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This will (CKS: Drb/Pw 26; Drb/Pwr 21.11) 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 In the name of god Amen. The tenth day of February Ao dm 1616. In
2 the fourteenth 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 of
Scotland fiftieth. I, William
4 Manley of Hadlow in the county of Kent, **gent.** do hereby make, publish
and declare this my
5 last will and testament in manner and form following: **First**, and above all
things, I commend
6 and bequeath my soul in and to the protection of Almighty god. **Item:** I do
hereby give
7 and bequeath to **my daughters, Bennet Manley, Margaret Manley, Jane
Manley**
8 and **Katherine Manley**, to everyone of them the sum of twenty pounds
lawful english

9 money to be¹ paid, by mine executrix, at their several ages of one and
twenty years if they
10 be then living. **Item:** I do hereby give, will and bequeath unto **my youngest**
son, Henry
11 **Manley**, and to his heirs and assigns forever, all those my lands²
12 with th'appurtenances in Hadlow aforesaid which I late bought and
purchased
13 of and from **Nicholas Salmon, one of the sons of Lawrence Salmon**,
14 deceased, to have and to hold the same to and for the only use and
15 behoof of the said Henry, my son, and of his heirs and assigns forever.
16 And if it happen the said Henry to decease before his age of one and
twenty years, then I will
17 that the same lands to him given as aforesaid shall remain unto the said
Thomas Manley, my son³,
18 his heirs and assigns forever. Provided always notwithstanding, and my
very will
19 and mind is that **Alice, my wife**, immediately after my

1 "bee" throughout

2 some lines are much shorter than others but not because of alterations

3 Thomas has not been mentioned before; perhaps he was the eldest child and had already been set up by his father

20 decease shall have, hold and enjoy all those my said lands with
21 their appurtenances so given unto my said son Henry as aforesaid.
22 Together with the whole benefice, use and profits thereof, to and until
23 my said son Henry shall be and accomplish his full age of
24 one and twenty years for and toward the bringing up of him
25 and the residue of my children until their said ages of one and
26 twenty years.

4

Item: All

- and singular my money, plate, goods, cattells, chattels and debts
- whatsoever, not before given or bequeathed, I do hereby freely give, will
- and bequeath unto the said
- Alice, my wife, towards the payment of my legacies afore willed and
- probation
- of this my will which said Alice, my wife, I do make, nominate and ordain
- my whole and sole executrix of this my present testament and last
- will. In witness whereof I have hereunto put my seal, and to every leaf

4

here the following item has been deleted:

my will and mind is that she, the said Alice, her executors or assigns, shall pay unto my said son Henry the sum of forty shillings lawful english money at his full age of one and twenty years if he be then living.

- thereof subscribed my name⁵, yeven the day and year first above written in the
- presence of those witnesses hereunder written, that is to say:

Sealed, published and subscribed by the said	}	Wyllam Manley ⁶
William Manley in the presence of	}	
Mr. Robert Hooper:		
William Salmon		
Paul Galmond?		

5 There are only two pages, the first one also being signed

6 looks like a signature

first part in Latin

witnesses: Richard Cape? Richard Pelsett Simon Coke

- This is the last will of me, Thomas March, of the parish
- of Seal made the day and year abovesaid. **Primo:** I will that
- **Margaret?, my wife,** have all my goods, moveable and unmoveable with
- all ?? of debts to me allowing?, to do and dispose for me at
- the day of my burying like as a good ? ? be done
- for. Also I will that my month's day to be kept in the same
- manner ?? Also I will that the clerk¹ of Seal have 4d for his
- labour to me coming in my sickness. Also I will that each of
- my godchildren have 2d. Also I will that **Thomas Walt** myne?
- with my ?? have 3s 4d for his labour ?? to be done for
- me. And to pay my debts and my legacies as my . . .

See also **Vicars of Seal & Bequests to the Church** in **Section Z of More Families & Transcripts**

Nicolas Hooper's
mark

1 In the name of god Amen. Memoranda, that on Monday being⁸ the
fifteenth
2 day of June in the year of our lord god one thousand, five
3 hundreth, fourscore and ten, Susan Marcombe, late of
4 Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **widow**, (then being⁹ sick of body
5 but of perfect mind and remembrance) did speak and utter these
6 words hereafter following, or the like in effect, touching her last
7 will. That is to say, she willed and gave all that ever she
8 had unto **Thomas Johnson** of Tonbridge, aforesaid, **shoemaker**,
9 in the presence of **Thomas Johnson, the elder, Richard Johnson**
10 and **Henry Siddon** of Tonbridge, aforesaid, **yeomen**, and others. In

8 decorated "I"; from "Memoranda" to "being" inserted

9 "beeing", "shee", etc.; also "folowing"; all commonly used by Nicholas Hooper

11 testimony and witness whereof, we, the said Thomas
12 Johnson, th'elder, Richard Johnson and Henry Siddon
13 have hereunto set our hands amd marks, the sixteenth
14 day of July in the two and thirtieth year of the reign of
15 our sovereign lady Queen Elizabeth and in the year
16 of our lord god 1590.

By me Richard Johnson

By me Thomas Johnson the elder

The mark ¹⁰ of Henry
Siddon

10 a vertical cross

The Masters of Seal

Masters were recorded in Seal from when the registers began in the 1560s until at least the end of the period studied (1650); two of their wills have survived:

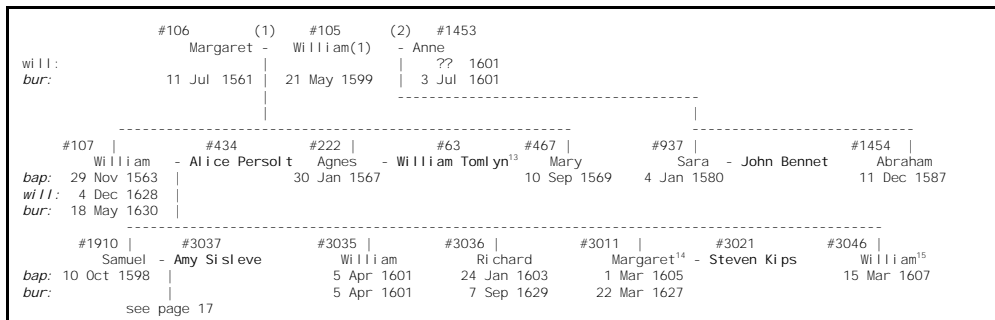
	written	buried		
Anne Masters	3 Jul 1601		CKS: Drb/Pw 18; Drb/Pwr 19I.206	page m.15
William Masters	4 Dec 1628	19 May 1630	PCC: Scroope 61	page m.18

William, the elder (#105¹¹), was probably the William Masters who, in 1564, was the plaintiff in a case regarding about 20 acres of land, etc. see [Seal Fines in Section Z of More Families & Transcripts](#). He was buried on 21st May 1599 and, on 6th June 1599, a grant of administration was made to Agnes, relict of William Masters, deceased¹². This William has been taken as the father of the children baptised in the 1560s and also of those baptised in the 1580s. The children mentioned by Anne, in her will, were the children of a William Masters and the death of Margaret, wife of William Masters, in 1571 makes it reasonable for Anne to have been his second wife. Ann and Agnes often appear as variations of the same name.

¹¹ # indicates reference in Seal database

¹² A.C. Vol.18, 1888; p.37

The Descendants of *William Masters the elder*



William Masters, the younger (#107), was baptised on 29th November 1563 and it is his will that was written in December 1628 when he would have been sixty-five. Although William was the first recorded child, there could have been children born before then since the register did not start until 1563. Two daughters were

-
- 13 married on 28th January when Agnes was twenty-seven; they had three children - see [Tomlyn](#)
 - 14 married on 7th November 1624 when Margaret was nineteen; one child - see [Kips](#)
 - 15 William, son of William Masters, was buried on 7th April 1628 and, since #107, does not mention a son William, this could have been the burial of #3046.

baptised in 1567 and 1569 and Margaret's death in 1571 could have been caused by another pregnancy.

William and Margaret's son William (#107) married on 10th February 1595 when he was thirty-one. He was described as "[William Masters Junior](#)" at the baptism of Samuel in 1598 when his father (#105) would still have been alive. William Masters was one of the assessors for the subsidy granted to Charles I in 1628 in which he was himself assessed for 40s for land and 8s for goods.

William eldest daughter by his second marriage, Sara, married **John Bennet** in **Shipbourne** on 27th August 1599 when she was nineteen. On the same day, **Agnes Bennet**, possibly John's sister, married **Wyborne Harrys**; both couples were "[married by virtue of two licences](#)". No children were recorded for Sara and John in Seal or Shipbourne. Anne Masters appointed her son-in-law, John Bennet as one of the overseers of her will of 1601 but he probably died before 1609 since a Sara Bennet married **Nicholas Gutsoll** on 20th August 1609 also in Shipbourne.

Abraham, son of William Masters was baptised December 1587 but if this was the son to whom Anne referred in her will of 1601, he was only 13, rather young to be her executor.

William Masters, the elder

William, the elder, witnessed the wills of **John Goodhews** (#4080) in 1563 and **James Holloway** (#241) in 1571; in 1564 **Johane Cottman** (#4434) appointed him the executor of her will and in 1588 **John Tooth** appointed him one of his overseers. A William Masters was the scriptor of at least three wills in 1590 and 1591:

1 Apr 1590	Robert Stacye of Wrotham	
7 Mar 1591	Thomas Stace of Seal	where he was also appointed feoffee and overseer
27 Mar 1591	Moyses Pawley of Hadlow	William Master, clerke and writer

A Memorand was added to the Pawley will on 17th May 1591 in the presence of, amongst others, William Master and Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne and the writer of many wills at this time .

The writer of these wills could have been either William Masters the elder or his son (#107) who would have been twenty-seven in 1590. Perhaps he was a clerke who assisted Nicholas Hooper. William Masters "the Clarke" was buried 13th September 1650 but unless he lived to be eighty-six, this could not even have been #107. However, perhaps there was a tradition of training as a clerk in the family.

The burials of two of William the elder's servants were recorded:

- **Henry Randall** on 21st January 1582
- **Allyn Medhurst** on 25th October 1591.

Anne Masters, widow

Anne's will shows her to have been a widow with a reasonable amount of money. She had debts owing to her and instructed that there should be bestowed at her burial "[among my neighbours for a drinking, twenty shillings](#)" and twenty shillings to the poor of Seal.

After leaving all her "[wearing apparel, both woollen and linen](#)" to her daughter Sara, Anne left to her maid, Anne Blackman, her old gown, old petticoat, old kirtle and old hat.

Andrew Homewood (or Holmwood, #715) was one of the witnesses and it is possible he wrote the will; he was one of the churchwarden of Seal up to 1603.

1 In the name of god Amen. I, Anne Masters of Seal
2 in the County of Kent, **widow**, sick in body but
3 in perfect remembrance, thanks be to god do make
4 and ordain this my testament and last will in manner
5 and form following, that is to say, **First**: I bequeath
6 my soul to Almighty god, my maker and Jesus
7 Christ, my redeemer, hoping to be saved by the
8 merits of Christ Jesus, and my body to be buried
9 in the churchyard of Seal aforesaid. I will
10 and bequeath unto **my daughter, Sara**¹⁶
11 **Bennet** all my wearing apparel, both woollen
12 and linen. And both my bro^re box and my
13 little^r coffer and all that is in it. I will and
14 bequeath to every one of my godchildren 6d a
15 piece. I will and bequeath to **Anne**
16 **Blackman, my maid**, my old gown, my old
17 petticoat, my old kirtle and my old ??,

16 twenty-one when her mother wrote her will

18 my old hat and my old --signand. I will and
19 bequeath unto the poor of the parish of Seal
20 twenty shillings. And also I will and
21 bequeath that there shalbe bestowed at my burial,
22 among my neighbours for a drinking, twenty shillings.
23 I will and bequeath unto **Abraham Masters, my**
24 **natural son**, whom I make my whole
25 ?? (executor?), all the rest of my goods and chattels
26 and all such sums of money as are owing
27 unto me and to pay all such debts as I owe
28 and to discharge my funeral expenses. And I
29 ordain to be my overseers **my well beloved**
30 **brother John ??lmmly and John Bennet**
31 **my son-in-law**. In witness hereof
32 the said Anne Masters have set my seal.
witnesses: **Andrew Holmwood and John Bennet and**
Elizabeth Jennings

William Masters, will 1628

The William who wrote his will in 1628 was probably the William buried on 18th May 1630, the will being proved the day after the burial. There were a large number of children "of William Masters" baptised between 1610 and 1638. The will written in 1628 mentions only his wife Alice and two sons, Samuel and Richard, the latter probably being the "Richard, son of William Masters" who died after the writing of the will but before William's death. The Margaret who married Steven Kips died before the will was written.

William's eldest son, Samuel who was his executor, married Amy Sisleve on 9th May 1631 when Samuel was 32; his wife, "Amy" on marriage; became "Ann" when a mother; most of the children, including Samuel, the last one, being recorded as of "Samuel and Ann". Samuel was listed in the **Knoles MS of 1648** for Seal village.

#1910 Samuel - Amy Sisleve #3037							
#3038	#3039	#3040	#3041	#3042	#3043	#3044	#3045
William	Edward	Elizabeth	Richard	Thomas	Mary	Richard	Samuel
bap: 25 Aug 1633	3 Dec 1635	27 Mar 1638	13 Feb 1641	28 Feb 1641	15 Aug 1642	1 Apr 1645	28 Oct 1647
bur:	6 Nov 1638						
	aged 3			twins			

1 In the name of god Amen. The
2 fourth day of December Anno domini one thousand six hundred twenty
eight,
3 I, William Masters of Seal, being sick of body but of good and perfect
memory, god
4 be praised, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner
and form
5 following: **First:** I commend my soul into the hands of god, my maker,
6 hoping assuredly through the only merits of Jesus Christ, my saviour, to be
made
7 partaker of life everlasting. And I commend my body to the earth whence
it came, to be
8 buried at the discretion of my executor hereafter named. **Item:** I give to the
poor of the parish
9 of Seal twenty shillings to be distributed amongst them according to the
discretion of my executor.
10 **Item:** I give to **Alice, my wife**, my best bedstead and best bed with two
pillows, two pillowberes,

11 two blankets, a coverlet and four pairs of sheets. **Item:** I give unto her three
pewter platters,
12 three pewter dishes and three porringers. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
Richard Masters¹⁷, my
13 **son**, the sum of two hundred pounds, one hundred pounds whereof I will
shalbe paid unto him
14 by my executor within one year after my decease. And the other hundred
pounds I will shalbe
15 paid to him, by my executor, within two years of my decease. All other my
goods and
16 chattels whatsoever (my debts and legacies paid) and my funeral expenses
discharged,
17 I give and bequeath unto **Samuel Masters, my eldest son**, whom I ordain
and make
18 executor of this my last will and testament.

And as concerning all my houses, land, tenements
19 and hereditaments with th'appurtenances whatsoever lying in the parishes
of Seal and **Kemsing**
20 or elsewhere, I will and bequeath unto Samuel Masters, my said son, to
have and to hold to

¹⁷ Richard, son of William Masters was baptised on 24th January 1603; he was buried on 7th September 1629, nine months after William wrote his will but eight months before he died.

21 him and his heirs for ever. Provided always that, whereas I have heretofore
given and
22 bequeathed, by this my will, unto Richard Masters, my son, the sum of two
hundred pounds
23 payable as aforesaid, if therefore the said Samuel Masters, his heirs,
executors or
24 assigns do not pay, or cause to be paid, unto the said Richard Masters or
his heirs the
25 forsaid sum of two hundred pounds as before is appointed to be paid, then I
will and
26 bequeath unto Richard Masters all those my lands lying at **Willmotts Hill**,
to have and to hold
27 to him and his heirs for ever. And that after the said two years, if he, the
said
28 Samuel, his heirs or assigns, shall fail in payment of the said sum of two
hundred
29 pounds, that then it shall be lawful for the said Richard Masters unto the
said land to enter.
30 And that then and from thenceforth, my bequests as concerning the land
called Willmotts
31 Hill shalbe void to him the said Samuel and his heirs. And furthermore, my
will is that

32 if he the said Samuel, his heirs, executors or assigns do pay the said sum as
is aforesaid,
33 unto the said Richard or his heirs, that then he, the said Richard or his heirs
shall
34 release unto the said Samuel, his heirs or assigns, all their right title and
interest in the
35 lands called Willmotts Hill and all other the houses, lands and tenements
unto him, the
36 said Samuel, by me bequeathed. In witness whereof I have hereunto
subscribed my name
37 and set my seal unto this my present last will and testament the day and
year first
38 above written in the presence of William Masters, witnesses hereunto
39 **John Theobald, John Munkester, John Evans.**

Another William Masters

The other children whose baptisms were recorded in Seal have been allocated to another William Masters (#3057) who is taken as having had two wives since "[Dorothy, wife of William Masters](#)" died in October 1618. It is then assumed that #3057 married again but it is possible that there was yet another William.

					(1)	#3057	(2)						
					#3066 Dorothy	-	William	-	Anne	#3058			
bur:					24 Oct 1618								

#3047		#3052	#3048	#3049	#3050								
Robert ¹⁸	-	Hester Webb	William ¹⁹	El sabeth ²⁰	Thomas								
bap:	8 Jul 1610		7 Mar 1613	15 Oct 1615	22 Mar 1618								
bur:			23 Nov 1629	4 Feb 1617									
aged:			16 years	15 months									
					see next page								

-
- 18 married on 11 October 1635 when Robert was twenty-five; no children were recorded
 - 19 Another William, son of William Masters was buried on 23rd November 1629 and this has been taken as #3048
 - 20 no father given for baptism or burial but this name was sometimes omitted on the pages for these years

																#3057	William	-	Anne	#3058																																		

#3051		Edward ²¹				-	Joane Frenche				#3053		Thomas				#3059		Joan				#3060		Elizabeth				#3061		Judith				#3062		Jane				#3063		John				#3064		Richard ²²				#3065	
bap:		23 Jan 1620											4 Apr 1624					11 Apr 1626					23 Nov 1628					27 Mar 1631					25 Nov 1631					7 Oct 1632					5 Apr 1635					1 Jul 1638						
bur:																																																						

#3054		William					#3055		Richard					#3056		Elizabeth																																						
bap:		19 May 1644							27 Feb 1648							7 Feb 1650																																						
bur:									10 Jan 1651?																																													

A John, son of William Masters, was buried on 5th July 1628 but no baptism was recorded for a John who could have died at that time.

²¹ married on 23rd July 1643 when Edward would have been twenty-three; he would have been expected to be in the **Knole MS of 1648** but was not included

²² Thomas, John and Richard are described as sons of William and Anne

Richard Mathew of Ightham

Richard Mathew is an example of a man who appears in the Court Records but not the parish register. Both extracts are for his appearance at the Court held on 16th October 1604: "**Thomas Couchman**, on 4 October last, assaulted **Richard Mathew** in the house of **Robert Ward** at Ightham and struck him with a stick, drawing blood. Fined 3s 4d. Richard Mathew on the same day assaulted **Thomas Couchman**. Fined 6d." The day previous to his fight with Couchman Mathew had been assaulted by **John Wyborne** who, at the same Court, was fined 12d. (CRI 1938, p.7)

If this were the only entry, it could be thought that Richard Mathew was only in the parish for a short time but the other extract gives the impression that he was living in the parish since he and **William Chowning** had allowed "**their geese and ducks to foul the water at Redwell**" - see **Chowning** for details. Even so, a man with a wife and possibly children could live in a parish for a few years without there necessarily being a marriage, baptism or burial within the family so that such examples may not always be due to omissions in the parish register. (see also **Ward**)

Will of Thomas Mathews of Dartford

written 20th April 1555

extract from probate copy; CKS: Drb/Pw 5; Drb/Pwr 12.3

I commend my soul unto Almighty god and to the lady, Saint Mary, and all the blessed company of heaven, desiring Almighty god to have mercy upon one whose religion I wholly confess . . as I have learned in the Catholic church, and my body to be buried in the church or churchyard of the blessed trinity of Dartford.

Will of John Medhurst, labourer, of Beckenham

written 24th February 1577/8

extract from probate copy; CKS: Drb/Pw 12; Drb/Pwr 16.5

First: I bequeath my soul to Almighty god and to Jesus Christ, his only son, by whose death and passion I trust my sins to be forgiven. I will my body to be buried in the churchyard of Beckenham.

poor men's box 3s 4d

The Mills of Shipbourne, Tonbridge and Leigh

Details of four wills for Mills (Mylles) are given here:

written:

Giles Mills	Shipbourne	21 Jan 1578/9	CKS: Drb/Pw 12; Drb/Pwr 16.39	page m.40
Edmond Mills	Shipbourne	6 Dec 1582	PCC: Windsor 58; Prob 11/69	page m.29
John Mills	Tonbridge	17 May 1619	CKS: Drb/Pw 24	page m.43
Olyver Mills	Leigh	3 Aug 1625 ²³	CKS: Drb/Pw 26; Drb/Pwr 21.245	page m.47

There were Mills/Milles in other parishes but there is no known connection between them and those included here. See below for the will of William Milles of Tudeley written in 1613.

Edmond was a rich merchant; his connection, if any, with the other Mills is not known.

The will of Giles Mills was witnessed (and probably written) by Nicholas Hooper and that of Olyver Mills by Nicholas's son, John Hooper (or his clerk), whom Olyver describes as "[my good friend John Hooper of Tonbridge](#)". Giles was John Hooper's godfather Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, wrote a large number of wills

²³ with a codicil/memorandum dated 15 Oct 1626

between 1574 and 1618 and other members of the Hooper family carried on this work until at least 1650.

Edmond Milles, mercer

Edmond Milles had two daughters, Elizabeth and Mary, and four sons, Matthew, Edward, Christopher and Richard, when he wrote his will in December 1582. All except probably Matthew who was made his executor and to whom the residue of his estate was left, were under twenty but they could all look forward to a good sized inheritance when they came of age: £24 to Elizabeth and £20 to the each of the others.

Elizabeth and Edward, although not “of age” were old enough to be independent. Mathew was given the responsibility to “bring up, nourish, keep and foster and cherish til they be able to work and get their living, Christopher, Mary and Richard, his brothers and sister, at his charges except his mother will be so good as to help and aid him as nature and good will require”.

Edmond lived for three years after writing his will. “In haste” on 6th December 1585, a codicil was added. This was addressed to “Gossip, Richard Collyns”. Richard had been appointed one of the overseers to the will and “gossip” meant a

familiar friend. There was a Richard Collyns (\$67) who married in 1568 and had six children baptised in Shipbourne. The will was proved on 15th November 1586.

In this codicil Edmond gave Collyns “full power and authority to sell all my moveables, goods and household which I have in my house at Shipbourne or at my house at Sevenoaks or elsewhere at your discretion. And to come into my house, barns and fields within one day after my decease in as full authorisation as I myself might do”

The second part of the codicil is even more interesting: “my mind is that Michael, my son, shall have at his age of 21 years of age, the sum of twenty pounds paid him by you of such money as you shall receive of my rents or of my moveables you think best”. Michael was baptised on 1st March 1584 and, on 7th October 1585, a son of Edmond Milles "not baptised" was buried.

Edmond, just from his bequests to his children, was obviously a rich mercer; he owned land in Tudeley, Capel, Sevenoaks and Shipbourne. Prior to writing his will he had “late sold to John Maisters of Sevenoaks, mercer, one messuage or house and a garden and a backside in the town of Sevenoaks aforesaid as by writing and conveyance between him and me it may appear”. Perhaps this house had been part of the dower of his wife Francis since his will continues: “And that the said Francis, my wife, is to have and receive the one half of her dower during her widowhood according to the custom of Kent, . . . and in consideration that the

said Francis shall not challenge any jointure or dower out of the same messuage before by me sold and shall not vex, trouble or molest the said John Maisters” then she was to receive her jointure or dower out of his “lands and tenements at Tudeley and Capel by my executor to her paid during her natural life”.

Mathew, the eldest son of John Maisters, mercer of Sevenoaks, was baptised in 1600 but John had had two daughters prior to the birth of Mathew. This John Maisters was probably the son of the purchaser of Edmond’s land. See [History of Sevenoaks, Section 2](#) for the will of John Maisters..

Will of Edmond Mills of Shipbourne

written 6th December 1582

transcript from probate copy

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The sixth day of December. And
- 2 in the 25th year of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace of
God
- 3 Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith. And in the
year of our lord
- 4 god one thousand, five hundred, fourscore and two. I, Edmond Milles of
Shipbourne

5 in the county of Kent, **merc**er, being, thanks be to god, at the making
hereof in good and
6 perfect health and remembrance but being mortal and put in mind of this
sudden change
7 of this mortal, fickle and transitory life, do ordain and make this my present
testament and

page 2:

8 last will in manner and form following: And **first** and principally, I give,
commit and bequeath my
9 soul to god Almighty. And to Jesus Christ his son who, by his most
precious death and
10 bloodshedding hath, I trust, redeemed and blotted out all my sins and
iniquities out of his remembrance.
11 And my body to be buried in the churchyard of Shipbourne or elsewhere as
it shall please god to call
12 me. **Item:** I will that at my burial, or within ten days after, there shalbe a
sermon made by a
13 learned man and he to have for it six shillings eightpence. **Item:** I will
there shalbe bestowed
14 at my burial amongst the poor people of Shipbourne aforesaid thirty
shillings and I there be

15 buried or else it shall be bestowed where I die at the discretion of the
churchwardens and my
16 executor if he can conveniently be there. **Item:** I give to **my daughter,**
Elizabeth, the sum of
17 twenty four pounds of lawful money to be paid to her at the age of twenty
years or at her
18 day of marriage, and she so long shall live, by my executor hereafter
named. **Item:** I give to **Edward,**
19 **my son,** twenty pounds of lawful money to be paid to him at his age of one
and twenty
20 years by my executor. **Item:** I will to **Christopher, my son,** the sum of
twenty pounds to be
21 paid to him at the age of one and twenty years by my executor. **Item:** I
give and bequeath to
22 **Mary, my daughter,** twenty pounds to be paid to her at twenty years old or
at her day of
23 marriage by my executor. **Item:** I give to **Richard, my son,** and bequeath to
him twenty pounds
24 to be paid at the age of 21 years by my executor. And if it chance that any
of these, my children,
25 die before the money is due, then my mind is the money shall die with
them and my executor

26 not to pay that money to the others. But everyone that is alive to have his
bequest and
27 legacy. **Item:** I give to **my wife, Francis**, my best bed save one and four
pairs of middling
28 sheets, a pillow and bolster and two platters, two blankets and two pewter
dishes and
29 my great brass pot and a middling kettle and four drinking pots of 12d.
The rest of all my
30 goods, debts and leases and moveables whatsoever unmentioned I wholly,
fully and with good effect,
31 intent and purpose, I give, dispose and bequeath to **my son Mathew Milles**
whom I do constitute,
32 ordain and make my full and whole executor of this my present testament
and last will. And I desire
33 my wellbeloved friends and overseers of this my will and trusty friends
Nicholas Miller and **Richard**
34 **Collins** that they, and every of them shalbe helpers, aiders and assisters to
my said executor shall desire them
35 to assist and help him and for their good will I give them twenty shillings a
piece. And for
36 their pains and costs beside to be allowed besides my gift to them. And it
shall fortune that they

37 lay out in riding or going about, my executor to allow them over and above
to them. In witness
38 whereof I, the said Edmond Milles, to this my present testament have set
my hand and seal yeven
39 the day and year above written in the presence of **John Jesopp** and others.
By me Edmond Milles.

40 This is the last will of me the said
41 Edmond Milles made and declared the day and year aforesaid concerning
the order and
42 disposition of all my lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever
within the county of Kent. And
43 first, I give and bequeath to the said Mathew Milles, my son, all my lands,
tenements and
44 hereditaments whatsoever, all and singular th'appurtenances, set, lying
and being in the parishes of
45 **Tudeley and Capel and Sevenoaks** aforesaid²⁴ or elsewhere within the
county of Kent. To have and to hold
46 the same and every part and parcel thereof to Mathew, my son, and to his
heirs for ever. **Item:**

24 the only parish mentioned so far is Shipbourne

47 whereas I late sold to **John Maisters** of Sevenoaks, mercer, one messuage
or house and a garden
48 and a backside in the town of Sevenoaks aforesaid as by writing and
conveyance between
49 him and me it may appear. And that the said Francis, my wife, is to have
and receive the
50 one half of her dower during her widowhood according to the custom of
Kent, my mind and
51 will therefore is for her and in consideration that the said Francis shall not
challenge any jointure
52 or dower out of the same messuage before by me sold and shall not vex,
trouble or molest the said
53 John Maisters or his heirs or assigns for any such jointure or dower that
she, the said Francis,
54 shall have, hold, receive and take out of my lands and tenements at
Tudeley and Capel by my
55 executor to her paid during her natural life²⁵. And she marry, the sum of
five pounds and she

25 the amount of the annuity is not given here; since it appears that it was to be paid in two instalments of fifty shillings, it appears to be £5 but was this what she was to receive if she remarried? In which case the original annuity would have been larger.

56 and her assigns do demand it at the farm. And she cannot have it paid to
her, or her

page 3:

57 assigns and it be lawfully demanded and it be not paid within ten days
after Michaelmas
58 and our Lady day at each time fifty shillings, then it shall be lawful for her
to strain and
59 distress to withhold til all the dues to her be paid. But, and she do not
marry, then
60 I mean she shall have the one half of my lands and the law will allow it
and not else
61 for I do give her the five pounds but, and she marry for because she shalbe
content with
62 that sale I have made and sold to help her and me and to bring up my
children. And she do
63 trouble John Maisters, then I mean she shall not have this my gift nor my
executor shall not be
64 charged to pay any of the children I have by her anything. No not so much
as one penny.
65 And she not to have more than the law will give her. And also, for and in
consideration, I have

66 made Mathew²⁶ Milles, my son, my executor and given him all my lands,
debts and leases
67 and moveables, my mind is and will is that Mathew Milles, my son, or his
assigns shall
68 bring up, nourish, keep and foster and cherish til they be able to work and
get their
69 living, Christopher²⁷, Mary and Richard, his brothers and sister, at his
charges except his mother
70 will be so good as to help and aid him as nature and good will require.
Item: my will and
71 mind is that Nicholas Miller and Richard Collins, my wellbeloved friends in
Christ, shall sell
72 all my instuff and implements straight way after my decease to pay my
legacies and debts.
73 And I pray you²⁸ to help to put my son, Mathew, to some good trade as to a
mercier or to a

26 here (and for the rest of the will) spelled "Matthew" although "Mathew" (as appeared earlier in the will) was usual at this time

27 "Xpefer"

28 presumably Edmond is addressing his "wellbeloved friends"

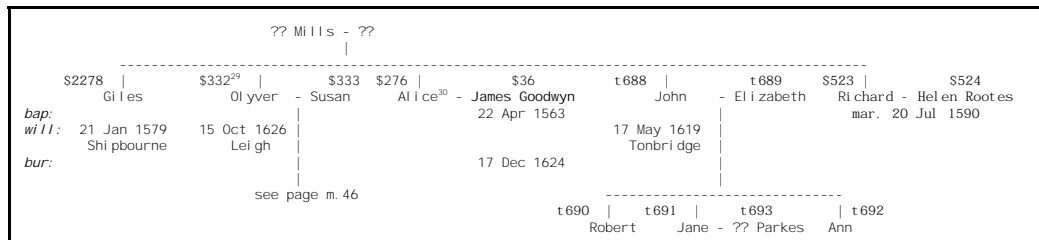
74 pewterer or glover. And I have made this my last will and subscribed it
with my hand and
75 have set my seal the day and year above written in the presence of **John**
Jesopp and divers
76 others. By me Edmond Milles. John Jesopp.

A Codicil to be annexed to the last will and
testament of me the said Edmond Milles.

- Gossip Richard Collyns, my mind is that you shall have full power and
- authority to sell all my moveables, goods and household which I have in
my house at
- Shipbourne or at my house at Sevenoaks or elsewhere at your discretion.
And to come into
- my house, barns and fields within one day after my decease in as full
authorisation as I
- my self might do. Written in haste at Shipbourne, the sixth day of
December 1585.
- By me Edmond Milles **Item:** my mind is that **Michael, my son**, shall have
at his age
- of 21 years of age, the sum of twenty pounds paid him by you of such
money as you
- shall receive of my rents or of my moveables you think best.

The Blacksmiths

The brothers Giles, Oliver and John, were all blacksmiths. The fourth brother, Richard, could have been the Richard who married Helen Rootes on 20th July 1590.



The three were from different parishes, Giles from Shipbourne, John from Tonbridge and Olyver from Leigh in 1626 but his children were born in Shipbourne. His wife, Susan, died in 1585 just over a year after their youngest son was buried. Olyver then married Bridgett - he would have needed a wife to help look after six children under eleven.

29 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database, "t" one in that for Tonbridge

30 married, in Shipbourne, 4th August 1583 - see Goodwyns in More Families & Transcripts

Giles Mills

Giles died fairly young, probably unmarried and certainly without any children. He was the godfather of Nicholas Hooper's second son, John, baptised on 31st March 1578 less than a year before Giles died. Giles left John two shillings in his will.

Nicholas Hooper married in 1575 and Giles's younger brother, Olyver, in the early 1580s. Thus the blacksmith and the curate were contemporaries with Nicholas perhaps slightly the older.

No wife is mentioned in Giles's will but he left his cloak to his "[father-in-law](#)", Robert Wood. Had Giles married Robert's daughter who had died prior to Giles writing his will or was "father-in-law" used to mean "step-father"? He can be added to the above family tree in either role.

In his will Giles mentions Ralph Beamond, deceased, who had given him authority to take up his debts and he passes on this authority to his brother, Olyver. Ralph's will was spoken only nine days before Giles's will was written - see [Beamond in More Families & Transcripts](#).

1 In the name of god Amen.

2 The one and twentieth day of January in the
3 year of our lord god 1578 and in the one and twenty
4 year of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth, by
5 the grace of god, Queen of England, France and Ireland,
6 defender of the faith. I, Giles Mills of Shipbourne in the
7 County of Kent, **blacksmith**, being sick and weak in body
8 but yet of perfect mind and remembrance, lauded therefore be God
9 Almighty, do ordain and make this my present testament and last
10 will in manner and form following, that is to say, **First** and
11 principally I give, commend and bequeath my soul to almighty
12 God, myne only maker, saviour and redeemer, Jesus Christ, by whose
13 merit, precious death and blood shedding I trust to be saved and
14 my body to be buried in the churchyard of Shipbourne
15 aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath to the box or chest of
16 the poor in Shipbourne aforesaid 3s 4d. **Item:** I give and
17 bequeath to **my brother, Olyver Mills**, all my implements and
18 tools that belong to my shop and all mine iron and coals which
19 I have in the same and in my house. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my**

20 **brother, Richard Mills**, the sum of forty shillings of lawful money.
21 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my sister, Alice Mills**, the sum of £10
22 lawful money. **Item:** I give unto **my father-in-law³¹, Robert Woodd**,
23 my cloak. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **John Roger** ten shillings
24 and to **his son, Giles, my godson**, two shillings. **Item:** to **my**
25 **godson, John Hooper³²**, two shillings. **Item:** I give to my
26 said brother Olyver all my wearing gear and apparel
27 except the said cloak and myne older hat which I will my
28 brother Richard shall have. The residue of all my goods and
29 cattell, as well moveable as unmoveable, my debts and legacies
30 being paid and my funeral dischargd³³, I wholly, fully and
31 with good effect give and bequeath to my said brother Olyver
32 whom I make and constitute my whole and sole executor of this my
33 present will and testament, to see my body honestly brought to the
34 earth and to bestow upon poor people, at my burial, in bread
35 and drink six shillings and to see my debts and legacies performed.

31 no wife is mentioned; had she died prior to Giles writing his will or was "father-in-law" used to mean "step-father"?

32 Nicholas Hooper's son, John, was baptised in Shipbourne in 1578 and was, therefore, less than a year old when Giles wrote his will

33 "d" in probate copy

36 And whereas one **Ralph Beomond, deceased**, in his life time
37 gave me authority to take up all his debts which were owing unto
38 him as by an account in writing by him made it doth appear And after
39 the same authority willed that I, the said Giles, should give, pay and
40 make an Account over to **Lore Page, widow**, mother of the
41 said Ralph, and she to pay the same in manner and form as in the
42 said writing by and in the life of the said Ralph is set down, my
43 mind and will is, therefore, that the said Olyver, my brother,
44 have the like authority as I, by virtue of the said writing, have and
45 shall make my account of the sum to the said Lore in manner and
46 form as therein is set down, she the said Lore allowing all such
47 expenses unto the said Olyver as he shall pertain? to layout and
48 bestow in the getting and having of the sum. In witness
49 whereof, I, the said Giles Mills, have hereunto set my seal
50 the day and year before written. In the presence of the said
51 **John Roger, Sylvester Page, servants** to me the said Giles, **Nicolas**
52 **Hooper**³⁴ and others.

53 This is the last will of me the
54 said Giles made and declared the day and year before written.
55 **Item:** I will that at the next Court to be holden at **Hilden** in the

56 parish of **Tonbridge**, the tenant? shall surrender unto my
57 **brother, John Mills**, one parcel of Copyhold land containing,
58 by estimation, half an acre, lying in the said **Burrough of**
59 **Hilden** in the said parish of **Tonbridge**, To have and to hold
60 the same with the appurtenances unto him, the said John, and to
61 his heirs at the will of the land according to the custom of the
62 manor of Hilden aforesaid. In witness whereof I have set
63 my seal in the presence of the witnesses aforesaid, yeven³⁵ the
64 day and year above written.

Will of John Mills of Tonbridge

written 17th May 1619; nuncupative
transcript from original

1 **Memorandum** of John Mills of Tonbridge
2 in the County of Kent, **blacksmith**, the 17th
3 day of May 1619 being in perfect
4 memory, made his testament nuncupative
5 in form following: **First:** he bequeathed his
6 soul to God and to Jesus Christ, his

35 given

7 saviour and Redeemer. And his body to
8 be buried in the churchyard of
9 Tonbridge aforesaid. **Item:** he did
10 give to **Elizabeth, his wife**, all
11 his household stuff in his great chamber
12 and all such household stuff as his said
13 wife had at her marriage with
14 him. He did give and bequeath to
15 **Richard Mills, his son**, ten pounds
16 lawful money. **Item:** he did give and
17 bequeath to **Ann Mills, his daughter**,
18 one joined bedstead with a featherbed
19 and all that belongeth to it. **Item:** he
20 did give to **Jane ?? Parkes, his**
21 **daughter**, ten shillings and he
22 did appoint **Richard Walter**
23 of **S--venoke** his executor. And
24 **Olyver Mills of Shipbourne**³⁶ and
25 **John Walter of Sevenoaks** his
26 overseers. Which words he uttered
27 and pronounced in the presence of them

28 Richard Goodhews, John
29 Thistleton of Tonbridge aforesaid

X Goodhew jurat

The Family of Olyver Mills

		\$333 Susan -		\$332 Olyver - Bridgett \$1024			
<i>will:</i>		3 Aug 1625					
<i>died:</i>		4 Apr 1595		Oct 1626			

\$334 Susan -		\$1071 Henry Hunt		\$552 \$503		\$ 470 \$1094 \$ 593	
				Johane Giles		Johane - Robert Hunt Ri chard -	
<i>bap:</i> 21 Nov 1585		1 Apr 1588		7 Dec 1589		7 Feb 1592	
<i>bur:</i>		<1592		13 Dec 1596		10 Feb 1594	
				aged 7		£1154 Syl vester	
						Homewood	

i 1087		i 1088		i 1198		i 1199	
Alice		Susanne		Olyver		Robert	
<i>bap:</i> 7 Mar 1613		6 Jan 1615		4 Mar 1617		23 Jan 1618	
<i>bur:</i> 23 Sep 1614						son son	
						10ct 1620 19 May 1622	
						\$1327	
						Jane	
						19 Apr 1624	
						\$1330	
						El i zabeth	
						11 Feb 1622	
						16 Feb 1622	

		\$1098		\$2337		\$2338	
		Clemence		John		Ni chol as	
<i>bap:</i>		28 Sep 1612				Marie	
<i>bur:</i>						Gabriel	
						??	
						Oct 1626	
						1626	

Susan, Olyver's eldest daughter, married Henry Hunt in Shipbourne on 17th May 1612. Their daughters, Alice and Susanne, were baptised in Ightham (where Alice was also buried) and the others in Shipbourne. Between Robert and Jane, two sons of Henry Hunt were buried, probably they were stillborn or died soon after birth.

His other surviving daughter, Johane, married Robert Hunt in Shipbourne on 29th July 1614. The baptism of Clemence, daughter of Robert Hunt, was recorded on 28th December 1612, eighteen months before his marriage to Johane.

It could have been that Clemence was Robert's daughter from an earlier marriage but Olyver Mills left a joined chest to "[Clemence Hunt, my grandchild](#)". The other children of Johane and Robert, known from Olyver's will, may have been baptised in Leigh (records for which have not survived) since Robert is described as "[of Leigh](#)" when Olyver wrote his will.

Will of Olyver Mills of Leigh

written 3rd August 1625; codicil 15th October 1626

probate 15th December 1626

transcript up to line 34 from the probate copy; the rest from the original

1 In the name of god Amen. the third day of
2 August, An. Dom. 1625 and in the first year of the reign
3 of our sovereign Lord Charles, by the grace of God, king of
4 England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the
5 faith. I, Olyver Mills of **Lighe next Tonbridge** in the
6 County of Kent, **blacksmith**, do ordain and make this
7 my testament and last will in manner and form following:
8 **First:** I yield my soul to Almighty God, my maker,
9 in assured hope of salvation through the merit and
10 mediation of Jesus Christ, my saviour, and my body to the
11 earth in decent manner to be buried. **Item:** I will and

12 give to the poor people of Shipbourne twenty shillings
13 to be distributed by the advice of the minister there
14 and the churchwardens and overseers of the poor or
15 some of them. **Item:** I will and give to **Susan and Johane,**
16 **my two daughters,** whom I have already preferred, five
17 shillings a piece. **Item:** I give to **my sister, Alice Goodwyn,**
18 ten shillings. **Item:** I give to **Jane, one of the daughters**
19 **of my daughter Susan,** one bedstead in the ??
20 loft of her dwelling house³⁷ and the featherbed, bolster,
21 coverlet? and blanket thereto belonging and to **Susan, her**
22 **other daughter,** I give one great joined chest, all which goods
23 are in her house. And I do will and appoint that
24 their mother shall have the use thereof till they shall
25 accomplish their several ages of 21 years or till their several
26 days of marriage, which shall first happen. **Item:** I give
27 unto **Clemence Hunt, my grandchild,** one chest joined and to
28 **Marie Hunt,** her sister, the bed which I have in their
29 father's house in Lighe aforesaid. **Item:** I will to the poor
30 of Lighe-next-Tonbridge ten shillings. **Item:** I will to **my**
31 **brother, Richard Mills,** twenty shillings. **Item:** to **Frances,**

32 Margaret, Sara and Clemence, servants and children³⁸ of Robert
33 Hunt, my son-in-law, I will twenty shillings to be equally
34 divided amongst them.

- The residue of all and every my goods, cattell, chattels,
- debts, money and household stuff, or the value thereof, I will unto **Robert Hunt of Lighe**
- aforesaid, **yeoman, my son-in-law**, for and to the use, benefit and behoof
- of **Clemence, Nicholas, Marie and Gabriel, his four children**,
- and of **Susan, Jane, Olyver and Robert, the four children of**
- **my said daughter, Susan**, portion and portion like to be raised
- and divided among my said eight grandchildren out of the sum
- that the inventories of all my said goods, chattels, debts, money
- and household stuff indifferently to be priced shall amount unto (my
- debts and ??, the other legacies given away by this my will being
- deducted together with my funeral charges³⁹ and the charges to be
- expended about the inventorying of my said goods and the probation
- of this my will and all other charges and expenses of the said Robert

38 only Clemence has previously been mentioned as a grandchild

39 spelt "chardges" throughout which is usual for the Hoopers

- occasioned by this my will). The which Robert Hunt of Lighe I
- do make and ordain the executor of this my testament and last will
- to see the same proved and my body decently buried and all my debts and
- legacies first fully and truly paid. To the which Robert I will and
- give twenty shillings to be deducted as aforesaid over and above all
- his charges to be expended as aforesaid. And my will and mind
- is that before the end of one whole year next after my decease
- All my said eight grandchildren have their portions aforesaid
- laid out and apportioned. And that the said Robert Hunt,
- my executor, his executors or Assigns do, before the end of the
- said year give such security for the payment of each grandchild,
- his, her or their several portions (with profit after the rate of twelve
- pence of and for every pound of any in each portion to be allowed yearly⁴⁰
- and from year to year to them
- from and after the end of the said one year until the full age
- of twenty and one years of each grandchild to be accomplished.
- And then with the portion and profit respectively to them and every of
- them belonging to be paid) as by mine overseer hereafter named
- shalbe thought fit. And if the said Robert Hunt, mine executor, his
- executors or assigns shall not give security accordingly for the
- payment of the said grandchildren, their said several portions with the

- profit as aforesaid, then upon complaint made by my said overseer, his
- heirs and assigns unto the ordinary before whom this my will shalbe
- proved, I will and entreat the said ordinary to call before them⁴¹ my
- said executor, his executors or administrators and to cause my
- said executor, his executors or assigns to give security as aforesaid.
- And my will is that if any of the four children . . do decease . .

brother/sister(s) to get the deceased child's portion

- Provided always
- my will and mind is that the Bedstead, cupboard and press which I
- bought of **John Puge?**, now in my house hereafter by me willed to
- **Oliver and Robert Hunt**⁴², **my grandchildren**, shalbe and remain
- as standers in the said house (not to be priced) to the use of the
- said Olyver and Robert and their assigns.

41 him?

42 Olyver and Robert are described before as the children of Susan as distinct from the four children of Robert Hunt.

- And I desire and appoint **my good friend John Hooper of Tonbridge**
- to be the overseer of this my will and to take some pains that
- the same may take according to my true mind and meaning to
- whom I give, for a token of my love, over and above his charges
- herein to be taken, ten shillings of lawful, english money.

- This is also the last will of me the said Olyver Mills,
- made and declared the day and year abovesaid, touching the
- ordering and ?? of all my lands and tenements. **Item:**
- I will, give and devise to **John Hunt⁴³, eldest son of the said**
- **Robert Hunt**, mine executor, All that messuage or tenement with the
- Barn, garden and one parcel of land, one orchard and all other
- appurtenances thereto belonging called **Woodrock** or any otherwise
- which I purchased of **Francis Everest** lying in **Shipbourne**
- aforesaid, containing, by estimation, two acres more or less,
- to hold to the said John Hunt, his heirs and Assigns, forever.
- Notwithstanding, I will that **Robert Mylls⁴⁴, my brother**, shall
- be paid out of the same, yearly and every year, after my decease,
- during his natural life, forty shillings of lawful, english

43 Presumably John was another grandson, the elder brother of Nicholas, Marie and Gabriel

44 brother Robert is not mentioned by Giles or John

money to be paid him quarterly by equal portions. And
for default of payment . . .

Item:

I will to **Olyver and Robert, sons of Susan Hunt, my daughter**, All that my Messuage or tenement wherein **Anthony Gibson** now dwelleth with the buildings, yards, orchard and lands freehold with th'appurtenances thereto belonging, containing, by estimation, two acres more or less, which I bought of **Jane Mausley** situated, lying and being in **Shipbourne** aforesaid. To hold to the said Olyver and Robert, the sons aforesaid of the said Susan and to their heirs and assigns forever excepted always free liberty unto the heirs and assigns of the said Olyver Hunt . . . adjoining to fetch water of the well upon the said freehold ??

In witness whereof, I, the said Olyver Mylles have to this my testament and last will set my hand and seal
yeven⁴⁵ the day and year first before written

signed ⁴⁶ Oliver Mylls

⁴⁵ given

⁴⁶ his mark - a large T on its side

Sealed, published, declared
and acknowledged by the said Olyver
Mylls to be his testament and last
will in the presence of

Thomas Diker

John Hooper⁴⁷, noyer pbq

William Walker

Also the said Olyver Milles, the 15th day of October AD one
thousand, six hundred and twenty and six, do declare and make known
that, whereas since the time that this my will was by me sealed, published

..
Gabriel Hunt, my grandchild, son of Richard Hunt, is deceased and that at
this time there is born to the said Robert a son, as yet unbaptised and
named, that it is my mind and will that son so now lately born shall
have all and what portion soever is by me willed to the said Gabriel. In

⁴⁷ "John Hooper" here, presumably his signature, is different from the "John Hooper" which appears in the text of the will; perhaps the will was written by John Hooper's clerk. This occurs in other wills, see, for example that of Thomas Carpenter

witness whereof I have added this to the rest before written and hereto set
signed ¹ Olyver Mills
witness: John Hooper² Moses ??

The Richard Mylls (Mills) of Shipbourne

On 20th July 1590 Richard Mylls (\$523) married Helen Rootes (\$524)
On 13th May 1604 Richard Mylls (\$182) married Francis Swan (\$161)
On 27th June 1615 Richard Mylls (\$593) married Sylvester Homewood (#1154).
Elizabeth (\$1330), daughter of Richard Mylls, was baptised on 11th February 1622
and buried on 16th February. If she was the daughter of any of the above
marriages, it must have been the 1615 marriage,

Edmund Mylls had a son Richard (\$182) baptised in 1581 who could have married
Francis Swan. Richard (\$593), the son of Olyver Mylls baptised in 1594 could
have married Sylvester Homewood.

¹ as above

² written as in text of will rather than as signature above

William Mills of Tudeley

There are Milles/Mills in other parishes but there are no known connections between them.

William appointed his wife Martha as his executrix. He left 12 pence to each of his six godchildren giving their names; none of them appear to be members of the Milles family.

William mentioned just one son who was under twenty-one in 1613. He had two brothers-in-law, Anthony Huggett and Richard Roots, one of whom could have been his wife's brother but the other must have married one of his sisters. He also had a sister Johane to whom he left £2 but this was to be given to his overseers and distributed to her "[at her times of need according to their discretion](#)". Was this to avoid her husband obtaining the money or just because William thought that £2 given to her directly would be too much for his sister to manage?

x1753 x1756 x1760 x1761 x1765¹
 ?? - Anthony Huggett ?? - Richard Roots William Milles - Martha Johane - ?? Evans
will: | | | |
 x1755 x1758 x1759 x1762 William
 Sara Mary Elizabeth William

Will of William Mills of Tudeley

written 19th October 1613; proved on 19th December 1613

transcript from probate copy; PCC: Capell 116; Prob 11/122

1 In the name of god Amen. The nineteenth day of
2 October in the year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord James, by the grace
of
3 god king of England, France and Ireland the eleventh and of Scotland the
seven and
4 fortieth, I, William Milles of Tudeley in the county of Kent, **yeoman**,
somewhat weak of
5 body but of perfect memory (thanks be to god) do make and ordain this my
last

1 "x" indicates a reference in the database including a number of parishes

6 will and testament in manner and form following⁵⁰: And **First**: I commend
my soul
7 into the hands of Almighty God, my maker, and my body to the earth to be
buried in the
8 churchyard of Tudeley. **Item**: I give to the poor of the parish of Tudeley ten
shillings
9 to be distributed unto them at my burial by mine executrix or her assigns.
Item: I
10 give unto my godchildren, viz. Susan Hodge, Richard Beecher, Stephen
Carrott, Martha
11 Smythe, Bridget Goadhughe and Richard Lorkyn, to either of them twelve
pence a
12 piece. **Item**: I give unto Sara Huggett, daughter of Anthony Huggett, my
brother-in-law,
13 six shillings eightpence. **Item**: I give unto Mary and Elizabeth Roots,
daughters of Richard
14 Roots, my brother-in-law, to either of them six shillings eight pence a
piece. **Item**: I give and
15 bequeath to Margaret Ingfield, servant unto my brother Anthony Huggett,
twenty shillings

50 "folowing" (probate copy)

16 to be paid her within one year after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath
to **Elizabeth**
17 **Ingfield, my servant**, three pounds six shillings eight pence to be paid her
by mine
18 executrix hereafter to be named at her first day of marriage. **Item:** I give
and bequeath
19 to **my sister Johane Evans** of Tudeley forty shillings to be paid by mine
executrix within
20 one month after my decease into the hands of my overseers hereafter
named to the only use
21 of my said sister Johane whom I desire to distribute the same unto her at
her times of
22 need according to their discretion. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **William**
Milles, my
23 **son**, forty pounds to be paid by mine executrix at his full age of one and
twenty years.
24 ⁵¹
25
26 And for the due
and true performance of the aforesaid legacy unto my son William, I will
and ordain

51 "And for the due and true performance of the aforesaid legacy unto my son William, I will and ordain that my said executrix at the full age of one and twenty years" crossed out

27 that my said executrix (if she shalbe by mine overseers thereunto required)
shall, within one
28 quarter of a year after my decease, make sufficient security unto mine
overseers hereafter
29 named that either she or some other for her or her heirs, executors or
administrators shall
30 very truly pay or cause to be paid unto my said son the aforesaid legacy of
forty
31 pounds according to my true meaning herein expressed or else she to stand
void of all
32 benefit of executorship. The residue of all my goods, cattells and chattels
not before
33 willed and bequeathed, I give and bequeath unto **Martha, my loving wife,**
whom I do
34 make and ordain my sole and whole executrix to see my body decently
buried and my
35 legacies performed. This is the last will and testament of me, William
Milles,
36 touching the disposing of all my land and tenements lying in Tudeley
aforesaid,
37 published and declared the day and year first above written. **Item:** I will
that Martha,

38 my wife, shall for her maintenance and the bringing up of William, my son,
have, hold and
39 enjoy all my lands and tenements lying in Tudeley aforesaid until my said
son
40 shall accomplish and come to the age of one and twenty years without
strip or waste.
41 And I do allow her every year during the said term to take three cords of
wood
42 growing upon my said land towards her fuel. **Item:** I give unto William
Milles, my son,
43 when he shall accomplish the age of one and twenty years, all my lands
and tenements
44 aforesaid lying in Tudeley aforesaid and to his heirs for ever. Provided
always and my
45 true meaning is that, if my said son shall happen to decease without heirs
of his body
46 lawfully begotten before mine executrix aforementioned, then I will that
my said executrix
47 shall have and enjoy all my lands and tenements aforesaid during the term
of her
48 natural life. And then after her decease, I will the said lands and
tenements

49 unto the right heirs of the said William Milles, my son and to their heirs for
ever.

page 2:

50 **Item:** I further will that my son William Milles, after he shall accomplish
the age of one and
51 twenty years, shall pay unto Martha, my loving wife, yearly during her
natural life, five
52 pounds a year towards her maintenance. And I will that the said payment
shalbe made, paid, by
53 at the four usual feasts viz. the nativity of our Lord, the Annunciation, St.
John
54 Baptist and Saint Michael. And for default of such payment at the several
times
55 aforesaid or within seven days after, I will that my said wife or her assigns
shall enter
56 and distrain upon any of my lands aforesaid and the distresses so taken
shall
57 lead, drive, carry away, detain and keep until the several payments and
every part
58 thereof be paid according to my true meaning. **Item:** I will that Martha, my
wife, shall have

59 free liberty after that my said son shall accomplish the age of one and
twenty years
60 to dwell (so long as she shall continue a widow) either in the house which
now ??⁵²
61 widow dwelleth in or else to have a chamber in my now dwelling house
called the parlour
62 with fireroom together with my son with free egress and regress in and out
during the
63 said term. And further I will that my said son shall yearly during her
widowhood
64 deliver her for her fuel three cords of wood every year. **Item:** I ordain my
wellbeloved friends
65 **Mr Robert Newman and Isaac Shelley**, both of Tudeley, to be supervisors
and overseers
66 of this my present will and testament desiring them to see it performed
according to my true
67 meaning and as is before expressed. And I will them for their pains ten
shillings.
68 In witness whereof, revoking all former wills by me made, I have to this my
last will and

52 the name of the widow - Lowtes?

69 testament set my hand and seal the day and year first above written.
Published and
70 acknowledged in the presence of **William Roots, Richard Harris and**
Richard Roots.
71 The mark of William Milles.

The *Mogers of Seal*

Two wills have survived for Moger (or Mogier) of Seal but there is no mention of this family in the parish records:

	written	proved	CKS:	
Thomas Moger	23 Dec 1522		Drb/Pw 2; Drb/Pwr 7.261	page m.66
Thomas Mogier	29 Nov 1559	16 Apr 1560	Drb/Pw 7; Drb/Pwr 12.391	page m.68

The Thomas whose will was dated December 1522 had a "[shop of cloth](#)" whilst the Thomas who died in 1559/1560 was a carpenter. The carpenter left "Alice Mogier" 6s 8d; was she his sister and was he the son of Thomas and Mabel? Thomas and Alice do not appear to have had any children and he made Thomas Beecher, son of Johane Beecher, his executor; it is not known what the connection was between the Mogiers and the Beechers.

		#4615	Thomas - Mabel I	#4616			
<i>will:</i>		23 Dec 1522					

	#4617		#4620	#4619		#4618	
		Thomas	- Alice	Richard		Alice	
<i>born:</i>		>1502		>1503		>1503	
<i>will:</i>	29 Dec 1559						

1 In dei nom. Amen. In the year of our lord
2 1522, the 23rd day of December
3 I, Thomas Moger of Seal, whole in mind
4 make my testament in this manner: **First**
5 I bequeath my soul to god, my body to be
6 buried in the churchyard there. **Item:** to
7 the high altar there 12d. Also I will
8 that **Thomas, my son,** have my house and
9 2 crofts of land lying in Seal at the
10 age of 21 years in **fee simple**. And if
11 he fault before the said age, then I will
12 the said house and land be sold to the
13 best value. And the money thereof to be
14 divided into three parts, one part to be ??
15 for me?, the second part to the repair
16 of the church of Seal, the third part
17 to **Alice, my daughter.** Also I will **my wife**
18 **Mabell,** have my house that I dwell in time
19 of her life. Then I will **John Swaynland**

20 have the profit of my croft for to my
21 **son Richard** to the age aforesaid. Also I will
22 that **Alice, my daughter**, have to her marriage
23 four pounds to be paid out of **my shop**
24 **of cloth**. The residue of all my goods I
25 will my wife have term of her life And
26 after her life the said goods to remain
27 to my children and I make and ordain **John**
28 **Swaynsland** to be mine executor and he to
29 have for his labour 6s 8d. his X
30 witnesses include: **William Denman**

There are a number of differences between the original and the probate copy; the transcript below is basically from the copy but those phrases in [] are not in the original and those in { } in the original but not the copy.

1 In the name of god Amen. The 29th day {of the month}
2 of November in the year of our lord god
3 1559 [and in the year of the reign of our
4 Sovereign Lady Elizabeth, by the
5 grace of God, of England, France and
6 Ireland, Queen, defender of the faith,
7 [the second.] I, Thomas Mogier of {the parish of}
8 Seal in the county of Kent, **car**
9 **penter**, sick in body but of good {mind and memory} [and
10 perfect remembrance], thanks be
11 given to Almighty god, [constitute,]
12 ordain and make this my [present]
13 testament and last will in manner and
14 form following, [that is to say,] **First:**
15 I bequeath my soul unto [the hands

16 of] Almighty god, [my saviour and redeemer],
17 beseeching him, [of his infinite mercy] to
18 grant it the sanction of his plenty and
19 my body to be buried in the churchyard
20 of Seal aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath {unto}
21 [to be bestowed at] my burial 3s 4d
 {to be bestowed upon my funeral and to}
22 [amongst] the poor people of Seal
23 [aforesaid]. **Item:** I bequeath to the amending
24 of the glass windows of the church of
25 Seal aforesaid 3s 4d. **Item:** I bequeath unto
26 **Amy Crochely** 3s 4d. **Item:** I give and bequeath
27 to **Alice Mogier** 6s 8d. **Item:** I give
28 to **Bartram Sening** 6s 8d. **Item:** I
29 bequeath to **Alice Mogier, my wife**, all
30 my ?? stuff now in my house and the same
31 house to dwell in during the term of
32 her natural life, she to leave in the
33 said house the table and the hangings. **Item:** I
34 will to **John Mogier**, [my cousin of Hitchell],
 {my kinsman dwelling in the parish of Hitchin}
35 my [said house with th'appurtenances to]
 {house which my wife now dwelleth in}

36 him and to his heirs forever after the decease
37 of my [said] wife. The residue of all my {moveable}
38 goods and chattels, my legacies [and
39 debts] truly contented and paid
I give and bequeath to **Johane Beecher?**, widow
and **Thomas Beecher, her son**, . .
. . the which Thomas B. . .
40 I [constitute], ordain and make my sole
41 and lawful executor of this my present
42 testament and last will. These being
43 present and witnesses unto the same
44 **Thomas Dale, vicar of Kemsing and Seal**⁵³,
45 **William Swaynland, Edward Swaynland,**
46 and Robert ??, with others more.

53 Thomas Dale was installed as vicar on 22nd December 1558 on the death of the previous incumbent (A.C. Volume 20, Incumbents of Kemsing with Seal, p.268); he could have written this will

*The **Monkes** of Seal and Kemsing*

The will of John Monke of Kemsing was written on 26th January 1565/6 (**CKS: Drb/Pwr 13.221**) - see page m.74. John was buried, four days later, in Kemsing. William, "[son of John Monke of Kemsing](#)", had married Sylvester Olyver in Seal eighteen months earlier (on 14th June 1563) and they had seven children between 1564 and 1572 only two of whom (the eldest and the youngest) survived childhood. The eldest, Jane, the only child born before 1566 was remembered by her grandfather. See [Olyvers](#) for details of Sylvester's family.

In his will written in 1557, **William Hills of Kemsing** mentioned the children of one of his daughters: John Monke the younger, William, Nicholas, Sybell and Alice. The children whom John Monke mentioned in his will were John, William, Sybell, Alice, Agnes, Nicholas and Gilbert. Sybell and Nicholas are both unusual names and it would thus seem that William Hills's daughter was Sylvester, the wife of the testator, John Monke. See the [Hills of Kemsing and Seal](#).

The William Monke who married Sylvester Olyver must have been born about 1540 but, even so, Agnes and Gilbert might not have been born until after 1557. Alice could have been the Alice who married John Wenmore/Wallis (#1057) on 1st July 1583; Nicholas could have been the Nicholas Monke (#1264) who married

Margaret Arnold (#1265) in Ightham on 12th July 1583; they had a son, William (#1266) baptised in Seal on 31st May 1584.

		#231 ⁵⁴ John - Silvester Hills #232					
will:		26 Jan 1566					
bur:		30 Jan 1566(K)		14 Jul 1592 ⁵⁵			

#452/k396		#134		#133			
John -		Syl vester Ol yver	-	William	- ??		
bur:		19 Oct 1585					
see page m. 73							

#135		#964		#376			
Jane		Johane		James			
bap:	30 Jul 1564	10 Mar 1566(K)		6 Feb 1567			
bur:		14 Aug 1575		13 Feb 1567			
age:		9 years		1 week			

#417		#488		#3610			
John		Syl vester		Edward			
bap:	17 Apr 1568	19 Sep 1570		18 Nov 1571(K)			
bur:	26 Nov 1578	16 Jan 1581		24 Nov 1578			
age:	10 years	10 years		7 years			

#543		#1436		#2064			
William		Henry -		Mary Cox			
bap:		5 Jul 1587		23 Jan 1597			
mar:		15 Jan 1617					

#1589		#1765					
Rose		James					
bap:	25 Jan 1590	2 Jun 1592					

#2951							
William							
bap:	17 Dec 1620						

54 # indicates a reference in the Seal database, k in that for Kemsing; K after a date indicates that the event was recorded in Kemsing rather than Seal

55 if the Sylvester Monke, widow, buried in 1592 was Sylvester Hills she would have been about eighty

John's son John could have been the John Monke in Kemsing who had three children in the 1570s:

#452/k396 John - ??					

k398		k399		k400	
Syl vester		Margaret		William	
<i>bap:</i>	13 Jun 1574(K)		19 Aug 1576(K)		7 Dec 1578(K)

John left two ewes to "[John Monke's children](#)" and then mentions "[John Monke, my son](#)". Were these two different Johns? The John Monke who already had children was probably older than the testator's children; perhaps he and the testator were cousins. He could have been the father of Richard Monke baptised on 17th April 1569 and also of the John Monke who married on 13th November 1587 and had seven children baptised in Seal:

The probate copy of the will ends abruptly without any witnesses being given and the original (part of the original will has also survived - **CKS: Drb/Pw 8** - but again without the ending).

1 In the name of god Amen. The 26th
2 day of January in the year of our lord god
3 1565 after the computation of the
4 church of England, I, John Monke of
5 Kemsing in the county of Kent, **yeoman**,
6 being whole and perfect of mind and memory
7 calling to my remembrance that I am mortal
8 and that neither I nor any other creature knoweth the
9 time or place, when or where, it shall please
10 almighty god to call him out of this troubled
11 world, willing therefore and minding,
12 by god's grace, before my passage out of the
13 same, to dispose and ordain my ?? mind,
14 will and testament in manner and form
15 following: **First:** I most humbly and heartily
16 do commend and bequeath my soul unto
17 almighty god who, in person of the son redeemed
18 the same with his most precious body and
19 ?? in time of his passion and my body

to be buried within the parish churchyard
of Kemsing aforesaid. **First:** I give to
William Monke, my son, a mare colt
and to **his daughter** an ewe. **Item:** I give to
John Monke's children two ewes. **Item:** I
give to **John Monke, my son**, a flockbed
to be delivered four years hence. **Item:** I give
to **Sybell Monke, my daughter**, 2 pairs of
sheets and a table cloth, 2 pieces of pewter,
a candlestick, a salver and 20s of money
at the day of her marriage. **Item:** I give to
Alice Monke, my daughter, 2 pairs of
sheets and a tablecloth, 2 pieces of pewter,
a candlestick, a ?? ?? and ??
in money to be paid at the day of her
marriage. **Item:** to **Agnes Monke,**
my daughter, a cow, 2 ewes, a pair
of sheets and a tablecloth, 3 pieces of
pewter and a chest and 10s of money
to be paid at the day of her marriage.
Item: I give to **Nicholas Monke, my son**,
a cow and 2 ewes and a ?? to be
delivered at 21 years of age.

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43 to **Gilbert Monke, my son**, a cow and 2 ewes
44 to be delivered at 21 years. Also I
45 give to **Silvester, my wife**, my
46 house and my lands towards the bringing up of
47 my children as long as the time will ??
48 if god so give her life. Also I make Sylvester
49 my wife, mine whole executrix and all my
50 unbequeathed I give unto Silvester,
51 my wife.

This is a long will which would have been written in London. Henry Moody had land in **Staplehurst, Chiddingstone and Hever** and a "mansion and dwelling house situated at **Bowbeech in the parish of Chiddingstone.**"

The will was "pronounced, sealed and declared for his last will in the presence of us, **William Hopkyns, minister** and per me **Thomas Husher?, fishmonger.**"

Henry was probably the Henry Moody of Boughbeech who was the executor of the will of his sister Bennet, widow of Robert Everest. Her will was written in April 1613 and proved in October 1614 - see **Bennet Everest in Families & Transcripts.**

1 In the name of god Amen. This is the last will and
2 testament of me, John Moore of Pepingbury, al. Pembury in the county of
Kent
3 and diocese of Rochester, **clerk**, made and declared the eighteenth day of
August
4 in the year of our lord god 1613, being in perfect memory and good
understanding.
5 **First:** I bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty god, my maker and
redeemer and
6 my body to the earth, the same to be buried in the part of the said church
under the great
7 stone over against the pulpit. **Item:** I give twenty crowns to twenty poor
people of the
8 said parish, every crown to contain five shillings, to be distributed unto
them at the day
9 of my burial by the discretion of mine executors.

Witnesses: Alexander Remington, Edward Jervis, William Lorkin

The original of this will (CKS: Drb/Pw 30) has survived but the film is very difficult to read; the transcript below is therefore from the probate copy (CKS: Drb/Pwr 22.301), the film of which is also difficult to read and also seems to include some repetitions (see lines 9 and 10).

1 **Memorandum** that upon Monday the
2 fifteenth day of January Anno dm. 1638
3 William Morgan of Frindsbury in the county of Kent,
4 fruiterer, being of perfect mind and memory, did with one
5 intent to make and declare his last will and testament nuncupative
6 did, in word of mouth, utter and declare these words or the like in effect:
 viz: First
7 ?? to the poor of the parish of Frindsbury the sum
8 of three pounds to be distributed unto them upon the day
9 of ?? ?? **Item:** he did will unto ? William Bidwell
10 the sum of William Bidwell his ?? son? the
11 sum of ten pounds the which ten pounds the ? Wm.
12 Bidwell owed unto him, the testator ?? ??
13 **Item:** the residue of what should be left, his debts

14 paid and funeral expenses discharged and legacies aforesaid
15 discharged, he willed and bequeathed unto **Elizabeth Williams**
16 his **daughter-in-law** . Which words or the like in effect were
17 uttered and spoken by the testator in the presence
18 and hearing of **Thomas Sapplen** of the parish
19 of Frindsbury and Michael ??hatbourne of the same parish and
20 **Goodwife Roobis**, the wife of William
21 Roobis and Peter

The rest is even more difficult to read but it is possible that probate was granted to Elizabeth Williams in January 1638/9.

Although Miller/Myller is a fairly common name, this is the only will for a Miller from Tonbridge (**PCC: Leicester 75**). It was written by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618. The original (if it exists) has not been investigated so it is not known whether it was decorated or not.

John Myller, who was buried on 12th August 1589, left a legacy of forty shillings to Nicholas Hooper whom he described as his "good friend". In addition to the bedstead his wife Elleanor "commonly lieth upon" with "its featherbed and other furniture thereto used", John left her all his "corn and cattell, swine, poultry, butter, cheese and provisions" of his house and all his "hay, hemp and tussham"⁵⁶, a new coverlet, two pairs of sheets, two cushions⁵⁷ and all his "mill bowls and brewing vessels".

⁵⁶ probably hemp or flax

⁵⁷ "quichions"

1 In the name of god Amen. The one and twentieth day
2 of July in the year of our lord god one thousand five hundred fourscore and
nine
3 and in the one and thirty year of the reign of out sovereign lady Elizabeth,
4 by the grace of god Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of the
faith,
5 etc. I, John Myller of Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being at the
6 time of making hereof in extremities and pain but, notwithstanding, of
good and
7 perfect mind and remembrance, thanks therefore be given to Almighty
god, and
8 willing to set in order such goods and possessions as god hath endowed
me here in earth,
9 do ordain and make this my present testament and last will in manner and
form
10 following: And **First** and principally I give, commend and bequeath my soul
into the
11 hands of Almighty god trusting that, by the merits, death and passion of
Christ
12 Jesus, his dear son, the same shall be presented before the throne of his
majesty. And my body
13 to the earth to be buried in the churchyard of Tonbridge aforesaid. **Item:** I
will and bequeath

14 to the box or chest of the poor within the parish of Tonbridge aforesaid ten
shillings.

15 **Item:** I will and give to every of my godchildren twelve pence a piece.

