
lands in
37 Westerham aforesaid or elsewhere. But if it shall happen the said
Elizabeth to decease before
38 she be possessed without heirs of her body lawfully begotten, that then my
will is that
39 Mary, my said daughter, shalbe her successor. But if it happen the said
Mary to decease
without heirs of her body lawfully begotten, that then my will is that it
shall hereafter

40 prove and appear the said Joane, my wife, to breed child at this present
time or shortly after,
41 that then my will is that the same child, whether male or female, shall
have the said free
42 hold mansion house or tenement, barn and freehold lands before willed
and bequeathed
43 unto Elizabeth, my said daughter. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto the said
Elizabeth, my
44 daughter, all that my messuage or tenement called **Sticklehills**, one barn
and other edifices
45 thereunto belonging, two gardens, two orchards and three parcels of land
with th'appurtenances
46 thereunto adjoining, containing by estimation three acres of land, more or
less, together lying and
47 being in Wrotham aforesaid which I late had of **Henry Hunter**, late of
Wrotham aforesaid,
48 **labourer**, deceased. To have and to hold all the said messuage or
tenement, barn and other the
49 edifices, two gardens, two orchards and three parcels of land with
th'appurtenances unto the
50 said Elizabeth, her heirs and assigns for ever. Robert Stacye. Read, sealed
and

51 delivered in the presence of John Budgin, Richard Barton, **Robert Swanne,**
John Poltock
52 and **William Master, writer,** with others.

Thomas Stace, butcher of Seal

Thomas Stace, a butcher, married **Margery Cretenden**, in Seal, on 20th July 1578 but no children are recorded in Seal; nor is Thomas's burial. This Thomas is taken as the testator of the will of 1591 since the testator's wife was Margery. From the date of his marriage, and assuming that it was his first marriage, he would have been about forty when he died. William Stace's son Thomas was not baptised until 1563 so that Thomas probably came from a different family. From the details of the will, it is possible (as described below) that Thomas's marriage to Margery was his second marriage.

Thomas had two sons and a daughter and his wife, Margery, "in consideration that she shall well and honestly bring up my two sons, Richard and Thomas, during the time of their minority, shall during the space of seven years next after my decease freely and quietly have her dwelling, abiding and inhabiting, the use,

tenure, occupancy and rent, of all" Thomas's messuage and seven acres of land which were in Brightling in Sussex¹⁷⁴.

Margery was also to have £3 a year for the seven years. Seven years after the will was written was 1598, less than twenty years after Thomas and Margery were married, so that, if Richard and Thomas were sons of this marriage, neither would have been twenty-one when the provisions in Thomas's will came to an end. If, however, Richard and Thomas were the sons of a first marriage with the youngest being born in 1577, a year before Thomas and Margery married, he would have been twenty-one in 1598.

Nothing is said as to what is to happen at the end of the seven years but if Margery refused "to take upon her the education and bringing up of my said two sons during the time of their minority" Thomas's feoffees were to "receive the rent, use and occupancy" of the messuage and lands and the three pounds and to use them for the benefit of his two sons. Thomas's daughter, Mary, was not married when the will was written although she might have been of age (provided that she was Thomas's daughter by an earlier marriage).

When the will was proved, shortly after it was written, William Masters was appointed "supervisor during minority of Richard Stace".

1 In the name of god Amen. The seventh
2 day of March in the three and thirtieth year of the reign of our sovereign
lady
3 Elizabeth, by the grace of God, Queen of England, France and Ireland,
defender of the
4 faith. And in the year of our lord one thousand, five hundred, fourscore and
5 ten. I, Thomas Stace of Seal in the county of Kent and diocese of
6 Rochester, **butcher**, being sick of body but of perfect remembrance, praised
be Almighty
7 god, and by my sickness considering the end of all flesh and the
uncertainty of my life and desiring
8 to set all things in as good order as I may do, make and ordain this my
present testament and
9 last will in manner and form following: **First:** I will and bequeath my soul
into the hands of
10 Almighty god, my creator. And to Jesus Christ, my redeemer. And to the
holy ghost, my comforter. Three

11 persons in one god, by whom I only hope to be saved. And my body to be
buried in the church
12 yard of Seal aforesaid. **Item:** I will and bequeath to the poor of the said
parish of Seal
13 six pence. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto **Margery, my wife**, all my
household stuff whatsoever, that
14 is to say, all my bedding and bedsteads with that belonging thereto, all my
linen, all my brass,
15 all my pewter, all my chests, tables and stools and chairs, all wooden
vessels, that is to say, tubs,
16 bowls, jugs and other vessels whatsoever. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto
Margery, my said wife,
17 ten pounds of good and lawful money of England, being and remaining in
the hands of one
18 **John Parky of Tonbridge in the said county, tailor**, according to the purpose
and effect
19 of one obligation thereof made, sealed and delivered, giving unto her, the
said Margery, my
20 wife, full power and lawful authority. **Item:** my will is that Margery, my
said wife, in
21 consideration that she shall well and honestly bring up **my two sons,**
Richard and Thomas,

22 during the time of their minority, shall during the space of seven years next
23 after my decease
24 freely and quietly have her dwelling, abiding and inhabiting, the use,
25 tenure, occupancy and rent, of
26 all that my messuage or tenement and seven acres of land, more or less,
27 thereunto belonging,
28 called or known by the name of **Pawley in Brightling in the county of**
29 **Sussex**¹⁷⁵. **Item:** my
30 mind and will is that Margery, my said wife, shall, during the term of seven
31 years next
after my decease, have moreover three pounds like lawful money, quarterly
to be paid to her,
the said Margery, by even portions during the whole term of the said years
by the hands or
appointment of the feoffees hereafter named. Provided notwithstanding
and my will is that,
if it happen the said Margery to decease before the term of the said seven
years be expired
that then, and at any time after, it shall and may be lawful to and for the
feoffees hereafter named

175 about 3 miles west of Robertsbridge in East Sussex and about 25 miles south of Seal

32 to have and receive the three pounds before specified and the rents and
33 emoluments of the said house
34 and the lands with th'appurtenances and the same and the profits thereof
35 to employ and bestow
36 for the use and behalf of my children, Richard and Thomas according to the
37 decision and appointment
38 of those feoffees. And further, I give, will and bequeath unto my said two
39 sons, Richard and
40 Thomas, fifty pounds of good and lawful money of England being and
41 remaining in the hands of
42 one **Thomas Hepton of Burwash in the said county of Sussex, husbandman,**
to be divided
between them in manner and form following, that is to say, thirty pounds
parcel thereof to the
said Richard, my eldest son, and twenty pounds residue of the said fifty
unto Thomas, my youngest
son, to be levied and taken to them, the said Richard and Thomas, for their
use and behoof, by
virtue of a certain writing of annuity to me thereof accordingly made,
together with all profits
and increase thereof arising according to the effect of the said writing, to
be ordered and directed

43 to their use and behoof after the discretion of these feoffees. Provided also,
and my will is that, if
44 either the said Richard or Thomas, or one of them, shall happen to die or
decease before the term of
45 one and twenty years, that then my very will is that the longer liver of
them shalbe the other's
46 heir. But if it happen both the said Richard and Thomas to decease before
the term of one and
47 twenty years without issue of their body lawfully begotten, that then **my**
daughter, Mary to be sole
48 and only heir of the said fifty pounds and the increase and arrearages
thereof, if any be, to her
49 heirs forever. **Item:** I will, give and bequeath unto my said daughter Mary,
forty
50 pounds of good and lawful money of England, that is to say, eighteen
pounds parcel of the
51 said forty being in the hands of one **Thomas Harris of Tonbridge, aforesaid,**
butcher, and
52 twenty pounds parcel also of the said forty pounds being in the hands of
one **Henry Denley**
53 of **Ticehurst in the said county of Sussex, yeoman.** And also forty shillings
(to make up) the full sum of the said

54 forty pounds being in the hands of one **Richard Carryer of Leigh** in the said
county of Kent, **husbandman**.
55 To have and to hold the said sum of forty pounds and every parcel thereof
to the said Mary and
56 to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten, at the day of her marriage, to be
paid to her, the said
57 Mary, by the hands of the feoffees in whose hands, during the time of her
single life, the said forty
58 pounds shall rest; and the profit thereof arising in the meantime, to be
employed to her use and
59 behoof. Also my will is that if it happen the said Mary to decease before
she come to the receiving
60 of her money as afore is set down, that then my very will and mind is that
Richard and Thomas, or
61 the longer liver of them, shalbe successor and heir to the said forty pounds
and every parcel thereof,
62 to them and their heirs and assigns for ever. Provided also, and my will is
that, if it shall happen at
63 any time or times, the said Margery, my wife, to refuse and not to take
upon her the education and bringing
64 up of my said two sons during the time of their minority as aforesaid, that
then, and at any time after,

65 it shall and may be lawful to and for the feoffees hereafter mentioned to
have and receive the rent,
66 use and occupancy of my said messuage or tenement and lands thereto
belonging and the three pounds
67 so before to he bequeathed and the same to bestow and employ to the use
and behoof of my said two
68 sons after the time of such refusal. **Item:** I ordain and make my said son¹⁷⁶
to be the sole
69 executor of this my last will and testament. Lastly, I constitute, ordain in
feoffee and make my well
70 loved in Christ, **William Masters and John Double of Seal**¹⁷⁷ feoffees and
overseers of this my last
71 will and testament to see the same, and the bequeaths thereof, fulfilled
and accordingly to be performed
72 by them or their learned counsel at the costs and charges of the said
Richard and Thomas in all
73 cases by them, the said Richard and Thomas, or the longer liver of them, at
all times to be sustained and borne.

176 Richard, his eldest son; probate was given to "William Masters, supervisor, during minority of Richard Stace"

177 probably John Duple #877 - see **Duble**

74 And further to receive all debts, sum and sums of money whatsoever to the
use and behoof of them the
75 said Richard and Thomas at all times by them to be ordered. These being
witness: **Robert Pelsett**¹⁷⁸,
76 **Robert Olyver**¹⁷⁹, **William Masters**, writer with others

178 Robert Pelsett (#43) had children in the early 1560s but did not die until 1611 and could therefore have witnessed this will as well as that of William Stace in 1566 - see **Pelsett**

179 #136 - see **Olyver**

The John Staces of Leigh

John Stace, the younger, wrote his will on 3rd February 1591. It was proved on 8th June 1591 with his father, John Stace the elder, writing his will four day's later. John, the younger, appointed his brother George as his executor whilst his father appointed his wife, Mildred, as his executrix.

John and Anne did not have any children alive in 1591 but Anne "[was thought now to go with child](#)" and, if this was true, the child, whether male or female, was to have some land called Shinglehills in Seal. John did, however, have a baseborn son John who was to inherit twenty acres in Yalding called Austens.

George, the son of John the elder, was possibly the George Stace (#576) who married Johane Polhill (#719), in Seal, on 5th December 1575

x1636 ¹			x1638			x1637					
John, the elder - Mildred			Elizabeth - ?? Woodgate								
10 Jun 1591											

			x1640			x1649			x1641		
?? - ?? Sone			John - Anne			George - Johane Polhill			#719		
			the younger						?? - ?? Elphick		
			3 Feb 1591								

x1644			x1645			x1646			x1648		
Stace ²			Anne			Elizabeth			John		

Anne was also to have his stock of corn, hay and fodder, his cattle "[all other things belonging to housekeeping](#)", all his wainscot and "[all other implements of husbandry](#)". George, whom John appointed his executor, was to have the residue which included "[ironworks and stock thereunto appertaining](#)". From this residue George was to pay:

- the various bequests listed in the table below; these total nearly £82 5s
- each of his godchildren 6s 8d
- ten shillings for repair of the highway between Penshurst and Redlease Gate.

Various Money Bequests made by John Stace, the younger

		within:
sister's sons: John Elphick	£60	4 years
Peter Elphick	£10	2 years
Richard Elphick	£10	3years
sister Sone	£ 2	1 year
sister's children: Anne Sone	£20	£10 immediately
		£10 within 1 year
Stace Sone	£20	5 years
Elizabeth Sone	£10	1 year

Walter Pullinger	£3 6s 8d	1 year
Mildred, wife of Simon Dove	£3 6s 8d	1 year
Elizabeth Parminger, servant	£5	1 year
other servants: Anne Bothbie	10s	1 year
Johane Tanntes	10s	1 year
Edward Children	10s	1 year
John Bird	10s	1 year
William Bird	£3 6s 8d	1 year
Francis Bird	£2	1 year
Andrew Ellis	£1	1 year
Goodwife Collen, neighbour	5s	1 year
Edmondison, son of Mr. Waston	£10	3 years
TOTAL	£82 5s	

Nicholas Hooper's
mark

1 In¹⁸² the name of god Amen. the Third day of February
2 in the year of our Lord god, one thousand, five hundredth, fourscore and
3 ten, and in the three and thirtieth year of the reign of our Sovereign
4 Lady, Elizabeth, by the grace of God, Queen of England, France and
5 Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. I, John Stace, the younger of
6 **Mooreden**¹⁸³ within the parish of Leigh next Tonbridge in the county of
Kent,

182 decorated "T"; no further decoration on original

183 about ½ mile southeast of Penshurst station

7 **yeoman**, being¹⁸⁴ very much grieved with sickness of body but yet of good
mind
8 and perfect remembrance, thanks therefore be given to almighty god, do
ordain
9 and make this my present testament and last will in manner and form
following¹⁸⁵:
10 And **first** and principally I give, commend and bequeath my soul into the
hands
11 of Almighty god, my maker, and to Jesus Christ, his dear son, mine only
12 saviour and redeemer, by whose merits, precious death and
bloodshedding¹⁸⁶ I trust only
13 to be saved. And my body to the earth, to be buried in the church or
churchyard
14 of Leigh aforesaid, where it shall please my executor hereafter named.
Item:
15 I will there shalbe bestowed among poor people resorting to my burial 10s
and

184 "beeing", "bee", etc. throughout this will and that of John Stace, the elder

185 "folowing" here and in the will of John Stace, the elder

186 "bludshedding" here and in the will of John Stace, the elder

16 I will to the box or chest of the poor of Leigh aforesaid 10s¹⁸⁷. **Item:** I give
and bequeath
17 to **Anne, my wellbeloved wife**, the one half of all my lease of the lands and
tenements
18 called Mooreden, the circuit¹⁸⁸ whereof hereafter followeth: viz. all the
capital
19 messuage or tenement, called Mooreden, withall houses, barns, edifices
and buildings,
20 gardens, orchards, yards, lands, meadows, pastures, feedings, woods and
appurtenances
21 adjoining to the said messuage, that is to say lying on the east side of the
highway there
22 leading from **Penshurst to Boses**¹⁸⁹. And also all those the lands, pastures,
meadows and feeding

187 the probate copy "other ten shillings" whereas original which has survived is "x^{ss}". The probate copy also has an insert here, written in the margin of the copy "and to the reparations of the church of Leigh aforesaid, other 10s".

188 "extent" in the probate copy but definitely "circuit" in the original although extent makes more sense.

189 currently the B2176; Penshurst village is about two miles south of Mooreden

probate copy:

- parcel also of the said land and leases lying on the southside of a hedge leading from
- **Hoolesgate to Pottersmead** as they are sufficiently known to **my neighbour Woodgate**
- lying and being in Leigh and Penshurst. To have and to hold to
- her and her assigns during all the years yet to come of the said lease, she keeping
- the covenants which on her part, for the same her part, shalbe required and mentioned in
- the said lease and paying eight pounds yearly, viz: every Annunciation tide
- the one half of the rent reserved by the said lease. Also I give unto her all and
- every my stock of corn, as well only on the ground which is before allotted unto her,
- as otherwise in my house or barns, and all my cattle (my two gelding colts duly
- excepted), hay and fodder, whatsoever and also all my household stuff, provision of
- house and all other things belonging to house keeping whatsoever, and all my
- wainscot and all other my implements of husbandry whatsoever. To hold

- to her frankly, without paying any debts or legacies whatsoever. My will
- also is that my said wife shall have the benefit of the covenant contained in
- the said lease of free boot, cart boot, weyn boot and timber¹⁹⁰ to **George Stace,**
- **my brother,** in such manner as in the said lease is contained. The residue
- and all other of my said lands, residue of the said farm, I will to George
- Stace, my natural brother and executor hereafter named. To hold to him
- and his executors and administrators during the said residue of the said
- term
- he paying also eight pounds residue of the said rent at every Michaelmas
- during
- the said term and taking the benefit of such covenants contained in the
- said
- lease as to his part of the said lease and farm shall necessarily belong.
- And I
- will that my said brother and my said wife, with sureties to be found by my
- said
- brother shall, within forty days next after my decease, enter bonds each of
- them in

- four hundred pounds a piece to other to save each other harm less of all reentries
- and covenants which on either of their parts may be broken and are to be fulfilled,
- contained in the said lease. And which of them that refuseth so to do shall
- lose the benefit of the gift of the same lease and the other willingly shall enjoy
- the other's part without fraud or guile. The residue of all my goods and
- chattels whatsoever, as ironworks and stock thereunto appertaining, my
- two gelding colts before excepted, the corn growing on the part of the farm
- given to
- George, other lease whatsoever and all debts to me owing, I wholly, fully
- and with good effect, intent and purpose, give and bequeath to my said
- brother George Stace which George I make and ordain my whole and sole
- executor, to see all my debts paid, my funeral discharged and all these
- sums hereafter in
- this my will mentioned paid according as they shalbe severally set down.
- And if he
- refuse the probaton of this my will within six months next after my
- decease or happen
- to decease in the mean season before the same be proved, then I make my
- said wife my

- sole executrix and she to have all the benefit of this my will to him willed. **Item:** I will that the said George Stace, my said executor, his executors or assigns, shall pay to
- these persons hereafter named the sums hereafter following, viz. to **John Elphick, my**
- **sister's son**, three score pounds, to **Anne Sone** twenty pounds, to **Stace Sone**, twenty
- pounds, to **Elizabeth Sone** ten pounds, to **Walter Pullinger** three pounds, six
- shillings and eight pence. **Item:** to **Mildred, wife of Simon Dove**, three
- pounds, six shillings and
- eight pence. **Item:** to **Peter and Richard Elphick** to either of them ten
- pounds a piece.
- And to **Elizabeth Parminger, my servant**, five pounds. **Item:** to **John Bird**
- ten shillings. **Item:** to **William Bird** three pounds, six shillings and eight
- pence.
- **Item:** to **Francis Bird** forty shillings. **Item:** to **Andrew Ellis** twenty shillings.
- **Item:** to **my neighbour, Goodwife Collen**, five shillings. **Item:** to every of my
- godchildren
- six shillings and eight pence a piece. **Item:** I will there shalbe bestowed
- upon the
- reparations of the highway leading between **Penshurst and Redlease gate**
- ten

- shillings. **Item:** to **Edmondison, son of Mr. Waston**, ten pounds. **Item:** to **my sister**,
- **Sone** forty shillings

*above bequests to be paid within the years next after
John's decease given in Table above (page s.143)*

- And all the rest within one year
- after my decease. **Item:** I give to **Anne Bothbie¹⁹¹**, **Johane Tanntes** and **Edward**
- **Children**, all now my servants, ten shillings a piece. I make my overseers
- **Walter Woodgate** and **Thomas Sherwood**, **my neighbours**, whose charges I will
- shalbe borne and ten shillings a piece besides. Provided always and my very
- will and mind is that, if my said wife shall at any time hereafter claim any
- jointure, dower and commodity whatsoever out of any of the lands now or
- late **John Stace's, my father**, or any other my lands herein contained, that
- then she shall loose the benefit of this my will and of all gifts and legacies
- herein to her willed (any gift, clause or article whatsoever herein before mentioned

- to the contrary hereof in any wise notwithstanding.
- And as concerning certain
- lands which I have in **Yalding** in the said county, I will and bequeath the
- same by the name of **Austens**, by estimation twenty acres, whether more or
- less,
- together lying in Yalding aforesaid unto **John, son and my base born child**
- **of Anne Rogers, now wife of** ¹⁹² To have and to hold all the
- same lands withall and singular th'appurtenances unto the said John, base
- born
- child aforesaid during the term of the natural life of the said child.
- And after his decease, I will the same shall remain to the heirs of the body
- of
- the same child lawfully to be begotten. And for lack of such heirs, the
- remainder
- thereof to the heirs of the said George Stace, my brother, to the use of the
- said heirs of the said
- George forever. **Item:** whereas my wife is
- thought now to go with child, if it so happen that she be, then I will to the

- said child all those my lands with th'appurtenances called **Shinglehills** together
- lying in **Seal**. To hold the same withall and singular th'appurtenances to the
- said child whether it be man or woman, his or her heirs and assigns forever.
- And if she be not with child, then I will all the said lands, withall and singular th'appurtenances,
- called Shinglehills aforesaid unto **John Stace, my godson, son of the said George**
- **Stace**, my brother. To him and his heirs, the same withall and singular th'appurtenances
- to the said John, my godson, his heirs and assigns, forever. In witness whereof I,
- the said John Stace, the younger, to this my present last will and testament, have set
- my hand and seal yeven the day and year first above written in the presence of
- **Walter Woodgate, Nicholas Hooper, writer hereof** and divers others

By me John Stace

John Stace, the elder

John Stace the elder, the father of John the younger, owned land in Leigh, Shipbourne, Seal and Tonbridge and some of this was entailed which leads to a long and repetitive section of the will. Since John the younger had already died, John's heir was his son George who, by 1591, had three sons and a daughter. He could have been the George Stace who married **Johane Polhill** on 5th December 1575 in **Seal** which would have allowed plenty of time for the birth of four children. No baptisms were recorded in Seal.

Although he had a son and grandchildren for whom he wished to provide, John owned sufficient land to be able to offer his sister, Elizabeth, some support during her old age: he left to his sister, Elizabeth Woodgate, "[during her natural life, all that little tenement . . . wherein one Steven now dwelleth with the smith's forge and backside thereto adjoining, without any rent or any other thing therefore to be paid or done other than the lord's rent thereat yearly going and the reparations thereof to be kept at her cost and charge](#)".