16 **Item:** I will and give
to **my good friend Nicholas Hooper** forty shillings lawful money to be paid
within

17 one year next after my decease. **Item:** I will to goodwife **Gransden**, my poor
kinswoman, the sum

18 of forty shillings lawful money to be paid to her in manner following: that is
to say

19 six shillings and eight pence in every year during the term of six whole
years next after

20 my decease. **Item:** I will to **Alice Frinde, my goddaughter**, forty shillings
lawful money

21 to be paid to her in like manner every year during the said six years, yearly
six

22 shillings eight pence. **Item:** I will to **Margaret Crowther**, sometime **servant**
to **my**

23 **mother** ten shillings lawful money to be paid to her within one quarter of a
year

24 after my decease. All which sum and sums I will shall be paid out of the
profit

25 of my lands by mine executors or one of them. **Item:** I will and bequeath to
26 **Ellenor, my wellbeloved wife** all her goods whatsoever which she brought with her⁵⁸
and that
27 bedstead with the featherbed and other furniture thereto used and
occupied which she
28 commonly lieth upon. And also all my corn and cattell, swine, poultry,
butter, cheese and
29 provisions of my house in and about my house being, and all my hay, hemp
and
30 tussham, my new coverlet and two pairs of good sheets, two cushions and
all my mill
31 bowls and brewing vessels. The residue of all my goods and cattells, as
well move
32 able as unmoveable, my debts paid and legacies and funeral discharged, I
wholly,
33 fully and with good effect, intent and purpose to **Margaret Myller, my**

58 this phrase usually implies that they were only recently married; since John has a daughter who, although not yet fourteen, was appointed one of his executors, Ellenor was probably John's second wife

34 **natural daughter** and to **my brother-in-law William Crowe**⁵⁹ whom I jointly
make
35 and ordain my whole and sole executors. And I desire **my trusty friends**
Edmond Father
36 and **Thomas Ruddington** to be overseer of this my will and testament and
to take some pains that
37 this my will may take effect according to the true meaning hereof, to whom
I give
38 for his pains herein to be taken, besides their charges⁶⁰ therein to be laid
out, twenty
39 shillings a piece. This is the last will of me, the said John Myller, made
and
40 declared the day and year first above written concerning the order and
disposition
41 of all my lands and tenements whatsoever, situated, lying and being in Ton
42 aforesaid, and Leigh next Tonbridge, in the said county or elsewhere
within

59 since John's daughter Margaret was not yet fourteen and there was no mention of another daughter; it is likely that William Crowe was his wife's brother

60 "chardges" but this is the probate copy

43 the county of Kent. **Item:** I will all and every my said lands and tenements
whatso
44 ever and wheresoever, withall and singular th'appurtenances, unto my said
daughter
45 Margaret Myller after she shall come to her age of fourteen years⁶¹, to have
46 and to hold all and every the said land, tenements and hereditaments,
47 withall and singular th'appurtenances unto her, the said Margaret Myller,
after
48 her said age of fourteen years and to the heirs of her, the said Margaret
49 Myller, lawfully to be begotten. And for lack of such heirs, I will and
bequeath all
50 the said tenements and hereditaments, withall and singular
th'appurtenances, unto my
51 natural **kinsmen, William Thomas Anthony Deale and Moyle Deale**⁶²
equally
52 between them, to have and to hold to the same withall and singular
th'apperte

61 this is unusually young to inherit

62 was this four people; probably so since three first names for a person was unknown. Perhaps this is an example of writing from dictation with the testator giving the first three names and then adding Moyle as an afterthought

53 nances to them and their heirs, equally between them, forever. Provided
always,
54 and my very will is that the said Ellenor, my wife, shall have the
occupation of
55 all that parlour and other rooms in my tenement called **Hasedens** which I
now
56 occupy and of all the parcels of land which I now occupy, parcel of the
57 lands belonging to the said tenement, and yearly four loads of wood to be
58 taken upon any of the lands belonging to the same farm and tenement
59 to her and her assigns during the whole term of her natural life, if she
60 so long keep herself a widow, anything whatsoever herein before
mentioned to
61 the contrary notwithstanding. And whereas I have a lease from **Mr.**
Wallent
62 of certain lands, called **Highgrove** and **Highgrove lands**, for certain years
63 yet enduring, the which lease I have set over unto **Edmond Father** as
appeareth
64 upon the last side of the same, my will is that my said wife shall have forty
shillings yearly
65 out of the same during the said years yet enduring, half yearly to be paid, if
she keepeth
66 herself so long a widow. And if the said Ellenor out live the same years
and be a widow,

67 I will she shall have forty shillings out of all or any other my freehold lands
or tenements
68 whatsoever and wheresoever, yearly during her said natural life, if she keep
herself so
69 long a widow. And for lack of payment thereof, or any parcel thereof, I will
it shall be lawful
70 to and for her and her assigns to enter and distrain in an upon all and every
or any of the
71 same lands and tenements and the distresses so taken to hold until she
shall be fully paid
72 all and every which gifts and legacies herein before willed to my said wife
willed and given
73 her in recompense of all the jointure and dower by her to be claimed out of
any of my lands
74 and tenements whatsoever. Provided furthermore, and my very will and
mind is, that if it shall
75 happen that the debts and goods which I have and are owing unto me will
not satisfy
76 and pay all such debts which I owe and which I have given, then I will that
my two
77 overseers before named, together with the said Master Crowe and **William
Crowe, his**

78 son⁶³, jointly or any three, two or one of them, if the others be unwilling or
79 not living, shall have full power and authority to alien, bargain and sell my
80 tenements and land at **Southborough** in the occupancy of **Richard Rogers**
for the most
81 profit that they, or any of them, can or may. And the money thereof coming
shall
82 be employed and paid to my said daughter, Margaret Myller, her executors
and assigns.
83 And the same so sold shall be to the party or parties whosoever which shall
84 purchase the same, to hold the same withall and singular
th'appurtenances, to
85 the said party or parties, his and their heirs and assigns, forever, any thing
what
86 soever herein before mentioned to the contrary in any wise
notwithstanding.
87 And further, my will is that if the said Edmond Father and Reginald
Carrier, my
88 farmers do enter into bond of twenty pounds for ten pounds to **Master Giles**
Crowe
89 to be paid on Michaelmas day next according to a talk thereof made which

63 presumably John's joint executor and his son

90 ten pounds is to my use, then I will that they shall satisfy and pay
themselves out
91 of their farms then or at any time thereafter to be due any whatsoever
herein
92 before mentioned to the contrary hereof in any wise notwithstanding. In
witness
93 whereof to this my said will and testament, I, the said John Myller, have
set my hand
94 and seal yeven the day and year first above written in the presence of Giles
95 Crowe, William Crowe, Thomas Ruddington, Edmond Father, Nicholas
Hooper
96 and others. John Myller

N

Will of John Neele of Ightham

page n.2

Will of Robert Newman, blacksmith, of Strood

page n.3

Gabriel Newington

see [Knole MS \(in Section Z in Families & Transcripts\)](#)

1 In the name of god Amen. I, John Neele, of **Ightham**, in the County of
Kent, the 10th day of
2 April in the year of our (lord god 1508)? make
3 my will and last testament in manner and form following: **First:** I
bequeath my soul
4 to Almighty god and the blessed lady and to the holy symphony of heaven,
my body to be
5 buried in the churchyard of blessed Peter and Paul of Ightham. **Item:** I
bequeath to the
6 high altar there for my tithes forgotten 20d. **Item:** I will that **Johane**
7 **my wife**, have all my goods and chattels which Johane I make mine
executrix
8 of this my testament and last will and she to . . . witnesses ? **Robert James**

This is the last will of me the said John Neele . . .

. . **First:** I will that the said **Johane**, my wife, give **William** . .
the croft and land lying . . .

rest of will not readable

This is the last will and testament of Robert Newman of the parish of Strood in the county of Kent, blacksmith. I, Robert Newman do dispose and bequeath all my whole effects into the hands of **Andrew Blacke, my uncle**, (no man to molest or trouble him) towards the bringing up of my children and he to raise such portions out of it (towards the placing of the out) as he shall think fit whom I do make my whole executor.

The mark of **Robert Stoomes** **Robert Younge**



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The Olyvers of Seal and Leybourne

The Olyvers were a large group of families accounting for more than 4% of the baptisms recorded in Seal between 1562 and 1655 (this does not include children born to Olyver daughters). Because a number of early wills have survived, the Olyver families can be traced back to the beginning of the sixteenth century.

The Olyver Wills

The wills which have survived are, in date order:

	# ⁶⁴	date of will	Reference (CKS:Drb/Pw; DRb/Pwr)	
Thomas	#3905	24 Oct 1505	CKS: -; 6.173b	page o.17
John (Kettles)	#3907	1512	PCC: 16 Fetiplace	page o.21
Alice	#3914	14 Jan 1520/1	CKS: -; 7.214	page o.24
William (Fawke)	#3910	2 Jan 1526/7	PCC: 16 Porch	page o.28

⁶⁴ # indicates a reference in the Seal database

Christofer (Seal,Sevenoaks)	#2037	10 Mar 1557/8	CKS: -; 12.400	page o.106
Thomas	# 233	2 Jan 1561/2	CKS: 7; 13.43	page o.37
William (Smythet)	# 253	15 May 1576	CKS: 12; 15.10	page o.120
Thomas, of Kettles, the elder	# 265	17 Mar 1580/1	CKS: 14; 17.86	page o.142
Thomas, (Kettles) the younger	# 421	18 Sep 1586	CKS: -; 17.154	page o.149
John (Fawke)	# 70	2 Oct 1595	PCC: 25 Drake; Prob 10/165 CKS: 17; 18.474	page o.54
Thomas	# 667	20 Oct 1596	CKS: 18; 18.603	page o.62
Moses (Panthurste, Sevenoaks)	#1606	20 Apr 1606	PCC: 32 Stafford; Prob 11/107	65
Robert	# 136	8 Aug 1610	CKS: 21; 20.422	page o.67
John	#1200	12 Aug 1622	CKS: 25	page o.96
Dorothy	# 137	27 Nov 1622	CKS: 26; 21.45	page o.84
William (Fawke)	16 Sep 1634		PCC: 59 Sadler	page o.132
Jeffrey, gent.	#2760	20 Feb 1639/40	PCC: 64 Coventry; Prob 10/603	page o.163
John (Apsland)	# 831	18 Mar 1639/40	PCC: 45 Coventry; Prob 10/602	page o.157
Thomas (Bitchet)	#1868	28 Jun 1642	CKS: 31; 22.544	page o.103
Jane	#1971	25 May 1643	CKS: 31; 22.553	page o.100
William (Godden)	# 85	1516	PCC: 17 Holder	page o.176

65 the transcript of this will is in [Section 2 of the History of Sevenoaks](#)

Marion	# 86	2 Jul 1532	CKS: -; 9.85	page o.179
William (Leybourne)	#3927	30 Sep 1561	CKS: -; 13.15	page o.183

In addition there are the wills of:

- William Olyver of Cranbrook (#3920) written in 1547 (**PCC: F.1 Populwell**); this has not been investigated in detail.
- Robert Olyver of Leybourne written in 1613 (**PCC: Capell 111**)

Two of the wills, those of William Olyver in 1576 and Robert Olyver in 1610, were written by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618. That of Dorothy Olyver in 1622 was written by John Hooper, Nicholas's son and a notary public.

The Name Olyver

In 1433 William Quinton purchased Stidulfe's Place in Seal from William Stidulfe. In 1463 William's grandson, Thomas, inherited this and other land in Seal via his father, John Quinton. Thomas signed his name Thomas Quinton, son of Oliver. His son, another John, was called Quinton, alias Olyver

Two Main Branches

There are two main branches of the Olyver clan:

- the descendants of Thomas Olyver of Seal who died in 1505. By the middle of the sixteenth century there were three sub-branches: those of Kettles, Smythet and Fawke. This is the branch which lived mainly in Seal.
- the descendants of William Olyver of Godden whose mother, Ann, was still alive in 1516; this branch owned land in Leybourne where some of its members lived and it was sending some of its members to Cambridge in the seventeenth century. This branch lived outside Seal so that there are no records of them in the Seal register - see page o.173.

The Olyver connections with Sevenoaks are described in [Chapter 15 of the History of Sevenoaks](#).

The Seal Olyvers

That the Olyvers were an important family in the village of Seal can be seen by their having a part of the east side of the churchyard reserved for family burials with some of them being buried in the church itself. In 1516, William of Godden (#85) asked to be buried "[in the church of Seal afore the high rood there](#)" and, sixteen years later when his widow Marion (#86) wrote her will, she wished to "[be buried in the church of Seal next to my husband](#)". Towards the end of the sixteenth century, in 1581, Thomas the elder, of Kettles (#265) required his "[loving wife and children to see \(him\) buried in the east end of the parish churchyard of Seal](#)". In 1596, Thomas of Fawke (#667) also wanted to be buried "[in the east side of the parish churchyard of Seal](#)".

In 1640, Jeffrey Olyver, who was one of the parish gentry, requested that he be buried "[in decent manner in my chancel belonging to Seal church](#)" and, in 1643 Jane Olyver, the widow of John (#1200) who was described as a yeoman, also asked to be buried in the church.

John and Alice's bequests to the repair of the highways and Alice's contribution to the building of a steeple are described on page o.20.

Another aspect of the Olyvers contribution to the community comes from the number of wills in which they appear not only as witnesses but also as overseers, executors and guardians of children. The wills in which the brothers John (#70) and Robert (#136) feature are given on page o.49; other examples include:
John of Kettles (#3907) one of **Richard Barton**'s executors in 1497 (see **Barton**) and witness to the will of **Edward Carter** (#2357) of Seal in 1501. (see **Carter**)

William of Fawke (#3910) joint executor of **Thomas Clarke**'s will of 1513 which was witnessed by William of Godden (#85) (see **Clarke**)

William of Godden (#85) overseer to the will of **Edward Carter** (#2357) of Seal in 1501.

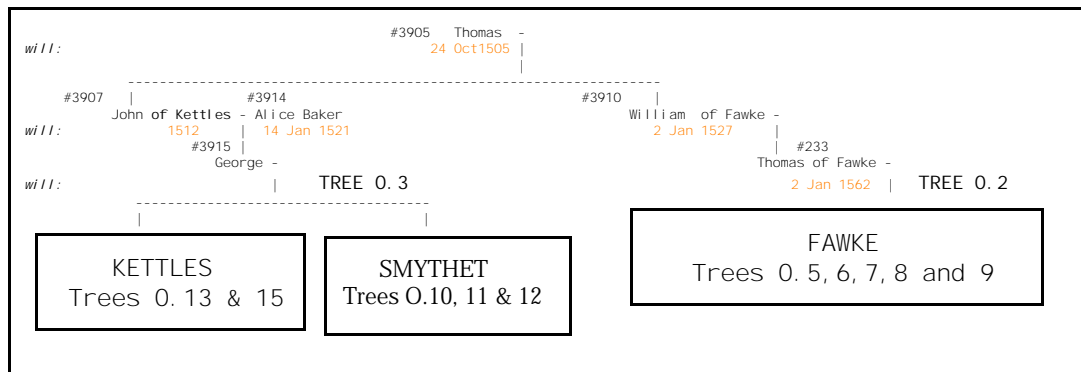
John of Bitchet (#1200) overseer of the will of **Walter Gardner of Ightham** (i712) in 1612, Walter describing him as "**my loving friend**"

The wills of **Robert Baker** (#1713) dated 2nd March 1598/9 and **Thomas Frenche** (#1634) dated 24th March 1617 were both written by "**John Olyver, scriptor**". This could have been Robert of Fawke's son (#1200) who was born in 1564 and died in 1622 although there were other John Olyvers in Seal at this time.

Thomas Olyver of Seal and his Descendants

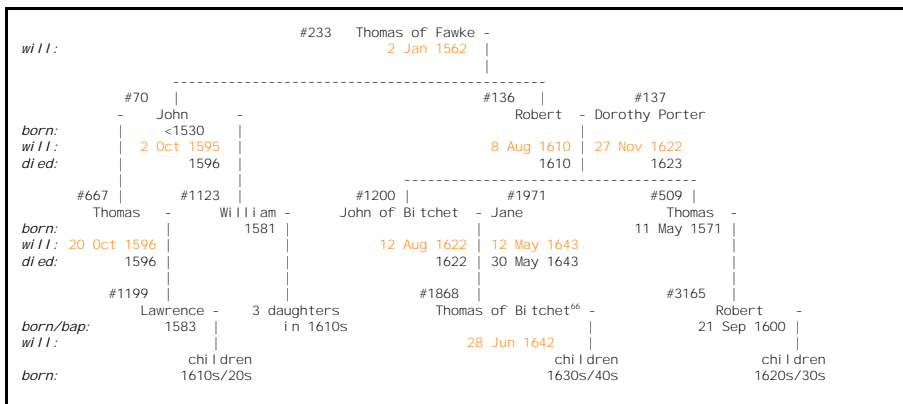
In the following trees # indicates a reference in the Seal database. Where dates for birth are given in the for “< 1520”, “< “ indicates “before”; “> ” - after.

Tree O.1: The Descendants of Thomas, died 1505

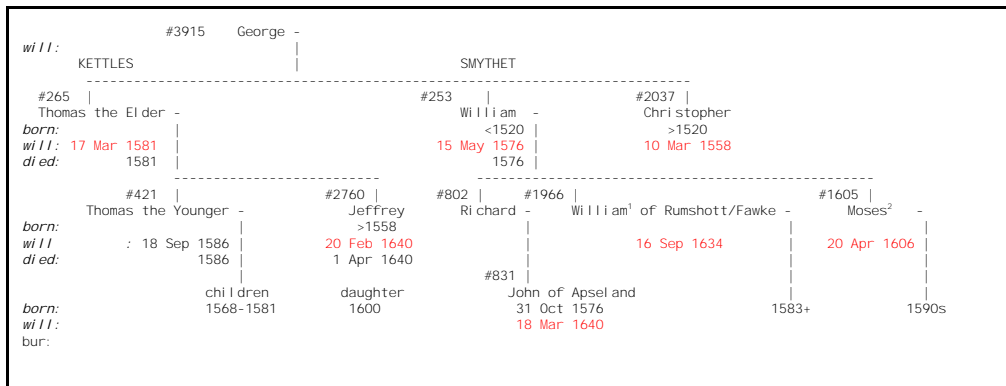


With Thomas's two sons this branch of the family again divides into two, Trees O.2 and O.3 give an overview of Thomas descendants and O.4 more details of his immediate family. Further trees are given of the various families as they are described.

Tree O.2: The Olyvers of Fawke



Tree O.3: The Olyvers of Kettles and Smythet



In assembling these trees some assumptions have been made. These are described when the available evidence is discussed below. Feel free to disagree.

- 1 of Sutton Cross
- 2 of Sevenoaks; children in the 1590s; see [History of Sevenoaks, Section 2](#)

Land Owned by the Olyvers

The wills of John and William, the two sons of the Thomas who died in 1505, show the family already owning a considerable amount of land not only in Seal but also in Kemsing, Leigh and Tonbridge. The Olyver land in Seal was in the south of the parish, between Godden Green and Under River.

Obviously land was often passed down from father to son and this is particularly clear in the wills of Thomas of Fawke (#233), his son and grandson:

Thomas (#233) 1562 of Fawke	Barneshall Barnespett	Netherfield Walters Deane	Medlers	Gravesland James Dean
Robert (#136) 1610 of Fawke	Barneshough Barnespett	Walters Deane	Medlers	Gravesland James Dean
John (#1200) 1622 of Bitchet	Barnes hall	Netherfield Walters Deane		
TO:	by John to his 2nd son Thomas	by John to his eldest son Robert	by Robert to his third son Thomas	by Robert to his second son William

Table O.1: The Inheritance of Land

In 1512 John had left Barnesmeade to Alice for the rest of her life but, if Barnesmeade was a variation of the land appearing in the first column of the table, sometime in the fifty years between then and the death of Thomas of Fawke it had been acquired by the Fawkes part of the family.

Another example of a land transfer other than by inheritance is Bromefield

- left by Thomas of Fawke to his son John (#70) in 1562
- appears in the will of Thomas the elder of Kettles in 1581.

Sometimes we can see how this happened. Kettles passed from father to son from John to George in 1512, to Thomas, the elder and then, in 1581, to his son, Thomas, the younger, who died in 1586. Thomas the younger instructed that his land, etc. be sold "[to the best advantage](#)" to pay his debts and legacies with the rest of the proceeds being divided between his children.

It looks as if it was bought by Richard of Smythet (#802) whose will has not survived but Kettles appears, in 1640, in the will of Richard's son, John of Apseland. Again it is to be sold, this time to pay John's debts and provide portions of £300 for each of his three daughters. The "[overplus, my debts and legacies and funeral charges being paid](#)" he gave to his eldest son John. This implies that John expected that Kettles and the lands, etc. appertaining to it, could be sold for well over £1000.

In addition to Kettles and Apseland (first mentioned in John's will), John owned Smythet which, together with Apseland, was to be divided between his three sons. This John, and Jeffrey whose will was written in the same year, were both described in their wills as "gent." - the yeomen of the early sixteenth century had progressed to the position of parish gentry.

Thomas Olyver, Patriarch

The earliest surviving will is that of Thomas Olyver (#3905) written in 1505; he left his land in Seal, Sevenoaks and Kemsing to his two sons John and William and the will shows how much of the wealth of the area came from sheep. Thomas left (amongst other things)

- 4 sheep to his wife,
- 2 to Edith Attwood } perhaps his
- 10 to Johane Hodsoll } daughters
- 30 to his son John.

After his debts and legacies had been paid, the residue of all his goods were given to his executors "to dispose for the health of my soul in the manner they think most expedient".

Christopher Olyver, can be placed as one of George's sons from the detailed lists of nieces and nephews given in his will - his brothers were George Olyver's sons: William of Smythet and Thomas of Kettles. Since Alice, the grandmother of William and Thomas, does not mention Christopher in her will (nor a granddaughter who was to become the wife of John Harris), it is likely that both were born after 1520.

Will of Thomas Olyver of Seal

written 24th October 1505

transcript from the probate copy; the original has not survived

In the name of god Amen. The 24th day of October in the year of our lord 1505, I, Thomas Olyver of Seal, in the diocese of Rochester, whole in mind but sick in body, ordain and make this my testament and last will as followeth: **First:** I bequeath my soul to almighty god and my body to be buried in the churchyard there. **Item:** I bequeath to the high altar in the same church 3s 4d. **Item:** I bequeath to the said church 2 torches to be made ?? my month's mind ?? **Item:** I bequeath to **Alice, my wife**, a cow, a load of hay, a ??, 2 ?? . . . piece of a pair of blankets, 2 pairs of sheets, a canlyte⁷⁶, a tablecloth and 4 sheep. Also I

⁷⁶ candlelight?

bequeath to **Edith Attwood** 2 sheep. **Item:** I bequeath to **Johane Hodsoll**⁷⁷ 10 sheep. **Item:** to **John Olyver, my son**, A cow and 30 sheep for ?? which Alice, my wife, shall have (during her?) life, A house called **Tynker house**. **Item:** I bequeath to **William Olyver, my son**, a cow, my ?? and my S..lett . a table and forms that pertaining to my house. Also I bequeath to **George/Henry Swaynland** 4d.

The residue of all my goods not bequeathed, my debts and bequests ?? and paid, I give and bequeath to John Olyver, my son And to George/Henry Swaynland⁷⁸ to dispose for the health of my soul (in the manner they?) think most expedient. The said John and George/Harry I make mine executors. Also I will that **William Olyver**⁷⁹ of Godden be supervisor these being witness: **John Operten?**, curate of Seal, **Richard Stakewell** ?? and others more.

This is the last will of the said Thomas Olyver made the day and year above said.
First: I will that John Olyver, my son, shall have all my land and tenements in the

⁷⁷ were Edith Attwood and Johane Hodsoll Thomas's daughters? By the end of the sixteenth century, the Hodsolls were a well-established Ightham family with branches in Kemsing and Seal. Thomas's son mentions a sister, Joan Lyndett, in his will of 1512.

⁷⁸ the Swaynlands were an extensive Seal family and a Henry Swaynland witnessed the wills of Robert Clarke in 1492, Margaret Crower in 1512 and William Olyver of Godden in 1516. But what was the particular connection with Thomas Olyver that he made George joint executor with his son. Perhaps Thomas's wife was a Swaynland.

⁷⁹ #85, of the Godden and Leybourne branch

parishes of Sevenoaks and Seal the which . . . to his heirs and assigns. Also I will that William Olyver, my son, shall have those that lie in the parish of Kemsing and Seal and to his heirs and assigns. Also I will that the said William Olyver shall find an honest priest to sing in the parish church of Seal for my soul and all Christians by the space of . . . year and to have for his pains . . . And the residue of the half year do give an honest priest to the sum of 5 marks. . . .

John of Kettles and his wife, Alice

Working backwards from known dates and ages, John of Kettles (#3907) probably married in the early 1490s and was therefore likely to have been born about 1470 or a little earlier; in which case when he died in 1512 he would have been in his forties.

John was one of Richard Barton's executors in 1497 (see [Barton](#)) and witnessed the will of Edward Carter of Seal (#2357) in 1501.

John's wife, Alice, was the daughter of William Baker of Kettles and it seems likely, from his will, that Kettles formed part of Alice's dowry, Kettleshill farm is just to the north of Under River, nearly three miles south of Seal village.

John died only seven years after his father and was established before his father's death; he asked to be buried "in the churchyard of Seal nigh to the grave of my father". Thomas seems to have had only one son, George and no will has survived for him but those for his three sons have with his youngest son, Christopher, dying fairly young and unmarried in 1558.

In addition to his household goods, John bequeathed to various members of his family oxen, kine, sheep, a gelding, a mare and another horse, four fields of oats and some wheat. He also left money "to an honest priest to sing for my soul and all my friends' souls in the church of Seal".

Both John and his wife Alice left money to a favourite parish cause - the making of highways. John 6s 8d "to the making of the highway between Muster Oke and Whitepetts" and Alice 10s for "amending of the foul ways between Muster Oak and Smythet Green".

Alice's will continues to show the importance of sheep - she leaves twenty to her daughter and two ewes to each of her grandsons. She also leaves money to the church "to the trendle light and other necessities to the church's behoof one cow price of 12s. Also I bequeath to the foundation and making of the steeple of Seal 40s" and "to the making of the steeple 10s which is in the hands of Furrar's wife".

This was not the first time that parishioners were considering the building of a steeple. In 1511 Thomas Holloway bequeathed forty shillings for this purpose "if the parish be disposed that it shall be now made. If not, then I bequeath 20s to the profits of the said church." John Idley contributed twenty shillings in 1524 and in 1529 another Thomas Holloway left his "tackling to hang there in the steeple to the use of the church" which implies that the church had a steeple at that time. Twelve years later Gilbert Biggyns willed that the "surplus of the sale of the said house shall be bestowed upon the taking down of the old steeple and setting forth of our lady chancel."

Will of John Olyver of Kettles

dated 18th June 1512

transcript from probate copy

In the name of god Amen. The 18th day of June the year of our Lord God 1512, I, John Olyver, of Kettles⁸⁰ in the parish of Seal, of good and whole mind, . . make and ordain that my testament and last will in manner and form following: **First:** I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, our blessed lady and to all the holy company of heaven and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Seal nigh to the grave of my father. **Item:** I bequeath to the high altar there, for my tithes negligently

80 spelt "Ketylses" throughout the will

withholden 3s 4d. **Item:** to the high altar of **Sevenoaks** 3s 4d. To an honest priest to sing for my soul and all my friends' souls in the church of Seal ?? that is, to wit, a quarter of a year more after my decease and so within the space of my years to be fulfilled. **Item:** I bequeath to the making of the highway between **Muster Oke and Whitepetts** 6s 8d. **Item:** I bequeath to every of my god sons and god daughters 4d. **Item:** I bequeath to **Alice, my wife**⁸¹, 6 oxen and kine such as she will choose . . . sheep in likewise . . . with all the apparel thereto appertaining?, a . . . gelding and a grysild? horse. And all my brass and pewter and stuff of household I bequeath to the same Alice, my wife, 2 parcels of wheat . . . **Highfield and Bradfield** And 4 fields of oats called **B---**, **Barnmead, Agnett land and Hook**. **Item:** to the same Alice, the hay and grass within **Arnolds?** field and **Northwood Mede**. **Item:** I bequeath to **Master Tyrry**⁸² 4 oxen, 2 of them being in the keeping of **Richard Christopher?**, another called B-ry and the 4th one in his own keeping. **Item:** a mare and . . . **Item:** all further money as **Richard Brinton** bequeathed unto me now unpaid . . . thereof I bequeath to the ?? of the church of Seal and the ?? to my wife. **Item:** to **Johane Lyndet, my sister**, a bullock . . . being in the keeping of . . .

81 daughter of William Baker of Kettles

82 Terry?

The residue of my goods and chattels, my debts, bequests, costs on my burying and months mind paid and done, I give them to **George, my son**⁸³, whom I ordain and make my sole executor and **William Olyver**⁸⁴ overseer to whom I bequeath 3s 4d.

This is the last will of me, John Olyver, made and proclaimed the day and year within mentioned of the disposition of my lands and tenements. **First:** I will that Alice, my wife, have all my tenements and land and buildings thereto called **Kettles** sometimes **William Baker's**⁸⁵ . . forthwith . . pewter goods, silver . . **Barnesmeade** lying within the parishes of Seal and Sevenoaks for the term of her life so that she marry not. And if she fortune to marry then I would that she have herself the said tenements . . term of her life upon condition that she . . and make no claim to none of my other land within the said parishes nor trouble my son George in no wise contrary to this my last will. **Item:** I will that George, my son, immediately after my decease, have all my land and tenements with all appurtenances to his heirs and assigns forever. And after the decease of the said Alice, my wife, all the said tenement called Kettles with the said parcel of land

⁸³ George Olyver (#3915), father of Thomas Olyver, the elder, of Kettles whose will has survived - see page 142

⁸⁴ presumably his brother (#3910) who died in 1526

⁸⁵ father of John's wife, Alice; perhaps Alice inherited Kettles from her father

aforenamed to him, his heirs and assigns forever. And also the moiety of the said tenement called Kettles with other parcel of the moiety all above wheresoever.

These persons being witness: **John(2) Tebold**
 William Olyver of Godden
 William Olyver of Fawke⁸⁶
 George Swaynland
 Robert Bowman
 ?? Fremlyn

Will of Alice Olyver, widow, of Seal

dated 14th January 1520/1; probate 18th July
transcript from probate copy

1 In Dei Nomine Amen, the 14th day of January
2 in the year of our Lord God 1520, I, Alice
3 Olyver of Seal make my testament
4 and last will in the form following: **First**
5 I bequeath my soul to God, my body to be

⁸⁶ #673, #85 and #3910 (brother) respectively

6 buried in the church yard of Seal. **Item:** I
7 bequeath to the sacrament for forgotten tithes 20d.
8 Also I bequeath to the trendle light and other
9 necessities to the church's behoof one cow price
10 of 12s. Also I bequeath to the foundation and
11 making of the steeple of Seal 40s. Also
12 I bequeath and make to be disposed at my
13 burying and at my month's mind 20s
14 to praise and to other good people. Also I bequeath
15 to the amending of the foul ways be
16 tween **Muster Oak and Smythet Green** . . 10s.
17 **Item:** to each of my godchildren 4d. Also to
18 **Marion my daughter** 20 sheep. Also to
19 to chose one ? the . . a other. Also I be
20 queath to **Thomas and William**⁸⁷, children of
21 **George Olyver**, other⁸⁸ of them 2 ewes. Also
22 I bequeath to **Alice Terry**⁸⁹ one brass pot.

⁸⁷ wills survived for both Thomas and William - see pages 142 and 120

⁸⁸ each of them

⁸⁹ presumably Marion's daughter and therefore Alice's granddaughter (see end of will)

23 **Item:** to **Marion, my daughter**, a basin of
24 pewter. **Item:** to **John Robert** 2 pewter plates
25 and one pewter dish and 20 gobbets of yarn.
26 **Item:** I bequeath to the making of the
27 **steeple** 10s which is in the hands
28 of **Furrar's wife of Otford**⁹⁰. **Item:** I will there? be
29 3 trentalls said in the said church of
30 Seal for my soul and all ? within 2 years
31 after my death. **Item:** I bequeath to one torch 6s 8d.
32 And I make **my son, George Olyver**, my executor
33 to dispose the residue of my goods unbequeathed
34 for my? soul's health. Debts due . .
35 **George Allyn, William Milles, D. Baker.** Also
36 **Item:** I bequeath to **my daughter, Marion Terry**, one
37 cow and one mare.

The Olyvers of Fawke

Although everything is by no means clear, the Fawke Olyvers can be followed up to the middle of the seventeenth century when this study ends.

William Olyver of Fawke

Thomas's younger son, William, seems to have been the son who added most to his inheritance. With a shop in Sevenoaks, he was in trade of some kind, possibly wool like his contemporary, John(2) Tebold. He left his wife a little house in Seal Street called the Forge. Was this on the site of the present Forge Garage? He also had connections with Rochester since he left 12s to the cathedral there. He gave 60 whether sheep to his son William (the "[price of every sheep 12d](#)") with the rest of them to his son Thomas who was also to receive his "[main plough and all the harness to them belonging](#)".

Thus, in the 1520s, a cow in Seal cost approximately 12s and a whether sheep 12d. As well as his land near Godden and the house called the Forge, William owned land to the north of the parish and in Kemsing and Tonbridge. Before his death, both sons seem to have had certain rights, etc. to some of William's land

since, within one year of William's decease, each was to "[release all such right, title and interest as he](#)" had in the lands and tenements bequeathed to his brother.

Will of William Olyver of Fawke

dated 2nd January 1526/7
reanscript from probate copy

In the name of god Amen. The year of our lord god 1526 and the second day of January in the 18th year of the reign of king Henry the eighth, I, **William Olyver of Fawke**, in the parish of Seal in the County of Kent, **the elder, yeoman**, whole of mind and in good memory being, make my present testament and last will in form following: **First:** I bequeath my soul to Almighty god, my maker, to his blessed mother Saint Mary and to all the holy company of heaven and my body to be buried in the churchyard of the parish church of Seal aforesaid. **Item:** I bequeath to the high altar there, for my tithes negligently forgotten, 3s 4d. **Item:** I bequeath to the **Cathedral Church of Rochester** 12s. **Item:** I bequeath to the reparations of the church of Seal aforesaid 6s 8d. **Item:** I bequeath to every of my godchildren 4d. **Item:** I will there be bestowed at my burying, in masses, singing and in alms to poor people 40s. **Item:** in like manner, as much at my month's day. **Item:** I give to **William Olyver**⁹¹, **my son**, three score whether sheep, price of every sheep 12d,

the residue of all my sheep I give to **Thomas Olyver, my son**, and also my main plough and all the harness to them belonging. The residue of all my goods above not bequeathed, I give and bequeath to **Eleanor, my wife**, which Eleanor I make my executrix of this my testament and Thomas, my son, executor with the said Eleanor, my wife. To the which Thomas I give for his labour, 3s 4d.

This is the last will of me, the said William Olyver, the elder, made the day and year abovesaid concerning the disposition of my land and tenements that I have within the realm of England. **First:** I will that **Eleanor, my wife**, shall have a **little house in Seal Street called the Forge** and the garden belonging thereto and also the pasturing of two kine, both in winter and the summer time, in certain land called **Dynes** during her life if she as long keep herself widow. **Item:** I will that the same Eleanor have the occupation of my **house at Fawke** that I dwell in and of the garden plots that belong thereto unto the feast of the annunciation of our Lady next coming and also to have free liberty of going and coming into the same until the feast of the nativity of St. John the Baptist now next coming for the having thence forth . . . and stuff as I have given to her. **Item:** I will that Thomas Olyver, my son, have all my lands and tenements lying on the south part of the foot path way in Seal leading from **Godden to Hall Croft** and from the highway leading from **Hall Croft to Stone Street**. And also my lands in the **parish of Leigh and a shop⁹²** in the market place at **Sevenoaks** immediately after my death, to have, to him and

92 presumably a shop connected with wool from his sheep

to his heirs, forever, paying yearly out of the said lands to the said Eleanor, my wife, 40s of lawful money of England at four principal feasts in the year, by even portions, during her life. And also to deliver to the said Eleanor, yearly during her life time sufficient loads of wood at the said tenement in Seal aforesaid if she so long do live unmarried. And if she marry then she to have neither money nor wood. **Item:** I will that William Olyver, my son, have all my other lands and tenements in Seal lying on the northpart of the foresaid bounds and also my land in **Kemsing and Tunbrige**⁹³ immediately after my decease to have to him and to his heirs forever paying to the said Eleanor, my wife, . . 40s yearly during her life going out of the said lands and tenements to be paid as is above said. And also to deliver to the same Eleanor, yearly during her life, one sufficient load of hay at the said tenement in Seal if she so long live unmarried. And if she marry, then she to have neither money nor hay. **Item:** I will that the said William, my son, within one year next after my decease, release all such right, title and interest as he hath in the said lands and tenements that I have bequeathed unto the said Thomas, his brother. And if the said William refuse to do so, then I will that the same Thomas shall have the profits of the lands that I have given to the said William by the space of one year. And in like manner, I will that the foresaid Thomas, within one year next after my decease, release all further right, interest as he hath in the said lands and tenements that I have bequeathed unto the said William and, if he

refuse so to do, then I will that the same William shall have the profits of the lands that I have given unto the said Thomas by the space of one year.

In witness whereof: **John Tebold**⁹⁴ of Seal, **William Denman**, **John Olyver**⁹⁵
Richard Frenche and William Tomlyn with others
the day and year aforesaid.

William of Cranbrook and his sister Katherine

William had two sons, Thomas and William, and a daughter, Katherine. Thomas had a large family which is described later. William was probably the William Olyver, alias Quinton, of Cranbrook whose will, dated 14th June 1547, has survived (**PCC: 1 Popplewell**). This has not been investigated in detail but he had a brother Thomas. His wife was Elizabeth and he mentions land in Seal (which could have included that which his father left him) and elsewhere in Kent. His executor was **Richard Courtopp** and he left 20s to **John Smyth, the weaver**.

⁹⁴ John(2), #673

⁹⁵ no John Olyver known for this time

William of Cranbrook also mentions a **sister, Katherine Hartridge, wife of Thomas Hartridge**. A quitclaim, dated 20th September 1560, has survived⁹⁶. This is from Katherine Hartridge of **Frittenden**⁹⁷, widow of Thomas Hartridge late of Cranbrook and her sons: William, Matthew, John, Richard, Robert, Thomas and Michael. It is to **Richard Tebold of Kemsing (#352)** and is concerned with the Hartridges' share in messuages and land in Kemsing and Seal.

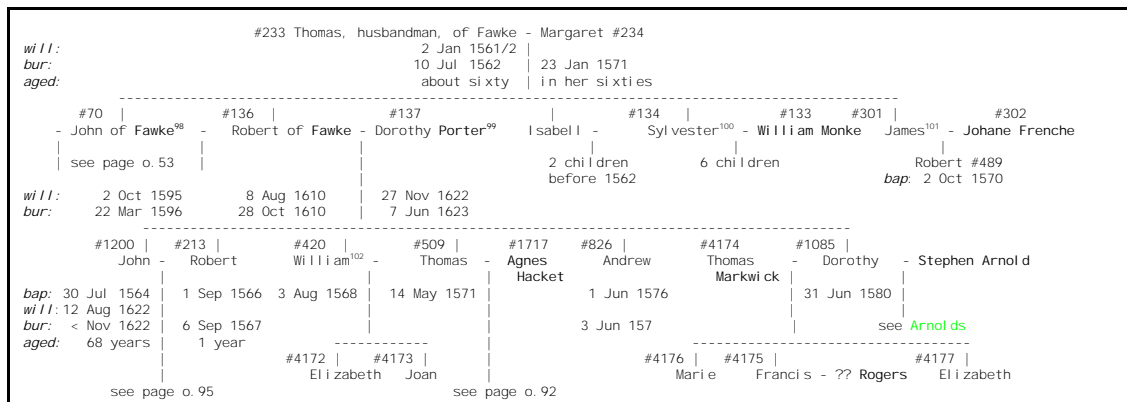
Thomas Olyver, husbandman, of Fawke

William's other son, Thomas of Fawke (#233) died in the middle of 1562 having written his will six months earlier

⁹⁶ British Museum, Harl. 86 H 21

⁹⁷ about three miles north of Cranbrook

Tree O.5: The Family of Thomas of Fawke



⁹⁸ John married twice - see page o.53

⁹⁹ married 31 Jan 1563

¹⁰⁰ Sylvester was described as the daughter of "Thomas Olyver of Fawke" when she married on 14th June 1563, even though her father (who mentioned her in his will) had died a year previously; see **Monkes**

¹⁰¹ from his will, #233 had a son James to whom he left Hollanden in Leigh; he could have been the James who married on 21st November 1569 and had a son, Robert, baptised on 2nd October 1570; in 1610 Robert (#136) appointed his brother James supervisor and overseer of his will

¹⁰² see page o.19 for a discussion of William of Fawke

The years of birth and age at death in the above and following trees have been obtained by working backwards from known dates and taking age at marriage as 25 (the average for the Seal locality). Thus they are all very tentative. For example:

John of Fawke's daughter, Sylvester, married in 1573 and therefore was born about 1548 (see his family on page o.53 . If she was John's eldest child, he married in 1546 and was born about 1520. He was therefore in his mid-seventies when he died. His sister Isabell, with two children born before 1562, married about 1558 and was born in 1533. Similarly, his sister Sylvester was born in 1538 and James in 1544. Robert of Fawke married in 1563 and therefore, using the same approximations, was born in 1538. Probably John and his daughter Sylvester married younger than the average and Robert and James at about thirty. Thus John was probably about seventy when he died and Robert about eighty. Their father, Thomas was probably in his mid-sixties when he died and Margaret in her early seventies.

It was probably this Thomas who was the Thomas Olyver of Seal who was one of the carters who took timber from **Knole Park to Dartford when Henry VIII** was having a manor house built there in 1541¹⁰³. In his will he describes himself as a husbandman and he leaves "all manner of iron that belongeth unto husbandry to

John Olyver and Robert, my sons equally to be divided between them with all other implements belonging to husbandry, as ploughs, harrows, wheels except my port or wood wayne, which I give to John Olyver, my son". This bequest gives the impression that carting was an activity undertaken by this branch of the family. At the time the will was written James was in "his years of apprentice".

Some idea of the number of animals which Thomas must have owned is given by the bequests in in Table O.2 particularly when those for:

- his wife, Margaret were to chosen "from all my kyne and bullocks",
- James chosen from "the best of the flock of the age between three and four years"
- Robert were to be 30 "of my best"

This table does not include all his stirks and steers¹⁰⁴ given to John and Robert.

104 "stirk" - a young cow or ox; "steer" - a castrated young ox

Table O.2: Live Stock Bequeathed by Thomas of Fawke

bequeathed to:	ewes	kyne	bullocks	whethers
Margaret, wife		3	2	
James, son	20			
Robert, son				30
servant	2			
daughter's children	2			
Tho. Olyver's children	4			
son John's children	8			
TOTAL	36	3	2	30

Thomas's wife, Margaret, was to have "[any chamber or parlour she will choose to lie in within the house](#)" at Fawke that their John was to inherit; Robert was to provide his mother, yearly, with "[six loads of wood freely out of the lands](#)" willed to him "[without anything, by her, to be paid](#)".

Of Thomas's three sons, nothing is known about James other than the details given in the above tree except that, in 1610, his brother, Robert, appointed him to be one of the supervisors and overseers of his will.

Will of Thomas Olyver of Fawke

dated 2nd January 1561/2; probate 22nd November 1562

Thomas buried 10 July 1562; transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen
2 in the year of our lord god 1561, The
3 second day of January in the fourth
4 year of the reign of our sovereign
5 lady, Elizabeth, by the grace of god
6 queen of England, France and Ireland, I
7 **Thomas Olyver of Faulke** of the
8 parish of Seal in the County of
9 Kent, **husbandman**, not very well in
10 body but sound and of perfect memory,
11 have made my will and last testa
12 ment in manner and form following:
13 **First:** I give my soul into the
14 hands of Almighty god, my Redeemer

and Saviour. And my body to be
buried in the churchyard of
parish of Seal in the county aforesaid.
Item: I bequeath unto **John Olyver, my**
eldest son, my tenement at Faulke
that I now dwell in with those lands
Appertaining to the same with their
appurtenances by the names of the
parcels as followeth: first one piece
of land called **Bromefield**, an other
piece called **Gammeland**, an other
piece called **the Severes**, an other
piece called **Hatchfield**, an other
called **Lorkehill**, an other piece
called **Cattle Croft**, an other piece
called **Stonyfield**, an other piece
called **Lovells Mede**¹⁰⁵, an other piece
called **Blackmans**, an other piece
called **Maryed**, an other piece
called **Lyttle pykyttsoule**, an other piece
called **great pykyttsoule**, an other piece

105 "by estimation 5 acres" when left to two of his sons by John Olyver in 1595

36 called **Blackhall land**, an other piece
37 called **James Deane**. All which
38 tenements with their parcel Bland--, with their
39 appurtenances, I give and bequeath unto the
40 said John Olyver, my eldest son
41 to have and to hold to him and to
42 his heirs forever. **Item:** I give and be-
43 queath unto **Robert Olyver, my son**,
44 my other tenement standing and
45 being on the northside of the said
46 tenement that I now dwell in,
47 sometime in the term of one **Thomas**
48 **Smyth**, with one Acre of land, meadow
49 belonging to the said tenement. **Item:**
50 an other piece of land called **Marviles**,
51 Another piece called **Netherfield**, an
52 other piece called **the hokel**. **Item:** an other piece
53 called **Walters Deane**, an other piece
54 called **Lyttle Deane**. **Item:** an other piece
55 called **Long Deane**, an other piece
56 called **the great Deane**. **Item:** an other piece
57 called **Partridge Croft**, an other piece
58 called **Burne Hall**. **Item:** an other piece

59 called **Lordes Deane**, an other piece
60 called **Barnespett**. **Item**: an other piece of land
61 called **Graveslande**, an other piece
62 called **little Lovells**. **Item**: an other piece
63 called **great Lovells**, an other piece
64 called **Barneshall**. **Item**: an other piece
65 called **Lowsepole Mede**, an other piece
66 called **Griggyns Meadow**, an other piece
67 called **Medlers** with th'appurtenances
68 all which tenements, with their land
69 last -- to appertaining to the
70 same herein named with th'appurtenances,
71 I give and bequeath unto Robert
72 Olyver, my son, to have and to
73 hold, to him and to his heirs, forever.
74 **Item**: I give and bequeath my other
75 tenement, situated and being
76 in the **parish of Lee**¹⁰⁶ in the County of
77 Kent aforesaid, unto **James Olyver, my son**,
78 withall the lands appertaining
79 to the same lying and being within the

106 Leigh (south of Seal, near Tonbridge)?

80 said parish of Lee aforesaid and
81 **Hollandeane**¹⁰⁷ with th'appurtenances, to
82 have and to hold the said tenements
83 and lands to him, the said James, and
84 to his heirs forever. **Item:** I give and
85 bequeath unto **Margaret, my wife**, one
86 yearly rent of eight pounds yearly to
87 be paid out of the lands and tenements
88 of John Olyver, Robert Olyver and
89 James Olyver, my sons, in form
90 following: That is to say and understand,
91 six pounds to be paid yearly
92 out of the tenements and lands afore
93 willed and bequeathed to John Olyver
94 and Robert Olyver by equal portions
95 yearly to be paid. And forty shillings
96 yearly out of the tenement¹⁰⁸ and lands
97 before willed and bequeathed to James

107 Hollanden lies south of Underriver, east of the Sevenoaks to Tonbridge road with Leigh to the west of the same road; a Thomas Olyver lived at Hollanden - see lines 200-201 below

108 "tenement" as distinct from "tenements" bequeathed to John and Robert which could still be just one tenement to each son

98 Olyver. And the same yearly rent to
99 be paid quarterly, by even portions, unto
100 the said Margaret, my wife, or her assign
101 ns during her life. And that for lack of
102 payment of the foresaid yearly rent of
103 eight pounds, or any parcel thereof, it
104 shalbe lawful for the said Margaret,
105 or her assigns, to distrain or distress
106 . . . of the said
107 tenements and lands where such
108 default of payment shalbe. And the
109 distress so taken to carry away and
110 withhold until she be of the said
111 yearly rent, or as much thereof as
112 shalbe behind, fully contented and
113 paid. And also my will and
114 testament is that the said
115 Margaret, my wife, shall have any
116 chamber or parlour she will choose
117 to lie in within the house that my son,
118 John Olyver, shall have by this my last
119 will and that I now dwell in at Faulke
120 aforesaid with sufficient (flete?) and fire.

121 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Isabell,**
122 **my daughter**¹⁰⁹, 26s 8d yearly
123 during her life, to be paid out of the
124 land and tenements of the fore
125 said John Olyver and Robert, my
126 sons, equally between them and
127 be paid unto the said Isabell, or
128 her assigns, quarterly by equal
129 portions. **Item:** I give and bequeath to
130 **Sylvester, my daughter**¹¹⁰, twenty
131 pounds of good and lawful money
132 of England whereof I will that
133 John and Robert, my sons, shall
134 pay ten pounds equally between
135 them unto the said Sylvester within
136 one whole year after her marriage.
137 And Margaret, my wife, to pay
138 the other ten pounds at the day

109 there is no mention of Isabell in the parish registers but, from later in the will (lines 203-204), she had two children by 1562

110 married William Monke on 14th June 1563 and died in October 1585; she and William had seven children, of which one died soon after birth and four at ages between seven and ten

139 of her marriage. **Item:** I give unto
140 **Valentine, my servant,** two ewes.
141 **Item:** I will that Robert, my son,
142 shall yearly during the life of
143 Margaret, my wife, well and truly
144 bring home to her six loads of wood
145 freely out of the lands before willed
146 to him without anything, by her, to
147 be paid. And furthermore,
148 my will and testament is that,
149 whereas I have divided my tenements
150 and lands unto my sons as is
151 above specified, that if any of them think
152 them not contented after my death and
153 will strive with his brothers to pluck
154 away, enter, (rex?) ?? trouble or seek
155 to alter or change the tenements
156 and lands otherwise than I have
157 divided them by this my last will
158 and testament, that then it shalbe
159 lawful for his brother, or brothers, so
160 molested, to enter upon the lands
161 and tenements of him, or them, that

162 shall so do and to take the profits
163 thereof by the space of three years,
164 anything in this my last will and
165 testament to the contrary not withstan
166 ding. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
167 Margaret, my wife, three kyne and
168 two bullocks and to choose them
169 among all my kyne and bullocks.
170 **Item:** I bequeath all manner of Iron¹¹¹
172 that belongeth unto husbandry
171 to John Olyver and Robert, my
172 sons equally to be divided between them with all
173 other implements belonging to husbandry,
174 as ploughs, harrows, wheels except my
175 port or wood wayne, which I give to
176 John Olyver, my son. **Item:** Except also my
177 corn wayne which I give to Robert,
178 my son. **Item:** I give and bequeath all
179 my corn that I have sown, as well
180 of the land that John have
181 as also of the land that Robert

111 all his iron tools such as spades, scythes, etc?

182 shall have, to be divided between
183 John Olyver and Richard, my sons,
184 except one Thredd Copp thereof
185 which I give unto Margaret, my
186 wife. **Item:** I will that James Olyver,
187 my son, shall have the score of ewes
188 that I have brought up for him with 40s
189 for the farm of them. And to be chosen
190 of the best of the flock of the age
191 between three and four years. And
192 to be delivered unto him when he cometh
193 out of his years of apprentice¹¹². **Item:** I
194 bequeath unto John Olyver and Robert,
195 my sons, all my styrks and steers¹¹³
196 equally between them to be divided. **Item:**
197 I bequeath unto Robert, my son, 30
199 of my best wethers to be delivered after
199 they be shorne. **Item:** I bequeath unto

112 it is not known to what trade he was apprenticed; he married on 21st November 1569 and therefore was probably about seventeen or eighteen when his father wrote his will, perhaps two or three years older

113 "stirk" - a young cow or ox; "steer" - a castrated young ox

200 the **children of Thomas Olyver of**
201 **Hollenden**, four ewes, that is two unto
202 Thomas, his son, and two to his
203 daughters. **Item:** I bequeath unto the
204 **two children of my daughter Isabell** two
205 ewes. **Item:** I bequeath unto **the children**
206 **of my son, John Olyver**, eight ewes¹¹⁴.
207 **Item:** I bequeath unto Margaret, my
208 wife, all the corn now remaining
209 in the barns except five quarters¹¹⁵
210 of oats that I will John and Robert
211 shall have to sow their land. And also
212 I will that they shall have the
213 straw to fodder their cattle. **Item:**
214 I will that, if there be any heriot
215 to be paid, that it is discharged by
216 John and Robert, my sons. **Item:** all
217 the rest of my goods, my debts being

114 John Olyver is known to have had four children born before 1562: Sylvester (married 1573), Margaret (married 1576), Ann (married 1578) and Thomas whose first recorded child was born in 1583. Thus, if this reconstruction is correct, each would have received two ewes.

115 five quarters: 40 bushels (capacity measure approx. 1500 litres)

218 paid, I give unto Margaret, my wife,
219 whom I ordain and make my sole
220 executrix. In witness whereof the
221 foresaid Thomas Olyver have set
222 my hand and seal to this my last
223 will and testament, by me Thomas
224 Olyver. witnesses:

Lawrence Forde, by me John Tebolde, Gilbert Jennyns, clerk, Robert Blatcher, Thomas Olyver of Kettle¹¹⁶, William Olyver, William Christopher and John Beecher¹¹⁷

Gilbert Jenyns became vicar of Seal in October 1561 and he was probably the scribe. Thomas Olyver made his mark as did also the other witnesses except John Tebold whose "[by me John Tebold](#)" looks (in the original will, Drb/Pw 7) as if it was written in a different hand from the will.

116 #265

117 all are known as men with families in Seal: Lawrence Forde (#183) died 1570; John Tebold, gent. (#1) died 1578; Robert Blatcher (#333) died 1563; William Christopher (#257) died December 1562; John Beecher, yeoman (#351) died 1566

The Brothers John and Robert of Fawke

In the second half of the sixteenth century, the brothers John (#70) and Robert (#136) of Fawke seem to have been active members of the Seal community if witnessing of wills can be taken as an indication (and we only know about those which have survived). It is possible that John Olyver wrote some of the wills which he witnessed.

Surviving wills witnessed by both John (#70) and Robert (#136):

- John Beecher (#351)	1566
- Margaret Beecher (#617)	1568 ¹¹⁸
- Margaret Christopher (#258)	1575
- Arthur Baker (#747)	1581
- Christopher Coates (#1017)	1595

Those, in addition, witnessed by Robert (#136):

- Thomas Olyver the younger of Kettles (#421)	1586
- his brother, John Olyver of Fawke (#70)	1595

Those, in addition, witnessed by John (#70):

- William Christopher (#257)	1562
- James Christopher (#155)	1577
- John(3) Tebold (#1)	1578
- John Frenche (#596)	1578
- Thomas Olyver of Kettles (#265)	1581
- Andrew Porter (#303)	1581
- William Christopher (#251)	1592
- John Walter (#49)	1587
- John Allingham (#1963)	1594
(could have been #1627 or #1200)	

Margaret Beecher (#617), in her will of 1568, gave John and Robert the responsibility of dividing all her belongings between her children "[at their discretion](#)".

The Family of John Olyver of Fawke

John married twice, his first wife dying in 1577 after having had at least eight children only the last three of which were born after the parish register of baptisms started.

His second wife, Isabell Terry was the widow of **Thomas Christopher (#794)** who died in May 1577, Isabell having a daughter soon after Thomas's death. Isabell and John Olyver married on 18th November 1577 only six month's after she was widowed. Thomas Christopher had appointed John's brother Robert (#136) as the guardian of his son, aged two when his father died, and his posthumous daughter so John would have been their step-father but Robert their guardian. See **Christopher** for more details.

In 1592 Thomas Rudland (#219) willed that John Olyver of Fawke should have the keeping of the stock he had willed to his son John for five years after his decease.

The Thomas Olver whose will of 1596 has survived was described as "of Fawke" when he was buried but John does not mention a son Thomas. The eldest child of this Thomas was baptised in 1583 implying that he was born in the 1550s. Since John's daughter Sylvester married in 1573, Thomas could have been a son of John's first marriage and, by 1595, married for between fifteen and twenty years. Thus, when John Olyver of Fawke wrote his will, he would have been well-established so that John concentrated on his underage sons.

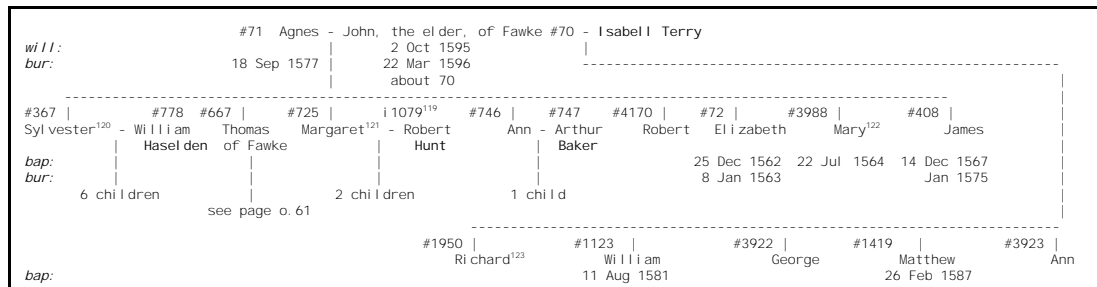
This does not completely solve the problems with the Thomas Olyvers of Fawke since one of the witnesses to the will of William Frenche (#324) in April 1563 was Thomas Olyver of Fawke. John's father died in 1562 whereas his son Thomas

could only have been in his early teens, at the most and therefore hardly old enough to have been a witness.

Another son was mentioned only in passing: John left to his daughter Anne “a joined cupboard standing at my son Robert Olyver's”. To be old enough to have a house, Robert would have had to be a son of John's first marriage and Thomas, the testator of 1596 mentions a brother Robert.

John's daughter Ann by his first marriage (#746) married **Arthur Baker (#747)** on 27th July 1578; they had a daughter, Dorothy, baptised on 30th September but Arthur died in January 1581. Agnes Baker, widow, married **William Rudland of Meopham (#1035)** in Seal on 26th November 1581. The names Ann and Agnes were often used for the same person so that, particularly since there were a number of marriages between the Olyvers and Rudlands, Arthur's widow is likely to have been William's wife.

Tree O.6 : The Family of John the elder of Fawke



-
- 119 i indicates a reference in the Ightham database
- 120 married, on 22nd November 1573, **William Haselden** (k156) from Kemsing, where they had six children between 1574 and 1592 - see **Haselden**
- 121 married **Robert Hunt** on 18th June 1576; their first son was baptised in Seal on 20th October 1577 but other children of Robert Hunt were baptised in Ightham - see **Hunt**. Probably they lived in Ightham but Margaret returned to Seal to be with her mother when she had her first child.
- 122 married Sylvester Page of Shipbourne - see page o.205
- 123 Richard, George and Ann are known only from their father's will

In 1578 John occupied the seven acre coppice of **Sowsgate** owned by **John(3) Tebold**. He also sat on the jury for the inquest on the murder of **William Pynden** in 1590 - see **Pynden**. In addition to John, there was a Robert Olyver, senior, on the Pynden jury and this could have been John's brother, #136 but he does not seem to have had a son Robert who could have been Robert Olyver, junior.

John's will was proved at both Rochester and at the PCC in London, the reason for this not being known.

Will of John Olyver of Fawke

dated 2nd October 1595; buried 22 March 1596

proved at both Rochester and the PCC in London
transcript from RCC probate copy; **probate July 1596**

- 1 In the name of god Amen.
- 2 The second day of October in the year of our
- 3 lord god one thousand five hundred (and ninety five) and
- 4 in the seven and thirty year of the reign of
- 5 our sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace of
- 6 god Queen of England, France and Ireland,

7 defender of the faith. **I, John Olyver, of Fawke** in the
8 parish of Seal in the County of Kent,
9 being of perfect mind and remembrance, thanks
10 be to almighty god, do make and ordain this my
11 last will and testament in manner and form following:
12 **First:** I bequeath my soul to Almighty god,
13 my maker and Redeemer trusting to be saved by the
14 merit of Jesus Christ and my body to be buried in the
15 churchyard of Seal aforesaid. **Item:** I give to the
16 poor people within the parish of Seal 6s 8d
17 to be given in money or bread at the discretion of
18 mine executrix. **Item:** I give and bequeath to my
19 **daughter, Anne Olyver¹²⁴**, twenty pounds to be paid
20 by the hands of my executrix at the age of 21
21 years or at the day of her marriage which shall first
22 happen. **Item:** I give to the same Anne, my daughter,
23 a joined cupboard standing at **my son, Robert¹²⁵**
24 **Olyver's**. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my daughter,**

124 John married twice and had a daughter Ann by his first wife who married in 1578; he must have had another daughter, over twenty years younger, by his second wife .

125 to be old enough to have a house where the cupboard could be standing, Robert must have been a son of the first marriage

25 **Sylvester, the wife of William Haselden¹²⁶**, one
26 heifer bullock of two years old to be paid by the
27 hands of my executrix within two years after
28 my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my son,**
29 **Richard Olyver¹²⁷**, my house that I bought at **Sennocke**
30 with the orchard and garden adjoining to the tenement
31 of **John Simons**, to him and to his heirs forever.
32 And if it happen that my son Richard do depart
33 this present life without heirs of his body lawfully
34 begotten, that then I will his portion so deceased shall
35 remain to **George Olyver and Matthew Olyver,**
36 **my other two sons¹²⁸**, to be divided between them by
37 equal portions. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **William**
38 **Olyver¹²⁹**, my son, one tenement called **Wynger** with

126 probably his eldest daughter by his first wife; she is the only child of his first marriage to be left anything in his will.

127 probably the eldest son of his second marriage although nothing is known of him except for the mention in his father's will. John married for the second time in November 1577 so that Richard could just about have been twenty when his father wrote his will.

128 Matthew was baptised February 1587 and so was only seven when his father wrote his will; George was presumably somewhere between Richard and Matthew.

129 William was baptised in August 1581 and was thus 14 when his father wrote his will; he married in 1610.

39 three parcels of land, one parcel called **Lorkehill**¹³⁰,
40 ---as croft, **Stone Hill**, with one orchard garden with
41 the appurtenances thereunto belonging to him and
42 his heirs for ever. And if it happen that my
43 son William do depart this present life without
44 heirs of his body lawfully begotten that then I
45 will his portion so deceased shall remain to Richard
46 Olyver and George Olyver and Matthew Olyver, my
47 other three sons to be equally divided between
48 them by even portions. And my mind and will is
49 that my son William Olyver shall pay to my
50 son George Olyver and to my son Matthew
51 Olyver, and to either¹³¹ of them, ?? ??
52 year's after my wife's decease, forty shillings
53 until ten pounds a piece be paid to each.
54 **Item:** I give and bequeath to George Olyver, my
55 son, and to my son Matthew Olyver . .
56 of land called **Lovells meade** containing, by estimation,
57 five acres, lying and being within the paris of Seal,

130 left to John by his father

131 to each of them; was this to be forty shillings each, per year, for five years?

58 to them and to their heirs for ever, to be divided
59 between them by equal portions. And if it
60 happen that either of my two sons, George
61 Olyver and Matthew Olyver, shall depart this
62 present life without heirs of the body lawfully
63 begotten, that then I will it shall remain to my son
64 Richard Olyver and to my son William Olyver
65 and to their heirs for ever. And if it happen
66 my said three sons, Richard, George and Matthew,
67 should fail this present life without heirs of their
68 bodies lawfully begotten, that then to remain
69 to my son William Olyver, and to his heirs,
70 for ever. And my very mind and will is that
71 **Isabell, my wife**, shall have the use
72 of my lands and tenements in the parish of Seal
73 and Sennocke or elsewhere within in the County
74 of Kent during her natural life to the only
75 use of bringing up of my children well and
76 honestly, in the fear of god, if she keep
77 herself widow but, if she fortune for to
78 marry, that then I will Isabell, my wife, shall be
79 clearly void and dismissed of all these
80 of my lands and tenements forever. **Item:** my mind

81 and will is that Isabell, my wife shall keep
82 the reparations of my tenements well and
83 sufficient during her natural life and
84 moreover I will that Isabell, my wife (shall have)
85 sufficient firewood in and upon the premises
86 and land during her natural life without
87 making any waste. And all the rest of my moveable
88 goods unbequeathed, my debts and legacies being paid
89 and my will being fulfilled, I give to Isabell, my
90 wife whom I make my whole executrix of this
91 last will and testament, by me, John Olyver, the
Elder, witnessed to this my present will and testament
**William Haselden¹³², Thomas Christopher¹³³ and
William Walter.** And I will that **my brother,
Robert Olyver, and Robert French¹³⁴** to be my overseers.

132 Sylvester's husband

133 Isabell's son by her first marriage; he was twenty in 1595

134 Robert Frenche (#938) married in 1578 and had twelve children between then and 1605; see also the will of Robert Olyver, page 67

Thomas Olyver of Fawke, died 1596

"Elizabeth(#669), daughter of Thomas Olyver of Fawke" was buried on 18th September 1572. The children of this Thomas, who died in 1596, were born in the 1580s. If she had been an adult, unmarried daughter of this Thomas's grandfather (#233), why did he not mention her in his will?

Thomas died only nine months after his father, probably in his late forties whereas his father had lived to about seventy. In his will he requested that his wife should "cause to be made . . for every one of my three daughters, a good, new and sufficient joined chest out of such panel boards as be about the house at this time". The remaining panel boards were left to his eldest child, Lawrence, who was only sixteen when his father died.

Tree O.7: The Family of Thomas of Fawke

	#667 Thomas of Fawke - Marie #668					
<i>wil:</i>	20 Oct 1596					
<i>bur:</i>	2 Dec 1596					

	#1199	#1317	#1440	#1596	#1980	#1865
	Lawrence -	Jesse	Dorothy	Elizabeth	Thomas	Johane - William ¹³⁵
<i>bap:</i>	11 Aug 1583	12 Sep 1585	1 Aug 1587	12 Apr 1590	2 Jan 1596	1 Jun 1596
<i>bur:</i>	15 Sep 1585					

	#3174	#3175	#3176	#3177	#3178	
	Dorothy	Robert	John	Elizabeth	True	
<i>bap:</i>	3 Nov 1616	8 Feb 1618	11 Feb 1620	28 Dec 1623	14 Feb 1628	

This study ends in 1650 and, up to that date, nothing more is known about this branch of the Olyvers.

¹³⁵ married, in Ightham, on 28th January 1616 when Johane was nineteen

1 In the name of god Amen. The twentieth
2 day of October in the year of our lord god a thousand
3 five hundred and ninety six. **I, Thomas Olyver,**
4 of the parish of Seal, in the County of Kent,
5 being sick of body but in good and perfect memory
6 (thanks be to god) do here make and ordain my last
7 will and testament. **First:** I will and bequeath my
8 soul to Almighty god, to Jesus Christ, my only
9 saviour and Redeemer in full assured hope of the joyful
10 resurrection to eternal life, my body to be buried in
11 the east side of the parish churchyard of Seal
12 aforesaid. **Item:** I will unto the poor of the said
13 parish, at the day of my burial, two shillings.
14 **Item:** I do will and bequeath unto **Marie, my wife,**
15 all my moveable goods, chattels whatsoever, my debts
16 being paid and that she do fulfil this my last will
17 and testament also. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto every
18 of **my three daughters,** that is to say, **Dorothy,**
19 **Elizabeth and Johane,** six pounds thirteen shillings

eight pence to ?? to be paid to them by my executrix at
their age of fifteen¹³⁶ years to every of them or at the
days of their marriage which shall happen to be first.
And if any of my said daughters shall happen to decease
before the age of fifteen years or before their marriages,
then I will that then they shalbe the others heirs of them.
Item: I will that Marie, my wife, shall cause to be
made within one year after my decease (for) every one
of my three daughters, a good new and sufficient joined
chest out of such panel boards as be about the house
at this time. **Item:** I will also that every of my
said three daughters shall, at the aforesaid age of
theirs have, every of the, a good pair of fine
sheets. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto **my son,**
Lawrence¹³⁷, all the residue of the said panel
boards, the three chests being made aforesaid. Also
I will and bequeath unto Lawrence, my son, the cupboard
in the hall, the forms and one great chest in the
chamber and one joined bedstead, to have them after

136 although unusual, both here and on line 24, the age definitely reads as "fifteen"

137 the eldest child, baptised August 1583 and therefore thirteen when his father died.

39 the decease of Marie, my wife, whensoever she do decease.

40 This is the last will and testament of me the said Thomas
41 Olyver of all my lands the parish of Seal or else
42 where. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto my son,
43 Lawrence, all my lands and tenements in the parish of
44 Seal or wheresoever else they be to him, my
45 said son and to his heirs forever. To hold of
46 ?? lord or lords of the fee thereof. **Item:** I do
47 will, and my meaning is that Marie, my wife, shall have,
48 occupy and enjoy all my lands and tenements
49 aforesaid until my son Lawrence do accomplish
50 the age of four and twenty years. **Item:** I do will,
51 and my true meaning is, that Lawrence, my said son,
52 shall, when he doth accomplish the full age of four
53 and twenty years, have and enjoy, at all times for
54 him and to his heirs forever as aforesaid. The moiety
55 or one half of all my lands and tenements in the
56 said parish of Seal or wheresoever else. And that
57 moiety, or one half thereof, I will that my said wife
58 shall have during her natural life. **Item:** I will,
59 and my meaning is that, Marie, my wife, shall
60 maintain and keep all manner of reparations of

61 all my tenements in manner and form as they
62 are until my said son be of age of four and
63 twenty years. And then, my said son have and
64 shall keep th'one half. **Item:** I will that Marie,
65 my wife, shall have but three loads of wood
66 every year, one the
67 it may best be **Item:** I give all the residue
68 of my goods not willed unto Marie, my wife, my
69 debts being paid, whom I do make and ordain
70 my whole and sole executrix of this my last will and
71 testament. I do ordain my overseers to this, my last
72 will and testament, **Robert Olyver, my brother¹³⁸**, my
73 **brother-in-law, Richard Goodhew¹³⁹**, my true and
74 full friends. **Memorandum:** that the words were entered
75 under the 38th line before them sealing thereof being
76 sealed and delivered in the person of their ..
**William Olyver, Robert Olyver and Richard Goodhew
and Thomas Christopher**

138 presumably the Robert Olyver at whose house a cupboard belonging to John, their father, was standing in 1595

139 perhaps his wife was a Goodhew since there is no record of an Olyver woman marrying a Goodhew

Robert Olyver of Fawke, died 1610

The wills witnessed by Robert are listed above and his family is given on page o.33. It was probably this Robert Olyver who was burgled on 14th February 1601. At the Sevenoaks Assizes at the beginning of March 1601, **John Lenard of Robertsbridge**, Sussex, labourer, was indicted for grand larceny in that he stole 4 shirtbands (2s), 4 neckerchiefs (2s) and a hat (3s) from **Robert Olyver of Seal**¹⁴⁰.

Robert Olyver of Fawke was probably about eighty when he died "[being sickly and aged](#)". His will, which is very long, was written by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618. Robert wished to be buried "[amongst his ancestors](#)" in the churchyard of Seal. His wife Dorothy lived for another thirteen years, sixty years after she had married.

An unusual bequest of Robert's was "[the ploughing of his piece of fallow](#)" to his servant; Robert's executrix was to "[plough for him without anything to be paid over and besides his wages](#)".

The land he left to his wife totalled approaching fifty acres and included some "[hempland](#)" as well as the usual gardens, orchards, meadows and wood. Their son

¹⁴⁰ Cal. of Assize Records, Kent Indictments Eliz. I, HMSO 1979, p. 465, no. 2838.

John was to have this when Dorothy died plus another twenty-five acres he inherited directly. William's share of his father's land totalled 56 acres but the area of that bequeathed to Thomas, which also included some hempland, is unknown since that part of the will is damaged. As well as his land in the south of the parish, Robert owned a "little house below Seal Town" which, with its garden and parcel of land adjoining, occupied about half an acre.

Will of Robert Olyver of Fawke

dated 8th August 1610; buried 28th October 1610

The ends of the lines of the original copy, from which the following transcript has been taken, have not survived and the probate copy, is difficult to read because of the poor quality of the microfilm and tight binding of the original volume. However, it has been used to help complete the transcript. Each page of the will was subscribed by Robert Olyver with his mark.

Nicholas Hooper's
mark

1 In¹⁴¹ the name of god Amen. The eighth day of August in the year of our
2 Lord god, one thousand six hundred and ten. And in the eighth 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. And of Scotland the forty fourth, I,
5 **Robert Olyver of Fawke**, within the parish of Seal in the County of
6 Kent, **yeoman**, being sickly and aged¹⁴² and thereby assummioned of my
last end notwithstanding
7 of good and perfect mind and remembrance, thanks therefore be to
Almighty God, do ordain
8 and make this my present testament and last will in manner and form
following: And **First**:
9 and principally, I give, commend and bequeath my soul into the hands of
God, my Saviour,

141 decorated "T" with Nicholas Hooper mark attached to "h" of "the"

142 probably about eighty

10 trusting assuredly that the same (in and by the only mediation of his son,
Christ Jesus, my
11 only saviour and redeemer) shalbe presented pure and without spot before
the throne of his
12 majestie¹⁴³. And my body to the earth to be buried (amongst my Ancestors)
in the churchyard
13 of Seal aforesaid in sure and certain hope of a joyful resurrection to life
eternal.
14 **Item:** I will there shalbe given and distributed among the poor of Seal
aforesaid,
15 at my burial or otherwise at the discretion of the churchwarden there being
and my very
16 friend, **Henry Swaynland**¹⁴⁴, to such as shall have most need, the sum of
twenty shillings of
17 lawful money. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Dorothy, my daughter**, now
wife of **Thomas**

143 this phrase was one of the "trademarks" of Nicholas Hooper

144 married 1598 and died 1620 but no children recorded in either the parish register or his will

page 2:

18 **Markwick**, the sum of ten pounds of lawful money to be paid to he within
two
19 years next after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath to the **five sons of**
Thomas¹⁴⁵
20 **Olyver, my son**, to every of them two of my oldest ewe sheep to be chosen
by the said
21 Thomas Olyver, their father, presently after my decease, to the use of . .
22 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Robert Keble, my servant**, the ploughing of
his piece of fallow
23 that he is to sow to halves? with **William Carter**, the . . I will that my
executrix shall
24 plough for him without anything to be paid over and besides his wages.
Item: I will and
25 bequeath to **Marie Showen, my maidservant**, 5s to be paid to her at the end
of . . **Item:**

145 it is assumed that it was Robert's son Thomas (born May 1571) who married in 1598 when he was 27; the baptisms of only three sons "of Thomas Olyver" were recorded between then and 1610: Robert in 1600, Thomas in 1606 and Abraham in 1610 with a daughter, Alisha, baptised in 1603. Robert would seem to be the eldest son which fits in with the date of the marriage and another son could have been born between Thomas and Abraham but where does the fifth son fit in?. Perhaps Alisha, who is not mentioned by either her grandfather or grandmother died very young and another son was born soon afterwards. See also the will of Robert's wife, page 86

26 I give and bequeath to **Thomas Olyver, my son**, all my wearing gear and ??
of what kind

27 . . linen, woollen, viz: shoes, boots, coats, cloaks, shirts, bands and ??

28 **The residue** of all my goods and cattle, debts, credits and chattels and all
other

29 my moveable goods whatsoever, I wholly, fully and with good intent and
purpose give and

30 bequeath to **Dorothy, now my well beloved wife**¹⁴⁶, which Dorothy, my wife,
I make and ordain

31 my sole and only executrix of this my last will to see the same proven, my
debts and legacies paid

32 and my body honestly and decently buried. And I devise my loving
brother, **James Olyver**, and

33 my son-in-law, Thomas Markwick, to be supervisor and overseer of this my
will to whom I

34 give, as a token of my goodwill, ten shillings a piece besides their charge
about this will to be laid out.

page 3:

¹⁴⁶ nee Dorothy Porter, they married on 31st January, 1563 and had therefore been married for 47 years and so Dorothy also would be about seventy when Robert wrote his will.

35 This is the last will¹⁴⁷ and testament of me, the said Richard Olyver, made
and declared
36 the day and year first above written concerning the order and disposition of
my lands, tenements
37 and heriditaments wheresoever situated, being and lying within the parish
of Seal aforesaid or
38 elsewhere. And **First:** I give and bequeath to the said Dorothy, my wife, all
that my messuage
39 or tenement wherein I now dwell called **Fawke house** together with all the
barns, stables, edifices
40 and buildings, closes, yards, gardens, orchards and hempland thereto
belonging and adjoining
41 (except the threshing floor and the west head of one barn called the old
Barne). Also I
42 give to her, my said wife, two parcels of land and meadow adjoining on the
back side of my said mansion
43 house altogether situated, lying and being in at Fawke aforesaid in Seal
aforesaid, containing, by
44 estimation, six acres more or less. Also all those six sonalls or parcels of
land and wood thereto

147 phrase decorated with Nicholas Hooper mark above it

45 belonging called by those names following, viz.: **Barnehough, Hitherdean,**
46 **longdeane, littledeane,**
47 **Walters Deane and the hook** containing in the whole, by estimation, thirty
48 acres more or less
49 altogether lying and being in Seal aforesaid. And also three parcels of land
50 as they are now
51 divided called **Lowlde** containing in the whole, by estimation, eight acres
52 more or less together
53 lying and being at **Under River** in Seal aforesaid. And also all that parcel of
54 meadow called
55 **Grogous meade** containing, by estimation, three acres more or less lying
56 and being at **Under River**
57 in Seal aforesaid. To have and to hold all the said messuage or tenement,
58 barns, stables, edifices
59 and buildings, closes, gardens orchards, hemp plot and two parcels of land
60 and meadow adjoining
61 (except the said threshing floor and west head of the said barn) also the
62 said other ten sonalls or

page 4:

54 parcels of land, meadows and wood with all and singular th'appurtenances
55 unto the said Dorothy, my

55 wife and her assigns, for, by and during the whole term of her natural life, if
56 she keep herself so long a widow, keeping
57 reparations of all the said messuage and buildings and . .
58 doing no waste in or upon the same, other than necessary timber and
59 hedge boot to be used and
60 employed in and upon the same if need require. Also I will it shalbe lawful
61 for her, my said wife
62 and her assigns to have, take and fell towards her firewood and fuel, to be
63 spent and burnt in the
64 said messuage during her said natural life and widowhood . . sufficient
65 firewood, saving and performing the . .
61 And, after the decease, or next marriage, of the said Dorothy, my wife,
62 which shall first happen, I will
63 and give all and every the said messuage or tenement and all and every
64 the said barns, stables, edifices
65 and buildings, closes, gardens orchards, hemp plot and parcels of land and
66 meadows adjoining and
67 all and every the said ten sonalls or parcels of land, meadows and wood
68 before named with all and
69 singular th'appurtenances unto **mine eldest son, John Olyver¹⁴⁸**, to have
70 and hold

66 the same with all and singular th'appurtenances unto the said John Olyver,
his heirs and assigns
67 for ever. Also I will that my said son, John Olyver, his heirs and assigns,
have the use and
68 occupation of the said threshing floor and west head of the said barn before
excepted during
69 the natural life and widowhood of my said wife, keeping the reparations
thereof. **Item:** I give and
70 bequeath unto the said John Olyver, my eldest son, all that little house
called
71 **Pumfries house** and the garden, orchard and five sondalls or parcels of land
and wood thereto adjoining
72 lying altogether on the northwest side of the highway there leading from
Fawke to Bitchett
73 in Seal aforesaid, called **Barnespett, lordedeane, hawkeshorst** and the two
parcels of wood
74 containing in the whole, by estimation, five and twenty acres, more or less,
to have and to
75 hold all the said little house, garden, orchard and five sondalls or parcels of
land with all
76 and singular th'appurtenances unto the said John Olyver, my son (after my
decease), his

77 heirs and assigns for ever. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **William Olyver,**
my second son¹⁴⁹,
78 all that my messuage or tenement called **Hadlowes** or by what other name
it be called, one barn, one close,
79 one garden, one orchard and five parcels of land and wood thereto
adjoining, lying altogether at
80 **Bitchet** in Seal aforesaid containing in the whole, by estimation, twelve
acres more or less,
81 to have and to hold all the said messuage or tenement and all the said
close, orchard, barn and
82 five parcels of land and wood adjoining, with all and singular
th'appurtenances unto the said William
83 Olyver, my son, his heirs and assigns, to the only use and behoof of William
84 Olyver, his heirs and assigns for ever. **Item:** I like wise give and bequeath
to the said
85 William, my son, all that parcel of land having been three small sonalls,
now lying all in one and called
86 **Graveslande** and a parcel of wood adjoining called **High Graveslande** wood
containing in the whole,
87 by estimation, thirty acres more or less, together lying and being in Seal
aforesaid. Also one

149 another son, Robert, was born between John and William but he died almost exactly a year after being baptised

88 parcel of land and wood called **Jamesdeane**¹⁵⁰ containing, by estimation,
90 nine acres more or less
89 lying and being in Seal aforesaid. And also I give and bequeath to the said
90 William,
91 my son, all those two parcels of meadow called **Burnett garden** and
91 **Horspool** containing,
92 by estimation, five acres more or less together lying and being at **Under**
92 **River** in Seal aforesaid
93 to have and to hold all the said last named five parcels of land,
94 meadowland and wood with all and
95 singular th'appurtenances unto the said William Olyver, my son, his heirs
94 and assigns, to the only
94 use and behoof of the said William Olyver, his heirs and assigns for ever.
95 **Item:** I
95 give and bequeath unto **Thomas Olyver, my third and youngest son**¹⁵¹, all
that messuage or tenement

150 Jamesdeane was left to John, Robert's elder brother, by their father

151 another son, Andrew, born in June 1576 lived less than a week

96 called **Stakehouse** lying and being at **the Stake**¹⁵² in **Seal** aforesaid, one
garden, one orchard, one hempland and
97 two parcels of land and wood adjoining in the occupation of **Thomas**
Charie¹⁵³ containing, by estimation,
98 three acres more or less. Also one parcel of wood called **Stakewood** lying
99 way against the said Stakehouse, containing, by estimation, ten acres,
more or less
100 lying and being in Seal aforesaid.
101 And also all those two parcels of land and wood called **Medlers** containing,
by estimation ??,
102 lying and being in Seal aforesaid. And also all those two sonalls or
103 occupation of **William Roberde**¹⁵⁴ and **Owen**, one barn and other
104 and the gardens and backsides there also adjoining, situated, lying and
being in
105 And also one other little house lying below **Seal town** in
106 garden and parcel of land thereto adjoining, by estimation, half an acre

152 the Ordnance Survey map of the area for 1957 shows Stake Farm was on the road from Godden Green to Fawke, just south of Godden Green with Medlers (line 101) just to the north east of it.

153 or is it Olyver?

154 there was a William Roberts in Seal who had children between 1574 and 1587 and so would have been about sixty in 1610

107 and to hold all the said messuage or tenement called Stakehouse with the
garden
108 and two parcels of land and wood adjoining the said parcel of wood called
109 said two parcels of land and wood called Medlers and the said three
110 and parcel of land in Seal town and at the lower end of Seal town
111 unto the said Thomas Olyver, my youngest son, his heirs and assigns, to
the only use and
112 behoof of the said Thomas Olyver, my son, his heirs and assigns for ever.
113 always and my full intent and meaning is that it shall and may be lawful to
114 my wife and her assigns to have and take
115 every acre of wood growing upon all, every or any of the wood and wood
ground
116 said to William Olyver, my son, half a load? of wood
117 for by the said Dorothy, my wife, for and toward the better maintaining of
her fire notwithstanding
118 limitation of wood before in this my will to her given (anything before
mentioned
119 contrary notwithstanding). Provided, furthermore, that the said John
Olyver, his
120 heirs and assigns, shall pay yearly for ever for the lord, rent due to the
121 or fee simple? out of and for all the land, tenements and hereditaments
122 during her life and widowhood or to him, the said John, my son, the sum
123 eight pence. And the said William, my son, his heirs and assigns,

124 quitrent for his land in this my will to him given, the sum of
125 said Thomas Olyver, my son, his heirs and assigns, shall pay
126 his land to him given in this my will, the sum of four shillings and
127 make up the sum of twenty five shillings and four pence the whole. .
128 pay for all my lands and tenements in Seal (any thing also herein before

page 8:

129 in any wise notwithstanding). **Provided** furthermore and my will and
130 John Olyver, mine eldest son, his executors and assigns, shall have
131 messuage, land and whatsoever to the said William, my son, given in
this
132 feast of Saint Michael Th'archangel which shall next come after the
decease of Dorothy,
133 my wife, for and by yearly rent of eight pounds during the said time, half
yearly by
134 and reparations or any other Covenant to be done or other thing to be paid,
other
135 be kept and doing no waste nor felling or spoiling the wood or any of the
136 also in this my will contained to the contrary any wise also
notwithstanding. **Provided**
137 likewise that, whereas heretofore, I gave, made and ted one Annuity
138 pounds a year unto **Johane, now wife of the said William Olyver, my son,**
139 certain the land in this my will given to the said John Olyver, my son,

140 her natural life, my will and meaning is that if the said Johane,
141 any time after the decease of the said William or
142 any part or that the said John, his heirs or assigns, or land
143 given shalbe distrained, vexed or troubled for the said Annuity
144 then, and at any time after, it shall and may be lawful to and for the
145 and assigns to enter in and upon all, any or one of the said landes,
tenements
146 said William, enter and *{rest of line crossed out}*

page 9:

147 take and enjoy the like Annuity or Annual rent of three pounds out of
148 and given to the said William, my son, payable at such time and
149 be paid by virtue of the said Annuity to he granted and for lack of
150 be lawful to and for the said John, my sone, his heirs and assigns, to
distrain
151 same lands and tenements and the same to detain and keep until the said
Annuity
152 be fully paid any thing also herein before mentioned to the contrary
notwithstanding.
153 will that if it happen the said William to decease the said Johane to
claim her such dower during the life
154 during the life of my said wife, the said John, my son, his executors and
assigns

155 the sum of four pounds for the lands and tenements of the said William.
Provided
156 and by this my will, I will and give unto **Robert Olyver, my godson, son of**
my son John
157 **Olyver**¹⁵⁵, out of one parcel of land called **Morfield** adjoining on the
backside of my said
159 . . . given to the said John, my son, after my wife's decease, the sum of
twenty pounds of lawful
160 money to be paid by the said John, his father, his heirs or assigns, at the
161 of the said Robert, if he be then living. *{rest of line crossed out}*
162 happen to be deceased before the said age and shall have child or children
163 twenty pounds shalbe paid to his child, or equally between the children of
the said
164 at such time as the said Robert should have been paid if he had
165 of the said £20 or any part thereof contrary to the ?? of this my will. I will
166 then living (or the child or children of the said Robert if he leave any) shall

page 10:

167 parcel of land called Morfield and the same with th'appurtenances, shall
168 her or them satronpaid?, his, her and their heirs and assigns, forever and
169 to the contrary notwithstanding. **In witness** whereof to this my

155 baptised 15 October 1592 and therefore just eighteen when his grandfather wrote his will

170 sheets of paper, I, the said Robert Olyver, have set my make to every
 171 . . . and last sheet, have set my hand and seal. And I do
 172 wills by me made, given the day and year first above written.¹⁵⁶
 Read, published and declared as
 the true and last will of the said
 Robert Olyver in the presence of the mark O of Robert
William Porter¹⁵⁷, Olyver
Robert Frenche¹⁵⁸,
Henry Swainland and
Nicholas Hooper, senior, writer
 the mark of Robert Frenche
 the mark of Henry Swainland¹⁵⁹

156 probably Nicholas Hooper mark with initials here but this side of the will is damaged

157 William Porter (#58) whose will had been written the day previously by Nicholas Hooper

158 Robert Frenche (#938) married in 1578 witnessed the will of John Olyver in 1596 (see page 54) but was still alive in 1610; he made his mark which was an "X" with a closed top

159 Robert Olyver's mark, which appears on each page, was a circle (the letter "O"?) whilst that of Henry Swaynland (#1711) was a T with a very strong horizontal line.

Dorothy Olyver, widow

Dorothy's will was written by **John Hooper**, the son of Nicholas Hooper, on 27th November 1622 when she was "**in good health and perfect remembrance**". John, her eldest son, who had written his will three months earlier had died by the end of November but Dorothy was to live for another seven months being buried on 7th June 1623. Since Dorothy was married in 1563, she would have been at least eighty when she died

Her will gives the names of many of her grandchildren and great- grandchildren.

Will of Dorothy Olyver of Fawke

dated 27th November 1622; buried 7th June 1623

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The seven and twentieth day of November, Ad.
- 2 ?? 1622 and in the twentieth year of the reign of our sovereign lord James,
by the grace of
- 3 God, king of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith; And of
Scotland, the five and fiftieth.
- 4 **I, Dorothy Olyver**, of **Fawke**, in the parish of Seal in the County of Kent,
widow, being in good health

5 and perfect remembrance (thanks be given to god) do ordain and make this
my testament and last will in
6 manner and form following: **First** and principally, yielding my soul to
Almighty God, my maker
7 with sure hope of salvation through his mercy and the merit and mediation
of Jesus Christ, my only saviour and
8 Redeemer; And my body to the earth decently to be buried by mine
executor with like hope of a joyful
9 Resurrection to eternal life. **Item:** I give and bequeath to the poor of the
parish of Seal aforesaid
10 twenty shillings to be distributed amongst them by mine executor hereafter
named at the time of my burial.
11 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my son, Thomas Olyver**, five pounds of lawful
english money to be paid
12 him within one year next after my decease. And also I give him one joined
chest standing within the parlour
13 door of my now dwelling house, one joined form, one chair which
heretofore ?? me, And one old
14 joined chair in the parlour. **Item:** I give unto **my daughter, Dorothy Arnold**,
forty shillings to be
15 paid her within one year next after my decease. And one great joined
chest standing in the parlour aforesaid.

16 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto every one of the **children of my son, John**
17 **Olyver, deceased¹⁶⁰**, viz: **Thomas,**
18 **Jane, James, John, George and William¹⁶¹**, five pounds apiece to be paid
19 unto them at their several
20 ages of one and twenty years or several days of marriage which shall first
21 happen. **Item:** I will and
22 give to **William Olyver, the son of my son Thomas**, three pounds and ten
shillings. And to **Dorothy, the**
daughter of my said son Thomas, five pounds to be paid them within one
year next after my decease
by mine executor. And if either of them decease before payment thereof,
within the said year, the survivor
of them to have the whole. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto **Robert, Thomas,**
John and Andrew¹⁶²,

160 a John Olyver was killed by a fall "taking down a chimney" in Chiddingstone, where he was buried, in the autumn of 1622; the will of Robert and Dorothy's son has survived (see page 96) - it could have been written before the accident occurred.

161 born between 1596 and 1609 and therefore aged between 26 and 13 in 1622

162 Abraham in parish record; Dorothy could have been born after her grandfather wrote his will but John and William, together with the three recorded in the parish register, give the five mentioned by their grandfather in 1610.

23 **Olyver, other children of my said son, Thomas**, five pounds a piece of lawful
money to be paid to them,
24 the said Robert, Thomas, John and Andrew, at their several full ages of one
and twenty years by mine
25 executor or his assigns. And if any of them decease before their said ages,
the legacy of any of
26 them so deceasing to be paid equally to the survivors or the survivor . .
Item: I
27 give and bequeath to **Marie Markwick, eldest daughter of my daughter**
Arnold, one great
28 brass cauldron. **Item:** I give unto **Elizabeth Markwick, one other of the**
daughters of my daughter
29 **Arnold**, one great brass pot, the said cauldron and pot to be delivered after
my decease upon
30 reasonable demand thereof to be made. **Item:** I bequeath unto **Joane**
Thompson, my daughter-in-law¹⁶³,
31 twenty shillings to be paid her, by mine executor, within one month after
my decease. **Item:** I give
32 and bequeath to **Elizabeth and Joane, the daughters of my son, William**
Olyver, twenty shillings

163 her son William's wife was Johane; perhaps William had died and Johane had married again

33 a piece, to be paid to them within one year after my decease. **Item:** I will
 unto the **widow of**
 34 **my son, John Olyver, deceased,** one joined bedstead standing in the
 parlour aforesaid, one featherbed, one
 35 feather bolster and one ?? **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Dorothy, now**
wife of Lawrence
 36 --ourley, two platters, two pewter dishes and two pairs of sheets. **Item:** I
 give unto
 37 **Francis Rogers¹⁶⁴, daughter of my daughter Arnold,** one pair of --iectes
 wrought at the ends
 38 with the silver -in and one ?? stand. **Item:** I give unto **Jane Olyver,**
daughter of my
 39 **son John,** one great joined chest in the chamber where I now . . **Item:**
 whereas any
 40 legatees before or hereafter ?? in this my will shalbe within age at the
 time assigned hereby
 41 for him, her or them to ?? their legacy or legacies, I will that . . and
 42 delivery of such legacy and legacies by . . .
 43 do and shall make an acquittance acknowledging the receipt of such
 legacy or legacies . .

164 Was Francis married to ?? Rogers? was her father Thomas Markwith of ?? Arnold? Or was ?? Arnold Dorothy's
 third husband, Francis's father being Dorothy's second husband?

44 . . . acquittance and receipt so made shalbe a sufficient
45 discharge¹⁶⁵ to mine executor . . all such legatees within age. **Item:** I will
to the
46 **wife of John Rogers of Sevenoaks** ten shillings of lawful english money.

47 The residue and all other goods, cattle and chattels of me, the said Dorothy
48 Olyver, unbequeathed, I wholly and fully, give and bequeath unto **Robert**
Olyver, my grandchild,
49 **eldest son of my son John Olyver, deceased,** whom I make, constitute and
ordain, the sole
50 only executor of this my testament and last will to see the same fulfilled
and ??, my debts
51 paid and my body decently buried. And I ordain and entreat my good
friends
52 **John Bloome¹⁶⁶ of Sevenoaks, mercer, and Robert Frenche¹⁶⁷, yeoman,** to be
overseers ??

165 spelt "discharge" here and "charge" on line 55

166 the will of John Blome, mercer of Sevenoaks, written in April 1624 has survived - see *blosev.will*

167 probably the Richard Frenche who had children between 1610 and 1627 although, if he was still alive, it could have been the Robert Frenche who married in 1578 and would thus be nearer to Dorothy's age (but still about fifteen years younger)

53 as in them shall lie, that this my will be executed according to my true
meaning without ?? or
54 controversy giving to either of them, for a token of my love, over and above
all their ordinary
55 charges, ten shillings of lawful english money. And I do hereby revoke all
former wills
56 by me made and do declare this to be my only testament and last will
contained and written in
57 two sheets of paper, to either of which I have made my mark. And to the
last of them have
58 put my seal . . the day and year first above written.

The mark of Dorothy Olyver

There being present
and witnesses

John Bloomes

?? Walter

John Hooper, notary

The Family of Thomas and Agnes

It has been assumed that it was Thomas, the son of Robert Olyver of Fawke, who married Agnes Hacket of **Fakeham** (or Fawkham) in Seal on 4th May 1598, "[the bans three times proclaimed](#)"; he would have been twenty-seven. The baptisms of Robert, Alisha, Thomas and Abraham/Andrew fit in with this marriage and Dorothy, their assumed grandmother, in 1622, mentioned Robert, Thomas, John, Andrew, William and Dorothy.

This implies that Alisha died before 1622 and that the baptisms of John, William and Dorothy either were not recorded or took place elsewhere. There was less than three years between the baptisms of Alisha and Thomas so that, if John was born between them, Alisha probably died soon after birth.

Since their grandfather just mentions five sons of his son Thomas, Dorothy could have been born after 1610 when he died.

The children shown below as those of #3165 probably formed one family as they were all recorded as the children of "[Robert and Elizabeth](#)". Elizabeth Olyver, "[the wife of Robert Olyver of Fawkeham](#)" was one of the witnesses to the will of Mary Welfare in 1632. It looks as if Fawkham came to the Olyver's as Agnes's dowry.

Tree O.8: The Family of Thomas and Agnes

				#509 Thomas - Agnes Hackett #1717					
<i>bap:</i>				14 May 1571					
<i>married:</i>				4 May 1598					

	#3165		#3166	#4159	#3167	#4160	#3168	#4161	
	Robert	- Elizabeth	Alisha	John	Thomas	William	Abraham/Andrew	Dorothy	
<i>bap:</i>	21 Sep 1600		25 Apr 1603		26 Jan 1606		4 Feb 1610		

	#3190	#3188	#3189	#3191	#3192	#3193	#3194	#3195	
	??	Robert	John	Agnes	Edward	Elizabeth	Mary	Sarah	
<i>bap:</i>		10 Mar 1625	4 Dec 1628	13 Jan 1631	26 Nov 1633	13 Mar 1636	11 Aug 1639		
<i>bur:</i>	21 Jan 1624 ¹⁶⁸					20 Nov 1650	twins		

168 "son of Robert Olyver which was still born"

John Olyver of Seal

Robert's eldest son John (#1200) whose will is dated 12th August 1622 died sometime between then and the end of November in 1622, when his mother wrote her will. The Seal parish register records that, sometime in the autumn of 1622, “**John Olyver of Bitchet was killed with a fall in taking down a chimney in the parish of Chiddingstone and was buried there**”. It looks as if John's will had been written, as quite a few wills were, when the testator was not particularly ill so that it was fortuitous that it was written before the accident occurred. Alternatively the accident could have happened in August with John being capable of organising the writing of his will before he died. An item in favour of the latter possibility is that neither of the witnesses can be identified as coming from Seal.

At the baptism of two of his children, John was recorded as John Olyver of Bitchet. No land specifically called Bitchet was mentioned prior to 1622 but Robert Olyver of Fawke, John's father, mentions the road leading to Bitchet. John also seems to have owned Absoloms, for which the lease for a term of years had been left by Thomas the elder, of Kettles, to his son John (#1627) in 1581. His eldest son, Thomas, is described as “of Bitchet” in his will of 1642.

With Dorothy, his mother still alive, the arrangements which John had to make to cover both the needs of Dorothy and his wife Jane were complex. He bequeathed

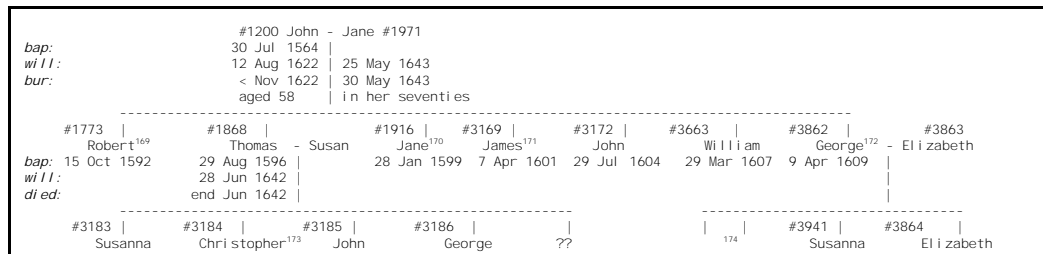
Fawke House, presumably the family home, to his son, another Robert, and the wealth of the estate can be gauged by the sums of money which had to be provided from this inheritance:

- £10 per year to Jane, after the decease of his grandmother, Dorothy
- £30 to Jane within one year after Dorothy's decease
- £10 to his sister at her marriage
- £20 to James within two years of Dorothy's decease
- £10 to John within four years of Dorothy's decease
- £10 to William within six years of Dorothy's decease
- £10 to George within six years of Dorothy's decease

Robert's mother Jane, John's husband, was also given part of Fawke House to live in: "the parlour and the chamber over the parlour and the Hall for her fire room and to have egress and regress. And also the kitchen for her brewing and baking and washing during the term of her life". Thomas, John's second son, out of his inheritance was to pay his mother £5 a year and provide four tons of wood and "faggots for her firing".

The three younger sons were not yet of age and Jane was to receive the rent of the lands left to them until each of them was twenty-four. James, the third son was left just £20. Had he been set up in an apprenticeship, or even sent to study either at the Inns of Court or university, and thus had already had his portion?

Tree O.9: The Family of John and Jane



- 169** Jane mentions Robert Olyver, the younger, her godson, who could have been the son of #1773; in 1632, his wife, Elizabeth, witnessed Mary Welfare/Kerwyne's will - see page o.20
- 170** Jane and John were recorded as the son and daughter of "John Olyver of Bitchet"; when her mother died in 1643, Jane was Jane Medhurst and she had a son, John
- 171** married **Alice Welland** (#3204), by a licence from Rochester, on 14th February 1626 when he was twenty-four
- 172** George Olyver was listed in the Knole manuscript of 1648 as living in Seal village
- 173** Christopher, John and George were baptised as the children of "Thomas and Susan" with George being buried six weeks after his father. Although he was only eight, Jane, his grandmother, appointed Christopher the executor of her will with her son-in-law, Robert Children, to act for him whilst he was underage. Who was Robert Children's wife? Jane's only known daughter was the Jane married to a Medhurst.
- 174** when George's mother wrote her will, he had two daughters; Susanna was baptised in Kemsing and his wife's name is known from the baptism of Elizabeth.

1 In the name of god Amen. **I, John Olyver, of Seal** in the County of Kent,
2 **yeoman**, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner
and
3 form following: **First:** I bequeath my soul to Almighty god and my body to
be
4 buried in the churchyard of Seal. **Item:** I give unto the poor of Seal
5 five shillings. **Item:** I give unto **my son, Robert Olyver, Fawke house**
6 **--chyard and Netherfield¹⁷⁵** with all the buildings and edifices there unto
belonging
7 **?? Bawne house, ?? ??, Middle Deane, Little Deane,**
8 **Walters Deane and ??, Great Jenold, Little Jenolds,** Out of
9 which I give unto **my wife, Jane**, for her dwelling, the parlour and the
chamber
10 over the parlour and the Hall for her fire room and to have egress and
11 regress. And also the kitchen for her brewing and baking and washing
during

175 spelt "Neytherfeild" here; this piece of land was left by John's grandfather, Thomas of Fawke (#233) to his father, Robert of Fawke (#136) in 1562.

12 the term of her life. Out of which, I give unto my wife, Jane, for her
13 maintenance, ten pounds a year to be paid per quarter after my
14 mother's decease. **Item:** I give unto **Thomas Olyver, my second son,**
15 the house that **Robert Palmer** dwelleth in withall the buildings and edifices
16 thereunto belonging: **Barnes hall, ?? Larke--**, with the lands
17 **Denewood** And common field, **Gradistone meadow**, Out of which I give
unto
18 my wife Jane, to be paid her quarterly, five pounds a year, four tons of
wood
19 and two ?? of faggots for her firing. **Item:** I give unto **James Olyver,**
20 **my third son,** the sum of twenty pounds to be paid unto him by my
21 son Robert Olyver within two years after his grandmother's decease¹⁷⁶.
22 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **John Olyver, my fourth son,** the house
Absoloms ??
23 with all the lands belonging to it. **Item:** I give to **William Olyver, my fifth**
son,
24 the house at **Rodwell** with the lands belonging to it which **William Miller**
25 now dwelleth in. **Item:** I give unto **my son George Olyver, my sixth**
26 **son,** the house at **Rodwell** where **John Symonds** now dwelleth. **Item:**

176 Dorothy Olyver, widow, (#137) wrote her will in November 1622 but did not die until June of the following year when she was well into her eighties.

27 my will is that my wife, Jane, shall receive the rent of the land of the three
last
28 sons until they come to the age of four and twenty years. **Item:** I
29 give and bequeath unto **my daughter, Jane Olyver**, the sum of thirty
pounds
30 to be paid by my son Robert Olyver within one year after her grandmother's
31 decease. Furthermore, my will is that my son Robert Olyver shall pay
32 unto his sister, Jane Olyver, at the day of her marriage, ten pounds. And
33 further, my will is that my son, Robert Olyver, shall pay to my son,
34 John Olyver, the sum of ten pounds within four years after his
35 grandmother's decease. And further, my will is that my son, Robert
36 Olyver, shall pay to my sons, William Olyver and George Olyver, ten
37 pounds apiece within six years after their grandmother's decease. For the
38 payment of which monies I bind unto them **Great Lovells and Little Lovells**
39 for either of them to retain and hold until they be fulfilled and paid. **Item:**
40 I give unto Jane, my wife, whom I make my sole executrix, all the residue
41 of my goods not given or bequeathed, my debts paid, my funeral
discharged.
42 I ordain to be my overseers to this my last will and testament **William**
43 **Kettle, Richard Kettle**¹⁷⁷ and shall have for their pains 12 a piece

177 were William and Richard Olyvers from the Kettle branch of the family? No one with the name "Kettle" is recorded in Seal.

44 and to this my will I put my hand and seal the 12 day of August
45 1622.

By me John Olyver¹⁷⁸

In presence of me

John James? ?? Walkley

his mark

John's wife Jane and his son Thomas

When John died his wife was Jane; the will of Jane Olyver, widow, dated 25th May 1643, has survived and also the nuncupative will of Thomas Olyver of Bitchet from June 1642. From the names in these two wills, Thomas was the son of Jane Olyver who also mentions a son George. Thomas could have been the second son of John Olyver of Fawke who was baptised in 1596 and would therefore have been forty-five when he died. This would mean that his mother Jane was John's wife/widow whose eldest son, Robert of Fawke, was baptised in 1592. If Jane was

¹⁷⁸ this signature is written by the scriptor of the will; John Olyver could write since he was the scriptor of the will of the Thomas Frenche who died in 1617. These two wills look as if they could have been written by the same person.

born in 1570, she would have been seventy-three when she died so that this reconstruction is feasible.

As with the previous generation, the mother outlives her son by a few months. In this case, Jane appears to have been one of the witnesses to her son's will. Robert Olyver, another witness, was probably Thomas's brother.

Will of Jane Olyver, widow

dated 25th May 1643; buried 30th May 1643

1 In the name of god Amen
2 I, **Jane Olyver**, of the parish of Seal in the
3 County of Kent, **widow**, being sick and
4 weak in body but of sound and perfect
5 memory, praised be God the son, do
6 make and declare this my last will and
7 testament in manner and form following:
8 **First:** I bequeath my soul into the hands
9 of Almighty God, my maker, and my body
10 to the earth to be buried in the parish church
11 of Seal and for such worldly goods and

. . where with it hath pleased god to bless
me, I give and dispose as here followeth.
Item: I give and bequeath unto **Robert Olyver,**
the younger, my godson, twenty shillings
of lawful English money to be paid unto him
within five years next after my decease.
Item: I give unto **my daughter, Jane Medhurst¹⁷⁹,**
and **my grandchild, Susan Olyver,** a
square box wherein my wearing linen lieth
to be equally divided between them.
Item: I give to **my grandchild, John Medhurst,**
?? shillings to be paid to him at his age of
one and twenty years. **Item:** I give to my two grand
children, **the daughters of George Olyver,**
26 my son, to each of them, a pair of linen
27 sheets. The rest and residue of all and ??
28 my goods, household stuff, ready money
29 and estate whatsoever, I fully and wholly give to
30 **my grandchild, Christopher Olyver,** whom I
31 make and ordain the full executor of this my
32 last will and testament provided always

179 although the Medhursts were not a Seal family, a number of Seal families had connections with them.

33 and my will and intention is, that **my son-**
34 **in-law, Robert Childrens** of ??,
35 have the tuition and guardianship of my
36 grandchild, to manage and have the ??
37 of my estate for the good and benefit
38 of my said executor until he shall attain
39 sufficient years to enable him to take upon
40 him the execution of this my will, unto whom,
41 for his pains and care ?? to be taken,
42 I give a gold hoop which to wear in
43 remembrance of me. In witness whereof
44 I have hereunto set my hand and seal the
45 five and twentieth day of May, A.D.

(rest not decipherable)

"**Memorandum:** That on or about the eight and twentieth day of June An. D. 1642, **Thomas Olyver of Bitchet** within the parish of Seal in the County of Kent . . being sick of body but of perfect mind and memory, to declare and make his last will and testament . . . **my elder son, Christopher Olyver**, shall have my house and all my land to his heirs forever " **second son George Olyver** and **daughter, Susan Olyver**, (both under age) "shall each of them have £20 of lawful money of England" . . "And I moreover, give and bequeath to the child which my wife now goeth withall the like sum of £20 of lawful English money if the said child do live."

"loving wife Susan Olyver, my executor"

witnesses ?? Olyver, Jane Olyver and William ??
Robert Olyver, **William Allingham**¹⁸⁰.

180 William Allingham(#1275), born 1584, had children 1615 to 1626+

The Olyvers of Kettles

Returning to the Kettles branch of the family, no will has survived for John's son George but they have survived for each of George's three sons, Thomas, William and Christopher.

Christopher Olyver of Seal

The first to die was the youngest, Christopher - see pages o.12 and o.16.

It is from the detailed lists of his nieces and nephews in his will that it is known that Christopher's brothers were George Olyver's sons: William Olyver of Smythet and Thomas Olyver of Kettles. Since Alice, the grandmother of William and Thomas, does not mention Christopher in her will (nor a granddaughter who could have married John Harris), it is likely that both Christopher and his sister were born after 1520.

When he wrote his will he had a coverlet "of tapestry work lying in the hands of Richard Carrier, citizen and skinner of London". This coverlet he gave to his brother William together with a bedstead and all the furnishings to go with it but

the rest of the stuff of his which Richard Carrier had was to go to Richard's daughter, **Jane Carrier**. Had Christopher (who was probably in his thirties) and Jane been planning to marry? Richard Carrier and Christopher's brother William were appointed joint executors of the will.

Because Christopher left each of his nieces and nephews a legacy, their names have been recorded - ten children of his brother Thomas, six of his brother William but just one son of his sister of whom there is otherwise no record.

The eldest sons of his two brothers were the eventual heirs to his tenements with what appears to be a considerable amount of "land, meadows, pastures, woods, ways, waters and pasture with whatsoever their appurtenances" in Sevenoaks but, at the time of his death Christopher was engaged in a legal case so that his executors had to "bear and sustain all the costs and charges of the suit and controversy in the law attempted by **Nicholas Beddell, gent.** of the one party and us, the said Christopher and Thomas Olyver of the other party until such time as the said controversy be fully determined and ended whether it be by just process of the law and verdict of twelve men . . . by composition, arbitration or otherwise as unto them, the said Nicholas and Thomas and their learned counsels, shall seem **most meet and expedient**". Christopher's land is not mentioned in any other Olyver wills so whether or not they lost their case or it was sold to meet the cost of the legal fees or for other reasons is not known.

1 In the name of god Amen. The
2 tenth day of the month of March
3 in the year of our lord god 1557
4 And in the fourth and fifth years of
5 the reigns of our sovereign lord
6 and lady, Phillipp and Mary, by
7 the grace of god, king and queen
8 of England, Spain and France
9 **I, Christopher Olyver, of Seal** being
10 sick in body but whole in mind and of
11 perfect remembrance, thanked be god,
12 do ordain and make this my present
13 testament and last will in manner
14 and form hereafter following: **First:**
15 I give and commit my soul into
16 the hands and attention of Almighty
17 god, the father, the son and the holy
18 ghost, trusting by the mercy and by the
19 merit of Christ's death and passion,

20 to obtain remission and forgiveness of
21 all my sins. And when it shall please
22 god to take me to his mercy, my body to
23 be buried in the earth at the discretion
24 of my executors. **Item:** I give and
25 bequeath unto the parishioners of **Maidstone**
26 thirteen shilling and four pence
27 to be distributed unto them by the
28 discretion of mine executors. I give to
29 **William Olyver**¹⁸¹, **my brother**, one joined
30 bedstead, a featherbed, a mattress, a
31 bolster, two pillows, one pair of my
32 best sheets, two blankets and
33 two coverlets whereof the one is
34 bed and the other is of tapestry
35 work lying in the hands of **Richard**
36 **Carrier, citizen and skinner of London.**
37 The residue of the stuff remaining
38 in the hands of the said Richard

181 William Olyver of Smythet (#253) who was buried 30th May 1576

39 Carrier, I give it unto **Jane Carrier**¹⁸²,
40 **the daughter of the said Richard**
41 **Carrier. Item:** I give and bequeath unto
42 **Thomas Olyver, the son of Thomas**
43 **Olyver of Kettle, my brother,**
44 **all my stuff lying at Seal as by a Bill**
45 **thereof made shall appear. Item:** I give
46 unto **Johane**¹⁸³ **Olyver and Margaret**¹⁸⁴
47 **Olyver, the daughters of the said**
48 **Thomas Olyver, my brother, all my**
49 **linen remaining in the custody and**
50 **keeping of my sister**¹⁸⁵, **the wife of the**
51 **said Thomas Olyver. Item:** I give unto
52 **the children of the said Thomas**
53 **Olyver, my brother, that is to say to**
54 **Johane, Sylvester, Lawrence, Robert,**

182 had Christopher been planning to marry Jane Carrier?

183 Johane, probably Thomas's eldest daughter, married Thomas Rudland in 1565

184 nothing is known about Margaret; perhaps she died before reaching adulthood or left Seal before marrying

185 Ann, "widow of old Thomas Olyver" when she was buried in October 1586, 18 months after her husband

55 **Margaret, Bartram, Agnes, William**
56 **and John**¹⁸⁶, and to every of them 40s
57 of lawful money of England
58 to be paid to the said sons and
59 each of them, by mine executors or
60 their assigns, as soon as the same
61 may be levied out of the issues and
62 profits of my land next after the
63 payment of all my debts. And unto
64 the said daughters, and each of them,
65 at the day of their marriage or else
66 at their full age of 21 years as
67 whichever of them shall first happen.
68 And if it fortune any of the said
69 daughters to decease before the time
70 of their marriage and within the age
71 of 21 years, then I will that the
72 sons or son surviving shall enjoy his,
73 or their, sister or sisters part so

186 with ten children alive at the beginning of 1557, the eldest (Johane or Thomas) must have been born very soon after 1540, if not earlier. Sylvester married Elias Vousden in October 1575 and Agnes married John Rolfe in September 1576. Nothing is known of Lawrence, Robert and Bartram but their father includes William and John in his will of 1586

74 deceased. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
75 **Margaret Olyver¹⁸⁷**, the daughter of
76 **William Olyver**, my brother, £20 of
77 money, unto **Dorothy Olyver¹⁸⁸**, her
78 **sister**, three pounds, unto **Elizabeth¹⁸⁹**,
79 **her sister**, 40s, unto **Richard Olyver¹⁹⁰**,
80 the son of the said William Olyver and unto
81 **William Olyver¹⁹¹**, the son of the said
82 William 40s and unto **Priscilla Olyver¹⁹²**, the
83 daughter of the said William 40s to be paid
84 to them, and each of them, the said sons
85 when and as soon as it can be

187 married Henry Gifford in June 1569; unlikely to be 21 when her uncle died

188 married Richard Archepull of Hoo in November 1564; appears as the second daughter in Christopher's will but, even if she were the eldest, it is still unlikely that she was 21 when her uncle wrote his will

189 not otherwise known

190 the first of his eight children; he was baptised May 1575

191 married Isabella Rede in September 1590; over 21 when his father died in 1576

192 married Thomas Childerly January 1580

86 levied out of the issues and profits
87 of all my lands without the prevention?
88 and hindrance of any other legacy
89 afore granted. And to be paid to the
90 said daughters, and each of them, at the
91 day of their marriage or else at their
92 full age of 21 years as whichever of them
93 shall first happen. And if it fortune the
94 said 4 daughters, or any of them, to decease
95 before the time of their marriage and
96 within the age of 21 years, then I will
97 that the sons or son surviving shall
98 enjoy his, or their, sister or sisters part
99 so deceased. Also I give
100 and bequeath unto **William Harris**, the
101 **son of John Harris, my brother-in-law,**
102 40s. **Item:** Unto each of the residue of the
103 children of the said John Harris, that
104 is to say, to **Thomas, John, Mary and**
105 **Peter**, and unto each of them 20s to be
106 paid unto the said sons when and as soon as
107 it can be levied out of the issues and
108 profits of all my lands without the prevention?

109 and hindrance of any other legacy
110 afore granted. And to be paid to the said
111 daughters, and each of them, at the
112 day of their marriage or else at their full
113 age of 21 years as whichever of them
114 shall first happen. And if it fortune any of
115 the said daughters to decease before
116 the time of their marriage and within the age
117 of 21 years, then I will that the
118 sons or son surviving shall enjoy his,
119 or their, sister or sisters part so
120 deceased. Further, I will
121 that if any of the sons, as well as of
122 the said Thomas Olyver and William
123 Olyver and also of the said John Harris
124 do fortune to decease before he or they do
125 come to the age of 21 years, that
126 then the brother or brethren of him or
127 them so surviving him or them so
128 deceased shall have and enjoy his, or
129 their, portion of money so deceased.
130 The residue of all my goods, my debts
131 first paid and these my present legacies

132 orderly fulfilled, I give unto **William**
133 **Olyver, my brother** and unto **Richard**
134 **Carrier**, Citizen and Skinner of London.
135 The which William and Richard I ordain
136 and make my executors of this my
137 present testament and last will, to pay
138 my debts and to see this my present last
139 will and testament fulfilled in all things
140 according to the equity of their consciences
141 as they will answer before the high
142 judge.

143 This is the last will of me, the said
144 Christopher Olyver, made and declared the day
145 and year above written of and upon the
146 disposition of all my land and tenements
147 with their appurtenances, set, lying and
148 being within the parish of **Sevenoaks** or else
149 in the County of Kent. **First:** I
150 will that **Thomas Olyver, my brother**, shall
151 have the use and occupancy of all that
152 my tenements withall the land, meadows,
153 pastures, woods, ways, waters and –

154 pasture with whatsoever their appurtenances
155 in **Sevenoaks** aforesaid called by the
156 names of **great Bonishere** and
157 **Sckrenehill** or by whatsoever other name
158 or names they be called or known. The which
159 I have purchased of one **Nicholas**
160 **Beddell**, to have and to hold all and
161 singular, the said tenements, land,
162 meadows, pastures, woods unto the said
163 Thomas Olyver, his executors or
164 assigns from the feast of Th'annunciation
165 of the blessed virgin Mary next coming
166 after the day of the present until the
167 full end and term of eleven years from
168 thence next following to be fully completed and
169 ended according to the tenor, purpose, true
170 meaning and effect of a certain payer of
171 Indenture being dated the first day of
172 this present month of March in the year
173 above written as in the same Indenture
174 more at large doth appear. Also I will
175 that **William Olyver and Richard Carrier**,
176 my executors, shall take and receive all

177 the rents, revenues, issues and profits
178 coming of the said tenements and lands
179 called Bonashed and Scherehill and each
180 part of the same afore letten unto Thomas
181 Olyver, my brother, upon condition that
182 they, the said William and Richard, mine executors
183 and each of them, do not only well,
184 truly and faithfully satisfy, content
185 and pay, or cause to be satisfied, contented
186 and paid, all my debts that I, of right,
187 do owe to any person or persons as by
188 a certain Bill thereof made to them
189 more plainly doth appear. And also
190 do well and faithfully perform, fulfil
191 and pay all and singular the gifts,
192 legacies and bequests comprised in this
193 my present last will and testament
194 in the order and course therein by me
195 admitted and appointed so . . as they
196 can. But also, that they, the said executors,
197 and either of them, do bear and sustain

198 all the costs and charges of the suit¹⁹³
199 and controversy in the law attempted
200 by -- **Nicholas Beddell, gent.** on the one
201 party and us, the said Christopher and
202 Thomas Olyver on th'other party until
203 such time as the said controversy be
204 fully determined and ended whether it
205 be by justice process of the law and
206 verdict of twelve men . . by composition,
207 arbitrament¹⁹⁴ or otherwise as unto them
208 the said Nicholas and Thomas and their
209 learned counsels shall seem most meet
210 and expedient. And after the said
211 term of eleven years shalbe fully expired
212 and ended, I will that **Thomas Olyver¹⁹⁵,**
213 **the son of the said Thomas Olyver, my**
214 **brother, and William Olyver, the son of the**

193 "sute"

194 arbitration?

195 in his teens when his uncle died; Thomas Olyver, the younger of Kettles; died September 1586

215 **said William Olyver, my brother**, shall
216 have all my said tenements called great Bonishere
217 withall the lands, meadows, etc.

- to have and to hold all and singular
- the said lands . . .
- to their heirs and assigns in
- fee simple forever.

witness hereof: **John Phillipp; Thomas Olyver of Fawke¹⁹⁶**
Henry Adams; John Smalman; Henry Birch with others more

probate to William Olyver.

¹⁹⁶ the cousin of Christopher's father; Thomas Olyver of Fawke died 1562, see page 37 for his will

William Olyver of Smythet

The will of George's second son, William of **Smythet**, who was probably about 60 when he died, was written by **Nicholas Hooper**. In addition to Richard, William and Priscylla, included in their father's will, William's brother, Christopher, in his will of 1558 mentioned three other daughters of William: Margaret, Dorothy and Elizabeth. Dorothy married in November 1564 and Margaret in June 1569 and it was probably William's daughter Elizabeth who married **John Porter** (#305), the younger brother of the William Porter mentioned in William Olyver's will in September 1566.

Thus William had three daughters born in the 1540s, Richard (whose first child was baptised in 1575) born about 1550 and William before 1555 (since he was not under age when his father died). Priscylla could have been born about 1555 with Moses next (after March 1558), the three younger daughters being recorded in the parish register as being baptised in the 1560s. Since both the dates of baptism and marriage were recorded for Hester and Martha (both relatively uncommon names), they married at twenty-five and twenty-nine respectively. This gives a span of at least 24 years between the eldest and youngest of William's children but Johane could have been the mother of all of them if she was fairly young when she married.

Tree O.10: The Family of William of Smythet

#253 William of Smythet - Johane #254
 born: <1520 |
 will: 16 May 1576 |
 bur: 30 May 1576 |

#255 Dorothy ¹⁹⁷	#306 Elizabeth ¹⁹⁸	#299 Margaret ¹⁹⁹	#802 Richard Smythet	#1966 William Fawke/Rumshott	#1019 Priscilla ²⁰⁰	#1606 Moses	#1807 Susan	#87 Hester ²⁰¹	#165 Martha ²⁰²	#414 Judith
born: <1544	<1546	<1549	10 Jul 1609	16 Sep 1634	about 1555	>1558 20 Apr 1606 27 Apr 1606		4 Apr 1563	25 May 1565	14 Mar 1568
will:				see page o. 128						
bur:			see page o. 128							

#1608 Dorothy	#1791 Nicholas	#4183 Edward ²⁰³	#4184 Mary	#4185 Jane	#4186 Susan
20 Sep 1590	16 May 1592	15 Sep 1594 1 Jan 1604	8 Aug 1596	9 Jul 1598	14 Jun 1601
bap:					
bur:					

- 197 married **Richard Archepull of Hoo** on 27th November 1564; nothing further recorded for the Archepulls
- 198 probably the Elizabeth Olyver who married John Porter (#305) on 16th September 1566; see **Porter** for their children
- 199 married **Henry Gifford** on 27th November 1564; nothing further recorded for the Giffords. Henry was a witness to his father-in-law's will in 1576.
- 200 married **Thomas Childerly** on 31st January 1580; nothing further is recorded for the Childerlys
- 201 married **Elias Carryer (#1365)** on 25 Aug 1589; they had a daughter, Margaret (#1588), baptised on 21 Dec 1589
- 202 married **Richard Dane** from **Chiddingstone** on 20th April 1595; nothing more was recorded for the Danes
- 203 Edward, Mary, Jane and Susan were baptised in Sevenoaks - see **History of Sevenoaks, Section 2**, for Moses's will. Susan could be the Susan who married Francis Browne (i2353) in Ightham on 10th November 1629

The three eldest daughters were married before their father died and, since they had most likely had their dowries by that time, William did not include them in his bequests. Dorothy's husband was from Hoo and nothing is known of Margaret's husband. The first three of Elizabeth and John Porter's children all died very soon after birth but William could have had one Porter granddaughter alive in 1576 - Debora, born in 1571. However, it was usually grandmothers, rather than grandfathers, who mentioned the second generation in their wills.

Will of William Olyver of Seal (Smythet)

dated 15th May 1576; buried 30th May 1576

transcript of last page from original; rest from probate copy

In the name of god Amen. The 15th day of May in the year of our Lord God a thousand three score and 16 and in the 18th year of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith. **I, William Olyver**, of Seal in the County of Kent, **yeoman**, being sick and weak in body but yet in good and perfect mind and remembrance, thanks therefore be to God Almighty, do ordain, constitute and make this present testament and last will in manner and form following: that is to say

First: and principally, I give and commend my soul to Almighty God, my maker, saviour and redeemer, Jesus Christ, and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Seal aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Johane, my beloved wife**, the half of all the moveable goods and all the other instuff^{fr204} whatsoever now being within the mansion house of the said William wherein I now dwell and also one cow to be taken at the choice of the said Johane.

Item: I give and bequeath to **my son, Richard Olyver**, all the other half of my said moveable goods and other instuff whatsoever now being within my said mansion house, the same to be equally divided and shifted by **my two friends, William Porter²⁰⁵ and John Olyver²⁰⁶** (the table standing in the hall with the trestles and form to the same only excepted).

204 "instuff" - inside household goods as opposed to "outside" goods?

205 William Porter, yeoman, of Hall

206 most likely to have been John Olyver of Fawke, see page 54 for his will

I give and bequeath to **Judith Olyver, my daughter**²⁰⁷, one twelve monthling heifer bullock. **Item:** I give to **Pryscilla Olyver, my daughter**²⁰⁸, my red sorrel mare and her (foal?) now being at her side. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Martha Olyver, my daughter**²⁰⁹, one ?? calf. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Hester Olyver, my daughter**²¹⁰, one fat ??.

The residue of all my goods and chattels, as well moveable as unmoveable, my debts and legacies being paid and performed, I wholly, fully and with good effect, give and bequeath to the said Richard Olyver, my son whom I do ordain and constitute and make my whole and sole executor of this my present testament and last will.

This is the last will and testament of the above named William Olyver made and delivered the day and year above written concerning the order and disposition of my lands and tenements whatsoever severally set, lying and being in Seal aforesaid.

207 his youngest daughter, baptised March 1568 and therefore only eight

208 mentioned in will of her uncle, Christopher Olyver and therefore born before 1557

209 baptised 25 May 1565

210 baptised 4 April 1563

Item: I give and bequeath to **William Olyver, my son**, all that parcel of land and meadow called **Sutton Croft** containing, by estimation, eight acres and being in Seal aforesaid to have and to hold, the said parcel of land and meadow, with all and singular the appurtenances to the said William Olyver and to his heirs for ever upon condition that the said William, my son, his heirs or assigns, shall pay, or cause to be paid, to **Moses Olyver, my son**²¹¹, the sum of twenty pounds lawful money at his full age of 21 or therein one month after notice or mention by the said Moses to the said William to be given of the said age.

And if it shall happen the said Moses my son do decease before the said age of 21 years, then I will and bequeath the same sum of £20 to be equally divided and distributed between my four daughters viz: Priscilla, Hester, Martha and Judith to be paid to them and each of them at such time as the said Moses my son should have accomplished his said full age of 21 years. And if it happen any of my said daughters do decease before the time fixed, then the survivor or survivors of them to be the others heir of the said son.

Also provided that if the said William my son shall not pay the said sum of £20 according as before proscribed, that then and at all times after it shall be lawful

²¹¹ not mentioned in will of his uncle, Christopher Olyver but likely to have been born before Hester in 1563 so that he would be between 16 and 18 when his father died. It looks as if he was expected to tell his elder brother William when his £20 was due.

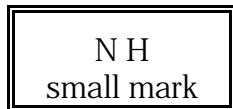
for the said Moses my son and also my said daughters, if the said Moses shall not then be living, in to the said parcel of land with the appurtenances before bequeathed wholly to re-enter and the same to have whole and enjoy until the said sum of £20, and every part and parcel thereof, shall be satisfied and paid any(thing) before mentioned to the contrary notwithstanding and upon condition that the said William my son, his heirs or assigns, shall ?? and pay, or cause to be paid, to the said Johane my wife the sum of 13s 4d lawful money during the natural life of the said Johane at the feast of the nativity of Saint John The Baptist, Saint Michael the archangel, the nativity of our Lord God and the Annunciation of our blessed virgin Mary by equal portions, the first time of payment to begin at that feast of the feast aforesaid which shall next ensue after my decease.

Item: I give and bequeath to **Richard Olyver my son** all that my mansion house, messuage or tenement in which I now dwell called **Smythet** and all the lands, meadows and pastures, woods, gardens and orchards whatsoever thereto belonging with all and singular the appurtenances now in the tenure or occupation of me the said William whatsoever set, lying and being in Seal aforesaid (except the said parcel of meadow before willed to William my son) to have and to hold the said mansion house, lands, meadows, pastures, woods, gardens, orchards, whatsoever (except before excepted) with all and singular the appurtenances unto the said Richard Olyver, my son and to his heirs forever.

Upon condition that the said Richard Olyver, my son, his heirs or assigns, shall give, permit and suffer the said Johane my wife to have and occupy all the east end of my said mansion house, viz: one lower chamber and 2 upper chambers on and over the said lower chamber and the other over the hall with free egress and regress to come and go, to and from, the same chambers and every of them and also ?? and fire room in the chimney and hall of my said mansion house at all times during the natural life of the said Johane my wife and also finding to my said wife competent meat and drink at all times when and as often as she shall be with him, the said Richard, and upon condition the said Richard my son, his heirs or assigns shall keep, or cause to be kept, for the said Johane my wife the same cow before willed to her or one other cow in the room of her during the natural life

- of the said Johane. and also upon condition that the said
- Richard Olyver, his heirs or assigns, shall satisfy, content
- and pay, or cause to be paid, to the said Johane my wife, or to
- her assign, the sum of Thirteen shillings and fourpence lawful money
- yearly during the natural life of the said Johane At
- the feast of the nativity of Saint John the baptist, Saint
- Michael tharchangel, the nativity of our lord god and
- thannunciation of the blessed virgin Mary by equal portions to
- be paid the first time of payment to begin at that feast of
- the feasts aforesaid which shall next Immediately ensue and follow

- after the decease of me, the said William Olyver.¹ In witness
- whereof I, the said William Olyver, to this my present last
- will and testament have set my Hand and Seal
- the day and year above written. In the presence of
- **John Olyver, William Porter², Henry Gyfford,**
- **Nicholas Hooper³** and others.



William Olyver, Bailiff

A William Olyver was bailiff of the manor of Kemsing and Seal in 1575 (or 1606) when he received a quit rent from John Woolfe and a heriot on his death⁴.

-
- 1 The following four lines were inserted here, presumably as an afterthought:
- And also upon condition that the said Richard my son, his heirs or assigns, shall bring up,
 - keep together and cherish my five children, viz: Moses, Priscilla, Hester, Martha and
 - Judith until they, and every of them, shall be able to get their living or to serve with a
 - master.
- 2 his "friends", mentioned above
- 3 Nicholas was the scribe of a number of wills but here is given just as a witness
- 4 CKS: E66/1; this bundle includes a number of documents pertaining to the manor of Kemsing & Seal.

Richard Olyver of Smythet

Richard inherited from his father the mansion house "called Smythet and all the lands, meadows and pastures, woods, gardens and orchards whatsoever thereto belonging" in which William lived until his death in May 1576. This was when Richard was starting his family, his eldest son being just a year old.

Richard was to "give, permit and suffer" Johane, his mother, "to have and occupy all the east end of" the "said mansion house, viz: one lower chamber and two upper chambers on and over the said lower chamber and the other over the hall with free egress and regress to come and go, to and from, the same chambers and . . . and fire room in the chimney and hall of my said mansion house at all times during" her natural life. Richard was also to find her "meat and drink at all times" when she was with him and keep for her the cow William had willed to her "or one other cow in the room of her"; in addition, he was to pay her thirteen shillings and four pence a year.

Tree O.11: The Children of Richard of Smythet

#802 Richard of Smythet -															

#804	William	#831	John	#863	Dorothy	#942	Alice	#1132	Robert	#1252	Jeremy	#1412	Daniel	#1507	Katherine
bap:	12 May 1575	31 Oct 1576	12 Feb 1578	2 Feb 1580	29 Oct 1581	12 Jan 1584	4 Dec 1586	7 Apr 1588							
bur:			7 Apr 1578			25 Jan 1584									

John (#831) is taken as John of Apsel and - see page 0.156

Who was William Olyver of Fawke, will 1634?

The William who wrote his will in 1634 is described as William Olyver of Fawke but the land he mentioned is in the **Weald of Sevenoaks** and he had a shop in the **Butchers Shambles of Sevenoaks**.

The obvious candidate for a William Olyver of Fawke is #420, who was born in 1568, the son of Robert of Fawke and his wife Dorothy (see Tree O.5, page 0.33). But a **William Olyver of Rumshott** married **Ellen Pelsett** (#742) on 22nd June 1578 when #420 would have been only ten.

William (#1966), the son of William of Smythet was born between 1550 and 1555 (see page 0.119) and would therefore have been a reasonable age to marry in 1578

and also, in his eighties when he died, would have been "[well stricken in years](#)". It is thus more likely that the William who wrote his will in 1634 was #1966.

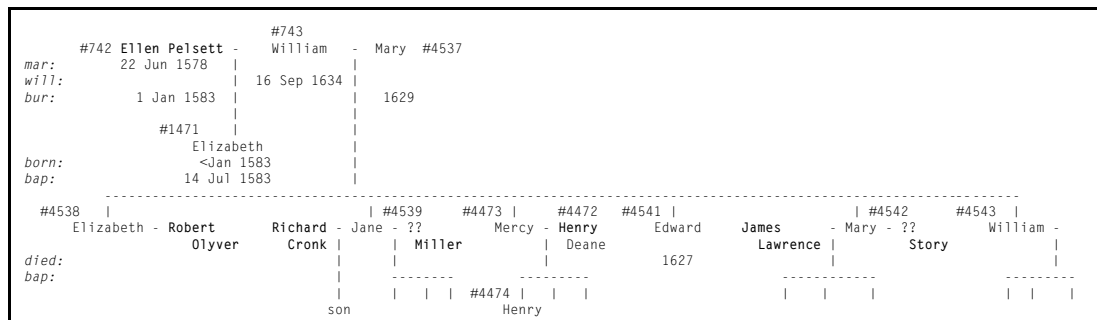
In 1576, William the son of William of Smythet inherited Sutton Croft (not mentioned again) from his father but, two years later, the William who married was "[of Rumshott](#)". By the time he wrote his will, the testator was "[of Fawke](#)". There are some indications that land was often sold and when it was necessary for an executor to sell land to pay the testator's bequests it could be bought by another person in the extended family. It is thus a tentative suggestion that the testator of 1634 was the son born in the early 1550s to William of Smythet.

The William who wrote his will in 1634 mentions "[the now dwelling place of my said son William called Rumshott](#)" so that the man who married in 1578 looks to have been the testator and he seems to have transferred Rumshott to his son sometime before 1634. Rumshott was a different sub-manor from Rumshed, both being in the south of the parish of Seal near to the Seal/Sevenoaks boundary. See [Appendix 10](#) in the [History of Sevenoaks](#) for more details of these sub-manors.

The Family of William of Rumshott/Fawke

"Ellen, wife of William Olyver" was buried on 1st January 1583 and "Elizabeth, daughter of William Olyver" six months later. Thus if the testator of this will was Ellen's husband, he must have had at least some of his surviving children by a second wife (since not all of them could have been born between 1578 and 1583). Edward Olyver, young man, son of William Olyver, senior, of Rumshed was buried in Sevenoaks in 1624 and, Mary, the wife of William Olyver of Rumshed in 1629²¹⁶.

Tree O.12: Family of William, will 1634



William, in 1634, mentioned daughters Elizabeth, Jane, Mercy and Mary with Jane and Mary having married twice. William had already given a “[portion](#)” to his two eldest grandsons:

- Jane’s eldest son by “Richard Cronk, her former husband”
- Henry Deane, Mercy’s eldest son.

If they had received these when they were twenty-one prior to their grandfather writing his will, they must have been born about 1612.

All of his other grandchildren were left twenty shillings each but they are just listed as the children of William and his daughters without any names being given. All these children were born after 1615 since they were all under twenty-one in 1634.

Elizabeth, who need not have been his eldest daughter, had a husband yet her name was given as “Elizabeth Olyver”; William appointed his **son-in-law** Robert Olyver as an overseer together with Mercy’s husband, Henry Deane. Had Elizabeth married a Robert Olyver from another branch of the family? Possibly #1134 (see page o.141)

William owned a “[messuage, tenements and lands, . . in the Weald of Sevenoaks](#)” and a butcher’s shop in the Shambles in Sevenoaks with a loft over it and a stable adjoining it. It was from the rents and profits from these that his son William, who was his executor, was to pay the legacies to the grandchildren.

1 In the name of god Amen. The
2 sixteenth day of September An. Do. 1634. And in the tenth year of the
3 reign
4 of our sovereign lord Charles, by the grace of god, king of England,
5 Scotland, France
6 and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. I, William Olyver of Fawke within
7 the parish of
8 Seal in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being well stricken in years yet in
9 reasonable good health
and of good and perfect remembrance, praised be god, therefore do make
and declare this
my last will and testament in manner and form following: **First:** I give my
soul into the hands of Almighty
god, my maker, steadfastly trusting to have free forgiveness of all my sins
through the only
merits, death and passion of Jesus Christ, my only saviour and redeemer
and my body to the

10 earth from whence it came. **Item:** I give to the poor of that parish where I
11 shall die twenty
12 shillings to be distributed amongst them by the overseers of the same poor
13 on the day of my
14 burial. **Item:** I give unto **my daughter, Elizabeth Olyver**, all my household
15 stuff and other goods
16 (except ready money which shalbe in her husband's house at the time of
17 my death). **Item:** I give
18 unto every one of the **children of my daughter, Jane Miller** (except **her**
19 **eldest son by Richard**
20 **Cronk, her former husband** to whom I have already given a portion) twenty
shillings
to be paid unto them and every of them at their several ages of one and
twenty years. **Item:**
I give to every of the **children of my daughter Mary Story** which she had by
James Lawrence,
her former husband, twenty shillings to be likewise paid to them and every
of them at their
several ages of one and twenty years. And to every of the **children of my**
son William
Olyver twenty shillings to be also paid to them and every of them at their
several ages

21 of one and twenty years. And to every of the **children of my daughter**
22 **Mercy Deane** (except **Henry Deane**, her eldest son to whom I have given a portion
23 already) twenty
24 shillings to be also paid to them and every of them at their several ages of
25 one and twenty
26 years. All which said legacies bequeathed to my grandchildren as
27 aforesaid, my mind
28 is shalbe truly paid by my said son William Olyver out of the rent and profit
29 of my
30 messuage, tenements and lands, with their appurtenances in the **Weald of**
31 **Sevenoaks** in the said
county which I purchased of **Thomas Pett, gent.** and of my shop in the
Butchers Shambles in
Sevenoaks aforesaid with the loft over the same and the stable thereto
adjoining
as the same shall grow due and payable. And if it shall happen that the
said several legacies, or
any of them, to be behind unpaid in part or all after the same shall
severally grow due
by the space of fifteen days and lawful demand made for the same at the
now dwelling

32 house of my said son William called **Romshott**²¹⁶ situated in Sevenoaks
aforesaid, that
33 then, and at all times after, it shall and may be lawful to and for such of my
said grand
34 children as shalbe unpaid his or their said legacy or legacies, and to his,
her and their
35 assigns, to enter into and upon the said messuage, land and premises
before mentioned and
36 into every or any part thereof, and there to distrain for the same and the
distress or
37 distresses there from to take, lead and bear away and the same to
withhold, retain and
38 keep until his, her or their legacy or legacies so unpaid, and all costs and
damages
39 that occasion sustained, shalbe truly paid according to the meaning of this
my will. And
40 I do hereby give and devise to my said son William Olyver the said
messuage
41 or tenement in the Weald of Sevenoaks aforesaid and the said land and
other the premises

216 The 1957 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map shows Rumshott Wood about half way between Carter's Hill and the bottom of River Hill, just on the Sevenoaks side of the Sevenoaks/Seal boundary.

42 charged with the said legacies as aforesaid, to hold to him and his heirs
forever, chargeable
43 in such manner as aforesaid. And of this will I make the said William, my
son,
44 executor to whom I give all the residue of my goods unbequeathed and I do
appoint
45 **my two sons-in-law Henry Deane and Robert Olyver** overseers of this my
will to
46 either of which I give five shillings. In witness whereof I have hereunto put
my hand
47 and seal the day and year before written. The mark of William Olyver the
testator.

48 Memorandum: that this will which contains three whole sheets of paper
and four lines
49 another sheet, to all of which the testator hath set his mark and his seal
50 to the last, was published for the last will of the said William Olyver, the
testator, the day
51 of the date hereof, the then revoking of all former wills by him made in the
presence of
Richard Gibson, William Double, John ??

Moses Olyver of Sevenoaks

The preamble to Moses's will (see [History of Sevenoaks, Section 2](#) for the transcript) is expressed in an unusual way: "I do most willingly give up my soul into the hands of Almighty God, my creator, hoping that through the mercy of his only son, my saviour and redeemer, he will receive the same into his glorious kingdom. And my body even with a hearty good will, I recommend unto the earth from whence it came, hoping also that at the general resurrection the same shalbe transformed into an immortal and ?? body then to participate with my soul in the joys of heaven".

Moses's first two children were baptised in Seal but then the family moved to Sevenoaks where the other four were baptised. Moses, probably in his mid-forties when he died with six young children, made his son Nicholas, then fourteen, his executor and although he described his wife as his "[loving wife](#)" and left her £20 and the lease of a tenement, Moses did not give her name and left the custody and government of his son who was "[yet young and not able to manage worldly affairs](#)" to his brother-in-law Alexander Waller of Otford and his friend Edward Sisley. Sisley was to have "[the occupation of the farm house](#)" called Panthurst Park in which Moses lived and all the land belonging to it using the profit from it for the benefit of his children and accounting for it to Waller.

In addition, Moses had made a deed of gift granting Sisley his stock of cattle, corn and implements of husbandry for the sum of £240 with which he was to pay the various bequests which Moses had made; these included £20 to his wife and £40 to each of his four daughters but the latter would not become due until they reached the age of twenty-one or married.

The will of Edward Sisley, written in February 1619, has survived (see [History of Sevenoaks, Section 2](#)). If this testator was Moses's friend, he lived long enough to see Nicholas reach his twenty-first birthday and take over his duties as executor. When the will was proved "[Suzanne Oliver, relict of Moses Oliver](#)" was made administrator during the minority of Nicholas.

Thomas Olyver, the elder, of Kettles

Thomas, the eldest of George's sons, (#265) died in 1585, nine years after William when he was probably about seventy.

Thomas, the Elder, of Kettles (which he would have inherited from his father, George Olyver), must have moved from Kettles to Absoloms just prior to writing his will in the spring of 1581 - he did not die for another four years. His move to Absoloms presumably coincided with the passing on of Kettles to his eldest son Thomas whose will of 1586 has survived when he was Thomas Olyver of Kettles. He does not feature in his father's will except as the father of three sons.

Thomas, the elder, seems however from his will to have given "[the said house called Kettles](#)" to his son William. The arrangements for **Kettles** and the lands attached to it seem complicated, not made any easier by the fact that that part of the will describing various deeds and covenants is difficult to decipher. Also, from the various wills and other surviving documents, there was a considerable amount of buying and selling of land both within families and the rest of the community.

Thomas's son William, his main heir and executor, who was servant to Mr. Thomas ?? of Seal in 1581 when his father wrote his will. On 22nd September 1590, when he was in his early thirties, he married **Isabella Rede** by a Licence

from the Faculties. In 1592, William was one of the witnesses to the will of his brother-in-law, Thomas Rudland.

Although Thomas the elder's son John is not mentioned in his will, he was definitely alive in 1581 since when Thomas the younger died in 1586, he made his brother, John, his executor. "Mary, daughter of John Olyver of Absoloms" (#1564) was baptised, in Seal, on 18th February 1589. It would seem reasonable that this John was Thomas's son to whose house he moved when leaving Kettles. Perhaps Thomas the elder gave Absoloms to John in 1581 on condition that John looked after him in his old age (he was probably in his early sixties in 1581).

Absoloms is about three-quarters of a mile to the east of what is now called Kettleshill Farm, on the other side of the road running from Seal village to Under River.

The only son mentioned in Thomas the elder's will besides Thomas and William is Jeffrey to whom a parcel of land in Seal called Walls was left. Jeffrey was the youngest son born after his uncle Christopher wrote his will. Lawrence and Bartram may have died before 1581 as could Robert but there are a number of Robert Olyvers appearing at this time whose position in the overall family tree cannot be determined.

Tree O.13: The Family of Thomas the elder of Kettles

#265 Thomas (the elder of Kettles) - Agnes/Ann #266												
will:	17 Mar 1581 "widow of old Thomas Olyver" when she died											
bur:	4 Apr 1585 5 Oct 1586											

#421	#422	#220	#717	#3984	#3985	#3986	#3987	#724	#1966	#1967	#1627	#2740
Thomas	Anne	Johane	Sylvester	Lawrence	Robert	Margaret	Bartram	Agnes	William	Isabella	Rede	John ²¹⁷
Kettles									Kettles?			Absoloms ²¹⁸
<1542		<1545	<1555	<1558	<1558	<1558	<1558	<1556	<1558			>1558
		30 Sep 1565	31 Oct 1575					25 Sep 1576	22 Sep 1590			
18 Sep 1586												
21 Sep 1586				<1581?	>1592			25 Feb 1583		9 Feb 1594		

#423	#490	#750	#800	#861	#1134	#1813						
Thomas*	George	Anne	John ²¹⁹	Susan	Robert	Francis (son)						
22 Aug 1568	22 Oct 1570	19 Apr 1573	1 May 1575	26 Dec 1577	27 Nov 1581	24 Jan 1594						
2 Jun 1574												

* #423 could have been the Thomas Olyver who married Johane Wolfe (#1561) on 3rd October 1591

217 There were at least two John Olyvers in the neighbourhood in the 1580s - see page o.153 for details.

218 see page o.160

219 another John to add to the complication

Thomas's Daughters

Thomas did not mention any of his daughters in his will but three of them are known to have married:

- Johane married **Thomas Rudland** (#219) on 30th September 1565; they had eight children and both died in the spring of 1592 when they would have been about fifty - see **Rudland in Families & Transcripts**
- Sylvester married **Elias Vouesden** on 31st October 1575; no children were recorded, at least not in Seal.
- Agnes married **John Rolfe** (#727) on 25th September 1576; she was buried on 8th February 1583 without any children having been recorded.

Will of Thomas Olyver of Kettles/Absolom

dated 17th March 1580/1; buried 4 Apr 1585

1 In the name of god Amen
2 The seventeenth day of March in the year of our
3 lord god 1580 And in the 22nd year of the reign
4 of our sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace of
5 god, Queen of England, France and Ireland,

6 defender of the faith. I, **Thomas Olyver**²²⁰ of
7 **Absolom**²²¹ in the parish of Seal in the County of
8 Kent, being sick in body but of good memory,
9 thanks be to god, do make this my last will and
10 testament of all my goods and chattels and lands
11 and tenements whatsoever. And for to be testified my
12 christian care of my soul and body, I do faith
13 fully commit my soul to the keeping of almighty god
14 in perfect hope of salvation through Jesus Christ
15 only. And my body, I require my loving wife and
16 children to see buried in the east end of the parish
17 churchyard of Seal aforesaid. **Item:** of my
18 goods, I give and bequeath five²²² shillings and eight

220 Thomas, the elder, must have been well into sixties when he died; when his wife died, about eighteen months later, she was recorded as "widow of old Thomas Olyver".

221 Thomas, the Elder, of Kettles (which he would have inherited from his father, George Olyver), must have moved from Kettles to Absoloms just prior to writing his will - he did not die for another four years. His move to Absoloms presumably coincided with the passing on of Kettles to his eldest son Thomas whose will of 1586 has survived when he was Thomas Olyver of Kettles. He does not feature in his father's will except as the father of three sons. See also the bequests to William in the later part of the will. Absoloms is about three-quarters of a mile to the east of what is now called Kettleshill Farm, on the other side of the road running from Seal village to Under River.