Like his son, he left a large number of individual gifts, mainly to his grandchildren, but he also forgave a number of his tenants a quarter's rent whilst one of them was to be forgiven his "[rent or farm](#)" for half a year.

Various Bequests made by John Stace, the elder

daughter's sons: Peter Elphick Richard Elphick George Elphick	£5 £5 £5	within one year when aged 18 when aged 18
son George's children: George Robert Elizabeth	£5 £5 £5	to father: within one year within one year within one year
daughter Sone her children: Stace Elizabeth	2 kine £2 £2	at age of 18 at age of 18
sister Elizabeth Woodgate	3s 4d	within short time
Hasell, John, godson	1 ewe	
Martha, wife of Edward Pullinger	£5	6 months
Simon Dove John, son of Simon Dove	2 heifers £2	to be put out in stock

Brooker's wife	1 heifer	
TOTAL of money bequests	£41 3s 4d	
Nicholas Hasell Richard Medhurst William Romney lame Stephen mother Carrier Gardener	forgiven one quarter's rent	
Lambard	forgiven rent or farm	for half a year:

There is a codicil annexed to the will of John Stace, the elder, which should have been inserted "[at the time of interlineation](#)"; it was a clause, "[omitted by the writer](#)" of the will which should have succeeded the words concerning the parsonage of Leigh Hollenden which John had given to his son George. But his wife was not to be liable for any tithe for any ground that she occupied in Leigh Hollenden "[but be free from payments thereof for and during the space of three score years following the date of his said will if she did so long live.](#)" Since George must have been at

least thirty, his mother would have done very well indeed to have lived for another sixty years.

Will of John Stace, the elder of Leigh

written 20th June 1591

Probate with codicil annexed 10th August 1591

transcript partly from original (PCC: Prob 10/137) and partly from the probate copy

Nicholas Hooper's
mark

1 In the name of god Amen. The twentieth day of
2 the month of June in the year of our lord god one thousand, five hundreth,
3 four score and eleven. And in the three and thirtieth year of the reign of
our
4 Sovereign Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God, Queen of England, France
5 and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. I, John Stace, the elder of
6 **Hollenden**¹⁹³ within the parish of Leigh next Tonbridge in the county of
Kent, **yeoman**,

7 sick and very weak in body but yet of good and perfect remembrance,
thanks therefore be¹⁹⁴
8 given to god almighty, do ordain and make this my present testament and
last will in
9 manner and form following¹⁹⁵: And **first** and principally I give, commend
and
10 bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty god, my maker, and to Jesus
Christ,
11 his dear son, mine only saviour and redeemer, by whose most precious
death and
12 bloodshedding¹⁹⁶ I trust only to be saved. And my body to the earth to be
buried in the
13 church of Leigh aforesaid. **Item:** I will there shalbe bestowed among poor
13 people resorting to my burial¹⁹⁷ forty shillings. And I will that within one
month

194 "bee", "mee" etc. throughout original

195 "folowing" in original

196 "bludshedding"

197 from the beginning of line 9 to here, the wording is exactly the same as that of John Stace the younger's will with the exception that "or churchyard" and "where it shall please my executor hereafter named" are additional in the will of John, the younger.

- 14 then next following, there shalbe given and bestowed to those within the
parish of Leigh
15 only which shall seem to have most need, in the view and judgement of
Mr. Charte, vicar

probate copy:

- of Leigh, my wife and executrix hereafter
- named and **my son, George Stace**, or any two of them, other forty shillings
in lawful money.
- **Item:** I will there shalbe likewise given and bestowed upon four and twenty
the poorest
- within the parish of **Cobham** in the view and judgement of **George**
Smedley,
- **gentleman**, and my said son George within one month next after my
decease
- the sum of twelve shillings of lawful money, each six pence a piece or else
some
- more and some less, at their discretion. **Item:** I give to **Johane Beeling**,
now my
- servant, forty shillings lawful money to be paid within one year next after
my
- decease. And to **Katherine Norton, Margaret Ore and John Chown**, now
likewise my

- servants, to every of them ten shillings a piece lawful money likewise within one month
- next after my decease. And like wise to **Benjamin Gooding**, my servant, six shillings eight pence to be paid in like manner. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **John**
- **Hasell, my godson**, one ewe to be kept for him by his father, to some use and profit at his
- discretion. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Martha, now wife of Edward Pullinger** five
- pounds lawful money to be paid within half a year next after my decease. **Item:** I
- give and bequeath to **Peter Elphick** five pounds of lawful money to be paid within
- a year next after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **George Elphick**
- **Richard Elphick**, to either of them five pounds lawful money a piece to be paid to them,
- and either of them, at their several ages of eighteen years. **Item:** I give and bequeath
- to **George Stace and Robert Stace, sons of George Stace, my son**, and to
- **Elizabeth Stace, his daughter**, to every of them five pounds lawful money a piece which

- fifteen pounds I will shalbe paid by mine executrix, hereafter named, to the said George
- within one year next after my decease to be by him employed to some good use in
- stock for them, his said children, and by him to be paid to them, together with the stock and
- profits of the same, at their several ages of eighteen years. And if any of them die
- before, the survivor or survivors to have his or their parts deceased equally between them.
- **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my natural sister, Elizabeth Woodgate**, the sum of three
- shillings and four pence to be paid to her within short time after my decease together
- with the sum of thirty three shillings and four pence which I owe her. **Item:** I give
- and bequeath to **Stace Sone and Elizabeth Sone**, to either of them forty shillings
- a piece, to be paid to them, and either of them, at their several ages of eighteen years.
- **Item:** I give and bequeath to **John Dove, son of Simon Dove**, forty shillings to be

- put out in stock for him by my wife and executrix hereafter named until his age of
- eighteen years; and at his said age, as well the sum as the increase thereof to be paid to the
- said John Dove. **Item:** I give to **my daughter Sone** two kine which mine executrix
- shall please. **Item:** I give to **George Stace, my son**, my lease of the
- parsonage of Leigh Hollenden¹⁹⁸ and my seven steers and two and twenty pounds in the
- hands of **William Olyver**, thirteen pounds or thereabouts in the hands of **John**
- **Park** and three pounds in the hands of one ¹⁹⁹ **Parminger** with several speci
- alities for the same which eight and thirty pounds I give to the said George upon
- condition that the said George, my son, shall enter sufficient bond to my wife and
- executrix hereafter named before she deliver the said bonds that she shall quietly

198 see codicil at end of will

199 space left here; Elizabeth Parminger was a servant of John Stace, the younger

- enjoy, according to this the tenor of my will, certain parcels of land and meadow
- hereafter in this my will specified. And that if he refuse so to do, then I will to my
- said wife all the said sum of eight and thirty pounds, anything herein before mentioned
- to the contrary notwithstanding. **Item:** I give and forgive unto ²⁰⁰ **Heyes of Cobham**
- all that farm which he owed me till our Lady day last saving two and twenty shillings
- for oats. **Item:** I give and forgive unto every of those my tenants hereafter named, viz.
- **Nicholas Hasell, Richard Medhurst, William Romney, Lame Stephen, mother Carrier,**
- an ²⁰¹ **Gardener**, every one one quarter's rent or farm of the lands and the tenements
- which they severally hold of mine. And my tenant **Lambard** half a year's rent

200 space

201 blank

- or farm of the lands which he holdeth of mine. **Item:** I will that my wife and executrix
- hereafter named shall, within one year next after my decease, pay over into the hands
- of Nicholas Hasell the several portions herein before willed to Stace Sone, Elizabeth
- Sone, George Elphick and Richard Elphick. And my will is that the said Nicholas,
- his executors or assigns, shall pay the same several sums to them willed at their several
- ages of eighteen years aforesaid as I put trust in him. And that, upon an acquittance
- of the receipt thereof by the said Nicholas to my said wife to be made, she to be discharged
- of and from all the same legacies. And further that, if any of them shall be of the
- said age before the end of the said year, that then his or her portion to be paid to
- him or her so being of age within the said year. **Item:** I give and bequeath to my
- daughter Sone, two quarters of wheat and three quarters of oats to be paid and

- delivered before Hollentide next coming. **Item:** I give to **Simon Dove** two heifers
- at my wife's appointment. And to **Brooker's wife** one heifer at her appointment
- The residue of all my goods and cattells, as well moveable as unmoveable, debts and
- all other moveables whatsoever, I wholly and fully, with good effect, intent and purpose,
- give and bequeath unto **Mildred, my wellbeloved wife**, which Mildred I make and
- ordain my whole and sole executrix of this my will, to see my debts paid, this my will
- duly and orderly proved, my legacies accordingly paid and my body decently and
- honestly brought to the earth. And I desire **my trusty friend, Richard Collyns of Shipbourne**²⁰²,
- to be supervisor and overseer of this my will to whom I give for his pains, over

- and besides his charges any way about this will to be laid out, ten shillings, desiring
- him to take some pains that this my will may take effect according to the true
- meaning of the same.

original:

- **This is the last will**²⁰³ of me, the said John Stace the elder, made and
- declared the day and year first above written, concerning the order and disposition of all my
- lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever, situated lying and being in Leigh aforesaid,
- **Tonbridge, Seal, Shipbourne and Cobham** in the said county of Kent or elsewhere
- within the said county of Kent. And **first**, I will and bequeath unto **John**²⁰⁴

203 larger and slightly decorated

204 George crossed out and replaced with John

- **Stace**, eldest son of George Stace, my only²⁰⁵ son, all those my two messuages or tenements lying and being at **Henhurst** within the parish of **Cobham** aforesaid, together
- withall the barns, buildings, closes, gardens, orchards, lands, meadows, pastures, feedings,
- woods and hereditaments whatsoever, to the said messuage, or either of them, belonging or in
- any wise appertaining, lying and being in Cobham aforesaid. And also all other my
- lands and hereditaments whatsoever, lying and being in Cobham, aforesaid, withall and
- singular th'appurtenances. To have and to hold the same, withall and singular th'appurtenances
- unto the said John Stace, eldest son of my said son George during the whole
- term of his natural life. And after his decease, to the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten, or to be begotten. And for lack of such issue, I will and bequeath

probate copy:

- all my said lands
- tenements and hereditaments in Cobham aforesaid . . .
- unto **George Stace, second son of my son George Stace** . . .
- . . .
- . . . And for default of such issue to **Robert Stace, third and youngest son of the said George, my son,** . . .
- . . .
- . . . And for default of such issue unto the
- next heirs male (having the name of Stace) of me the said John Stace, the elder
- . . . And so from the said next
- male to the next heir male (having the name of Stace) ?? one after another
- as long as any of that name and race lineally shalbe living. And for lack of heirs
- male having the name of Stace descending and lineally coming as afore said,
- then to the heirs general of me, the said John Stace, for ever.
- Notwithstanding, my
- very will and mind is that the said Mildred, my wife, shall have, receive and take
- all the issues, revenues and profits of all and every my said lands, tenements and

- hereditaments lying in Cobham aforesaid until the said John Stace, eldest son of my
- son, George Stace, shall accomplish his full age of one and twenty years. And at his said
- age of one and twenty years, I will my said wife, her executors or assigns, shall pay or
- cause to be paid to the said John Stace such sum and sums of money as shall arise of the said revenues
- and profits without fraud or guile, deducting out of the same all such sum and
- sums of money as she shall lay out within the said term by use account for any reparations,
- lord's rent or such other and for the necessary costs and charges and pains of her, the
- said Mildred, about the same to be laid out. Saving that my will is that my aforesaid
- **sister, Elizabeth Woodgate**, shall have and enjoy, during her natural life, all that little
- tenement, parcel of the premises wherein one Steven now dwelleth with the smith's
- forge and backside thereto adjoining, without any rent or any other thing therefore

- to be paid or done other than the lord's rent thereat yearly going and the reparations
- thereof to be kept at her cost and charge. **Item:** I will and bequeath to the said
- George Stace, my only son, all that my capital messuage or tenement wherein I now
- dwell called **Brights** together with all the barns, buildings, edifices, closes, yards, gardens,
- orchards, lands and meadows, pastures, woods and underwoods, to the said messuage or tenement
- called Brights belonging or in any wise appertaining. And also all those three parcels
- containing, by estimation, thirteen acres whether more or less thereof be had, lying in
- Leigh aforesaid and bought, amongst others, of one **John Smalham**²⁰⁶ and lying to
- other lands of me purchased of John Smalham against the south. All which

- lands, tenements and other premises, with the said three parcels last purchased of the
- said John Smalham, lying and being in Leigh, Tonbridge and Seal aforesaid, to have and
- to hold all the said messuage or tenement called Brights . . .
- . . .
- . . .
- . . . natural life and, after his decease, I will and bequeath#
- the said . . .
- . . .
- unto **John Stace, the eldest son of the said George, my son,** . .
- to have and to hold . . .
- . . .

- Provided always, and my very will and mind is that if the said George
- Stace, my son, or the said John, George and Robert Stace his sons, or the heirs
- male of any of them, or any other to whom the premises herein entailed, or any part
- thereof in reversion or remainder shall or ought to come and appertain by virtue of

- this my will shall at any time hereafter determinedly or advisedly attempt or go
- to alter or break this my will, either by sale or any other way whatsoever, or any entail
- limitation or use herein contained whereby this my said will shall not take effect in all
- points according to the true sense and meaning of the same, that then immediately
- after and upon due proof of such art or arts attempted immediately gone about or proved, it shall
- and may be lawful to and for the next heir in limitation or use by virtue of this my
- will to set down into all the said lands and tenements and hereditaments withall and
- singular the appurtenances concerning which any such art or arts shalbe so as is
- attempted, gone about and duly proved, to enter and the same to hold, possess and
- enjoy to him and his heirs male lineally as aforesaid in as good and ample manner
- as if the said party so attempting or going about to frustrate or alter any part of this my device were dead. Anything whatsoever herein before mentioned to

- the contrary hereof in any wise notwithstanding. My will,
- notwithstanding, is that my
- said wife shall have, hold, possess and enjoy, during the term of her natural life
- all those three parcels of land parcel of the premises herein willed to the said George,
- my son, lying together in Leigh towards Shipbourne, one in mine own occupancy,
- another in the occupancy of **Michael Brooker** and the third in the occupancy of **Garden**.
- And one meadow called the **Long Mead** in Leigh aforesaid. And three other parcels called
- the three crofts with a little orchard thereto next adjoining, freely without payment of
- anything therefore. And also that the said Mildred, my wife and her assigns, shall
- have the occupancy of all my lands and hereditaments which I now occupy with
- th'appurtenances until the feast of Hallowtide now next ensuing, freely likewise without
- paying any thing for the same. And also my fallow and ground called **Norths** from

- Michaelmas next during one whole year then next after, paying a reasonable rent
- therefore. Provided furthermore, that this my will or any gift or bequest herein
- contained shall not in any wise be prejudicial or hurtful to any gift, grant or any
- art or arts or to the intent and meaning of any gift, grant or any art or arts
- whatsoever at any time heretofore done or assured by me, the said John, to the said
- Mildred, my wellbeloved wife, or to any other person or persons whatsoever to her use. But
- I will that the same gift, grant, art or arts whatsoever, of and in any of my lands, tenements and
- hereditaments, whatsoever shalbe good and effectual in law in all points to her the
- said Mildred and her assigns, to the true sense and meaning of the same.
- Any quit, grant, legacy, entail or other thing whatsoever herein contained
- contrary hereof in anywise notwithstanding. **Item:** I will and bequeath all other my
- lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever, in Leigh, Seal, Tonbridge or elsewhere
- within the county of Kent not before herein bequeathed, withall and singular

- appurtenances, unto the said George Stace, my only son, to have and to hold all
- the same (not before herein willed) to the only use and behoof of him, the said George Stace, my son, his
- executors and assigns for ever.

original

- **Item:** my will and mind is that my said wife, her heirs, executors and assigns shall have full
- authority to receive and take up of **Richard Ashdowne**, his heirs, executors or assigns
- all the sum of three score pounds which he oweth me by several specialities. And to
- effect, I give and bequeath to her, my said wife, all and every the same money and specialities whatsoever.
- To have and to hold the same unto her, the said Mildred my wife, her heirs and
- assigns for ever. In witness whereof, to this my present last will and testament,
- I, the said John Stace, have set my hand and seal, yeven the day and
- year first above written.

Nicholas Hooper's
mark
with initials

Read published and acknowledged
in the presence of **Richard Collyns**,
Nicholas Hasell and
Nicholas Hooper and others

Signed ²⁰⁷ John
Stace

Richard Collyns
Nicholas Hasell²⁰⁸
By me Nicholas Hooper, curate
??²⁰⁹ and Tonbridge and writer hereof

probate copy:

²⁰⁷ mark - circle with \ through it

²⁰⁸ look like signatures

²⁰⁹ cannot read it, Shipbourne?

A clause or codicil belonging to the testament and last will of the said John Stace, deceased, omitted by the writer of the same which should have been inserted therein and uttered by the said testator in effect following at the time of interlineation of these words in his said will, my lease of the parsonage of Leigh Hollenden should have succeeded the said words, viz:

- The said John Stace, in the presence of the witnesses subscribed and
- nominated in his said will and testament did will and declare that his mind and
- meaning was that notwithstanding he did give the lease of his parsonage of
- Leigh Hollenden to his son George Stace, that his wife should pay no tithe to the
- said George Stace, or his assigns, for any ground that she occupieth in Leigh Hollenden
- but be free from payments thereof for and during the space of three score years following
- the date of his said will if she did so long live.

This will was probably written by **Edward Coife** whose name, as witness, was written by the person who wrote the will; the other witnesses were James Bell (name written in a different hand) and Phillip Thom, his mark. William Stace signed the will but did not write it.

There is nothing to connect William Stace, vicar of Hadlow, with the other Staces and only a short extract has been transcribed:

"I, William Stace, vicar of Hadlow, do ordain and make this my last will and testament in manner and form following: **First:** I commit my body to the earth and my soul to god, the Son and the holy ghost, my creator, redeemer and Sanctifier in hope of the resurrection to eternal life."

The **Stacys** of Westerham and Orpington

A number of Stacy (Stace or Stacey) wills have survived for Westerham but only three from after 1550:

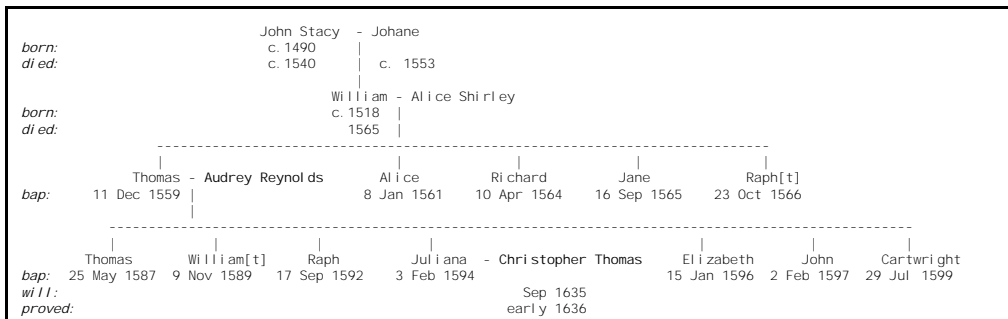
Thomas Stace	1615	PCC: Rudd 82	tanner
William Stacie	1566	PCC: Crymes 32	
Raphe Stacye (the elder)	1640	PCC: Coventry 72	

William could have been the William who married Alice Shirley and died in 1565 leaving five children (assuming all survived infancy) with the eldest only just six - see tree on next page. His will was proved in 1566 by his nephew, William Stacy of Orpington.

Juliana Stacy married Christopher Thomas of Orpington and his will has survived:

Christopher Thomas	1635/6	PCC: Pile 25
--------------------	--------	--------------

None of these wills have been investigated.



[t] - mentioned in will of Christopher Thomas 1635 who left £200 to "Uncle Raph Stacey" and £200 to his "brother William Stacey"; his will was proved by Sir Edward Stacey and brother William Stacey

Although the date in the will was 13th December, the date given for Edward Stake's burial was 1st May 1577²¹⁰. Thus there was either an error in one of these dates or there were two Edward Stakes.

"I bequeath my soul to Almighty god, the father of our lord Jesus Christ who hath given his son to die for me of mercy and saviour and of no deserving of my part wherefore his name be praised for ever and ever, Amen. And my body to be buried in the churchyard of Charlton aforesaid"

The Staleys of Ightham and Wrotham

Stalys (or Staleys) were recorded in the Ightham parish registers from when records started in 1560 but none were recorded in the Court Records before 1553. (There are no surviving Court records between 1508 and 1553.) Amongst the earliest records are two burials:

Robert Staly (i65²¹¹) buried 26th February 1560
Thomas Staly (i66) buried 15th April 1561.

Richard Staley, borsholder, appeared in the 1553-74 records (see i42 below) and there were a number of Staleys recorded between 1586 and 1618.

Two wills, however, have survived from Wrotham:

	written:	proved:		
George Staley	29 Aug 1623 ²¹²	13 Sep 1624	CKS: Prs/w/14/230	page s.195
Alice Stalie	10 Aug 1625	14 Nov 1625	CKS: Prs/w/14/233	page s.198

²¹¹ i indicates a reference in the Ightham database; all references in this document are to Ightham

²¹² definitely 21st year of James I - 24 March 1623 to 23 Mar 1624

Alice was George's wife and from her will it is obvious that George's children were by a first wife, he and Alice apparently not having had any children. From the parish records, George married Alice Driver in May 1594 when he would have been thirty-one. A daughter, Emm, was baptised on 2nd June 1594 only a month after the wedding but she was buried on 10th August 1594 aged nine weeks.

Three isolated events in the parish registers were:
burial of **Ann Staley, widow (i157)** on 6th July 1599
baptism of **William Staly (i59)** on 13th April 1600
baptism of **Mabelle (i62), daughter of William Staly** on 8th March 1607

The last recorded entry in the Ightham parish registers is the baptism of Mabelle and there were no Staleys mentioned in the Court Records for 1697 to 1707 (the next surviving records after 1618). Like so many of the other Ightham families of the sixteenth century, the Staleys disappeared at the beginning of the seventeenth century. George and Alice seemed to have moved to Wrotham.

Richard Staley

Richard Staley was recorded as a husbandman when he was a witness in the Bing v. Hooper case in 1564-6 - see *Excerpts from the Ightham Court Rolls*²¹³ but, prior to settling down and having the family detailed below he had had, as Harrison says, "a chequered career".

About 1546, he and a number of others including **Richard Thrupp** (another witness in the Bing v. Hooper case) and **Nicholas Hastelyn** were "accused and detected for stealing" sheep from **Lady Ann Grey**. For this they were transported to Boulogne (at that time an English possession) and "there continued a certain space". After their return to England Thrupp confessed that, apart from the crime for which they had been transported, he and Richard Staley had stolen from one **John Dodge** "at several times forty hens and capons and two fat wethers . . . The said Mr. Dodge, hearing his confession, said that for those matters, because they were past long before, he would forgive him and his company so that he and they were not hereafter taken with the like . . .". After this incident had been closed, Staley settled down at Borough Green as a husbandman²¹⁴.

²¹³ These are included under "I" with these Transcripts and Families

²¹⁴ CRI 1938, p.88

Richard was borsholder sometime between 1553 and 1574. On 27th April 1587, he was presented to the Court for having "encroached upon the land of **Thomas Willoughby**, esquire, lord of the manor, at Borough Green, where the barley was sown. To amend it before the next Court, under penalty 3s 4d"²²².

When Richard died in 1590 he was a freeholder of the Manor of Ightham owning a piece of land some three acres in extent which was once known as the Acre. Its northern boundary was a footpath (Bellows Lane) running westwards from just south of the church at Borough Green towards Ightham²²³. This "Acre" was to become a source of contention between Richard's sons Walter and George.

For this reason the George Staly who was buried on 17th October 1595 cannot have been Richard's son.

On the assumption that he was about twenty when he was caught sheep-stealing, Richard was about seventy when he died.

²²² CRI 1937, p.216

²²³ CRI 1938, p.88)

Richard Staley's Presumed Family

The testators, George and Alice were definitely husband and wife. In 1623, when he died, George had a son (whom he does not mention), two married daughters and another with two base children. Alice Driver could have been the mother of these children but in her will she describes John as her "son-in-law" a term often used for a step son and Elizabeth as her late husband's daughter. Thus Alice was George's second wife. Dorothy, mentioned by her father, could have been Alice's daughter; she probably died between 1623 and 1625 since she was not mentioned by Alice.

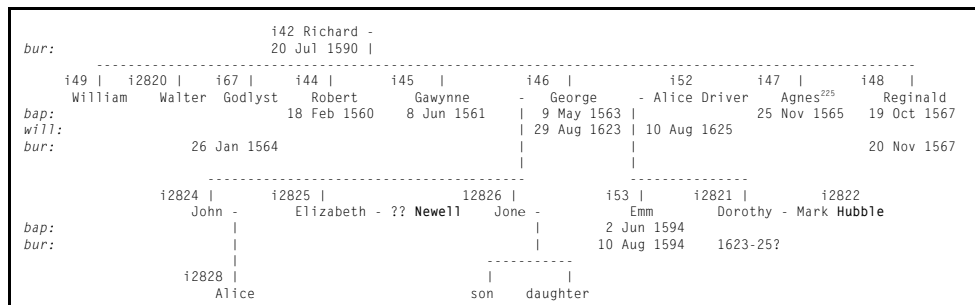
George does not mention his son John whom Alice calls her "son-in-law" so that he had probably already had his inheritance. He did leave five shillings to each of his married daughters Dorothy and Elizabeth and the same amount each to the son and daughter of his daughter Jone; Alice gives two ewes to "[Joan Stalie's base children](#)".

On 2nd October 1587 William Staley and George Staley fought together and were each fined 20d²²⁴. According to Harrison, Richard's co-heirs by the custom of

224 CRI 1938, p.3

gavelkind were his two sons Walter and George. George is not a common name so the George Staley whose will has survived is likely to have been Richard's son.

Alice also mentions her husband's brother William; both William and Walter could have been born before records began, that is before 1560. Since other children were baptised February 1560, June 1561, May 1563 and November 1565, Godlyst, William and Walter must all have been born before 1559. Perhaps William was the eldest son and had been set up before his father died but Robert and Gawynne (a son) presumably died before their father.



²²⁵ married **Robert Garland (i68)** on 17th July 1598 when she was thirty-two; they had four children, see [Garland in More Families & Transcripts](#)

The Staley Acre

In 1590, a year after succeeding to their joint inheritance, Walter and George Staley partitioned their land, the Acre being taken in severalty (individual ownership) by Walter. Walter sold the Acre to **William Staley** of Borough Green, possibly his brother and perhaps the William who was another witness in Bing v. Hooper case and had a daughter, called **Emme** (as was George's daughter), baptised in Ightham on 9th October 1566.

Walter, however, "soon repented of his bargain for, within a year or two, he filed a Bill of Complaint to the Lord Chancellor praying for relief. It is to the particulars given in this Bill and to the 'Answers of William Staley' that we owe our knowledge of the case. In weighing the statements made, it is to be borne in mind that the Bill would be prepared in a lawyer's office at a time when the art of creating prejudice by blackening an opponent's action and character was commonly practised."

"Walter Staley stated that, having become sole proprietor of the Acre, he had 'divers earnest suitors unto him to have purchased the said land and might have had a good and round sum, that is to say, forty pounds or above . . . for the inheritance thereof.' But he 'thought it not good to be rash in the sale thereof, hoping to have gotten fifty pounds or more.' But William Staley, 'well knowing the

richness of the said land and that it would yield a good value for the quantity thereof, being a very cunning, wily, deceitful person of small ability and less credit, devising and inventing how he might by all allurements and enticements compass and deceive.' Walter dealt with him 'with many fair and large protests first himself and then by means of his wife, a woman of fairer words than conditions and a meet instrument to compass such a match.'"

"As the outcome, it was agreed that Walter should sell the land to William and that William should pay £20 for it and should also find and allow Walter 'meet and convenient meat, drink and lodging during his natural life'. 'In affecting whereof,' Walter alleged, 'William Staley suffered no time to be lost withall (but) post haste caused a deed of feoffment to be drawn and never left' Walter 'until he had sealed and delivered the same as his said act and deed and, in the night time, the said was executed'."

"William did not pay the £20 at once but gave Walter 40s and created in his favour a rent-charge of 20s for a term of eighteen years. Walter received 'no assurance for his meat, drink and lodging' but yet 'took his meat, drink and lodging at the home of the said William Staley according to the said agreement'."

"So far, so good. But William, 'having begotten the said parcel of land . . in such subtle and deceitful manner and form . . did also shortly after grow weary' of Walter's company and did utterly deny him 'to take any more meat or drink in his

house or to take his lodging there saying that he was a cumbersome guest and troublesome unto him, protesting that he never promised . . . any such thing'. Walter admitted that he 'hath no witness . . . deed or writing to prove the said promise and therefore is utterly void of all remedy in the course of the common law of this Realm.' He therefore petitioned the Lord Chancellor for equitable relief."

"William's answers to the Bill tell a rather different story. According to him, Walter 'divers and sundry times did move' him to buy the land which he 'often times refused to do. But yet at last . . . by reason of the great importuning' of Walter, he 'yielded thereunto' and agreed to pay for the land forty shillings down and twenty shillings a year thereafter. He denied that he promised 'to find and allow unto the complainant meet and convenient meat, drink and lodging during the natural life of the . . . complainant . . . for the said land is not in his conscience worth above fifteen shillings by the year to be let'."

"We have no record of the result of this case but Walter seems to have failed to prove his allegations and it is difficult to see how he could win. As to the equities of the claim, Walter is not likely to have been more than three score years old at

the time of his father's death²²⁶; board and lodging for the rest of his life in addition to a payment of £20 (equal to many times that amount now) seems far too high a price for three acres of land in a purely rural district."

"William Staley was certainly not dispossessed for in a Court Roll of 1606 it is recorded that:

William Staley, who lately held of the lord of this manor a piece of land called the Acre . . . has died since the last Court . . . Walter Staley is his son and next heir and is eighteen years of age and more."

"The last words of the entry on the Court Roll tell us that young Walter was born a little too soon to have been named after old Walter, following upon a reconciliation. So a happy ending is denied us"²²⁷.

²²⁶ if Richard returned from Boulogne and married in the mid-1550s, Walter could not have been 40 at the death of his father; for him to be 60, he would have to have been born about 1530 making his father in his eighties when he died and the Richard Staly, father of the children baptised in the 1560s would seem to be a son of the Richard Staly who died in 1590. However, this makes Harrison's argument about the cost of feeding and lodging Walter to the end of his life even more pertinent.

²²⁷ CRI 1938, p.89-91

If the William Staley was the father of Emme, baptised 1566, then his son was likely to be well over eighteen, in his mid-twenties at least. He could have been the Walter Staly who was father of Elizabeth, baptised 9th May 1596.

On 17th October 1594 **William Waters of Borough Green** was fined 3s 4d for having assaulted **Walter Staley** at Ightham and drawing blood²²⁸. This Walter could have been the one who inherited the Acre from his father or William Staley's son.

George Staley

There are two more incidents regarding George recorded in the Court Rolls.

On 2nd October 1587, **George Staley** was assaulted by **Edward Wood** who was fined 20d. Four years later George was the instigator: on 5th October 1591, he was fined 3s 4d for assaulting **David Siflet**, striking him with a stone and drawing blood. "[David Siflet there and then assaulted George.](#)" Fined 12d²²⁹.

²²⁸ CRI 1938, p.5

²²⁹ CRI 1938, p.4

An intriguing entries in the Court Rolls is that concerning a meeting between George and two other men. On 5th April 1594 **Richard Johnson** of Ightham and **James Wooden of Lighe (Leigh)** were presented to the Court for having "met together unlawfully at Ightham in the night time and conducted themselves impudently towards **George Stalie** of Ightham, in disturbance of the Queen's lieges there abiding. Fined 12d each. The said George Staly remained unlawfully in the night time with Richard Johnson and James Wooden. Fined 12d."²³⁰

George Staley, from his will written by Alexander Chauncey, was a limeburner. It is laid out in separate clauses and the terminology used is definitely that of a lawyer rather than a limeburner, for example: "And I will that all such debts and duties as I owe of right, or of conscience to any person or persons be well and truly contented and paid".

Not that being a limeburner meant that George was poor; Alice, his widow, left legacies totalling over £11 to be paid within a month of her decease. She also gave to the poor of Wrotham fourteen shillings which the churchwardens owed her for "ware". What was "ware"? She also gave another £3 to the poor with those from Borough Green having two shillings each and widow Water three shillings. She left various clothes to the wives of her friends and also asked that her burial expenses should include a dinner for her neighbours.

1 In the name of god Amen. The nine and twentieth day of
2 August in the year of the reign of our sovereign Lord
3 James, by the grace of God king of England, France and Ireland
4 defender of the faith, etc. the One and Twentieth. And of Scotland
5 the Seven and fiftieth, I, George Staley of Wrotham in the
6 County of Kent, **limeburner**, being in whole mind and of good
7 and perfect remembrance (laud and praise be to Almighty god)
8 do make and ordain this my present testament containing herein
9 my last will in manner and form following²²⁴:

10 **First:** I commend my soul unto Almighty God (my maker and redeemer)
And my
11 body to be buried in the Churchyard of the parish Church of Wrotham
aforesaid.

12 And I will that all such debts and duties as I owe of right, or of conscience
to

224 "folowing"

- 13 any person or persons be well and truly contented and paid by mine
executrix
14 hereafter named or else ordained, so to be paid without any delay or
contradiction.
- 15 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my two daughters, Dorothy Hubble** and
16 **Elizabeth Newell** five shillings a piece in money.
- 17 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto the **two children of my daughter Jone**,
namely
18 her son and her daughter, five shillings a piece in money.
- 19 All which leegacies my will is shalbe paid by my executrix within one
month
20 next after my decease.
- 21 And after my debts paid, legacies performed, and funeral expenses
discharged,
22 my perfect will and true meaning is that **Alice, my wellbeloved wife**, shall
have,
23 possess and enjoy the remainder of my goods, cattells and debts
whatsoever, to give,
24 bestow and bequeath where and how she shall think best.

25 And lastly of this my present testament and last will, I make and ordain the
said
26 Alice (my wife) my whole and entire executrix.
27 In witness whereof, to this my present will, I have subscribed my mark and
set
28 to my seal the day and year first above written.

George ²²⁵ Staley his mark
Witness hereunto
Alexander Chauncey
writer hereof

Alice's will was written by Charles Hutchinson who wrote other wills in Wrotham in the 1620s and possibly as early as 1609

1 In the name of god Amen. The 10th day of
2 August A° dm 1625. And in the first year of the
3 reign of our sovereign lord Charles, by the grace
4 of God of England, Scotland, France and Ire=
5 land, king, defender of the faith, etc. I, Alice
6 Stalie of Wrotham in the county of Kent, **widow**,
7 do make and ordain this my last will and testa=
8 ment in manner and form following: (being sick
9 in body but of good and sound remembrance,
10 laud and praise be to Almighty god). **First:**
11 I bequeath my soul to Almighty god by
12 whose mercy in Jesus Christ I hope to be
13 saved and my body to the earth to be buried
14 in the churchyard of Wrotham aforesaid.
15 **Item:** I give to **Elizabeth** Newell of **Cambres?**
16 **my late husband's daughter**, five pounds

17 to be paid to her within one month after
18 my decease. **Item:** I give more to her
19 two pairs of sheets and two smocks and two
20 new coifes and crossclothes. **Item:** I give to
21 **William Stalie, my husband's brother**, five
22 pounds. **Item:** I give to **Joan Stalie's base**
23 **children** two ewes. **Item:** I give to
24 **Benjamin Caris's two daughters** ten
25 shillings a piece to be paid to them about
26 a month after my decease. **Item:** I give
27 to **Alice Yiner, my goddaughter**, five
28 shillings within one month after my decease.
29 **Item:** I give to **John Stalie's wife** my best
30 gown. **Item:** I give to **Benjamin Caris's**
31 **wife** my second gown. **Item:** I give to
32 **Daniel Slimson's wife** my blue petti=
33 coat and russet waistcoat. **Item:** I give unto
34 **my maid Margery Carel** my best red
35 petticoat. **Item:** I give to the poor of
36 Wrotham fourteen shillings which the church=
37 wardens owe me for ware. **Item:** I give
38 more to the poor of the said parish the sum
39 of three pounds whereof the poor ??=

40 ?? about **Borough Green** shall have two
41 shillings a piece and only **widow Waters**
42 three shillings. **Item:** I give to **Alice,**
43 **the daughter of John Stalie,** one silver
44 spoon. All the rest of my goods,
45 cattle and chattels whatsoever (my
46 debts being paid and burial expenses
47 discharged with a dinner for my neigh=
48 bours to be then bestowed) I give and be=
49 queath to John Staly and **Mark Hubble**
50 of Wrotham, **my sons-in-law**²²⁶, whom
51 I do make my executors of this my
52 last will and testament. In witness
53 whereof I have hereunto put my hand and
54 seal the day and year first before
55 written. Alice
Read, subscribed, sealed
and published in the presence Stalie
of **Charles Hutchinson, clerk** mark
Edward Piwell
mark

226 John was presumably her stepson although George does not mention a son in his will

This will was possibly written by John Stere, the parson of Hever

1 In the name of god Amen. The 25th
2 day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred,
3 I, William Stanforde of Hever in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, sick
4 in body but of good and perfect remembrance, thanks be to god, do make
5 and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form follow
6 ing: **First:** I bequeath my soul to Almighty God through Jesus Christ,
7 my saviour by whom I trust to have eternal life in the kingdom of
8 heaven. And my body I commend to the earth to be buried in the
churchyard
9 of Hever aforesaid in hope of a resurrection unto eternal life. **Item:** I give
10 to the poor of the parish of Hever aforesaid twenty shillings to be paid
11 to them ten shillings at my burial and ten shillings that day twelve
12 month. **Item:** I give unto **Joane Chapman, the daughter of Alice Chapman,**
13 **my daughter**, the best ewe that I have and a lamb by her side. The rest of
14 all my moveable goods unbequeathed, my debts being paid, I give to
Joane, my wife,
15 whom I make my sole executrix. And my overseers I make **Andrew Stan**

16 **forde** and **Adam Medhurst**, my kinsmen, to aid my wife in the execution of
17 this my last will and testament. **Item:** I give unto them for their pains
18 that they shall take therein three shillings four pence a piece. This is also
19 the last testament of me, the said William Stanforde, made the day and
20 year above written concerning my house called by the name of **Harry**
Nublase

21 **Tenement** with the orchard and the land and withall the appurtenances
22 now thereunto belonging, that is to say, I give my said tenement set,
23 lying and being in the parish of Hever aforesaid to Joane, my wife,
24 during her natural life. And after her decease I give my said tenement
25 to **Richard, my son**, and to his heirs for ever, paying unto **my son William**
26 ten shillings a year for the space of four years after my wife's decease.
27 Witnesses hereunto **John Stere, parson of Hever** and **William Douglas** with
28 others more.

This will was written by Samuel Halfside.

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The fourth day of February In anno Dei 1628, I
Robert
2 Stent of the parish of Penshurst in the county of Kent, being weak and sick
of body but of
3 good and perfect remembrance, thanks be to almighty god, do make and
ordain this my last will and
4 testament in manner and form following: **First:** I give and bequeath my
soul in to the hands
5 of almighty god, my only creator, and unto Jesus Christ, my only saviour
and redeemer, by whose
6 merits, death and passion I hope to be saved, and my body to be buried in
the churchyard
7 of Ashurst²²⁷. **Imprimis:** I give and bequeath unto **John Asburneham** my
best doublet. **Item:**

²²⁷ just to the south of Penshurst

8 I give unto **Richard Rennet, my kinsman**, my best coat. **Item:** I give unto
9 **Anne Stent, my wife**,
twelve pence of good and lawful money of England to be paid unto her by
mine executor
10 immediately after my decease. **Item:** I give unto **Water? Weekes** all my old
wearing
11 apparel besides linen. The rest of my moveable goods, corn, cattel and
money, unbequeathed, my debts, legacies
12 and funeral expenses discharged, I give and bequeath unto **Jane Stent, my**
daughter, whom I
13 do constitute and appoint to be my full and whole executor of this my last
will and testament.
14 In witness whereof I have set my hand and seal the day and year first
above written

Robert Stent
his mark

Read, sealed and delivered
in the presence of us
William Humfrey
and **Samuel Halfside**
scriptor

Henry and Anthony Stevens of West Peckham

Henry's will (**CKS: Drb/Pwr 14.233**) was written, on 24th May 1574, by Thomas Tuttesham who, with his son, Thomas Tuttesham, junior, wrote a number of wills, mainly in West Peckham between 1567 and 1589. The original has not survived.

The will of Henry's son Anthony (**CKS: Drb/Pw 22; Drb/Pwr 20.93**) was written, on 29th August 1609, by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618. Here the original has survived and it is decorated in the typical Hooper manner.

Henry had two sons and he left them both land, Anthony's being only described as the messuage or tenement in which Henry was then living. Henry left his other son, Thomas, a cottage, gardens and orchard with two pieces of land whose position is given in detail although since the names are, for example, Wetfield, it would be difficult to now decide on its position. This is one of the very rare occasions on which the term "cottage" is used to describe a house. The area of Thomas's inheritance is given as four acres and it is interesting that the land Anthony leaves to one of his sons was also four acres.

Anthony had eight children living when he wrote his will and none are mentioned as being underage but the younger ones at least could have had to wait a long time for their inheritance. On the death of his mother, Anthony's wife, Henry, who appears to have been the fifth child, inherited the land, etc. Then, each year after her decease, Henry was to pay the other children in turn a specified sum, £2 to each of the children older than him and £5 to each of the younger ones with Edward, the youngest, not receiving his legacy until eight year's after his mother's death. It would seem from the little we know that Henry did much better than his brothers and sisters and, with his mother, he was executor of his father's will.

		e224 Henry - Jone		e225 ²³¹											
will:		24 May 1574													

e226				e227											
Thomas															
				Anthony - Agnes											
will:		29 Aug 1609													

e229		e230		e231		e232		e233		e234		e235		e236	
Agnes		Samuel		Anne		William		Henry		Leonard		Alice		Edward	

231 "e" indicates a reference in the database for East, West and Great Peckham

1 In the name of god Amen. The 23rd
2 day of May in the year of our lord god
3 1574 and in the sixteenth year of the
4 reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth,
5 by the grace of god of England, France
6 and Ireland, queen, defender, etc. I,
7 Henry Stevens of West Peckham in
8 the county of Kent, **husbandman**,
9 being of perfect mind and good remem
10 brance, lauded be god, do make this
11 my present testament and last will in
12 manner and form following: **First:**
13 I bequeath my soul to Almighty
14 god, my only saviour and redeemer,
15 whom I desire, for the merits of
16 Christ's passion, that I may be that
17 child of salvation and my body to be
18 buried in the churchyard of West
19 Peckham aforesaid. **Item:** I give to

20 the poor men's box of West Peckham
21 aforesaid 4d. **Item:** I will and bequeath
22 unto **Jone, my wife**, all my household
23 stuff, goods and cattells. And I constitute
24 **Thomas Stevens, my son**, to be my sole
25 executor.