222 six?

pence to the poor people of the parish of Seal
to be distributed by the discretion of my executors.
Item: I give to **my son, William Olyver**, those
moveables following: one table with the forms there
unto belonging which I did leave in the parlour in
my house called **Kettles** in the foresaid parish of
Seal and the painted cloths which I did leave in
the said parlour and one table which I did leave in the
hall of the said house called Kettles and the forms
thereunto belonging together with the (bouter?) in
the said hall and one salt brought in the milk
chamber there and the cheesepress, malt quern
and salt, two pothangers withall the shelves and
bearing? that I did leave in the said house called
Kettles. **Item:** I bequeath to **Agnes²²³, my wife**, the
bed that I now do lie on withall things thereunto
belonging. The Residue of all my moveable
goods within the house at Absoloms I give and
bequeath to Agnes, my wife, and **John Olyver, my
son**, equally to be divided and the said Agnes, my
meaning is, shall have but the use and enjoying

223 "Ann" in register of burials

40 of the said moiety during her natural life and
41 the interest and ?? to be wholly in the said John,
42 to have after the death of my said wife. **Item:** I
43 give and bequeath unto John Olyver, my son, all such
44 interest and term for years as I have by one or
45 several leases of and in the house or farm called
46 Absoloms aforesaid and in all such arable land and
47 pasture as thereunto is belonging and now in his
48 occupation by reason of a ?? promise and
49 grant made by me, the said Thomas to the said
50 John and under such conditions and agreements
51 as then were agreed of between us. **Item:** I give
52 and bequeath to the three sons of **Thomas Olyver,**
53 **my eldest son**²²⁴, six bushels of malt, that is to each
54 of them two bushels severally. The residue of
55 my goods and chattels not devised, after my debts paid,
56 I will and bequeath to my executor.

57 This is also the last will and testament of
58 me, the foresaid Thomas Olyver, (regarding?) land and

²²⁴ Thomas, born 1568; George, born 1570; John born 1575; there was a fourth son, Robert, born 1581, after his grandfather wrote his will but before he died

59 tenements as I am purposed to give and devise.
60 **First:** whereas I, by my deed indent between
61 . . . last before the date of
62 this my will and covenant and grant upon . .
63 consideration to stand sealed to the use of my son
64 **William Olyver, then servant to Mr. Thomas ??**
65 of Seal above written and of his heirs for ever
66 and in that my house and farm called Kettles in the
67 parish of Seal in the County of Kent aforesaid
68 . . in the orchards, gardens, one and other the
69 heriditaments, profit and commodities and
70 appurtenances whatsoever. And of and in the several
71 parcels of ground, that is to say, one orchard called
72 **Kettlesmead orchard, Brookes grave, hiveile?**
73 **Bradfield, Longfield, Clyhillmiddle mead,**
74 **Bromefield, . . or Illshun, Browneswood**
75 and **Kettleswood** in the parishes of Seal and **Sevenoaks**
76 in the said in the County of Kent or else wheresoever by
77 the same deed intended to be passed or passed?
78 granted by covenant as aforesaid, my intent and
79 meaning is to continue my good will in perfecting
80 and assuring the said house and several parcels
81 foresaid to my said son William. And in consideration

82 thereof, for the better assurance of his state, peradventure
83 any ?? hath been done to the hindrance of my
84 good meaning therein, I, by this my last will and
85 testament, give unto the said William Olyver, my
86 son, all that my said house called Kettles²²⁵ and the
87 several parcels above named and with the said deed of
88 covenant expressed to him and to hold to him and to
89 his heirs forever in as ample and large manner with
90 th'appurtenances by the said deed of covenant
91 my meaning shalbe, appear? to give the said to
92 him. **Item:** I further will, bequeath and give
93 to **Jeffrey Olyver**²²⁶, **my son**, and to his heirs forever,
94 the parcel of land called **Walls** in the parish of
95 Seal aforesaid. **Item:** further, I give to William
96 Olyver, my son, and to his heirs, that parcel of
97 ground containing five acres or thereabouts
98 adjoining to a parcel of ground above called

225 The arrangements for Kettles seem complicated. William married **Isabella Rede** on 22nd September 1590 by a Licence from the Faculties; by this time he was probably about thirty-five. They had a son, Francis, baptised on 24th January 1594 and "Isabella, wife of William Olyver of Kettles" was buried on 9th February 1594, less than three weeks after the baptism

226 taken as the youngest son, the Jeffrey Olyver who had a daughter baptised in 1600 and who died in 1642

99 Kettleswood or . . . by what
100 name forever it be called if, peradventure, it pass
101 not by the name of Kettleswood above said.
102 **Item:** I ordain and make William Olyver,
103 my son, my only and sole executor of this my
104 last will and other my goods, chattels and
105 other whatsoever at his will and pleasure to
106 be disposed after my debts paid. witnesses
107 hereof: **Thomas Wale²²⁷, John ??**
John Olyver and others
Robert Goodhews, Robert Pelset²²⁸, John Goodhews?

227 Thomas Wale, gent. married Katherine, Richard Tebold's widow, in 1571 but there is no record of them staying in Seal

228 Robert Pelsett/Persolt (#43) who had children in the 1560s/70s

The probate copy, which is all that has survived, is very tightly bound and hardly readable.

- I, **Thomas Olyver, of Kettles**, in the parish
- of Seal in the County of Kent, **yeoman**, being sick
- in body and whole in mind and perfect remembrance,
- praise be to Almighty god, do ordain and
- make this my present testament and last will
- in manner and form following: **First:** I bequeath
- my soul to Almighty god, my maker and
- Redeemer and my body to be buried in christian burial in
- hope of Resurrection. **Item:** as concerning the
- disposition of all my goods, chattels, leases and implements
- of household stuff which god hath lent me, **First:**
- unto the poor of Seal ?? shall ?? to be
- distributed at my burial. **Item:** I give unto **Anne?**
- **my wife**²²⁹, my best bed with all the furniture thereunto

²²⁹ this is the only mention of his wife in the will; surely she must have been left something other than a bed

- belonging, the Residue of all my goods, chattels,
- moveable and unmoveable, my debts, funeral and legacies in
- my present testament being fulfilled and performed, I
- give and bequeath unto **John Olyver**²³⁰, my --
- **brother**, whom I ordain and make my whole and sole
- executor of this my present testament and last
- will and I make overseer of this my said last will
- **my ??, Thomas Walter**²³¹

- This is the last will and testament of me,
- the said Thomas Olyver, made the day and
- place above said, concerning the disposition of all
- my lands and tenements within in the County
- of Kent abovesaid or elsewhere within the
- Realm of England. **Item:** my will and intent
- is that the said John Olyver, my brother, shall
- have to him and to his heirs, all my lands, tenements.
- . . . woods and underwoods

230 #1627, to whom his father left Absoloms

231 there was a Thomas Walter in Seal whose wife died in 1575, their first child having been baptised, in Ightham, in 1572.

- withall and . . appurtenances . . lying
- and being in the parish of ?? .
- parish of ??
- . . .
- the city of London, all which said tenements
- and appurtenances . . . after my decease
- . . . to be sold by the said John Olyver for the
- most profit and Advantage for and . .
- toward the payment of my debts and, after my
- said debts paid, I will a . . . thereof
- remaining, also all the . . . of all my goods
- and chattels, leases, moveables and unmoveables,
- after my said debts and legacies fully paid,
- shall be . . and go to **my five**
- **children, viz: Thomas Olyver, George**
- **Olyver, John Olyver, Robert Olyver and**
- **?? Olyver²³²**, dividing by the discretion
- of my said overseer and of the said John Olyver,

232 Thomas, the eldest son was just eighteen when his father died in 1586 but Robert was still two months short of his fifth birthday. The baptisms of two daughters were recorded: Anne born in 1573 who died a year later and Susan born in 1577. It is thus probable that the name which cannot be deciphered is "Susan". The three eldest sons were each left 2 bushels of malt by their grandfather whose will was written in 1580 although he did not die until 1585, only eighteen months before his son died.

- my brother. In witness whereof of this
- my last will and testament, I hereunto set my hand and
- seal the day and place above written

Thomas Olyver; witnesses of this my last will:

Edmond Richard; Robert Olyver??; ??

John Olyver, Mary Kerwyne and the Pelsetts

A John Olyver married **Mary Kerwyne** (#1021) on 20th June 1580. Mary Olyver married **George Welfare** on 4th February 1601. When Robert Kerwyne (#4075) wrote his will in 1615, he left his brother's daughter **Mercy Welfare** 10s (see **Kerwyne**). Thus Mercy must have been the Mary whose first husband had been John Olyver who must have died before 1601.

Mary Welfare's will, written 1632 when she would have been in her seventies, has survived and two of the witnesses to it were **Lawrence Olyver** (probably #1199 who had children between 1616 and 1628 - see Tree O.7) and **Elizabeth Olyver, wife of Robert Olyver of Fawkeham** was probably the wife of #3165, Robert being thirty-two in 1632 (see Tree O.8).

On 24th October 1586, in **Shipbourne**, **Elizabeth Pelsett** (#45) married John Olyver.

There must have been two John Olyvers, one who married Mary Kerwyne and died before 1601 and the other who married Elizabeth Pelsett but no burial of a John Olyver who could have been Mary's husband was recorded.

John Olyver of Absoloms

In Seal, two daughters were baptised:

- "Elizabeth, daughter of John Olyver, junior" on 18th June 1587
- "Mary, daughter of John Olyver of Absoloms" on 18th February 1589.

John of Absoloms (#1627) was the son of Thomas, the elder, of Kettles and he would have been about thirty in 1589 (see Tree O.13). He was presumably the father of Mary and Elizabeth could have been the first child of the Olyver/Pelsett wedding. But who was John Olyver, junior?

In his will of 1610, **Robert Pelsett** (#43) left £30 to his granddaughter, Elizabeth, daughter of John Olyver "[in regard to her long and dutiful service to me](#)"; in 1610, the Elizabeth born in 1587 would have been twenty-three. Robert left his grandson, Pelsett Olyver, forty shillings and the rest of John and Elizabeth's children 20s each (see [Pelset](#)).

John's father, Thomas, left him the lease of Absoloms only for a term of years; in 1622 it was owned by John (#1200), son of Robert Olyver of Fawke (#136) with John leaving it to his son John (#3172).

Tree O.14: The Children of John Olyver and Elizabeth Pelsett

	John Olyver #1627 - Elizabeth Pelsett #45			
<i>married:</i>	24 Oct 1586			

	#1434	#1564		
	Elizabeth	Mary	Pelsett	
<i>bap:</i>	18 Jun 1587	18 Feb 1589		

John Olyver of Apseland

The John whose will was written on 18th March 1639/40 is described as “[of Apseland](#)” in his will which he left to be divided. between his three sons. He also left them “Smithurst” which could have been a variation of Smythet but his “[house and land called Kettles](#)” was to be sold to pay his debts and provide £300 for each of his three daughters. The “[overplus](#)” remaining from the sale was to go to his son John. Thus he was expecting Kettles to sell for well over £1000.

John mentions a sister Jane which does not help in identifying him since none of the possibilities is recorded as having a sister of that name; Jane could have been a sister of his wife. The John who did have a sister Jane was #3172 (page o.95)

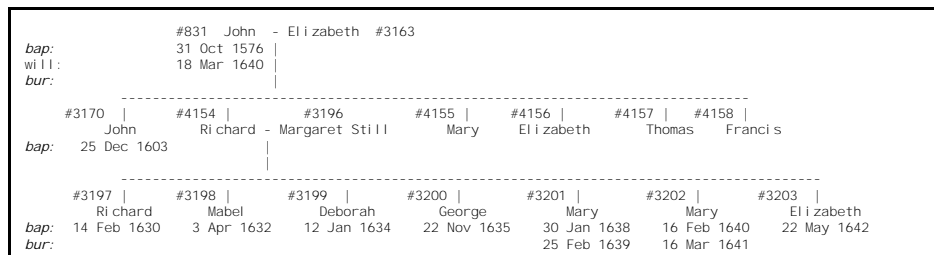
but he was not born until 1604 and was therefore too young to be John of Apseland whose eldest children were born in the 1600s.

Two possibilities are:

- #831, the son of Richard of Smythet, born in 1576, particularly since "**Smithurst**" is included amongst his lands; this is taken as the most likely.
- #800, the son of Thomas the younger of Kettles (Tree O.13), born in 1575.

John of Absoloms, the son of Thomas, the elder, of Kettles and born in the late 1550s would have been too old to have had underage daughters in 1634 but the testator could have been the son of this John.

Tree O.15: The Children of John Olyver of Apseland



The order of the children is not known except that John was the eldest son and all the daughters were under 21 when the will was written. The eldest son, John, could have been the “John, son of John Olyver” baptised on 25th December 1603.

On 25th July 1625, a Richard Olyver married Margaret Still in Shipbourne and seven children were recorded for them in Seal. Both the Marys died when they were thirteen months old. Richard could have been John of Apseland's second son (#4155) marrying at about twenty.

Will of John Olyver of Apseland

written 18th March 1639/40

transcript from original

1 In the name of god Amen. The eighteenth day of March
2 in the year of our Lord Christ one thousand six hundred thirty and nine.
3 And in the year of our sovereign lord king Charles, the fifteenth. I, John
4 Olyver of **Apseland** in the parish of Seal in the county of Kent, **gent.**,
5 in the time of my perfect memory do ordain and make my testament and
6 last will in manner following. **First:** therefore recommending my soul
7 to the gracious acceptance of Almighty God, my maker, through the
8 all sufficient sacrifice of Jesus Christ, my saviour. And my body to the

9 earth in decent manner to be²³³ buried according to the discretion of my
10 executor and executrix hereafter named. I will and give unto **my sons,**
11 **John Olyver, Richard Olyver and Thomas Olyver,** my house and lands
12 commonly called or known by the name of Apse land, to be equally divided
13 amongst them; like wise my land at **Smithurst** after the decease of my
14 **sister Jane Warde** to be likewise equally divided amongst them.
15 **Item:** will that my house and land called **Kettels,** with my personal estate,
to be sold
16 by my executors, or any one of them, for the payment of my debts and for
my daughters
17 portions, **Mary Olyver, Elizabeth Olyver and Francis Olyver,**
18 to each of which said my daughters, I will and give three hundred pounds
19 a piece to be paid unto them at their several days of marriage or
20 at the age of one and twenty years which shall first happen.
21 The overplus, my debts and legacies and my funeral charges being
22 paid and discharged, I give unto **my eldest son John Olyver** who,
23 together with **my loving wife Elizabeth Olyver,** I make and ordain
24 sole executor of this my testament and last will, to see the same
25 proved and performed.
26 In witness whereof, to this my testament and last will, contained and
written

233 "bee" throughout but not written by Hooper

27 on one sheet of paper, I, the said John Olyver, have written and subscribed
28 my name and my seal dated the day and year above written.
Sealed, published and declared
in the presence of us, **John Cooper**,
Anne Shadd **John Olyver**²³⁴
The mark of **Mary Harkesup**

²³⁴ John Olyver's signature but he did not write the will

Jeffrey Olyver, gent. and the Nicholsons

Jeffrey, the youngest son of Thomas and Agnes, was probably born in the late 1550s, his mother having had eleven children in about twenty years, perhaps even less than twenty.

"Elizabeth, daughter of Jeffrey Olyver" was baptised on 16th July 1600; she could have been the daughter or granddaughter of Thomas's son. If she was the daughter, Jeffrey lived to be over eighty.

"Jeffrey Olyver, of Seal, gent." and the father of Elizabeth wrote his will in April 1640. Elizabeth seems to have been his only child at least to survive to adulthood.

Jeffrey asked to be buried in "my chancel belonging to Seal church" and left three pounds to be distributed amongst the poor people "resorting" to his burial. To recompense his wife, Francis, for "title of dower claim" and other demands she might have, Francis was to be paid £10 immediately and £30 a year by Jeffrey's executors who were to "put good security" to his wife for this payment. She was also to have, for the rest of her life, the "messuage or tenement wherein I, the said Jeffrey Olyver do now dwell with the garden and backside thereto belonging, situated in Seal Town, she keeping the same well repaired. And after the decease of the said Frances to be and remain to the said Mary Nicholson, my grandchild".

If, however, Francis was not content with these arrangements and "shall attempt, endeavour or go about to be endowed into all or any of my lands or tenements, either according to the courtesy of England or custom of the county or by course of law, that then she shall be paid only twenty shillings by my executors and shall have no other benefit by this my will".

She was also to suffer the same penalty if she refused to deliver up the lease of Jeffrey's tenement called Morleys and the land belonging to it. Jeffrey seems to have previously leased Morleys to Frances but, in his will, did "revoke and annul" the lease, leaving Morleys to his daughter, Elizabeth.

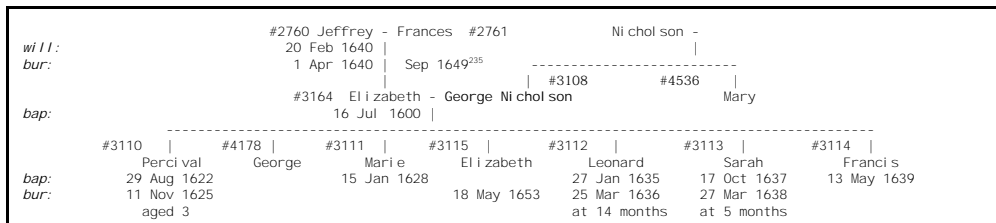
"Francis, wife of Jeffrey Olyver, gent." was buried in September 1649 - "wife" must have been written in error for "widow".

Jeffrey appointed his daughter, son-in-law and grandson George, joint executors of his will although his grandson can have been only about sixteen. George Nicholson, gent. (#3108) was listed in the Knole manuscript of 1648 as living in Seal village by which time his older children would have been in their twenties.

Jeffrey owned the parsonage of Seal with the "tithes and profits thereunto belonging" and he left this to his daughter Elizabeth until Mary, Elizabeth's eldest daughter, reached the age of fifteen when it was to pass to her. Mary could thus expect a substantial inheritance but, if she married without the consent of her

parents, she was to have "[no right nor portion](#)" to either Morleys or any other of her grandfather's land.

Tree O.16: Jeffrey Olyver and the Nicholsons



²³⁵ "wife of Jeffrey Olyver, gent." when she was buried although she had been widowed for nine years

1 In the name of god Amen. The twentieth day of February in the year of our
2 Lord God one thousand, six hundred thirty and nine. And in the fifteenth
year of the reign
3 of our Sovereign Lord Charles, by the grace of God, of England, Scotland,
France and Ireland
4 king, defender of the faith, etc. I, Jeffrey Olyver of Seal in the county of
Kent, gent., being
5 at this time in reasonable good health of body and of perfect and good
memory, thanks
6 be²³⁶ therefore given to Almighty god, do ordain and make this my
testament and last will as
7 followeth. **First:** yielding and recommending my soul to Almighty God,
with an assured
8 hope of salvation through the merits, death and passion of his dear son
Jesus Christ,
9 my saviour. And my body to the earth in decent manner to be buried in my
chancel belonging

236 "bee", "shalbee", etc. throughout

10 to Seal church in sure and certain hope of a joyful resurrection to eternal
life. I will
11 there shalbe distributed amongst the poor people resorting to my burial the
sum of
12 three pounds of lawful english money. **Item:** I will to **Mary Nicholson,**
sister to my
13 **son-in-law, Mr. George Nicholson,** the sum of five pounds to make her a
ring of gold to
14 wear in remembrance of my loving respect to her. **Item:** I will and appoint
and my intent
15 and meaning is that **Frances, my loving wife,** shall have the use of all of all
such bedding,
16 linen, brass, pewter, plate and other household stuff as shalbe in the
messuage or tenement
17 wherein I now dwell at the time of my decease to be used by her in good
order during
18 the whole term of her natural life. **Item:** to recompense the said Francis for
such title of
19 dower claim and demand as she hath, or shall or may have, out of in or to
all my lands, tenements
20 and hereditaments with th'appurtenances whatsoever, I will that the said
Frances shalbe paid by my

executors hereafter named, their executors, administrators and assigns, the yearly sum or portion of thirty pounds of lawful english money quarterly, by equal portions, or within one and twenty days next after th'end of every quarter, for, by and during the whole term of her natural life, the first payment to begin on the first quarter day, or within one and twenty days after next following my decease. And I will that my executors shall, within one month next after my decease make and put good security to my said wife for the true payment thereof to be accordingly paid to her and her assigns during her said natural life. And also I will to my said wife the sum of ten pounds of lawful english money to be paid to he by mine executors. Provided always, and my will and mind is, that if my said wife shall not be content with the legacies and portions to her given and appointed by this my last will or shall attempt, endeavour or go about to be endowed into all or any of my lands or tenements, either according to the courtesy of England

32 or custom of the county or by course of Law, that then she shalbe paid only
twenty shillings
33 by my executors and shall have no other benefit by this my will. And
likewise, if my said wife, upon
34 request to her made by my executors, shall not deliver up the lease of my
tenement called **Morleys**
35 which I bought of **John Stace** and of the lands thereto belonging, I will also
she shall have
36 no benefit nor legacy by this my will but only the said twenty shillings
which I will and
37 give unto her. Any thing in this my will contained to the contrary thereof
in any wise notwithstanding.
38 **Item:** I will that all other my goods, chattels, household stuff, plate, jewels
and ready money and monies owing to
39 me, upon bonds or otherwise, shall be and remain to **George Nicholson, my**
son-in-law, and to **Elizabeth, his wife**,
40 and **George Nicholson, my grandchild**, (except all the bedding, linen, brass,
pewter, vessels of plate and household
41 stuff to be used by my wife as aforesaid during the term of her natural life
which, after the decease
42 of my said wife, my will and meaning is it shall remain and be unto the
said Mary Nicholson and her assigns

43 forever). And of this my last will and testament, I do constitute, ordain and
appoint my son-in-law
44 George Nicholson and Elizabeth his wife and George Nicholson, my
grandson, executors of this my last
45 will and testament, to see the same proved, my debts discharged and my
body decently brought to the
46 earth. And I desire **Mr. Robert Baker, minister of Seal, and my nephew, Mr.
John Olyver²³⁷** and
47 **Mr. Oliver Lawrence of Sevenoaks** to be overseers that this my will may
take effect and be
48 performed so much as in them shall lie and I give to every of them twenty
shillings a piece for their
49 pains herein to be taken and for a remembrance of my loving respect to
them.

50 This is also the last will and testament of the said Jeffrey Olyver made and
declared the day
51 and year first above written touching the ordering and disposing of all my
lands and

²³⁷ his brother Thomas had a son John (#800) but nothing is known about him and Jeffrey's overseer could have been the son of another brother

52 tenements. **First:** I will that Elizabeth, my daughter, shall or may hold to
her and her assigns
53 **my Parsonage of Seal** and the tithes and profits thereunto belonging and
the barns
54 called **Stakewood**²³⁸ containing, by estimation, ten acres more or less lying
at **Godden** in Seal
55 aforesaid until that **Marie, her eldest daughter**²³⁹, shall accomplish her age
of fifteen years
56 or would have accomplished that age if she shall decease before. And at
her said age of fifteen
57 years, I will and devise that the said parsonage with the tithes and profits
thereof with th'appurtenances
58 and the said barns and stables and the said wood called Stakewood shalbe
and remain to the
59 said Mary and to the heirs of her body lawfully to be begotten and for want
of such issue
60 to be and remain equally to and amongst all other the children of the said
George Nicholson

238 In 1610, Robert Olyver of Fawke left Stakewood (ten acres) to his son Thomas (#509) who was born in 1571. Jeffrey's daughter, Elizabeth was born in 1600 so that Jeffrey and Thomas were of a similar age and related only distantly.

239 baptised 15th January 1628

61 and Elizabeth, his wife, between them begotten that shalbe living at the
time of the decease
62 of the said Mary and to their heirs for ever. **Item:** I will that Frances, my
loving wife,
63 towards the recompensing of her dower and claim unto my lands shall, or
may, have and hold
64 for term of her natural life all that messuage or tenement wherein I, the
said Jeffrey
65 Olyver do now dwell with the garden and backside thereto belonging,
situated in Seal
66 Town, she keeping the same well repaired. And after the decease of the
said Frances to be and
67 remain to the said Mary Nicholson, my grandchild, and to the heirs of her
body lawfully to be
68 begotten and for default of such issue to be and remain to and amongst all
other the
69 children of the said George Nicholson and Elizabeth, my daughter, and to
their heirs and assigns
70 for ever. **Item:** I give and devise to Elizabeth, my daughter, my messuage
or tenement in Seal called
71 Morleys which I late purchased of John Stace and all the lands and
appurtenances thereto belonging.

72 And also all other my lands and tenements with their appurtenances lying
and being in Seal aforesaid
73 or elsewhere within the realm of England not before hereby bequeathed for
term of her natural
74 life and after her decease, to George Nicholson, my son-in-law, for term of
his life. And
75 from and after their deceases, the same and every of them to be and
remain to the said George
76 Nicholson, Mary Nicholson and **Elizabeth and Frances Nicholson, children
of my said daughter**
77 Elizabeth Nicholson and their heirs and assigns forever. And I do, by this
my will, revoke utterly
78 and annul²⁴⁰ one lease of my said tenement called Morleys and the lands
thereunto belonging heretofore
79 by me made to the before named Frances, my wife. Provided if the said
Mary, my grandchild, shall
80 marry without the consent of her parents, my will is she shall have no right
nor portion in or to my
81 said tenement called Morleys nor any other my lands last above
mentioned.

240 "adnull"

82 In witness whereof I have to this my testament and last will contained in
two sheets of paper
83 set to my hand to both sheets and my seal to the last sheet dated the day
and year above written.

Sealed, published and declared
in the presence of Jeffrey Olyver²⁴¹
Oliver Lawrence, No:Pub²⁴²

mark of **Jeremy H** Cole

Memorandum: that whereas by the will above written the said testator gave all his bedding, linen, brass, pewter, vessels of plate and household stuff to be used by his wife during her life and after her decease to remain to Mary Nicholson and her assigns; by the said Mary Nicholson, he the said testator meant and intended Mary Nicholson his grandchild, the daughter of his son-in-law George Nicholson and so much he declared to Oliver Lawrence, the writer of the said will at such time as he gave

²⁴¹ definitely a signature

²⁴² the writer of the will; see memorandum

instructions to him for the making of the said will.

Oliver Lawrence

proved on 7th May 1640 by George Nicholson with power reserved for administrating a like grant to Elizabeth Nicholson and George Nicholson, grandson of the deceased.

The Olyvers of Godden and Leybourne

Although Godden Green is part of the parish of Seal, William Olyver of Godden/Leybourne and his descendants seem to be a different branch from the Olyvers descended from Thomas Olyver of Seal. Three wills have survived, those of William and his wife Marion and that of their grandson William. These give the relationships shown in the Tree O.17.

William of Godden's daughters, Joan and Margery, were married before he died in 1516 at which time his mother, Ann, was still alive. William's granddaughter, Johane Wood, was married by the time of Marion's death in 1532. This gives:

Johane Wood born < 1510;

Johane Olyver married, say 1508

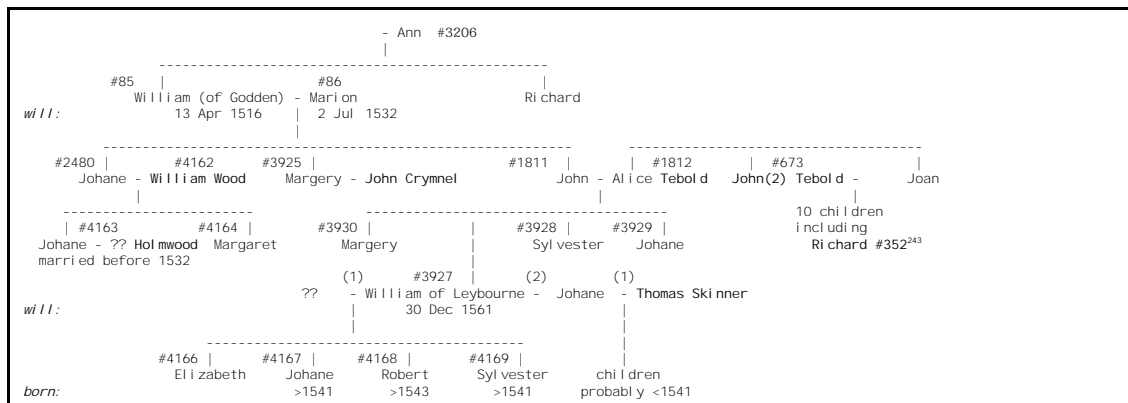
Johane Olyver born 1484?

William & Marion married 1483

William and Marion born < 1460

Hence, William was approaching sixty when he died and Marion in her seventies.

Tree O.17: The Family of William and Marion of Godden



William's will is a good example of a will from the beginning of the sixteenth century: "I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, our blessed lady, Saint Mary and to all the holy company in heaven. And my body to be buried in the church of Seal afore the high rood there. **Item:** I bequeath to the high altar for tithes forgotten and negligently withholden 3s 4d. **Item:** I bequeath to an honest priest to sing for my soul and my friends souls in the said church by the space of a whole year 10

243 William refers to Richard Tebold, who he appointed one of the trustees for his two younger daughters; they were first cousins.

marks of lawful money of England. **Item:** I bequeath to the buying of a candlestick of laten to stand afore the high altar in the church 26s 8d."

Like the other Olyvers, William of Godden had cattle and sheep leaving five of his best kyne, twenty ewes and twenty lambs, together with his best horse, to his wife. He was overseer to the wills of Thomas Olyver (#3905) in 1505 and of John Olyver (#3907) in 1512.

Marion's will of 1533, although more restrained with regard to her soul, is still basically a pre-reformation will: "I bequeath my soul to god and my body to be buried in the church of Seal next to my husband. **Item:** to the high altar there 3s 4d. **Item:** I bequeath to the maintaining of the light burning of two latten candlesticks or standers before the high altar in Seal church 12d by year, the space of 4 years immediately after my decease. **Item:** I bequeath to be bestowed at my burying and at my month's day, 26s 8d."

In the name of god Amen. I, William Olyver, of Godden in the parish of Seal in the County of Kent, being of good and perfect mind, the 13th day in the month of April, the year of our lord god 1516, ?? make and declare this my testament and last will in manner and form following: **First:** I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, our blessed lady, Saint Mary and to all the holy company in heaven. And my body to be buried in the church of Seal afore the high rood there. **Item:** I bequeath to the high altar for tithes forgotten and negligently withholden 3s 4d. **Item:** I bequeath to an honest priest to sing for my soul and my friends' souls in the said church by the space of a whole year 10 marks of lawful money of England. **Item:** I bequeath to the buying of a candlestick of laten to stand afore the high altar in the church 26s 8d. **Item:** I bequeath to **Joan Wood, my daughter**, 10 marks²⁴⁴. **Item:** to **Margery Crymnel, my daughter**, 33s 4d so that her husband, **John Crymnel**, make her a jointure of 26s 8d by her during her life. **Item:** I bequeath to **Marion, my wife**, all my household stuff and half my corn within doors and without and 5 of my best kine, 20 ewes and 20 lambs with them my best horse. **Item:** I bequeath to **Joan French?, my cousin?**, 43s 4d, her cattle priced to the same. **Item:** to **Maryon Cord**,

²⁴⁴ a mark was 13s 4d so that 10 marks was £6 13s 4d

my servant, her cattle priced to the same. **Item:** I bequeath to **Richard Olyver, my brother**, 6s 8d. **Item:** to Margery Crymnel, my daughter, 6s 8d.

The residue of my goods and cattells not bequeathed, my debts paid, bequests and funeral charge duly fulfilled, I bequeath them only to **John Olyver, my son**, whom I make and ordain my executor of this my testament and last will and **John Tebold**²⁴⁵ overseer of the same.

This is the last will of me, William Olyver, made and declared the day and year aforesaid. **First:** I will that Marion, my wife, have all my tenement with all manner lands thereto belonging in **Leybourne** during her life. **Item:** I will that the said Marion, my wife, have the parlour with the chamber over the same parlour and a chamber below with a chamber over the same joining to the same parlour . . . (access?) at all times to the same. **Item:** I will that the said Marion, my wife, have half the profits of my lands and tenements lying and being in the said parish of Seal term of her lifetime. **Item:** I will that **Ann, my mother**, have 20s yearly out of my lands in **Cudham** And also firewood for her taken and brought home to her during her life. **Item:** I will that **Agnes Noks?, widow**, have the house which she now dwells in with 2 acres land, by estimation, lying to the same at Godden foresaid (for) term of her life paying therefore yearly to my heirs and assigns 20s and, after her decease, I will that **Kateryn Noks?, her daughter**, have the same

245 John(2) Tebold (#673) - daughter-in-law's brother

house and 2 acres land with their appurtenances in fee simple, paying yearly, to my heirs and assigns, the said rent of 20s for ever. The residue of my lands and tenements, with their appurtenances not before assigned, I will that the said John Olyver, my son, have them immediately after my decease to him, his heirs and assigns, for ever. And all the said lands and tenements and all other premises assigned to the said Marion, my wife, for term of life to remain, after her decease, to the said John, my son, his heirs and assigns forever.

These witness: **William Olyver of Fawke, Henry Swaynsland**
 William Wood²⁴⁶, Walter Crypie and others

²⁴⁶ William Olyver - #3910, William Wood - son-in-law, Joan's husband

Marion was the widow of William Olyver of Godden

1 In the name of god Amen. The year of our lord
2 god 1532, the second day of July that I, Maryon Olyver,
3 widow, of Seal . . . sick in body but
4 whole in mind, make my last will and testament in this
5 wise: **First:** I bequeath my soul to god and my body to
6 be buried in the church of Seal next to my husband.
7 **Item:** to the high altar there 3s 4d. **Item:** I bequeath
8 to the maintaining of the light burning of 2 latten
9 candlesticks or standers before the high altar in Seal
10 church 12d by year, the space of 4 years immediately
11 after my decease. **Item:** I bequeath to be bestowed at my
12 burying and at my month's day, 26s 8d. **Item:**
13 I bequeath to **William Olyver, my son's son**, my best
14 brass pot and one ?? **Item:** to **Margery Olyver**
15 **my son's daughter**, one brass pot and one new sheet. **Item:**
16 to **Johane Wood, my daughter**, my best gown and
17 best kirtle. **Item:** I bequeath to **Alice Brown, the daughter**

18 of **William Brown of Sevenoaks**, one brass pot and one
19 candlestick. **Item:** I bequeath to other 5 of my godchildren
20 to either of them 4d. **Item:** I bequeath to my daughter
21 Joane, William Wood's wife, 26s 8d. **Item:** to
22 **my daughter's daughter, Margaret Wood** 6s 8d. **Item:**
23 to **Joane Holmwood, the daughter of William Wood²⁴⁷**, one
24 pan, one mattress? and one kirtle. The residue of
25 my goods, my debts and bequests fulfilled, I will and
26 bequeath unto **John, my son**, whom I ordain and
27 make mine executor charging him, with? my
28 blessing, to see this, my last will, truly performed
29 and fulfilled. Witness: **Sir William Dampport²⁴⁸**,
Thomas Tebold²⁴⁹, Thomas²⁵⁰ Porter, William Cox and
others more

²⁴⁷ was William the husband of Marion's daughter Johane with Joane Holmwood being Marion's married granddaughter? This is quite possible since Johane was married by 1516 when her father died.

²⁴⁸ curate; perhaps he wrote Maryon's will

²⁴⁹ vicar of Seal and Kemsing; a scholar who travelled on the continent, he must have been at home at this time; as vicar, he could have written the will although it would then be expected that his name would be the first of the witnesses.

²⁵⁰ or John

William of Leybourne

William of Leybourne (#3927), the grandson of William of Godden, died in 1561 and the beginning of his will is very different from those of his grandparents showing the effect of the Reformation. "I bequeath my soul to Almighty god, my maker and redeemer . . . to be saved by the mercy of his passion and my body to be buried in christian burial at the discretion of my executors. **Item:** I will to be delivered amongst the poor people within the almshouses of **Sevenoaks** 6s 8d. And to the poor people of the parishes of **Seal and Leybourne** 13s 4d that is to each of them 6s 8d." See page o.174 for his family.

William married twice but the name of his first wife is not known. Johane, who survived him, was the widow of **Thomas Skinner** by whom she had had some children since William mentions, in his will, "**all my wife's children now alive**". Thomas Skinner's executors were **Thomas and William Miller** - the Millers were a Kemsing family - and it appears that not everything was settled regarding the will of Johane's first husband when her second husband came to write his will.

It is from his will that it is known that Margery/Margaret married **Homeden** and that he had two other sisters, Sylvester and Johane, both married by 1561 (Sylvester to **Polley** and Johane to **Gylman**). They could both have been born after 1532 which would account for them not being mentioned by their grandmother.

If Elizabeth, William of Leybourne's eldest child, was born about 1540 William could have been born between 1510 and 1515. Looking at William's grandparents and parents, his father, John Olyver (whose will has not survived) could have been born in the mid-1480s with William being born twenty-five to thirty years later, 1510 to 1520. Thus working from ancestors or descendants gives a similar approximate date for William's birth - William was probably in his mid-forties when he died.

William's son Robert was a not yet eighteen when his father died and Richard Tebold and William Denman were to receive "[all the issues and profits](#)" of William's lands and tenements except those occupied by his wife until Robert was twenty-one. These were to be used to provide his daughters with a portion when they married or reached the age of twenty-one and for the bringing up of Robert. £8 a year was to be provided for "[his exhibition at Seal](#)" in "[writing and lettering](#)" until he was eighteen; "exhibition", in this context, means an allowance towards the support of someone, generally to a scholar at a university. Robert's education, however, appears to be at a lower level than university although his grandson and great-grandson both went to Trinity College, Cambridge - see page o.199 for more details.

William of Godden had land at Leybourne, Seal and Cudham whilst that of William, of Leybourne, his grandson, included land in Sevenoaks. Thus either his father, John, or himself, added to the inheritance from his grandfather.

It could have been William of Leybourne's son Robert (#4168) who, in 1616, was Richard Carter's "[well beloved Mr. Robert of Leybourne](#)" who he made overseer of his will (see #19 in [Carter](#)). Robert must have been in his mid-sixties by this time with Richard Carter about ten years older.

Will of William Olyver of Leybourne

dated 30th September 1561
transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen the 30th
2 day of September in the year of our lord god 1561
3 And in the third year of the reign of our sovereign
4 lady queen Elizabeth, I, **William Olyver**, of
5 **Leybourne** in the County of Kent, yeoman, being
6 sick of body but of perfect memory and remembrance,
7 god be thanked, do make this my present testament
8 and last will in manner and form following: **First:**
9 I bequeath my soul to Almighty god, my maker
10 and redeemer . . . to be saved by the mercy
11 of his passion and my body to be buried in christian
12 burial at the discretion of my executors. **Item:** I
13 will to be delivered amongst the poor people

14 within the almshouses of **Sevenoaks**
15 6s 8d. And to the poor people of the parishes
16 of **Seal and Leybourne** 13s 4d that is to
17 each of them 6s 8d. (**Item:** I will that)?
18 **Johane, my well beloved wife**, shall have her
19 dwelling in my house that I now dwell in at
20 Leybourne and the occupying of all my lands there
21 from the day of my death unto the feast of
22 Saint Michael, the archangel, there next ensuing.
23 And from the said feast of Saint Michael
24 for the term of one whole year then next
25 following, paying therefore to **Richard**
26 **Tebold, gent.** and **William Denman**, their executors or
27 assigns £12 of lawful money of England.
28 **Item:** I will that my said **cousin, Richard**
29 **Tebold**²⁵¹ and William Denman shall receive all
30 the issues and profits of all my lands and tenements,
31 with their appurtenances, set, lying and being in
32 the parishes of **Seal, Sevenoaks, Leybourne**
33 **P... and Cudham** and elsewhere in the County
34 of Kent coming and following from the time

251 son of his mother's brother

35 of my decease unto such time as **Robert Olyver,**
36 **my son,** shall accomplish his full age of 21
37 years except such lands as Johane, my well beloved
38 wife shall have for term of her life if she
39 live so long. And I will that the said
40 Richard and William, their executors or assigns,
41 shall employ the issues and profits yearly
42 coming and (issuing?) of the same during the
43 time aforesaid in manner and form as shalbe
44 declared by this my testament and last will
45 hereafter ensuing . . . I first will
46 to **Elizabeth Olyver, my daughter,** thirty pounds
47 of lawful money of England, to **Johane** and
48 **Sylvester, my other two daughters,** £20 13s
49 4d apiece to be paid to each of them by
50 the said Richard and William, their executors
51 or assigns, at the day, or several days, of
52 their marriage or at their age of 21 years
53 as they shall first happen to fall if
54 they do so long time (live?). And if any of my
55 said daughters do depart this world
56 before their marriage or age of 21 years,
57 then I will her part or portion of the

58 ?? to the other daughters then living
59 and to Robert Olyver, my son, equally to be
60 divided among them by equal portions.
61 And if all my daughters depart this
62 world before they accomplish their age of
63 21 years or before their marriage, then I
64 will all their said portions to them as
65 is before bequeathed, to Robert my son, to
66 be paid to the said Robert by the said
67 Robert and William, their executors or
68 assigns, at his full age of 21 years if
69 the said Robert be then living. And if it
70 shall fortune the said Robert and all my
71 said daughters to depart this world
72 before they accomplish their age of 21
73 years or before the day, or days, of their
74 marriage, then I will all their said portions
75 to them as is before bequeathed to the
76 children of **my sisters, Margaret²⁵² Homeden,**
77 **Sylvester Polley and Johane Gylman,** then being
78 living, equally to be divided amongst them.

252 Margery in will of Marion Olyver, her grandmother

79 And the same to be delivered to them by
80 the said Richard and William, their executors
81 and assigns, within one year next after the
82 decease of the last of them of them.
83 **Item:** I will also that with the issues and
84 profits aforesaid, they the said Richard
85 and William, be spent upon the bringing up
86 of Johane and Sylvester, my daughters, yearly
87 for the space of four? years next after my
88 decease, 4 pounds of lawful money of
89 England, that is, upon each of them 40s yearly.
90 **Item:** I will also that the issue and profits
91 aforesaid, by those the said Richard and
92 William, shall likewise bestow upon the
93 **bringing up of Robert, my son**, yearly from
94 the time of my decease, eight pounds of
95 lawful money of England for his exhibition
96 at **Seal** to be ?? and brought up ----ly
97 in writing, lettering and ?? until he should be of
98 the age of 18 years. My will is that one of
99 the same years, he shall be ?? at the
100 writing ?? And further, I will that
101 the said Richard Tebold and William

102 Denman, their executors and assigns, shall
103 dispose and lay out of the issues and
104 profits aforesaid so much as to them shall
105 seem mete for the further necessities of
106 my said children either in ?? or
107 in other necessary . . . during the
108 time aforesaid. And then shall account
109 of all the residue of the said issues
110 and profits remaining and . . . of the said
111 land and tenements containing in them houses, the
112 . . . of my houses, the lorde . . . and one other like
113 to the said Robert, my son, at his full
114 age of 21 years or within the . . .
115 next after the same. And if the said
116 Robert do depart the world before he do
117 accomplish his said full age of 21
118 years, then I will the said Richard and
119 William shall account of the said
120 residue of the issues and profits aforesaid
121 to my said daughters then on living and
122 to the onliver of them within one year
123 next after his decease. And if all my
124 said daughters shall decease before

125 my said son and before he accomplish
126 his said full age, then I will that
127 the said Richard and William, their
128 executors and assigns, shall account for
129 the issues and profits of the said residue
130 of the premises to my said sisters'
131 as aforesaid, equally to be
132 divided amongst them, within one
133 year next after the decease of the last of
134 them . . . **Item:** I give and bequeath
135 to **Richard Cobley?**, my servant, 40s to
136 be paid to him within 3 months next
137 after my decease by my executors. **Item:** I
138 give to **every one of my wife's children**²⁵³ now
139 being alive 6s 8d a piece. **Item:** I give
140 and bequeath to Robert Olyver, my son, six
141 silver spoons and one ?? bound with silver
142 and gilt and all the . . .
143 . . . bedspread . . . of
144 household being within and without my two

253 Johane had been married prior to marrying William - see lines 180-181 below; presumably Richard and William's three daughters were children by a first wife.

145 houses or tenements in the parishes of Seal
146 and Leybourne aforesaid. And I will the
147 -- to -- and be in the said houses
148 or tenements as they abound and be at the time
149 of my decease, give and bequeath to Robert,
150 my son, . . . of all and singular
151 my household stuff and implements of household
152 and, beside my said bequests before to him
153 willed by this my last will and testament
154 ----ing and ----ing to my wife, all
155 such household stuff and implements of
156 household as were hers before the time
157 of my marriage. The residue of all
158 my household stuff, goods and debts,
159 my debts, legacies and this my present testament
160 and last will on her behalf? to be kept, being
161 fulfilled and performed, I give and bequeath to
162 **Johane Olyver, my wife**, upon condition that
163 the said Johane do pay, or cause
164 to be paid, to my overseers of this my
165 testament and last will, 40s of lawful
166 money of England within one year and one
167 quarter next after my decease to --

168 of Robert, my son. And, upon condition
169 that the said Johane do find, provide and
170 get -- sufficient -- to be bound
171 in ? hundred pounds with her, and for her,
172 unto my -- -- not only for the
173 payment of my debts. And of another
174 sum of money and bequests, I, the said
175 William Olyver have willed and bequested
176 by this my present testament and last will
177 but also for the payment and delivery of all
178 single sums of money, plate and household
179 stuff as I, the said William Olyver,
180 which the said **Johane, now my wife**
181 and **then the widow of Thomas Skinner**, do
182 remain bound in form and several obligations
183 being due the 25 day of January²⁵⁴ in
184 the second year of the reign of our sovereign
185 lady Queen Elizabeth to **Thomas Miller**
186 and **William Miller**²⁵⁵, executors of the testament

254 1560 in the new style calendar, that is 20 months prior to the writing of the will

255 it appears that William and Johane had married only one to two years before his death

187 and last will of the said Thomas Skinner
188 in manner and for as is contained and expressed
189 in the said obligation and every of them.
190 And if the said Johane, my wife, do refuse
191 to . . this my testament and last will
192 and do refuse to find and get 2 sufficient
193 . . to be bound as aforesaid,
194 then I will that the said Robert
195 Tebold and William Denman shalbe my
196 executors and executors of this my will according
197 to the content thereof and shall pay the
198 said 40s paid to them by my said
199 will to Robert, my son, at his full age
200 of 21 years if he be then living. And
201 if he be deceased, to . . Also I do
202 ordain and constitute the said Johane,
203 my well beloved wife, my executrix
204 of this my present testament and last will,
205 my cousin, Richard Tebold, gent., and William
206 Denman to be my overseers of the same.
207 And they to have for their pains an

208 angel²⁵⁶ a piece. In witnes whereof I,
209 the said William Olyver have set
210 my hand and seal the day and year above
211 written in the presence of . . .²⁵⁷ Also my will is
212 that Johane, my wife, shall have all the
213 hemp yarn, wool and . . . that
214 is in my house at the day of my decease
215 by me William Olyver.

216 This is the last will and testament of
217 me, the said William Olyver made the
218 day and year aforesaid for the disposition of
219 all my land and tenements set, lying and being
220 in the parishes of **Leybourne, Seal, Sevenoaks,**
221 ?? and **Cudham** in the County of Kent
222 and elsewhere within the . . . of
223 **England.** **First:** I will that my cousin,

256 10s; hardly a large amount for work which, at least from the will, sounds complicated and went on until Richard, William's son was 21 and all his daughters 21 or married. Since one set of payments were for four years, this looks like the minimum time for which Richard and William would have to account for the "issues and profits" of William Olyver's land.

257 no witnesses given here in the copy of the will

224 **Richard Tebold, and William Denman**
225 shall receive the issue and profit of all
226 my said land and tenements in manner and form
227 as is before expressed and delivered in my
228 testament and last will of the disposition
229 of all my goods and chattels. **Item:** I give and
230 bequeath to **Johane, my wife**, in recompense
231 of her dowry, my house or tenement with the appurtenances lying
232 and being at **Godden** in the parish of Seal aforesaid
233 and one parcel of land lying upon the backside?
234 of the said tenement called the croft and one
235 parcel of land called **Russells** and one other
236 parcel called **Collens Field** and one other parcel
237 called **Scobbe** and one other parcel of land
238 called **Colmans Field** and certain other parcels
239 of land called **Dyers field** and **Hoyse land**
240 being at Godden aforesaid with sufficient
241 fuel upon the same to be spent at the
242 at the said tenement. . to have and to
243 hold the same lands and tenements to the said
244 Johane for term? of her life upon condition
245 that the said Johane, my wife, inhabits
246 and dwell in and upon the said tenement .

247 And do maintain and keep the same sufficiently
248 repaired from time to time during her life.
249 And do make no ?? or ?? in or upon the
250 premises or any parcel thereof. .
251 And upon condition that she, the said Johane, do
252 claim no other or more of my said lands
253 and tenements for her dowry. And if the said
254 Johane, my wife, do refuse to inhabit and
255 dwell at and upon the said messuage or tenement, then
256 I will that the said Johane, my wife,
257 shall have one annuity or yearly
258 rent of £4 13s 4d going out of
259 all my lands and tenements lying and being in the
260 parish of Seal aforesaid for the time of
261 her life to be paid and taken at two
262 times of the year, that is to say at
263 the feasts of the Annunciation of our Blessed
264 lady and Saint Michael the Archangel
265 by equal portions. And for default of
266 payment of the said Annuity, it shall be
267 lawful for the said Johane or her assigns
268 to distrain, from time to time, in or
269 upon the premises for the same and only

270 parcel thereof upon the said that she do
271 claim . . . dower as is aforesaid. **Item:** for
272 disposition of the residue? of all
273 my lands and tenements aforesaid, I give
274 and bequeath to **Robert, my son**, all
275 my said lands and tenements with the appurtenances
276 wheresoever they be set, lying and being in
277 the County of Kent or elsewhere. To have and to
278 hold the same land and tenements to the
279 said Robert and to the heirs of his body lawfully
280 begotten. And for default of such issue,
281 I give and bequeath to **Elizabeth, my oldest daughter**,
282 all my land and tenements set, lying and
283 being in **Leybourne** aforesaid, to have and to
284 hold to the said Elizabeth and to the
285 heirs of her body lawfully begotten. And for
286 default of issue of the body of the said
287 Robert, I give and bequeath to **Johane, my second**
288 **daughter**, all my land and tenements with
289 their appurtenances, set, lying and being in
290 **Seal and Sevenoaks** aforesaid, to have and
291 to hold the same lands and tenements to the
292 said Johane, and to issue of her body

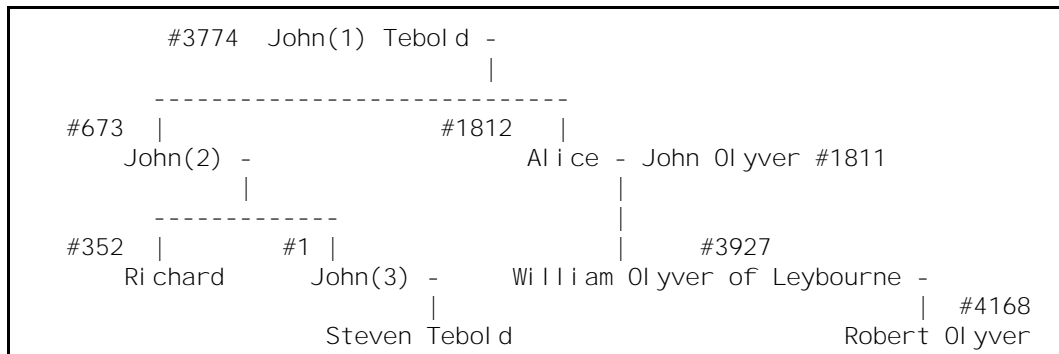
293 lawfully begotten. And also for lack of issue
294 of the body of the said Robert, I give
295 and bequeath to **Sylvester, my youngest daughter**,
296 all my land and tenements with their
297 appurtenances set, lying and being in ?? and
298 **Cudham** aforesaid. To have and to hold
299 the same land and tenements to the said Sylvester
300 and to the heirs of her body lawfully
301 begotten. And for default of such issue to
302 remain to the right heirs of me, the
303 said William Olyver for ever. Provided always,
304 and my ?? will is that, whereas I have
305 given certain sums of money, by testament,
306 to the marriage of my said daughters, to
307 be paid out of the (revenues/receipts) of my lands,
308 if there shall not be so much or taken
309 . . . of my lands as shall fulfil my legacies
310 and bequests, then my will is that mine
311 overseers shall take so much out of the £40 which
312 my wife shall pay to the use of Robert,
313 my son, as shall be (necessary?) to the performance
314 of my legacies and bequests.
315 In witness whereof I, the said William Olyver,

316 have set my hand and seal to this my last
317 will, the day and year first above written.
318 In the presence of **Richard Denyer**
 Hugh Pynson
 by me **William Olyver**

Olyver and Tebold relationships

The first cousin relationship between Richard Tebold and William of Leybourne has already been noted - see page o.174.

When **Steven Tebold (#312)** died in 1619, he left a gold ring of forty shillings value to his "[cousin, Robert Olyver of Leybourne, gent.](#)" Robert (#4168), the son of William's son Robert, born in the mid-1540s, was probably a little older than Steven. His great-aunt Alice, sister of Steven's grandfather John(2) Tebold, married John Olyver, father of William Olyver of Leybourne so that, unless there was another unrecorded marriage between the Tebolds and Olyvers, the cousinship referred to by Steven was rather distant.



Robert Olyver, alias Quinton, sold Stidulf's Place in Seal and Stidulfe's Hoath Farm in Sevenoaks to Richard Tebold (#352) at "[the beginning of queen Elizabeth's reign](#)"¹. William died in 1561 when Robert was under eighteen and Richard Tebold and William Denman were charged with managing William's land and using the proceeds to provide portions for his daughters and pay for Robert's education. It must have been Tebold and Denman who decided that selling Stidulfs was necessary to provide the required money. Or, looking on the blacker side, did Tebold see it as an opportunity to get some extra land at a bargain price?

¹ Hasted, p.55

Other Relationships

With a family (or clan) as large as the Olyvers, there were obviously a large number of connections with other families in the area. Hints of some of these are given in the parish registers.

The Olyvers and Rudlands

Johane, the daughter of Thomas the elder, of Kettles, married Thomas Rudland on 30th September 1565 - see page o.142. Thomas Rudland's will has survived and he appoints his "brother-in-law, Robert Olyver" his executor - see [Rudland](#). Although #3985, mentioned in his uncle Christopher's will of 1558, does not appear in his father's will of 1581, he would seem to be the Robert Olyver referred to by Thomas Rudland. However, there is another possibility.

A **Katherine Olyver** married **John Rudland of London** (#714) on 19th June 1575; she could have been a younger sister of Johane except that no Katherine is mentioned by Thomas's brother Christopher. However, like Jeffrey, she could have been born in 1558 and married at about seventeen. **Katherine Rudland**,

widow, married **Robert Olyver** on 12 Jun 1586. No burial was recorded for John but they could have been living in London.

The only known Robert Olyver who could have married Katherine is #4170, the son of John the elder of Fawke, born about 1560 (see page o.53) and therefore from a different branch of the Olyver family if Katherine was Johane's sister. In this case, the husband of his wife's sister might have been described as his brother-in-law, #3985 having died before his father.

#219	-----		
	#220	#713	#4170
Thomas Rudland - Johane		Katherine - Robert Olyver	

Other Olyver Marriages

Jane Olyver (#736) married **Edmund Porter of Sevenoaks** (#735) on 7th October 1577. Could Jane have been another younger sister of Johane?

Margaret Olyver married **John Wimble, the elder** (#1533) on 23rd August 1590. Margaret could have been another daughter of Thomas the elder, of Kettles, but this time one who was mentioned by her uncle Christopher (#3986 - see page o.142)

Elizabeth Olyver married **Arnold Whiting** (#138) on 16th November 1612. Elizabeth could have been #1434, daughter of John Olyver born in 1587 (see page o.155) or #1596, daughter of Thomas of Fawke, born in 1590 (see page o.61) - or someone completely different!.

Robert Olyver married **Margaret Chawklyn** (#2483) on 19th December 1647 and their daughter, **Elizabeth** (#2585) was baptised on 26th November 1648. Robert could have been:

- #3175, grandson of Thomas of Fawke born in 1628 (see page o.61)
- or
- #3188 born in 1625 (see page o.92).

Thomas Olyver married **Susanna Chawklyn** (#2476) on 17th February 1642 and the baptisms of three children were recorded:

- | | | | |
|---|------------------|-------|-------------|
| - | Chawklyn Olyver | #2481 | 16 Feb 1643 |
| - | Thomas Olyver | #2482 | 13 Feb 1648 |
| - | Elizabeth Olyver | #3891 | 31 Dec 1650 |

There is no obvious Thomas to marry in 1642, #3167 born in 1606 (see page o.92) and #4157 born about 1610 (see page o.156) both being rather old. Thomas and Susanna called their eldest son by his mother's maiden name, an idea which had also been used fifty years earlier by John Olyver (#1627) and his wife, Elizabeth Pelsett.

A Baptism

George (#1934), son of Thomas Olyver, junior, was baptised in Seal on 11th November 1599. George could have been an elder son of #509 but, if #509 (the son of Robert of Fawke) was Thomas Olyver Junior, who was Thomas Olyver, senior?

Olyvers in Shipbourne

Although occasional events were recorded in Shipbourne, there was no established family of Olyvers there. There were three other Olyver marriages in addition to that of Sylvester Page described below:

John Olyver (\$368) married **Elizabeth Pelsett** (\$369) on 23rd October 1586

Thomas Olyver (\$1232) married **Joane Longbridge** (\$1234) on 3rd October 1617

James Olyver (\$1399) married **Susan Dunke** (\$1402) on 20th February 1626

Sylvester Page and his wife, Mary Olyver

On 17th October 1588, **Sylvester Page** (\$30²⁵⁸) married **Mary Olyver** (\$404) in Shipbourne. When Sylvester wrote his will in 1600 he made Mary, his "wellbeloved wife" his sole executrix but "because that my said wife is sometimes visited in such strange manner that she is neither fit to be governed nor to govern, therefore I commit all the same moveable goods, debts and chattels unto her brother, my neighbour, **Robert Olyver**, whom, in that case, I make my executor to see all the same . . . governed to the use of my said wife and my children. And I desire him and her brother-in-law, **Robert Hunt**, to be supervisors and overseers of this my will."

Since Mary had a brother-in-law, Robert Hunt, she must have been the daughter (#3988) of John Olyver (#70), the sister of Margaret who married Robert Hunt; her brother was #4170.

Olyvers in Ightham

A **Robert Olyver** was buried in **Ightham** on 19th September 1609 but it is not possible to say if he was one of the Seal Olyvers. This is the only mention of the family in the parish registers; but there were other Olyvers in Ightham since they were mentioned in the Court Records. **John Oliver** was presented to the Court held on 16th April 1601 for two reasons:

- He had "encroached upon the highway in **Longestreete lane**, leading between Ightham and the lord's common there, with his hedge, to the length of 3 rods. Given till 1 May to remove the encroachment, under penalty 3s 4d." (CRI 1937, p.201)
- In "like manner" to Isabel Gardiner (see **Gardiner**), he had "erected a cottage there without land, contrary to law." (CRI 1938, p.11)

Isabel Gardiner's cottage was at Radwell and Long Street Lane was an old lane running south from Ightham Cross (Cob-tree inn) towards Redwell hamlet (CRI 1938, p.75) so it looks as if the two offences were connected.

On 4th October 1609, "**Robert Olyver**, borsholder there, did not appear as required because he had previously died." As Edward Harrison says, "the reason given for Robert Olyver's failure to attend a View, although conclusive is a little unexpected". (CRI 1938, p.34)

A Bartholomew Olyver was also mentioned between 1586 and 1618; there were no Bartholomews recorded in Seal.

A Dorothy Olyver married **William Knowles at Ightham** on 13th May 1622.

Alice Overie of Seal; her Tebold godchildren

Alice Overie was certainly generous in her bequests to her godchildren and the children of her friends/relations. It has not been possible to trace the people mentioned except for the Theobolds. John Theobold (Tybold/Tebold) and his wife Sylvester had at least ten children who survived into adulthood. In Alice's will this surname is given as "Theobold" but, for consistency, it is indexed under "Tebold"

Thomas	the eldest son; godson of Thomas Boleyn; born in the early 1500s. In February 1524, he was already installed as vicar of Seal and Kemsing but he did not obtain his BA at Cambridge until 1527/28.
Johane	the eldest daughter, from Alice's will, married in the mid-1530s; probably born 1505 to 1515 so that she would have been between 12 and 22 in 1527.
Anne	also mentioned by Alice; had five children living in 1545 so probably the next daughter.

Sylvester married between 1545 and 1550 and previously assumed to be one of the younger daughters.

Tebold children not mentioned by Alice:

Agnes taken previously as the third and fourth daughters; both had one child born before 1545

Richard born before 1524; admitted to the Middle Temple probably about 1540; married 1551 to 1553

Margaret had at least one son born after 1550
Dorothy married after 1545 but was a widow with a daughter by 1550
John born after 1529 (under age in 1545).

Mentioned by Alice but otherwise not known:

Robert not specifically described as a son of John Thebold but he could have died after 1527 without reaching adulthood.

There were Overys in the surrounding villages but nothing to connect them with Alice.

1 In the name of god Amen. Anno 1527
2 the 7th day of January, I, Alice Overie of Seal
4 make my will in this wise. **First** I bequeath
5 my soul to Almighty god and my body to be
6 buried in the churchyard of Seal. Also to the
7 high altar of the church of **Warley in Essex**
8 for my tithes 3s. **Item** to the church of **Kemsing**
9 6s 8d. **Item** to be spent at my burying
10 and month's day 40s. At my year's mind (for the)
11 space of four years after (each) year 3s 4d to
12 priest, clerk and poor people. Also to each of my godchildren
13 being alive 4d. Also to **Johan Theobold**, my
14 goddaughter, the **elder daughter of John Theobold**,
15 in Kent, a featherbed, bolster, ?? and a tapestry work,
16 the lesser of the two and a ?? chest. **Item** to every one
17 of the children of the said John Theobald beside the

18 said **Joom**²⁵⁹ Theobald, to every one of them 6s 8d
19 to be delivered to them immediately after my decease.
20 Also to **Joom Harris, the daughter of William Harris**
21 **of Great Busted**, a cow. **Item** to **Elizabeth Harris**, a cow
22 **Item** to 3 children of the said William Harris, to
23 each of them 6s 8d to be delivered imm
24 ediatey after my decease. Also to **Robert Pall's**²⁶⁰ 4 children,
25 by my daughter, to each of them 6s 8d.
26 Also to **John Sexton's** children, 20s to be delivered
27 immediately after my decease. Also to **Agnes Pall**,
28 the daughter of Robert Pall, 4d. Also to **John**
29 **Miller of Chellafield**²⁶¹, my brother 20s. **Item**
30 to **Robert Theobold**, my godson, a cow. Also to **Johane**
31 **Theobold**, my goddaughter, the midd... ?? **Joom**
32 **Theobold** of the daughter ??? of **John Thebold of Seal**,
33 a cow. Also to **Ann Theobold**, a cow. Also to
34 **Agnes Ranlyn** 6s 8d to be delivered immediately

259 "Joom" here, Johane earlier but, from the sense would appear to be the same person; see page 208 for a discussion of John Theobald's children

260 name difficult to read as is also the first name of Alice's daughter which occurs at the end of the will

261 Chelsfield?

35 after my decease. **Item** to Bow... ??
36 ? 5s. **Item** to **Elizabeth Harris**, my little
37 brass pot. The residue of all my goods not
38 bequeathed, my debts paid, I give to **Sylvester**
39 **Theobold, Agnes Harris and Rabey? Pall**, my daughter
40 whom I ordain and make mine executor. Witnesses:
41 **Sir Christopher²⁶² Sharpeharrow, John Thebold, John**
42 **Denman, Thomas Holloway** and others.

²⁶² written "Xpher"; Christopher Sharpeharrow witnessed a number of Seal wills between 1519 and 1540; he was probably the curate and most likely wrote the wills he witnessed

The Overys of Sundridge and Hever

Overy is not a common name but four seventeenth century Overy wills have survived from Sevenoaks and the neighbouring villages of Sundridge and Hever. There is no obvious connection between Martin of Sevenoaks and the other three nor between any of the three..

		written	proved		
Martin Overy	Sevenoaks	4 Jul 1628	28 Jul 1628	CKS: Prs/w/12/102	
William Overy	Sundridge	15 Jul 1633	17 Aug 1633	CKS: Prs/w/12/105	page o.214
Martyn Overy	Hever	6 Sep 1637	18 Jul 1642	CKS: Prs/w/12/109	page o.218
Edward Overy	Sundridge	16 Jun 1638	7 Sep 1638	CKS: Prs/w/12/106	page o.223

The transcript of Martin's will is given in [Section 2 of the History of Sevenoaks](#).

William Overy, tanner, of Sundridge

William Overy was buried in Sundridge on 26th July 1633; he was recorded in the parish register as "[of Normans Street](#)" - Great Normans Street Farm is marked on the 1996 Ordnance Survey map (1:50,000) in the southwest of the parish of Sundridge, just north of the village of Ide Hill.

Anne is known from her father's will but no baptism was recorded in Sundridge.

	x1766	William - Eve	x1767 ²⁶⁶
<i>will:</i>	15 Jul	1633	
<i>bur:</i>	26 Jul	1633	

	x1768		x1769
	Anne		Robert
<i>bap:</i>			1 May 1631
<i>bur:</i>			20 May 1631

Will of William Overy of Sundridge

written 15th July 1633

transcript from original

1 In the name of god Amen. The fifteenth day of July Anno
2 Domini 1633, I, William Overy of Sundridge in the county of
3 Kent, **tanner**, weak of body but in perfect memory, thanks be
4 to God, therefore make and ordain this my last will and
5 testament in manner and form following, that is to say, **First:** I
6 commend my soul to God who gave it, trusting for the merits of

266 "x" indicates a reference in the miscellaneous database

7 Christ to be²⁶³ made partaker of the joys of heaven, my body I
8 will to be buried according to the discretion of my executor
9 hereafter named. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto **my daugh**
10 **ter, Anne Overy**, the sum of five pounds to be paid
11 unto her by my executress at the age of fifteen years
12 if she shall be then living. All the rest of my goods and chat
13 tels, I bequeath to **my beloved wife Eve Overy** whom I
14 make the executress of this my last will and testament
15 and to her also I bequeath the rent of my house and
16 land during her life towards the payment of my debts
17 and the maintenance of herself and my child and
18 I appoint my loving friends **Thomas Hoodless, gent.**
19 and **James Overy, yeoman**, to be overseers of this my
20 last will and testament.

21 And this is my last will and testament touching my
22 house and lands, that is to say, I bequeath my said house
23 and land commonly called the **Pind** situated ??
24 Sundridge aforesaid after the death of Eve, my wife, unto my
25 abovenamed daughter Anne Overy and to the heirs of her
26 body lawfully begotten for ever. And if it shall happen my said

263 "bee", "shee", etc. throughout

27 daughter to die without issue, I will it to descend unto the
28 next heir. In witness whereof I have to this my last will and
29 testament set to my hand and seal the day and year
30 first above written.

William Overy
his mark

Sealed and delivered
in the presence of

Jo: Pigott²⁶⁴

Andrew Wallter

²⁶⁴ could have been the scriptor of the will

Martin Overy, yeoman of Hever

	x1771	Martin - Anne	x1772 ²⁶⁹
will:	6 Sep 1637		
proved:	18 Jul 1642		

x1773		x1774	
William		Martin -	x1775
			Anne - ?? Dawling
		x1777	
		Elizabeth	

William was Martin's heir and executor whilst Martin was not left anything in the will although Elizabeth was to receive a "[great, joined chest](#)" and, when she married or reached the age of twenty-one, £10. Anne, Martin's wife was to receive an annuity of £5 whilst she remained a widow which was reduced to £3 a year if she married again.

²⁶⁹ "x" indicates a reference in the miscellaneous database

1 In the name of god Amen. The sixth day of September 1637 and in the
thirteenth year of the
2 reign our sovereign Lord Charles, by the grace of god king of England,
Scotland,
3 France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. I, Martyn Overy of Hever²⁶⁵ in
the county
4 of Kent, **yeoman**, being sick of body but of good and perfect memory,
praised be god,
5 therefore do make and declare this my last will and testament as followeth:
First:
6 I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty god, my Creator, steadfastly
trusting
7 by the merits, death and passion of Jesus Christ, my only redeemer and
saviour, to
8 have free forgiveness of all my sins and to be made an heir of everlasting
life

265 "Heaver" throughout

9 and by none other means; and my body to the earth from whence it came.
And
10 touching such worldly substance as it hath pleased god to lend me here in
this world,
11 I bequeath as followeth: **Item:** I give unto **my loving wife Anne** the two
beds with
12 their steddles²⁶⁶ and the blankets and coverlets thereunto belonging and all
those things
13 standing and being in the chamber over the hall where I now lie, the great
joined
14 chest excepted which I give unto **my grandchild Elizabeth Overy, daughter
of my son**
15 **Martyn Overy**, to be delivered unto her at her age of 21 years if she be then
living.
16 **Item:** I give more to the said Elizabeth, the sum of ten pounds of lawful
english
17 money to be paid unto her at her day of marriage or age of 21 years which
shall
18 first happen out of all my lands and tenements. **Item:** I give unto **my
daughter**

266 variation on the spelling of "stead"

19 **Anne Dawling** a piece of gold of 10s in value in token of my good will.

Item:

20 I will and devise unto my said wife Anne one annuity or yearly rent of
21 five pounds of lawful english money to be issuing and going out of all my
22 lands and tenements in Hever and to be paid her quarterly, that is to
23 say at the four most usual feasts in the year, the birth of our lord Christ,
24 the Annunciation of the blessed Virgin Mary, the nativity of St. John
Baptist and
25 St. Michael Th'archangel, by equal portions to be paid her during her
widow
26 = hood and if it shall happen the said annuity or yearly rent of five pounds
or
27 any part thereof to be behind and unpaid at any of the feast aforesaid in
which the
28 same ought to be paid as aforesaid by the space of ten days, that then it
shalbe
29 lawful to and for the said Anne, my wife, and her assigns to enter into all or
any
30 of my lands and tenements and distrain for the said annuity or yearly rent
of five
31 pounds and the arrearages thereof, if any be and the distress or distresses
32 there taken, to bear, lead and drive away and the same to detain and keep
until she

33 and they shalbe fully satisfied and paid the said annuity or yearly rent of
34 five pounds and the arrearages thereof. And if my said wife Anne shall happen
35 to marry again, then I will her but three pounds a year during her life and to
36 be paid her according as the said annuity of five pounds ought to have been
37 paid
38 with like clause of distress for non payment hereof. Provided always that, if my
39 said wife Anne shall claim any dower or other thing out of any of my lands
40 and tenements, then my will is that the said annuities of five pounds and
41 three pounds shall cease and be void any thing herein contained to the contrary
42 notwithstanding.
43 **Item:** I will and devise unto the said Anne, my wife, the use of the said
44 chamber
45 over the hall and also fire warm in the hall with liberty of ingress, egress
and
regress at all times during her widowhood. **Item:** I will and devise unto
William Overy, my son, all my lands and tenements whatsoever in Heaver
aforesaid or elsewhere and the reversion and remainder hereof to have and
to hold

46 unto the said William and his heirs forever. And also I give and bequeath
unto the
47 said William, my son, all the rest and residue of all my goods and chattels, I
48 whatsoever whom I make sole executor of this my last will and testament
??
49 give unto **my cousin Anne Ashdowne** the sum of forty shillings. In witness
whereof
50 I have hereunto put my hand and seal the day and year above said.

Read, sealed and published in the presence of us
Thomas Polley William Wells

Edward Overy, yeoman of Sundridge

Edward, of YatesPlace, mentions neither wife nor children but he did have two brothers, William and Samuel with Samuel being appointed sole heir and executor. William could not have been the tanner whose will has survived since he had died ten years prior to Edward writing his will.

June the 26th 1638

1 In the name of god Amen. I, Edward Overy of **Yates Place**
2 in the parish of Sundridge and county of Kent, **yeoman**,
3 though weak in body yet perfect in mind, do make this my last will
4 and testament following.

5 **Imprimis** I bequeath my soul to God, the creator and preserver of all
6 men and my body to the earth from whence it was made, to be²⁶⁷ buried
7 in decent interment in the parish churchyard of Sundridge aforesaid.

8 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my brother, Samuel Overy**, to his heirs and exe
9 cutors, all my lands, goods and lively goods whatsoever ?? ??
appertaining

10 and make him my sole heir and executor provided that he true and faith
11 fully according to the true intent and meaning of those present pay those
sev

12 eral sums of money and legacies following, vidz:

267 "bee", etc. throughout

13 To **my brother William Overy** fifty pounds and to **my sister Ann,**
14 **wife of Richard Jewell of Oxstead**²⁶⁸ in the county of **Surrey**, fifty pounds to
15 be paid to either of them, or their heirs or executors or assigns, within
twelve
16 months next and immediately after my decease. But if the said William or
Ann should happen
17 to die before the receipt of the said sum without heirs that then it shall be
my brother Samuel as his own property²⁶⁹.
18 **Item:** to **Doctor Hall, Rector** of Sundridge, I give twenty shillings and to **Abe**
19 **Collings, his now curate**, twenty shillings and to the poor of the parish of
Sundridge
20 twenty shillings to be paid out of my lands and goods aforesaid
immediately
21 after my decease or within one month at the farthest.
22 **Item:** To **William Henty of Lamtee?** in the county of Kent I give and
23 bequeath twenty shillings to buy him a ring and to **Mary Henty** twenty shil
24 lings to buy her a ring and to **Hellen Henty** five pounds to buy her a ring
25 to be paid immediately after my decease or within a month and liberty at
the farthest.