26 This is the last will of me the said
27 Henry Stevens made the day and year
28 above said concerning the order, rule
29 and disposition of all my lands, tenements
30 and hereditaments withall and singular
31 their appurtenances, situated, lying and being
32 in West Peckham aforesaid. **First:** I will
33 and bequeath all my said land and
34 tenements, withall their appurtenances,
35 unto Johane, my wife, to have and
36 to hold all my said land and tenements,
37 withall their appurtenances, unto the said
38 Jone and to her assigns through her
39 natural life, keeping the reparations and
40 paying the lord's rent. And after
41 the death of the said Jone, I will and

42 bequeath my messuage or tenement that
43 I now dwell in, withall the edifices
44 thereunto belonging, and all the lands
45 appertaining thereunto, unto **Anthony**
46 **Stevens, my son,** to have and to
47 hold all the said messuage or tenement, edifices
48 and land thereunto belonging, withall
49 their appurtenances, to the said Anthony
50 Stevens and to his heirs and assigns
51 forever. And after the death of the
52 said Jone, my wife, I will and
53 bequeath to **Thomas Stevens, my**
54 **son,** my cottage, garden and orchard,
55 my two pieces of land called **Welfield**
56 and **Wetland,** together situated, lying
57 and being in West Peckham aforesaid
58 to the highway leading from **Sevehill**
59 to the fulling mill, then south east
60 to a land called **Depelane,** southwest
61 to a piece of land called **Westland**
62 in the tenure of **Harry Trayt,**
63 northwest to high land and
64 north to the land of the hoyers? of **John**

65 **Sutor**, northeast on mark thereof
66 on every ?? divide and show, con
67 taining, by estimation, four acres,
68 more or less, to have and to hold
69 all the said cottage, garden, orchard and two
70 pieces of land withall their appurtenances
71 to the said Thomas Stevens, to his
72 heirs and assigns for ever.

73 Present at the reading, declaring
74 and pronouncing of this my said will
75 and testament, **Thomas Tuttesham**,
76 writer hereof, **George Baker**²²⁸,
77 **Henry Bright** and others.

228 The will of George Baker was written by Thomas Tuttesham in 1589 who, by that time, was Thomas Tuttesham, senior

Nicholas Hooper's
mark

- 1 In²²⁹ the name of god amen. The nine and twentieth day of August in the
year of
2 our lord God one thousand six hundreth and nine. And in the seventh year
of the
3 reign of our sovereign lord James, by the grace of God, king of England,
France and
4 Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. And of Scotland the three and fortieth. I,
Anthony
5 Stevens, of West Peckham in the county of Kent and diocese of Rochester,
husbandman,

6 being sick and weak in body but yet of perfect mind and remembrance,
thanks therefore be²³⁰ given
7 to Almighty god, do ordain and make this my present testament and last
will in manner
8 and form following²³¹: And **First** and principally, I give, commend and
bequeath my
9 soul into the hands of Almighty god who gave it, trusting, by an assured
faith, which I have
10 in the merits, precious death and blood shedding²³² of his dear and only
son, Jesus Christ, my
11 only lord and saviour, that the same shalbe presented pure before the
throne of his
12 majesty. And my body to the earth to be buried in the churchyard of West
Peckham
13 aforesaid in sure and certain hope of a joyful resurrection to eternal life. All
my

230 "bee", "mee", etc. throughout including "beefore"

231 "folowing"

232 "bludshedding"

14 moveable goods and cattells, and all other my goods whatsoever, I wholly,
15 fully and with good effect,
16 intent and purpose, give and bequeath to **Agnes, my wellbeloved wife** and
17 **Henry Stevens, my son**, jointly, which Agnes, my wife, and Henry, my son, I ordain and make
18 my whole and
19 joint executors, to see my will proved, my debts paid and my body honestly
20 and decently buried.

18 This is the last will of me the said Anthony Stevens, made and declared the
19 day and
20 year first above written, concerning my small tenement and land in West
21 Peckham aforesaid.

20 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto Agnes, my wellbeloved wife, all that my
21 tenement wherein
22 I now dwell with the barn, close, gardens, orchard and land belonging and
23 adjoining,
24 containing in the whole four acres, whether more or less, and together,
25 situated lying and being in
26 the **Borough of Oxenhoth** in West Peckham aforesaid withall and singular
27 th'appurtenances, to have
28 and to hold the same, withall and singular th'appurtenances, unto the said
29 Agnes, my wife, for, by and

25 during the term of her natural life, keeping the reparations thereof, paying
the lord's rent going
26 out of the same and doing no wilful or voluntary waste of and in the same.
And after the
27 decease of the said Agnes, my wife, I will, give and bequeath all my said
messuage and all other
28 the premises, withall and singular th'appurtenances, unto the said Henry
Stevens, my son, his heirs and
29 assigns, to have and to hold the same, withall and singular
th'appurtenances to the said Henry, my son,
30 his heirs and assigns, forever. **Notwithstanding** my will and whole
meaning and intent
31 is that the said Henry Stevens, my son, his heirs or assigns, shall pay out of
the same
32 tenement and land the sum of three and twenty pounds of good and lawful
money to **my children** hereafter
33 named at such several times and by such several portions as hereafter, in
this my will, shalbe set down, that
34 is to say to **Agnes, mine eldest daughter**, 40s thereof to be paid to her
before the end of the second
35 year next after my said wife's decease, if she be then living. To **Samuel, my
second child**, the like sum of

36 40s thereof before the end of the third year after my said wife's decease, if
he be then living. To **Anne,**
37 **my third child,** 40s thereof to be paid to her before the end of the fourth
year next after my said
38 wife's decease, if she be then living. To **William, my fourth child,** 40s
thereof to be paid to him
39 before the end of the fifth year next after my said wife's decease, if he be
then living. To
40 **Leonard, my sixth child**²³³, the sum of five pounds thereof to be paid to him
before the end of the
41 sixth year next after my said wife's decease, if he be then living. To **Alice,**
my seventh
42 **child,** the like sum of five pounds thereof to be paid to her before the end of
the seventh year next
43 after my said wife's decease, if she be then living. And to **Edward, my**
eighth child,
44 the like sum of five pounds residue thereof to be paid to him before the end
of the eighth year next after my said wife's
45 decease, if he be then living, in full payment of the said £23. All which
payments I will shalbe made and

233 does this mean that Henry was the fifth child? The will was corrected from "fifth" to "sixth" child for Leonard.

46 paid at, or in, my said mansion house²³⁴. And I will, and my further
47 meaning is, that if any of my said
48 children before named shalbe unpaid after the times before severally set
49 down, being lawfully
50 demanded at or in my said messuage without fraud or guile, that all and
51 every the same children
52 shall enter in and upon all my said tenement, lands and premises, and the
53 same with th'appurtenances,
54 shall hold, occupy and enjoy until he, she or them shalbe fully paid
55 according to the true meaning of
this my will. And I will that every of my said children so paid, shall at the
time of their such payment, make
several releases of all my said tenement and premises to my said son
Henry, his heirs or assigns if the said
Henry, his heirs or assigns, shall require and tender such releases from
every or any of them. In
witness whereof I, the said Anthony Stevens, to this my last will have set
my hand and
seal yeven the day and year first above written.

234 the small tenement has progressed, via messuage, to a mansion house

Nicholas Hooper's
mark
with initials

the mark ²³⁵ Anthony
Stevens

Read, sealed, published and
declared as the last will of
the said Anthony Stevens
the day and year first above
written in the presence of

Thomas Sommar
Thomas Collyn and me
Nicholas Hooper, sen, writer

the mark **X** of Thomas
Collyn

The Wills of John and Thomas Stone

The will of John Stone of Tonbridge (**CKS: DRb/Pw 18; Drb/Pwr 19I.15**), dated 3rd October 1597, was written by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618.

A nuncupative will for Thomas Stone (alias Store) of Hadlow has survived (**CKS: Drb/Pw 1; Drb/Pwr 19I.193**); this also looks as if it was written by Nicholas Hooper since it includes not only the mark which seems to be characteristic of Hooper at the top of the page 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) and "yeven". Thus it seems most probable that Nicholas Hooper wrote this memorandum. Other similar nuncupative wills also most likely written by Nicholas Hooper have survived.

There is no apparent relationship between John Stone and Thomas Stone.

John Stone, who was buried on 7th October 1597. was a cutler. He left 20s to John Nashe, his "trusty servant" in "consideration that he hath been a trusty servant to me and hope he will be a good guide to my wife, to see my shop kept forth".

Nicolas Hooper's
mark

1 In²³⁶ the name of god Amen. the Third day of October in the
2 year of our lord god One thousand, five hundredth, fourscore and
3 Seventeen, And in the nine and thirtieth year of the Reign of our sovereign
4 Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God, Queen of England, France and
5 Ireland, defender of the faith. I, John Stone, of Tonbridge
6 in the county of Kent, **Cutler**, very sick in body but of perfect mind and
7 remembrance, Thanks therefore be given to Almighty god, Do ordain
8 and make this my present last will and testament in manner and form
following²³⁷,
9 that is to say: **First** and principally I give, commend and bequeath
10 my soul into the hands of Almighty God, my maker and to Jesus Christ,

236 decorated "I" and mark attached to "t" of "the"

237 "folowing" which was usual for Nicholas Hooper

11 his dear son, my alone Saviour and redeemer, by whose merits, precious
12 death and blood shedding²³⁸ I trust only to be²³⁹ saved, and my body to the
earth
13 with an assured hope of resurrection to eternal life. **Item:** I give and
14 bequeath to be distributed among the poor at my wife's²⁴⁰ discretion 2s 6d.
Item:
15 I give and bequeath to **my trusty servant, John Nashe**, 20s in considera
16 tion that he hath been a trusty servant to me and hope he will be a good
guide
17 to my wife, to see my Shop kept forth, to be paid within one whole year
next
18 after my decease.

19 The residue of all my goods and Cattells whatsoever (except my shop tools
20 and implements and provisions thereto belonging All which I give unto
John Stone,

238 "blud shedding"

239 "bee", "mee", "hee", etc. throughout

240 spelt "wive's"

21 **my second son)** I wholly, fully and with good effect, intent and purpose,
give and
22 bequeath unto **Sarah, my wellbeloved wife**, toward the payment of
24 my debts and legacies and the bringing up of my children which Sarah,
25 my wife, I make and ordain my whole and sole executor of this my will.
26 And I desire **my trusty friend and good brother, James Lawrence** and
27 **George Stone** to be supervisor and overseer of this my will willing
28 that they shalbe honestly paid all their charges necessarily expended about
29 this my will.

30 This is the last will of me the said John Stone made and declared the
31 day and year first above written concerning the order and disposition of my
32 messuage or Tenement wherein I now dwell with the backside adjoining,
situated
33 in the **Town of Tonbridge** aforesaid and which I hold under forfeiture
34 by Reentry for default of payment of £10 whereof £5 on new years day and
other
35 £5 in midsummer day next of **Mr. William Dixon**²⁴¹. First I will that
36 the said Sarah, my wife, shall have and hold the same during the term of
37 her natural life, keeping the reparation thereof. And after her decease,

241 this seems to imply that the testator (or his heirs) have to pay the outstanding £10 in order to keep the messuage
- see line 40 below

38 I will and give and bequeath all the said messuage or Tenement and
backside with
39 all and singular thappurtenances and all my right title and interest of, in
and to the same²⁴² unto **my eldest son, George Stone**, his
40 heirs, executors or assigns, paying the said ten pounds at the days
41 aforesaid. Furthermore, my will and mind is that the said George Stone,
my
42 son, his heirs, executors or assigns, shall pay out of the said messuage or
43 Tenement, unto my sons and daughters hereafter named, the sum of
Twelve
44 Pounds lawful money in manner and form following, that is to say, to **John**
45 **Stone, my second son**, forty shillings lawful money and to **Timothy and**
46 **Joseph, my sons**, to either of them 40s a piece, to be paid to them, and
every of
47 them at the several days of their several age of one and twenty years, at or
48 in my said mansion house. And to **Cissell Stone, my eldest daughter,**
Martha
49 **Stone, my second daughter and Marie Stone, my youngest daughter**, to
either of them
50 forty shillings lawful money, the full payment of the said £12 to be paid
unto

242 from "and all my right title" inserted

51 them, and every of them, at their several days of their full age of one and
twenty
52 years or at the days of their several marriages, which shall first happen.
53 And that it shall happen and any of my said sons, John, Timothy or Joseph,
or any
54 of my said daughters to decease before the time of his or their payment
before
55 limited, That then the portion of him, her or them so deceased shall remain
and
56 be equally divided and paid among the overliver or overlivers of them at
such time
57 as it should have been paid to him, her or them so deceased, if he, she or
they had lived.
58 And I further will that, if any of my said sons or daughters shalbe unpaid
after
59 the time and times afore specified, That then I will it shalbe lawful for him,
her
60 or them so unpaid, after my wife's decease, to enter in and upon all my said
messuage
61 or Tenement and premises, withall and singular thappurtenances, and
there to distreign and
62 the distress or distresses so taken to hold and keep until he, she and they
shalbe fully

63 paid. Or in default of such distress there to be found, to hold and keep the
said messuage
64 and premises with thappurtenances until he, she or they so unpaid shall
have received of the
65 issues and profits of the same, their several portion and portions to them
herein severally
66 willed, anything herein before mentioned to the contrary hereof in any wise
notwith
67 standing. In witness whereof I, the said John Stone, to this my present
68 last will and testament have set my hand and Seal yeven²⁴³ the day and
year
69 first above written. In the presence of me, **Nicolas Hooper, writer hereof**
and of

James Lawrence
Henry Amarb

Roger Johnson²⁴⁴ and
Richard Lewes with others

sign. John
Stone

sign **R** Richard
Lewes

²⁴⁴ this, and the two names above, look like signatures

Nicolas Hooper's
mark

1 **Memorandum**²⁴⁵ that upon the Second day
2 of September in the year of our lord God One
3 Thousand and Six hundredth and in the Two and fortieth
4 year of the reign of our Sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the
5 grace of God, Queen of England, France and Ireland,
6 defender of the faith. Thomas Stone, alias
7 Store, late of Hadlow in the county of Kent, **husbandman**,
8 deceased, did speak and utter these words hereafter following
9 or the like in effect, touching his last will, that is to say: he
10 willed and gave to **Martha, his daughter**, the sum of Six
11 Pounds, thirteen shillings and four pence of lawful
12 money, to be paid to her, at her full age of One and twenty
13 years, or at the day of her marriage, which should first happen.

245 "M" decorated

14 And if the said Martha should happen to decease before her
15 said age or marriage, then he willed the said £6 13s 4d
16 to **Martha, his wife, and her children.** And all the rest of his
17 moveable goods he willed and gave to the said Martha, his wife,
18 whom he willed should be his sole executrix. All which
19 words were spoken in the presence of **Henry Barton** and
20 **Elizabeth Harris, wife of Thomas Harris of Tonbridge,**
21 **Butcher.** In witness whereof, we the said Henry
22 Barton and Elizabeth Harris, have hereunto set our hands
23 yeven²⁴⁶ the day and year first above written.

Nicolas Hooper's
mark
with initials

Read, sealed the mark²⁴⁷ of **Elizabeth
Harris**

Henry Barton²⁴⁸

246 given

247 vertical cross

248 signature

Will of Frances Stubborne, widow of Tonbridge

written 20th March 1632/3; buried 24th March 1632/3
proved 8th July 1633 by son Richard' transcript from original

This will (PCC: **Russell 63; Prob 10/548**) was written by John Hooper, notary public and parish clerk of Tonbridge; he was one of the Hooper family members of which wrote a large number of wills from the 1560s until after 1650 when this study ends. This will is not decorated.

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The twentieth day of March Ao dm one
thousand six hundred
2 thirty and two. I, Francis Stubborne of Tonbridge in the county of Kent,
widow, do ordain
3 and make this my testament and last will in manner and form following:
First: recommending my soul
4 to the merits of God through Jesus Christ, my saviour, and my body to the
earth in decent manner
5 to be²⁴⁹ buried. **Item:** I will to the minister that shall preach at my funeral,
ten shillings. And to

249 "bee", "beeing", "shalbee" throughout but "me" throughout

6 the poorest widows in Tonbridge Town, with the **widow True of**
7 **Southborough**, six shillings and
8 eight pence to be distributed amongst them. **Item:** I will that **my son,**
9 **Richard Stubborne**, shall have
10 ten pounds out of my personable estate. And that **Ann Carter, the**
11 **daughter of William Carter**, shall
12 have forty shillings thereof to be paid to her said father to her use, that
13 **Thomas, his son**, shall have
14 eighteen pence and **his son William** twelve pence thereof. And that **Mary**
15 **Thetcher and Mary**
16 **Parker** shall have twelve pence a piece. And that **Francis, the wife of the**
17 **said William Carter**²⁵⁰,
18 shall have my best gown and my best truckle bedstead. And I will that all
19 the before named
20 legacies (given in money) shall be paid by my executors (or one of them)
21 out of and with such
22 ready money as I shall have at the time of my decease and with such
23 moneys as

15 shall be owing to me by specialty or otherwise. And the remainder of the
said
16 ready money and otherwise owing or due to be paid unto me, I will shalbe
and
17 remain to **my three grandchildren, viz. Hellen, Elizabeth and Penelope, the**
18 **daughters of my said son Richard Stubborne**, equally to be divided and
19 shifted amongst them, (my debts and the charges²⁵¹ of my funeral and the
charges about the
20 praising of my goods and the probaton of this my will being thereout
deducted
21 and allowed to mine executors). **Item:** I will unto the said Hellen, one of
my
22 grandchildren, one of those featherbeds whereon I lie to be taken at her
choice and
23 also my little coverlet, one²⁵² feather bolster, one feather pillow, one flock
bolster, one blanket
24 and one joined bedstead standing in the garret which William Carter useth.
Item: I give

251 "chardges" throughout

252 "three" inserted before "one" but the latter was not crossed out; bolster spelled "boldster"

25 unto the said Elizabeth, one other of my grandchildren, my best featherbed
and best
26 blanket and one pillow. **Item:** I will to the said Penelope, my other
grandchild, one featherbed,
27 one joined bedstead, two flock bolsters, two the best pillows, one the best
blanket and my coverlet
28 on the truckle bed. **Item:** I give unto Anne, the daughter of the said
William Carter, my
29 court cupboard²⁵³, my basin, ewer and cupboard cloth, one pair of hempen
sheets of the best, one
30 of the best napkins and one ordinary pillowcoat.

31 The residue and all other my goods not formerly disposed, I will shalbe and
remain to
32 my said three grandchildren, Hellen, Elizabeth and Penelope, equally to be
divided between
33 them. And I make my said son Richard Stubborne and Elizabeth, his
daughter, the
34 joint executors of this my will, to see the same proved, my debts and
legacies paid and my
35 body decently brought to the earth.

253 a moveable cupboard or sideboard on which plate was displayed

the mark of the said
Francis Stubborne

Sealed, subscribed, published
and declared in the presence of
Hester Woodgate
Thomas X Corke W William Carter
and John Hooper

March the 29 day 1632

1 John Stubbs of Chislehurst, perfect in heart
2 and mind, do give all my moveables within
3 doors and without wholly to **Alse Stubbs,**
4 **my wife,** to her discretion to dispose of
5 as she pleaseth. **Item:** I give unto **Margaret**
6 **Feedorne, my daughter, and her two children,**
7 five pounds to be paid at three months
8 day after my decease.

by me John Stubbs²⁵⁴

Robert Cothing

the mark of **Edward Whorton**

the mark of **Christopher Carter**

the mark **A** of **Alse Ruse**

254 signed in a different hand from that of the will

The Sulhams of Tonbridge

Two Sulham wills from the end of the sixteenth century have survived:

	dated:	proved:	
William Sulham	23 Mar 1578/9	8 Jul 1580	PCC: Arundell 28
Anne Sulham	31 Oct 1594	4 Dec 1594	PCC: Dixy 82; Prob 10/155

There is also the will of:

Sullames, Margery 1586 PCC: Windsor 66

which shows connections with Erith and Essex as well as Tonbridge; Sullames may be a variation on Sulham but this will has not been investigated.

William Sulham, citizen and merchant tailor of London

William was a citizen and merchant tailor of London (All Hallows, Honey Lane) but he owned a house in Tonbridge and left money to the poor there. His wife was Anne but he mentions her only once. Having specified that all his "[goods, household stuff, plate, leases, annuities, debts and ready money](#)" should be

divided into three equal portions "according to the laudable custom of the city of London", he leaves one third to Anne, "to her own proper use and that she shall have to dwell in my house at Tonbridge which is now in the occupation of Henry Parker, shoemaker, during the time of her natural life".

William's main heir was his son Edward, who was to be his executor, but he also had a daughter, Anne, married to John Traves; he left his daughter the third part of his plate and household stuff.

William left over £217 as money legacies to family or friends and also a considerable amount to charitable causes - see the tables below.

William's Money Bequests to Family and Friends

Anne Traves, daughter	200 marks: £133 6s 8d
Anne Traves, goddaughter	20 marks: £ 13 6s 8d
Margaret Traves, granddaughter	£ 10
Mother Margery	£ 26 13s 4d
Peter Wyne, sometime silversmith of Antwerp	£ 20

Richard Nash, leatherseller	£ 3
Griffin Kythell	£ 2
William Children, bower	£ 2
Patience, servant to Cheynes	3s 4d
Margery Waith, cousin	£ 3 6s 8d
Agnes Pownett, cousin	£ 3 6s 8d

William's Charitable Bequests

Company of Merchant Tailors:		
- yeomanry	20s	for a drinking at his burial
- poor alms men	20s	
poor of Christs Hospital	£3	

the parish of Tonbridge - poorest people - 30 of the poorest people	40s 1s each	every half year forever
four London prisons	2s 6d	every half year, to every prison, for twelve years ²⁵⁵
poor people of the parish of Allhallows in Honey Lane in Cheapside	a load ²⁵⁶ of great coals	every year for twelve years

It was the bequest to the thirty poorest people of Tonbridge, to be paid half yearly forever "[so long as the world standeth](#)" that made this will so long. It was to be paid out of the lands and tenements with four acres of meadow ground called Rowmners in Tonbridge which William's son Edward was to inherit.

²⁵⁵ "in money, sweet bread or good drink at the discretion of my son and his heirs"

²⁵⁶ a load was 30 sacks

But William had to specify what was to happen if Edward died without heirs or defaulted in the yearly payment. In this case, his daughter, Anne Traves, was to have Rowmers. But this problem was never ending; William specifies in turn, his cousins Margery Waith and Agnes Pownett and then, if Agnes dies without heirs or there is a default in the payment, Rowmers was to go to the "[Queens Majesty Elizabeth, . . and their heirs, kings and queens forever](#)".