²⁶⁸ Oxted is about 5 ½ miles west of Sundridge

²⁶⁹ this sentence inserted, see below

Lastly I will and appoint Dr. Hall and
William Henty aforesaid the overseers of this my
last will and testament

Signed ²⁷⁰ Edward Overy

Memorandum these words (but if the said William or Ann
should happen to die before the receipt of the said sum, without
heirs, then it shall be my brother, Samuel or his
heirs property, right and due) were interlined before the ensealing

This will was made in the presence of
John, Dr. Hall²⁷¹

Richard Skinner

Richard Baker

²⁷⁰ his mark

²⁷¹ probably wrote the will

P

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The Pages of Shipbourne and the Neighbourhood

Seven Page wills have survived:

		date		CKS:		
		will	buried	Drb/Pw	Drb/Pwr	
Henry Page	Pembury	18 Jan 1570/1		10	14.52	page p.7
Sylvester Page	Shipbourne	17 Feb 1584/5	9 Apr 1588	15	17.285	page p.12
Margery Page	Shipbourne	15 Oct 1589	26 Oct 1589	15	17.405	page p.18
Sylvester Page	Shipbourne	31 Mar 1600	1 Apr 1600	19	191.126	page p.21
John Page	Shipbourne	12 Apr 1613	1 Mar 1614	23	20.554	page p.26
Silvester Page	Wrotham	20 Sep 1629 ²⁷²		Prs/w/12/190		page p.30

The will of Edward Page of Capel has also survived (CKS: Drb/Pw 26; Drb/Pwr 21.212) but has not been investigated.

In the Page family, the name Sylvester (alternative spelling Silvester) was used as a man's name and there were a large number of them.

²⁷² year in will difficult to read; proved 17th February 1629/30

The 1585 will of Sylvester Page was written by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618. He also wrote:

- the nuncupative will of Sylvester's wife, Margery, the memorandum bearing his mark at the top.
- the will of their son, Sylvester
- that of John Page who died in 1614.

Since the original of John Page's will written in 1613 is in a bad condition the transcript has been made from the probate copy where no witnesses are given. The original includes the words "Nicholas Hooper, sen. writer hereof" and the Nicholas Hooper mark can also be seen. As far as can be seen, there is little, if any, other decoration.

Nicholas Hooper married Katherine Page on 3rd October 1575 in Ightham, soon after becoming curate of Shipbourne but where Katherine "fits in" to the Page family is not known.

Nothing is known of the Henry whose will of 1571 is very short:

The Pages connected with the testators of the wills are described here; see [More Families & Transcripts](#) for details of others in this very large Shipbourne family.

18th January 1570/1

- Witnesseth that I, Henry Page
- by the divine sufferance of god and
- of the parish church of Pembury
- being sick of body but of good
- remembrance (thanks be to god) do
- make this my last will and testament
- in manner and form following: **First:**
- I bequeath my soul to god, the father,
- my creator, and to Jesus Christ,
- my saviour and redeemer and to the
- holy ghost, my comforter. And my
- body to be buried in the chancel of
- the parish church of Pembury afore
- said

witnesses:

John Farvall, vicar of Brenchley

George Anster of the same parish, their wives and

Alice, wife of Richard Symonds of that parish.

The Family of Sylvester and Margery

The following relationships have been assembled from the wills and the parish registers. (\$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database)

The codes after a name indicate that the person was mentioned in the will of::

S1 Sylvester Page, the elder, shingler, 1585 M Margaret Page, widow, 1589
 S2 Sylvester Page, husbandman, 1600 S3 Sylvester Page, of Wrotham, 1629?

\$2347 Margery(S1) - William --sher(S1) will: bur:	\$28 Syl vester 17 Feb 1585 9 Apr 1588	\$29 Marger1e(S1) 15 Oct 1589 26 Oct 1589	\$7 Ri chard - 21 Jul 1601 see next page	\$8 Lore(S1) si ster - Johane(S1) - ?? Hawke	\$976 Margaret(S1) - John Nott(S1)	\$2348		

\$68 Eli zabeth(M) - bap: mar: 4 Jul 1568 will: bur: 28 Feb 1593	\$67 Ri chard Col l yns(M) 4 Jul 1568 20 Dec 1596 31 Dec 1600 see Col l y n	\$127 Bri dget(M) - 7 Apr 1576	\$126 Stephen Hel ie(M)	\$30 Syl vester(S1M) 20 Sep 1562 17 Oct 1588 31 Mar 1600 1 Apr 1600	\$404 Ma rie Ol yver(S2) 22 Jul 1564 17 Oct 1588	\$82 Susan 3 Jan 1569	\$2206 Al ice(M) - John Luck(M)	\$2349

\$495 Ri chard(S2, S3) - bap: will: bur: 14 May 1623	\$570 Mabel I (S2) - 15 Oct 1592	\$1352 Thomas Sandel I	\$615 Syl vester ²⁷³ (S2) 23 Jun 1595 20 Sep 1629?	\$405 Thomas(S2) 23 Jul 1598				

\$1171 John(S3) bap: 2 Jun 1616	\$1226 George(S3) 7 Feb 1618	\$1227 Mary 30 Apr 1620	\$1228 Ri chard(S3) - Dorothy Medhurst ²⁷⁴ 7 Apr 1622	\$1354 Thomas 9 Jul 1623	\$1415 Henry 30 Mar 1626			

273 of Wrotham

274 married 25 Mar 1650

The Family of Richard and Lore

				\$7 Richard - Lore	\$8		
bap:							
bur:					21 Jul 1601		
	\$210			\$35		\$40	
	Sylvester ²⁸⁰	-		Henry		Henry	
bap:	29 Oct 1560			7 Feb 1563		4 Apr 1564	
bur:				9 Feb 1563			
	\$212			\$356			
	Thomas			Sylvester			
bap:	1 Mar 1582			7 Mar 1586			

The two sons of Richard called Henry perhaps show a family relationship between Richard and the vicar of Pembury - Henry is not a very common name. Richard was Lore's second husband - see [Beamonde in More Families & Transcripts](#).

Sylvester Page, the elder

Sylvester Page, the elder, who wrote his will in 1585 was a shingler - shingles are wooden slabs used as roofing tiles. He had a large mansion house with a

²⁸⁰ could have been the godson mentioned by Sylvester Page the elder

considerable amount of furniture which he left to his wife but he had "credit and confidence in her" that she, when she died, would leave standing in his mansion house "all the joined bedsteads . . and all the tables and forms there with the great joined chest in the parlour and the cupboard in the hall". More unusually, although he left his land and house to his son, Sylvester, he specified that his godson, also Sylvester Page, was to have "one half of the herbage and fruits of all that orchard called the New Orchard . . during the whole term of his life natural with free passage and liberty to go to and from the same at his will and pleasure without payment of anything therefore".

Of the children of Sylvester Page, the elder, only the baptism of his son Sylvester was recorded in Shipbourne and, according to this he would have been twenty-six when he married which is reasonable. He could have been the youngest child with all the daughters being born before records started. Elizabeth, however, married twenty years before Sylvester, the younger. If she married at eighteen (younger than the average age), she would have been born in 1550 so that her father would have been in his sixties when he wrote his will and her mother at least approaching seventy when she wrote hers.

Margerie's nuncupative will is very short; she nominated her son Sylvester her executor, left all her linen and wearing apparel to be divided between her three daughters and left each of her grandchildren ten shillings.

Nicholas Hooper's
mark

1 In²⁷⁶ the name of god Amen. The seventeenth day of February in the
2 year of our lord god one thousand, five hundredth, fourscore and four and
3 in the seven and twentieth year of the reign of our sovereign Lady
Elizabeth, by
4 the grace of God, Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of the
5 faith, etc., I, Sylvester Page, the elder, of Shipbourne in the county of Kent,
6 **shingler**, being²⁷⁷ at the time of making hereof something visited with
sickness and partly
7 thereby put in remembrance of the sudden change of this mortal and
transitory life,

276 decorated "I"

277 "beeing", "bee", etc. throughout

8 not knowing when or at what time it may please god that I shall depart this
life, and
9 being of nothing more certain than that I shall die, notwithstanding of good
and perfect
10 remembrance, thanks therefore be given to almighty God, do ordain and
make
11 this my present testament and last will in manner and form following²⁷⁸:
And First
12 and principally, I give, commend and bequeath my soul to almighty God,
my maker
13 and to Jesus Christ, his dear son, my only saviour and redeemer, by whose
merits,
14 precious death and bloodshedding²⁷⁹ I trust only to be saved. And my body
to be buried
15 in the church of Shipbourne aforesaid. **Item:** I will, give and bequeath to
the
16 box or chest of the poor within the parish of Shipbourne aforesaid 20d.
Item: I

278 "folowing"

279 "bludshedding"

17 give, will and bequeath to every of my godchildren demanding the same of
mine executor hereafter
18 named, within one whole year after my decease 12d a piece. **Item:** I will to
my two sisters,
19 viz.²⁸⁰ **Margery, the wife of William ??sher and Margaret, the wife of John**
Nott, to either
20 of them 20s a piece. And to **Johane, my other sister's daughter, the wife of**
²⁸¹ **Hawke,** also 20s. **Item:** I
21 will and give to **my wellbeloved wife Margerie** the best bed as it now
standeth now
22 being within my mansion and that bed wherein I now lie with all things
thereunto belonging
23 and also all other my bedding, ??, woollen, brass, pewter and all other
household stuff
24 commonly called instuff whatsoever. Notwithstanding my will is that my
said wife, as I
25 repose credit and confidence in her, shall leave standing in my said
mansion at the time

280 "viz." in probate copy but "vidlet" in original

281 blank left, presumably, for first name of Johane's husband

26 of her decease ?? ?? all the joined bedsteads in my said mansion house
and all the
27 tables and forms there with the great joined chest in the parlour and the
cupboard
28 in the hall. Also I give to my said wife all manner of corn whatsoever, as
well in the barn
29 as other where, one white mare and three of my best kyne to be taken at
her choice.
30 **Item:** I give to my two servants, viz: **Elizabeth Hadlow and Anne Morton**, to
either of them 5s a piece.
31 And to **my sister Lore Page's two daughters, viz. Elizabeth and Margery** 5s
a piece.

32 The residue of all my goods and cattells whatsoever, leases, debts and
other
33 whatsoever, I wholly, fully and with good effect, intent and purpose, give
and bequeath to
34 **my son Sylvester Page** which Sylvester I make and constitute my whole
and
35 sole executor of this my will, to see my debts paid and funeral discharged,
notwithstanding
36 my will is that **my godson, Sylvester Page**, shall have and take the one half

37 of the herbage and fruits of all that orchard called the New Orchard in my?
land
38 during the whole term of his life natural with free passage and liberty to go
to and from
39 the same at his will and pleasure without payment of anything therefore.

40 This is the last will of me the said Sylvester Page the elder made and
41 declared the day and year first above written concerning the order and
disposition of all
42 my lands and tenements whatsoever within the parish of Shipbourne
within the county
43 of Kent or elsewhere. I will and give to my said son Sylvester Page all my
44 land and tenements whatsoever withall and singular th'appurtenances, set,
lying and being
45 in Shipbourne aforesaid or elsewhere in the county of Kent, to have and to
hold
46 the same, withall and singular th'appurtenances, unto my said son
Sylvester, his heirs
47 and assigns, forever. In witness whereof, to this my present last will and
testament,
48 I, the said Sylvester Page the elder, have set my hand and seal, yeven, the
day and year first

49 above written in the presence of **Sylvester Page, my godson, Sylvester Page,**
50 **my son, Nicolas Hooper** and others.

Nicholas Hooper's
mark
with initials

By me Sylvester Page, the younger

Nicholas Hooper's
mark

- 1 Memorandum²⁸² that the fifteenth day of October in the year of our lord god
one
2 thousand, five hundredth, four score and nine, or thereabouts, and in the
presence of **Elizabeth, wife**
3 **of Richard Collyns, Bridgett, wife of Stephen Helie** and others, Margerie
Page, widow,
4 late wife of **Sylvester Page, the elder**, late of Shipbourne in the county of
Kent, shingler, deceased,
5 did speak and utter these words hereafter following²⁸³, or the like in effect,
concerning her last will,

282 decorated "M"; mark attached to "d"

283 "folowing", usual for Nicholas Hooper

6 that is to say, she²⁸⁴ gave unto her three daughters, viz. the above named
Elizabeth,
7 Bridgett and **Alice, wife of John Luck**, all her linen as well wearing apparel
linen
8 as other, equally to be divided between them. **Item:**
9 She gave unto **Anne Marton, her servant**²⁸⁵, her bed which she lay on with
two pairs of sheets and
10 other furniture thereto belonging and one chest and twenty shillings in
money. **Item:** She willed to every of her children's
11 children ten shillings a piece. And all the residue of her goods and cattell,
whatsoever,
12 she gave and willed to **Sylvester Page, her son**, leaving and nominating him
as
13 her executor, to see the same her legacies, well and truly paid and her body
honestly and
14 decently brought to the earth.

284 "shee" throughout

285 presumably the Anne Morton, servant, to whom her husband left 5s in his will

Sylvester Page of Whites

The Sylvester Page who married Marie Olyver and whose will of 1600 has survived (Sylvester Page of Whites) must have been the Sylvester Page "of Whites" who was buried, in Shipbourne, on 1st April 1600, the day after the will was written. He is taken as the son the Sylvester Page the elder and Margery.

Sylvester's wife, Marie (or Mary), was the daughter of John Olyver, the elder, of Fawke (#70) - see **Olyver**. Nothing is known of her brother Robert but Fawke is to the south of the parish of Seal, which is bounded by the parish of Shipbourne so that he and Sylvester could have been neighbours as Sylvester describes Robert in his will.

Sylvester died leaving young children - Thomas, his youngest son was only two. Although his wife was "**wellbeloved**" and he appointed her his executrix, "**to see my children brought up in the fear of god, my debts paid and body honestly and decently buried**" he was worried that she was "**sometimes visited in such strange manner that she is neither fit to be governed nor to govern**" and he therefore made her brother, Robert Olyver, "**in that case**" his executor. In any case he made Robert and Robert Hunt, the husband of her sister Margaret, his supervisors and overseers "**desiring them to take some pains that my children may be honestly and virtuously brought up willing also that my daughter, Mabell, shall have such**

portion of my said goods towards her marriage, at her age of 20 years as my said wife, or her brother Robert, shall think meet and requisite".

Will of Sylvester Page of Shipbourne 1600

written 31st March 1600

Sylvester Page of Whites buried 1 April 1600

transcript from original

1 In the name of god Amen. The last day of March in the year of our lord god
the one
2 thousand and six hundredth and in the two and fortieth year of the reign
3 of our Sovereign Queen Elizabeth, I, Sylvester Page, of **Whites** within the
4 parish of Shipbourne in the county of Kent, **husbandman**, being very sick in
body but of
5 perfect remembrance, thanks therefore be given to the Almighty, Do ordain
and make
6 this my present testament and last will in manner and form following: And
First and
7 principally I give, commend and bequeath my soul into the hands of
Almighty god
8 trusting by the merit, death and passion of my Saviour, Jesus Christ, that
the same shalbe

9 presented, pure and without spot, before the throne of his majestie. And
my body to the earth
10 to be buried in the churchyard of Shipbourne aforesaid. **Item:** as
concerning all my moveable
11 goods and cattells, I wholly give and bequeath all and every the same,
together with such debts
12 and chattels as I have, unto **Marie, my wellbeloved wife**, whom I ordain
and make my
13 whole and sole executrix of this my will, to see my children brought up in
the fear of god,
14 my debts paid and body honestly and decently buried. And because that
my said wife
15 is sometimes visited in such strange manner that she is neither fit to (be)²⁸⁶
governed nor to
16 govern, therefore I commit all the same moveable goods, debts and chattels
unto **her**
17 **brother, my neighbour, Robert Olyver**, whom, in that case, I make my
executor to see
18 all the same ginded? and gonented? to the use of my said wife and my
children. And I desire

286 has "be" been omitted here as an error?

19 him and **her brother-in-law, Robert Hunt**, to be supervisors and overseers of
this my will
20 Desiring them to take some pains that my children may be honestly and
virtuously brought up
21 willing also that **my daughter, Mabell**, shall have such portion of my said
goods towards her marriage, at her age
22 of 20 years as my said wife, or her brother Robert, shall think meet and
requisite.

23 This is the last will of me the said Sylvester Page made and declared the
day and year
24 first above written concerning the one half of that my little tenement and
orchard and barn thereto
25 belonging in Shipbourne aforesaid. **Item:** give and bequeath the same one
half and all th'appurtenances
26 unto the said Marie, my wife, during her natural life toward the bringing up
of my said
27 children. Or, otherwise, if my said wife shall not be in case to govern, unto
the said Robert
28 Oliver, her brother and his assigns, to the use aforesaid until **my three sons,**
Richard,
29 **Sylvester and Thomas**, shall attain their age of one and twenty years. And
after

30 the decease of my said wife (if she govern) or age of my said sons
otherwise, I wholly
31 give and bequeath the said half withall th'appurtenances unto them, my
said 3 sons, to hold
32 the same equally to them and their heirs forever. In witness whereof, to
this my present
33 last will, I the said Sylvester Page have set my hand and seal yeven²⁸⁷ the
34 day and year first above written.

Read, seal and acknowledged
in the presence of

Thomas Webb and of me

Nicholas Hooper writer hereof

Thomas Webb²⁸⁸

the mark

—
\
\
—

of **Sylvester
Page**

²⁸⁷ given

²⁸⁸ could be his signature

John Page, glover, of Shipbourne

The relationship between the glover and the other Pages is not known. In 1613, when he wrote his will, John had a son, John, who since he was made joint executor with his mother could have been of age (although not necessarily so). He also had a son, with the unusual name Zebedeus, who was baptised on 29th September 1590; he and John were probably children of a first wife whilst Nicholas, Jane and Mary were under age, Mary being baptised on 25th April 1610. Jane whom John mentioned in his will was buried 11 days after it was written.

Nicholas Hooper, the curate of Shipbourne and scriptor of many wills, was married to Katherine Page and John's son Nicholas could have been named after him.

There was some problem with Zebedeus since John's executors were to "yearly and every year, during his natural" life provide "all manner of meet and convenient meat, drink, house room, lodging and washing and all such other things to him meet and belonging . . . during his said natural life". In contrast, his executors were just asked to bring up Nicholas and the two daughters during their minority.

The original of this will is too faint to read and the probate book is tightly bound so that the ends of the lines of the first page cannot be read (at least on the film)

1 In the name of god Amen. The twelfth day of April
2 in the year of our lord god one thousand six hundred and . .
3 and in the eleventh year of the reign of . .
4 king James, his majesty that now is. I, John Page of
5 Shipbourne, in the county of Kent, **glover**, of perfect . .
6 and memory, thanks be to almighty god, notwithstanding . .
7 in body and not knowing the certainty of the time of decease
8 yet knowing that I shall change this life . .
9 such order may be had that those small transitory . .
10 and goods which god hath lent me may be quietly enjoyed after
11 my decease by those whom I have meant the same . .
12 therefore do ordain and make this my present testament
13 and last will in manner and form following, that
14 is to say, **First** and most importantly . . .
15 soul in to the hands of almighty god who gave it,
16 trusting by an undoubted faith which I have in the . .
17 precious death and bloodshedding of my lord Jesus Christ,
18 I shall be partaker of the glorious kingdom of . .

page 2:

19 with all the holy company of saints in heaven. And my body
20 to the earth to be buried in the churchyard of Shipbourne
21 aforesaid. **Item:** give and bequeath to **Zebedeus Page, my**
22 **son**, the sum of five pounds lawful money to be paid unto
23 him within one year next after my decease. And I will that
24 executors hereafter named, their executors or assigns, shall well
25 and honestly provide and give to him, my said son Zebedeus, yearly
26 and every year, during his natural ?? and all manner of
27 meet and convenient meat, drink, house room, lodging and
28 washing and all such other things to him meet and belonging
29 (app?? executors) during his said natural life. **Item:**
30 I give and bequeath to **Nicholas Page, my son**, the sum of five
31 pounds of lawful money to be paid to him at his age of eighteen
32 years. **Item:** I bequeath to **my two daughters, Jane and Mary**
33 **Page**, to either of them, the sum of five pounds of lawful
34 money apiece to be paid to them, and either of them, at their
35 several ages of twenty years. And I will that if my
36 said son Nicholas or daughters, or any of them, happen
37 to decease before the years of their several ages afore
38 limited, that the portion of him, her or them so dying shall
39 be equally shifted and paid among all my children then
40 living as well Lebede as the rest, ?? my

41 executors to bring up my said son Nicholas and daughters
42 during their minority to whose ?? ?? ?? trust
43 them desiring almighty god to ?? and keep them
44 The residue of all my goods and chattels, ??
45 and chattels and all other my moveable goods whatsoever,
46 I wholly, fully and with good effect, intent and purpose,
47 give and bequeath to **Mary, my beloved wife**, and
48 to **John Page, my son**, which Mary and John I
49 make and ordain my whole and joint executors ??
50 them to pay my debts and legacies, to bring up or see that
51 my children be brought up in the ?? ?? ?? my
52 body honestly brought to the earth and this my ?? ??
53 and trusting my said son John to be ?? ?? ??
54 assisting his mother ?? Witnesses ?? to this my last

page 3:

55 will, I, the said John Page the elder, have set my hand
56 and seal even the day and year first above written

no witnesses given in the probate book

Sylvester Page of Wrotham

Since Sylvester Page of Wrotham mentions his sister Mabell and the children of his brother Richard, deceased, which agree with the sons of Richard Page of Shipbourne who died in 1623, it is likely that Sylvester, the son of Sylvester Page of Whites, moved to Wrotham. He had probably gone there to take up a position with "George Segars, gent." who had more than seven children, the "seven younger children" being left £1 each and the eldest son being "forgiven" the £1 he had borrowed from Sylvester.

When this Sylvester wrote his will he was in his thirties; he owned a messuage or tenement in Shipbourne "withall the outhouses, barns and buildings, lands and backside to the same belonging, now in the occupation of Thomas Huggens" which he had presumably inherited from his father. This he left to his sister and her heirs; Mabell had married Thomas Sandell and the baptisms of two sons were recorded but, since her brother mentions only Henry, perhaps Thomas died young.

The Huggens were a large Shipbourne family and the Thomas living in Sylvester's house was probably \$673 who married on 31st July 1627.

the left hand top corner of the will is very difficult to read; those words in italics have been assumed from the context; the will does not seem to have begun with the usual "In the name of god Amen".

- 1 I, Sylvester Page of Wrotham in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being sick in
body
2 but of perfect memory, thanks be to Almighty god, do make and ordain
3 ?? my last will and testament, this twentieth day of September, Anno die
4 1629 in manner and form following: **Firstly** I bequeath my soul to Almighty
5 god who gave it me and my body to the earth. **Item:** I give to every one of
6 the children of **my brother Richard Page**, deceased, viz. to **John, George** and
7 **Richard Page**, the sum of forty shillings a piece. **Item:** I give to my
8 ?? **Malmesly** the sum of ten shillings. **Item:** I give to every one of my
9 master **Segars** seven younger children twenty shillings a piece.
10 ?? do forgive to **his eldest son** the sum of twenty shillings
11 which de doth owe unto me. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my sister**
Mabell,
12 now **wife of Thomas Sandell**, and to her heirs for ever, all that my

13 ?? property, right title and interest of in and to all that messuage or
tenement in
14 **Shipbourne** withall the outhouses, barns and buildings, lands and backside
to
15 the same belonging, now in the occupation of **Thomas Huggens**. **Item:** I
16 give and bequeath to every one of my godchildren the sum of two
17 shillings six pence a piece. **Item:** I give and bequeath to the **wife of**
18 **Reginald Terry**, my best blanket and the other to **my fellow servant**
19 **Elizabeth Taylor**. And I do hereby make and ordain **my master**
20 **George Segars, gent.** executor of this my present last will and
21 testament desiring him to see my body decently buried and this my
22 will proved and performed. And I do further give unto my sister
23 Mabell all my household stuff and implements of household not
24 formerly bequeathed except one great joined chest and a joined
25 bedstead which I give to **her son Henry Sandell**. In witness
26 whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal and published
27 the same to be my last will and testament the day and year
28 abovesaid. Sylvester Page his mark

Sealed, signed, published and
declared in the presence of
James Lawrence
the mark of **Reginald Terry**

transcript up line 24 from the original; the rest of the original has rotted away and the transcript is from the probate copy. This will was written by **John Hooper**, notary public and parish clerk of Tonbridge who wrote a large number of wills for people in the locality.

1 In²⁸⁹ the name of god Amen. The seven and twentieth day of
2 April in the year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord James
3 by the grace of God king England, Scotland, France
4 and Ireland, defender of the faith, that is to say of England,
5 France and Ireland the ninth and of Scotland the 44th.
6 I, John Parris, of Tonbridge in the County of Kent and diocese
7 of Rochester, being at this time sick in body and thereby, as by many
8 afore example, put in mind of my last end, notwithstanding of
9 good remembrance, thanks be to God, do ordain and make this
10 my present testament and last will in manner and form following:
11 And **First** and principally I commend and bequeath my soul
12 to Almighty God, my maker, with an assured hope of salvation

289 decorated "I"

13 by and through the merit of Jesus Christ, his dear son, my saviour,
14 and my body to the earth from whence it was taken with an assured
15 hope of Resurrection to eternal life through the same Jesus Christ,
16 my Redeemer. **Item:** I will to the poor people of Tonbridge, those
17 that shall be thought most needy by mine executrix hereafter
18 named, 10s to be distributed in the day of my burial. **Item:** I will
19 and bequeath to **John Parris, my son**, the sum of twenty pounds
20 lawful english money to be paid unto him at his age of twenty
21 and one years by mine executrix hereafter named. And if my said
22 son happen to decease before he shall accomplis his
23 said age of 21 years, then I will the said £20 shalbe to the only use
24 of mine executrix hereafter named, her executors and assigns for ever.

The residue

- of all and every my goods, cattells, chattels, credits,
- household stuff and utensils, I wholly and fully
- give and bequeath to **Mary, my wellbeloved wife**,
- whom I make and ordain my sole and only execu
- trix, to see this my will proved, my debts and lega
- cies paid and my funeral discharged²⁹⁰
- and I do ordain and make overseers of this my

- testament **Edward Godman of Ifield** and
- **Edward Carratt of Tonbridge** desiring them to
- take some pains that this my will may take effect
- according to the true meaning of the same. (To them)
- I give ten shillings apiece over and above (their)
- chardges to be expended in that behalf. In
- . . . the said John Parris hereto the . .
- present testament and last will set my hand and
- seal yeven²⁹¹ the day and year above written . .
- published and declared in the presence of ??
- **Harrison, Richard Harris, John Hooper.**

The Partriches of Seal

Five wills have survived for Partriche (or Patrich) of Seal; other wills have survived from Hadlow, Tonbridge and Leigh.

John Partriche	30 Jan 1454/5	CKS: Drb/Pwr 2.23	
Richard Partriche	1497	CKS: Drb/Pwr 5.286	
John Partriche	1507	CKS: Drb/Pwr 6.235	page p.40
Peter Partriche	7 Jul 1523	CKS: Drb/Pwr 7.275	page p.43
John Partriche	1555	CKS: Drb/Pwr 11.349	page p.46

John Partriche, in 1455, left some lands to William Phylpot and his wife, Johane; one of these was called "Pecottsole" and this land was charged with the maintenance of a light valued at 3s 4d which was to burn in the church of Seal²⁹².

Richard's will has not been investigated.

²⁹² Incumbents of Kemsing with Seal, A.C.Vol.20, p.264

John Partrich, will 1507

In 1507 John left land to be divided between his three sons and a shop "to be put to the use" of his daughters. The Peter whose will has survived could have been one of this John's sons since, although all John's children were under twenty-two in 1507, if Peter had been born about 1490 he would have been in his early thirties in 1523, old enough to have been married with one son:

		#4246 ²⁹³		John - Joan #4248			
will:				1507			

#4249		#4250		#4251		#4254	#4252 #4253
Richard		Agnes		Peter - Johane		Ellen	John
will:				7 Jul 1523			
				#4255			
				Thomas			

²⁹³ # indicates a reference in the Seal database

John Partriche, will 1555

The John whose will of 1555 has survived does not seem to have been married. He started by giving 6s 8s to the church "to buy such things as shall seem best to mine executor" and 3s 4d to the poor. Later in his will he asked for two masses to be said for his soul on the day he was buried giving to Father Mills, presumably for saying these masses, 8d. Less unusual for 1555 was 3s 4d and "more if need require" for mending the lane "betwixt Kywinyns Gate and Smythet Cross". Also, the neighbours who brought his body to the church were to have 2s. These bequests totalled 16s (80p).

This John also left a large number of small sums of money to his relatives and friends, totally under 10s (50p):

sister Johane	3s	15 p
her children: John	6d	2½p
Thomas	6d	2½p
William	6d	2½p
two daughters (each)	6d	2½p

each of Haloway's children ²⁹⁴	4d	1.7p
Alice Porter	12d	5 p
Johane Porter	12d	5 p
Andrew Porter	4d	1.7p
Johane Symon, daughter of Symon, the labourer ²⁹⁵	12d	5 p

Although this John 1555 could have been #4246's son, he had a sister Johane married to William Hadlow and #4246 does not mention a daughter of that name. William Hadlow could have been the William whose will of 1587 has survived. All his children were adults by 1588; he had sons John, William and Thomas (who died in 1562) and two daughters - see **Hadlow** wills.

²⁹⁴ there were Holloways in Seal - see *holloww.wil*

²⁹⁵ there were a large number of Symons recorded in the parish register - see *symons.fam* - but only after 1564

#4257		#289		#288	
John		Johane	-	William Hadlow	
will: 13 Jul 1555				23 Jun 1587	
#1016		#4259		#290	
Agnes/Ann		John		Thomas	
				William	
				23 Jan 1562	
bur:				Margaret	

John Partriche appointed as his executors Edmond Porter of Chart and William Christopher of Bitchet. Although the Porters were a large Seal family, the only Edmonds recorded were from Sevenoaks. 1555 was, however, before parish records have survived, so that there could have been an Edmond at Chart.

The Christophers were another large Seal family but Bitchet was not mentioned in their wills. William Christopher, who died in 1562, owned a large amount of land some of which was in the Bitchet area.

John appointed the vicar, Thomas Taylor, as his overseer whom he beseeched and required "[as he will answer at the day of doom, to bring me home as they think convenient and afterwards see this, my last will and testament, performed and made](#)". Thomas Taylor, clerk, was the first witness of John's will and it was probably the vicar who wrote it.

William Patrick of Seal

There was a William Patrick who married twice in Seal in the 1560s; Patrick could be a version of Partriche but no William was mentioned in the Partrich wills:

#248	A l i c e	M o n k e (m)	-	#247	W i l l i a m	-	E l i z a b e t h	H o l o m b y n e	#120
<i>mar:</i>	15	Nov	1563				29	Nov	1565
<i>bur:</i>	12	Jul	1565		20	Aug	1599		
							E l i z a b e t h	#398	
<i>bap:</i>							3	Aug	1567

Will of John Partriche of Seal

written 22nd J...y²⁹⁶ 1507

transcript from probate copy; original has not survived

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The 22 day of
- 2 J...y in the year of our lord god 1507, I, John
- 3 Patrich of Seal make my testament in this wise.

²⁹⁶ could be January or July

4 **First:** I bequeath my soul to god and my body to
5 be buried in the churchyard of Seal aforesaid.
6 **Item:** I bequeath to the high altar 8d.
7 **Item:** I bequeath to **Richard Stockwell, parish clerk, 6d**
8 **Item:** I bequeath to **Agnes and Ellen, my daughters,**
9 my shop to be put to such use for the said Agnes
10 and Ellen. The residue of all my goods,
11 my debts paid, I will and bequeath to **Joan, my**
12 **wife,** to dispose them for my soul as she will
13 whom I make my executrix; witness hereof
14 **Sir John Wrop. ., curate of Seal, . . .**

15 This is the last will of me, John Patrich,
16 made the day and year abovesaid. **First:** I
17 will that Joan, my wife, shall have my tenement
18 and all my lands which I have in Seal unto
19 the time my children come to the age of 22
20 years. And then I will that my tenement and
21 lands shalbe divided unto this manner: **First:**
22 I will that **Richard, my son,** shall have my
23 house in the which I dwell in, and the croft of
24 land and th'appurtenances, to him and to his heirs for
25 evermore paying to **Peter, his brother, 20s**

26 after the time that he hath had his lands in
27 his own hands the space of 4 years. Also I will
28 that **John, my son**, when that he cometh to the
29 age of 22 years shall have 2 pieces of land
30 called **Beldan land** to him and to his heirs
31 for evermore paying to my two daughters, at
32 the marriage, to each of them 3s 4d. Also
33 I will that Peter, my son, shall have 2 pieces
34 of land called **Ay- Wodjon** and ?? **Wodjon**
35 to him and to his heirs for evermore when he
36 shall come to the age beforesaid. Also I will
37 that when my sons, Richard, John and Peter,
38 come to the age of 22 years that they pay
39 to Joan, my wife, an annual rent of 5s
40 by year during her life equally to be paid
41 amongst them. Also I will that, if it happen
42 that any of my said sons to decease afore the said
43 age of 22 years, then I will that the over
44 livers be heirs to those that so deceased. And if
45 it happen that they all die before the said age,
46 then I will that Joan, my wife, shall have
47 my tenement and all my lands the rest of her
48 life. And after her decease I will the said tenement

49 and lands be sold by my feoffees and the money
50 thereof coming to be disposed by my feoffees in
51 part to my daughters, if any be alive.
52 And the other part to the reparation of the
53 church of Seal.

Will of Peter Partriche of Seal

written 7th July 1523

transcript from probate copy; original has not survived

1 In the name of god Amen. The 7th day of July, the year
2 of our lord god 1523, I, Peter Partriche of Seal, whole
3 in mind, make my will in this wise. **First:** I bequeath
4 my soul to god, my body to be buried in the church
5 yard of Seal. **Item:** to the high altar for my tithes for
6 gotten 12d. **Item:** I will there be bestowed at my burial
7 40d. At my month's mind 6s 8d. **Item:** I bequeath
8 to **Thomas, my son**, one bullock, one steer and one colt. Also I
9 charge **Johane, my wife**, with one black heifer cow to keep one
10 yearly obit for my soul, my father's soul and mother's soul
11 -- in the church of Seal aforesaid 20d yearly. The

12 residue of all my goods not bequeathed, I give wholly to Johane,
13 my wife, to do so with her own free will after my debts
14 paid, my burying made and this my present testament fulfilled.

15 This is the last will of me the foresaid Peter. **First:** I
16 will that Johane, my wife, have all my house and lands lying
17 in the parish of Seal unto the time Thomas, my son,
18 cometh to the age of 21 years. And if it happen
19 the said Johane to marry then I will she pay to
20 Thomas, my son, 20s when he cometh to the age
21 of 21 years or within the said year. And then he
22 to enter in to all my lands and tenements, to have to him
23 and his heirs forever. Except my croft called
24 **Dychfelde** with the work²⁹⁷ house with one portion of land
25 lying thereto, the which croft of land and work
26 house with the portion of land, I give to Johane, my
27 wife, the time of her life. And after her decease,
28 I will the said croft and work house shall remain
29 unto Thomas, my son, to have to him, his heirs and
30 assigns forever. Also I will the said Thomas, after
31 he cometh to the age of 21 years, pay to his

297 waike? work?

32 mother 3s 4d yearly as long as she liveth.
33 Also I will that Johane, my wife, do bestow in reparation
34 of my house when it is needful 6s 8d.
35 And if she bestow more in reparation ere Thomas,
36 my son, come to the age of 21 years, then the
37 said Thomas, my son, shall recompense her again.
38 And if it fortune that Thomas, my son, die ere he
39 come to the age of 21 years, then I will that Johane,
40 my wife, have all my houses and lands, the term
41 of her life. And after her decease, I will the said house
42 and lands shall be sold to the most value. The
43 money so coming, I will it be bestowed to an honest
44 priest to sing for my soul, my father's soul and all
45 christian souls in the parish church of Seal. **Witnesses:**
46 **Sir Christopher Sharpeharrow²⁹⁸, Thomas Ro---, jurat**
47 **Thomas Best** and others.

298 Christopher Sharpeharrow was curate of Seal in 1523 and probably wrote this will

1 In dei more amen. Anno dm one thousand
2 five hundred and 55 . . month July 13, I, John Partriche
3 of the parish of Seal of perfect memory and mind,
4 thanks be to god, make and declare my last will
5 and testament in manner and form following: that
6 is to say, **First:** I bequeath my soul into the hands
7 of god and into the holy company of heaven and my
8 body to be buried in the common churchyard of the
9 forsaid parish. **Item:** I give and bequeath to Seal
10 church, to buy such things as shall seem best
11 to mine executor to buy, 6s 8d. **Item:** I will there
12 shalbe given to the poor people 3s 4d. **Item:** I
13 give to **my sister Johane Hadlow** 3s. **Item:** I
14 give to **John Hadlow**, my sister's son 6d. **Item:**
15 I give to **Thomas Hadlow**, my sister's son 6d.
16 **Item:** to every one of **Haloway's children** 4d.
17 **Item:** I give to **John Hills's wife of Godden** 12d.
18 **Item:** to **Alice Porter** and **Johane** either of them 12d.
19 **Item:** I give **Andrew Porter** 4d. **Item:** I give

20 **Johane Symon, the daughter of Symon the**
21 **labourer, 12d. Item:** I will that my neighbours
22 that bring me to the church shall have
23 bestowed upon them when I am buried 2s.
24 **Item:** I will that two masses be said for my
25 soul the same day I am buried. **Item:** I
26 give to **Father Mills** 8d. **Item:** I give to
27 mend the lane lying betwixt **Kywinyns**
28 **gate and Smythet Cross** 3s 4d and more if
29 need require. **Item:** I give to **my sister's**
30 **daughters**²⁹⁹, either of them, 6d. **Item:** I give to
31 **William Hadlow, my sister's son, 6d. Item:** I
32 will that **Edmond Porter of Chart** and **William**
33 **Christopher of Bitchet** shall receive of **William**
34 **Hadlow, my brother-in-law,** the sum of
35 £4 of lawful money of England that
36 he is in debt unto me and they to bestow the
37 same for my soul according to their discretion

page 2:

38 And the tenor of my will and either of them shall
39 have for their pains taking 3s 4d. **Item:** Further
40 more, I will that 20s that is in the hands of Edmund
41 Porter be bestowed in like manner as before, at their
42 discretion. **Item:** I do constitute and ordain my trusty
43 and loving friends Edmond Porter of Chart and
44 William Christopher of Bitchet mine executors and the
45 **vicar of Kemsing and Seal**, my ghostly³⁰⁰ father, mine
46 overseer whom I beseech and require, as he will
47 answer at the day of doom, to bring me home
48 as they think convenient and afterwards see this,
49 my last will and testament, performed and made
50 in the presence of these witnesses whose names be
51 published. **Item:** I will for the space of five years
52 mine executors shall give in bread as much
53 as shall cost two shillings and ?? for the space.
54 **Thomas Tayllor, clerk**, Edmond Porter, **William**
55 **Warren** and Johane Hadlow³⁰¹.

300 "goostely"; Thomas Taylor was the vicar at this time

301 presumably John's sister

The will of Thomas Pattle (**CKS: Prs/w/12/205**) has survived but no burial was recorded in the Ightham parish register. The first bequest was to the three women who were looking after him in his sickness. That to his friends of a pair of boots and a pair of cuffs was most unusual.

1 In the name of god Amen. The 22th day
2 of December 1637, I, Thomas Pattle of Ightham
3 in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, sick of body
4 but of good and perfect memory (God be
5 praised) do make and ordain this my last
6 will and testament in manner and form follow
7 ing: that is to say, **First:** I commend my
8 soul into the hands of God, my maker, hoping
9 assuredly through the only merits of Jesus
10 Christ, my saviour, to be made partaker of
11 life everlasting. And I commend my body to
12 the earth whereof it was made. **Item:** I give

13 to those three ??³⁰² which have taken great
14 pains with me in my sickness, **Hanna Barrett**
15 **Sara Swayne and Goodwife Cooper**³⁰³ ten shillings
16 a piece of lawful money of England. **Item:**
17 I give to **Thomas Swayne and William Simons**³⁰⁴ each
18 of them one pair of boots, one plain ?? and
19 one pair of cuffs. **Item:** I give to **my beloved**
20 **sister Elizabeth Crowne, the wife of William Crowne,**
21 **of Burrough in Suffolk** ten pounds. And
22 of this my present testament I make and ordain
23 **my beloved brother William Pattle** my sole and only
24 executor and I bequeath to him all my debts and
25 goods which I have left and not bequeathed and
26 I desire him to see this my last will performed
27 within six months after my decease. In
28 witness whereof I have here unto made my
29 mark and seal the day and year above written.

302 "peryes": persons, people?

303 There were Barrets and Coopers recorded in Ightham but no Swaynes

304 A William Simons married in August 1638

Sealed and delivered in the
presence of **Nath. Hancocke**³⁰⁵

Tho. ??

?? ??

The mark of **X**

Tho. Pattle

305

In 1644 James Cubit of Ightham left a pair of gloves each to Mr. Nathaniel Hancock and his wife Katherine but the only Hancock recorded in the parish register was the baptism of Good, daughter of John Hancocke on 19th May 1619.

John Pearce (or Perse) wrote his own will on 21st July 1581 (**CKS: Drb/Pwr 16.208, Drb/Pw 13**). It is very long and only part of it has been transcribed. It is headed with a religious couplet and, at the end, there is a "[special remembrance](#)" for his overseers concerning his house at Loose, near Maidstone, which was mortgaged with repayment due in 1585 and also a memorandum concerning £70 left to his children by his mother-in-law. This £70 was to be "[put forth yearly](#)" and the yearly profit from it paid his wife "[for the better bringing up](#)" of the children". The £40 owed on the house and £40 of the children's £70 was "[in the hands of Henry Edmed of Norsted](#)".

will headed by:

The Lord Jesus in all my doings be my guide
And in heaven my soul always to abide

. . I, John Pearce, of the parish of Milton-next-Gravesend in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being whole in body and of a perfect remembrance, thanks be given to the almighty and everlasting god, do here make this last will and testament in manner and form following: **First:** I bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty

god, my maker and redeemer, hoping and trusting through his bloodshedding that my soul shall inherit the everlasting kingdom of heaven, the which I pray daily to the Lord to grant it me. And my body to the earth within the church door of Milton or elsewhere. **Item:** I give and bequeath to the parish church of Milton for and towards the reparation of the same church 3s 4d.

4 pages

written with mine own hand 22 day of July 1582 by me, John Pearce.

The disposition of all my land and tenements

4 pages

1st August 1582, again signed by me, John Pearce.

followed by:

A special remembrance for my overseers to do after my decease
for the behoof of my heirs ?? my house at Maidstone

Item: I will that **my cousin Edward Darbishire, my cousin Thomas ??** . . do pay, or cause to be paid, the sum of £40 without delay to one **Agnes Swayne of Loose**³⁰⁶, **late wife of one Nicholas Dr--**, late of Loose besides Maidstone, deceased, or to her assigns in the day and feast of Saint Michael Th'archangel which shalbe in the year of our lord one thousand five hundred four score and five years³⁰⁷ in the south porch of the parish church of Loose between the hours of one and four of the clock in the afternoon of the same day if she, the said Agnes, do so long live. Otherwise, if she be departed out of this world, then the said sum of £40 to be paid, at the said time, place and hour as is aforesaid, to one **Thomas Astin and Stephen Astin, her sons**, according to a deed for non-payment of the said £40 as more at large appeareth by a deed whereof one counterpain remaineth in my keeping. Therefore I shall devise you all, or one of you, to foresee that my heirs do not loose the said inheritance of the house for the lack of payment of the said £40 as my only trust is in you all.

Memorandum: there remaineth in the hands of **Henry Edmed of Norsted** the said sum of £40 for to redeem the said tenement . . there remaineth more in the hand of the said Henry Edmed £40 which is my children's money that my **mother-in-law, Mistress Dodd**, did give them. And £30 remaineth in my own custody more,

³⁰⁶ two miles south of Maidstone

³⁰⁷ this is over four years after the time John was writing his will

to be equally divided between my children had by my first wife, which said sum of £70 I would should be put forth yearly and the money that . . of the same money yearly shalbe paid over to my said wife for the better bringing up of my said children and this is my will and mind. By me John Pearce.

Anne Peake als Chaunteler of Tonbridge

Anne had two daughters, Margaret and Marie. Marie was married to James Denning and they had at least three children to whom Anne left a number of items.

Margaret's husband, John Joanes, had left her but Anne was worried that he might reappear and lay claim to some of the goods she had left. Margaret was to be Anne's executrix and it might be this worry that John would return which led Anne to specify that instead of the legacies to her grandchildren being paid at a specified age, they were to be kept by Margaret until "[such time and times as mine executrix shall perceive them to . . . \(be\) of discretion or otherwise meet to use the same. And until such time and times shall remain in my said house and not be delivered unto them.](#)"

This would have given Margaret flexibility so that "[if John Joanes, my son-in-law, shall hereafter come again and be or live with my daughter, Margaret, his wife, . . . I will all and every those before mentioned legacies shall forth with, after his coming again, be delivered to those . . . to whom the same are given and bequeathed](#)". In addition, if John returned, one brass pan and half her pewter not

before willed were to be given to Marie, being delivered to her immediately after his arrival.

Anne was also worried that Marie's husband (surname Denning) might "vex" her executrix. If he did then he and his children were to loose their legacies.

When Margaret died, Anne's house "[with the chamber, commonly called the underchamber](#)" and the garden were to go to Edward Denning, her grandson, on condition that he paid his mother an annuity of twenty shillings. Unusually, instead of the payment of this annuity being set for one of the feast days, the first payment was to be made "[that day twelvemonth](#)" after the date on which Margaret died "[and the next payment that day come two years and so to continue during the natural life of the said Marie](#)".

The Will of Anne Peake als Chaunteler of Tonbridge

written 13th February 1609/10

transcript from original

This will (CKS: Drb/Pw 22; Drb/Pwr 20.158) 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 has a version of the "Hooper mark" at the top and the decoration of the initial "I" includes a face smoking a pipe.

Hooper mark

1 In the name of god Amen. the thirteenth day of February in the
2 year of our sovereign lord James, by the grace of God, king of England,
Scotland,
3 France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. of England, France and
Ireland the seventh
4 and of Scotland the three and fortieth, 1609. I, Anne Peake, als. Chaunteler,
of
5 Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **widow**, being³⁰⁸ at this time in reasonable
good health (God be
6 thanked) notwithstanding very aged and lame and thereby, as by many
other examples, put in mind
7 of my last end, do therefore ordain and make this my present testament and
last will in manner following:

308 "beeing"; "ee" generally throughout

8 is to say **First:** I commend and bequeath my soul to Almighty god, my
maker, with an assured hope (of)
9 salvation through Jesus Christ, my saviour, and my body to the earth from
whence it was
10 taken. **Item:** I bequeath and give to **Edward Denning, son of my son-in-law,**
James Denning,
11 one flockbed, bedstead and furniture thereto as it standeth near the stairs³⁰⁹
here in my
12 now dwelling house and the table standing besides the said bed. **Item:** I
give to **Susan**
13 **Denning, his sister,** one flockbed, bedstead, two bolsters of flock, one court
coverlet and such other
14 furniture as is to the said bed as it standeth in the chamber where the
foresaid bed standeth, also one
15 chest of beech³¹⁰ with a lock, one pair of sheets and four pieces of pewter.
Item: I give to
16 **Cicell Denning, her sister,** one pair of sheets, 4 pieces of pewter and one
joined chest,

309 steares

310 "beach"

17 the chest to be delivered unto her after the decease of mine executrix
hereafter named. **Item:** I will
18 that the table, form and one chest in the parlour and the boards unlaid in
the garret loft
19 shall remain and continue in my said house as standers to the same. **Item:**
I will that all
20 and any legacy aforenamed shalbe delivered to such as it is bequeathed
unto, by mine executrix
21 at such time and times as mine executrix shall perceive them to whom it
appertaineth of discretion or
22 otherwise meet to use the same. And until such time and times shall
remain in my
23 said house and not be delivered unto them. **Item:** I will to my son-in-law,
James Denning,
24 one great black locked chest, one brass rottell being the biggest which he
useth to borrow
25 and one iron pot to be delivered him immediately after my decease.
Provided always,
26 if **John Joanes, my son-in-law**, shall hereafter come again and be or live
with **my daughter**,
27 **Margaret, his wife**, from whom he is ^{deceased} and gone, I will all and every
those

28 before mentioned legacies shall forth with, after his coming again, be
delivered to those before
29 mentioned respectively to whom the same are given and bequeathed. And
I farther
30 will (if the said John Joanes shall come again and be or live with his said
wife or intermeddle
31 with any my goods to her, by me, bequeathed) one brass pan and half my
pewter not before willed unto
32 **Marie, my daughter, the wife of the said James Denning**, to be delivered
unto her
33 immediately after his such being come again. **Item:** I do hereby provide
and my will is that
34 if James Denning, aforesaid, do vex or mislo? mine executrix for any my
goods after my
35 decease wrongfully or otherwise of malice, that then his children and
himself shall loose
36 the legacies before mentioned to them willed and bequeathed; and the
same shalbe to the use of mine
37 executrix. The residue of all my moveable goods and chattels whatsoever, I
give
38 and bequeath to the said Margaret, my daughter, whom I make and ordain
my sole and

39 only executrix to see this my will proved, my debts paid and my funeral
discharged³¹¹.

40 This³¹² is also the last will of me the said Anne Peake, als. Chaunteler,
41 made and declared the day abovesaid touching the disposing of my house
in the church
42 lane in Tonbridge aforesaid. **Item:** I will and devise to the said Margaret,
my
43 daughter, all and only the same house or tenement with the chamber,
commonly called the
44 underchamber, thereunto belonging and the garden also belonging, to hold
to her and her
45 assigns for, by and during the whole term of her natural life, she keeping
the same
46 well repaired. And after the decease of the said Margaret, I will and give
all and
47 every the said messuage or tenement, underchamber and garden, withall
48 and singular th'appurtenances unto the aforenamed Edward Denning, my
grandchild, to

311 "dischardged"

312 "T" decorated

49 hold to him and his heirs and assigns for ever. Provided always, and my
very
50 will and mind is that the said Edward Denning, his heirs and assigns, shall
from and
51 after the decease of the said Margaret, my daughter, content and pay to
Marie, his mother,
52 if she be then alive, yearly and every year during her natural life, the sum of
twenty
53 shillings of lawful english money, the first term or time of payment thereof
to be
54 and begin that day twelvemonth in which the said Margaret shall happen
to decease
55 and the next payment that day come two years and so to continue during
the natural life of
56 the said Marie. And for nonpayment thereof accordingly to her or her
assigns or
57 within eight days next ensuing every day of payment, I will it shall be
lawful to and for
58 the said Marie and her assigns to enter and distrain in and upon the said
messuage
59 or tenement and premises, or any part thereof, and the distrss or distresses
thereof taken

60 from time to time to lead, drive and bear away and the same to withhold
until the
61 said 20s yearly to her given shalbe (together with th'arrearages thereof)
contented and
62 paid to her according to the intent and true meaning of this my will. In
witness
63 whereof I, the said Anne Peake, als. Chaunteler, have to this my present
testament
64 and last will set my hand and seal yeven the day and year first above
written.

Sealed, published and
declared in the presence of
Nicholas Fermer

?? ?/ and

John Hooper, notary publiq:

the mark of Anne

Peake als

Chaunteler

First: I bequeath my soul unto Almighty god and unto Lady, Saint Mary and all the blessed company in heaven. And my body to be buried in the churchyard of Dartford.

The Peckhams of Ightham

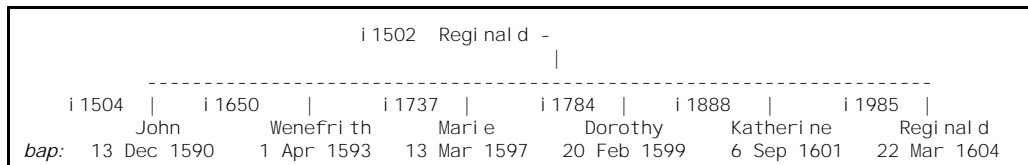
The short will of Elizabeth Peckham of Ightham (**PCC; Hele 103, Prob 11/149**) shows that her sister was Mrs. Multon and her nephew, who was to be her executor, was Robert Multon (i1586³¹³) of St. Cleres.

Robert Multon, son of George and Athelreda, was baptised in August 1594 and was therefore twenty-seven when Elizabeth wrote her will in May 1622. It thus appears that Athelreda was Elizabeth's sister. Elizabeth's brother was Mr. John Richard, Esquire, so both Elizabeth and Athelreda (who was recorded as Audrey when she was buried in 1638) would also have been born Richard and Elizabeth presumably married a Peckham. No Richards were recorded in Ightham at this time.

Athelreda was probably born in the early 1570s and, if she was a similar age, Elizabeth was about fifty when the will was written but it was not proved until 8th July 1626. Her burial was not recorded in Ightham. Elizabeth Peckham witnessed the will of William Hadlow of Ightham in 1609.

313 i indicates a reference in the Ightham database

Reginald Peckham, gent., was mentioned in the Ightham Court Rolls for both the periods 1553-74 and 1586-1618; perhaps these were father and son with son being the father of the children born between 1590 and 1604:



It is unlikely that Elizabeth was Reginald's wife since she mentions no children and, if she had been, one would have expected one of Reginald's daughters to have been called "Elizabeth"; she could, however, have been his sister-in-law.

A **James Peckham, esquire**, owned land in Ightham in 1490³¹⁴. A James Peckham was also mentioned in both the 1553-74 and 1586-1618 records (esquire in the later period).

314 see *Excerpts from Ightham Court Rolls*.

Henry Peckham, gentleman, came before the Court on 5th October 1591 for having assaulted Haberdejohnd at Ightham in Haberdijohn's house on the 1st September prior to the Court. He "then and there struck him with his dagger, drawing blood. Fined 3s 4d." (CRI 1938, p.4)

John Haberdejohnd appeared again six months later, this time as the defendant. On 5th April 1592, he was found to have "encroached upon the land of **William Hatche, near Tricewell**, with his hedge there. Given till the next Court to amend it, under penalty 10s." (CRI 1937, p.217) Trice Well was a spring, east of Ightham village (CRI 1938, p.82).

1 In the name of god Amen. The second
2 day of May one thousand six hundred twenty two. I, Elizabeth Peckham, of
the
3 parish of Ightham in the county of Kent, being sick in body but whole in
mind, do
4 ordain and make this my last will and testament in manner and form
following:
5 **First:** I bequeath my soul to the mercies of Jesus Christ by whose merits I
hope
6 to be³¹⁵ saved and my body to the earth where it shall seem best to my
executor. **Item:** I give to my
7 **sister, Mrs. Multon,** all my wearing linen, my apparel and my coffers. All
the rest of my
8 goods and all my money which is in the hands of **my brother Mr. John**
Richard, Esquire, due unto me
9 upon his bond and that remaineth due to me from him besides that which
is mentioned in the

315 "bee" but probate copy

10 bond the sum whereof will appear in my bill of reckoning and receipt from
11 him, my said
12 brother. All which goods and money I said I do give and bequeath to **my**
13 **loving nephew Robert**
14 **Multon of St. Cleres** in the parish of Ightham in the county of Kent, **Esquire**,
15 whom I
16 constitute, make and ordain, my sole and whole executor. In witness
17 whereof I have set my
18 hand seal the day and year above written. E.P. Sealed and delivered in the
19 presence of **Chr.**
20 **Rogers³¹⁶, George Slaie, Isaac Sedley, John Sedley.**

316 Christopher Rogers, gent. (11889) - see *rrl.fmi*; Sir John Sedley (12284) - see *ssi.fmi*

The Pelsetts of Ightham

Persolt, Pelsolt, Pelsed, Pelset, Pellsant, etc. are all variations of this name. There were Pelsetts in both Ightham and Seal but any connections between the Seal and Ightham Pelsetts are not discernible from any of the documents investigated.

The Pelsett family were substantial land holders in Ightham for several generations with **Alice and Agnes Pelsolte, brewers**, and **John Pelsolte, senior, and John Pelsolte, poulterer**, being mentioned in the records for 1425-6.³¹⁷

John and William Pelsholt were brewers between 1461 and 1475, when a **Thomas Pelsholt** was also mentioned.

"A Court Roll of 1499 mentions **John Pelsouth, ripier**, that is, a carrier of fish by pack-horse from the coast to London and elsewhere. Fish Street, about 100 yards south of Ightham village street, on the west side of the Ightham-Tonbridge road, was mentioned in 1589. It lies on a route between London and the coast and may have been associated with a repier's business." (CRI 1938, p.72)

³¹⁷ See Section I for Excerpts from the Court Rolls for Ightham which gives more details of some of the cases mentioned here

Also mentioned in the records for 1490 to 1508 were **Thomas Pelsouth, ale taster and brewer, Walter Pelsouth and William Pelsouth, brewer.** (CRI 1938, p.54)

In 1552, when an inventory of the goods of the parish church was taken, **William Pelset** was one of the churchwardens.³¹⁸. This could have been the William Pelsatt who was one of the witnesses at the Bing v. Hooper case, 1564-6; a **Reginald Pelsatt** also features in this case which is described in the *Excerpts from the Ightham Court Rolls*. Reginald could have been the brother of John Pelsett of Seal whose will from 1558 has survived. A **William Pelsoit, yeoman**, was also mentioned between 1553 and 1574.

Richard Pelsett

The Court held on 4th October 1586 heard that a certain "stranger, by the reception and toleration of **Richard Pelsott** had come within the precincts of this View of Frank-pledge and had not found two good and sufficient sureties for his good behaviour: wherefore, by the authority of this Court it was ordered" that the stranger should produce sureties by the next Court or depart or Pelsott would be fined 3s 4d. (CRI 1938, p.15).

318 F.J.Bennett, The Story of Ightham, Homeland Association Limited, 1907

Christopher Pelsett

Christopher Pelsett was recorded in the parish register as “gent.”; he had six children baptised between 1590 and 1604:

i 1214 Christopher -											

i 1216		i 1217		i 1218		i 1219		i 1220		i 1221	
Jane		Elizabeth		Mildred		William		Francis (son)		Christopher	
bap: 7 Jan 1590		13 May 1593		23 Jun 1595		14 Feb 1598		28 Dec 1600		20 Feb 1604	

On 17th October 1594, he was one of four men fined 3s 4d for overburdening "[the common of Ightham with more sheep than they ought to keep there.](#)" (CRI 1937, p.209)

He was also 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)

William Pelsett

There is nothing to say that all the items given here refer to the same William but all three appearances in the Court Records could be of “a man of substance and respectability” as he was described by Harrison in the 1588 case.

	i 1227	William	-	Elizabeth	i 1228
bur:	2 Feb 1592		29 Aug 1593	"widow"	when buried
	i 1229	Launcelot			
bur:	25 Mar 1586				

On 14th April 1586, the list of the "defaults, amercements and other profits coming and falling to the Lord of the Manor" included £3 6s 8d from **William Pelsett** for "Relief and herriott upon Monday in Whitsun week next coming, by covenant and agreement between the lord and him." (CRI 1938, p.35)

On 17th April 1588, **William Pelsett** was fined 10s for contempt of court. - see Excerpts in Section I for details.

On 1st October 1589, **William Pelsett** "was given a litte time to cut his hedge between Ivy Hatch and the Mote, under penalty 10s." (CRI 1937, p.199)

An **Elizabeth Pelsett** mentioned in the Court Records between 1586 and 1618 could have been the widow buried in 1593.

Nicholas Pelsett

Nicholas Pelsett had two children:

i 1222	Ni chol as -	

i 1234		i 1225
	Agnes	Bri dgi tt
bap:	11 Aug 1605	1 Jan 1608

"On 16th October 1604, five failures to trim hedges were dealt with, orders being made in each case for the hedge to be cut before 1st March under penalty 3s 4d." One of these was **Nicholas Pelsett** with a hedge in **Mill Lane** leading to **Basted**. (CRI 1937, p.201) Mill Lane ran from the Ightham-Tonbridge road, near Ightham village towards Basted Mill which was on the Shode stream, 1 mile south-east of the village and outside the manor of Ightham. (CRI 1938, p.38).

The **Bridgett Pelsett** who married **Samuel Gylbert** in 1605 was perhaps Nicholas's sister.

Other Ightham Pelsetts

George Pelsett (i1211) had two daughters:

Elizabeth (i1226) buried 9th June 1580

Marie (i1213) baptised 30th December 1582.

The parish registers have no entries for Pelsett after the baptism of Nicholas's daughter in 1608 up to, at least, 1650.

Between 1586 and 1618, other Pelsetts mentioned were: **Carwin Pelsett** and **Reginald Pelsett, alias Tompson, ale taster**. A Reginald Tompson (i1297) had a son George (i1618) buried on 9th October 1586 and a daughter Anne (i1299) baptised on 30th November of the same year.

The book in which the proceedings of the court were recorded for 1619 to 1696 is missing but no Pelsetts were recorded between 1697 and 1707.

The Pelsetts of Seal, Wrotham and Gravesend

Persolt, Pelsolt, Pelsed, Pelset, Pellsant, etc. are all variations of this name. There were Pelsetts in both Seal and Ightham but any connections between the Seal and Ightham Pelsetts are not discernible from any of the documents investigated.

At least by the end of the sixteenth century, the Pelsetts of Seal were a rich, yeoman family. Both Robert (#43) and Richard (#178) lived to about eighty and played an important part in the life of the village. Seven wills have survived for Seal:

	date of:	will	burial	CKS: Drb/Pw;	Pwr	
Richard Pelsett		1 May 1486			5.73	page p.79
John Pelsett		21 May 1526			8.68	page p.84
Thomas Pelsett		30 Oct 1558			12.201	page p.91
John Pelsett	# 689 ³¹⁹	27 Mar 1578	2 Jun 1578	12	16.14	page p.104
Robert Pelsett	# 43	20 Nov 1610	6 Oct 1611	21	20.290	page p.113
Robert Pelsett	#3156	11 Aug 1630	25 Aug 1630	28	21.407	page p.121
Richard Pelsett	# 178 ³²⁰	18 Jan 1643	proved 1644/5	31	22.642	page p.126

319 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

320 this is probably the Richard Pelset who, for the subsidy granted to Charles I in 1628, was assessed for £5 for land and 20s for goods - see *sealkass.lst*

In addition, there is the will of John, late of Wrotham

John Pelsett	18 Apr 1558	1 May 1563	13.76	page p.87
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and the wills of Robert and his wife Alice of Gravesend:

Robert Pelsett	8 Feb 1564	8	13.128	page p.96
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Alice Pelsett	30 Aug 1564	8	13.167	page p.101
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Incumbents of Kemsing with Seal (A.C. Vol.20, p.268) mentions the will of another John Pelsett written on 27th February 1558-9. This has not been found. The will describes him as the “[servant & bailey to the Right Honourable the Lord Sydney](#)”. See Bequests to the Church in [section Z of More Families & Transcripts for details](#) of his bequests.

Richard Pelsett, will 1486

Richard's will gives:

?? Pel sett -				

#4117	#4119		#4118	
Ri chard - Jone		John		
will: 1 May 1486	-----			
#4120	#4121	#4122	#4123	
John	Thomas	Margaret	Jone	

Richard could have been the Richard Pelsett who was one of the feoffees of John Blatcher in 1478. All Richard's children were born after 1466 and therefore would have married in the 1490s or later. Thomas was left land in Hadlow.

In 1491, **John Dane** of Seal made Raynold Pelstin (which could be Pelsett in one of its various forms) his overseer and Raynold could have been a brother of John, Thomas, Margaret and Jone.

Will of Richard Pelsaute 1486

written 1st May 1486

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. On the first day of May in the
2 year of our lord 1486, I, Richard Pelsaute of Seal, in
3 good mind being, make and ?? my testament and last will
4 in this like: **First:** I bequeath my soul to almighty god,
5 my body to be buried in the churchyard of Seal. **Item:** I
6 give to the high altar of the said Seal 3s 4d. And
7 I bequeath to the ?? of the said church Seal ??
8 **Item:** I bequeath to the ?? of the church of ??

9 4d. **Item:** I bequeath to the church of ??³²¹ 20d.
10 I bequeath to the mending of the highways between
11 my place and **Absoloms**³²² 3s 4d. Also I bequeath to
12 **John Pelsaute, my brother**, 6s 8d. The residue of
13 my goods I give unto **Jone, my wife**, whom I make,
14 with John Pelsaute, to be my executors to dispose of
15 as they see . . . to please for the benefit? of my
16 soul and all . . .

- This is the last will of me the said Richard Pelsaute made the
- day and year abovesaid. **First:** I will that **Thomas Olyver, my**
- ?? immediately after my decease . . . Jone, my wife
- ?? that is to say my piece of land ?? called
- **cowlease**, a nother . . . croft, a nother called **copyend croft**
- and a nother **myddle ly-- croft** in the parish of **Wrotham** for time
- of her life. Also I will that **John, my son**, have my place
- called **Shore** with all the land thereto appertaining, ?? with a meadow?
- lying at ?? of lands called **Mychells**. Also I will that
- **Thomas, my son**, shall have all my lands lying and being

321 since Richard has land in Wrotham and Hadlow, these are perhaps the churches of those two villages

322 near Underriver; a hundred years later Absoloms was owned by the Olyvers

in the parish of **Hadlow** . . I will that my
 said son Thomas shall have, after the decease of Jone, my wife,
 ?? my land called Mychells which I have bequeathed to him
 . . . Also, I will that John and
 Thomas, my sons, pay unto **Margaret and Jone, my daughters**,
 to either of them 5 marks. And if one of them decease, she
 that be living to have her part so dead. If
 my wife be with child with a woman child, then I will that
 the said sum of money be divided equally between them
 and each of them to be other's heir and there ??
 . . my land which I have bequeathed to Jone, my wife,
 and then Thomas, my son, . . .
 also I will that my feoffees make estate? of my land of
 my children until they come to the Age of 21 years. And
 if one of them decease (*without reaching*) the Age of 21 years
 other of their brothers lawfully (*become the heirs of the others*)
 . . And if all my sons die without heirs of
 the body lawfully begotten, Then I will that all my
 houses and lands remain unto my daughters aforesaid.
 And if all my children decease without heirs of the
 body lawfully begotten, Then I will that John, my brother,
 shall have My Mansion called **Shore** and all
 thereto pertaining. And all my lands called ??

- then I will that my lands in Hadlow and Wrotham?
 - by the discretion of Jone, my wife, and John, my brother,
 - . . . as they will. And the . . .
 - to be disposed . . . That is to say, they
 - find a priest by the space of half a year
 - the church of Wrotham. And a nother . .
 - of Seal to pay . . .
 - . . . And the (*residue*) of the money to be divided
 - . . . of charity. witnessed the day and year above said
- No witnesses given*

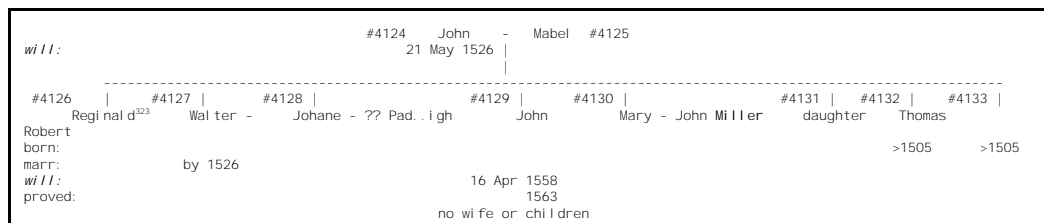
John, will 1526, and John, late of Wrotham

A John Pelsett was one of the executors of **William Walter's** will written on 26th March 1505. As executor, he was to have William Walter's lands "[lying in the parish of Shipbourne called Symonds paying](#)" £13 to Walter's son, John. This could have been the John Pelsett whose will was written in 1526.

This testator (#4124) could have been the eldest son of Robert above (#4117) but there is no connection between the names of the land, etc. left by John in 1526 and that left by Robert in 1496.

#4124 had a married son Walter, three daughters of whom the eldest was Johane, a son John and two underage sons, Thomas and Robert.

The John whose will was written in 1558 had brothers Reginald, Robert and Walter, a sister Johane and a sister Mary. Was this John the son #4124? In this case the tree for this part of the family becomes:



323 not mentioned by father, only by brother John. John's brother could have been the Reginald Pelsett mentioned in the Elizabethan Tithes Case described in the Ightham Court Rolls and also the Reginald Pelsett who witnessed the will of John Goodhew in 1563

1 In dei nomen Amen. The year of our lord god
2 1526, the 21st day of May, I, John
3 Pelsett, of Seal in the diocese of Rochester, sick
4 in body but whole in mind, make this my
5 present testament and last will in manner and
6 form following: **First:** I bequeath my soul
7 to god and my body to be buried in the
8 churchyard of Seal. **Item:** I bequeath to the
9 high altar, for my tithes forgotten, 40d
10 **Item:** to the reparations of the church of Seal
11 13s 4d. **Item:** to the high altar of
12 **Sheborne**³²⁴ 40d. Also I bequeath to be bestowed
13 at my burial in masses and other alms?
14 13s 4d. And also at my months mind 26s 8d.
15 Also I bequeath to each of **my 3 daughters'**
16 marriage, to every of them 40s. And also I will
17 that **my eldest daughter, Joane**, have 13s 4d be

18 sides her 40s and her own gadding? Also, if
19 it happen that **Mabel, my wife**, marry again, then
20 I will that **Thomas, my son**, my debts and bequests
21 paid, to shift half with his mother of the moveable
22 goods without the doors. The residue of all
23 my goods unbequeathed I give to my executors
24 to distribute for the health of my soul and those
25 whom I make and ordain to be mine executors,
26 **Mabel, my wife, and Richard Blatcher**³²⁵. And **William**
27 **Denman**³²⁶ to be my supervisor. And the said
28 Ric. Blatcher to have for his labour 3s 4d.

29 This is the last will of me the foresaid John
30 Pelsett made the day and year above said.
31 **First:** I will that Mabell, my wife, have the
32 house that I dwell in with all my lands lying
33 in Seal except **Bramblefield and Black mede**
34 for the term of her life. And, after her decease,
35 I will that the said house and lands remain

325 could have been #3975 who died in 1546

326 William Denman witnessed and was overseer or executor of a number of wills in the 1520s and 1530s

36 to Thomas, my son, paying to **Robert, his**
37 **brother**, £6 13s 4d within 12 months
38 of the death of his mother. Also I will that
39 Ric. and Thomas, my sons, when they
40 come to their age of 21 years, have Bramble
41 field and Black mede with the grove to them, their
42 heirs and assigns for evermore. Also I will
43 that Thomas, my son, pay to Ric., his brother,
44 £3 6s 8d within one year after his mother's
45 death. And for fault of payment it shalbe
46 lawful for the said Ric. to enter and to have the
47 whole close called Bramble field and Black mede
48 with the grove thereunto. Also I will that my
49 4 parcels of land called **Symons?** lying
50 in the parish of Sheborne ?? **Walter my son's**
51 **wife** have and marke? by year out thereof
52 during her life as her deed maketh mention.
53 And after her decease, the said marke? by the
54 year to remain to **Walter, my son**, in
55 fee simple. And then I will that the residue
56 of the said my parcels of land remain
57 to **John, my son**, in fee simple immediately
58 discharging mine executors against them.

59 ? ? his testament Christopher
60 Sharpeharrow, John Theobald³²⁷, William Denman
61 and others.

Will of John Pelsett late of Wrotham, 1558

written 18th April 1558; proved 1563
transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. the
2 18th day of April in the year of our lord god
3 1558. I, **John Pelsett, late of Wrotham, now of**
4 **Seal** in the County of Kent, do make and ordain
5 this my last will and testament in manner and form following:
6 **First:** I bequeath my soul to
7 Almighty god, my maker and Redeemer and my body
8 to the earth. **Item:** I will there shalbe bestowed at
9 my burying to poor people and other deeds of charity
10 at the discretion of my executors
11 **Item:** I will to **Mary, my sister**, one heifer bullock
12 of 2 years old and ten shillings of money now

13 in the hands of **John Miller**³²⁸, my brother-in-law.
14 **Item:** I will to **Johane Pelsett, the daughter of**
15 **Richard**³²⁹ **Pelsett, my brother**, one heifer bullock
16 of 2 years old. **Item:** I will to **Reginald Pelsett**,
17 my brother, my lease of land called
18 the **Church Land** which I hold by indenture
19 of **Thomas Cornford** by the farm of 20s
20 a year, to have and to hold the foresaid lease,
21 to the foresaid Reginald and his executors
22 and assigns, for all the term of years yet to
23 come in the same indenture. **Item:** I will to
24 **Walter Pelsett, my brother**, one quarter³³⁰ of barley
25 malt. All the residue of my moveable goods,
26 chattels and debts to me owing, my legacies and my
27 debts first paid, I will and bequeath to **Reginald**
28 **Pelsett, Robert Pelsett and Walter Pelsett, my brothers**

328 Mary's husband? There were Millers in Kemsing and John could have been k590 (k indicates a reference in the Kemsing database)

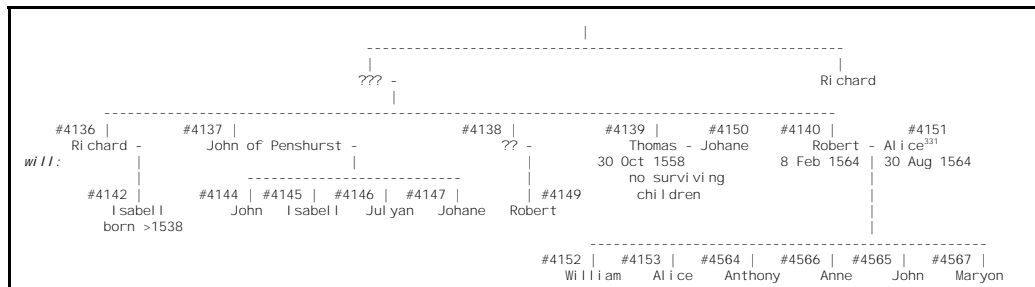
329 should this be Robert, the name given twice below or was there another brother Richard who had died before John?

330 capacity measure for grain, etc. equal to 64 gallons

29 and to Johane Pad..igh, my sister, between them
30 equally to be divided. And also I ordain and
31 make my three brothers, that is to say, Reginald Pelsett,
32 Robert Pelsett and Walter Pelsett, my executors
33 for to prove this my last will, there being witness
34 Henry Collyn.

Thomas of Seal and Robert of Gravesend

Thomas Pelsett of Seal was an overseer to **Lawrence Hasell's** will written in 1556. It has not been possible to fit the group of brothers from Thomas's will of 1558 in with any of the earlier Pelsetts but probably Robert of Gravesend (will 1564) was Thomas's brother since Thomas mentions Robert's son William and daughters and Robert of Gravesend's eldest son was William and at least one of his daughters had had money left her by her "uncle Thomas". In this case, the father of Thomas and Richard had a brother Richard since Robert of Gravesend had bought land in Sevenoaks from his "uncle Richard"



Alice Pelsett, widow of Gravesend, was Robert's widow; she survived him by only six months but she was pregnant when she wrote the will and it seems likely that the will was written when Alice was about to give birth.

331 From Alice's will it is obvious that she died in childbirth since she mentions the possibility of the child that she goes with living to the age of eighteen and the list of witnesses looks like a list of the women gathered to help at the birth.

original has not survived so that undecipherable parts cannot be checked

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 The 30th day of October in the year of our lord
3 god 1558, I, Thomas Pelsett of
4 the parish of Seal within the County of
5 Kent, do make and ordain this my last will
6 and testament in manner and form following:
7 viz: **First:** I bequeath my soul to the
8 blessed trinity, my body to the earth.
9 **Item:** I will shalbe bestowed at my burial,
10 month's day and year's mind, to poor people
11 and other deeds of charity, at the discretion
12 of executrix and overseer, as they shall
13 think good. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto
14 **Isabell Pelsett, the daughter of Richard**
15 **Pelsett, my brother,** deceased, £10
16 of good and lawful money of England to be
17 paid unto her at the day of her

18 marriage or else at her age of 20 years
19 if she be not married before. **Item:** I
20 will and bequeath unto **Margaret**
21 **Beecher, my servant?**, forty shillings
22 to be paid her at the day of her marriage.
23 **Item:** I will to be bestowed in the . .
24
25 40d. **Item:** I bequeath unto **Isabell**
26 **Pelsett, Julyan Pelsett** and to
27 **Johane Pelsett, the daughters of John**
28 **Pelsett of Penshurst, my brother**, to every
29 of them 5s. **Item:** I will to **John ??**
30 children 40s
31 to be divided between them. **Item:** I will
32 and bequeath unto
33 **daughters of Robert Pelsett, my brother,**
34 40s. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto **Robert**
35 **Pelsett, the son of ?? Pelsett,**
36 **my brother**, my best featherbed, ?? the
37 bedstead in the parlour ? ?
38 pillows, coverlet, blankets and ??
39 ?? as they
40 be now in the ?? my wife to have

41 the use of the same during her life.
42 And after her decease, the same to
43 remain unto Robert Pelsett, my
44 **nephew** aforesaid. The residue of
45 all my goods, moveables, debts unto
46 me owing, I give and bequeath unto **Johane**
47 **my wife**, whom I make my sole executrix
48 for to prove this my last will and testament.
49 And to pay my debts and legacies. And
50 I ordain **John Goodhews**³³² to be my overseer
51 and he to have for his labour, over and above
52 his expenses, the sum of
53 three shillings and four pence.

54 This is the last will of me the
55 foresaid Thomas Pelsett made the day
56 and year above written ?? the disposition
57 of my lands. **First:** I will that **Johane, my wife**,
58 shall have all my house and lands in the parish

332 probably the John Goodhews who died in 1563 (#4080)

59 of **Seal** aforesaid and **Shebourne**³³³ for the time
60 of her natural life keeping the reparations
61 sufficiently And after
62 the decease of Johane, my said wife, then I
63 will that Robert Pelsett, the son
64 of ?? Pelsett, my brother, shall
65 have all my said tenement and land in the
66 parishes of Seal and Shebourne aforesaid,
67 in the County of Kent, in fee simple,
68 to him and to his heirs for evermore and on form
69 and condition as ?? followeth, that
70 is to say that the same Robert, his
71 heirs and assigns, pay or cause
72 to be paid unto **John Pelsett, the son**
73 **of John Pelsett, of Penshurst**
74 **my brother**, ten pounds to be paid
75 unto the same John, or to his heirs or
76 assigns, within one whole year next
77 after the decease of Johane, my wife.
78 And if it be not paid within one whole year

79 so that it be fully asked, then it shalbe
80 unto the foresaid John Pelsett, his heirs
81 or assigns, into the same tenements and lands
82 to enter and distrain and the distress there
83 taken to . . . away and the
84 same to ?? till the foresaid £10
85 be paid . . .
86 . . . Further, I will that Robert
87 Pelsett, aforesaid, his heirs or
88 assigns, shall pay unto **William**
89 **Pelsett, the son of Robert Pelsett,**
90 **my brother,** to his heirs and assigns,
91 £10 for to be paid within four
92 whole years after the decease of the
93 said Johane, my wife, upon pain of
94 distress as is ?? my will
95 is that, if the foresaid Robert Pelsett
96 die or fortune to decease without
97 heirs of his body lawfully begotten before
98 Johane, my said wife, then I
99 will all my said tenements and lands to
100 **Robert Pelsett, my brother,** aforesaid
101 to him and to his heirs forever more

102 paying the said £20 as is aforesaid.

104 . . . these being witness:

105 **Henry Collyn, Robert Walters, John**

106 **Goodhews, John ??** and others.

Will of Robert Pelsett of Gravesend

written 8th February 1563/4

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 the eighth day of February in the year of our
3 lord god 1563, I, Robert Pelsett of the
4 parish of Gravesend in the county of Kent, being
5 sick in body but of good and perfect mind and
6 remembrance, thanks be to almighty god, therefore
7 do make and ordain this my present will
8 and testament in manner and form following:
9 **First:** I bequeath my soul to Almighty god,
10 my maker and Redeemer and my body to be
11 buried in the churchyard of Gravesend.

12 **First:** I will and give to **Alice, my wife,**
13 all my houses and lands in **Gravesend,**
14 **Tonbridge** and **Sevenoaks** or else where during her
15 natural life and that she shall repair
16 them in all manner of reparations when and
17 so often as need shall require and, after her
18 decease, I will that **Anthony Pelsett**³³⁴, **my**
19 **son,** shall have my house that **William Clarke,**
20 **smith,** now dwelleth in that I purchased of
21 **Thomas Ferminger** set and being in the
22 parish of Gravesend and half my barn that
23 I purchased of the said Thomas Ferminger,
24 that is to say the half part toward
25 the north to him and to the heirs of his
26 body lawfully begotten provided always
27 I will that **William Pelsett, my eldest son,**
28 shall have the rest of the said house
29 and half the barn aforesaid for the
30 space of 6 years next after the death of
31 wife and, at the end of the said six
32 years to deliver it quietly to my son

334 no Anthony mentioned in the Seal wills

33 Anthony and that William do repair it
34 sufficiently the said six years as often as
35 need shall require. **Item:** I will that after
36 the death of my wife, my said son William
37 shall have my tyde? to him and the
38 heirs of his body lawfully begotten. And
39 if he die without such heirs, that
40 then I will it shall remain to Anthony,
41 his brother and if Anthony die
42 without such heirs, then it shall remain
43 to **John Pelsett, his brother**, and to his
44 heirs forever. **Item:** I will to John Pelsett, my son,
45 my annuity of 20s by the year that I have
46 out of the lands of **Richard Senor** set and
47 being in the parish of **Tonbridge** with in
48 the county of Kent. **Item:** I give and bequeath to John
49 Pelsett, my son, all my house and land
50 in **Sevenoaks** that I bought of **mine uncle**
51 **Richard Pelsett** and to the heirs of his body
52 lawfully begotten, and for lack of such heirs,
53 I will it shall remain to his brother
54 William and to the heirs of his body lawfully
55 begotten and for lack of such heirs of his

56 body lawfully begotten, I will it shall remain
57 to Anthony Pelsett, his brother, and to the
58 heirs of his body lawfully begotten. And for
59 lack of such heirs of his body, I will it
60 shall remain equally to **my daughters**,
61 that is to say, **Anne, Maryon and Alice**.
62 **Item:** I will to every of my 3 daughters, that
63 is Anne, Maryon and Alice, each
64 of them £3 in money and 40s in moveables
65 to every of them at the 18th year of their
66 age or at the day of marriage and if
67 any of them do die before the day of their
68 marriage, that then I will her part of
69 the said money and stuff shall remain
70 equally to the rest of them then living.
71 **Item:** I give to William, my son, the other
72 half of my said barn toward the south
73 to him and to his heirs for ever, in fee
74 simple. **Item:** I will that Alice, my daughter,
75 shall have 30s that was given her by
76 the will of **Thomas Pelsett, her uncle**.
77 All the rest of my goods unbequeathed, my
78 debts paid, my legacies fulfilled and my

79 body brought to the earth, I give them
80 to Alice my wife, whom I do ordain and
81 make my sole executrix of this my last will
82 and testament and I do make and ordain
83 **Nicholas Bennett and Richard Ward**
84 the overseers of this my last will and
85 testament to see that all things may be
86 done according to my will and mind
87 herein. And I give to either of them 6s 8d
88 for their pains taking in that behalf.

**Robert Pelsett Nicholas Bennett and
Richard Ward** witnesses hereunto.

1 In the name of god Amen. The 30th
2 day of August in the year of our lord
3 god 1564, I, Alice Pelsett of the parish of Gravesend
4 in the county of Kent, **widow**, being
5 sick in body but in perfect remembrance, do
6 make this my last will and testament in
7 in manner and form following: **First:** I bequeath
8 my soul to Almighty god, my maker and
9 Redeemer and my body to be buried in the
10 churchyard of Gravesend. **Item:** I will
11 that if the child that I go with³³⁵ depart
12 the world before the age of 18 years
13 that then I will that the five pounds
14 that I have willed it shall remain
15 amongst the rest of the sisters then
16 living. **Item:** I give to every of **my daughters**
17 in money 10s to be paid to them at the

335 probably the will was written when Alice was in labour

18 day of their marriage or at 18 years
19 of their ages. The rest of my goods
20 unbequeathed, my debts paid, my legacies
21 fulfilled and my body brought to the earth,
22 I give them to **James Shope** whom
23 I do make my sole executor of this
24 my last will and testament. And I do
25 make **Nicholas Bennett and Richard**
26 **Ward**³³⁶, my overseers thereof to see that all
27 things be done according to my will
28 and mind herein. **Item:** I will and give
29 to **Marion, my daughter**, my best
30 cassock. **Item:** I give unto **Alice, my daughter**, a cassock
31 that is at Dyvers? . . . making . .
32 **Item:** to **Anne, my daughter**, my best ??
33 witness: **Richard Ward, Ellen**
Swainlande, Margaret Wood, Catherine
Fryer, abb. bonne, Thomasine F-----
Ellen Angad, Elizabeth Richardson,
Ellen Pomme.

336 the same overseers as appointed by her husband for his will

John Pelsett, Will 1578

The nuncupative will of John (#689) was dated over two months before John was buried. From the wording however, this could have been the date John expressed his wishes with the document that was proved as his will not being written until after his death. At the time he "[made his last will and testament](#)" he was stated to be "[whole and sound in body](#)".

Was Margaret John's second wife and therefore Elizabeth's step-mother (mother-in-law sometimes being used for stepmother)? Perhaps, after John died, his friends realised that Elizabeth was not going to get the chest and bed which her father had promised her without actually producing a will and this was their way of solving the problem. Margaret Pelsett died in March 1582 at which time Elizabeth should have received the bed.

John's daughter Elizabeth could have been the "maiden" who was buried on 25th November 1589 without a father being given in the register. This was eleven years after John died but, even so, the Elizabeth who died in 1589 could have been in her early teens in 1578.

1 In the name of god Amen. the
2 27th day of March in the year of our lord god a
3 thousand, five hundred, three score and eighteen, John Pelsett of the
parish
4 of Seal in the County of Kent and diocese of Rochester, being in perfect
5 mind and memory and whole and sound in body, made his last
6 will and testament in manner and form following: **First:** he gave,
7 willed and bequeathed unto **Elizabeth Pelsett, his daughter**, one
8 chest, one flockbed withall that belongeth thereunto, To have
9 and to hold the said bed and furniture unto her the said
10 Elizabeth, her executors and assigns, immediately after the death
11 of **Margaret Pelsett, her mother-in-law**, on which bed the
12 said Margaret lieth. **Item:** he made and named **John Harmond**
13 of Seal aforesaid, **carpenter**, his sole executor. There being
14 present and hearing these words in effect **John Pelsett**
15 and **John Rowet**³³⁷ and others, by me, **John Rowet**.

337 there was a John Rowet having children in Seal in the 1570s

The Seventeenth Century Pelsetts

The testators of the three wills of 1611, 1630 and 1643 appear to be father, grandson and son in that order. The will of Robert of Underriver in the parish of Seal (#43) was written on 20th November 1610 by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618.

If the Ellen Pelsett who married in 1578 was his eldest daughter, Robert was probably born between 1530 and 1535 and would therefore be approaching 80 in 1610 and he does describe himself as "aged". The daughter mentioned in his will as being married to William Masters was Alice, born in 1578 and the baptisms of the other children given in the tree below have been obtained from the parish register.

Robert Pelsett witnessed the will of **John Goodhew** (#4080) in 1563 and **James Christopher** (#155) appointed him guardian of his children when he died in 1577. **William Beecher** (#260) borrowed money from Robert on the security of some land - see below for more details.

It was probably this Robert Pelsett who was recorded as having been on two trial juries:

- ! Rochester Assizes, 25 Feb 1585, when **James Wood**, labourer, of Seal (#1308) and **Thomas Wakelyn** of Ightham were indicted for grand larceny.
- ! Sevenoaks Assizes, 22 Feb 1588, when three labourers, including **John Willard of Chipsted/Seal**, were indicted for grand larceny

Robert made his son Richard and his grandson Robert (born in 1601 and therefore only ten when his grandfather died) the joint executors of his will. But Robert was not to "[intermeddle](#)" or otherwise deal with any of his grandfather's affairs whilst Richard was alive. If Richard died before the will had been executed and before Robert was of age, then two of his "[loving neighbours and kinsfolk](#)" were to "[do and execute all things appertaining](#)" to the will during Robert's minority "[in such manner as the said Robert might have done if he were of age](#)".

As it happened, the young Robert died before his father - in August 1630 when he was twenty-nine and unmarried. He was, however, a wealthy yeoman. He left £15 in relatively small legacies including twenty shillings to Robert Baker, vicar of Kemsing and Seal, "[intreating him to preach](#)" at his burial and £4 which he wanted his executor, his brother Richard, to distribute at the day of his burial, "[at the Town of Seal, on such as shall come thither, to make them drink there, the sum of four pounds](#)".

In addition he left his brother James and his sisters Elizabeth and Margaret £80 each and the residue to his brother Richard. When he died there were "[divers messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments to me severally assured and conveyed by way of mortgage](#)" and his executor was to "[rescue the said sums of money . . . due and owing as the same shall grow due](#)".

In his will (1643) Richard mentioned all his children including his daughter, Mary, "deceased" who died just over 3 months before Richard wrote his will except for:

- Robert and Mildred (known to have died before 1643)
- Margaret who, since she was mentioned by her brother in 1630, had probably died without marrying sometime between 1630 and 1643.

Since Richard mentioned a grandchild "John Children", either Elizabeth or Margaret married a Children or there was another daughter not mentioned anywhere. By 1643 Elizabeth was a widow and she was probably John's mother.

Robert did not mention Mary in his will.

It is assumed that the Richard who had a daughter baptised in 1640 was #3845 particularly since she was given the name Mildred - the same as Richard's mother.

Richard Pelsett, Will 1643

Richard, the son of the first Robert and father of the second, married Mildred Duple on 10th July 1598 the "**bans three times proclaimed**"; he was thirty-three but she was only twenty. By the end of his life, Richard owned land in Seal, Wrotham, Tonbridge, Leigh and Shipbourne and this is described in some detail in his will; from it the following annuities were to be paid:

To:	Amount:
Mildred, wife	£20 during her lifetime
Elizabeth, widowed daughter, her heirs and assigns	£2 13s 4d forever
Richard Goodhews, grandson	£6 from age of 14 for the rest of his life

We have a glimpse of Richard building up this land in a title deed (bargain of sale) which has survived from 1605. It records the sale by **Marie Beecher, widow**, to Richard Pelsett of about five and a half acres of land called **Upperlands** in Seal. This was land which **William, Marie's husband**, had mortgaged to Richard's father

but William mortgaged 18 acres whilst Marie sold only 5½ acres. This title deed was written by Nicholas Hooper who wrote other legal documents besides wills..

Richard's will was written, when he was "aged", by George Hooper, the grandson of Nicholas Hooper. He was concerned about how his body was to get to Seal church - Underriver is over three miles from Seal church starting, from Underriver, with a steep climb up to what is now One Tree Hill. Thus he leaves to ten of his neighbours that "[shall, upon the request of my executor carry my corpse to the church, twelve pence a piece](#)".

Arrangements for Mildred

Richard's wife, Mildred, who was thirteen years younger than him, was still alive. She was to receive an annuity of twenty pounds a year but how much land she was to have depended on whether or not James married before his father died. Since no burial was recorded, we do not know how long Richard lived after writing his will but, if James was still single Mildred was to "[have, hold and enjoy](#)" about eleven acres of land at Borough Green and to "[receive and take the rent thereof during her natural life to her own](#)". If James was married to have the land himself.

In any case, James was to allow Mildred to "have and enjoy" the following "eases, liberties, freedoms and allowances":

- "the parlour of my now dwelling house called Shodes and the chamber at the southwest corner of the said house for her dwelling with free liberty to come, go and pass to and from the said chamber"
- free liberty, during her natural life, to :
 - "brew and bake in the kitchen"
 - "wash, use and take of the water in and at the well there"
 - "come to the fires that shall be kept in the Hall and kitchen of the said house at all times"
 - "to partake of the herbs and flowers in the gardens and there to dry clothes"
 - "use such of my household stuff as she shall have necessary occasion to use"
- yearly: "four loads or cords of firewood to be laid down for her at my said house and meet room there to bestow the same for her own use"
- pasture for her cow upon land near the house in which she was living.
"And if the said cow shall fail or be put off, my said son and his heirs shall

keep and provide her with pastures for such other cows as my said wife shall provide from time to time during her natural life".

- so often as she had "occasion to ride", James was to "provide and make ready for her at my house, one horse, beast, mare or gelding with bridle, saddle and saddle cloth meet for her riding" provided that Mildred gave notice the day before she wanted it.

Richard's widowed daughter, Elizabeth, was to have similar liberty to remain and dwell with her mother and "to keep a servant . . . for her attendance".

If, however, Mildred decided to live with Richard, James was to pay her an additional annuity of £3 and was to have "for her use, the bedstead, bedding and furniture thereto belonging in the parlour aforesaid and shall take with her, her cow aforesaid. And shall be allowed the said yearly allowance of four loads of wood" but she was to have "no further partaking" of the other "easements and commodities".

Nicholas Hooper's
mark

1 In³⁴⁰ the name of god Amen. the twentieth day of November in the
2 year of our lord god one thousand, six hundred and ten and in the eighth
3 year
4 of the reign of our sovereign lord James, by the grace of god king of
5 England, France and
6 Ireland, defender of the faith, and of Scotland the four and forty, I, Robert
7 Pelsett of **Underriver within the parish of Seal** in the County of Kent,
yeoman, being at the
time of the making hereof in good and perfect health as well of body as of
mind, thanks therefore
be given to Almighty God, notwithstanding aged and subject to many
infirmities

340 decorated "I" with Nicholas Hooper mark attached to "h" in "the"

8 (as well as by daily examples otherwise falling out³⁴¹) put in mind of my
last end
9 and uncertainty of life and willing to set in order these transitory
possessions (of which I)
10 am steward of years in this world that no alteration or contention fall out,
11 in manner and form following: And **First** and principally I give, commend
and (bequeath my soul)
12 into the hand of Almighty God who gave it, trusting by an assured faith
(and merit,)
13 precious death and blood shedding of his one and only son, Jesus Christ,
my (saviour)
14 and redeemer, that the said shalbe presented, pure and without spot,
before the throne of (his majesty)
15 And my body to the earth to be buried in the churchyard of Seal aforesaid
in sure and certain
16 hope of a joyful resurrection to life eternal. **Item:** I will there shall be
bestowed (on the)
17 poor resorting to my burial, of Seal or otherwise at the discretion of my
executor

341 -- Pelsett, wife of Robert Pelsett, was buried 28th October 1610 and, if this was the wife of the Robert whose will this is, it may have spurred him on to the writing of it.

18 hereafter named, the sum of forty shillings of lawful money. **Item:** I give
and bequeath to
19 **my daughter, now wife of William Masters,**³⁴² the sum of forty shillings of
lawful money. **Item:**
20 my son-in-law, the said William Masters, oweth unto me the sum of five
pounds; my will is that the (said)
21 William Masters, his executor or Administrator, shall pay the same equally
and between and amongst (his)
22 children³⁴³ so that mine executor . . .
23 shall not be charged or chargeable with the same or any part thereof. **Item:**
I give and bequeath to **Elizabeth**
24 **Olyver, daughter of John Olyver,** in regard of her long and dutiful service to
(me the sum)
25 of thirty pounds of lawful money to be paid to her³⁴⁴
26 within six months next after my decease, ten pounds of the said money is
in regard of

342 Alice, baptised in January 1569, married William Masters (#107) in February 1595; they had six children, see *masterw.will*

343 "at such time or times he or they shall please" crossed out

344 "at her age of ??" crossed out; also legacy was changed from £24

27 a Bed which was once promised her. Also I give to the said Elizabeth
Olyver, two pairs of sheets, (one)
28 of the finer and the other of the coarser sort, one pillow and a pillow coat.
Item: I give and bequeath
29 to every of the children of **John Olyver, my son-in-law**, (except **Pelsett
Olyver, my godson**) the sum of
30 twenty shillings a piece. And to the said Pelsett Olyver, I give forty
shillings. All . .
31 I will shalbe paid to them, and every of them, within one year next after my
decease. **Item:** I give and
32 bequeath to **Marie Phiffyn?**, widow, sometime my **servant**, ten shillings of
lawful money.
33 I will that those parcels of household stuff hereafter presently named,
standing and being in the ??
34 mansion house wherein I now dwell shall remain and stand as implements
and standing there,
35 viz: the joined bedstead, the cupboard, the table, joined stools and
wainscott there, I
36 give and bequeath to **Margaret Pelsett and Elizabeth Pelsett, daughters of
my son Richard Pelsett**
37 to either of them twenty pounds a piece to be paid to them, and either of
them, at their

38 one and twenty years or several days of their marriage, which shall first
happen.
39 and I bequeath to **Robert Pelsett, Richard Pelsett and James Pelsett, sons
of the said Richard**³⁴⁵
40 my son, to every of them twenty shillings a piece of lawful money. **Item:**
41 to **Alice Roote?**³⁴⁶, **widow, my sister-in-law**, ten shillings of lawful money.

42 The residue of all my goods, debts, credits and chattels and all other my
moveables,
43 I wholly, fully and with good intent and purpose, give and bequeath to my
loving son,
44 Richard Pelsett and to Robert Pelsett, his son, which Richard and Robert I
make
45 joint executors of this my will, to see my debts and legacies paid and my
will performed and my body
46 decently buried. Provided and nevertheless, my intent and true meaning is
that the said Richard Pelsett

345 the baptisms were recorded of Margaret (June 1599), Robert (July 1601), Elizabeth (December 1603) and Richard (March 1607), children of Richard Pelsett who had married Mildred Duble in July 1598. There is no mention, in the parish records, of James.

346 was Robert's wife the sister of Alice who married a Roote?

47 have, hold and enjoy all and every moveable good for and during the life of
the said Richard Pelsett, the
48 father. And the said Robert, his son, shall not intermeddle or otherwise
deal with any of my ??
49 during the natural life of his said father. And, if it shall happen the said
Richard Pelsett
50 to decease before the probaton of this my will and in the minority of the
said Robert Pelsett, his son,
51 then I will that my loving neighbour and kinsfolk, **William Duple**³⁴⁷ and
Richard Pra-- or the
52 overliwer of them shall prove this my will in the behalf³⁴⁸ and to the use of
Robert
53 Pelsett and shall do and execute all things appertaining this my will to and
for the said Robert as executors during his minority
54 in such manner as the said Robert might have done if he were now of age.

347 William Duple had children baptised in 1603, 1607 and 1613; he could have been the brother of Mildred, Richard Pelsett's wife

348 definitely "behalf" not "behoof" - checked with original

55 This is the last will of me the said Robert Pelsett, made and declared the
day and year first above written
56 concerning the order and disposition of all my lands, Tenements and
hereditaments whatsoever. And **First:** I give
57 and bequeath to my said son Richard Pelsett, all that my mansion house
wherein I now dwell called ??
58 and all and every the houses and buildings thereto belonging and all the
lands, tenements withall and every the
59 appurtenances, situated, lying and being at **Underriver** within the parish of
Seal aforesaid. And ??
60 and every other my land, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever withall
and every th'appurtenances, situated, lying
61 and being within the parish of Seal aforesaid and the parishes of **Wrotham**
and ??
62 **Shipbourne** in the County aforesaid. To have and to hold all and every the
said messuage ??
63 tenements and hereditaments withall and singular th'appurtenances unto
the said Richard Pelsett, my
64 son, his heirs and assigns, to the only use and behoof of the said Richard
Pelsett, my son,
65 his heirs and assigns for ever. And I ordain and make my loving kinsmen,
John

66 **Goodhews and Richard Goodhews**³⁴⁹, his brother, to be the supervisors ??
67 of this my will, desired them to take some pains to see the said my will
performed . . .
68 meaning thereof. And I give and bequeath to either of them the sum of six
shillings . . .
69 over and above their charge and expense which they shall lay out about
the execution . . .
70 In witness whereof to this my last will, I the said Robert Pelsett, have set
my . . .
71 yeven³⁵⁰ the day and year first above written³⁵¹
by me Robert Pelsett³⁵²

349 John, the eldest son of Richard Goodhews (#1605), was born in 1611 and married Mary Persolt in November 1641 but there was an older Richard Goodhews (#1241) who married in 1587. It is not possible to identify the John Goodhews who was appointed supervisor with Richard.

350 given

351 followed by Nicholas Hooper mark with initials

352 looks like a signature

Read, Sealed, pronounced and declared
as the last will of the said Robert Pelsett
in the presence of:

John Turnour John ???
Nicholas Hooper and others?

Will of Robert Pelsett, 1630

written 11th August 1630; buried 25th August 1630

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 The eleventh day of August 1630 And in the sixth year of the
3 reign of our sovereign lord Charles, by the grace of god king of
4 England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, I,
5 **Robert Pelsett³⁵³, eldest son of Richard Pelsett of Seal** in the county
6 of Kent, **yeoman**, being sick and weak in body but of good and perfect
7 remembrance, praise be given to almighty god, therefore do make and
8 ordain this my present testament and last will in manner and form

³⁵³ baptised 12th July 1601 and therefore only 29 when he died

9 following: **First** and principally I bequeath my soul to god, my
10 maker, steadfastly trusting to have free forgiveness of all my sins
11 through the only merits, death and passion of Jesus Christ, my only
12 saviour and Redeemer, and my body to the earth from whence it
13 came. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto such poor people as resort
14 to my burial, inhabiting the parish of Seal aforesaid, the sum
15 of thirty shillings to be distributed amongst them the day of my
16 burial by my executor hereafter named. **Item:** I give and bequeath
17 unto **Mr. Robert Baker, vicar of Kemsing and Seal**, the sum
18 of twenty shillings intreating him to preach at my burial. **Item:**
19 I give and bequeath unto **my neighbour, Richard Goodhew of Underriver**³⁵⁴
the
20 sum of forty shillings. **Item:** I give unto **Edward Coates**³⁵⁵ the like
21 sum of forty shillings and unto **William Porter, the son of my**
22 **neighbour Richard Porter**³⁵⁶, the sum of ten shillings. **Item:** I

354 Richard Goodhew (#1605) and his wife Margaret, had five children baptised in Seal between 1611 and 1630

355 Edward Coates (#3682), and his wife Alice, had three children baptised in Seal between 1622 and 1633 and another who died in 1639

356 the Richard Porter who married in 1607 (#1155) had a son William baptised in 1623 - see *porterw.will*

23 give unto **Curtesie Colvey** the doublet and breeches of new ??³⁵⁷
24 ?? and unto **Thomas Gardner**³⁵⁸, **my neighbour**, two old doublets
25 and a pair of breeches. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my brother**,
26 **James Pelsett**³⁵⁹, the sum of four score pounds, unto **my sister, Elizabeth**³⁶⁰,
27 four score pounds and unto **my sister, Margaret**³⁶¹, four score pounds, to be
28 paid unto them, the said James, Elizabeth and Margaret, and every of
29 them,
30 within two years next after my decease. And if the said James, my
31 brother, and Elizabeth and Margaret, my sisters, or any of them do happen
32 to die before the said day of payment of their legacies aforesaid, then
33 I give the portion or portions of him, them or any of them so dying
34 to be equally divided amongst the survivor or survivors of them, my
35 executor retaining to his own use an equal part with the survivors

357 vfiellie?

358 Thomas Gardner (#1128) had 9 children in Seal between 1610 and 1627

359 no baptism recorded for James but he must have been born after 1603 and probably after 1607

360 baptised December 1603 and therefore 26 in 1630

361 baptised June 1599 and therefore 31 in 1630

35 or survivor of them of the portion or portions of him and them, or any of
36 them,
37 dying before the said day of payment. **Item:** I give unto my said
38 neighbour, Richard Goodhew, my best cloak. **Item:** I give unto my
39 **loving mother**³⁶² twenty shillings. **Item:** I give unto **Anne Siflet**³⁶³ the sum
of five pounds to be paid unto her within one year next after my decease.

40 The residue of all and singular my goods and chattels, debts
41 and credits, my legacies being paid and my funeral expenses being
42 discharged, I give and bequeath unto **my brother, Richard Pelsett**, whom
43 I make sole executor of this my last will. And my mind and meaning
44 is that he shall distribute, the day of my burial, at the **Town of Seal**,
45 on such as shall come thither, to make them drink there, the sum of
46 four pounds. Moreover, whereas there are at this time divers
47 messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments to me severally assured
and conveyed
48 by way of mortgage by **William Marten of Leigh next Tonbridge***,
49 **Richard Goodhews of Seal and Stephen Kipps late of Hartley**, all in

362 if his mother was still alive, Richard could not have been the son of Robert whose will of 1611 survives (see page 113).

363 perhaps Robert had been hoping to marry Anne

* **probably x1332 - see Marten in More Families & Transcripts**

the said county for the security of divers several sums of money, my mind is that my said executor shall rescue the said sums of money by the due and owing as the same shall grow due. But if they, the said William Martin, Richard Goodhews and Stephen Kipps, or any of them do make default in payment of the moneys according to the effect of their several writings and assurances to be made so that the said mortgages, or any of them, become forfeit, then my will is, and I do hereby give and devise unto my said executor all and every the messuages, lands, tenements and heriditaments to me by them, the said William Martin, Richard Goodhews and Stephen Kipps, severally assigned, or as many of them as shall to me forfeit, the better to enable him to pay the several legacies³⁶⁴ before by me given, to him and to his heirs, to the said Richard, my executor, his heirs and assigns for ever. In witness whereof I have hereunto put my hand and seal the day and year above written. Robert Pelsett. Read, published, sealed and declared for the last will and testament of the said Robert Pelsett, in the presence of **Richard Pelsett, the elder,** **John Duble**³⁶⁵.

³⁶⁴ these totalled £256 most of which was the £80 to each of his sisters and his brother James

³⁶⁵ probably Robert's father and his cousin, the son of William Duble, his mother's brother

1 In the name of god Amen. in the year of our lord Christ
2 according to the ?? of the church of England, one thousand, six hundred,
3 forty and
4 two and in the eighteenth year of the reign of our sovereign lord Charles,
5 by the grace of God
6 king of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith. I,
7 Richard Pelsett, the
8 elder of **Underriver**, in the parish of Seal in the County of Kent, **yeoman**,
9 aged³⁶⁶ and many times
sickly thereby be by many examples of mortality put in mind of my last end
and departure
out of this transitory life do, at this time being in reasonable good health
and of perfect memory
(thanked be God), ordain and make this to be my testament and last will in
manner following:
First: yielding my soul to the gracious acceptance of almighty God through
Jesus Christ

366 if he was the Richard baptised in September 1565 he was 77 in 1642

10 by whom I hope for salvation and remission of all my sins, I will to the poor
of Seal aforesaid
11 resorting to my burial forty shillings. And to other poor people of other
parishes accompanying
12 my body to the earth ten shillings to be distributed amongst the said poor
in money or bread or
13 otherwise by my executor according to his discretion. **Item:** I will unto ten
of my neighbours that
14 shall, upon the request of my executor carry my corpse to the church,
twelve pence a piece.
15 **Item:** I will to **my grandchild, John Children**, twenty shillings to be paid
him at the end of ten
16 years after my decease if he shall be then living. **Item:** I will to **Mildred, my**
wife, the one half of
17 all my linen and linen cloth of all sorts. The residue of all other my goods,
household stuff, cattle,
18 chattels, whatsoever, I wholly leave, will and give to **my loving son James**
Pelsett whom I make the
19 sole executor of this my testament and last will, to see the same proved,
my legacies paid and my body
20 decently to be brought to the earth to be buried either in the church or in
the churchyard
21 of Seal aforesaid.

22 This is the last will of me the said Richard Pelsett, the elder, made and
declared the said eighteenth
23 day of January Ao.du. one thousand, six hundred, forty and two touching
my lands and tenements which
24 I do devise and dispose of as followeth: **First:** I will and give to Mildred, my
loving wife, in lieu of
25 recompense of such future dower claim or other demand as she hath or,
hereafter, by any
26 ways or means shall, may or ought to have, out of, in or to all or any of my
lands and tenements
27 with their appurtenances, one Annuity or yearly pension of twenty pounds
of lawful money of England
28 to be issuing . . . taken out of all that messuage or tenement wherein I
now dwell
29 commonly called **Shodes**³⁶⁷, all the barns, edifices, buildings, lands and
tenements there withall
30 belonging with their (appurtenances ?) situated, being and lying in Seal
aforesaid and in **Shipbourne and Wrotham** in the
31 said county of Kent, to be paid to her quarterly at the feasts of the
Annunciation of the blessed virgin Mary,

³⁶⁷ Shoads House, demolished before 1931, stood just south of Underriver House (J.H.Morrison, 1931)

32 the nativity of St. John the Baptist, St. Michael th'archangel and the
nativity of our Lord Christ, by
33 equal and even portions for, by and during the whole term of her natural
life of the said Mildred, my wife³⁶⁸.
34 The first term or time of payment thereof to be made on the first of those
feasts aforesaid that shall next
35 happen to come and be after my decease, if my said wife shall be then
living. And if it shall happen the said
36 Annuity or annual stipend of twenty pounds, or any part thereof, shall be
behind and unpaid
37 by the space of fourteen days next after any of the feast days aforesaid,
then and so often, I will it shall
38 and may be lawful to and for the said Mildred, my wife, and her assigns to
enter and distrain upon the said
39 tenements, lands and premises or any part thereof. And the distress there
had and taken to bear, lead,
40 drive, carry away, impound, wholly detain and keep until her said annuity
and every payment thereof and also all

368 Mildred Duple was born in 1578 and married, in 1598, when she was twenty and she would have been 64 when her husband wrote his will. In October 1623, when Mildred was 45, her last recorded child, Mildred, was baptised but the baby lived less than a week.

41 ?? thereof shall be to her, my said wife, fully satisfied and paid from time to
time at all times
42 according to the tenure and purport of this my will. **Item:** I will that the
said Mildred, my wife, if the
43 said **James Pelsett**³⁶⁹, **my son**, shall not be married before my death, shall
have, hold and enjoy . .
44 land containing, by estimation, eleven acres now in th'occupation of **John**
Staly, lying and being at or
45 in **Borough Green in Wrotham** aforesaid and receive and take the rent
thereof during her natural
46 life to her own. But, if the said James, my son, shall be married at the time
of my decease, then I will
47 the said land at Borough Green aforesaid to the said James, my son, his
heirs and assigns forever.
48 And the said Mildred, my wife, to be barred of her estate thereunto her
willed as aforesaid. **Item:** I will
49 and give to **Elizabeth, my daughter**, and to her heirs and assigns forever,
one annuity or annual rent of
50 forty and three shillings and four pence of lawful money of England
heretofore granted to me and mine

369 he was born before his grandfather wrote his will in 1611 and therefore must have been in his thirties when his father wrote this will

51 heirs by **Ambrose Marten***, deceased, to be issuing out of his lands in **Leigh**
and **Tonbridge**, or one of them
52 now the land of **William Marten**, his son. Item: I will to **Richard Goodhews**,
my grandchild, the son
53 of **John Goodhews** by **Mary**, my deceased daughter,³⁷⁰ if he shall live and
attain to his age of fourteen
54 years, one Annuity or annual rent of six pounds lawful money of England to
be issuing . . .
55 yearly perceived and taken out of those lands commonly called **Somerland**
with th'appurtenances now in
56 th'occupancy of **John Webb**, lying and being in **Tonbridge and Leigh** in the
said in the County of Kent, to have, hold
57 . . . and take the said annuity or annual rent of six pounds unto the said
Richard Goodhews,
58 my grandchild or his assigns at the feasts of the Annunciation of the
blessed virgin Mary and St. Michael
59 th'archangel by equal portions for and during the whole term of the natural
life of the said Richard, my

370 Mary was baptised in December 1615 and married John Goodhews (#2767) in November 1641; their son, Richard, was baptised on 19th September 1642 but Mary was buried on 30th September. Mary was not mentioned by her elder brother Robert when he wrote his will in 1630 when she would have been 15.

* see **Marten in More Families & Transcripts**

60 grandchild. And the first term or time of payment thereof to be made on
the first of those feasts aforesaid it shall
61 next happen to come and be after my said grandchild shall have attained
his said age of fourteen
62 years. And if it shall happen the said

if annuity not paid, as above for Mildred's annuity

- . . . **Item:** I will, ratify and confirm unto
- **Richard Pelsett, my eldest son**³⁷¹, all that messuage or tenement and the
barns, edifices and buildings, closes, lands,
- meadows, pastures, feeding and appurtenances whatsoever to the said
messuage belonging, now in th'occupancy of
- **James Randall**, late purchased of ³⁷² Seal, gent. to hold to the only use
and behoof of the said Richard
- Pelsett, my son, his heirs and assigns forever. **Item:** I will, devise and give
to the said James Pelsett,
- my son, all that my said messuage or tenement wherein I now dwell called
Shodes and all the barns,

371 Richard was baptised March 1607 and was therefore 35 when his father wrote his will.

372 a blank is left here in the original will

- edifices and buildings, yards, gardens, orchards, lands, meadows, pastures, feedings, woods and woodgrounds
- withall and singular hereditaments and appurtenances charged with the said Annuity of twenty pounds before
- willed to my said wife. And also all that messuage or tenement commonly called **Bright** wherein
- the said Richard, my son, now dwelleth and the barns, edifices and buildings, closes or gardens,
- lands, pastures, feedings, meadows, woodgrounds, commodities and appurtenances to the said messuage belonging,
- late purchased of **John Turner, gent**³⁷³. And also all that messuage or tenement which was purchased of
- **Thomas Lann?** and the barns, edifices, land and premises with th'appurtenances thereunto belonging. The
- said lands called **Sommerland** charged with the said annuity of six pounds ? and all
- other my tenements, houses, lands and premises with th'appurtenances situated, lying and being in **Seal**, aforesaid

373 When John Turner of Sevenoaks wrote his will in March 1639 he had five bonds for a total of over £600 which he had lent to Richard Pelsett and his two sons Richard and James - see *tursev. will*

- **Wrotham, Stansted³⁷⁴, Shipbourne, Leigh and Tonbridge** or elsewhere in the said County of Kent, to have and to hold
- all the said messuages or tenements, lands and premises with their and every of their hereditaments?
- to appertain to the only use and behoof of the said James, my son, his heirs and assigns for ever
- upon condition that the said James Pelsett, my son, or his heirs do, and shall do and shall pay or cause
- to be paid to the said John Turner, his executors or assigns, all such sum and sums of money
- as at any time after my decease shall become due or payable by virtue of those bonds or any
- specialty made by me, the said Richard Pelsett, Richard and James, my sons, to the said John Turner
- and of, from and against the said bonds and specialities do and shall at all times discharge and pay
- ?? the said Richard, my son, his heirs, executors or administrators and his and their land,
- goods, chattels. And if the said James, my son, his heirs, executors or assigns, shall fail in the

374 1½ miles north of Wrotham

- discharging of the said bonds and specialities and in paying the late time and times of money thereby payable,
- I will to the said Richard, my son, and his heirs all the said messuage or tenement, lands and premises with
- th'appurtenances before willed to the said James, my son, until the said bonds shall be fully paid and
- discharged. And upon the condition that the said James, my son, shall quietly permit and suffer
- the said Richard, his brother, to hold and enjoy the said messuage or tenement called **Bright** and the
- barns, edifices and buildings, closes, yards, gardens, orchards and lands thereto belonging with th'appurtenances
- excepting the timber and timber trees thereupon and ?? for the said James, my son, his heirs and
- assigns to fell, take, carry away the same from the time of my decease during the natural life of the said
- Richard, my son, the said Richard, my son, paying and yielding to the said James, my son, his heirs and
- assigns the yearly rent of thirty pounds of lawful money of England at the feasts of the Annunciation
- of the blessed virgin Mary and St. Michael th'archangel by equal portions. And if the said Richard, my
- son shall

rent not paid, as above for Mildred's annuity

Item: my will and mind

is that if my son James shall not, at the end of the lease or term of years to him granted leave of the occupancy and farming of those lands which he now holdeth by the demise of **Mistress? Elizabeth Olyver** but shall take a new lease or time of the same lands, then I will and give to the said Richard, my son, all that parcel of land commonly called **Dormans** containing, by estimation, four acres, lying and being in Seal aforesaid To him, to the said Richard, my son, his heirs and assigns, forever. **Item:** I will that the said **Mildred, my wife**, shall have and enjoy those easements, liberties, freedoms and allowances by my son James and his heirs which follow, that is to say, the parlour of my now dwelling house called **Shodes**, the chamber at the southwest corner of the said house for her dwelling And free liberty to come, go and pass to and from the said chamber and to brew and bake in the kitchen of the said house and to wash, use and take of the water in and at the well there and to come to the fires that shall be kept in the Hall and kitchen of the said

- house at all times during her natural life. And also during her natural life and dwelling in my said
- house shall have liberty to partake of the herbs and flowers in the gardens and there to dry clothes. And to
- use such of my household stuff as she shall have necessary occasion to use. And also like liberty for my
- **daughter Elizabeth during her widowhood** to remain and dwell with my said wife. And to keep a
- servant in the said house for her attendance. And further I will that the said James and his heirs
- shall allow every year, to my said wife during her life, four loads or cords of firewood to be laid
- down for her at my said house and meet room there to bestow the same for her own use. And also I will
- that the said James and his heirs, upon my said lands near my said dwelling house, shall keep
- pasture for my said wife's one cow which cow I give to her at her choice to be taken out of my stock.
- And if the said cow shall fail or be put off, my said son and his heirs shall keep and provide her with
- pastures for such other cows as my said wife shall provide from time to time during her natural life. And also he

- shall so often as my said wife shall have occasion to ride, provide and make ready for her at my house, one
- horse, beast, mare or Gelding with bridle, saddle and saddle cloth meet for her riding, my said wife the
- day before such her riding giving Notice thereof at my house. And, if my said wife shall dislike
- her dwelling aforesaid and shall give it over and dwell with Richard, my son, or his heirs, I will she
- shall from thenceforth, during her life, be paid by my said son James and his heirs (over and above the
- annual pension of £20 before willed unto her) the yearly pension of three pounds of lawful money of
- England and shall be paid it quarterly by equal portions and shall have with her, for her use, the bedstead,
- bed bedding and furniture thereto belonging in the parlour aforesaid and shall take with her, her cow
- aforesaid. And shall be allowed the said yearly allowance of four loads of wood which shall be laid down
- then every two years at the said messuage called Brighte by my said son James and his heir. And of the
- other easements and commodities she shall have no further partaking or benefit. Provided always, if the

- said Richard, my son, or his heirs, shall not permit and suffer the said James, my son, and his heirs, quietly
- to enjoy the messuages, tenements, lands and premises with th'appurtenances before by me willed to the said
- James according to the purpose of this my will but shall go about to recover, obtain or claim any of the
- same tenements and lands or any estate therein or there unto, Then and from thence forth, the said Richard, my son,
- and his heirs, shalbe barred and excluded from his and their holding of the said messuage called Brighte and the
- lands and tenements thereunto belonging and of the benefit of any other thing to redowne or belong to the said
- Richard, my son, or his heirs, by virtue of this my will. In witness whereof, I, the said Richard Pelsett, the
- elder, to this my testament and last will contained in six sheets of paper, to every of the said sheets have
- subscribed my name and to the last sheet have set my seal and have annexed them together with a
- Lawbell³⁷⁵ of parchment whereunto I have set my seal the day and year first before written. Richard Pelsett:

- Sealed, subscribed, declared and acknowledged by the said Richard Pelsett, the elder, to be his testament and
- last will in the presence of **John Thorneton, John Webb als. Niccolls and Geo.³⁷⁶ Hooper**

at the bottom of the page is the following note in a different hand (or at least with a different pen since the Geo. Hooper looks the same as above):

?? Testator Concordat } ?? Reynold Rig--- and
 ?? Originale } Geo: Hooper

Thus the will which has survived is a copy of the original.

³⁷⁶ looks like an abbreviated name ?eo but first letter does not look like the first letter of "Gelding" earlier in the will; however, the probate copy gives the name as "George"

Two Burials at Penshurst

The Thomas Pelsett who wrote his will in 1558 had a brother John whom he described as “[of Penshurst](#)”.

Two burials of Pelsetts were recorded in **Penshurst**:

- Alice Pelsett, widow, buried 8 Oct 1598
- John Pelset, servant and bailey to the right honourable Lord Sidney, buried 4 Jan 1603/4

The Pennets of Seal

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#882	<u>PENNET, Thomas</u>				1	5	
!	#3611 <u>Pennet, Ellen</u>	20 Sep 1574(K)			0	0	
!	#884 <u>Pennet, Elizabeth</u>	3 Aug 1578	11 Sep 1613	John KING	1	0	
				#1577			
If this Elizabeth Pennet married the John King baptised in June 1589 (see King), she was thirty-five whilst he was only twenty-four.							
!	#1498 <u>Pennet, Mary</u>	<1582			0	0	9 Oct 1581
!	#1173 <u>Pennet, Mary</u>	7 Oct 1582			0	0	
!	#1284 <u>PENNET, William</u>	20 Dec 1584			0	0	

On 5th April 1592, the **wife of Loder** and the wife of **Thomas Pennet** were recorded as "common plunderers of the lord's wood on Ightham Common and that with the knowledge and permission of their husbands". Their husbands were each fined 12d for allowing their wives to cut wood on the Common³⁷⁷. No Loders or Pennets were recorded in the Ightham parish registers but **Lawrence (#1754), son of -- Loder**, was baptised in Seal on 26th February 1592.

William Pennet (#1115) had a daughter, **Mary (#1117)**, who was baptised on 16th May 1581

³⁷⁷ Court Rolls, Ightham, p.207

George Phillips of Kemsing

The will of George Phillips, written 21st October 1623 and proved, at London, on 31st October 1623 is long not particularly from the number of bequests but from the fact that George's heirs were a married daughter by his first wife and her children, his second wife and, possibly, the child with which his wife was pregnant.

It is all the possibilities which follow on from this that lead to a great number of variations on his basic wishes that his daughter and wife should be his joint heirs with a cousin as his executor. George was obviously hoping that his wife was pregnant with a son but he also hoped that he would live to see other children born to his second wife. Unfortunately George Phillips is not mentioned in the Kemsing parish records (or those of Seal and Ightham and Shipbourne).

Among his smaller bequests were:

- all his books of history and his new gown ("if he please to accept it") to his son-in-law Mr. Thomas Whetenhall

- ten pounds to the poor of the parish of Tenterden that are or have been diligent workers and are fallen into poverty
- George was owed by Mr. Robert Baker³⁷⁸ "[nine pounds and ten shillings upon a bond payable at Michaelmas next](#)" which George forgave him, giving him also his "[Tremeluis Bible desiring him to preach at my funeral](#)". Robert Baker was vicar of Seal and Kemsing from April 1608 until the early 1640s.

There were also a number of other money bequests which seem to apply regardless of whether or not his wife had any children:

the putting out of:	
- John Cooper, son of widow Cooper of Kemsing	20s
- his son Richard Cooper.	40s
Gilbert Johnson	20s
old John Johnson	10s
apparrelling of Robert Kisps children	20s

³⁷⁸ Robert Baker (#1293, # indicating a reference in the Seal database)

cousins:	
- John Gibbon	£10
- Robert Gibbon	£10
- Henry Curtis	£10
servants:	
- his boy Henry Hawarde	40s
- each of his maid servants	10s
- Edward Esterfield:	each
if in his service when he died	£5
otherwise	20s

George's Bequest to His Daughter

George left £300 to his daughter, Marie Whetenhall but this money was to be put into the keeping of his cousins, Robert Curtis and Robert Gibbon, £150 to each of them with Robert Gibbon having "the moiety of this money into his hands till a year" after George's death. Then his cousins were to pay Marie, equally between them, £20 a year during the life of her husband and, only after his decease, was she to receive the whole £300.

But if Marie died before her husband, the £20 "consideration money" was to be paid to Marie's daughter or daughters, by an equal division, during the life of their father and, after his decease, the £300 was to be equally divided between them.

"And for default of such daughter or daughters", the £20 was to be paid, each year, to Marie's youngest son if she had more than one, or otherwise her only son, during the life of his father and afterwards the whole £300 was to be paid to him.

The £20 "consideration money" was an interest rate of nearly 7%, quite high when it would be expected that, in addition to this, Curtis and Gibbon would surely expect something for their services in addition to any expenses incurred.

Bequests to Timothy and Marie

Given that there were no other heirs besides his wife, Timothy, and his daughter, Marie, each was to receive:

wife lease of the house and lands in Kemsing.

all his tussum³⁷⁹, linen yarn and wool
all the linen she made since their marriage

All the rest of his beds and household stuff; his mare and all her wearing apparel and riding furniture; six silver spoons and his covered cup, flat bowl which was her own and his best salt cellar; all the pewter and brass, barrells, brewing vessels, tubs and brass furnace which were all at Kemsing; all my bedsteads and chests there.

379 hemp or flax

Marie featherbed in the chamber over the little parlour with the green rug,
the green valence, four blankets and two pillows.

all the linen that was his before his marriage to Timothy

three hundred pounds

If George had More Children

BUT if George had one or more daughters at the time of his death, besides his married daughter, or his wife was with child with a daughter, then

wife:

as before: the lease of his lands and tenements at Kemsing
all his tussom, linen yarn and wool
all the linen and woollen she had made since their marriage
his mare and all her wearing apparel and riding furniture;
barrells, brewing vessels and brass furnace in Kemsing.

Omitted: All the rest of his beds and household stuff; six silver spoons and his covered cup, flat bowl which was her own and his best salt cellar;

all the pewter and brass, which were all at Kemsing; all my bedsteads and chests there.

Added: all her mourning apparrell, two kyne at her choice, three bedsteads, three featherbeds, at her election, with any furniture of pillows, coverlets and blankets.
three featherbeds with coverlets and blankets to them fit for flockbeds and also my bedsteads, chests, tables, trunks,

Marie:

as before: all the linen that was his before his marriage to Timothy

Omitted: featherbed in the chamber over the little parlour with the green rug, the green valence, four blankets and two pillows.

three hundred pounds

Added: two featherbeds and the down bed, with coverlet, blankets and pillows to the two featherbeds withall the linen which was her mothers

George's bequests to the poor of Tenterden and Kemsing and to Mr. Baker were as before and his cousin Robert Curtis was to receive £40. All the rest of his goods

and chattels were to go to his "daughter or daughters to be paid at her or their several ages of eighteen years" with complicated arrangements if they died before then.

But if George should "fortune to leave a son behind me at my death or my wife with child of a son and the same son shall fortune to live till he be of the age of five years", the son was to receive £500 according to a covenant made between himself and his son-in-law, Mr. Thomas Whetenhall. The bequest to the poor of Tenterden was halved to £5 but those to the poor of Kemsing and Mr. Baker were to remain the same. His wife still seems to keep the lease and other items given to her but his daughter Marie is not mentioned at all.

Eight years previously, in November 1622, George had made conveyance of all his lands, tenements and hereditaments (except for 42 acres of land and wood in Tenterden which he had recently bought from Mr. Robert Shephard, Esq.) and these were to "descend according to the true meaning of the of the said indenture". Was this indenture made when he married Timothy in order to protect his daughter's interest?

1 In the name of god Amen. I, George Phillips of Kemsing
2 in the county of Kent, being sick of body but of good and perfect
remembrance, I praise god,
3 do make and ordain this my last will and testament as followeth: **First:** I
commit my soul to
4 god, my heavenly and merciful father and steadfastly believe that he will,
for his mercies
5 sake in Christ Jesus, his beloved and only begotten son, send it by his holy
angels into some one,
6 though the meanest, of those mansions which Jesus Christ, my saviour and
redeemer, is gone
7 to ?? for the elect children of God in heaven, my body I desire to be
decently and
8 christian like buried. And furthermore all my goods and chattells
whatsoever first I will
9 that all my debts be duly paid and if, at my death, I leave no child or
children
10 but **my daughter Whetenhall** nor **my wife with child**, then I give to
Timothy, my ??

11 **wife**, my lease of the house and lands in Kemsing. Also I give her more all
my tusson,
12 linen yarn and wool and all the linen she made since our marriage. I give
my daughter
13 Whetenhall the featherbed in the chamber over the little parlour with the
green rug, the
14 green valence, four blankets and two pillows. Also I give my daughter
Whetenhall all
15 the linen that was mine before my marriage with Timothy, my now wife.
All the rest
16 of my beds and household stuff I give to Timothy my wife. Also I give my
wife my mare
17 and all her wearing apparel and riding furniture. I give her six silver
spoons and my covered
18 cup, flat bowl which was her own and my best salt cellar. I give her all my
pewter and all
19 my brass, my barrels, brewing vessels, tubs and brass furnace which are all
at Kemsing.
20 I give her all my bedsteads and chests there. Also I give to my daughter
Whetenhall three
21 hundred pounds but my will is the sum shalbe and remain in the hands of
my cousins

22 **Robert Curtis and Robert Gibbons** equally and that my said cousins, Robert
Curtis and
23 Robert Gibbons shall between them pay, or cause to be paid unto my said
daughter
24 towards her maintenance the sum of twenty pounds yearly during the life
of my
25 son Whetenhall, her husband, and after his decease then shall pay the
whole three
26 hundred pounds within six months then next ensuing unto my said
daughter.
27 But if my daughter happen to die before her husband, **Mr. Thomas**
Whetenhall, then
28 my will is that the twenty pounds consideration money shalbe yearly paid
unto the daughter or daugh=
29 ters of **Marie Whetenhall, my daughter**, by an equal division, during the life
also of
30 Mr. Thomas Whetenhall, their father, and after his decease they shall pay
the whole
31 three hundred pounds within six months then next ensuing unto the said
32 daughter or daughters to be also equally divided amongst them. And for
default
33 of such daughter or daughters, my will is that the twenty pounds
consideration

34 money shalbe yearly paid to the youngest son of my daughter Whetenall
35 during the life of his father, Mr. Thomas Whetenhall, and after his decease,
my
36 cousins, Robert Curtis and Robert Gibbons shall pay, or cause to be paid,
the
37 whole sum of three hundred pounds aforesaid to the said youngest son and
that
38 also within six months then next ensuing. But if my daughter shall leave
mo
39 more sons but one, then I will that the twenty pounds consideration money
to be paid
40 to that son yearly during the life of his father, Mr. Thomas Whetenhall, and
after his decease
41 they shall pay, or cause to be paid within six months then next ensuing,
the whole sum of three
42 hundred pounds unto the said only son. Provided always, and my will is
that there be no
43 consideration or use money paid for the three hundred pounds aforesaid to
any person or persons
44 before mentioned for the first whole year next after my decease. Whether it
is my meaning
45 that my cousin Robert Gibbons shall have the moiety of this money into his
hands till a

46 year also after my death. I give my son Whetenhall all my books of history
and my new gown
47 if he please to accept of it. I give ten pounds only to the poor of the parish
of **Ten**
48 **terden** that are or have been diligent workers and are fallen into poverty to
be distributed
49 at the discretion of my executor. And whereas **Mr. Baker** oweth me nine
pounds and
50 ten shillings upon a bond payable at Michaelmas next, I do forgive him the
same. Also
51 I give Mr. Baker my Tremeluis Bible desiring him to preach at my funeral.
Also
52 I give twenty shillings to the putting out of **John Cooper, son of widow**
Cooper
53 of Kemsing and forty shillings to the putting out of **his son Richard Cooper**.
I give
54 twenty shillings more to **Gilbert Johnson** and ten shillings to **old John**
Johnson and twenty
55 shillings more to be paid out at the discretion of my wife to the apparelling
of
56 **Robert Kisps?, his children**. I give **my cousins, Mr. John Gibbons, Robert**
Gibbons and Henry

57 **Curtis** ten pounds a piece. I give to **my boy Henry Haywarde** forty shillings
and to all
58 **my maid servants** ten shillings a piece. If **Edward Esterfield** be in my
service
59 at the time of my death, then I give him five pounds; if he be then out of my
service, then I
60 give him twenty shillings. All the rest of my goods and chattells and estate
whatsoever
61 I give to **my cousin Robert Curtis** whom I make my executor. But if I have
one or
62 more daughters at the time of my death, besides my daughter Whetenhall
or my wife be
63 with child with a daughter, then I give to my wife as before is expressed,
my lease of
64 Kemsing. Also I give her all her mourning apparrell, all the tussom, linen
yarn and wool,
65 all the linen and woollen of her own making, her riding furniture, my mare,
two
66 kyne at her choice, three bedsteads, three featherbeds, at her election, with
any furniture
67 of pillows, coverlets and blankets. And I give my daughter Whetenhall two
68 featherbeds and the down bed, with coverlet, blankets and pillows to the
two

69 featherbeds withall the linen which was her mothers. I give my wife also
three
70 featherbeds with coverlets and blankets to them fit for flockbeds and also
my bed=
71 steads, chests, tables, trunkles, barrells, brewing vessels and brass furnace
which are all
72 in Kemsing. I give to the poor of Tenterden and Kemsing as before and to
Mr. Baker
73 as before. I give my cousin Robert Curtis forty pounds. And all the rest of
my goods
74 and chattels and good debts whatsoever, I give to my said daughter or
daughters to be
75 paid at her or their several ages of eighteen years. And if such my
daughter
76 or daughters all die before such age of eighteen years, then I give to my
daughter
77 Whetenhall (or if she be dead at my death, then to her daughter or
daughters, if
78 she have any) but if she have no daughters, then to her son George two
fourth
79 parts thereof, one other fourth part thereof to my wife and half of the other
fourth part to

80 my cousin Robert Curtis and the other half of this fourth part, I give to my
cousins
81 John Gibbons, Robert Gibbons and Henry Curtis. But if I shall fortune to
leave
82 a son behind me at my death or my wife with child of a son and the same
son shall
83 fortune to live till he be of the age of five years, then I will according to the
true
84 meaning and performance of a covenant made by indenture between
myself and my
85 son-in-law, Mr. Thomas Whetenhall as my executor unto my said son and
Mr. Thomas Whetenhall, his executors or assigns according to the true
86 meaning of the said indenture, the sum of five hundred pounds. And that
my
87 executor pay all my other debts. And the residue of all my other goods (if
there
88 be any), I give as followeth: five pounds to such of the poor of the parish of
89 Tenterden as I before expressed in my will to be paid by my executor as
before.
90 And to the poor of Kemsing and to Mr. Baker as before and three fourth
parts
91 of the residue of all my goods and chattells whatsoever, I give to Timothy,

92 my loving wife, and one other fourth part I give to my cousin Robert Curtis,
my executor. And
93 if, by reason of such my son the said five hundred pounds be ?? and
payable as aforesaid.
94 Then I give to Timothy, my wife, my lease at Kemsing, her wearing
apparel and riding
95 furniture, her choice of three featherbeds with coverlets, curtains, blankets
and
96 pillows to them belonging, all her linen yarn, tussom, wool and linen which
she hath
97 made, all my bedsteads, chests, boxes, brewing vessels, barrells, my
pewter and my brass
98 and my brass furnace which are all at Kemsing, my mare and two kyne (if I
have any at my
99 death). I give to such the poor of Tenterden as before five pounds and to
the poor
100 Kemsing and to Mr.Baker as before, the rest of all my goods and chattells I
give to
101 my cousin Robert Curtis, my executor.

This is also my last will and testament of all

102 my lands and tenements made the 21st October 1623. **First:** all my lands
and tenements

103 and hereditaments (except forty and two acres of land and wood by
estimation, lying together in the
104 parish of Tenterden and lately bought of **Mr. Robert Shephard, Esq.**) I have
already by
105 indenture, of the date of the 27th of November 1622, made conveyance
thereof and my
106 meaning is they shalbe, remain and descend according to the true
meaning of the of the said
107 indenture. And touching the said land and woods lately bought of Mr.
Robert
108 Shephard, I do give the same to my first begotten son and to the heirs male
of his
109 body lawfully begotten and for default of such son, to my second begotten
son and to
110 the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten and for default of such issue to
the
111 heirs of my body begotten of the body of Timothy, my loving wife, and to
the heirs of their
112 bodies. And for default of such issue to my daughter Marie Whetenhall,
the wife of Thomas
113 Whetenhall, Esq., for her life and after her decease to George Whetenhall,
her first begotten

114 son and to the heirs male of his body lawfully to be begotten. And for
default of
115 such issue to her second son lawfully to be begotten and to the heirs male
of his body
116 lawfully to be begotten. And for the default of such heirs then to the use
and behoof of
117 all and every of the other sons of the body of the said Mary Whetehhall
lawfully
118 begotten and of the several and respective heirs males of their several
bodies of such
119 other sons to be lawfully begotten successively and one after an other as
they shalbe in
120 seniority of birth³⁸⁰ and age. And for default of such issue, then to all and
every the
121 daughters of the body of the said Marie lawfully begotten and the heirs of
their bodies
122 lawfully begotten and for default of such heirs to my cousin Robert Curtis
and his
123 heirs for ever. Also touching the messuage and lands in **West Hadlie in the
county**

380 "seignioritie of byarth"

124 **of Sussex**, mortgaged to me by **Sir Edward Culpeper**, if the said Sir Edward
do not
125 pay the sum of three hundred and twenty one pounds at or before the first
day of May
126 1624 or within six months then next ensuing and thereby the messuage
and lands aforesaid
127 be forfeited, then I will that my cousins Robert Curtis and Robert Gibbons
shall make
128 sale of the said messuage and lands and the sum that they can sell it for, I
give the
129 one half to my wife and the other half to my cousin Robert Curtis. But if
the said Sir
130 Edward Culpeper do pay the said three hundred twenty and one pounds at
or before the
131 said first day of May 1624 or within six months then next ensuing, then I
will the same
132 to be divided equally between my wife and my cousin Robert Curtis. In
witness whereof to this
133 my present and last will and testament containing three sheets of paper, I
have set my hand
134 and seal ?? to the two first sheets, my hand and to the third sheet my hand
and seal

135 George Phillipps. Published and declared to be my last will and testament
in the presence of
136 **Robert Baker, John Theobald³⁸¹, Jervase Fremlyn, Edmund Booth**, his mark.

381 John Tebold (#1447) married Dorothy Culpepper, daughter of Sir Edward Culpepper of Wakehurst Place, Ardingly, Surrey in 1614

This will (CKS: Prs/w/12/189) was written by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618.

When it was written John was "in good and perfect health" and the will was not proved until eleven years later. John left everything to his wife in 1618 and, since the will was not changed, it would seem that they didn't subsequently have any children. Although there were a large number of Bakers in the villages surrounding Wrotham, it has not been possible to identify the brothers John and George Baker and their sister Elizabeth who were to be John Pickerell's heirs after the death of his wife.

The only other Pickerell wills to have survived are from Shipbourne but much earlier - 1542 and 1581

Nicholas Hooper's
mark

1 **In the name of god Amen**³⁸². The five and twentieth day of March in
the
2 year of our lord God One thousand, Six hundred and Seventeen. And in the
3 fifteenth year of our sovereign Lord James, by the grace of God, king of
4 England. France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. And of Scotland the
fiftieth
5 I, **John Pickerell** of Platt³⁸³ within the parish of Wrotham in the county of
Kent,
6 **yeoman**, being³⁸⁴ at the time of writing hereof in good and perfect health ??
7 of mind, thanks be given to Almighty God, notwithstanding knowing the
uncertainty of
8 the time of my death, and knowing assuredly I shall change this life, And
willing to set
9 in order those transitory possessions which God hath made me steward of in
this world

382 decorated "I" with small Hooper mark above

383 about a mile east of Borough Green, one and a half miles south east of the centre of Wrotham village

384 "beeing", "bee" throughout, including "shalbee" and "beefore"

10 ³⁸⁵that no contention fall out about the same after my decease, therefore I do
ordain
11 and make this my present testament and last will in manner and form
following³⁸⁶, that is
12 to say: **First** and principally, I give, commend and bequeath my Soul in the
hands
13 of Almighty God,³⁸⁷ who gave it, trusting by an assured faith which I
14 have in the merit, precious death and blood shedding³⁸⁸ of his dear son,
Jesus Christ,
15 that the said shalbe presented pure and without spot before the throne of
his majesty.
16 And my body to the Earth to be buried in the Churchyard of Wrotham
aforesaid in
17 sure and certain hope of a joyful resurrection to Eternal³⁸⁹ life. **Item:** I

385 "maybe quietly enjoyed" inserted and then crossed out

386 "folowing" and also on line 44

387 "Notwithstanding" entered and crossed out

388 "bludshedding"

389 written "Oeternall" after an initial attempt "Oetel" which was crossed out

18 will that there shall be bestowed at my burial among poor people thither
resorting six shillings
19 and eightpence.

20 **The residue** of all my goods and Cattell, Debts, Credits and Chattels and
21 all those my moveable goods whatsoever, I wholly, fully and with good
effect, intent and
22 ?? , give and bequeath to **Margaret, my wellbeloved wife**, which Margaret I
23 make and Ordain my whole and sole Executrix of this my will, to see the
same proved,
24 my debts paid and my body honestly and decently buried.
25 ³⁹⁰ **This** is the last will of me the said John Pickerell made and declared the
day and
26 year first above written touching the order and disposition of my messuage
wherein I do
27 dwell, situated at **Dalegreene** in Wrotham aforesaid and all my lands,
tenements and hereditaments
28 thereto belonging, lying and being in Wrotham aforesaid. **And first**
whereas I have

390 small Hooper mark in the margin

29 made to the said Margaret, my wife, before our marriage a conveyance of
my said messuage and all
30 the lands thereto belonging saving my messuage called **Copthawle** with the
garden and backside
31 thereto belonging: **Now** by this my will, I do not only avow and make good
the
32 said conveyance so to her made, according to the tenor of the same, But
also do give and
33 bequeath to her, my said wife, all the said little messuage called Copthawle,
with the garden
34 backside and appurtenances thereto belonging, to have and to hold the
same with th'appurtenances
35 unto the said Margaret, my wife, during the whole term of her natural life,
she keeping
36 the reparations thereof and doing no waste in or upon the same. And after
the decease of her,
37 the said Margaret my wife, I will, give and bequeath both my said
messuages or tenements
38 and all my lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever in Wrotham
aforesaid unto my two
39 **kinsmen, John Baker and George Baker**, to have and to hold all and every
the same

40 withall and singular th'appurtenances unto the said John Baker and George
Baker, their
41 heirs and assigns, equally between them for ever. **Notwithstanding** and
be if
42 ?? by this my will that the said John Baker and George Baker, their heirs or
43 assigns shall pay out of the same my lands and tenements, unto **Elizabeth
Baker, their**
44 **sister**, the sum of thirty pounds good and lawful money in manner and form
following:
45 that is to say, Seven pounds and Ten shillings parcel thereof within one
whole year next after
46 the decease of the said Margaret my wife, at or in my said mansion house
wherein I now dwell. And
47 Seven pounds and Ten shillings parcel thereof within the second year next
after the decease
48 of the said Margaret, at or in the said place. And Seven pounds and Ten
shillings
49 parcel also thereof within the third year next after the decease of the said
Margaret my wife,
50 at or in the said place. And also Seven pounds and Ten shillings residue
thereof
51 in full satisfaction and payment of the said Thirty pounds, within the fourth
year next after the

52 decease of the said Margaret my wife, at or in the said place without all
fraud or coven.

53 **And** I further will and ordain, by this my will, that if default happen to be
made in paying

54 of any of the said sums of Seven pounds and Ten shillings, or any part
thereof, contrary to

55 the true meaning of this my will, Then I will that the said Elizabeth Baker
shall enter

56 in and upon my said little messuage or tenement called Copthawle, with
the garden, backside and

57 appurtenances thereto belonging, withall and singular th'appurtenances.
And then I will and give the

58 said little messuage called Copthawle, with the Garden, backside and
appurtenances thereto

59 belonging unto the said Elizabeth Baker, her heirs and assigns for ever (any
thing herein

60 before mentioned to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding). **In witness**
whereof

61 to this my present will and last testament I, the said John Pickerell, have set
my hand and

62 Seal. And I do hereby revoke and make void all other wills by me formerly
made and do

63 publish and declare this to be my true and last will, yeven the day and year first above written.

Nicholas Hooper's
mark
with initials

Read, Sealed and acknowledged
as the true and last will of
the said John Pickerell in
the presence of

Henry Collyn

Nicholas Barnabee and

Nicholas Hooper, sen, writer

signum

Heneiri

Collyn³⁹²

John Pickerell³⁹¹

391 could have been written by testator

392 "Nicolas" both times (the usual way NH writes his name); "Heneiri Collyn" looks to be in a different hand from the name written above by Hooper it also looks as if he made his mark.

The Pigotts of Chiddingstone

Six wills for Pigotts of Chiddingstone were proved at the PCC between 1564 and 1640 but none at Rochester or in the Deanery of Shoreham.

	written	proved		
John Pigott		1564	Stevenson 17	
Henry Pigott		1595	Scott 22	
John Pigott	7 Dec 1609	Feb 1612	Fenner 15; Prob 10/289	page p.174
Henry Pigott	5 Oct 1618	18 Nov 1618 ³⁹³	Meade 109; Prob 11/132	page p.180
Nicholas Pigott	20 Aug 1638 ³⁹⁴	1638	Lee 131	
John Pigott	6 Jan 1639/40 ³⁹⁵	1639/40	Harvey 85	

Only two of these have been transcribed. None of the three later wills were written by a Hooper (Nicholas Hooper's sons also wrote wills) and it is not possible to tell from the witnesses who was the scriptor. There is no obvious relationship

³⁹³ proved by William Birsty, John Pigott and William Pigott.