Anne Sulham, widow of Tonbridge

"[Mrs. Anne Sulham, widow](#)," was buried on 17th November in 1594 in Tonbridge; she could have been William's wife but, since her son was John Leery, Anne must have been married twice with John the son of her first marriage. She could have been William's second wife since, by 1579, William already had a married daughter with children.

Anne Sulham's will was written by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618. The initial "I" is decorated; there is the typical Hooper decoration above the phrases "In the name of god Amen" and "The residue" with the Hooper mark with the initials NH at the end. Anne left 6s 8d to Nicholas Hooper to be paid immediately after her decease; was this the usual payment for writing the will or was it because he was her "[good friend and neighbour](#)" who she appointed one of her supervisors and overseers?

Anne was "grieved with ache and sickliness" when the will was written but the introduction and preamble, whilst in general following Nicholas Hooper's usual style, include some extra phrases which must have come from Anne - or her other friends and neighbours since they do not appear in any of the other Hooper wills. She "most humbly" committed her soul to God and, referred to Jesus Christ "who hath paid the ransom for all my sins".

The other "good neighbour and friend" appointed supervisor and overseer was Mr. Stockwood, minister of Tonbridge, whom she desired "to make a sermon or exhortation" at her burial. Anne gave him three yards of black cloth "worth ten shillings the yard to make him a gown" and also gave Mrs. Stockwood and their son Nathaniel, Anne's godson, 6s 8d each to buy them a ring and a silver spoon respectively.

Anne asked to be buried in the High Chancel of Tonbridge but there are other references in her will which show her position and wealth which is another reason for thinking that she was the wife of William, the rich merchant tailor.

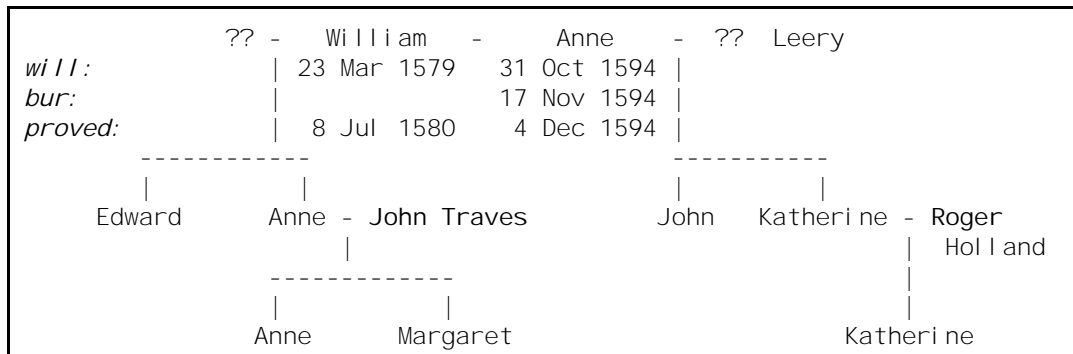
In addition to £40, she leaves her granddaughter, Katherine Holland, daughter of Roger Holland, a clothworker,

- two rings of gold one with a death's head and the other with a sapphire, both which I daily wear
- her wearing linen and a black gown of good and comely cloth

- a joined chest standing in the parlour with all the linen in it
- a needlework valence for a bed
- a "cushion of needlework wrought with silk, called a window cushion".

John Leery, her son and executor, "Master of Art" was to "have the rule, guiding and oversight of . . Katherine Holland . . in all honest and lawful causes whatsoever". Anne's daughter, Katherine's mother, was also called Katherine and since William only mentions a daughter called Anne, it is likely that Katherine was also Anne's daughter by her first marriage.

Assuming the above assumptions to be correct, we have:



1 In the name of god Amen. The three and twentieth day of
2 March, one thousand, five hundred, seventy eight and in the one and
3 twentieth year of the
4 reign of our sovereign Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God Queen of
England, France
and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc., I, William Sulham, **citizen and
merchant tailor**
5 of London, being in perfect mind and remembrance, laud and praise be
therefore to
6 almighty god, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in
manner and
7 form following, that is to say, **First** and principally I give and commend my
8 soul into the hands of almighty god, my maker and saviour and redeemer
in whom,
9 and by the merits of the second person, Jesus Christ, I trust and believe
assuredly
10 to be saved and to have full and clean remission and forgiveness of my
sins. And I

11 commit my body to the earth to be buried. And after my body buried, then
I will that all
12 such debts and duties as I owe to any person or persons by will or
otherways, shalbe truly
13 paid and that done, then I will that all and singular my goods, household
stuff, plate,
14 leases, annuities, debts and ready money, shalbe divided into three equal
parts or portions
15 according to the laudable custom of the city of London. Whereof one third
part thereof
16 I give and bequeath unto **Anne Sulham, my wellbeloved wife**, to her own
proper use and that
17 she shall have to dwell in my house at **Tonbridge** which is now in the
occupation of **Henry Parker**,
18 **shoemaker**, during the time of her natural life. More I will and bequeath
my daughter
19 **Anne Traves**, the third part of my plate and household stuff and two
hundred marks²⁵⁷
20 of current money of England to be paid in three years, yearly a portion after
my decease.

21 More I will and bequeath to **Anne Traves, my goddaughter**, twenty
marks²⁵⁸ of current money
22 of England. And to **Margaret Traves, her sister**, ten pounds of current
money of
23 England to be paid at the days of their marriages. I bequeath **Mother
Margery**
24 Sulham six and twenty pounds, thirteen shillings four pence²⁵⁹ of current
money
25 of England. I bequeath to **Peter Wyne**, sometime **silversmith of Antwerp**
26 in **Brabant**, the sum of twenty pounds of current money of England and if
he be departed
27 the world, the foresaid twenty pounds to be given to the next of his kindred
that may be found
28 alive. I do forgive **Edward Plane** that was my prentice all such debts as he
oweth me and that
29 his statute that I have of his and ?? writ be cancelled and given to them.
I will and
30 bequeath **Richard Nash, leatherseller**, three pounds current money of
England. I

258 £13 6s 8d

259 this was 40 marks; why the change from marks to pounds?

31 will and bequeath to **Grifin Kythell** forty shillings of current money of
England. I will
32 and bequeath to **William Children, bower**, forty shillings of current money
of England. I
33 will and bequeath to the yeomanry of my company for a drinking at my
burial, twenty
34 shillings and twenty shillings to be given to the poor alms men of my
company at their
35 meeting at their next quarter day at the discretion of the warden of the
yeomanry. I will and
36 bequeath to the poor of **Christs Hospital** three pounds of current money of
England. I
37 will and bequeath to the poorest people of the parish of Tonbridge forty
shillings. I will and
38 bequeath to **William Johnson th'elder** one of my gowns at the discretion of
my son **Edward**
39 **Sulham**. I will and bequeath to **Thomas Cheyne th'elder** my ring with a
garnet stone and to
40 his wife a ring with a white stone. And to **Thomas, Walter, William, John,**
Mary and Jone
41 **Cheyne** six silver spoons, each of them one. To **Patience, their servant**,
three shillings four

42 pence. I will and bequeath to the poor people prisoners in both the
Compters, **Newgate, Marshalsea, Kingsbench and the White Lion**, two shillings six pence every half
43 year to every prison
44 which is thirty shillings in the whole year²⁶⁰ and so to be given the term of
twelve years in money, sweet
45 bread or good drink at the discretion of my son and his heirs. I will and
bequeath twelve loads of
46 great coals, thirty sacks to the load, that is to say every year one load to be
given to the poor people of
47 the parish of **Allhallows in Honey Lane in Cheapside** or any other poor that
shall come there to have
48 them during the term of twelve years. I will and bequeath to **Margery
Waith, my cousin**,
49 three pounds six shillings eightpence. I will and bequeath to **Agnes
Pownett, my cousin**, three
50 pounds six shillings eight pence. I will and bequeath to thirty of the
poorest people of the parish
51 of Tonbridge in Kent the sum of three pounds of current money of England
every year

²⁶⁰ 2s 6d per half year is 5s per year per prison. William names only four prisons (having said "both the Compters" which would be twenty shillings per year)

52 to be given them, that is to say, every half year thirty shillings to be given
them severally
53 twelve pence a piece, that is to say thirty of them thirty shillings at the
hands of the said
54 churchwardens and their successors and the church wardens to have
twelve pence
55 between them every half year for their pains, and this thirty shillings to be
given upon
56 Good Friday or thereabouts and upon the feast of all Saints or thereabouts
the other
57 thirty shillings and this to continue forever so long as the world standeth. I
will and bequeath
58 to **my son Edward Sulham** and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten,
all my lands
59 and tenements with the appurtenances called **Rowmners** now in the
occupation of
60 **Perit**, my tenement in the parish of Tonbridge with four acres of meadow
ground in
61 **Romners mead** in the occupation of the foresaid ²⁶¹ Perit upon condition
that the said

²⁶¹ a blank left here, and at the end of line 59, as if for a first name to be entered; was the clerk making the probate copy, showing that a space had been left on the original will?

62 Edward Sulham and heirs of his body, shall yearly, every year, pay to the
churchwardens
63 of Tonbridge three pounds two shillings²⁶² at the times to such use and
uses as is afore mentioned.
65 Provided always, and my will is, that if the said Edward Sulham, or his
heirs shall die without
66 any issue or heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten, or if he or they or any of
them to make
67 default in payment of the said three pounds two shillings by the space of
one whole year, then
68 I will and bequeath the said lands and tenements with the appurtenances
and meadow ground to
69 **Anne Traves, my daughter**, and to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten
upon condition that she,
70 the same Anne, and the heirs of her body lawfully begotten, do yearly,
every year, pay the forsaid
71 three pounds two shillings to the churchwardens for the time being to the
use aforesaid. Provided
72 always and my will is that if the said Anne, or any of her heirs of her body
lawfully begotten,

262 the two shillings for the churchwardens

73 or if any of them make default in payment of the said three pounds two
shillings by the
74 space of one year, then I will and bequeath all the foresaid lands and
tenement with the
75 appurtenances and meadow ground to Margery Waith and the heirs of her
body lawfully
76 begotten upon condition that the same Margery and the heirs of her body
lawfully begotten
77 do yearly, every year, pay the foresaid three pounds two shillings to the
forsaid church
78 wardens for the time being to the use and uses aforesaid. Provided always
and my will is that if the foresaid
79 Margery or any of her heirs of her body lawfully begotten shall die without
any such heir of her or their bodies
80 lawfully begotten, or if any of them make default in payment of the said
three pounds two shillings
81 by the space of one whole year, Then I will and bequeath all the said lands
and tenements with the
82 appurtenances and meadow ground to Agnes Pownett and the heirs of her
body lawfully begotten upon
83 condition that the same Agnes Pownett and the heirs of her body lawfully
begotten do yearly, every

84 year pay the foresaid three pounds two shillings to the churchwardens for
the time being to the use
85 and uses aforesaid. Provided always, and my will is, that if the said Agnes
Pownett or any of her heirs
86 of her body shall die without any such heir of her or their bodies lawfully
begotten, or if she or any
87 of them make default in payment of the said three pounds two shillings by
the space of one whole
88 year, Then I will and bequeath all the said lands and tenements with the
appurtenances and meadow
89 ground to the Queens Majesty Elizabeth, by the grace of god queen of
England, France and
90 Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. and their heirs, kings and queens forever.
And to the performance
91 of this my last will and testament, I make Edward Sulham my executor.
And **John Traves, my**
92 **son-in-law**, overseer. In witness whereof to this my last will and
testament, I, the said William
93 Sulham have put my hand and set my seal the day and year above written.
Witnesses
94 hereunto, by me William Sulham, and me **Robert Ordymere, Griffin Bethir.**

Nicholas Hooper's
mark

1 In the name of god Amen. The one and thirtieth²⁶³ day of October in the
year of our Lord god, one thousand, five hundredth,
2 four score and fourteen and in the six and thirtieth year of the reign of our
Sovereign Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God, Queen of England, France
3 and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. I, Anne Sulham of Tonbridge in the
county of Kent, **widow**, being²⁶⁴ at the time of making hereof very much
4 grieved with ache and sickliness, notwithstanding of perfect mind and
remembrance, thanks therefore be given to almighty God. And being put
in mind of my last end,

263 changed from "four and twentieth day of May" 1613 in the "six and thirtieth year of the reign"

264 "beeing", "bee", "mee", etc. throughout which is usual with Nicholas Hooper

5 not knowing how soon it may please god to call me, and willing that those
transitory things which God hath lent me, may be quietly enjoyed after my
decease, by
6 those whom I have meant the same unto: Therefore I do ordain and make
this my present testament and last will in manner and form following²⁶⁵:
And
7 **First:** I most humbly commit my soul into the hands of Almighty God
assuring myself (through the most precious death and blood shedding²⁶⁶ of
his dear and only son
8 Jesus Christ who hath paid the ransom for all my sins) that the said shalbe
presented without spot before the throne of his majesty. And as for my
body, I will that the
9 same shalbe honestly and decently brought to the earth and buried in the
High Chancel of Tonbridge aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath to
Elizabeth Reeve, sometimes
10 my servant, twenty shillings. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Katherine
Holland, daughter of Katherine Holland my daughter**, deceased and late
wife to **Roger**

265 "folowing" which is typical of Nicholas Hooper

266 "bludshedding"

11 **Holland**, clothworker yet living, the sum of forty pounds lawful money
which sum of forty pounds I will shalbe paid to her, the said Katherine, the
daughter
12 (without any profit thereof arising or coming) at her full age of one and
twenty years by mine executor hereafter named, his heirs, executors or
assigns, without
13 fraud, coven or further delay. **Also** I give to her, the said Katherine Holland,
daughter of the said Katherine, my daughter deceased, two rings of gold
whereof one
14 of them with a death's head and the other with a sapphire, both which I
daily wear. Also my wearing linen whatsoever to me appertaining and a
black gown of good and
15 comely cloth. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my sister, Johane Warren of the
city of Bristow²⁶⁷**, forty shillings lawful money to be paid to her within one
quarter
16 of a year next after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my good
neighbour and friend Mr. Stockwood**, minister of Tonbridge, three yards of
cloth
17 colour black worth ten shillings the yard to make him a gown. And I desire
the said Mr. Stockwood to make a sermon or exhortation at my burial.
Item:

18 I give and bequeath to **Nicholas Hooper, curate of Tonbridge**, 6s 8d to be
paid immediately after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto my
good
19 neighbour **Mrs. Stockwood** 6s 8d to buy her a ring for remembrance of my
good will. And to **Nathaniel Stockwood, my godson, her son**, 6s 8d to buy
20 him a silver spoon. **And** I give to other **my good neighbours Goodwife**
Harris, wife of William Harris, and **goodwife Parke**, to either of them, 6s 8d
to buy
21 either of them a ring in remembrance of my good will. **And farther**, my will
and mind is that my son and executor hereafter named shall have the rule,
22 guiding and oversight of the above named Katherine Holland (the
daughter) in all honest and lawful causes and whatsoever. And that she
shalbe ruled, ordered
23 and guided by him in all the same and such like causes. **Item:** I give and
bequeath to the said Katherine Holland (the daughter) one chest, joined,
standing in
24 the parlour wherein I lie and all the linen as is in the same at the making
hereof and which shalbe found
25 in the same at the time of my decease and also a valence of a bed of
needlework and a long
26 cushion of needlework wrought with silk, called a window cushion.

Nicholas Hooper's
mark

27 **The**²⁶⁸ **Residue** of all my goods and cattalls, as well moveable as
28 unmoveable, I wholly, fully and with good effect, intent and purpose
29 give and bequeath to **my wellbeloved son, Mr. John Leery**, ?? of Art²⁶⁹,
30 which John I make my whole and sole executor of
31 this my will, to see the same proved, my legacies herein bequeathed fully
32 and ?? according to the true meaning of this
33 my will and my body, after convenient manner (as aforesaid), brought to
the earth. And I desire my above named friends, Mr.
Stockwood and Nicholas Hooper, to be supervisors and overseers of this my
will, whose charge about any thing herein mentioned
I will shalbe borne by my said executor. **In witness** whereof the said Anne
Sulham, to this my present testament and
last will have set my hand and seal yeven the day and year first above
written.

268 Nicholas Hooper mark attached to "Th"; from here onwards the lines are inset compared with the earlier part of the will

269 possibly Master of Art

Nicholas Hooper's
mark
with initials

Read, Sealed, pronounced and acknowledged } the mark of
as the last will of the abovesaid Anne Sulham }
in the presence of }

John Stockwood and of
me, **Nicholas Hooper**, writer hereof

This will was written by Christopher Butler, clerk

"**First** and chiefly, before all other things, I commend my soul into the merciful hands of almighty god, my redeemer and saviour, trusting and believing verily that, through the merits of the bitter passion of his son Jesus Christ, I have and shall have remission and forgiveness of all my sins and my body to be buried at the discretion of my overseers"

"In the presence of me, **Christopher Butler, Clarke**, the writer hereof, **Thomas Plane** and others"

Henry Summerton, **H** mark

Thomas Plane ²⁷⁰ mark

²⁷⁰ a vertical cross

The Swans of Shipbourne

The three wills which have survived for the Swans of Shipbourne were probably all written by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618.

	written	proved	CKS:	
Robert Swan	10 Dec 1590	1592	Drb/Pw 16; Drb/Pwr 18.180	page s.263
Johane Swan	10 Dec 1593 ²⁷¹		Drb/Pw 17; Drb/Pwr 18.328	page s.266
Timothy Swan	9 Apr 1603		Drb/Pw 19; Drb/Pwr 19I.416	page s.271

Johane was Robert's wife and Timothy was their son. Timothy's wife, whom he married in Seal on 1st June 1579, was Mildred Goodhews - see [Goodhews](#) for her family.

Robert's will was decorated with the mark of Nicholas Hooper at the top and a small mark including his initials at the bottom but the left hand side of the will has rotted away so that whether or not the "I" was decorated is not known.

²⁷¹ nuncupative will spoken 18th June 1593

Six months elapsed between Johane speaking the words and the writing of the memorandum. Described as "[the late wife of Robert Swan](#)" she was buried on 18th June 1593. Although Nicholas Hooper's name does not appear on the memorandum, it has his "mark" at the top and is thus likely to have been written by him. It is very long and detailed for a nuncupative will.

Nicholas Hooper states that he is the writer of Timothy Swan's will; the original is in a bad condition but the mark at top and decorated "T" can be seen.

		S19		Robert - Johane		S20			
<i>will:</i>		10 Dec1590				18 Jun 1593			
<i>bur:</i>		20 Jun 1592				18 Jun 1593			

S154		S81		S155		S156		S157	
Richard		Johane - ²⁷²		Edward		Alice - ??		Fathers	
								Timothy - Mildred	
<i>bap:</i>									
<i>will:</i>								9 Apr 1603	
<i>bur:</i>								14 Apr 1603	

S161		S162		S163		S164		S165	
Francis		Robert		John		Mildred		Elizabeth	
								Anna	
<i>bap.</i>		31 Jul 1580		5 Jun 1582		9 Aug 1584		23 Jan 1592	
								12 Apr 1594	

For a more detailed tree and information on the other Swans of Shipbourne see [More Families & Transcripts](#).

\$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

272 Joane Swan married John Curde on 25th July 1588; if this was Robert and Joahne's daughter she was probably born about 1544 and could have been their eldest child; she must have been widowed and remarried before her mother died in 1593 since she is then referred to as "Johane Starie"

Johane Swan's Bequests

The apparent bequests made by Johane are summarised in the table below. Even with the much better memories of those not used to "writing everything down" it does not seem possible that the witnesses could remember these details for the six months which elapsed between Joan's death and the writing of the memorandum. Someone at her deathbed must have made comprehensive notes.

Another possibility is that Johane's children decided on a suitable division of their mother's possessions but wanted this recording while they were in agreement.

	SB*	AF	EA	JS	RS	ES	TS	MB	Tot
kettle	1					2		1	4
chafing dish, latten						1			1
cauldron, of brass, little						1			1
chafer						3			3
frying pan						1			1
firkin						4			4
churn						1			1
salt						3		1	4
pewter spoons						12			12
pewter, pieces of						20			20
candlesticks, latten						2			2

* see end of table for the names of the recipients

musket & soldiers coat							1		1
flockbed	1								1
bolster, little, feather	1							1	2
pillow	1								1
pillowcoat		1	1					1	3
sheets (p = pair)	1p	1p		1p				1p	4p
of nails?					1p				1p
linen blanket	1				1				2
coverlet	1					1		1	3
table napkins	2	2	2	2					8
tablecloth			2					1	3
cushions (quissions)	3	2	1	1					7
flock								1	1
kerchiefs	4	4	4	4				2	18
neckerchief	1	1	1	1					4
crossecloth	2	2	2	6					12
gown	1	1			1				3
apron	1			2					3
petticoat	1							1	2
cloak	1								1
kirtle	1								1

tussham (pounds)	5	4	4	4				17
wool (pounds)							$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
linen yarn (pounds)	32							32
linen cloth (ells)							4	4
towcards							1p	1p
coarse tow (pounds)							3	3
chest				1	1			2
chair		1						1

SB - Susan Brewer
 JS - Johane Starie
 TS - Timothy Swan

AF - Alice Father EA - Elizabeth Arnold
 RS - Richard Swan ES - Edward Swan
 MB - Marjorie Burgeis (servant)

Summary of Timothy Swan's Bequests

To:	age ²⁷³	Amount	When
Frauncis, eldest daughter	23	£10	within 2 years after decease of Timothy
Mildred, wife		residue	
After death of Mildred, lands, etc. to eldest son Robert (23 when father died) who is to pay:			
To:			within years after Mildred's death
John, youngest son	19	£40 £40	2 years 4 years
Mildred, daughter	14	£10	5 years
Elizabeth, daughter	11	£10	6 years
Anna, daughter	7	£10	7 years

273 when father died

Nicholas Hooper's
mark

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 The tenth day of December in the
3 year of our lord god one thousand, five
4 hundredth, four score and ten. And in the
5 three and thirtieth year of the reign of
6 our sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the
7 grace of god, Queen of England, France
8 and Ireland, defender of the faith, I,
9 Richard Swan of Shipbourne in the
10 county of Kent, **yeoman**, being at the time
11 of making hereof in good and perfect
12 health as well of body as of mind, thanks
13 therefore be given to almighty god, not
14 withstanding subject to death and not knowing
15 the time when I shall change my life

16 and willing that that little that god hath
17 lent me should be enjoyed quietly after my
18 decease, do ordain and make this my
19 present testament and last will in manner
20 and form following: And **First** and principally
21 I give, commend and bequeath
22 my soul into the hands of almighty god,
23 my only saviour and redeemer, Jesus
24 Christ, by whose merits, precious death
25 and blood shedding, I assure my self to be
26 saved and my body to the earth to be buried
27 in the churchyard of Shipbourne aforesaid.
28 **Item:** I give and bequeath to the box or chest
29 of the poor within the parish of Shipbourne
30 aforesaid 20d. The residue of all my
31 goods and cattells, as well moveable as un
32 moveable, my debts being paid and funeral
33 discharged, I wholly, fully and with good
34 effect, intent and purpose, give and bequeath
35 to **Joane, now my wellbeloved wife**, which
36 Joane, my wife, I ordain and make my
37 whole and sole executor, to see my debts
38 paid, funeral discharged and my body

39 honestly brought to the earth. In witness
40 whereof, I, the said Robert Swan, to this
41 my present last will have set my hand
42 and seal yeven²⁷⁴ the day and year first
43 above written. Read, sealed, published and
44 delivered in the presence of **Thomas Merers?**
45 **Edmund Johnson, Nicholas Hooper** and others

N H
small mark
with initials?

sign. Robert Swan

274 given

Nicholas Hooper's
mark

- 1 **Memorandum**²⁷⁵ That upon (or presently about that time) the Monday
being²⁷⁶ the eighteenth
2 of June in the year of our lord one thousand, five hundredth, fourscore and
thirteen. And in the
3 five and thirtieth year of our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth's Reign,
Johane Swan of
4 Shipbourne in the county of Kent, **widow**, being then very sick but yet of
perfect remembrance, did
5 speak and utter these words hereafter following²⁷⁷, or the like in effect,
touching her last will in the

²⁷⁵ "M" decorated in Nicholas Hooper style

²⁷⁶ "beeing", "shee", etc.