³⁹⁴ witnesses were **John Seyliard** and **Lewis Morgan**

³⁹⁵ witnesses **Clement Balden** (who made his mark) and **William Overy**

between the two testators whose wills have been transcribed but Nicholas who died in 1638 was probably Henry's son.

	x1787	x1789	x1788 ⁴⁰³					
	John -	Elizabeth	Baptist					
will:	17 Dec 1609							
amended	14 May 1610							
proved	Feb 1612							

x1790	x1796	x1791	x1792	x1798	x1793	x1794	x1795	
Marie -	John	John	?? Barr -	Elizabeth -	Thomas	Clemence	Johane	Ruth
	Wells							
x1797 John		x1799 John						

	x1802	x1803		x1804	x1811	x1805	x1806
	John	William -		Henry -	Ruth	Thomas -	Anthony -
<i>will:</i>				5 Oct 1618			
x1808	x1809	x1810		x1812			
Henry	William	Mary	daughter(s)	Nicholas	children	3 children	
<i>born:</i>					> 1597		
<i>will:</i>				20 Aug 1638			

403 "x" indicates a reference in the miscellaneous database

Nicholas Hooper's
mark

- 1 In³⁹⁶ the name of god Amen. The seventh day of December in the year of
2 our lord
3 god, one thousand, six hundredth and nine and in the seventh year of the
4 reign of our sovereign lord
5 James, by the grace of God, king of England, France and Ireland, defender
of the faith, etc. And of Scotland
the three and fortieth. I, John Pigott, of Chiddingstone in the county of
Kent, **yeoman**, being³⁹⁷ at the time
of the making hereof sickly and weak in body but of good and perfect mind
and remembrance, thanks therefore be

396 decorated "I"

397 "bee", etc. throughout including "beefore"

6 given to Almighty god, notwithstanding put in mind of my last end and
willing to leave that final portion of
7 goods which god hath made me steward of here in this world in such order
that no contention fall out about
8 the said after my decease, therefore I do ordain and make this my present
testament and last will in manner and
9 form following³⁹⁸, that is to say, **First:** I give and bequeath my soul into the
hands of Almighty god
10 who gave it, trusting by an assured faith which I have in the merits,
precious death and blood shedding³⁹⁹ of his
11 dear son, Jesus Christ, my only saviour and redeemer, that the same shalbe
presented pure and
12 without spot before the throne of his majesty. And my body to the earth, to
be buried in the
13 churchyard of Chiddingstone aforesaid, in sure and certain hope of a joyful
resurrection to life eternal.

398 "folowing"

399 "bludshedding"

- 14 **Item:** I give and bequeath to the poor of Chiddingstone aforesaid 3s 4d to
400 be distributed at my burial.
- 15 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my eldest daughter, Marie, wife of John Wells,**
four pounds
- 16 of lawful money to be paid to her, her executors or assigns, within one year
next after my decease. And to **her son,**
- 17 **John Wells, my godson,** twenty shillings to be paid to him at his age of five
and twenty years, if he be then
- 18 living. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Elizabeth, my second daughter, wife of**
Thomas Cripedge, the like
- 19 sum of four pounds to be paid to her within the second year next after my
decease, or to her executors or assigns.
- 20 And to **her son John Barr**⁴⁰¹, **my godson,** 20s to be paid at his age of twenty
five years, if he be then
- 21 living. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my three other daughters, Clemence,**
Johane and Ruth Pigott, to every of them,

400 Originally the following lines were included here but they were crossed out when the will was amended after the death of John's wife:
Item: I give and bequeath to my wellbeloved **wife** the sum of ten pounds of lawful money to be paid to her in money or goods (or both, as she shall please) within half a year after my decease. And I will that if she will have any of my goods for part of payment, that she have the choice of any the same paid such price as shalbe agreed by two my honest neighbours, one to be chosen by her and the other by my son and executor hereafter named.

401 Cripedge crossed out and changed to Barr; John was presumably her son by an earlier marriage

22 eleven⁴⁰² pounds a piece besides such goods as I have already given them.
To be paid to them, and every of them, at their
23 several ages of one and twenty years, if they be then living, or at the several
days of their marriage, which shall first
24 happen. And I will that my son and executor shall keep and provide for
them until they shalbe of lawful age to
25 provide for themselves. **Item:** all the residue of my goods and cattells, debts,
credits and chattels and all other my
26 moveable goods whatsoever, I wholly, fully and with good effect, intent and
purpose, give and bequeath to my loving⁴⁰³
27 **son John Pigott** which John, my son, I make and ordain my whole executor
of this my will, to pay
28 all my debts, to see this my will proved and my body honestly and decently
buried. And I desire my
29 natural **brother, Baptist Pigott**, and **my loving kinsman, Henry Pigott**, to be
supervisors and
30 overseers of this my will desiring them to be helping and assisting my said
son and executor in the probation

402 changed from "ten"; was this change made after John's wife had died?

403 "natural" crossed out and replaced with "loving"

31 and execution of this my will. To whom I give in remembrance of my
32 goodwill 3s 4d a piece over and
33 besides all their charges and expenses about this my will to be laid out.
34 And as concerning my little tenement called **Darbies** situated in **East**
Malling in the county of Kent,
35 with the lands and appurtenances thereto belonging, I will and give the
36 same, withall and singular th'appurtenances, unto the
37 said John Pigott, my son, his heirs and assigns, forever⁴⁰⁴ In witness
whereof to this my present last will I the said John Pigott, the father, have
set my hand and seal, yeven,
the day and year first above written.

Nicholas Hooper's
mark
with initials

signum ⁴⁰⁵ John Pigott

404 Here the following lines were crossed out: paying out of the same to the said **Elizabeth, my wife**, yearly during her natural life, forty shillings of lawful money, half yearly, viz: at the feast of the annunciation and Michaelmas by equal portions. And I will that for lack of payment thereof, or of any part thereof, after either of the said feasts by the space of five and twenty (changed from ten) days, it shalbe lawful for my said wife and her assigns to enter and distrain upon the said messuage and premises. And the distress . . . keep until she shalbe fully paid according to the true meaning of this my will. And I will that the first payment thereof shalbe and begin at that feast of the feasts aforesaid which shall next come and be next after my decease.

405 an inverted "V"

Read and acknowledged as the last
will of the said John Pigott in
the presence of me, **Nicholas Hooper**,
writer and of **Bartholomew Mose**.

Signum. **O** Bartholomew
Mose

And this will amended the 14 of May 1610 by reason of the death of the wife of the
testator in the
presence of me, Nicholas Hooper and **Nicholas Bennett** Signum. ⁴⁰⁶ Nicholas
Bennett

1 In the name of god Amen. The fifth day of October
2 in the sixteenth year of our Sovereign Lord James by the grace of God of En
3 gland, France and Ireland, king, defender of the faith, etc. and of Scotland
the two and
4 fiftieth, Anno Dm. one thousand, six hundred and eighteen. I, Henry Pigott
of the parish
5 of Chiddingstone in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being sick and weak in
body but of sound
6 and perfect memory, thanks be to Almighty God, do make and ordain this
my last will
7 and testament in manner and form following: **First** and principally I give
and bequeath
8 my soul into the hands of Almighty⁴⁰⁷, my maker, and Jesus Christ, his son,
my only saviour
9 and redeemer by whose precious death and blood shedding being
apprehended by a lively

407 "god" omitted here

10 faith I trust to be saved and my body to the earth from whence it came and
as concerning
11 the disposing of my worldly goods, **First:** I give and bequeath unto the poor
people of the
12 parish of Chiddingstone, the sum of thirty shillings to be distributed at the
day of
13 burial. **Item:** I give to **my brother William Pigott's son Henry Pigott**, the sum
of ten pounds to be paid unto him at his age of twenty one years and if
14 he happen to die before his age of twenty one years, then I give the said ten
15 pounds to **William Pigott his brother** to be paid him at his age of twenty
16 one years. **Item:** I give to **Mary Pigott, my brother William, his eldest**
17 **daughter,**
18 the like sum of ten pounds of lawful english money to be paid unto her at
her age
19 of twenty and one years or the day of her marriage, which shall first happen.
20 **Item:** I give to **Ruth, my wellbeloved wife**, the sum of one hundred pounds of
21 lawful english money to be paid within one whole year next after my
decease
22 by my executor hereafter named. **Item:** I give her more the one half of all my
23 household stuff and two kyne and my will is that my wife shall have the
24 keeping of two kyne upon my ground during her natural life and the
chamber

25 over the hall and to come to the fire and fleet in the hall likewise during her
life.

26 **Item:** I give to my **servant Margaret Shelby** twenty shillings to be paid her
within

27 one year after my decease. **Item:** I give to **James Fathers, my servant,**
likewise ten

28 shillings to be paid within one year after my decease. **Item: Anne Howlett,**
one

29 other of my servants, ten shillings to be paid within one year as aforesaid.
Item:

30 I give to so many of **my brother Thomas Pigott's children** as shalbe living at
the

31 time of my decease the sum of forty shillings a piece to be paid within one
year after

32 my decease. **Item:** I give to **my brother Anthony Pigott his three children**
forty shil

33 lings a piece to be paid within one whole year next after my decease. The
resi

34 due of all my goods, cattles, chattels, moveables and immoveables
whatsoever not

35 before given, I do with good intent and purpose, give and bequeath them to
Nicho

36 **las Pigott, my son,** whom I do ordain and make my sole executor of this my

37 will. Provided always, and my will and meaning is, that in regard my son
Nicholas
38 is under age and not able to take the executorship upon him neither will be
char
39 geable in law with the payment of my debts and legacies, therefore my will
is void?

page 2:

40 and I do entreat **my loving friend William Birsty** of Chiddingstone and my
loving **brothers**
41 **John Pigott and William Pigott** to join with my son Nicholas in the
executorship and the pro
42 ving of my will as in trust for my son and I do by this my will give them
43 full power and authority to sell any of my goods towards the payment of my
debts and
44 legacies and that they shall pay all such debts as I do owe or of conscience
ought to be
45 paid and also all such legacies as I have by this my will given to any and to
pay them accor
46 ding to the true intent and meaning of this my will and, after my debts and
legacies are
47 paid, the overplus to remain wholly to the use of my son and they to be
accountable

48 unto him as well for all such goods as shall come to their hands as also for
the profit of
49 his lands if any shall come to their hands. And as concerning the disposing
of all my
50 lands, my will and meaning is, and I do with good intent and purpose give
and bequeath them
51 to Nicholas Pigott, my son, and to his heirs for ever. And I do entreat and
appoint my **loving**
52 **friends Henry Streatfield and John Ashdowne** to be overseers of this my will
and to be
53 aiders and helpers for the good of my son. And I do give to my two brothers
John and
54 William Pigott and to William Birsty and to each of them three a piece of
gold of
55 two and twenty shillings and to my two overseers, each of them, of eleven
shillings
56 a piece and all such charges as any of them shall at any time be at about
this my
57 will. And I do by this my will renounce all former wills
58 and pronounce this as my last will. In witness whereof to this my will
contai
59 ning three sheets of paper I have to every sheet set my mark and to the last
have set my mark and seal being dated the

60 day and year first above written. Signed, sealed and acknow
61 ledged to be his will in the presence of William Birsty, John Ashdowne.
62 The mark of John Pigott.

William Pilgrim of Penshurst

The will of William Pilgrim (**PCC: Evelyn 58; Prob 10/616**) 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.

	p931	William - Mary	p932 ⁴¹²
<i>will:</i>	30 Dec 1640		
<i>bur:</i>	16 May 1641	23 Dec 1630	

	p933	Robert	Ethelred p934
<i>bap:</i>			7 Aug 1629

Charles Weston, one of William's executors, could have been the brother of Baptist Weston whose will has survived - see [Weston in Families & Transcripts](#)

⁴¹² "p" indicates a reference in the Penshurst database

1 In the name of god Amen. The thirtieth day of December 1640 . .

- I, William Pilgrim of
- Penshurst in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being at this present not well in body
- but of good and perfect remembrance, praised be⁴¹³ God, do make and declare this my
- last will and testament in manner and form following: **First:** yielding my soul to
- Almighty god and to Jesus Christ, my only saviour and redeemer, by whose
- death and passion I fully trust to have all my sins freely forgiven and to
- attain to the joyful resurrection of eternal life committing my body to the earth
- in decent sort to be buried in the churchyard of Penshurst. **Item:** I give
- and bequeath unto **Robert Pilgrim, my son**, and **Ethelred Pilgrim, my**

413 "bee", "mee", etc. throughout

- **daughter** all my chattels and moneys whatsoever (my debts and funeral expenses
- discharged) to be equally divided between them and I do make and
- ordain my loving friends **Charles Weston** and **Nathaniel Weekes**
- the full and joint executors of this my last will and testament to
- whom I give full power and authority, by virtue of this my last will
- to take up all such money as I, the said William, have owing unto me and
- is due unto me by bonds or any other ways or means whatsoever. And
- I do appoint my said executors to make sale of such goods
- and household stuff as I have and the moneys that shall arise or be made
- thereof (after the charges of proving my will and other charges that my said
- executors shall disburse about getting in of my moneys) the overplus thereof
- to be equally divided between my son and daughter. And my will is
- that my said executors shall pay unto Robert, my son, all such money as
- his portion shall arise unto him within one year next after my decease. And
- all such money as my said daughter's portion shall arise unto, my will is that
- my said executors shall put out for the benefit of my said daughter and enter
- into sufficient bond to make payment thereof, with all such profits as shall
- arise thereby, unto the said Ethelred, my daughter, when she shall
- accomplish her age
- of one and twenty or day of her marriage which shall first happen. And if
- it shall happen that the said Robert do die and decease before he shall have

- received his portion, being unmarried and having no heirs of his body lawfully begotten
- or the said Ethelred before she shall accomplish her said age of one and twenty
- years or the day of her marriage, then my will is the survivor of them to be the other's heir. In witness whereof, to this my last will and testament,
- revoking all other wills, I the said William Pilgrim have set my hand and seal and I do give unto my said executors, unto either of them, five shillings
- a piece over and above their charges taken herein.

William Pilgrim
his mark

W

Sealed and declared in the presence of
Mathew Cepter

Thomas Leddall⁴¹⁴

414 written in the same way as his other wills

"being healthy in body . . . following⁴¹⁰"

"I commend my soul to Almighty god, my creator, and to Jesus Christ, mine only saviour who, of his infinite merit and unspeakable love, hath redeemed me from the bondage of hell and everlasting damnation and made full satisfaction for all my sins and my body I commit to the earth from whence it came."

"certain Rooms, parcel of a tenement

- called **Andrews** situated in Westerham aforesaid, late in
- th'occupation of **Alice Plumley, widow**, deceased, whilst
- she lived, mother of me the said John, viz: a parlour,
- a buttery, a chamber over the parlour, with a garret and
- two other chambers thereto adjoining these called the
- chamber over that hall with a closet in it and thother

410 following with only one "I"

- called the chimney chamber."

witnesses: **Tho. Collet** and **Thomas Collet, Jun.**

John Plumley's name looks like a signature.

A number of wills have survived for the Pocockes of Sevenoaks (see [History of Sevenoaks, Section 2](#)) but this (CKS: Drb/Pw 11, Drb/Pwr 14.130) is the only one to survive from Speldhurst.

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 The 26th day of March a thou
3 sand, five hundred, three score and thirteen,
4 I, Henry Pococke of the parish of
5 Speldhurst in the county of Kent, **yeoman**,
6 being of whole mind and perfect rem
7embrance, thanks be to god, do make
8 this my present testament and last will
9 in manner and form following: **First:** I
10 bequeath my soul into the hands of
11 Almighty God, my creator, redeemer
12 and saviour and my body to be buried in the
13 churchyard of Speldhurst aforesaid.
14 **Item:** I will there to be bestowed at the
15 day of my burial, to the relief of

16 the poor people of the said parish, with
17 other funeral charges 5s⁴¹¹. **Item:** I
18 bequeath to **Johan Pococke, my daughter,**
19 a cow, 4 sheep and two pairs of
20 sheets immediately after my decease.
21 **Item:** I will unto **Catherine, my daughter,**
22 a cow, 3 sheep and 2 pairs of sheets
23 immediately after my decease. **Item:** I will
24 unto **Ellen, my daughter,** a cow, 4
25 sheep and two pairs of sheets imm
26 ediatly after my decease. **Item:** I will unto
27 **Alice, my daughter,** a cow, 5 sheep
28 and two pairs of sheets immediately
29 after my decease. **Item:** I will all
30 my tussam⁴¹² and yarn shall be equally
31 divided between my four daughters
32 immediately after my decease. **Item:** I
33 will unto **Agnes Fray, my servant,**
34 a new russett petticoat, two smocks,

411 this seems to mean that any change out of 5s after paying the funeral expenses was to be given to the poor

412 probably hemp or flax

35 two Royles, two nales(?) aprons, a
36 sackcloth doublet of mine. The
37 residue of all my goods moveable
38 unbequeathed, my debts, legacies
39 funeral expenses first paid and done,
40 I will, give and bequeath unto **William**
41 **Pococke, my son**, which William
42 I make my sole and lawful executor
43 of this my present testament and
44 last will. And I make and ordain
45 **Robert Combridge, the elder**, to be
46 the supervisor of this same. And he to
47 have for his labours and pains
48 taking about the performance of the
49 same 2s over and above his reasonable
50 costs and charges. These witnesses
William Waghorne, Richard Waghorne, Thomas Hunt, John Appleby and
William Sexton

Is Potett yet another version of "Pelsett"? See the Pelsetts of Seal for details

This will is in Latin

Robert bequeathed 12d to the high altar and left the residue to **his wife, Alice**, whom he appointed his executrix

The Porters of Seal

The Porters were one of a number of large Seal families for which records go back to the fifteenth century. A few details of the Porters just after 1650 have been included. There were also Porters in Sevenoaks but no wills have survived from there; these families are described in [Section 2 of the History of Sevenoaks](#).

In the early 1400s the **Manor of Hall (Hall Place)** in Seal was owned by the Tebolds but the Thomas Tebold who died in 1454 had a daughter Margery who married a William Porter who, by that time, owned Hall Place. Their son could have been the William for whom the probate copy of his will, written in 1506, has survived. Unfortunately this is very difficult to read but he left his wife, Johane, an annuity of 26s 8d with his shop in Seal going to his son William who was probably the William whose will of 1520 is the next Porter will to have survived.

	# ⁴¹³	written	buried	reference ⁴¹⁴	
William Porter		1506		CKS: -; 6.181	
William Porter	# 3213	1520	proved 1521	CKS: -; 7.208	page p.202
John Porter	# 3216	22 May 1533		CKS: -; 9.84	page p.206
James Porter	# 229	24 Apr 1563	9 May 1563	CKS: 7; 13.89	page p.211
Andrew Porter	# 303	2 Jun 1581	7 Jun 1581	CKS: -; 16.146	page p.245
Elizabeth Porter	# 304	8 Oct 1587	5 Oct 1588 ⁴¹⁵	CKS: 15; 17.392	page p.250
John Porter	# 3275	13 Jul 1607	1612 ⁴¹⁶	PCC: Prob 11/120	page p.228
William Porter	# 58	7 Aug 1610 ⁴¹⁷		CKS: 22; 20.160	page p.264
Jane Porter	# 59	13 Jun 1620		CKS: 26; 21.	page p.277
John Porter	# 305	9 Jun 1623		PCC: Swann 79	page p.283
Andrew Porter	# 827	7 Feb 1647	10 Mar 1647	CKS: 32; 23.86	page p.296

⁴¹³ # indicates a reference in the Seal database

⁴¹⁴ CKS references are Drb/Pw followed by Drb/Pwr

⁴¹⁵ Elizabeth Porter, widow

⁴¹⁶ buried at St.Dunstons in the East, London; the will was proved on 21st May 1612 but a decree between himself and Seveoaks School regarding his annuity to the school was dated 4th March 1612 so that he died between these two dates

⁴¹⁷ a William Porter was buried on 27th May 1611 but this will was not proved until 21st September 1620; this burial could have been that of this testator but such a long delay between death and proving of the will is unusual although not unknown.

The first witness to the will of John Porter, 1533, was **Sir William Dampart**, curate, who probably wrote the will but the second one was **Thomas Tybalde (or Tebold)** who was the vicar of Seal from 1525 to 1542. He was a scholar who travelled on the continent but must have been in Seal in the spring of 1533.

The 1610 will of William Porter (#58) was written by **Nicholas Hooper**, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618. The Jane whose will has survived was William's wife.

The wills of James Porter in 1563, Andrew Porter in 1581 and Andrew's wife, Elizabeth were written by **Gilbert Jenyns**, vicar of Seal and Kemsing from 1561 to his death in 1603.

James's eldest son, John, became a citizen and fishmonger of London; his will dated 1607 has survived but he did not die until 1612 when he was buried, in London, at St. Dunstons in the East. His two sisters, Alice and Sylvester, are known from this 1607 will and Sylvester from her own will. James's youngest son, William, became known as "of Pyks" which he inherited from his father.

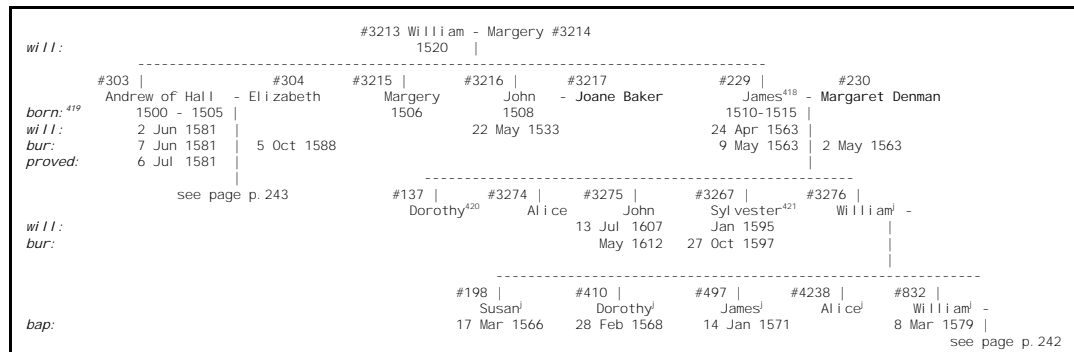
Andrew who died in 1581 was "of Hall", a manor in Seal which was inherited by his son William whose will has also survived (1610). William's son, another Andrew, is described in his will (1646) as of Hall but he had only two daughters and he does not mention the manor in his will. His will was written by Robert Baker, just about to retire from his position as vicar of Seal and Kemsing and must have been written in 1646 although Andrew was not buried until 10th March 1647.

William Porter, died 1520

The William who died in 1520 (#3213) married either an Olyver or a Tebold and she was still alive in 1533 when her son John wrote his will; by this time she must have been in her fifties. When William wrote his will, all his sons were under 21.

In 1520, William Porter had at least two houses in "the town of Seal" one of which, with a croft, was called Burncroft. As William's sons came of age, they were each to have a part of his estate. Details of the lands owned by the Porters are given on page p.306..

Tree P.1 - Family Tree of William and Margery



-
- 418** In 1556 James was appointed overseer of Johane Tomlyn's will
- 419** estimated dates for their births working backwards assuming marriage/first child at about twenty-five
- 420** married **Robert Olyver (#136)** on 31st January 1563 so that she was probably born about 1538; her burial was not recorded in Seal but a Robert Olyver, most probably her husband, married again in 1586; see #136 in **Olyver** for her six children and more details of her husband
- 421** married **John Miller of Kemsing (#2955/k484)** and her will has survived - see **Miller**

1 In the name of god Amen. The year of our
2 lord god 1520, I, William Porter of
3 Seal in the county of Kent, whole of mind
4 make my testament in this wise **First:**
5 I bequeath my soul to god, my body to be
6 buried in the churchyard of Seal. **Item:**
7 to the high altar 5s.
8 This is the last will of me, William
9 Porter. **First:** I bequeath unto **Margery,**
10 **my wife,** the profit of all my lands
11 until my sons come to the age of
12 21 years and each of them to have a
13 part as they come to their age except
14 one house lying in the town of Seal together
15 . . . house there with
16 a croft which is called **Burncroft,** the
17 which house and croft I will that Margery,
18 my wife, have during the term of
19 her life. Also I will that Margery,

20 my wife, have out of such of my sons'
21 part 20s the year to be paid at 2
22 times of the year by even portions.
23 Also I bequeath to **Margery, my daughter,**
24 towards her marriage £6 13s 4d.
25 And if the said Margery do decease before
26 the time of her marriage, then I will
27 the said money shall remain to her
28 brothers by even portions. Also I will
29 that each of them be others' heirs both
30 in my lands and in that portion of
31 moveable aforesaid. Also I will if all
32 my sons die without heirs of their
33 bodies lawfully begotten, then I will that
34 my daughters shall have my lands
35 divided between them by even portions.
36 The residue of all my goods I give
37 and bequeath unto Margery, my wife,
38 and to **Thomas Pynden**, mine executor,
39 the said Margery to dispose them for my
40 soul and all ?? souls at her pleasure.
41 Also I make **William Denman** my overseer
42 of this my last will. Also I bequeath

43 to the foresaid Thomas Pynden, my
44 executor for the labour 40d.
45 at Seal, the year of our lord aforesaid
46 witness **Walter Denman, Thomas Pynden, jun.**

John Porter, son of William

William's son John would have been in his mid-twenties when he died in 1533 and had, presumably, only been married for a short time. He made his wife, Joane, one of his executors but does not mention the possibility of her being pregnant; his father-in-law, Robert Baker, was to be his overseer.

This is definitely a "pre-Reformation" will. John asks that "a taper of wax of the weight of two pounds be made and set up before our lady in the chancel of our lady in the said church of Seal. And there to burn and to be lit at times convenient so long as it shall endure". He also wants six priests "to sing and say masses for my soul and all christian souls at the day of my burial" and at his month's day. In addition his executors were to "cause one honest priest to sing for

my soul, and my friends' souls, in the church of Seal by the space of a quarter of a year. And he to have for his labour 33s 4d" (£1.67).

John's mother, Margery, was still alive when he died owing her 20s. In addition to repaying the debt plus another 10s, he made arrangements for an annuity to be paid to her. Immediately after she died, John's brothers Andrew and James were to find "an honest priest to sing for my soul and all christians in the said church of Seal by the space of one quarter of a year" and, as before, the priest was to be paid 33s 4d. We can already see that the Porters were a wealthy family, 33s 4d being a relatively large amount of money to pay out to the priest and it is also obvious, from the will, that John already owned a considerable amount of land.

John's wife Joane was to inherit outright his "tenement and dwelling house . . called Burtons and two crofts of land thereto adjoining" and to have the profits, etc. from all his "other lands and tenements in Seal" until the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel next after his decease. Then his brothers, Andrew and James, were to have the lands, etc. paying their mother (Margery) an annuity of £1 a year and John's wife Joan an annuity of £2

1 In the name of god Amen. The 22nd day
2 of May in the year of our lord 1533 and
3 in the 25th year of king Henry VIII, I,
4 John Porter of Seal in the county of Kent,
5 whole in mind but sick in body, make my testament
6 and last will in this wise: **First:** I bequeath
7 my soul to god and my body to be buried in the
8 churchyard of Seal. **Item:** to the altar of
9 the said church, 16d. **Item:** to my mother
10 church of ..ch..st 2d. **Item:** I will a taper of
11 wax of the weight of 2 pounds be made and set up
12 before our lady in the chancel of our lady in the
13 said church of Seal. And there to burn and to be
14 light at times convenient so long as it shall
15 endure. **Item:** I will to have 6 priests to sing and
16 say masses for my soul and all christian souls at
17 the day of my burial. **Item:** my will is to have
18 at my month's day 6 priests to say and sing for
19 my soul in like manner. **Item:** I will that my

20 executors, in as convenient time after my decease
21 as they may, that they cause one honest priest to
22 sing for my soul, and my friends' souls, in the church
23 of Seal by the space of a quarter of a year. And
24 he to have for his labour 33s 4d. The
25 residue of all my goods above not bequeathed I
26 give and bequeath to **Joane, my wife**, whom I ordain and make
27 my principal executor and **William Tomlyn** an
28 executor and him to have only for his labours 3s 4d
29 over and above his expenses in executing of this my
30 said will. **Item:** I ordain **Richard Baker, my father-in-law**⁴²²,
31 to be overseer of this my said testament and last will
32 and he to have for his labour 6s 8d.

33 This is the last will of me, John Porter, touching
34 the disposition of all my land and tenements made the day
35 and year above said. **First:** I will, give and bequeath to
36 the said Joane, my wife, my tenement and dwelling house

37 with th'appurtenances called **Burtons** and 2 crofts of land thereto
38 adjoining to have to her, her heirs and assigns, for
39 ever more. **Item:** I will further that the same Joane
40 shall have ?? and take to her own use all the
41 issues and profits coming and issuing of all my other
42 lands and tenements in Seal aforesaid from the day of
43 my decease unto the feast of Saint Michael th'archangel
44 then next following the same, Joane then to pay
45 the lord's rent⁴²³. And also 10s to **Margery Porter, my**
46 **mother**⁴²⁴, to her then . . . annuity to
47 her, by me, granted. **Item:** my will is that after the said
48 feast of Saint Michael th'archangel, **Andrew**
49 **Porter and James Porter, my brothers**, have all my
50 said land and tenements in Seal aforesaid, except the
51 said tenement called Burtons and 2 crofts of land thereto
52 adjoining, to them and to their heirs for ever upon
53 condition that they indifferently yearly pay to the
54 said Margery, my mother, ?? annuity of 20s

423 assuming John died soon after writing his will, Joane would have had these profits for about four months - June to September inclusive but, from the profits, she would have had to pay the lord's rent.

424 John's mother, the wife of William Porter (#3213) was either a Tebold or an Olyver; she had been a widow for at least twelve years when John wrote his will

during her life according to the tenor and effect of my grant made unto her. And also indifferently yearly to pay the said Joane, my wife, a certain annuity of 40s during her life according to the tenor and effect of my grant made to her use. And if so be the said grants, or any of them, be not sufficient in the law, then I will that the said Andrew and James do make, or cause to be made, to the said Margery and Joane, or to their assigns, new grants of ?? sufficiency in the law of the said annuities paid out of the said lands and tenements by me to the same Andrew and James given and bequeathed. And further, my will is that the said Andrew and James shall pay, or cause to be paid, to **Thomas Pynden of Seal**⁴²⁵ 5 pounds and 5s, to **William Denman, the younger**, 53s 4d. And to the said Margery, my mother, 20s, which sums of money I owe to them. **Item:** my will is further that immediately after the decease of the said Margery, that the said Andrew and James shall find one honest secular? priest to sing for my soul and all christians in the said church

75 of Seal by the space of one quarter of a year, the next
76 and immediately following. And he to have for his labour
77 33s 4d. Witness: **Sir William Dampot**⁴²⁶, curate,
Thomas Tybalde, Thomas Olyver, Richard Frenche,
William Christopher, Thomas Baker, John ?? with others.

Probate to William Tomlyn, date not decipherable

James Porter, son of William

The James who died in 1563 (#229) was probably the James Porter who was renting the Tebold meadow "beyond Winterbourne bridge" in 1545. He witnessed the will of **John Denman**, prebend of Rochester in 1556 and, in the same year, was appointed overseer of **Johane Tomlyn's** will. His wife is known as a Denman from the will of his daughter, Sylvester, who married John Miller of Kemsing.

With James's will we see the difference made by the Reformation. Instead of a taper and masses James left £7 to the poor people of the parish of Kemsing and Seal, £1 a year for six years to be paid at the feast of the Annunciation of the

426 who probably wrote the will

Virgin Mary with a sermon at the church, the preacher being paid 3s 4d for each sermon. 3s 4d was one sixth of a pound so that six sermons accounted for the seventh pound of the legacy.

James was, at least partly, a pastoral farmer leaving a black cow bullock⁴²⁷ of a year old to one person, a red cow bullock of one year to another and a white heifer of two years old and upwards to a third, a weaning calf to each of three people and a ewe and a lamb each to two more. He also mentions "[corn within the house](#)" (that is already harvested and, since this was April, must have been what remained from the harvest of the previous year's) and the "[implements of the forge and all things appertaining thereunto](#)".

Will of James Porter of Seal

written 24th April 1563

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. The
2 24th day of April in the year of our Lord
3 god 1563 and in the fifth year of the reign

⁴²⁷ a bullock could be a young animal of either sex

4 of our sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace
5 of god Queen of England, France and Ireland,
6 defender of the faith, etc. I, James Porter of the parish
7 of Seal within the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being
8 sick in body but, thanked be god, whole and perfect of
9 memory, do make my testament and last will
10 in manner and form following: **First:** I bequeath
11 my soul unto the hands of almighty god, my redeemer
12 and saviour, and my body to be buried in the
13 in the churchyard of Seal aforesaid. **Item:** I give
14 and bequeath to the poor people of the parish
15 of **Kemsing and Seal** seven pounds of lawful
16 money of England to be paid and delivered
17 within the space of six years, that is to say 20s
18 a year to be paid and delivered unto the poor
19 of the said parishes at one time the same being
20 at the feast of the annunciation of the virgin mary
21 next after my decease and at every of the said
22 a sermon to be made at the church or
23 chapel of Seal aforesaid and the preacher
24 thereof to have for his labour 3s 4d to be paid
25 out of the said £7 before bequeathed. **Item:**
26 I give and bequeath unto **Richard Coleman** a

27 black cow bullock of a year old. **Item:** I give
28 unto **Johane Custance** a red cow bullock of
29 one year. **Item:** I give unto **Richard Frenche** a
30 white heifer of 2 years old and upwards. **Item:**
31 I give unto **Robert Mype?**, **Clement Mipe?** and
32 **Thomas Monke**⁴²⁸, each of them a weaning calf.
33 **Item:** I give unto **Margaret Myller**⁴²⁹ one ewe
34 and a lamb, to **William Byshop** one ewe and a
35 lamb. **Item:** I give unto **my son-in-law Robert**
36 **Oliver** a featherbed and a bolster that is now
37 in the parlour to be delivered after the decease
38 of **Margaret, my wife**⁴³⁰. **Item:** I give and bequeath
39 all the rest of my goods and moveables (my
40 debts paid) unto **John Porter** and **William**

page 2:

41 **my sons**, equally to be divided between the said

428 only Frenche is a name otherwise known in Seal; were these six of James's servants?

429 Sylvester, one of James's daughters, married John Miller of Kemsing and their eldest child, born before 1563, was called Margaret

430 Margaret died before her husband being buried on 2nd May 1563 whilst James was buried on 9th May

42 John Porter and William, my sons aforesaid,
43 my debts and legacies paid and performed
44 equally between them of my said goods and
45 moveables. And also I give to the said John
46 Porter and William Porter all that my debts that
47 is owing unto me toward the payments of my
48 debts and performance of my legacies. Except all
49 my implements of household within the doors⁴³¹
50 as tables, forms, chests, boards, bedsteads,
51 brass, etc. withall the corn within the house
52 which I give and bequeath only to William Porter,
53 my son. The implements of the forge and
54 all things appertaining thereunto excepted
55 and to be reserved between them as aforesaid.
56 And I do ordain and make John Porter and
57 William Porter, my sons, mine executors
58 of this my last will and testament.

59 This is my last will and testament concer
60 ning all my lands and tenements lying and
61 being within the parish of Kemsing and Seal

62 within the county of Kent aforesaid given
63 and bequeathed the day and year above written
64 in manner and form following: **Item:** I give
65 and bequeath unto William Porter, my son, all
66 that my messuage or tenement called **Pyks**
67 **Tenement** with those parcels of land following:
68 that is a croft on the backside with the hemp
69 land and the orchard belonging thereto. **Item:**

page 3:

70 A piece of land called **Standard**, a piece called **ye**
71 **wood** and a piece of land called **Great Milders**, a
72 piece called **Little Milders**, a piece called **Londens** and
73 **Little Dynes**, a piece called **Barn Croft** with the
74 barn thereon and the stable, 2 pieces of land
75 called **Pynk Lands** which I bought of **Christopher**
76 **Olyver**⁴³² with the appurtenances as woods and
77 underwoods, a piece of land and wood called
78 **Mollett** and **Ivys**, a piece of land called **Stone**
79 **Rock** containing, be estimation, ten acres, and
80 a piece of meadow ground called **Stampett**

81 **Mede** containing, by estimation, 5 acres, and
82 half a garden platt in **Palmers Mede**, contain
83 ing, by estimation, 3 roods, and a tenement
84 at **Godden** that **Samson Viele** now dwelleth
85 in with the appurtenances. And also 3 crofts
86 called **Nagpletts** lying and being at Godden
87 aforesaid in the occupancy sometime of **William**
88 **Frenche**⁴³³ and a ?? called **Elses** ??
89 containing an acre. All which messuage
90 with the appurtenances, lands and tenements
91 before bequeathed, I will and give unto William,
92 my son, to have and to hold to him, his heirs
93 and assigns, forever. **Item:** I give and bequeath
94 unto John Porter, my son, all that my
95 tenement called **Elses** with the appurtenances,
96 situated, lying and being at Godden⁴³⁴ aforesaid
97 with these parcels of land following: 2 crofts
98 on the backside of the said house with all
99 other my lands lying and being on the east

433 The will of William Frenche of Godden was written on 28th April 1563, four days after that of James

434 "Godwyn" here but "Godden" above

100 side of the same joining to meadows towards
101 the east and the lands of **Andrew Porter**⁴³⁵
102 towards the north and west, to have and to hold
103 the said tenement, crofts and lands with their
104 appurtenances, to him and to his heirs and
105 assigns forever. **Item:** I give and bequeath all
106 that my right that I have or had, at the
107 making of this my last will and testament,

page 4:

108 in the lands called **Dickgyns** unto John, my son,
109 which I bought of **Thomas Lampard** and
110 **Richard Baker**. **Item:** I give unto my said son
111 John Porter my pieces of land lying and being
112 at **Stonepitts** within the parish of Seal
113 aforesaid called **Eastfield**, **Little Woodens**,
114 **Will Field** and **Sipneselle**, a piece of land
115 called **Evers Land**, a croft called **Long Croft**.
116 **Item:** a tenement with two meadow ??
117 to have and to hold the said lands, meadows
118 and tenements to him, his heirs and assigns,

119 forever. In witness of that this is my last will
120 and testament, I have set my seal and
121 mark the day and year above written
122 being witness **Gilbert Jenyns, clerk, Thomas**
123 **Bishop and John Miller.** Witness more of the
124 last alteration **William ??, Item:** further I
125 will that my two said sons John and William
126 shall make a sufficient and a lawful release,
127 the one to the other, their heirs, executors and
128 assigns, of all such lands and tenements and
129 every parcel thereof according to the tenor,
130 effect and meaning of this my last will and
131 testament within the space of ?? weeks
132 next after the day of my decease. And
133 if any of them refuse so to do, being required
134 of one of the other, that then he that shall so refuse
135 to do shall forfeit the purchased lands to him
136 bequeathed to the other, anything in this my last
137 will and testament to the contrary not
138 withstanding. Sealed and delivered in the

139 presence of me, Gilbert Jenyns⁴³⁶, clerk, vicar of
140 Kemsing and Seal aforesaid, Thomas
141 Bishop and John Miller.

John Porter, citizen and fishmonger of London

The will of James's son John is interesting for a number of reasons. From it we see how a man from a prosperous but not exceptional yeoman family could become very rich if he could establish himself in London. John became a citizen of London and a member of the Company of Fishmongers and one of the many relatives to whom he left money was his "loving friend and cousin **Richard Denman, citizen and grocer of London**". Richard could have been a son of **William Denman** (#1992) who was the brother of John's mother Margaret Denman.

Many young men from Seal must have taken an apprenticeship in London from much earlier times than this. In addition, some women from the village would have married men who were making their way in London as did Johanne Tebold

436

"Jennes" here and on line 122 but this is the probate copy; Gilbert Jenyns wrote the wills of many of his parishioners - see *jenyns.fam*

who married Thomas Palley in the 1530s. When Thomas died in 1558 he was a Warden of the Company of Fishmongers so that Seal had connections with this Livery Company going back at least to the early sixteenth century.

John Porter, who was probably born in the 1540s and therefore approaching seventy (if he had not already reached it) when he wrote his will in 1607, does not appear to have married - at least he had neither wife nor children when he wrote his will. This does not seem to have been unusual. Three wills of citizens of London connected with Sevenoaks and dating from before 1650 have survived: Robert Holden, haberdasher, mentioned neither wife nor children whilst the other two, John Turner, skinner, and George Scott, grocer, although married do not seem to have had any children.

John's will was written on 13th July 1607 but he lived for almost another five years being buried, at St. Dunstons-in-the-East, London, in May 1612 with his will being proved the same month. He left £100 for his funeral which many of the members of the Fishmongers Company probably attended since he also left £10 to the Company "for drinking on the day of my burial".

Legacies were left to a large number of his nephews, nieces, cousins and their children. Where money was left to the parents John hoped that they would "have good care thereof for the good of their children" and, in addition, he often went on to leave specific amounts to the children themselves.

Table P.1 : John Porter's Money Bequests to his Relations

To:	notes	
children of brother William (#3276): - James & William - Susan, Dorothy & Alice	all over 21 £40 each £40 each	£ 80 £ 120
Margaret Miller, daughter of sister Sylvester (#3267), and her husband John Godden - their children, Thomas, Margaret & Sylvester	£50 £20 each; daughters under 21; perhaps also Thomas	£ 50 £ 60
daughter of Sylvester, and her husband ?? Lake		£ 200
cousin Lawrence Porter of Underriver - his children	100 marks 6 possibly 8; £150	£ 66.67 £ 150
cousin John Porter of Chart (#305) - his 4 children	£100 £100 between them	£ 100 £ 100
cousin Edward Porter - his children	£100 £100 between them	£ 100 £ 100

"sister Agnes ⁴³⁷ Wells, her daughter's child by her husband former" - <i>not identified</i>		£ 50
sister Dorothy Olyver (#137)	£100	£ 100
- her sons John & William	100 marks each	£ 133.33
- son Thomas Olyver	£40	£ 40
- daughter, Dorothy Olyver	£50	£ 50
children of Edward Porter, deceased, of Sevenoaks:		
- William	£60	£ 60
- Edward	£40	£ 40
- Elizabeth, Mary and Susan	£20 each	£ 60
friend & cousin Richard Denman	£50	£ 50
his two sons	£25 each	£ 50
	TOTAL	£1560

He also left bequests to others including his servants and money to three of the London hospitals :

⁴³⁷ Agnes Porter married Lawrence Atherfold but she died, in 1594, before her husband; they had three daughters, none of whom were called Agnes, and two sons who lived to be adults.

Table P.2: John Porter's Other Money Bequests

To:	Notes	
Stephen Cotman of Wapping and his brothers and sisters	£100 to be divided between them	£ 100
Edward Harvy		£ 20
Thomas Femmell		£ 5
Agnes Morgan, widow		£ 10
Johane Payne (London)		£ 30
widow of William Payne		£ 10
Prammell (Fish Street)		£ 10
Johane Selleway (Whitechapel)		£ 10
Grace Simpson, widow		£ 10
L?? Wyse, kinswoman, (Forest of Waltham)		£ 100
Thomas Hills (Fleet Street)	£50	£ 50
children by his first wife	20 marks each (say, 3)	£ 40
Thomas ?? and his wife, Rose	£50	£ 50
their children	£10 each (say, 3)	£ 60
John Day (servant)		£ 40
William Gowe (servant)		£ 5
William Leeds (servant)		£ 20

children of Henry Gifford ⁴³⁸	£60 divided between them	£ 60
St Thomas Hospital (Southwark)		£ 10
St. Bartholomews Hospital now West Smithfield, London		£ 10
Christ's Hospital in London		£ 20
	TOTAL	£ 670

The work involved in just administering this part of the will must have been considerable (and there was much more to come regarding the residue and the lands and tenements) but at least John left his executor the large sum of £1000 "[in consideration of the great good will and affection which I bear unto him and . . in consideration of his pains and labour and faithful endeavour to be had and used in the due and true exertions of this my last will and testament wherein above others I do repose an especial trust and confidence in him](#)".

The man he chose to do this work was his "[very good and loving friend](#)" Mr. William Man, Esq. of Chafford in the parish of the Holy Cross, Canterbury.

⁴³⁸ A Henry Gifford married Margaret Olyver in November 1564 (see *olyver.fam*). No children were recorded for him in Seal but this Henry would have been about the same age as the testator.

His two overseers were to be his friends John Highland, skinner and Richard Wright, goldsmith, both citizens of London, to whom he left £40 each "for their pains in this behalf to be taken". He also bequeathed to them £100 to be paid to them within a month of his decease which was to be employed by them "to such uses, intents and purposes" as they thought meet - presumably for charitable causes.

The bequests to his executor and overseers and the money he left for his funeral, brings the total of John's money bequests to £3520. Robert Holmden of Sevenoaks and a citizen and leatherseller of London, left money totalling over £1000 to a large number of cousins and other relations, only a third of that left by John.

The residue of all John's goods, chattels, personal estate after his debts and legacies had been paid and his funeral discharged were to be disposed of at the good discretion of his said executor and overseers. To do this they were to "enquire to and among poor people of parishes in London and the suburbs thereof and poor prisoners lying (there) for debt under twenty nobles⁴³⁹ in the prisons of Ludgate, Newgate, the two compters in London and the Kings Bench and compter in Southwark". How much money had John to be able to envisage helping the poor on such a scale?

⁴³⁹ a noble was 6s 8d (£0.33) so that John was hoping to help all those with debts under £6.67

In order to do this he required that his goods, chattels, leases, debts and personal estate be "rated, praised and valued in the inventory to be made of my estate at the best and highest prices and values . . . And to the end and intent that plain and upright dealing may be had . . . I do hereby as well impose an especial charge upon my said executor and do likewise charge and give full power and authority to my said overseers . . (to have), from time to time, . . sight and survey of all my goods, chattels, ready money, debts, leases and personal estate and . . writings". In addition his overseers were "of their freewill and pleasure, from time to time, have the right . . to have and enjoy free liberty, ingress, egress and regress in, to, through, by and from my now dwelling house in London, and every part and parcel thereof, for such virtue and sight and survey to be had as aforesaid without any . . let or gainsaying or contradiction in any wise, right or interest by my said executor".

His executor and overseers were going to have to work hard to carry out the instructions in John's will. But, even though he ended with a threat, he did have faith in them: "And I do pray, charge and require my said executor and overseers to see this my present last will and testament in all things fully and effectively performed and accomplished as my special trust and confidence is in them. And as they will answer for the contrary before God at the dreadful day of judgement when the secrets of all our hearts shall be opened."

But there was still the disposition of all his “freehold messuages, land, tenements and hereditaments” in the City of London and Kent, Essex and Sussex and his copyhold land and tenements in Essex and Sussex to consider.

All his freehold property in London was to be sold “with all expedition after my decease, . . . to such person or persons as will give most for the same” and the money received was to go towards the further performance of his will. His copyhold land and tenements in Essex were to go to his brother William (#3276)

His nephew, **Nicholas Miller** of Kemsing⁴⁴⁰ was to receive all his freehold messuages, land and tenements and hereditaments in Kent and Essex. This land was charged with a £12 annuity payable to the Wardens and four Assistants of the Town and Parish of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent and of the Free School of the late Queen Elizabeth in Sevenoaks which Nicholas and his heirs were to continue to pay “forever”. Other bequests to Sevenoaks School are described with the Potkyns in [Section 2 of the History of Sevenoaks..](#)

440 the youngest surviving son of Sylvester, John's sister; he married in 1602

All John's "freehold and copyhold messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments with appurtenances in Chiddingfold⁴⁴¹" and elsewhere in Sussex were to go to another nephew - **Richard Miller** of Kemsing⁴⁴²

Will of John Porter of Seal, citizen and fishmonger of London

written 13th July 1607; transcript from probate copy

In the name of god Amen. The thirteenth day of July in the year of our Lord God one thousand six hundred and seven and in the year of the reign of our sovereign Lord James, by the grace of God king of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, that is to say of England, France and Ireland the fifth and of Scotland the fortieth.

I, John Porter, citizen and fishmonger of London, being in health of body and of good and perfect mind and memory, laud and praise be given to Almighty God therefore, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say

⁴⁴¹ about six miles south of Heathfield, nineteen south of Tonbridge

⁴⁴² the eldest son of Sylvester, John's sister; he married in 1589

First and principally I commend my soul and spirit into the hand of Almighty God, my heavenly father, assuredly hoping through the merit of the death and passion of his dear son, our lord and saviour, Jesus Christ, to obtain remission of all my sins and offences and to enjoy eternal life among the elect people of God in his most blessed kingdom. And my wretched body I commit to the earth in hope of my full resurrection, the burial whereof I will to be such as shall become a Christian. And I will and bequeath the sum of one hundred pounds to be bestowed upon my funeral at the discretion of mine executors hereafter named.

And as fetching the disposition of such mortal goods as God hath blessed and endowed me withall, I give, devise and bequeath the same in form following, viz.

First: I will that all such debts as I shall owe at the time of my decease to any person or persons shall withall convenient speed be fully paid and satisfied. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **James Porter and William Porter, sons of my brother William Porter**, each of them forty pounds lawful money of England a piece. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Susan, Dorothy and Alice, daughters of my brother William Porter**, each of them forty pounds lawful money of England a piece.

Item: I give and bequeath unto **John Godwyn and Margaret⁴⁴³, his wife, daughter of my sister Silvester**, the sum of fifty pounds lawful money of England hoping that

they will have good care thereof for the good of their children. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Thomas Godwyn, son of the said John Godwyn,** and to **Margaret and Silvester, daughters of the same John,** to each of them £20 lawful money of England a piece.

Item: I give and bequeath to **my kinsman Lawrence Porter of Underriver** in the parish of Seal in the county of Kent 100 marks lawful money of England hoping he will have good care thereof for the good of his children. **Item:** I give and bequeath to my said **cousin** Lawrence Porter, for his children, the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds lawful money of England among the said children equally and ?? like to be divided.

Item: I give and bequeath to **my cousin John Porter of Chart** in the parish of Seal the sum of one hundred pounds lawful money of England hoping he will have good care thereof for the good of his children. **Item:** I give and bequeath to the **four children of the same John Porter** the sum of one hundred pounds lawful money of England amongst them equally ?? to be divided.

Item: I give and bequeath to **my kinsman Edward Porter** the sum of one hundred pounds lawful money of England hoping he will have good care thereof for the good of his children. **Item:** I give and bequeath to the **children of my said cousin Edward** the sum of one hundred pounds lawful money of England among them part and parcel to be divided.

And I will and ordain that the legacies of such of the children aforesaid as be male children shall be paid unto them severally and respectively as they shall accomplish their several ages of 21 years and the legacies of such of the said children as be female children shall be paid unto them severally and respectively as they shall accomplish their several ages of 21 years or days of marriage first happening.

Item: I give and bequeath to **Stephen Cotman of Wapping and his brothers and sisters** one hundred pounds among them part and parcel like to be divided. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my kinsman of Chiddingstone**⁴⁴⁴ that now is, or late was, clerk of the church there and his wife one hundred pounds hoping that he will have good care thereof for the good of his children. **Item:** I give and bequeath to ?? **Lake and his wife, daughter of my sister Silvester**⁴⁴⁵ two hundred pounds lawful money of England hoping that they will have good care thereof for the good of their children.

444 Lawrence Dyos (or Dewster) was vicar of Chiddingstone from 1585 to 1618 and of Brasted from 1592 to 1618. He was buried on 27th December 1618 "at night"

445 John's sister Sylvester is known to have had only two daughters, Margaret who married John Godden/Godwyn (mentioned above) and Sylvester born in 1570 and not married when her mother appointed her executrix of her will in 1597

Item: I give and bequeath to **my sister Agnes Wells, her daughter's child by her husband former** fifty pounds lawful money of England. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Dorothy Olyver, my sister,** the sum of one hundred pounds lawful money of England. I give and bequeath unto **John Olyver and William Olyver, sons of my said sister,** Dorothy Olyver, either of them the sum of one hundred marks of lawful money of England a piece. To **Thomas Olyver, son of my said sister** Dorothy Olyver forty pounds and to **Dorothy Olyver, daughter of my said sister** Dorothy fifty pounds.

Item: I give and bequeath unto **William Porter, son of Edward Porter,** late of **Sevenoaks,** deceased, threescore pounds; to **Edward Porter, brother of the said William** forty pounds. To **Elizabeth, Mary and Susan, sisters** of the same William and Edward, every of them three, twenty pounds a piece.

To **Edmund Harvy** twenty pounds. To **Johane Payne, daughter** of ?? Payne, late of **Mark Lane, London,** thirty pounds and to **Johane Selleyway** now or late of **White Chapel** in the county of **Middlesex** ten pounds.

All which legacies aforesaid (other than the legacies afore herein limited to be paid to the children aforesaid at their ages of 21 years or day of marriage), my mins and will is shall be paid within one year after my decease.

Item: I give and bequeath unto **L?? Wyse, my kinswoman**, dwelling in the **Forest of Waltham**⁴⁴⁶, the sum of one hundred pounds to be paid her within six months of my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my kinsman Thomas Hills, son of Ralph Hills**⁴⁴⁷, dwelling in **Fleet Street**, the sum of fifty pounds. And to the **children of the said Thomas Hills** that he had by his first wife and which are living, every of them twenty marks a piece. Which legacies bequeathed to be paid Thomas Hills and his said children, I will shall be paid within nine months next after my decease.

Item: I give to **Thomas ?? and Rose, his wife**, fifty pounds to every of their children now living ten pounds which I will shall be paid within 6 months next after my decease.

Item: I give and bequeath to the **Company of Fishmongers of London**, for drinking on the day of my burial, ten pounds. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Prammell** now or last dwelling at the **Bell in Fish Street** ten pounds. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto the part of **St. Thomas Hospital in Southwark** in the county of **Surrey** ten pounds. To the poor of **St. Bartholomews Hospital** now **West**

446 there is a Waltham in Kent about seven miles north east of Ashford but there is also Waltham Abbey in Essex, about twelve miles north east of London, which is close to Epping Forest

447 although there were Hills in Seal, no Ralph was recorded

Smithfield, London, ten pounds and to the poor of **Christ's Hospital** in London twenty pounds.

Item: I give and bequeath unto **my loving friend and cousin Richard Denman, citizen and grocer of London**, fifty pounds. And to his two sons, each of them twenty-five pounds a piece to be paid within six months after my decease.

Item: I give and bequeath unto **William Gowe**, sometime my servant, £5. **Item:** I give and bequeath to the **children of Henry Gifford** by his first wife £60 among them, part and parcel like to be divided. To **William Leeds, my servant**, twenty pounds. To **Grace Simpson, widow**, £10. To the **widow of William Payne**, sometime the ballast man, £10. To **Thomas Femmell, the son of Alice Femmell, widow**, the sum of £5. To **John Day, my servant**, £40. And to **Agnes Morgan, widow**, £10. Also with legacies beginning with the said William Gowe, I will shall be paid within the space of one year next after my decease.

Item: I give and bequeath to **my very good and loving friend Mr. William Man of Chafford** in the parish of **Holy Cross** in or next the City of **Canterbury, Esq.** the sum of £1000 of lawful money of England in consideration of the great good will and affection which I bear unto him and for ?? in consideration of his pains and labour and faithful endeavour to be had and used in the due and true exertions of this my last will and testament wherein above others I do repose an especial trust

and confidence in him. And do there upon hereby ordain and make the said William Mann the sole and only executor of this my last will and testament.

And overseers thereof I make and ordain **my loving friends John Highland, skinner and Richard Wright, goldsmith, citizens of London**, to either of whom for their pains in this behalf to be taken, I give and bequeath the sum of forty pounds of lawful money of England a piece. And to the same mine overseers I do give and bequeath the sum of one hundred pounds of lawful money of England to be paid to the same overseers within one month next after my decease and to be employed and disposed by mine said overseers, or the survivor of them, to such uses, intents and purposes as the same overseers, or the survivor of them, shall think meet.

The residue of all and singular my goods, chattels, personal estate and debts to me owing, after my debts and legacies aforesaid paid, my funeral discharged and this my present last will and testament performed, I give and bequeath and will, require and ordain, shall be wholly distributed and disposed by and at the good discretion of my said executor and overseers, or the survivor or survivors of them. And when they, or their survivor or survivors of them, shall meet and most need shall enquire to and among poor people of parishes in London and the suburbs thereof and poor prisoners lying or to lie for debt under twenty nobles in the prisons of Ludgate, Newgate, the two compters in London and the Kings Bench and compter in Southwark. To among which poor people and prisoners my full

mind and intent is and I do hereby charge and require the said residue of my goods, chattels and personal estate shall be wholly converted and disposed in sort and manner as is before declared.

And for and toward the raising and levying of moneys for payment of the legacies by me herein before bequeathed for the due accomplishment of this my last will and testament, I do will and require that my goods, chattels, leases, debts and personal estate shall be rated, praised and valued in the inventory to be made of my estate at the best and highest prices and values where at they shall be praised and valued in the inventory aforesaid or other better or higher values by and at the discretion and discretions and with the ?? consort and agreement of my said overseers or the survivor of them and not otherwise now in any other manner.

And to the end and intent that plain and upright dealing may be had and used in and to the performance of this my last will and testament, my will and mind is, and I do hereby as well impose an especial charge upon my said executor as also do likewise charge and give full power and authority to my said overseers, and the survivor of them, that the said mine overseers and the survivor of them, shall and may from time to time have the ?? sight and survey of all my goods, chattels, ready money, debts, leases and personal estate and of all mine ?? writings and ?? ?? the same or any of them.

And shall be also, from time to time, made privy and organised to and with the same and every of them, part and parcel thereof. And shall and may moreover, at their or either of their freewill and pleasure, from time to time, have right and interest to have and enjoy free liberty, ingress, egress and regress in, to, through, by and from my now dwelling house in London, and every part and parcel thereof, for such virtue and sight and survey to be had as aforesaid without any ?? let or gainsaying or contradiction in any wise, right or interest by my said executor, or any other matter, cause or being whatsoever to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

And I do pray, charge and require my said executor and overseers to see this my present last will and testament in all things fully and effectively performed and accomplished as my special trust and confidence is in them. And as they will answer for the contrary before God at the dreadful day of judgement when the secrets of all our hearts shall be opened.

And concerning the disposition of all and singular the freehold land, tenements and hereditaments whereof I am now ?? of any manner of inheritance, situated, lying and being in the **City of London** and in the counties of **Kent, Essex and Sussex**, or any of them, and all my copyhold land and tenements in the said counties of Essex and Sussex, I give, devise, bequeath the same in manner and form following, that is to say:

First: I will, ordain and devise that all my freehold messuages, lands and tenements with the appurtenances in the City of London shall, with all expedition after my decease, be sold by mine executor aforesaid by and with the advice and good liking of my said overseers, or the survivor of them, to such person or persons as will give most for the same. And the money thereof or thereby proceeding I will, ordain and require shall get and be toward the further performance of this my last will and testament.

Item: I will and my mind is that all my copyhold land and tenements in the said county of Essex shall descend and come to my said brother William Porter and his heirs according to the laws of this realm and customs of the manors whereof the same are holden for and in full satisfaction of all such land, goods and chattels as the same my brother may or shall expect and look for by or after my decease.

Item: I give and bequeath to **Nicholas Miller of Kemsing** in the county of Kent all and singular my freehold messuages, land and tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances in the counties of Kent and Essex. To have and to hold all and singular the said freehold messuages, land and tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances in the said counties of Kent and Essex to the said Nicholas Miller, his heirs and assigns, forever. To and for the only and proper use and behest of the said Nicholas Miller and of his heirs and assigns for ever.

The said premises in the county of Kent charged, notwithstanding, to and with the payment of one annuity or yearly rent of £12 of lawful money of England by the year issueing out of the said premises in the said county of Kent to the **Wardens and four Assistants of the Town and Parish of Sevenoaks** in the county of Kent and of the **Free School of the late Queen Elizabeth** in Sevenoaks aforesaid and their successors. Which said annuity or yearly rent I will and desire shall be truly and faithfully paid and satisfied out of the said land, tenements and hereditaments to then said Wardens and Assistants and their successors for the time being for ever, according to the tenor, limitation and true meaning of the deed or deeds, evidence or writing within that behalf I have hereto before made and the true meaning of the deed or deeds, evidence or writing within that behalf I gave heretofore made, sealed or executed.

Item: I give and devise and bequeath to **Richard Miller of Kemsing**⁴⁴⁸ aforesaid all and singular my freehold and copyhold messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments with appurtenances in **Chiddingly**⁴⁴⁹ and else where in the county of **Sussex**. To have and to hold all and singular the said messuage, land, tenements and hereditaments with appurtenances in the said county of Sussex to the said Robert Miller, his heirs and assigns, forever.

448 the eldest son of Sylvester, John's sister; he married in 1589 - see *miller.fmk*

449 "Chittingleigh"

And lastly I do utterly revoke and annul all former wills and testaments by me heretofore made and declared in any wise.

In witness whereof to this my last will and testament containing together sixteen sheets of paper, I the said John Porter have set my hand and seal yeven the day and year first above written: John Porter

Sealed, subscribed, published and declared by the said John Porter for and as his last last will and testament in the presence of those whose names are under written.

John Simpson, William Webb, Brian Wilton servant to **Richard Wright**

William Porter of Godden

William (#3276), (son of the James who died in 1563 and brother of the fishmonger), inherited from his father a tenement and three crofts, called **Nagpletts, at Godden**. He had a son William (#832) who was presumably the William of Godden who, with his wife Elizabeth, had a large family at the beginning of the seventeenth century; he did not die until 1657 when he was seventy-eight.

His son William ("son of William Porter of Godden") married Elizabeth, "daughter of Edward Porter of Sevenoaks", on 19th October 1648. Although there were Porters in Sevenoaks (see **History of Sevenoaks, Section 2**) with an Edward Porter having children in the 1580s and 1590s, this was thirty to forty years before William's wife was born.

William Porter, senior of Seal, yeoman, was indicted for recusancy for one month from 20th May 1611. The original from which the Calendar was produced was damaged but the sentence was "proclaimed according to statute"⁴⁵³. This William was presumably #3276. Although there were a considerable number of recusants in Sevenoaks, this is the only known indictment for anyone in Seal.

453 Cockburn (James I); 615

Tree P.2 Tree of William Porter of Godden

#832 William - Elizabeth #3245											
8 Mar 1579											
6 Mar 1657											

#3246	#3247	#3248	#3249	#3250	#3255	#3253	#3263	#3254			
Richard	William	Thomas ⁴⁵⁰	Elizabeth	John ⁴⁵¹	Elizabeth	2 daughters ⁴⁵²	William ⁴⁵³	Elizabeth Porter	Margaret		
bap: 25 Jan 1604	23 Mar 1606	10 Jan 1608	2 Apr 1609	25 Nov 1610	17 Mar 1636	13 Oct 1616	19 Oct 1648	8 Apr 1621	7 Jul 1620		
mar:											
bur:	27 Oct 1606	6 Jul 1626				18 Dec 1654	16 Nov 1615		25 Sep 1634		

#3256	#3257	#3258	#3259	#3260	#3261	#3262	#3264	#3265	#3266		
Margaret	Susan	William	Elizabeth	Agnes	Marie	Margaret	Elizabeth	William ⁴⁵⁴	Susanna		
bap: 15 Apr 1639	4 Jun 1643	4 Dec 1645	14 Nov 1648	12 Jan 1651	5 May 1652	26 Mar 1655	5 May 1651	21 Mar 1652			

-
- 450 if it was this Thomas "son of William Porter" who died in 1626, he was aged eighteen
- 451 this John Porter was listed in the Knole MS of 1648 for Fuller Street and Chart
- 452 two infant daughters buried on the same day; twins just born?
- 453 William was thirty-two and Elizabeth twenty-seven when they married
- 454 William and Susanna were twins. William married in 1690 and had four children and was buried in 1729 at the age of seventy-seven. Susanna married John Woodgell and had three children.

Andrew Porter of Hall, his wife and children

Andrew Porter of Hall who died in 1581 was another of the sons of William and Margery but James did not mention him in his will of 1563.

Tree P.3: The Children of Andrew and Elizabeth

will:		#303 Andrew - Elizabeth #304																
bur:		2 Jun 1581	8 Oct 1587															
		7 Jun 1581	5 Oct 1588															

#450		#449	#58		#3220		#305		#3218		#264		#278		#3219		#4239	
	Agnes	Lawrence	William	-	Edward ⁴⁶⁵	John	-	Alice	- ??	Margaret	-	Richard	Lawrence	-	Sylvester	- ??	Joan	
		Atherfold						Everest				Watts				Terry		
bur: 6 Dec 1594		26 Feb 1602											24 May 1612					
children		see Tree P4		see Tree P.5		large family		see Watts X2W		see Tree P.6								
see Atherfolds																		

The order in which the children were born is not known. Andrew mentions only one daughter in his will (Agnes) whilst Elizabeth mentions five: Agnes (who became Amy), Alice Everest (it has not been determined which Everest Alice married), Sylvester Terry, Joan who was a widow (her married name is not decipherable) and Margaret Watts. Margaret married Richard Watts of Kemsing

⁴⁶⁵ had some children since his cousin John, the fishmonger, (#3275) left money to them in 1607

on 20th August 1565; they had eight children baptised in Kemsing. Elizabeth's will is the only evidence we have for Alice, Sylvester and Joan.

The first part of Andrew's will is very short. He made his wife Elizabeth his executrix and left her all his moveable goods which she was to dispose of "[as she shall think good](#)" the only proviso being that twenty loads of wood were to be delivered to his daughter, Agnes Atherfold, within four years beginning immediately; they were to come from the land which was to go to Andrew's son William.

Elizabeth was to have the mansion house called the manor of Hall during her natural life with all the appurtenances and demesnes "[thereto belonging with necessary fire wood to be taken upon the premises there to be spent as also to give and sell yearly during her natural life the sum of twenty loads making no wilful waste](#)". On Elizabeth's death the manor, etc. was to go to Andrew's son William and details of the lands were given - see Table P.3. Within a year of Elizabeth's death, William was to pay £40 to each of his brothers John and Lawrence.

In addition to his house called Cockers at Chart (to the east of the parish of Seal), Andrew bequeathed to his son John all his "[wood to fell and to sell with free egress and regress to make and cause to be taken of my woods lying within the rails . . during the term of fourscore years for him and his heirs](#)". Similarly

Lawrence was to have all the wood in Orchard Grove "during four score years and to his heirs with free egress and regress to make and carry the same and after the said 80 years to remain unto William Porter, my son, and to his heirs forever".

Eighty years and then to revert to what could not have been William himself but his grandchildren or even greatgrandchildren. However was this to be organised? At least in the probate copy of the will it is definitely "fourscore years" and to make doubly sure "80 years" is given as a Roman numeral (lxxx) in the last phrase quoted above.

Will of Andrew Porter of Seal, 1581

written 2nd June 1581

transcript from probate copy; original has not survived

1 In the name of god Amen. In the year
2 of our lord god 1581 and in the 22nd year of the reign of our sovereign
3 lady Queen Elizabeth, by the grace of God Queen of England, France
4 and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. and in the second day of June,
5 I, Andrew Porter of the parish of Seal within the county of Kent,
6 being sick in body but, thanks be given to god, sound of memory,
7 do make my last will and testament in manner and form following:
8 **First:** I bequeath my soul into the ?? and keeping of almighty

9 god, my redeemer and saviour, and my body to be buried in the churchyard
10 of Seal aforesaid. **Item:** I bequeath to the poor of the parish of Seal,
11 at the day of my burial, 3s 4d. **Item:** I bequeath all my moveable
12 goods to **Elizabeth, my wife**, to dispose and give as she shall think good,
13 my debts being paid, whom I ordain and make my sole executrix.
14 **Item:** I will that the said Elizabeth shall deliver, or cause to be
15 delivered unto **Agnes Atherfold, my daughter**, 20 loads of wood
16 to be delivered within four years out of **my son William Porter's**
17 part, to begin immediately after my decease.

18 This is the last last will and testament of me, Andrew Porter
19 of Seal aforesaid, concerning all my lands and tenements lying
20 and being within the parish of Kemsing and Seal or elsewhere, made
21 the day and year above written. **First:** I will that Elizabeth,
22 my wife, shall have my mansion house called the **manor of Hall**
23 during her natural life with all the appurtenances and demains
24 thereto belonging with necessary fire wood to be taken upon the premises
25 there to be spent as also to give and sell yearly during her natural life the
26 sum of twenty loads making no wilful waste. And after the decease
27 of Elizabeth, my said wife, I do give and bequeath the foresaid mansion
28 house called the manor of Hall withall the appurtenances, orchards and
29 lands herein named in several parcels unto William Porter, my son,
30 and to his heirs forever. First, one croft with a hemp platt abutting

31 to the highway, one other parcel of land called **Chapell Field** and also a
32 parcel of woodland called **Long Dene Wood**, a parcel of land called
Medeldene
33 and another parcel of land called **Sweres** with a parcel of wood lying to
34 the lodge, two other parcels of woodland called **Highgues** and **Ublepytt**
35 and another piece of land with the woods thereon called **Soudene**. And 2
36 other pieces called **Marvylls**, another parcel of land called **Suffeld** and
37 **Suffeld Wood**, another piece of land called **Bradfield** and two other pieces
38 called **Bromefield** and **Freyes** and another without the gate with a
39 pound, a parcel called the **Moves** withall the woodlands lying within the

page 2:

40 rails. And two parcels of meadow lying in the parish of **Shipbourne**
41 called **Chandlers Mead**. And a croft behind the barn and also a piece
42 of house woodland lying towards **Stouste Croft**, by estimation two
43 acres. All the which mansion house called the manor of Hall
44 with the appurtenances and all the several parcels of land herein
45 named to remain after the decease of Elizabeth, my said wife,
46 unto my said son William Porter and to his heirs forever.
47 **Item:** I give and bequeath my house called **Cockers** being and
48 lying in **Chart** within the parish of Seal aforesaid, withall
49 the appurtenances amd lands thereto belonging unto **my son**
50 **John Porter** and to his heirs forever. I bequeath unto my

51 said son John Porter six acres of grass lying in **Myllers**
52 **Mede** towards the futherance ?? ?? natural life.
53 **Item:** I bequeath more unto my son John Porter all my wood to
54 fell and to sell with free egress and regress to make and cause
55 to be taken of my woods lying within the rails in the ??
56 during the term of fourscore years for him and his heirs. And
57 I will also that my son William Porter shall pay unto my son
58 John Porter and to his heirs after one year after the decease of
59 Elizabeth, my said wife, forty pounds of good and lawful money of
60 England. **Item:** I bequeath unto **Lawrence Porter, my son,**
61 my house lying in **Fuller Street** within the parish of Seal aforesaid
62 with the appurtenances and all the lands thereunto, by estimation
63 14 acres, to him and to his heirs forever. I bequeath also
64 unto Lawrence, my son, five acres of grass in Millers
65 Meade during his life lying and ?? to John Porter.
66 And I bequeath unto the said Lawrence all my wood in orchard
67 grove during four score years and to his heirs with free egress
68 and regress to make and carry the same; and after the said 80
69 years to remain unto William Porter, my son, and to his heirs
70 forever. **Item:** I bequeath that William Porter, my son, shall pay
71 unto my said son Lawernce and to his heirs after one year
72 after the decease of Elizabeth, my said wife, forty pounds of good
73 and lawful money of England. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto

74 **Edward Porter, my son**, all my lands lying and being
75 in Kemsing and in Seal by these several parcels herein named:
76 one house being in **Seal Street** with the garden and hemp
77 plot thereunto belonging. **Item**: a meade called Millers Mede
78 by estimation one and twenty acres and one other parcel
79 of land called **Longe Dene** and a parcel of woodland called **Flame**
80 **Wood** and two other parcels called **Richard Land** and **Appest** ??
81 with the woodlands called **Richard Wood**. And two other parcels
82 called **Burland**. All the foresaid parcels of land, meadow,
83 woods and house afore named I give and bequeath after the decease

page 3:

84 of Elizabeth, my said wife, to the said Edward Porter, my
85 son and to his heirs forever. My will is further, the division
86 between Longe Dene and Longe Dene Wood shalbe six foot from the
87 furrow⁴⁵⁶ into the wood. And the mark to be equally kept between
88 my son William Porter and Edward Porter, my son. And
89 for the confirmation of this my last will and testament both of
90 all my moveable goods and lands, I, the said Andrew Porter, have
91 set my hand and seal thereunto, the day and year above written
92 These being present witnesses **Gilbert Jenyns, vicar of Kemsing**

Will of Elizabeth Porter of Seal

written 8th October 1587; buried 5th October 1588

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen.
 2 in the year of our lord 1587 and in the 29th
 3 year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lady
 4 Elizabeth, Queen of England, defender of the
 5 faith and in the 8th day of October, I
 6 **Elizabeth Porter**, do bequeath my soul
 7 to almighty god and my body to be buried
 8 in the parish of Seal. **Item:** I bequeath to
 9 **John Porter, my son**, one bedstead standing
 10 in the parlour, one table, one brewing tub
 11 in the Buttery, one brass pot, the biggest
 12 saving one. **Item:** I bequeath to **Lawrence, my**
 13 **son**, a mare, one ??, one little ---,
 14 one cupboard standing in the ??, one seat?
 15 with ?? one ??, one little table

16 within the buttery. **Item:** I give to **Edward**,
17 **my son**, one brass pot broken at the
18 brim?, the standing chaser?, one feather
19 bed in the parlour, 3 painted cloths in the
20 parlour. **Item:** I give to **Amy Atherfold**
21 **my daughter**⁴⁵⁷, one kneading trough⁴⁵⁸ with its
22 lid, one little chair and a warming pan.
23 **Item:** I give to **Sylvester, my daughter**,
24 one flock bed, a chaff bed, two bolsters, one
25 blanket, the old quilt, one ?? cloth belonging
26 to the maids bed, a long chest standing
27 with my -- of --, the baking? pot, a
28 long, brass kettle. **Item:** I give to **Alice**
29 **Everest, my daughter**, one chair, the ?idgen
30 quilt, one blanket. **Item:** I give to **Margaret**
31 **Watts, my daughter**, the staling? on my
32 bed, the great blanket in the parlour,
33 one white basin. **Item:** I give to **Joane**
34 **Olyver** one mattress, one pillow with a --, one blanket.