²⁷⁷ only one "I" as is usual in Nicholas Hooper documents

6 presence of **Susan, the wife of William Brewer, Marjorie Burgeis**²⁷⁸
7 and **Agnes, the wife of Tobias Seilden**, viz. **First:** she willed and gave unto
8 **Susan Brewer, her**
9 **daughter**, A great Brass kettle, a flockbed, a little feather bolster, one
10 pillow of feather, one pillow
11 of flock, a blanket of linen, a red coverlet, three cushions²⁷⁹, one pair of
12 sheets, four
13 kerchiefs, two crossecloths, one neckerchief, one apron, one gown, one
14 russet petticoat,
15 one cloak, one kirtle, five pounds of Tussham²⁸⁰, two and thirty pounds of
16 linen yarn and two
17 table napkins. **Item:** she gave and willed unto **Alice Father, her daughter**,
18 her best gown, best
19 petticoat, one pair of sheets, 2 table napkins, 4 kerchiefs, two
20 crosseclothes, one pillowcoat, one

278 Margaret, daughter of John Burgeis was baptised on 19th April 1562; if this was Johane's servant, she was 31 when Johane died

279 "quissions"

280 tussham, tussam or tuisan, a total of 17 pounds was left to her daughters; from the context it would appear to be a kind of yarn or raw material for clothing, probably hemp or flax

14 neckerchief, two cushions, a chair and four pounds of Tussham. **Item:** she
willed and
15 gave unto **Elizabeth Arnold, her daughter**, one sheet, two tablecloths, 4
kerchiefs, two
16 crosseclothes, one neckerchief, one pillowcoat, one cushion, 2 table
napkins and four pounds
17 of Tissam. **Item:** she willed and gave unto **Johane Starie, her daughter**, one
pair of
18 sheets, 4 kerchiefs, two crosseclothes, one neckerchief, two white aprons, 4
crosseclothes,
19 one cushion, 2 table napkins, one little chest and 4 pounds of Tuisan.
Item: she
20 willed and gave unto **Richard Swan, her son**, her russet gown, one chest, a
pair of
21 sheets of nails and one linen blanket. **Item:** she gave unto **Marjorie
Burgeis²⁸¹, her**
22 **servant**, one pair of sheets, one petticoat, one covering for a bed, a little
tablecloth, two
23 kerchiefs, one little kettle, one salt, 20s in money, a pillow, a pillowcoat, a
cushion of

281 Margaret Burgeis, daughter of John Burgeis, was baptised 19th April 1562; if she was Marjorie Burgeis, Johane Swan's servant, she would have been 31 when her mistress died.

24 flock, 4 ells²⁸² of linen cloth, a pair of towcards, three pounds of coarse
tow²⁸³ and half
25 a pound of wool. **Item:** she willed and gave unto **Edward Swan, her son,**
forty
26 shillings in money, if it were to be spared, one red coverlet²⁸⁴, two latten
candlesticks, 3 salts,
27 a latten chafing dish, a little cauldron of brass, 2 kettles, 3 chaferes, one
frying pan, a Tonne?
28 4 firkins, one churn, a dozen pewter spoons and twenty pieces of pewter.
29 She willed and gave unto **Timothy Swan, her son,** her furniture for war, viz:
a musket furnished with a soldiers coat. And
30 all the rest of her moveable goods whatsoever, willing and charging him, of
her blessing, to perform
31 the same her will according to the true meaning of the same. In testimony
of the
32 truth hereof the said witnesses have hereunto set their hand and mark the
tenth day

282 an ell was 45 inches

283 flax fibres prepared for spinning

284 spelt "coverled"

- 33 of December in the six and thirty year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady
Queen
34 Elizabeth, in the year of our lord 1593.

There are three names at the bottom "Susan Swan" followed by something not readable; "Agnes, the wife of Tobias Seilden" and "Margerie Burgeis" but they are very difficult to read and can be interpreted only because the names appear in the text itself.

Nicholas Hooper's
mark

1 In the name of god Amen. the ninth day
2 of April in the year of our lord god one thousand
3 six hundred and three and in the first year of the
4 reign of our sovereign lord James the first,
5 by the grace of God, king of England, Scotland,
6 France and Ireland, defender of the faith,
7 I, Timothy Swan²⁸⁵, of Shipbourne in the
8 county of Kent, **yeoman**, being sick and ?? in
9 body yet strong in mind and memory, thanks
10 therefore be given to Almighty god, do ordain
11 and make this my present testament and last will
12 in manner and form following, that is to say:
13 **First** and principally I give, commend and ??

285 the third son of Robert and Joan, probably born in the early 1550s and therefore about fifty when he died

14 my soul into the hands of Almighty god that
15 gave it, trusting by an assured faith that
16 I have in the merits of my lord and only saviour,
17 Jesus Christ, that the same shalbe presented,
18 pure and without spot, before the throne of his
19 Majesty and my body to the earth to be buried in
20 the churchyard of Shipbourne in sure and certain?
21 hope of a joyful resurrection. **Item:** I
22 will to be distributed among the poor
23 people of Shipbourne aforesaid, at the
24 discretion of mine executrix hereafter
25 named, three shillings and four pence.
26 **Item:** I will that the bedstead
27 standing in the parlour of my mansion house with the
28 table and forms there and the table and forms in
29 the hall of my said house and all the paintings,
30 benches, shelves, glass and wainscot in and about my
31 said house being shall stand and remain as
32 they are as standers there without removing or
33 alteration.

34 The residue of all my goods and cattells, debts,
35 credits and chattels and all other my moveable goods
whatsoever, I fully, wholly and with good effect,

36 intent and purpose, give and bequeath unto **Mildred,**
37 **my wellbeloved wife,** towards and for the payment of
38 my debts, the bringing up of my children and
39 the payment of such legacies as are hereafter in this
40 my will set down by her to be paid, that is
41 to say, I will and bequeath unto **Frauncis Swan, mine**
42 **eldest daughter**²⁸⁶, ten pounds of lawful money to
43 be paid unto her, by my said wife, within two
44 years next after my decease if which Mildred, my said
45 wife, shalbe then living, which Mildred, my
46 wife, I make and ordain my whole and sole
47 executrix of this my will.

This is the last

48 will of me, the said Timothy Swan, made
49 and declared the day and year first above written,
50 concerning the order and disposition of all my lands
51 and tenements whatsoever. **Item:** I will and bequeath
52 unto the said Mildred, my wellbeloved wife, all
53 that my messuage or tenement wherein I now dwell
54 together with all the houses and edifices, closes
55 yards, gardens, orchards, land, meadows and

286 baptised 31 July 1580 and therefore 22 when her father wrote his will

56 pastures thereto belonging, situated, lying and
57 being in Shipbourne aforesaid, being of the
58 nature of freehold, containing, in the whole
59 by estimation, forty acres whether more or less
60 thereof be had, to have and to hold the same with
61 all and singular thappurtenances, to her the said
62 Mildred, and her assigns, during her natural
63 life, making or doing no manner of waste in or
64 upon the same except it be necessary fire
65 wood for her own use which I will she shall
66 take and have of such trees as are most declining
67 from growth, and in necessary and needful timber for
68 reparations of my said tenement and houses and
69 hedge boot and Tenett? for the necessary
70 fencing thereof and, after the decease of
71 the said Mildred, my wife, I will, give and
72 bequeath all my said messuage or mansion
73 house, houses and buildings, closes, gardens and orchards,
74 land, meadows and pastures and all other my land, tenements
75 and hereditaments of the nature of freehold aforesaid,
76 withall and singular thappurtenances to **Robert**

77 **Swan, my eldest son**²⁸⁷, to have and to hold the
78 same, withall and singular thappurtenances, to the
79 said Robert, my eldest son, his heirs and
80 assigns forever. Notwithstanding my will and meaning
81 is that the said Robert, my son, his heirs and
82 assigns, shall pay out of my said land, tenements and
83 premises the sum of one hundred and ten pounds
84 of lawful money in this manner following, that
85 is to say, to **John Swan, my youngest son**²⁸⁸, the
86 sum of fourscore pounds parcel thereof
87 be paid to him in this manner following, that
88 is to say, forty pound parcel thereof upon the
89 day two years in which it shall happen my said
90 wife to be buried at or in my said mansion
91 house. And upon that day, two years then next
92 after other forty pounds residue thereof
93 full payment of the said four score pounds
94 ?? in the said place. And I will that, for

287 baptised June 1581 and there nearly 22 when his father wrote his will; since Mildred was probably only about fifty he could have had some time to wait for his inheritance

288 baptised August 1584 and therefore underage when his father wrote his will

95 lack of payment of the said several sums of
96 forty pounds or any of them, or any part
97 of them, contrary to the tenor of this my will,
98 it shall and may be lawful unto him, my said son
99 John, to enter in and upon all these
100 three pieces or parcel of land and meadows called
101 **Johane croft, Mallet land and Trowchfield**
102 lying next to **Neitherstreet**, by estimation eight
103 acres, more or less, together lying and being in
104 Shipbourne aforesaid, the same and every
105 same to hold to him and to his heirs.
106 And I will that, at the last of the said
107 payments, my said son John shall seal a
108 sufficient release to the said Robert, my
109 son, his heirs or assigns, of the said
110 three parcels of land and meadow before
111 named and the same shall be delivered
112 according to law. Furthermore, I will
113 that the said Robert, my son, his heirs or assigns,
114 shall pay out of my said other lands,
115 unto **my three daughters, Mildred, Elizabeth**

116 **and Anna**²⁸⁹, to every of them the sum of ten
117 pounds a piece of lawful money in the
118 manner following:
119 that is to say, the said Mildred, my daughter,
120 ten pounds within the fifth year next after my said
121 wife's decease at or in my said mansion house. To
122 the said Elizabeth, my daughter, ten pounds within
123 the sixth year next after my said wife's decease,
124 at or in the said place. And to the said Anna,
125 my daughter, ten pounds within the seventh year
126 next after my said wife's decease. And whereas
127 I have before in this my will given to my daughter
128 Frauncis, the sum of ten pounds to be paid by
129 said wife within two years next after
130 my decease, if my said wife be then living,
131 my wife and meaning is that, if my said
132 wife happen to be deceased before the
133 said time of payment of my daughter Frauncis
134 her portion, That my said son Robert, his
135 heirs or assigns, shall likewise pay out of

²⁸⁹ baptised, respectively, on 17th November 1588, 23rd January 1592 and 12th April 1594 so that they were fourteen, eleven and seven when their father died

136 my lands and tenements to him willed, the
137 said sum of ten pounds to my said daughter
138 Frauncis at and within the said time that my
139 said wife should have paid the sum if
140 she had lived²⁹⁰. And I will that, for lack
141 of payment of the said sum or sums of ten
142 pounds a piece to my said four daughters,
143 or any of them, willed contrary to the tenor of
144 this my will, that my said daughters, or
145 any of them, so unpaid shall enter and
146 distrain in and upon all, every or any of my said
147 lands and tenements to my said son Richard willed
148 and the distress or distresses there, from time
148 to time, had and taken to bear, load, receive and
149 carry away and the same to withhold and keep
150 until her and every of them shall be fully paid
151 according to the tenor of this my will.

152 In witness whereof to this my present last
153 will and testament, I, the said Timothy Swan

290 Fraunces was the only one of Timothy's children who was to receive her legacy before the death of their mother and there is no mention of Mildred forfeiting the land, etc. if she remarried

154 have set my hand and seal hereunder²⁹¹, the
155 day and year first afore and before written.
156 Read, Sealed and published and declared as the
157 last will of the said Timothy Swan
158 the day and year first above written in
159 the presence of **John Pickerell**,
160 **Timothy Pickerell, Richard Goodwyn and Nicholas Hooper** writer hereof.

mark of Richard Goodwyn

sig. ²⁹² Timothy
Swan

291 “yeven” (given) instead of “hereunder” in the original

292 mark

The Swaynslands of Seal, Gravesend, etc.

Sixteen Swaynsland wills proved at Rochester have survived and four from the PCC. There are a number of variations in the surname: Swayland, Swaynlond, Swayeslond, Swayneslande, Swailand. Throughout this document, "Swaynsland" has been used but some in some families into the Swaynslands married, for example the Bakers and the Christophers, "Swaynland" has been used. Thus care must be taken when using the index.

The wills with an obvious connection with Seal have been transcribed.

For Rochester wills, held at CKS, the Drb/Pwr reference is given followed by the Drb/Pw reference; PCC references are marked with an *

William	Cowden	1512	*Fetiplace 10	
Thomas	Leigh	1526d/37p	8.100	2
Thomas	Gravesend; Seal,	1540d	9.313	
	Northfleet			page s.287
John	Cowden	1536pd	9.225	
John	Cowden	1544d/45p	10.90	
William	Tonbridge	1550d	11.114	

John	Seal; Kemsing; Northfleet	1553d/54p	11.301	4	page s.296
John	Seal	1555d/56p	12.73	5	page s.305
John	Gravesend	1556pd	12.50	5	
Edward	Seal	1560pd	12.405	7	weaver page s.310
Alice	Tonbridge	1567/8p	13.349	9	widow
John	Seal	1568p/69p	13.360	9	broad weaver page s.313
Nicholas	Gravesend	1603/4p	19I.349	19	shoemaker
John	Cowden	1605d	19I.443	20	yeoman; John (senior)
Nicholas	Speldhurst	1612p	20.453	22	yeoman
Henry	Seal	1619d/20p	*Soame	7	yeoman page s.319
Robert	Speldhurst	1622p		25	yeoman
Mercy	Speldhurst	1626p	21.230	26	widow
Robert	Cowden	1635/6	*Pile 4		w.p.b. brother Edward
John	Cowden	1640	*Coventry	151	

The will of Robert Swaynsland, a yeoman from Speldhurst, was written on 14th May 1622 by John Hooper. The "I" at the beginning is slightly decorated. It has not been transcribed.

The six wills connected with Seal have been transcribed.

There were Swaynslands in Seal prior to 1540 when Thomas wrote his will:

- **Henry Swaynsland** was witness to the will of John Smith als. Clarke in 1495;
- **George Swaynsland** was an executor of the will of **Thomas Olyver** in 1505 and witness to the will of John Olyver of Kettles in 1512.

Thomas Swaynsland of Gravesend and Seal

The 1540 will of Thomas Swaynsland of Gravesend shows a man owning land and having connections over a large area of the county: Gravesend, Northfleet, Seal and Kemsing and paying John Sharpe in Cranbrook for land owned in Seal.

His main heirs were his son John and grandson Thomas, son of his son Thomas who had died leaving a wife Margaret. Margaret, Thomas's mother, was to have two parts of the east field and other land in Northfleet left to Thomas for 21 years "[towards the finding of the child](#)". It would seem from this that Margaret's son, Thomas, was about three in 1540.

Thomas Moyse and William Swaynsland, the testator's brother, were to have the fourth part, also for 21 years, "[to the behoof of the child Thomas Swaynsland](#)". What was to happen to the third part?

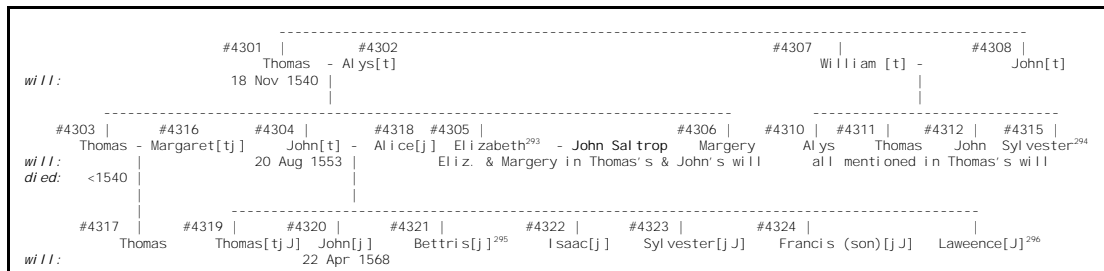
William and Thomas Moyse were the overseers and they were to see the division of Thomas's moveables between his wife and son John. If they were not content with the division, then the overseers were to “[enter upon it as their own](#)”. If they were happy with the division, the overseers were to “[have for their pains taking](#)” an unspecified amount and their costs but also William was to have Thomas's “[best doublet and blue saltin](#)” (satin?) and Moyse “[3 quarters of barley](#)”.

Thomas left a “new frame” to his son John. Since later Swaynslands in Seal were weavers, was Thomas a weaver with this the only mention of anything connected with weaving in his will? Since weavers were often prosperous, he could have made money with which to buy land from his weaving. He also left to John his bow, arrows, harness and sword and buckle. In addition, showing also that he owned a considerable number of animals, he willed that John and his wife Alys were to have his “[horse, oxen, kyne, steers and weyns to be divided equally and Alys, my wife, to have the first choice](#)”. “Weyns” could be wains, that is wagons.

He also left “[five mother sheep](#)” to each of six people and, more interesting, in addition a “[cow with one eye](#)” to one of them. Alys and John were to sell all his corn which was to give them at least £6 since his two daughters and his widowed daughter-in-law were each to receive £2 from the proceeds.

But his wife had also brought assets with her since Thomas left her the “[barn at the town end and the well croft and all such lands that were her fathers](#)”.

Tree S.1 - The Family of Thomas from Gravesend



[t] - mentioned in Thomas's will; [j] in John's will of 1553; [J] in John's will of 1568

293 married by 1553

294 Alys is described as his brother's daughter, Thomas and John as his brother's sons and Sylvester not at all; since Thomas had two brothers, it is not known which brother was the father of which child.

295 an unusual spelling of "Bratrix"?; all John's sons (born in the order given in the will) were under twenty-four and both daughters under sixteen in 1553 with John's wife pregnant when he wrote his will. In view of this it is likely that Thomas was in his mid-teens at the most.

296 Alice was pregnant when her husband wrote his will; Lawrence, the brother mentioned by John in his will of 1568 could have been born after the will was written

Thomas's Land

The table below summarises his bequests regarding his land and other property where there seem to be a number of complex arrangements..

The land which his son John inherited was subject to a number of provisos:

- “all the lands and tenements called Fullers Street in the parish of Seal” were left to John and his heirs forever but John had to pay “John Colepop, Esquire, at the feast of Pentecost, during so many years as appeareth by sundry obligations, 40s yearly”
- Stonepitt, lying in the parish of Seal and Kemsing, was also left to him and his heirs, forever, but here he had to pay for the “said land to John Sharpe dwelling in Cranbrook all such fines of money as shall be payable by me” and also “all such money as shall be due to John Swaynsland, my brother, when the said land is discharged of all incumbrance within 7 years following”.

Property Left by Thomas Swaynsland in 1540

Alys, wife, during her life	Gravesend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - tenement that Thomas lived in and the 2 tenements that John Hynderwell and that Andrew Joiner lived in. - barn at the town end and the well croft and all such lands that were her fathers - her jointure that is called Endouth
	Seal	
John, son	Seal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the lands and tenements called Fullers Street - moiety called Holloways
	Seal and Kemsing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - all the lands and tenements called Stonepitt - all other lands and tenements not given nor bequeathed
	Northfleet	all the lands and tenements in Peris Street except a croft called the Corner Croft
	Gravesend	new barn at the town end with the croft next to it and the testators's tenements at the town end which had been purchased of John Lawrence after the 15 years reversion to the testator's daughters - see Elizabeth and Margery.

Thomas, grandson	Gravesend	2 tenements that Thomas Smith and Stephen Bee? lived in, with the arable lands . . except the new barn with the croft next to it.
	Northfleet	- the east field and all such lands purchased of ?? Davy . - the croft called Corner Croft in Peris Street .
Elizabeth, daughter	Gravesend	2 tenements lying at the town end (for 15 years)
Margery, daughter	Gravesend	2 tenements with the shop (for 15 years)

The bequests of two houses each to two of his three underage daughters for a period of fifteen years. must have involved some complex arrangements.

Will of Thomas Swaynsland of Gravesend

written 18th November 1540

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. The year of our lord 1540
2 the 32nd year of our sovereign lord king Henry the viiith, the 18th
3 day of the month of November, I, Thomas Swaynsland,
4 of the parish of Gravesend, whole in mind, etc. **First:** I bequeath

5 my soul unto Almighty god and my body to be buried in the
6 chapel of Gravesend. Also I bequeath to the high altar of
7 my parish church for tithes negligently forgotten 12d.
8 For my burial and months mind at the discretion of mine
9 executor and overseers. Also I bequeath to **Annys Homewood**
10 five marks of good and lawful money of England to be paid out
11 of the house that now **Thomas Smith** dwelleth in, 6s 8d
12 a year, every year, during the space of 10 years²⁹⁷. Also to the
13 foresaid Annys 5 mother sheep. Also to the said Annys
14 13s 4d. Also a cow with one eye. Also I bequeath to
15 **Thomas Swaynsland, my brother's son**, 5 mother sheep.
16 Also I bequeath to **Sylvester Swaynsland**, 5 mother sheep.
17 Also I bequeath to **Alys Swaynsland**, 5 mother sheep. Also
18 I bequeath to **Elizabeth Smith**, 5 mother sheep. Also I
19 bequeath to **John Swaynsland, my brother's son**, 5 mother sheep.
20 Also I bequeath to **John, my son**, my new frame. Also to
21 John, my son, my bow, my arrows, my harness, my sword
22 and buckle. Also I will that **Alys, my wife**, and John, my son,
23 have my horse, oxen, kyne, steers and weyns²⁹⁸ to be divided

297 one mark was 13s 4d, thus half a mark for 10 years was 5 marks

298 wagons?

equally and Alys, my wife, to have the first choice. Also I will that Elizabeth Smith shall have the house that she dwelleth in after my decease, for the space of 5 years paying the rent truly as it now goeth. Also I bequeath to Alys, my wife, and to John, my son, all my corn to be sold and they to pay my **3 daughters, Elizabeth, Margery and Margaret²⁹⁹**, to every of them 40s. Also I bequeath to **Alys Swaynsland, my brother's daughter**, 6s 8d within half a year after my decease, to be paid by mine executor. Also I will that mine executor shall pay to the reparations of the church of Gravesend 6s 8d yearly to be had taken out of the house that Thomas Smith now dwelleth in during the term of 30 years. Also I will that **my brother, William**, shall have my barn at the town end, my years that I have of **John Lawrence**, paying to John his said 6 mother sheep.

For the disposition of my lands, **First**: I bequeath to Alys, my wife, my tenement that I now dwell in and the 2 tenements that **John Hynderwell** and that **Andrew Joiner** dwelleth in. Also the barn at the town end and the well croft and all such lands

²⁹⁹ probably the wife of his son Thomas who died before his father - see line 55

44 that was her fathers and my ?? and all things pertaining to
45 it and her jointure that is called **Endouth** that came by my father's
46 bequest at **Seal** during her life. Also I bequeath to **Thomas**,
47 **Swaynsland, the elder**³⁰⁰, **my son's son**, my 2 tenements that Thomas Smith
and
48 **Stephen Bee?** now dwelleth in, withall my arable lands that
49 lieth in the parish of Gravesend except the new barn with the
50 croft next to it. Also I bequeath to the said Thomas
51 Swaynsland, my son, the east field in the parish of **Northfleet**
52 and all such lands that I purchased of ?? **Davy**. And if he die
53 without heirs of his body lawfully begotten, then I will that
54 John, my son, shall have it to and to his heirs forever.
55 Also I will that my daughter, **Margaret Swaynsland**, late
56 wife to Thomas, my son, shall have 2 parts of the foresaid
57 during the term of 21 years towards the finding
58 of the child. Also for the 4th part of the foresaid land, I
59 will that **Thomas Moyse** and William Swaynsland, my
60 brother, shall have it for the time of 21 years to the
61 behoof of the child Thomas Swaynsland. Also I will
62 that John, my son, shall have all the lands and tenements called
63 **Fullers Street** in the parish of **Seal** to him and to his heirs

64 forever so that I will that John, my son, or his assigns, shall
65 pay to **John Colepop, Esquire**, at the feast of Pentecost
66 during so many years as appeareth by sundry obligations,
67 40s yearly. Also I will that John, my son, shall have
68 all that my lands and tenements called **Stonepitt** lying in the
69 parish of **Seal and Kemsing**, to him and to his heirs, forever,
70 paying for the said land to **John Sharpe** dwelling in
71 **Cranbrook** all such fines of money as shalbe payable
72 by me, the said Thomas Swaynsland. I will that John,
73 my son, shall pay out of my lands called Stonepitts,
74 all such money as shalbe due to **John Swaynsland**,
75 **my brother**, when the said land is discharged of all
76 incumbrance within 7 years following. Also I will that John,
77 my son, shall have my moiety called **Holloways** being in
78 **Seal** to him and his heirs for ever. Also I will that
79 all such lands and tenements, lying and being in the parish of
80 Kemsing and Seal, not given nor bequeathed, I give
81 them to John, my son, to him and his heirs for ever. Also I
82 will that John, my son, shall have all that my lands and tenements
83 lying in **Peris Street** in the parish of **Northfleet** to him
84 and his heirs for ever except and resued? a croft called the
85 **Corner Croft** lying within the said parish of Northfleet,
86 the which I will that Thomas Swaynsland, the elder, my

87 son's son, to him and his heirs for ever. And the wheat that
88 is now thereon I will it shalbe divided equally to
89 Alys, my wife, and to John, my son and to Thomas, my
90 son's son, the elder. Also I will that John, my son, shall
91 have my new barn at the town end with the croft
92 next to it and all my tenements lying at the town end in
93 the parish of Gravesend which I late purchased of **John**
94 **Lawrence**, to him and his heirs for ever, after the reversion
95 of my daughters, the term of 15 years. Also I will that
96 Elizabeth, my daughter, shall have my 2 tenements lying at
97 the town end that **Nicholas Carter and Thomas Chin?**
98 now dwelleth, to her and to her assigns for time of 15
99 years. Also I will that Margery, my daughter, shall
100 have my other 2 tenements with the shop that now **John In??**
101 and the **widow James** dwelleth in, to her and to her assigns
102 for time of 15 years. And I will that the said Elizabeth and
103 Margery shall keep due reparations during the forsaied
104 years and for lack of due reparations, it shall be lawful for
105 John, my son, to enter into the said tenements, every of them,
106 to him and to his heirs for ever. Also I bequeath to
107 Margaret, my daughter, 20 marks of good money to be

108 paid out of the houses³⁰¹ that now **Robert Browne** and
109 **Robert Tailor** dwelleth in immediately after my decease
110 and 13s 4d every year to the whole ?? be paid. And every
111 one of my daughters to be the others' heir. Also I will that
112 Alys, my wife, shall have the receipt of the foresaid
113 money unto the time that my daughters³⁰² be of lawful
114 age. Also the residue of my goods not given nor bequeathed,
115 my debts paid, my legacies fulfilled, I give them and
116 bequeath them to Alys, my wife, and to John, my son, whom
117 I make my executor, paying my debts. And mine overseers
118 William Swaynsland, my brother, and Thomas Moyse and they
119 to see the division of my moveables between my
120 wife and John, my son. And if so be that they be not content
121 at their dividing, then I will they shall enter upon it
122 as their own³⁰³. And I will that they shall have for their

301 were these houses part of the legacy to Thomas's son, John?

302 with three underage daughters and at least one grandson, it is likely that John married twice with Alys the mother of his daughters.

303 did this mean that if Alys and John were not content, the overseers should have the moveables themselves?

123 pains taking³⁰⁴. I will my brother, William, shall have
124 my best doublet and blue saltin³⁰⁵ and Thomas Moyse shall
125 have 3 quarters of barley and their costs. In witness
126 hereof I, **William Barrett**, curate³⁰⁶, **Mark D---tt**,
Robert Patynden with others more.

John Swaynsland of Fullers Street

John who wrote his will in 1553 lived at Fullers Street in Seal and was therefore Thomas's son John who inherited Fullers Street from his father. He also had a son called Thomas who was mentioned in his grandfather's will. When John wrote his will in 1553, he had six children and his wife was pregnant. The four sons were all under twenty-four and the two daughters under sixteen but since the only grandson Thomas mentions was the son of his eldest son who had already died, it

304 no amount given

305 satin?

306 the writer of the will?

is probable that John had not started his family in 1540. Six children in thirteen years was quite feasible. See Tree S.1 above for his family.

John's Land

Like his father, John owned a considerable amount of land. Fullers Street is in the northeast of the parish of Seal and included some land in Kemsing. This was to go to Thomas, his eldest son, who had inherited land in Gravesend and Northfleet from his grandfather.

John, his second son, was to have “two tenements with a barn and a croft” and a little croft in Gravesend together with three other closes.

His son Isaac was to have:

- the lease of a house and 6 acres of ground in Northfleet³⁰⁷ “and my closes lying to the water side there” together with some land in Milton-next-Gravesend.
- 1 acre in Stony land and 2 acres in Milton “which came by my grandfather” Swaynsland,

³⁰⁷ Northfleet lies directly to the west of Gravesend

John's youngest son, Francis, was to have

- "two tenements with a shop, 6 acres of ground lying in the same close . . . which tenement and shop lie within the parish of Gravesend and the 6 acres of ground lie within the parish of Northfleet.
- 5 ½ acres of arable ground in Gravesend
- 1 acre of land "lying in **Coldblewlodge**" - Cold Blow Lodge?.

Will of John Swaynsland of Seal 1553

written 20th August 1553

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. The 20th day
2 of August in the year of our lord god 1553. And in
3 the first year of the reign of Queen Mary, etc. I, John
4 Swaynsland of the parish of Seal within the county of Kent,
5 being of whole and perfect mind and of good remembrance,
6 lauds and praises be given to Almighty god, do ordain
7 and make this my last will and testament in manner
8 and form following: **First:** I bequeath my soul to
9 Almighty god, my ?? And my body, after
10 I shall depart this present life, to be buried in

christian burial at the discretion of mine executrix.
Also I give and bequeath to **Thomas Swaynsland**,
mine eldest son, 2 of mine oxen, 2 mares, 3 quarters
of ?? wheat, 3 quarters of oats, to be delivered
and paid unto my said son by the hands of my executrix
when he shall come to the age of 24 years if it
may please god he live. And if he shall depart before
that age, I will my said legacy to be given to his
next brother when he shall come to the said age of
24 years. Also I give to **Elizabeth Startrop?**,
my sister, one of my kine, the best of them,
that I have at her own choosing to be delivered unto
her immediately after my death. Also I give unto
John Startrop, my brother-in-law, my best coat³⁰⁸ to
have it like wise delivered unto him by mine executrix
immediately after my death. All the residue of
my goods and moveables, I give unto **Alice Swaynsland**,
my wife. And she to pay, or cause to be paid,
all such debts as I do owe within the parish of
Seal aforesaid except one of my ??

308 "coote"

31 I do give to **Margaret Nevill ?? my sister³⁰⁹**,
32 dwelling in the parish of **Wye** in the county of
33 Kent aforesaid, the said cow like ? ?
34 to her immediately after my death. And to this
35 my last testament, I do ordain and make my
36 sole executrix the foresaid Alice, my wife. And
37 she to have and enjoy the residue of my goods
38 and dispose the same at her best discretion. ??
39 being put and burying ? ?
40 witness this my said last testament
41 **Walter Durtnall, vicar of Sevenoaks, Thomas**
42 **Hickling, vicar of Kemsing and Seal³¹⁰, William Best**
43 of the parish of Seal.

44 Furthermore, I, the said John Swaynsland, the day of the
45 month, the year of our lord god one the reign of
46 the queen above written, do ordain and make this
47 my last will of all my land, tenements, leases and

309 was this John's sister called Margery in her father's will, or John's sister-in-law, Margaret, married again to a Nevill of Wye?

310 installed 26th November 1550

48 all other goods moveable to me appertaining
49 in any wise belonging in for following: **First:**
50 I will that my wife shall have and enjoy her
51 dower, that is to say, the three parcels of my land
52 during her natural life according to the domain law
53 and statutes of this realm of England. And the
54 residue of all my said lands and tenements, I will that Alice
55 my said wife, shall have certain occupancy of them to
56 her best profit. And she to be bound by this my last
57 will to pay and content all my debts which I have
58 upon the profits of my said lands, rents and tithes
59 until all my said debts be paid, of the which debts
60 I have made a ?? bill at the making hereof to
61 to witness. And after my said debts be fully contented
62 and paid, then I will that my said wife also shall
63 have and enjoy all my said lands and tenements during
64 the nonage of Thomas Swaynsland, my eldest son,
65 until the said Thomas shall come to the age of
66 24 years. At which age of 24 years, then I will
67 that the said Thomas, mine eldest son, shall have
68 and enjoy and enter upon my house which I now
69 dwell in called **Fullers Street** withall th'appurtenances
70 thereto belonging, lying within the parish of Seal

and **Kemsing** in the County of Kent aforesaid, to him and to his heirs forever. Also I give to **John Swaynsland, my second son**, when he shall come to the age of 24 years, my two tenements with a barn and a croft of 5? acres of land adjoining the said tenement and barns and a little croft of ?? adjoining to 3 parcels of ground lying within the parish of **Gravesend** now in the occupancy of one **William Banke** and **John Maynard** of the said parish of Gravesend in the County of Kent and 3 other closes called the D----- thereto belonging now in the occupancy of one ?? I will and give to my said son John and to his heirs forever. Also I will and give to **Isaac Swaynsland, my son**, my lease of one house and 6 acres of ground lying within the parish of **Northfleet** in the said county and my closes lying to the water side there, to have and to enjoy to him and to his heirs forever when he shall come to the age of 24 years which house is now in the occupancy of one **Robert Brown** of Gravesend aforesaid. And the land now in the occupying of one **Henry Appleby** of the parish of **Milton-nigh-unto-Gravesend**. Also I will and give unto **Francis Swaynsland, my youngest son**, two tenements with a shop, 6 acres of

94 ground lying in the same close which the aforesaid
95 Henry Appleby doth now occupy which tenement
96 and shop lie within the parish of Gravesend
97 and the 6 acres of ground lie within the parish of
98 Northfleet³¹¹. Also I give to the said Francis five
99 acres and one half of arable ground lying within the
100 parish of Gravesend in a field called **Mayday land**.
101 And also one acre of land lying in
102 **Coldblewledge** to him and his heirs from
103 after he, the said Francis, shall come to the age
104 of 24 years. Also I bequeath and will to
105 Isaac Swaynsland one acre of ground
106 lying in **Stony land** and 2 acres of ground
107 lying in **Milton** which came by **my grand**
108 **father Swaynsland**, to him and his heirs forever
109 at the years above written. The residue
110 of all my land not bequeathed nor willed, I will
111 and give to Thomas Swaynsland, mine eldest son, to
112 him and to his heirs forever after that he shall
113 come to the age of 24 years as is above written.
114 And if it fortune any of my said sons to die

311 Northfleet lies directly to the west of Gravesend

115 without issue before they shall come to the age of
116 24 years, then I will those of them to survive
117 to be heir to the others. Also I give and bequeath
118 to **my two daughters, Bettris Swaynsland and**
119 **Sylvester Swaynsland**, to either of them £10 a piece
120 to be given out of all my lands immediately all
121 my debts be paid and not before. And then, my
122 debts so paid, the said £10 to be paid to either
123 of them at the day of their marriage or 12 months
124 after or at the year of 16 of their age at ??
125 by the hand of mine executrix or mine heirs or
126 assigns. And if they do refuse to pay to either
127 of them £10 a piece as is above mentioned after
128 my debts be paid, then it shalbe lawful for
129 may said daughters, and either of them, to enter
130 upon my whole lands until they be paid their
131 £10 a piece. And so likewise I give to the
132 infant child now in my wife's womb,
133 if god send it life, £10 to be employed in a stock
134 to the profit of the child if it live and if
135 it die then . ? ?
136 of any person. Also I will that my sister Elizabeth
137 shall have paid to her and my sister

138 Margaret Nevill shall have paid unto her
139 to either of them, £6 13s 4d
140 a piece to be levied on ?? all my lands after
141 my debts be paid as soon as convenient.
142 And if it shall fortune that Alice, my said
143 wife to die before this my last will and testament
144 be performed, then I will that John,
145 Startrop, my brother-in-law and **John Pratt**,
146 **my brother-in-law**³¹² shall have full power
147 and authority to fulfill and do all things
148 in as much strength as my wife should if she
149 had lived³¹³. And the said John Startrop and John Pratt I make
150 mine overseers to this my last will and testament.

witnesses given above on lines 41 and 42

312 was John Pratt the husband of Margery, John's sister or his wife's brother?

313 given that she had six children (of which Thomas, the eldest, was probably about sixteen) to look after and was expecting another, she would have been kept busy without proving the will, paying her husband's debts and organising his legacies.

John Swaynsland, will 1555

Another John Swaynsland wrote his will in 1555; his relationship with the Swaynslands already described is not known. His wife was called Sybill and he had five sons, William, John, Thomas, Richard and Nicholas. No daughters are mentioned. Richard and Nicholas were underage in 1555.

John appointed his wife his executrix and his “[loving and trusty friend William Sege](#)” his overseer. He willed that William should “[have 3s 4d for his charge](#)” does not seem over generous..

Like the other Swaynslands, this John owned a considerable amount of land:

- the house in which he lived with all its land (including “[the Southfield abutting the house](#)”) was given to his son William
- John was to have “[Dynes Bridge meadow with a garden thereto](#)” in addition to a house and land
- Thomas a house and land called Waterden
- Richard and Nicholas, when they came of age, were to have a “[house and lands which back on my little house that John, my son, dwelleth in](#)” and also some land at Black Hall which could be the Blackhall on the Seal/Sevenoaks boundary.

1 In the name of god Amen. The 15th day
2 of April, the year of our lord god 1555
3 in the year ?? of our sovereigns Philip
4 and Mary, by the grace of god, the second
5 and third, I, John Swaynsland, of the parish
6 of Seal, being whole of mind and memory,
7 thanks and praise therefore to god, make
8 and ordain this my present testament and
9 last will in manner and form following, that
10 is to say, **First:** I bequeath my soul unto
11 Almighty god, my maker and Redeemer,
12 my body to be buried in the common? churchyard
13 of the said parish. Also I will that **Sybill,**
14 **my wife,** shall dispose to the poor neighbours
15 according as she shall think mete by
16 god's grace working in her. **Item:** I bequeath to
17 Sybill, my wife, all my goods, moveable and
18 unremoveable, to her own use. And furthermore
19 I will that Sybill, my wife, shall enjoy

20 the profits of all my lands and tenements during
21 all the time of her natural life. **Item:**
22 I will that **William -ybb** shall have
23 his dwelling in the house where he now
24 dwelleth free, paying no rent after
25 my departing, during his natural life.
26 And also that to continue to the use of
27 Sybill, my wife for time of her life the which
28 said Sybill I will that she be my
29 full executrix. And of the execution of
30 the same, I make and ordain **William**
31 **Sege..?** to be my overseer of this my last
32 will and testament. **Item:** I bequeath to **William,**
33 **my son,** the house wherein I dwell and all
34 the land thereto belonging, the **Southfield**
35 abutting the house there further ?? ??
36 William, to him and to his heirs general.
37 **Item:** I bequeath to **John, my son, Dynes**
38 **Bridge** meadow with a garden thereto. And
39 my house and land in ?? to him and to
40 his heirs general. **Item:** I bequeath to **Thomas,**
41 **my son,** my house and my land called
42 **Waterden** and my ?? little meadow

43 ?? occupied ??
44 to him and to his heirs general. **Item:** I
45 bequeath to ?? **Richard and Nicholas, my sons,**
46 my house and lands which back on my little
47 house that John, my son, dwelleth in by
48 ?? to them and to their heirs
49 general. Also I will that if either of my two
50 sons, Richard and Nicholas do
51 (decease) before they come
52 to the age, then the one of them to enjoy
53 the whole for him and his heirs. And if
54 they both die without heirs, then I will
55 that the land and tenements₃₁₄ to
56 (remain) to the use of my other children,
57 William, John and Thomas, to their heirs by
58 equal portion. And also I bequeath and give
59 to Richard and Nicholas, my sons, my
60 land lying and being at **Black Hall** to
61 them and to their heirs general by equal portions.
62 Also I will if the said Sybill, my wife,

314 two and a half lines crossed out here

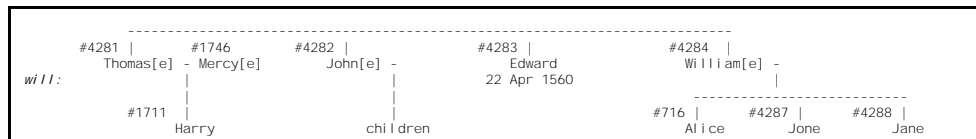
63 do decease her natural life before the said
64 Richard and Nicholas be of lawful age to
65 inherit the said lands and tenements, then I
66 will that William Sege be overseer. And
67 shall take and ?? the rent and profits of
68 the said house and lands with the charge
69 if any be and be countable in and for the
70 same said houses and lands to the same
71 said Richard and Nicholas and each of them
72 and to their assigns. And here I ??
73 revoke and annull all and every other former
74 testament, will, legacy, bequests, executors,
75 ?? by me in any wise afore this
76 time made. And hereunto I have set my
77 hand and seal in the presence of these
78 witnesses following. Also my will is that
79 all my sons after the decease of me and
80 Sybill, my wife, do enter into their lands
81 immediately? And I will that my loving and
82 trusty friend William Sege shall have
83 3s 4d for his charge.
Thomas ?? **John Denman, John? Porter,**
John ?? **William Mylle** and others

The Weavers

The Edward whose will is dated 1560 was a weaver and the John whose will was written in 1568, was a broadweaver. Edward did not have any children of his own but mentions his brother John's children (no names given), Alice, Jane and Jane, three sisters and "[his brother's children](#)", his brother's son Harry, his brother Thomas (whose wife was Mercy) and his brother William. It does not seem possible to fit Edward into the Swaynsland family already described but John, the broadweaver, was the son of the John who wrote his will in 1553. This is deduced from the names of his brothers and sister given in the will.

Thus the relationship between these two weavers is not known.

Edward Swaynsland, weaver



Edward made his brothers Thomas and William executors of his will leaving his house called Hollyways to Thomas and his land at Black Hall to William. The ownership of Hollyways (or Holloways) is intriguing. In 1540 Thomas willed to his son John his “moiety called **Holloways being in Seal**”. When John died in 1553 he did not mention Holloways at all. By 1560, what appears to be the same place was owned by Edward whose position in the family is unknown.

Will of Edward Swaynsland of Seal

written 22nd April 1560
transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. The 22nd
2 of April in the year of our lord god 1560,
3 I, Edward Swaynsland, of the parish
4 of Seal within the county of Kent, **weaver**,
5 sick in body but of good mind and memory.
6 thanks be given to Almighty god, ordain
7 and make my testament and last will in
8 manner and form following: **First:** I
9 bequeath my soul unto Almighty god,
10 beseeching him to grant it the sanction of
11 his presence. And my body to be buried in

12 the churchyard of Seal aforesaid. **Item:**
13 I bequeath unto my burial 20s to be bestowed
14 upon my funeral and to the poor. **Item:** I
15 bequeath unto **Alice Swaynsland, my brother's**
16 **daughter and Jone her sister**, each of
17 them a brass pot and 4 of my best chests³¹⁵
18 each³¹⁶ of them twain. **Item:** I bequeath
19 unto **Jane, their sister**, a cupboard. **Item:**
20 I bequeath unto **Harry Swaynsland, my**
21 **brother's son**, a table, a form and a
22 couple of brand irons and a brass pan.
23 **Item:** I bequeath to Jane aforesaid
24 a bolster. **Item:** I bequeath my cauldron?
25 lying at **my uncle Wyborne's** to be sold and
26 to be bestowed to the poor. **Item:** I bequeath
27 unto **my brother John's children** 20s a piece
28 to come out of my little house that I
29 dwelleth in, it to be sold by my executors
30 and overseers. The residue remaining of my

315 if Edward had eight "best chests", how many chests did he have altogether?

316 "either" for "each" here and above; the former is often used where "each" would be the modern usage

31 house I will unto the poor men's chest. **Item:**
32 I give and bequeath unto **Mercy, my brother**
33 **Thomas's wife**, my forcr? and all that is
34 in it. **Item:** I bequeath unto **Thomas, my**
35 **brother**, my house called **Hollyways** and
36 all the land thereto belonging unbequea
37 thed. And after his decease unto Harry,
38 his son, and to his heirs. **Item:** I bequeath
39 unto **my brother William Swaynsland**
40 all my land lying and being at **Black**
41 **Hall**. **Item:** I ordain and make my
42 true and lawful executors of this
43 my last will and testament William and
44 Thomas, my brothers, and **William Best**
45 supervisor, he to have for his labours
46 my great chafer. These being
47 witness of this my last will: **Sir**
48 **Thomas Dale**, vicar of Kemsing
49 and Seal³¹⁷, **John Walkelyne**, baker, with
50 others more.

317 vicar from 22nd December 1558; Gilbert Jenyns was installed on 31st October 1561

John Swaynsland, broadweaver

John, although described as “of Seal” wished to be buried in the churchyard at Gravesend. Thus the connection with Gravesend had continued from his grandfather’s burial there in 1540. He left money to the poor people there as well as to those in nearby Milton. He also owned “[houses, lands and tenements, . . . in Gravesend or elsewhere](#)” which he left to his “[eldest brother, Thomas](#)” whom he made his executor..

His two younger brothers, Francis and Lawrence (taken to be the child with which Alice was pregnant in 1553) were both under twenty-four, probably in their late teens. They, and their sister Sylvester, were each to receive £10.

An indenture of 1564 made between John Tebold and Thomas Swaynsland has survived - see [Section Z in More Families & Transcripts](#)

Will of John Swaynsland , broadweaver

written 22nd April 1568

transcript from probate copy

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The 22nd
- 2 day of April in the year of our lord god 1568.

3 And in the tenth year of the reign of our
4 sovereign lady, Elizabeth, I, John Swaynsland,
5 of the parish of Seal in the county of Kent,
6 **broadweaver**, being sick in my body but of perfect
7 and good remembrance, thanks be given to
8 the Almighty god, do ordain and make this
9 my present testament and last will in
10 manner and form following: **First:** I bequeath
11 my soul to the Almighty god, my creator
12 and redeemer, and my body to be buried in
13 the churchyard of **Gravesend**. **Item:** I
14 I give and bequeath to the poor people of the
15 parishes of Gravesend and **Milton** 10s
16 to be distributed by mine executor. **Item:**
17 I give and bequeath to **Thomas Swaynsland**,
18 **mine eldest brother**, all my houses, lands
19 and tenements, withall and singular
20 th'appurtenances, set, lying and being
21 in Gravesend or elsewhere, to him and to
22 his heirs forever. And he to pay to my
23 **two brothers, Francis Swaynsland** and
24 **Lawrence Swaynsland**, to every of them ten
25 pounds at their full age of twenty and

26 four years and also that my said brother
27 Thomas, for and in consideration of my
28 gift aforesaid, shall pay to **my sister,**
29 **Sylvester Swaynsland**, other ten pounds
30 within 2 years next after my decease.
31 This is the last will and testament
32 of me, John Swaynsland, aforesaid,
33 in the which I do denounce and revoke
34 all other wills made, sealed or by any
35 manner of way to any person delivered
36 before this day and in this my last will
37 I do ordain and make my brother
38 Thomas Swaynsland, to whom I
39 have given my land, my whole executor.
40 Witness hereunto **William Hostton**, by me
41 **Hugh Burnam** by me, **Gilbert Fremlyn**,
42 by me, **Thomas Fremlyn**³²⁸, by me, **Edward**
Cooke, by me, **Thomas Hudson**, scr³²⁹.

328 The Fremlyns were a large Kemsing family but no record has been found for a Gilbert or a Thomas who could have been a witness to this will

329 There is no record of a Hudson in Seal at this time but John, with his connections with Gravesend (and probably other areas) could have had a scrivener from outside Seal

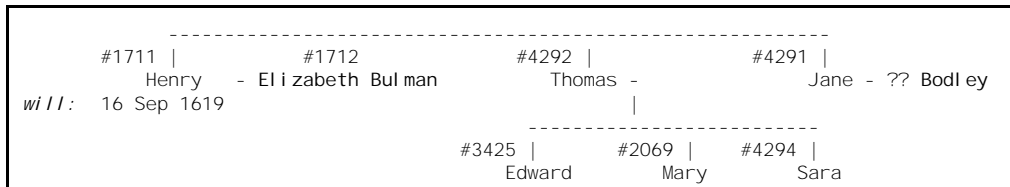
Henry Swaynsland of Seal

The next surviving will for a Seal Swaynsland after John's written in 1568 is that of Henry written in September 1619. A Henry Swaynland was mentioned in the Ightham Court Rolls between 1586-1618.

Henry married Elizabeth Bulman (#1712) on 7th February 1598 This is nearly forty years after "Harry Swaynsland" was mentioned by his uncle John in 1560.

Henry's nephew Edward was old enough to be appointed executor of the will and if he was in his mid-twenties, his father, Henry's brother Thomas could have been in his fifties in 1619, that is born in the 1560s. If Henry was a year or so older than Thomas, he could have been "Harry", a few years old when his uncle died in 1560.

This would mean that Henry married Elizabeth when he was in his forties. He describes Elizabeth as his "now wife", a term often used about a second wife. He does not seem to have had any children, not at least living when he wrote his will.



Henry's executor, Edward, could have been the Edward who married Elizabeth Fuller of Tonbridge in February 1621 and had thirteen children - see page s.329. His sister, Mary could have been the Mary Swaynsland who married William Baker, also in February 1621 and had ten children - see [Baker](#).

Henry and the Weerys

Henry left £5 to a large number of children, some of whom can be identified. Included amongst these were the five children of Robert Weery, husbandman of Otford. Robert was the brother of George and Elizabeth Weery of Sevenoaks, both of whose wills have survived - see [History of Sevenoaks, Section 2](#)

Provided he was still living, the £25 for these five children was to be paid to their father within a year of Henry's death and he was then to be responsible for paying the legacies as each of them reached the age of twenty-one (or, in the case of the girls, married). If any of them died before receiving their money, it was to be divided between the survivors. If the father died, then Henry's executor was to be responsible for the legacies.

Robert Weery was to be responsible, in a similar way, for the legacies to the four daughters of Robert Frenchbourne, of Islington, deceased. The arrangements for the legacies to these nine children take up 44 of the 107 lines of the will.

Henry's Property and Land

Like all the Swaynsland testators, Henry owned a number of houses. He lived in his “[messuage or tenement, gardens, backsides, closes, and one and thirty acres of land, by estimation, thereunto belonging](#)” in Seal but, in addition, it was occupied by William Corke, the widow of Richard Smith and William Porter. He had another “[messuage or tenement, close or yard, orchard, garden and nine acres of land](#)” in Wrotham which was “[in the tenure or occupation of one Stephen Collyn](#)” and also other lands and tenements not specified. These were all left to Edward, his executor.

From the assumptions made above, in 1619 Henry was in his early sixties and “[sick in body](#)”. Henry’s brother Thomas, although younger, sounds as if he was in need of some care. He was to “[quietly and peaceably, receive and enjoy](#)” an annuity of £12 “[to be issuing out of all the aforesaid messuages, lands and tenements according to the form . . of a grant](#)” made to him “[by my writing](#)” dated 15th September.

A Henry Swaynsland was mentioned in the Ightham Court Rolls for 1586-1618 and with land in Seal and Wrotham, either side of Ightham, this could have been the testator of this will.

Will of Henry Swaynsland

written 16th September 1619

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god amen. The sixteenth day of September
2 in the year of the reign of our sovereign lord James, by the grace of god,
king of
3 England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. seventeenth and of
4 Scotland the three and fifty, Anno Dominin one thousand six hundred and
nineteen
5 I, Henry Swaynsland of Seal in the county of Kent, yeoman, being sick in
body but

page 2

6 of sound and perfect memory (thanks be to go god) do make and ordain this
my last will and
7 testament hereafter following: **First** I commend my soul unto the almighty
god, hoping and

8 faithfully believing that, through the death, passion and resurrection of
Jesus Christ, the
9 only begotten son of god, mine only saviour and redeemer, to enjoy
everlasting blessedness
10 And my body I commit to the earth from whence it came, to be buried in
the churchyard
11 of the parish church of Seal aforesaid, in hope of a joyful resurrection. **Item:**
I will
12 and bequeath unto the poorest sort of the people of the said parish of Seal
forty
13 shillings to be distributed amongst them by mine executor hereafter named
at his discretion
14 where he shall see most need in and upon that day in which it shall please
god that I
15 shalbe buried. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto **Elizabeth, my wellbeloved**
wife, all my
16 bedding, linen, woollen, pewter, brass, iron utensils of household and
household stuff
17 whatsoever. Except and always reserved out of this my bequest one joined
cupboard
18 standing and being in that part of my message in Seal aforesaid wherein I,
the said

19 Henry, now dwell, the which my will and mind is shall come unto my said
executor.

20 **Item:** I will and bequeath unto **my sister Jane**, heretofore **the wife of one**
Bodley, deceased,

21 five pounds of lawful money of England to be paid unto her by my said
executor

22 within one year after my decease if she be then living. Also I will and
bequeath unto

23 **Simon Bodley, son of the said Jane**, fifteen pounds of lawful money of
England

24 to be paid unto him by my said executor within one year also after my
decease if he shalbe

25 then living. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto mine kinswoman, **Sylvester**,
daughter of

26 **Gabriell Bruer of Charing Cross**, five pounds of lawful money of England to
be

27 paid unto her by my said executor within one year after my decease if she
shalbe

28 then living. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto **Mary Swaynsland, daughter of**
my brother

29 **Thomas Swaynsland**, five pounds of lawful money of England to be paid
unto her

30 by my executor within one year after my decease (if she shalbe then living).
Also
31 I will and bequeath unto **Sara Swaynsland, another of the daughters of the**
said
32 **Thomas**, five pounds of lawful money of England to be paid unto her by my
executor
33 within one year after my decease if she be then living. **Item:** I will and
bequeath unto
34 the five children of **Robert Weery of Otford** in the said county of Kent,
husbandman,
35 that is to say to **Robert, John, George, Elizabeth and Anne Weery**, five
pounds a piece of
36 lawful money of England to be delivered and paid by my said executor
within one year
37 after my decease unto the said Robert Weery, the father, if he shalbe then
living, for and to
38 the use of his said children. The which said money and legacies, my will
and mind
39 is, shalbe paid over by the said Robert Weery, the father, unto every of his
said sons
40 severally and respectively, as they shall severally accomplish their full age
of one and

41 twenty years. And to his said daughters, severally and respectively, at their
several
42 ages of one and twenty years or within one month after their severall days
of
43 marriage which shall first happen. And my will and mind also is that if any
of the children
44 of the said Robert Weery, the father, shall depart this life before their
marriage
45 as aforesaid, or their age of one and twenty years, that all such sum and
sums
46 of money as should have been paid unto him, her or them so deceasing,
shalbe
47 paid and distributed unto them. Him or her which shalbe living equally as
his, her or
48 them share shall amount unto and at such time as they, he or she shall or
ought to receive
49 his own legacy as aforesaid. And my mind further is that, if it shall please
god
50 the said Robert Weery, the father, to depart this life before the time in the
which the said
51 legacies are appointed to be delivered and paid unto him as aforesaid, then
my will

52 and mind is that the same shall rest in the hands of my said executor until
such
53 times only and no longer then the same is limited and appointed to be
severally paid
54 by the said Robert Weery, the father, unto his said children. At which times
my
55 will and mind is that my said executor shall pay the said money and
legacies
56 unto them.. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto **my kinswomen, the four
daughters of**

page 3:

57 **Robert Frenchbourne, ??, late of Islington**, deceased, five pounds a piece of
lawful money
58 of England to be delivered by my said executor unto the said **Robert Weery,**
the
59 **elder**³²⁰, for and to the use of the said four daughters of the said Robert
Frenchbourne
60 (if the said Robert Weery shalbe then living). The which said money and
legacies, my

320 probably the father of the other five children

61 will and mind is, shalbe paid over by the said Robert Weery repectively unto
every
62 of the said daughter of the said Robert Frenchbourne, as they shall severally
63 accomplish their several ages of one and twenty years or within one month
64 after their several days of marriage which shall first happen. And my will
and
65 mind also is that, if any of the said daughters of the said Robert
Frenchbourne
66 shall depart this life before her or their said age of one and twenty years or
marriage
67 as aforesaid, that then all such sum or sums of money as should have been
68 paid to her or them so deceased, shalbe paid and distributed unto her or
them equally
69 which shalbe living as her or their share or part shall amount unto and at
such
70 time as she or they shall or ought to receive her own legacy as aforesaid.
And
71 also, my will and mind is that if it shall please god the said Robert Weery,
the
72 elder, to depart this life before the time in which the said legacies are
appointed
73 to be delivered and paid unto him as aforesaid, then my will and mind is
that

74 the same shall rest in the hands of my said executor until such time only,
and no
75 longer, as the same is limited and appointed to be severally paid to the said
76 daughters of the said Robert Frenchbourne by the said Robert Weery, the
elder.
77 At which time, my will and mind is that, my said executor shall pay the
said
78 money and legacies unto them. **Item:** all the residue of my money, goods
and
79 chattells whatsoever, my legacies before specified being paid, I wholly give
and
80 bequeath unto **Edward Swaynsland**, son of the said Thomas Swaynsland,
his
81 executors and assigns, forever. And of this my last will and testament I do
82 make and ordain him, the said Edward Swaynsland, my whole and only
executor.

83 **Item:** I, the said Henry Swaynsland, do further and finally will and bequeath
84 and devise unto the said Edward Swaynsland, his heirs and assigns for
ever,
85 all that my messuage or tenement, gardens, backsides, closes, and one and
thirty acres

86 of land, by estimation, thereunto belonging with their and every of their
appurtenances
87 situated, lying and being in Seal aforesaid and now in the several
occupations of
88 me, the said Henry Swaynsland, **William Corke, the widow of Richard Smith**
89 and **William Porter**. And also all that my messuage or tenement, close or
yard,
90 orchard, garden and nine acres of land, by estimation, thereunto belonging,
with their,
91 and every of their, appurtenances, situated, lying and being in the parish of
Wrotham in
92 the said county of Kent and now in the tenure or occupation of one **Stephen**
93 **Collyn** together with all my lands and tenements whatsoever within the
94 realm of England. To have and to hold all the aforesaid messuages, lands
95 and tenements whatsoever, withall and every their appurtenances, unto the
said
96 Edward Swaynsland, his heirs and assigns, forever. Notwithstanding my
will and mind is
97 that the afore named Elizabeth, my now wife, shall peaceably and quietly
have and
98 enjoy the said messuage or tenement situated in Seal aforesaid and three
parcels

99 of land next adjoining to the said messuage or tenement containing, by
estimation,
100 ten acres according to the form, effect and true meaning of a certain writing
heretofore
101 by me, the said Henry, thereof made. And also that my said brother
Thomas shall,
102 quietly and peaceably, receive and enjoy one annuity or yearly rent of
twelve
103 pounds by the year to be issuing out of all the aforesaid messuages, lands
and
104 tenements according to the form and effect of a grant thereof to him the
said
105 Thomas Swaynsland, by me made by my writing bearing date the fifteenth
day
106 of this instant month of September. In witness whereof, I, the said Henry

page 4:

107 Swaynsland, to this my present last will and testament, my hand and seal
have put the day and year first above written

The mark of

Henry Swaynsland

Subscribed and published

by the above said Henry Swaynsland in the presence of us

whose named be hereunder
written the day and year first above written.

Edward Collyn, William Duble
William Porter

The Family of Edward Swaynsland and Elizabeth

The Edward who married Elizabeth Fuller on 12th February 1621 was probably the executor of Henry Swaynsland's will. Having just come into his inheritance he would have been in a position to marry. Their family is given on the next page.

Both Edward and his eldest son Henry were listed in the **Knole MS of 1648** for Seal village. - see **Knole MS in Z**

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Di ed
#3425	<u>SWAYNLAND, Edward</u>	<1601	12 Feb 1621	Elizabeth Fuller	1 13	
#3426	<u>Fuller, Elizabeth</u> ----- of Tonbridge	<1601			1 13	
!	#3427 <u>SWAYNLAND, Henry</u>	11 Feb 1622	20 Aug 1645	Katherine Tebold #3440	1 3	see Tebold
	married, at 23, at Offham by Parson Brouneng					
!	! #3441 <u>SWAYNLAND, Thebal</u>	13 Jul 1648			0 0	15 Jul 1648 <1 wk
!	! #3442 <u>SWAYNLAND, George</u>	1 Aug 1650			0 0	
!	! #3443 <u>Swaynl and, Elizabeth</u>	18 Jan 1655			0 0	
	"da. of Henry and Katherine"					
!	#3428 <u>SWAYNLAND, Edward</u>	3 Aug 1623			0 0	
!	#3429 <u>Swaynl and, Elizabeth</u>	17 Jul 1625			0 0	16 Nov 1627 at 2.25 yrs
!	#3430 <u>Swaynl and, Deborah</u>	4 Feb 1627			0 0	
!	#3431 <u>Swaynl and, Elizabeth</u>	21 Dec 1628			0 0	
!	#3432 <u>Swaynl and, Jane</u>	28 Mar 1631			0 0	
!	#3433 <u>SWAYNLAND, John</u>	4 Apr 1633			0 0	
!	#3434 <u>Swaynl and, Ann</u>	4 Jun 1635			0 0	
!	#3435 <u>Swaynl and, Isabel I</u>	3 Feb 1637			0 0	
!	#3436 <u>SWAYNLAND, Thomas</u>	7 Oct 1638			0 0	
!	#3437 <u>Swaynl and, Susanna</u>	24 Feb 1641			0 0	
!	#3438 <u>Swaynl and, Sarah</u>	25 Mar 1643			0 0	
!	#3439 <u>Swaynl and, Katherine</u>	14 Mar 1646			0 0	

Other Swaynslands

The brother and sister, William and Margaret Christopher both married a Swaynsland but both may have come from Westerham. William (#471) married Thomasina Swaynsland (#1798) on 10th October 1592 in Westerham; they had nine children baptised in Seal - see [Christopher](#).

Robert Swaynsland of Westerham married Margaret Christopher (#407) in Seal on 22nd April 1599 "[the banns three times proclaimed](#)". They had a daughter, Jane (#3424) baptised on 24th August 1600 but nothing more is known of them. They may have lived in Westerham (whose parish registers have not been investigated) with Margaret returning to her parents in Seal for the birth of her first child.

Thomas Swaynsland (#377) married Joan Fremlyn (#378) in Kemsing on 9th February 1565 and their daughter Margaret (#379) was baptised in Seal on 16th February 1567. Thomas Swaynsland and his wife Joan were the defendants in a case brought against them, in 1567, by Richard Tebold - see [Seal Fines in Section Z of More Families & Transcripts](#). A Thomas Swaynsland was buried on 1st April 1584 but there is no way of telling which Thomas.

Susan (#1747), wife of William Swaynsland, was buried on 2nd March 1589 and William Swaynsland (#1746) on 11th December 1597.

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 For as much as nothing is more certain to man
3 than death and nothing more uncertain than
4 the hour and time thereof, the 18th
5 day of October in the . . .
6 . . . I, John Symond, of Hadlow, **yeoman**
7 . . . **First:** I do submit
8 my soul to god, my maker, and to Jesus
9 Christ, my saviour, and to the holy ghost, my
10 comforter and my body to be buried in the church
11 yard of Hadlow. **First:** I will and
12 give unto the poor man's box there 12d.
13 **Item:** I will and give unto **John, my son,**
14 my red ??³²¹ cow that is white upon the
15 shoulder and a red pied megnon? .

321 Lomde?

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