457 "Agnes, daughter of Andrew Porter and Elizabeth of Hall" married Lawrence Atherfold

458 "troffe"

35 **Item:** I give to ----- (crossed out)
36 **Bennet Wade**⁴⁵⁹ one chest, one brass?
37 kettle. **Item:** I give to **Clemence Coxe**⁴⁶⁰
38 one cautherne?, the worst, a red cording?
39 and bolster, one pillow,
40 blanket, a --. **Item:** I give
41 to **Elizabeth Atherfold**⁴⁶¹, the great brass
42 ??, the -- brass pot, one cautherne⁴⁶²
43 the best one, one mattress, one
44 bolster, one . . . , one brewing
45 tub, one bedstead, . . . , one . .
46 to the bed, a great chest with all other
47 things that are belonging to the chest.
48 **Item:** I give to **William, my son**, the table
49 in the parlour, the table and form in the

459 Bennet, the second daughter of the Atherfolds, married Christopher Wade on 27th April 1584.

460 Clemence, the eldest Atherfold daughter, married William Coxe on 2nd October 1586; they had seven children.

461 Elizabeth was the youngest Atherfold daughter; she was baptised March 1567 and was therefore twenty when her grandmother died.

462 as on line 38, Clemence having the worst

50 hall, the painted cloth before the chimney,
51 the cupboard in the hall, one pot hanger
52 in the hall chimney, one great trough
53 in the milk chamber, one great chest
54 in the -- loft, the pothanger in the
55 kitchen. **Item:** I give to **Richard Porter,**
56 **the son of William Porter, my son,**
57 -- . **Item:** I will to William and Edward, my
58 sons⁴⁶³, my two -- to pay my legacies.
59 **Item:** I give to the **sons of Lawrence Atherfold,**
60 **William and Edward**⁴⁶⁴, equally to be divided ??.
61 **Item:** I give to the sons of **Edward Terry**⁴⁶⁵
62 10s to be paid by my sons William and Edward.
63 **Item:** all the residue of my goods being within
64 the house of my deceasing, I give and
65 bequeath to be equally divided between

463 presumably William and Edward were to be her executors but later Elizabeth appoints them as her overseers without mentioning an executor

464 the two youngest of the Atherfold's six children, baptised April 1569 and December 1571; John, the eldest son died at 20 months.

465 presumably Sylvester's husband - see line 67

66 my five daughters, namely, **Joan --lin,**
67 widow, Amy Atherfold, Sylvester Terry,
68 Alice Everest and Margaret Watts. And I
69 ordain and appoint William and Edward,
70 my sons, to be the overseers of this my last
71 testament. witness hereof **Gilbert**

72 **Jenyns, vicar, John Ha--ingen**

William Porter of Hall

Andrew's son, William Porter of Hall married twice; first he married Bennet about 1560⁴⁶⁶ but their son, Andrew, lived for only eight weeks and Bennet was buried two weeks after their daughter, Elizabeth, was baptised.

Excluding the children of William #3276 (the nephew of John Porter whose will of 1533 has survived - see Tree P.1), seven children "of William" were baptised between 1572 and 1591 and these are taken as the children of William Porter of Hall whose wife, when he died in 1610 was Jane. Jane was probably the mother of these seven children.

William Porter, jurat, was one of the witnesses to the will of William Pynden in March 1590 - see page p.358

466

this assumes Andrew was their first child; it is possible that they had children earlier before the parish register started, but, in any case, William was in his seventies when he died

Tree P.4 - Tree of William Porter of Hall

	#3244 Bennet -	#58 William -	Jane #59	
<i>will:</i>		7 Aug 1610	13 Jun 1620	
<i>proved:</i>		21 Sep 1610	3 Apr 1623	
<i>bur:</i>	25 Jul 1564			
<hr/>				
	#60	#128	#556	#871
	Andrew	Elizabeth	John	Thomas
<i>bap:</i>	4 Oct 1562	9 Jul 1564	8 Sep 1572	27 Apr 1578
<i>bur:</i>	11 Dec 1562	5 Jan 1566		17 Sep 1581
				13 Aug 1597
			#827	#1127
			Andrew -	Richard
			Mildred Frenche	Elizabeth -
<i>bap:</i>			10 Jun 1576	1 Apr 1586
<i>will:</i>			7 Feb 1647	
<i>bur:</i>			10 Mar 1647	13 Sep 1659
			see page p. 293	
				#1499
				Jane
				27 Jan 1588
				19 Dec 1591
				#1632
				William ⁴⁶⁷
				#1341
				Elizabeth -
				Richard Kips
				8 Dec 1586
				k ⁴⁶⁸
				see Kips

Richard Porter, buried on 13th August 1597 was recorded, in the parish register, as "Richard, son of William Porter of Hall". On 29th November 1597 a grant of administration was made to Andrew and Thomas Porter, brothers of Richard Porter deceased⁴⁶⁹. In 1597 William Porter's sons, Andrew (#827) and Thomas (#871) would have been twenty-one and nineteen but Richard was only sixteen when he died and his father was still alive. Why was a grant of administration necessary? Why was it granted to his brothers and not his father?

⁴⁶⁷ Jane made her son William executor of her will - see page p.257

⁴⁶⁸ k indicates a reference in the Kemsing database

⁴⁶⁹ A.C. Vol.18, 1888; p.35

When William died in 1610, Andrew was his father's main heir with Thomas, William and Elizabeth also being mentioned but not John. Perhaps John died young or he might not have been the son of this William.

William's daughter Elizabeth married Richard Kips of Kemsing on 28th July 1608 and they had seven children, the first being baptised in Seal; see **Kips** for more details of the Kips family

William, obviously a wealthy yeoman, owned about 144 acres of land in Seal and Shipbourne, grew corn and hemp and reared cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry. The "bed and bedstead with all the furniture there belonging, standing in the chamber and the parlour" were left to his daughter Elizabeth. The household stuff which he left to his wife Jane was listed in detail: "bedding, napery and linen, newcloth, brasses, pewter, plate, hemp, flax, butter, cheese, bacon" He also left her all his corn "as well growing as in the barn" and all his cattle, swine and poultry (except those which he gave to others) were to be "equally shifted and divided" by his overseers between his wife Jane and his son Andrew.

William left all the estate of Hall to his eldest son Andrew: "all the barns, stables, edifices and buildings, closes, yards, gardens, orchards, land, meadows, pastures and feedings, woods and underwoods and all other courts, heriotts, reliefs, suits, customs, profits, commons, ways and all other hereditaments thereto belonging" totalling about 100 acres.

Although William appointed his eldest Andrew as his executor he did not have complete confidence in him: if he were to "refuse the executorship of this my will and shall not prove the same in due manner within six weeks next after my decease or shall not quickly suffer my said wife to enjoy all the said legacy herein by me to her willed, or shall not be ruled in the division and shift of the said goods . . . by mine overseers . . . that then the said Andrew shall lose the benefit of this my will . . . and then I will and give all . . . my cattle and chattels and all other my moveable goods whatsoever unto the said Jane, my well beloved wife, to order and dispose of them at her will and pleasure, paying my debts and legacies herein before bequeathed. And then I ordain and make the said Jane my wife, my only and sole executrix of this my will".

It looks as if Andrew and his mother (assuming Jane was his mother) did not get on together since William hopes that, by "the good means" of his overseers they will "live quietly together" and he specifies in great detail the parts of the house to which she was to have access and what she could do there.

Jane was to have "full power, liberty and authority, by virtue of this my will, to enter into and upon any of my said land and premises . . . and from there to carry away to her own use such, and no more, wood yearly during" her widowhood as should suffice for her fire and fuel "to be spent and burned in the part of my said mansion house hereafter herein to her assigned . . . freely at her will and pleasure,

without paying anything for the same and saving (as much as may be) my timber trees there being".

The parts of the house and land of which she was to have the free use, occupation and access to were "the parlour . . . and the loft or chamber over the front parlour and, likewise, the loft or chamber over the hall there. Also the little hay house . . . the outyard next my said mansion . . . and a little croft behind the outyard and another croft adjoining . . . one croft of meadow behind the old barn and the hemp loft . . . and the land called Bromefield, Freyes and Littlemansfield containing in all by estimation twenty acres. And . . . convenient room in some of the barns there . . . to lay in her one half of the corn on the ground (if there be any at the time of my decease)." She was also to be allowed to grow corn on the land to which she had been given access and have "free liberty to thresh out the said corn to be laid into any the said barns, at her like, will and pleasure".

"And likewise free liberty to come and go, to and from the hall . . . of the said mansion house and to sit by the fire of the said Andrew . . . and to bake, brew, roast and do any other in the kitchen there and the oven therein being freely, at all times during her said widowhood, without let, trouble or disturbance of the said Andrew my son, his heirs or assigns. As also like free liberty (. . . in her own person, as any other her helpers or assigns) to wash, hang and dry clothes in any place in the yards belonging to my said house meet for that purpose and to walk

or be in any the said gardens, freely at all times during her said widowhood, without let, interruption or denial as aforesaid."

Finally, Andrew was to pay her an annuity of £10 for the whole of her life. But if Jane and Andrew, his heirs or assigns, could "not agree in their dwelling together and in the (sharing?) of the commodities in my said house" they were to agree on a portion that should be paid to her in lieu of the accommodation. Even so, Jane was to have liberty "during her widowhood, for the felling, cutting, cording and carrying away of so much wood as she shall necessarily burn in any other place" to which she went "sparing my said timber trees as aforesaid".

William's other two sons did not do as well as Andrew from their father's will. Perhaps they had already been "set up" and also, if Jane was a difficult mother (or their stepmother), they may have been pleased to be away from the family home.

Andrew was to pay Thomas, the middle son, £120 but Andrew had already lent him £100 so that he was to receive only another £20. William was to inherit 44 acres of land called Bitchetland in Seal.

William's overseers were to be his brother John and **Henry Swaynland**, his loving friend and brother-in-law. Henry Swaynland's will of 1619 has survived. Jane Porter, William's widow, herself wrote a will in 1620 which has survived. Thus, (assuming "brother-in-law" was used with its modern meaning) one of William's

sisters must have married a Henry Swaynland sometime between 1581 and 1610. This could not have been the Henry whose will has survived since his wife was Elizabeth who he had married in 1598.

William Porter's Servants

Two servants to whom William left bequests were **Richard Childrens and Margaret Style**. In 1610 Margaret was twenty-seven and unmarried but a year later, on 3rd October 1611, she became Richard Carter's second wife, his first wife, Elizabeth having been buried in the previous May. **Richard Carter**, who must have been in his seventies, had already had five children ranging in age from forty to fifty and, therefore, all older than Margaret. One child was recorded for Margaret and Richard, baptised in March 1616 and Richard died two years later when he would have been at least eighty. In October 1619, Margaret married Richard Childrens but no children were recorded in Seal.

Richard Joyner (or Richard Warren, joiner) (#1120), a servant of William Porter (#58) was buried on 3rd September 1598 - see Warren in More Families & Transcripts.

Another servant of the Porters, whose burial was recorded on 4th March 1574, was **Johane Elboroughe** (#954), servant of Andrew Porter (#303).

Jane, widow of William of Hall

Jane, in her will, written ten years after William died, mentioned neither Andrew nor Thomas and, by that time, their son William had left the locality. Even so, his mother made him her executor but if he "[be dead or come not over within two years after my decease](#)" then her son-in-law, Richard Kips was to be her executor. In the meantime Richard Kips was to administer the will until William's "[coming over](#)".

Thomas could have died before Jane mother but why was Andrew excluded? Perhaps this goes back to Jane's husband's reference to the possibility of disagreement between Jane and Andrew.

A William Porter and his wife Avis had a daughter, Avis (#3289) baptised on 19th December 1630 and a son, Thomas (#3290) buried on 8th August 1639. If Avis's husband was Jane's son he returned but did not take on the responsibility of proving her will since this was carried out by Richard Kips but not until 1630.

In her will Jane was described as "[of Kemsing](#)" so that, by that time, when she was probably in her seventies, she seems to have been living with her daughter, Elizabeth, and son-in-law Richard Kips. Jane gave Margaret Wolfe £5 and some furniture and linen and, if her son William was dead, the things which she had left

him were to be sold and the proceeds distributed equally amongst the children of Richard Wolfe and Richard Kips. There is no indication of what relationship there was between Jane and Margaret, no daughter of that name was recorded for William and Jane and no Richard Wolfe was recorded in either Seal or Kemsing. a Richard Rolfe of Seal appointed William Kips as one of his overseers but he does not appear to have had any children.

When she moved from Seal to Kemsing Jane took with her a considerable amount of furniture, etc. since the items she mentioned in her will included:

- two bedsteads, a trunklebed, a featherbed, 2 flockbeds, feather bolsters, pillows, blankets, coverlets, bed curtains,
- a cupboard, a long table, a folded table, other tables, table forms, a settle, 14 joined stools, 2 little chests, a box, a chest, shelves
- barrels, tubs, firkins
- 2 cauldrons, 4 chargers, 2 spits, a dripping pan
- a great brass pot, 2 little brass pots, 3 brass pans, two brass kettles and another "brass kettle that goes abroad as ordinarily used"
- pewter, ordinary pewter
- 8 cushions, a carpet and best cupboard cloth.
- an iron fork, an iron pot
- a hooksewn sheet "which I appoint to lie over me at my burial".

As well as pewter and "ordinary pewter", Jane had "small linen" in two of the chests, "linen" in another chest, "wearing linen" and "ordinary linen which I commonly use".

Will of William Porter of Hall 1610

written 10th August 1610

transcript of pages 1,4,9 from original

Nicholas Hooper's
mark

- 1 In⁴⁷⁰ the name of god Amen. the seventh day of April in the year
2 of our Lord God one thousand, six hundredth and ten. And in the eighth
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,
William

470 decorated "I"; Nicholas Hooper mark attached to "h" of "the"

5 Porter of **Hall**⁴⁷¹ within the parish of Seal in the county of Kent, **yeoman**,
being⁴⁷²
6 at the time of making hereof in reasonable good health of body and of
perfect mind and remembrance,
7 thanks therefore be given to Almighty God, notwithstanding of great age,
and full of infirmities
8 and debilities of body which do summon and warn me that I do have not
long to live, And the time
9 thereof being altogether uncertain, and willing to set in order those
transitory possessions which
10 God hath lent me here in this world, that no contention fall out about the
same after my
11 decease but that they may be enjoyed by those whom I have meant the
same unto. Therefore I do ordain and make this my last
12 will and testament in manner and form following: And **First** and
principally, I give, commend
13 and bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God who gave it,
trusting (by an assured faith

471 spelled "Hawle" throughout

472 "beeing", "mee", etc. throughout including "beefore"

14 which I have in the merit, precious death and blood shedding⁴⁷³ of his dear
and only son Jesus Christ)
15 that the same shalbe presented pure and without spot before the Throne of
his majesty. And my
16 body to the earth from whence it came, to be buried in the church yard of
Seal aforesaid
17 in sure and certain hope of a joyful resurrection to life eternal. **Item:** I will
that the long
18 table with the frame in the parlour of my mansion house called Hall, two
other tables with their
19 forms in the hall⁴⁷⁴ of the said mansion house and the cupboard there with
such great . .

as are in and about my house, shall be and remain there as they now are as
implements and standard to my said mansion house.

Item: I give and bequeath to **Jane, my well beloved wife**, all and all manner my
bedding, napery and linen, newcloth, brasses, pewter, plate, hemp, flax, butter,
cheese, bacon and . . all and all manner my household stuffs (except the standard
before specified . . Also I give to my said wife, the one half of all such corn as well

473 "bludshedding"

474 also spelled "hawle" in the probate copy

growing as in the barn and of all cattle, swine and poultry at the time of my decease being (except those hereafter by me given by this will) to be equally shifted and divided by mine overseers hereafter named between my said wife and my said **son Andrew** . .

Item: I give and bequeath to:

Richard Children, my servant, one two yearling
bullock

Margaret Style, my servant, two ewes

Alice Spooner, my servant, if she be dwelling with me
at the time of my decease

Item: my will is that my said wife shall, at the time of her decease or other-wise whenever she shall please, give and deliver unto **my daughter Elizabeth** now the wife of **Richard Kips**, my bed and bedstead with all the furniture there belonging, standing in the chamber and the parlour of my said mansion house.

The other half of all my said corn, cattle, swine and poultry, together with all other my implements of husbandry, debt, moveable goods and chattels and all other my moveable goods whatsoever not before by me bequeathed, I wholly, fully and with good effort, interest and purpose, give and bequeath to my eldest son **Andrew Porter** . (whom) I make and ordain my sole executor of this my will, to see the

same proved and performed, my debts and legacies paid and my body brought to the earth and decently buried.

Provided that if the said Andrew Porter . . shall refuse the executorship of this my will and shall not prove the same in due manner within six weeks next after my decease or shall not quickly suffer my said wife to enjoy all the said legacy herein by me to her willed, or shall not be ruled in the division and shift of the said goods . . by mine overseers . . that then the said Andrew shall lose the benefit of this my will . . and then I will and give all and only my good debt, cattle and chattels and all other my moveable goods whatsoever unto the said Jane, my well beloved wife, to order and dispose of them at her will and pleasure, paying my debts and legacies herein before bequeathed. And then I ordain and make the said Jane my wife, my only and sole executrix of this my will.

And I heartily desire my loving friends **John Porter**, my brother, and **Henry Swaynland**⁴⁷⁵ and my brother-in-law to be . . and overseers of this my will, praying them, and either of them, to take some payment in the division and shifting of my goods before and hereafter by me appointed to be shifted and that my said wife and son (by their

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- good means) may live quietly together. And otherwise in and about any thing (to them belonging) about
- this my will, that the same may be the better effected according to the true sense and meaning of
- the same. To which my said overseers I give 6s 8d a piece over and above all such charge
- as they shalbe at any way about this my will. **Item:** I will there shall be bestowed at
- my burial, among the poor of Seal aforesaid which my said executor and overseers shall think
- in their discretion to have most need, the sum of twenty shillings lawful money.

- This⁴⁷⁶ is the last will of me the said William Porter made and declared the day and year first above written concerning the order and disposition of all my lands, tenements and
- hereditaments situated, lying and being in Seal aforesaid and **Shipbourne** in the said county of
- Kent. And **First:** I give and bequeath unto the said Andrew Porter, mine eldest

- son, all that my manor house, messuage or tenement called Hall wherein I now dwell with
- all the barns, stables, edifices and buildings, closes, yards, gardens, orchards, land, meadows,
- pastures and feedings, woods and underwoods and all other courts, heriotts, reliefs, suits, customs,
- profits, commons, ways and all other hereditaments thereto belonging or in any wise appertaining
- (except those which I late bought of **Christopher Pelsant, gent⁴⁷⁷**) severally situated, lying and being

within the parish of Seal and Shipbourne aforesaid, containing in the whole, by estimation, one hundred acres, together more or less To the only use and . . of the said Andrew, my son, and his heirs and assignees for ever.

Notwithstanding my will, intent and meaning is that the said Jane my wife, and her assignees, shall have full power, liberty and authority, by virtue of this my will, to enter into and upon any of my said land and premises before willed to the said Andrew my son and there to . . . and from there to carry away to her own use such, and no more, wood yearly during such time and so long as she shall be herself sole widow, as shall suffice for her . . fire and . . fuel, to be spent and

burned in the part of my said mansion house hereafter herein to her assigned . . . freely at her will and pleasure, without paying anything for the same and saving (as much as may be) my timber trees there being.

And likewise notwithstanding my will and meaning is that the said Jane my wife shall have, hold and enjoy, during her said widowhood, the free use and occupation of all the . . . within my said mansion house and land . . . viz: the parlour of my said mansion or manor house and the loft or chamber over the front parlour and, likewise, the loft or chamber over the hall there. Also the little hay house with the . . . adjoining, also the outyard next my said mansion or manor house and a little croft behind the outyard and another croft adjoining called Ch.. . . one croft of meadow behind the old barn and the hemp loft belonging to my said manor house and all the . . . land called **Bromefield, Freyes** and **Little Mansfield** containing in all by estimation twenty acres more or less.

And likewise convenient room in some of the barns there . . . to lay in her one half of the corn on the ground (if there be any at the time of my decease). As also to grow corn in or upon any of the said land to her before limited, yearly during her said widowhood with free liberty of way, ways and passage as well to come and go to and from all and any the said . . . in the said house, little hay loft, barn . . . land and meadows, outyard and all other the premises before limited to the said Jane, my wife, . . . as also like free liberty to thresh out the said corn to be laid into any the said barns, at her like, will and pleasure.

And likewise free liberty to come and go, to and from the hall and . . of the said mansion house and to sit by the fire of the said Andrew, his heirs or assigns, in the said hall being and to do any . . there, and to bake, brew, roast and do any other in the kitchen there and the oven therein being freely, at all times during her said widowhood, without let, trouble or disturbance of the said Andrew my son, his heirs or assigns. As also like free liberty (. . in her own person, as any other her helpers or assigns) to wash, hang and dry clothes in any place in the yards belonging to my said house meet for that purpose and to walk or be in any the said gardens, freely at all times during her said widowhood, without let, interruption or denial as aforesaid.

As also notwithstanding and my like, will and meaning is that my said son Andrew Porter, his heirs or assigns, shall well and freely pay, or cause to be paid, out of the said tenements and land to him willed, unto the said Jane my wife, yearly during the whole time of her natural life, one annuity or annual rent of ten pounds of good and lawful money of England, quarterly by equal portions, viz: at the feast of the nativity of Saint John the Baptist, . . the nativity of our lord Jesus Christ and of the blessed virgin Mary, that is to pay, at each of the said feasts, fifty shillings

And I will that for lack of payment of any of the said quarterly payments after any of the said feasts, by the space of ten days, it shall and may be lawful for my said wife, and her assigns, to enter and distrain in and upon the said manor or

mansion house and all . . or any other the premises to my said son willed and the distress, or distress there so had and taken (?) from time to time to bear, load, drive and carry away and the same to withhold and keep until the same payment . . . be fully satisfied and paid.

Furthermore my will and meaning is that the said Andrew my son, his heirs or assigns, shall pay (as my gift) the sum of six score pounds of good and lawful money unto Thomas Porter my second son (#871) to be paid to him within one year next after my decease, if he be then living. And I will that if it be unpaid after the said time, then I will and give to the said Thomas, my son, two (pieces) of land and wood called **Southdown and Southfield Wood** together lying in Seal with a sufficient way to come and go, load, drive, carry and . . to and from the same, at all times for ever, to have and to hold the same with all . . . unto the said Thomas my son, his heirs and assigns for ever.

Provided if nevertheless, that if the said Thomas my son shall not then pay, or before have paid, unto the said Andrew my son, his executors or assigns, the sum of one hundred pounds of lawful money which the said Andrew hath lent unto the said Thomas together with further other money as shall then be due from the said Thomas to the said Andrew, then from my said gifts, one hundred pounds of the said six score pounds shall be utterly void and of no force in law whatsoever. And then my said gift to the said Thomas my son shall be only twenty pounds and no

more. And also the said gift of the said two (pieces) of land and woods and way aforesaid shall be utterly void and of none effect . . .

Provided furthermore, and my full meaning is that if my said wife and son Andrew, or his heirs or assigns, shall not agree in their dwelling together and in the (sharing?) of the commodities in my said house, and that my son Andrew, his heirs or assigns, shall allow for such portion for the same as she my said wife shall think good. That if, notwithstanding, I will that my said wife, or her assigns, shall have liberty (as afore in this my will is set down) during her widowhood, for the felling, cutting, cording and carrying away of so much wood as she shall necessarily burn in any

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- other place whither she shall go (sparing my said timber trees as aforesaid) without let of the said Andrew,
- my son, his heirs or assigns, during all the time of her said widowhood.
- **Item:** I give and bequeath to
- **William Porter**, my youngest son, all those my pieces or parcels of land and woodland, called **Bitchetland**
- which I late purchased of **Christopher Pelsant, gent.**, containing by estimation forty and four acres more or
- less, lying altogether in Seal aforesaid with all ways thereto usually leading. To have and to hold all and every

- the said four parcels of land and woodland and ways aforesaid withall and singular th'appurtenances unto the said William
 - Porter my son, his heirs and assigns for ever. In witness whereof I, the said William Porter,
 - to this my last will containing nine sheets of paper, have to every sheet underneath subscribed my mark and have to
 - this ninth and last sheet have subscribed my mark and put to my seal.
- And I do hereby and revoke
- and make void all other former wills by me made and do pronounce this to be my true and last will, yeven,
 - the say and year first above written.

Nicholas Hooper's
mark
with initials

Read, sealed, published and declared
as the true and last will of the said
William Porter in the presence of
Richard Robartes⁴⁷⁹
Richard Carter⁴⁸⁰ and
Nicholas Hooper, sen. writer
the mark of Richard
Carter

478 a vertical cross; the mark fo the witness Richard Carter is very similar

479 possibly the Richard Roberts who was having children in Seal from 1601 onwards

480 probably the Richard Carter (#19) who married William's servant Margaret Styles in 1611

1 In the name of god Amen. The thirteenth day of June in the year of our
Lord one thousand
2 six hundred and twenty, I, Jane Porter of Kemsing in the county of Kent,
being weak
3 of body but of perfect remembrance do willingly commit my soul to god
and my body to the earth to
4 be decently buried at the discretion of mine executor. **First:** I give to **my**
son William Porter
5 my best bedstead and featherbed and feather bolster, 2 pillows, 2 blankets
and a coverlet and curtains belonging
6 thereto and also an other joined bedstead, a flockbed, a feather bolster, 2
pillows, a coverlet, 2 blankets and curtains
7 belonging to it. Also I give him the cupboard in the hall, the long table, the
folded table, the settle and
8 fourteen joined stools. Also I give him two cauldrons and a great brass pot,
three brass pans and two
9 brass kettles and six dozen of pewter and four chargers. Also two spits, a
dripping pan and eight

10 cushions⁴⁸¹, the carpet and best cupboard cloth. **Item:** I give to **my**
11 **daughter Kips** my wearing apparel
12 saving my best gown and all my wearing linen. Also one iron fork and two
13 little brass pots. Also I do give to her
14 three daughters the two little chests and a box in the hall chamber and the
15 small linen in
16 them. **Item:** whereas **my son Richard Kips** owes ten pounds, I give the sum
17 to **his son**
William and Timothy, his daughter. And if Timothy die before her age of
sixteen years
then I give her part to Richard Kips's other three daughters⁴⁸². **Item:** I give
to **Margaret**
Wolfe a chest standing in the hall chamber withall the linen in it. Also the
trunklebed,
a flock bed, a bolster, a blanket and a coverlet thereto belonging. Also I
give her five pounds

481 "quissins"

482 Richard had four daughters as implied by this phrase; which three were to receive the two chests and a box?

18 which is in the hands of **Thomas Acourt**⁴⁸³ **alias Gardener** to be paid her
within a year
19 after my decease. **Item:** all my ordinary pewter, an iron pot, a brass kettle
that goes abroad
20 as ordinarily used, together with all my barrels, tubs, firkins and all my
other tables, table forms,
21 shelves and all other things not given to any other. I give to **Mary Porter,**
my servant, all the
22 linen that is ordinary linen which I commonly use. Also I give **Elizabeth**
Mandy, my goddaughter,
23 my best gown and my hooksewn sheet which I appoint to lie over me at my
burial. And
24 I do make my son William Porter my executor of this my last will and
testament but
25 if my son William Porter be dead or come not over within two years after
my
26 decease, then I make Richard Kips my executor and if he, the said William
Porter, be alive I do appoint my son
27 Richard Kips to administer all my goods according to this my will until his
coming over of the

28 said son William Porter. And if my son William Porter be now dead, then I
will that all those
29 things which I have given him shalbe sold to the best value and be equally
distributed amongst the children
30 of **Richard Wolfe** and Richard Kips. In witness whereof I have set to my
mark the day
31 and year abovesaid.

Published in the presence of

Henry Phillips, ??

Timothy Richards?

??

The mark of Jane Porter

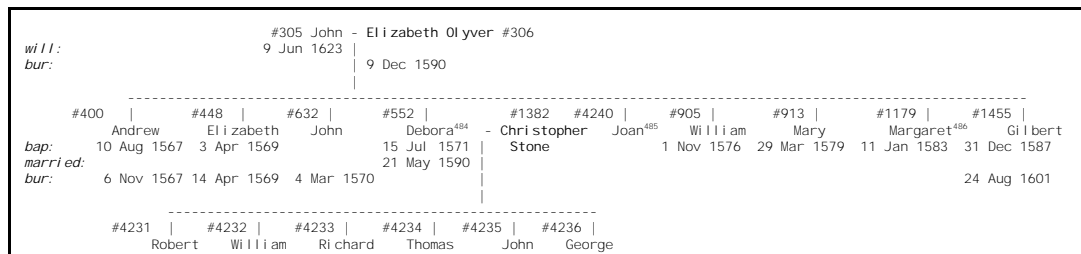
Mary Porter **M** her mark

John Porter of Chart

John, the son of the Andrew Porter of Hall, married Elizabeth Olyver on 16th September 1566 and he must have been at least eighty when he wrote his will in 1623. Nine children were recorded for John and Elizabeth but John, the fishmonger, in 1607 left £100 to be divided by the four children of his cousin John Porter of Chart; by this time John of Chart had been a widower for seventeen years. John himself mentions three children: Debora married to Christopher Stone, Jone married to Richard Tomson and Margaret married to Anthony Barton. Which of John of Chart's children was the fourth one alive in 1607? It could have been either William (#905) or Mary (#913).

The house called Cockers at Chart which was left to John by his father became Coggers in his will; since he did not have a son it was left to his eldest daughter, Debora and her husband Christopher Stone. His other daughters and their husbands were also left land with Margaret also inheriting another house at Chart called Partridges.

Tree P.5 The Children of John Porter of Chart



John made his "loving friend **John Theobald, the younger**" his overseer "desiring him to see my executors perform this my will and to call them to account if they shall refuse to perform it, and to see that the rents and legacies be paid out of the land as before in this my will is set down and to call such of the said legatees to

-
- 484 no children were recorded in the Seal parish register but, from John's will, Debora and Christopher had six sons. Robert was to inherit land near Stonepitts after his parents had died. Each of the others was to receive £10 from Robert paid out of the land he inherited
- 485 Joan (or Jone) is known only from her father's will; her husband was **Richard Thomson** but she was to be paid an annuity of £2 from the land which the Stones inherited from John's will
- 486 wife of **Anthony Barton** in 1623 when John wrote his will but she may have died before October 1624 when Anthony wrote his will; see **Barton**

account as they shall neglect the due performance thereof and to force them, or either of them, by law or course of equity to perform it".

Will of John Porter of Chart in Seal 1623

written 9th June 1623

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. I, John Porter of Chart
2 in the parish of Seal in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being weak in body but
3 of good and perfect memory at this present, thanks be to Almighty God, do
make
4 and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following:
5 **First:** I bequeath my soul into the hands of my blessed saviour Jesus Christ
6 assuredly trusting to be saved through his merits, death and passion and
7 my body to be buried at the discretion of my executors hereafter to be
named.
8 And as concerning my lands and tenements wherewith it hath pleased
9 God to bless me withall, I devise and bequeath them in manner and form
10 following: **First:** I will and bequeath my house called **Coggers** withall and
11 singular th'appurtenances wherein I now dwell, situated lying and being
12 in Chart aforesaid, withall the land lying on the backside belonging to it,
13 containing, by estimation, five acres and all that land and woodland called

14 **Walders** and **Sandefields** containing, by estimation, twelve acres lying over
15 against **Stone Pitts** in the parish of Seal aforesaid unto **my son-in-law**
16 **Christopher**
17 **Stone** and **Debora, my daughter, his wife**, for and during the term of their
18 natural lives and the longer liver of them. And after their decease, unto
19 their
20 **son Robert Stone** and his heirs for ever. Upon condition that he, the
21 said Christopher Stone and Debora, his wife, and Robert, their son, shall
22 deliver up and cause to be cancelled all such bonds as I stand engaged
23 unto
24 the said Christopher Stone unto my executors and rest satisfied of the said
25 debts by reason of the lands to them bequeathed. Otherwise my mind and
26 will is that they shall not have and enjoy any of the land to them given.
27 as aforesaid by virtue of this my will. And further my mind and will is that
28 Christopher Stone and Debora, his wife, and Robert their son and the heirs
29 and assigns of the said Robert Stone shall pay unto **Jone Thomson, my**
30 **daughter**, during her life the sum of forty shillings yearly out of the
31 profits of the lands to them bequeathed which I will shalbe paid her half
32 yearly by equal portions, that is to say at the feast of St. Michael
33 and the annunciation of the blessed virgin Mary, the first payment to
begin at the next of the said feasts which shall first happen after my
decease. And in case they shall not pay the said rent unto her, the said
Jone Tomson and her assigns half yearly as is aforesaid mentioned,

34 or within one and twenty days after any of the said feasts, then my will
35 is that she, the said Jone Tomson or her assigns, shall enter upon
36 the lands called Sandefields and Walders and retain the same to her
37 own use until she shalbe satisfied of the said rent and the arrearages
38 thereof. And also my mind and will is that Robert Stone, his heirs
39 and assigns, shall pay out of the lands before to him bequeathed, after
40 the decease of Christopher Stone, his father, and Debora, his mother, the
41 sum of fifty pounds which I will shall be paid in manner and form
42 following: (that is to say, unto **William Stone, second son of Christopher**
43 **Stone**, his father, the sum of ten pounds which I will shalbe paid
44 unto him within one year next after the decease of his said father and
45 mother, if he shall then be living, and unto **Richard Stone, his third**
46 **son**, the sum of ten pounds which I will to be paid within two years
47 next after his father's and mother's decease, if he shalbe then living
48 and not otherwise. And unto **Thomas Stone, his fourth son**, the sum of
49 ten pounds which I will to be paid within three years after his father's
50 and mother's decease if he shall then be living and not otherwise. And
51 unto **John Stone, his fifth son**, the sum of ten pounds which I will to be paid

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52 within four years next after their father's and mother's decease if he shall
then

53 be living and not otherwise. And unto **George Stone, his sixth son**, the sum
54 of ten pounds which I will to be paid unto him within five years next after
55 his father's and mother's decease if he shall then be living and not
otherwise.
56 **Item:** I will and bequeath unto **Richard Thomson, my son-in-law, and Jone,**
his wife,
57 my daughter, and unto her heirs all that wood and woodland called **Field**
Wood
58 lying below **Red Ridler Wood** in the parish of Seal aforesaid upon condition
59 that he, the said Richard Thomson, shall acknowledge himself satisfied of
60 twenty pounds of the debt which I owe him. Otherwise my mind and will
is
61 that he shall not take any benefit of the land to him and them bequeathed
62 but that it shall descend amongst my three daughters. And I give and
bequeath
63 unto **Margaret Barton, my daughter, the wife of Anthony Barton**, and unto
64 his heirs the house and land called **Partridges** withall and singular
th'appurte=
65 nances wherein **John Cooper** dwelleth which I bought of **William Warren**⁴⁸⁷
lying
66 and being at Chart in the parish of Seal aforesaid upon condition that she,

67 the said Margaret Barton or her heirs do pay or cause to be paid unto
68 my son-in-law Richard Thomson, his executors or assigns, the sum of
threescore
69 pounds within one year next after my decease. Otherwise my mind and
will
70 is that the said Richard Thomson shall have and enjoy the one moiety of
71 the said house and lands unto him and his heirs for ever. And that then
72 this my will shalbe void unto her the said Margaret for one moiety of the
73 said house and lands and goods unto him, the said Richard Thomson and
his heirs
74 for the said moiety. **Item:** my will and mind is that Margaret Barton, my
75 daughter, her heirs and assigns, shall pay out of the house and land unto
76 her bequeathed, or out of the moiety thereof if she shall not pay the
77 threescore pounds as is before mentioned, the sum of forty shillings
78 yearly unto Richard Thomson and to Jone, my daughter, his wife, and
79 the longer liver of them to be paid half yearly unto them and the
80 longer liver of them by equal portions at the two usual feasts of
81 the year, that is to say at the feast of St. Michael Th'archangel
82 and Th'annunciation of the blessed virgin Mary, the first payment to begin
83 at the next of the said feast days which shall first happen after my de=
84 cease. And if it shalbe unpaid unto them, or the longer liver of them,
85 by the space of twenty days after any of the said feasts as aforesaid,
86 then my will and mind is that the said Richard and Jone, and the

87 longer liver of them, shall enter upon the house and lands, or the
88 moiety thereof, which are bequeathed unto the said Margaret Barton
89 and retain the same until they shalbe satisfied of the said rent and
90 the arrearages thereof. And as concerning all my goods, chattels and
personal
91 estate, I will and bequeath to Christopher Stone and Anthony Barton,
whom
92 I make executors of this my last will and testament, for and towards the
pay=
93 ment of my debts and funeral expenses. And in case that my personal
estate
94 shall not amount or be be sufficient for to discharge my debts, legacies and
funeral
95 expenses, then my mind and will is that they shall receive the rents of my
96 houses and lands for one year excepting so much as shall pay the annuity
to
97 my daughter Jone or son Thomson for and towards the payment of my
debts,
98 legacies and funeral expenses or so much of the rent as with my personal
99 estate shall satisfy my debts, legacies and funeral expenses. And of this
100 my last will and testament, revoking hereby all former wills, I do make

101 my loving friend **John Theobald**, the younger⁴⁸⁸, of Seal aforesaid, Esq. my
over=
102 seer and do give him for his pains twenty shillings desiring him to see my
103 executors perform this my will and to call them to account if they shall

page 3:

104 refuse to perform it, and to see that the rents and legacies be paid out of
105 the land as before in this my will is set down and to call such of the said
106 legatees to account as they shall neglect the due performance thereof and
to
107 force them, or either of them, by law or course of equity to perform it.
108 In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this ninth
109 day of June in the year of the reign of our sovereign Lord James of
110 England, France and Ireland, king, defender of the faith, etc. the one and
111 twentieth and of Scotland the six and fiftieth, Anno Dm. 1623.
112 The mark of John Porter. Published, sealed and declared in the
113 presence of John Theobald. The mark of **William Walker, Robert Baker.**

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could have been the husband of Dorothy Culpepper and the son of John Tebold (#3) who did not die until 1633. John (#1), the husband of Clemence Lynch, had a son John who could have been alive in 1623 but he would not have been "the younger" since #1 died in 1578

Lawrence Porter

John, the fishmonger and citizen of London, mentioned a cousin Lawrence and his children. Lawrence, who married in 1570 and died in 1612 was probably the son of John's uncle Andrew of Hall (#303) - see Tree P.3, page p.243.

It is probable that this Lawrence was the Lawrence Porter who, in 1575 with **Richard Wybourne** (#91), had the tenure of a house called Waterden which belonged to **John Tebold** (#1). In 1581 Lawrence's father left him a house in Fuller Street in Seal north of the main road through the village. In 1607 John referred to his cousin Lawrence as "of **Underriver**" in the south of the parish. Given the amount of property which many of the Porters owned, living in Underriver and owning a house in Fuller Street was by no means impossible and, in any case, there is twenty-five years between these two references.

Tree P.6 The family of Lawrence Porter

		#278 Lawrence - Elizabeth Goodhews #279	
mar:		28 May 1570	
bur:		24 May 1612	6 Jun 1599
#527	#982	#1076	#1630
Clemence	Elizabeth	Elizabeth	Mary ⁴⁸⁹
bap: 28 Mar 1572		3 Apr 1580	7 Nov 1591
mar:			
bur:	28 Mar 1578		
#762	#2034	#1155	#2025/k3
Dorothy	Jane ⁴⁹⁰	Richard	Ellen Kips
bap: 14 Feb 1574	2 Mar 1578	15 May 1582	
mar: 12 Jul 2596	22 Jan 1610	21 Sep 1607	
bur: 4 Aug 1628			
#4242	#2451	#3287	#4243
Richard	Thamar	Lawrence	Elizabeth
bap: 23 Dec 1610			
mar:			
bur:	15 Aug 1537		
#3268	#3272	#3269	#3270
James ⁴⁹²	Anne Whaetland	John ⁴⁹³	William
21 May 1618		27 Dec 1620	10 Feb 1623
18 Oct 1636			
#3271			
Ethel red			
18 Nov 1625			

- 489 possibly the Mary Porter who married **William Fremlyn** on 8th April 1624 - see **Fremlyn**
- 490 Dorothy married **John Gardener** (#738 and Jane **William Olyver** (#1123) - see **Gardener** and **Olyver**
- 491 the Seal parish records state that this marriage took place in Shipbourne; if Lawrence Porter was living in Underriver, Shipbourne church would have been nearer than Seal church.
- 492 they had a son (#3273) baptised on 4th February 1644 and buried, two weeks later, on 19th February
- 493 John Porter, son of Richard Porter, was the godson of **John Godden** of Seal who wrote his will in 1622 and left him £5. John Godden left all the five children older than John another £5 to be divided between them. It is only from John Godden's will that we know of Richard and Elizabeth. See *godden.fam* for details.

Lawrence's son Richard married Ellen Kips and we know of their six eldest children only from the 1622 will of **John Godden** of Seal. Their two youngest children were born after John Godden wrote his will but, in 1630, **Robert Pelsett** (#3156) left £2 to William Porter, the son of his neighbour Richard Porter. The Pelsetts lived in the Underriver neighbourhood.

Two of Lawrence's daughters also married into the Kips family. Sylvester married Ellen's brother Robert and Susan married John Kips who could have been another brother. Sylvester had three children and Susan four - see **Kips**. A year after Richard and Ellen married, another of Ellen's brothers, Richard married Elizabeth Porter, daughter of William Porter of Hall.

Andrew Porter of Hall, gentleman

The last of the Porter wills to survive from the period studied was that of Andrew Porter of Hall, gentleman and the son of William Porter of Hall - see Tree P.4, page p.256.. At least one of the branches of the Porter clan had moved into the parish gentry.

Tree P.7 The Family of Andrew Porter, gentleman

	#827		#1523				
	Andrew		- Mildred Frenche				
bap:	10 Jun 1576		24 Nov 1588				
will:	7 Feb 1647						
bur:	10 Mar 1647		13 Sep 1659				
<hr/>							
	#3221		#3223	#3222		#3231	
	Elizabeth	-	Peter Stowell	Mildred	-	William Thompson	
bap:	23 Feb 1611			10 Sep 1620			
married:	5 Oct 1630						
bur:				20 Mar 1643			
<hr/>							
	#3224	#3225	#3226	#3227	#4230	#3232	#3233
	Porter	Andrew	James	John	Grace	William	Jane
bap:	22 Jan 1632	11 Jul 1633	11 Nov 1634	15 Dec 1635		6 Jul 1640	12 Dec 1641

The burials of Andrew and Mildred are not in the Seal register but they share the oldest tomb in Seal churchyard. (This shows how the parish registers cannot be relied upon to include all the events which should have been recorded).

Whilst Andrew was thirty-four when their eldest daughter, Elizabeth, was born, Mildred was only twenty-two but they had to wait another nine years for their second daughter. Whilst there could have been other children whose baptisms were not recorded in Seal, Elizabeth and Mildred (who had died at the age of twenty-two) were the only ones mentioned by Andrew in his will.

Andrew's Sons-in-Law, Peter Stowell and William Thompson

Elizabeth married **Peter Stowell** and their eldest son was given the name "Porter" presumably so that the name "Porter" was not completely lost. Grace, mentioned by Andrew, must have been younger than the Stowell sons.

Peter Stowell was a gentleman of Rochester and his son John became known as John Stowell of Rochester. Peter was imprisoned in Leeds Castle during the Civil War. Four children in under four years was very close together and implies that the Stowells employed a wet nurse.

Andrew appointed Elizabeth to be his executrix. He left a large number of household items to his grandchildren:

To:

Porter Stowell:

"my bed, bedstead and furniture standing in the parlourchamber, a great chest, leather chairs and a pair of andirons with brass tops and a cupboard and press standing in the same chamber, all my brewing vessels, my furnace, my great brass pots, one iron kettle and two great spits and my great dripping pan. Also my table and forms standing in the kitchen, hall and parlour and my timber ware."

- Grace Stowell: another great chest standing in the parlour chamber
- Andrew Stowell: the bed, bedstead and all that belongs to it standing in the outer hall chamber
- William Thompson: "the bed, bedstead, the press and chest standing in my inner hall chamber, the furniture to the said bedstead and two of my joined chairs in the hall, my great brass kettle and an iron pot, two little spits and a dripping pan, three pairs of sheets and half a dozen of my pewter, some of one sort and some of another."

All his plough tacklings and husbandry and the great chest standing with corn (in it) was to go to his son-in-law William Thompson who was also forgiven all the debts he owed to Andrew. William Thompson was listed as living in Stone Street and Bitchet in the Knole Manuscript of 1648. The two younger Stowell sons, James and John, were not mentioned in the will; perhaps they had died as children.

1 In⁴⁹⁴ the name of god Amen. The
2 seventh day of February Anno Domini One
3 thousand six hundred, forty and six, I, Andrew
4 Porter of Hall within the parish of Seal in the county
5 of Kent, **gentleman**, being sick in body but perfect in
6 mind and remembrance do make this my last will
7 and testament in manner and form following: viz:
8 **First:** I commend my soul into the merciful
9 protection of my lord and saviour, Jesus Christ,
10 and my body to decent burial according to the discretion
11 of my executrix hereafter named. Concerning
12 my moveable goods, I dispose thereof in manner as
13 followeth: **First:** I give unto **Porter Stowell**,
14 **my grandchild**, my bed, bedstead and furniture
15 thereunto belonging standing in my parlour chamber,
16 my great chest, leather chairs and a pair of
17 andirons with brass tops and a cupboard and press

18 standing in the same chamber, all my brewing
19 vessels, my furnace, my great brass pots, one
20 iron kettle and two great spits and my great dripp
21 ing pan. Also my table and forms standing in
22 the kitchen, hall and parlour and my timber therein.
23 **Item:** I give unto **Grace Stowell, my grandchild,**
24 my other great chest standing in my parlour
25 chamber. **Item:** I give unto **Andrew Stowell, my grand**
26 **child,** the bed, bedstead and all that belongs
27 unto it standing in my outer hall chamber.
28 **Item:** I give unto **William Thompson, my grandson,**
29 the bed, bedstead, the press and chest
30 standing in my inner hall chamber, the furniture
31 to the said bedstead and two of my joined chairs
32 in the hall, my great brass kettle and an iron pot,
33 two little spits and a dripping pan, three pairs of
34 sheets and half a dozen of my pewter, some of one
35 sort and some of another. **Item:** I give all my
36 plough tacklings and husbandry and my great chest
37 standing with corn unto **my son-in-law William**
38 **Thompson.** **Item:** I give unto **Robert Baker, vicar**

39 of Seal⁴⁹⁵, the sum of ten shillings. **Item:** I give
40 unto twenty poor persons to be made choice of

page 2:

41 by my executrix, twelve pence a piece. All the rest
42 and residue of my goods and chattels of what kind or
43 sort whatever after my debts paid and funeral
44 rites discharged, I give and bequeath unto **Elizabeth**
45 **Stowell, my daughter**, whom I make my full and
46 sole executrix of this my last will and test
47 ament. **Item:** I forgive unto William Thompson,
48 my said son-in-law, all the debts which he owes me,
49 whether for rent or otherwise, which shall appear
50 to be due unto me at my death on condition he
51 discharge me and my executrix for five pounds
52 he had of me the which belongeth to **John Frenche**.
53 **Item:** I make overseers of this my will my two
54 **sons-in-law, Mr. Peter Stowell and William Thompson**
55 unto whom I give five shillings a piece.

495 Robert Baker was installed as vicar of Seal and Kemsing in April 1608 and a John Baker was vicar by the beginning of 1647 (Incumbents of Kemsing with Seal, A.C. Vol.20, p.269). From the ending of the will, it appears that the vicar was the scriptor of Andrew's will which must have been one of the last wills written at the end of his long incumbency.

56 This is also the last will and testament of me
57 the said Andrew Porter made and declared the
58 day and year above said. **First:** I give and
59 devise unto my said grandchild Andrew
60 Stowell and to his heirs forever, my meadow
61 field at **Godden Green** now in the tenure or occu-
62 pation of **Lawrence Frenche** bounden upon the
63 lands of **Mr. Oliver** west and north, and to the
64 lane south and east, on condition that the said
65 Peter Stowell, father of the said Andrew
66 Stowell, shall well and truly pay unto **John Frenche**
67 the sum of eight pounds in part of a debt I owe unto
68 him, the said John Frenche. **Item:** I give and
69 devise unto Elizabeth Stowell, my said daughter,
70 all that my field called **Medlers** and appurtenances
71 thereunto belonging and wood and woodland
72 for, by and during the term of her natural
73 life. And after her decease, I give and devise
74 the same field called Medlers and the wood and
75 woodlands unto Porter Stowell, my grandchild,
76 and to the heirs of his body forever on condition
77 that he or his assigns, shall well and truly
78 pay unto the said William Thompson, my grand

79 child, the sum of forty pounds when he shall be of
80 the age of one and twenty years and forty shill
81 ings per annum during every year from the day of

page 3:

82 my decease until he attains his age aforesaid
83 provided always that if default of payment of the
84 said sum of forty pounds be made unto the said
85 William Thompson at his accomplishment of his age
86 aforesaid being lawfully demanded that then
87 I do hereby will and devise the moiety or half
88 part of my said field called Medlers unto the
89 said William Thompson, my grandchild, to him
90 and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten.
91 And for want of such heirs unto the right
92 heirs of me, the said Andrew Porter for ever.

93 In witness whereof I have hereunto set
94 my hand and seal the day and year first above
95 written. Andrew Porter. Read, sealed, published
96 and declared by the said Andrew Porter for
97 the last will and testament and by him declared

98 in the presence of ?? - the word Stowell was
99 interlined before the sealing hereof - Robert
100 Baker. **Mary Allen**, her mark.

See notes on the will of **Andrew Porter in More Families & Transcripts** for an explanation these last few lines.

The William Porters of The Town

There were two William Porters "**of the Town of Seal**", probably father and son, but they do not seem to fit in to any of the above families.

William Porter (#3296) was buried on 28th December 1616.

William Porter (#3291) had two daughters baptised in Seal:

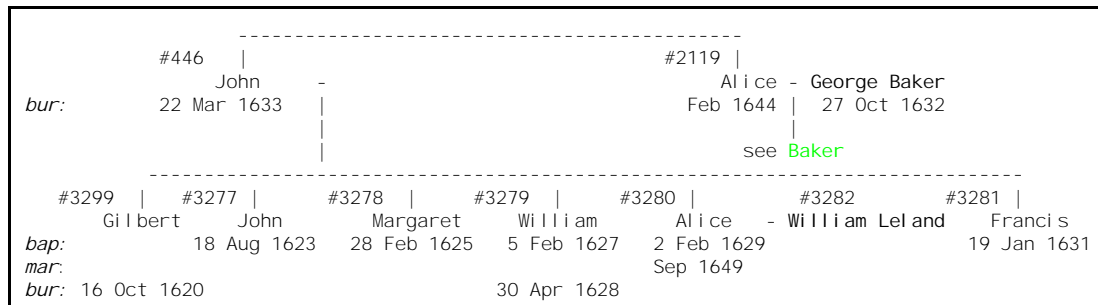
Alice (#3293)	baptised	9 Jul 1620
Gartred (#3294)	baptised	25 Aug 1622

John Porter and his sister Alice

Alice Baker, widow of George Baker, in her will written in January 1644, mentioned a brother John Porter, deceased, who had a son, John. Alice wanted her nephew to buy several parcels of land for which he was to pay £85 4s (£85.2) within two months of him reaching the age of twenty-one. Alice's children were born between 1603 and 1610 so that she was probably born between 1575 and 1580.

No John and Alice, brother and sister, of the right age can be identified in the above families but there was a John, son of John Porter, baptised in August 1623 who would have been twenty in January 1644. Since his father had already died, Alice's nephew, if this was he, would have come into whatever inheritance his father had left him in August 1644 and would perhaps, therefore, have been in a position to buy these lands.

Tree P.8 The Children of Alice's Brother



On 3rd December 1649, a John Porter married **Margaret Lawrence** (#2940); this could have been #3277 (above) or #3269 (page p.291). They had a daughter, Eleanor (#3890) baptised on 17 November 1650.

Other Seal Porters

Thomasyn (#3205), daughter of William Porter, was baptised on 22nd October 1609; she could not have been the daughter of #832 (Tree P.2) since he had a daughter born April 1609 and a son November 1610 (unless this daughter and son had a different father). Thomasyn could have been the daughter of #905 (see Tree P.5) but nothing is known about him.

Alice Porter, widow (#3298), was buried on 22nd March 1622. Whose widow?

Richard Porter (#3283) and his wife **Elizabeth** (#3284) had two children:

Robert (#3285) baptised 2nd May 1649

Richard (#3286) baptised 1st January 1652

Connections with Sevenoaks

In Sevenoaks, there was both an Edmond and an Edward having children in the 1570s and 1580s. In Seal, John, son of Edmond Porter married Johane Holloway on 12th September 1563. Were John, Edmond and Edward all the sons of

Edmond, perhaps the Edmond Porter of Sevenoaks who married Dorothy Browne, widow on 2nd November 1574?

John and Johane had four children baptised in Seal:

Tree P.9 The Children of John and Johane

	#169		#170
	#169 John	-	Johane Hol loway
<i>mar:</i>	12 Sep 1563		
<i>bur:</i>			5 Jul 1574

	# 171		#415
	Gil bert		James
<i>bap:</i>	27 Jul 1565		28 Mar 1568
			#550
			Sara
			9 Apr 1571
			#764
			Jane
			28 Feb 1574

See **Porter in Section 2 of the History of Sevenoaks** for the families of Emond and Edward Porter.

Porters in Ightham

A **William Porter** was presented to the Ightham Court on 18th October 1608 for having received a "stranger" and if he stayed without sureties being found, Porter was to be fined 30s. (CRI 1938, p.18) It would seem that this William lived in Ightham but he could, of course, have been related to the Seal Porters.. A **John Porter** was also mentioned in the Court Records for 1586 to 1618.

Porter Land

Some of the Porter wills mention a large number of different pieces of land with James Porter (will 1563), in particular, giving a large amount of detail. Table P.3 follows through the inheritance of the Porter lands.

James specified that his two sons, John and William, were to "[make a sufficient and a lawful release, the one to the other, their heirs, executors and assigns, of all such lands and tenements and every parcel thereof according to the tenor, effect and meaning of this my last will and testament](#)". This had to be done within a few weeks of his death and, if either refused to do so, he was to forfeit the land bequeathed to him, the other brother having them instead.

Table P.3: Land Owned by the Porters

where a reference number is not given James #229, William #3276, Andrew #303

Name	Description		
Burncroft/Barncroft town of Seal Barncroft	house and croft with barn and stable	1520 1563	William (#3213) to a son - James? James to son William
Burtons	tenement & dwelling house	1533	John to wife forever
Pyks	tenement ⁴⁹⁷	1563	

⁴⁹⁷ with a croft on the backside with the hemp land and orchard

Pynk Lands Standard Great Milders Little Milders Londens Little Dynes Stone Rock (10 ac.)	bought of Chr. Olyver piece of land	1563	James to son William
Mollet and Ivys Stampett Mede (5 ac.) Palmers Mede at Godden: tenement Nagpletts	land and wood meadow garden (3 roods ⁴⁹⁸) 3 crofts	1563	James to son William

⁴⁹⁸ a measure of area whose size could vary but was generally a fortieth of an acre in which case 3 roods would only be 362 square yards, and area 60 by 60 yards

Elses (Godden) Dickgyns Stonepitts: Eastfield Little Woodens Will Field Sipneselle Evers Land Long Croft a tenement	tenement with 2 crofts lands ⁴⁹⁹ pieces of land with 2 meadows	1563	James to son John #3275
--	---	------	----------------------------

⁴⁹⁹ bought of Thomas Lampard and Richard Baker.

The manor of Hall ⁵⁰⁰	a mansion house	1581 1610	Andrew to wife and then son William #58 William #58 to son Andrew #827
Cockers at Chart Coggers at Chart ⁵⁰¹	house house where John lived	1581 1623	Andrew to son John #305 to daughter Debora & her husband

500 see below

501 with the land belonging to it (5 acres)

Myllers Mede	6 acres of grass 5 acres of grass a mead of 21 acres ⁵⁰²	1581	Andrew to son John #305 Andrew to son Lawrence Andrew to son Edward
at Fullers Street	house, etc.(14 acres)	1581	Andrew to son Lawrence
in Seal Street	house with a garden and hemp plot	1581	Andrew to son Edward

⁵⁰² was Edward to have the whole mead but letting his two brothers have the grass from the two acreages?

Longe Deane ⁵⁰³ Flame Wood Richard Land, Appest, Richard Wood Burland	parcel of land woodland two parcels of land woodland two parcels of land	1581	Andrew to son Edward after death of his wife
Bitchetland	44 acres purchased of Christopher Pelsant	1610	William #58 to son William #1632
meadow field at Godden Green		1646	Andrew #827 to grandchild Andrew Stowell
Medlers	field & woodland	1636	Andrew #827 to ⁵⁰⁴

⁵⁰³ the lands associated with the manor of Hall included Long Dene Wood and the division between the wood and this piece of land was to be "six foot from the furrow into the wood. And the mark to be equally kept" by William and Edward.

⁵⁰⁴ daughter Elizabeth & then grandchild Porter Stowel

Field Wood Red Ridler Wood	wood and woodland	1623	John #305 to daughter Joan and her husband
Partridges, Chart	house and land	1623	John #305 to dau. Margaret & her husband
Walders and Sandefields	land and woodland ⁵⁰⁵	1623	John #305 to daughter Debora & her husband

The Manor of Hall

This manor included:

- one croft with a hemp platt abutting to the highway
- one other parcel of land called Chapell Field
- a parcel of woodland called Long Dene Wood
- a parcel of land called Medeldene
- a parcel of land called Sweres with a parcel of wood lying to the lodge
- two other parcels of woodland called Highgues and Ublepytt
- a piece of land with the woods thereon called Soudene
- two pieces called Marvylls
- another parcel of land called Suffeld and Suffeld Wood; in William's will these were Southdown and Southfield Wood. If William's son Andrew, who inherited all of the Hall estate, did not pay his brother Thomas the £120 bequeathed to him, Thomas was to have these lands
- a piece of land called Bradfield
- two other pieces called Bromefield and Freyes (in 1610, William's wife Jane was to have the free use of these two pieces together with Little Mansfield, not mentioned by William's father; the three totalled about 20 acres)
- another without the gate with a pound
- a parcel called the Moves withall the woodlands lying within the rails

- two parcels of meadow lying in the parish of Shipbourne called Chandlers Mead
- a croft behind the barn and also a piece of house woodland lying towards Stouste Croft (2 acres)

Although written in 1489; this will is in English.

The will of Thomas Poule of Kemsing, dated 1479 (CKS: Drb/Pwr 3.234) has also survived but this has not been investigated. No Poules were recorded in the parish registers 1550-1650.

1 In the name of god so be it. The 22nd day of February in the year of
2 the lord 1488, I, William Poule, of **Heaverham** in the parish of **Kemsing** and
3 **Seal**, in mind being, ordain and make my testament in this wise. **First:**
4 I bequeath my soul to almighty god and my body to be buried in the
5 churchyard of Kemsing. And I bequeath to the high altar there 20d.
6 **Item:** I bequeath to a priest to sing in the said church half a ??
7 ? mark? **Item:** I bequeath to the ?? light 4d . . .
8 ?? Also I bequeath to **Cicyly, my wife**, and to ?? **Barton?** whom
9 I ordain mine executors
10 And my will is that the said Cicely, my wife, have all my land
11 and tenements during her life finding yearly a ?? of a ?? wax before our
12 lady in the said church of Kemsing burning as the manner is. **Item:** I
13 will that, at the decease of the said Cycily, **John, my son**, have yearly

14 during his life 13s 4d to be ?? of and in all my said land
15 and tenements. **Item:** I will that, at the decease of the said Cicele, my wife,
16 the said ?? of a 50 wax be yearly ?? afore our land for ??
17 in the said church. And the (residue?) of the money to the ??
18 of the ?? **Item:** my will is that at the decease of the said Cicele, my
19 wife, **Rc.**⁵⁰⁶, **my son** . . . do to be delivered to **Robert, my son**, to
20 have my place ?? at the land lying there to that . . .
21 lying to the land of **Robert ?elelong**, east to the land of . . .
22 . . . **Item:**
23 my will is that, at the decease of the said Cycele, my wife, the
24 residue of all my land be delivered to **Robert, my son**, in fee simple
25 ?? And declared the day and year above said in the presence of

John ?? John ?? **William Smyth** and others

506 abbreviation for "Richard"?

Joane and William Powell of Ightham

At the Court held on 26th April 1593, **Jane Powell (i1875)**, widow, was found to be a "common breaker of hedges" who had lately broken and plundered the hedges of **Thomas Gunninge, Richard Syfflet, Robert Balden and John Hammon**.

She was fined 3s 4d, and "if she refuses to pay that sum she is to be put into the stocks for four hours for the said offence." (CRI 1937, p.218). See both Families & Transcripts and More Families & Transcripts for details of the others mentioned.

She was presented to the same Court for having received a "stranger" - **Widow Bullinge**. If the widow stayed, without sureties being found, Jane Powell was to be fined 10s. Six months later, on 5th October 1593, **William Webb (i1247)** was found to have received a number of strangers including **Agnes Bullinge, widow**. (CRI 1938, p.17)

Three years earlier, on 22nd April 1590, **William Powell** was found to have "neglected to maintain his fence lying south-east opposite the land of **William Weston** and adjoining the way leading from Ightham to Oldbury. Given till Michaelmas to repair it properly, under penalty 3s 4d, of which one half will go to the lord of the manor and the other half to the said William Weston." (CRI 1937, p.217) Was William Powell Jane's husband who died before 1593?

This will (CKS: Drb/Pw 29; Drb/Pwr 22.80) was written by John Hooper, notary public and parish clerk of Tonbridge. He was one of the Hooper family, members of which wrote many wills from before 1570 until at least 1650 when this study ends. The "memorandum" at the end, however, is not typical of John Hooper; but neither is it typical of any other of the wills investigated.

1 In the name of god Amen. The twentieth day of
2 March in the year of our Lord God, according
3 to the computation of the church of England,
4 one thousand, six hundred, thirty and
5 three, I, John Powle of Tonbridge in the
6 county of Kent, **husbandman**, being⁵⁰⁷ of
7 sound and good ememory, do ordain and make
8 this my testament and last will in manner and form
9 following: I will and give to **Edward**

507 "beeing", "bee" throughout

10 **Medhurst of Southborrow**⁵⁰⁸ one cupboard
11 which was formerly my second wife's. Also
12 will unto him ten shillings, or there
13 abouts, which he oweth unto me. **Item:** I
14 will to **Edward Medhurst, his son, my**
15 **godson**, 25s of the money that **Rowland**
16 **Hartnup** oweth unto me which is four
17 pounds. And to **Thomas Medhurst**, I will
18 fifty shillings thereof. And to **Elizabeth**
19 **Abraham, daughter of John Abraham**, I will
20 five shillings, the residue of the said
21 four pounds, to be all laid out upon
22 sheep or lambs for the profit of my
23 said two godchildren and the said Elizabeth
24 Abraham within one year next after my
25 decease. **Item:** I will and give to **John**
26 **Merrit, son of Frances Merrit, deceased**,
27 twenty shillings to be paid within one month
28 after my decease.
29 The residue of all other my goods and chattels I
30 wholly will and give to the said Thomas Medhurst,

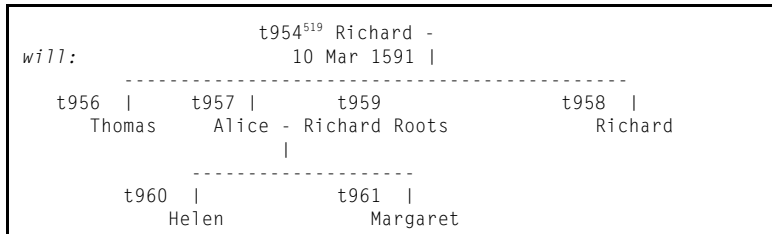
508 Southborough, just to the north of Tonbridge

31 the elder, ?? ??, whom I make the sole execu
32 tor of this my testament and last will to see the same proved
33 and all my debts and legacies paid. In witness whereof
34 I have set my hand and seal dated the day and year above written.
35 the mark of John Powle

36 **Memorandum** that upon the 20th day
37 of March ?? ?? being the date
38 within written, this present will within
39 written was read, sealed, published
40 and declared by the within named
41 John Powle to be his testament and
42 last will in the presence of **Edward Amis,**
William Thorpe and John Hooper.

Richard Pratt of Tonbridge

Richard Pratt, a butcher with a shop in the flesh shambles of Sevenoaks, was very old when he wrote his will in 1591 "[having passed almost a hundred years](#)" so that "[it cannot be that I should here long remain](#)". He had two sons alive at this time, Richard and Thomas, and he is concerned "[that there should be no dissension or jar between my two sons, knowing that a house divided against itself cannot long prosper](#)". He also had a daughter, Alice, who had two adult daughters one of whom was married, so that it is likely that, even if he was not a hundred, he was at least eighty.



⁵¹⁹ "t" indicates a reference in the Tonbridge database

Richard left some interesting items to remain as fixtures to his house:

- the furnace standing in the kitchen
- everything in the hall and parlour of his mansion house "except the harness and furniture which I am charged with for muster"
- all the shelves and benches within his mansion house
- all the glass in the windows

He then describes the land left to his two sons in detail - see Tables P.4 and P.5 below.

Table P.4: Land Bequeathed to son, Richard

all those parcels of land, meadow and wood called Hasedenlands and Haymans	at Haseden in Tonbridge, Bidborough and Leigh as the marks thereof do severally divide and show	60 acres
one parcel of land and meadow called Bridgeegates	in Tonbridge	3 acres
all other parcels of land and wood called Upper Judds or Broom Judds	in Tonbridge and Bidborough as the marks and lane thereof do divide and show	40 acres
a shop	in the flesh shambles in the town of Sevenoaks	

Table P.5: Land Bequeathed to son, Thomas

mansion house, messuage or tenement with the edifices, closes and backsides adjoining	town of Tonbridge near the Castle, on the west side of the high way	
one barn with a close and a parcel of land adjoining	on the other side of the same way in Tonbridge town	0.5 acre
one messuage or tenement called the Lower House , one kitchen, one barn and other edifices, one close and one garden, orchard or backside adjoining	in the nether end of the town of Tonbridge	0.5 acre
two parcels of land and meadow called Mall Field and Rowlands Croft	near Witchendenmeade in Tonbridge	5 acres
four parcels of land, called Growhooks with appurtenances	in Tonbridge	10 acres

five parcels of land and wood called Marfield	in Tonbridge	30 acres
four parcels of land and wood called Mine Judds	on the east side of the high way there leading from Haseden to Bidborough	20 acres

Richard then, in the hope that "brotherly unity and quietness to be had and retained between my said two sons" specified that they should both make "to each other a sufficient release of all the lands and tenements herein to them, . . .willed . . . And if either of them refuse so to do", then the land, etc. willed to the one who refused was to "remain to the other tractable and willing".

The will of Richard Pratt, the elder, of Tonbridge (PCC: **Harrington 48**), was written by **Nicholas Hooper**, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618 but the original will has not be found.

1 In the name of god Amen. The
2 tenth day of March in the year of our Lord god one thousand, five hundred,
3 fourscore and
4 ten and the three and thirtieth year of the reign of our sovereign lady
5 Elizabeth, by the grace of
6 God, Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. I,
7 Richard Pratt,
8 the elder, of Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **butcher**, being at the time of
9 making hereof healthy and
10 sound in body and mind but being so overtaken with debility and old age
11 that I am not able to help
12 my self and that (having passed almost a hundred years) it cannot be that I
13 should here long remain

8 and willing, before my decease, that such transitory possessions which god
hath lent me should be quietly
9 enjoyed by those whom I have meant the same unto, especially that there
should be no dissention or jar
10 between my two sons, knowing that a house divided against itself cannot
long prosper, Therefore I
11 do ordain and make this my present testament and last will in manner and
form following: that is to say
12 **First** and principally I give, commend and bequeath my soul into the hands
of Almighty god, my maker
13 and to Jesus Christ, his dear and only son, my alone saviour and redeemer,
by the mediation of whom and
14 through faith in his blood?, I trust only to be saved. And my body to the
earth whence it came, to be buried
15 where it shall please my executor. **Item:** I will and give to the box or chest
of the poor within the parish
16 of Tonbridge aforesaid six shillings, eight pence. And to be distributed
among poor people resorting to my
17 burial what mine executor hereafter named shall think good. **Item:** I give
and bequeath to **Helen and**
18 **Margaret, daughters of Richard Root, my son-in-law deceased,** to either of
them ten pounds lawful

19 money a piece to be paid them, and either of them, at the days of their
several marriages or within six
20 weeks then next after, by **my son Thomas Pratt**, his heirs, executors or
assigns. And whereas one of
21 them is already married, I will that her ten pounds be paid shalbe paid
within eight weeks next after my
22 decease to her, her executors or assigns. And if the other decease before
her marriage, I will that the
23 other, her executors or assigns, shall have her part so deceased. **Item:** I
will that my furnace standing
24 in the kitchen and all things whatsoever now being and standing in the
hall and parlour of my mansion house
25 wherein I now dwell, except the harness and furniture which I am charged
with for muster, And
26 all the shelves and benches within my said mansion house shalbe and
remain there and all the glass in
27 the windows to my son Thomas and his heirs without removing or taking
away. Also I give to my
28 said son Thomas three chests and two pair of my sheets, one of the best
sort and the other of the second
29 sort. **Item:** I give to Thomas, my son, four bushels of wheat. The residue of
all my goods and cattells,

30 as well moveable as unmoveable, with the said harness, I wholly, fully and
with good intent and purpose,
31 give and bequeath to **Richard Pratt, my son**, which Richard I make my
whole and sole executor to see
32 my debts and legacies paid (except the twenty pounds aforesaid) and
funeral discharged and this my
33 will accordingly proved.

34 **This is the last will** of me, the said Richard Pratt the elder,
35 made and declared the day and year first above written concerning the
order and disposition of all
36 my lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever, severally situated,
lying and being in Tonbridge
37 aforesaid, **Bidborough and Leigh** next Tonbridge in the said county of Kent.
Item: I will and bequeath
38 to Thomas Pratt, my eldest son, all that my mansion house, messuage or
tenement wherein I now dwell
39 together with the edifices, closes and backsides thereto adjoining, situated
and together lying and being in
40 the town of Tonbridge aforesaid, near the Castle there, on the west side of
the high way. Also one barn
41 with a close and a parcel of land thereto adjoining lying

on the other side of the same way in Tonbridge town aforesaid, containing,
by estimation, half an acre, more
or less. Also one other messuage or tenement called and now known by
the name of the **Lower House**,
one kitchen, one barn and other edifices thereto belonging, one close and
one garden, orchard or backside thereto
adjoining, containing, by estimation, half an acre, whether more or less
thereof be had together, situated lying
and being in the nether end of the said town of Tonbridge aforesaid. Also
two other parcels of land and
meadow called **Mall Field and Rowlands Croft**, containing in the whole, by
estimation, five acres, whether
more or less thereof be had, severally situated, lying and being near
Witchendenmeade in Tonbridge aforesaid.
Also four other parcels of land, called **Growhooks** with th'appurtenances,
containing in the whole, by estimation,
ten acres, whether more or less thereof be had, together lying and being in
Tonbridge aforesaid. Also five
other parcels of land and wood called **Marfield** containing in the whole, by
estimation, thirty acres, whether
more or less thereof be had, together lying and being in Tonbridge
aforesaid. And also four other parcels

53 of land and wood called **Mine Judds** or by what other name or names
soever, containing in the whole, by estimation,
54 twenty acres, whether more or less thereof be had together lying and being
in on the east side of the high way
55 there leading from **Haseden to Bidborough**⁵⁰⁹ parcel of land called **Judds**.
As the same highway doth
56 divide the same from the residue of the land called Judds and lying and
being in Bidborough aforesaid. To
57 have and to hold all the said messuage or tenement wherein I now dwell
with the buildings and backside
58 thereto belonging, the said barn, close and parcel of land thereto
belonging, the said messuage called
59 the Lowerhouse with the kitchen, edifices, close, garden and orchard or
backside thereto adjoining the said
60 two parcels being near Witchenden mead, the said four other parcels
called Mine Judds⁵¹⁰, Growhooks,
61 the said five other parcels called Marfield, and the said four other parcels
called Mine Judds or

509 "Haysden" is to the west of the town of Tonbridge, between the road to Bidborough and the road to Leigh

510 "Mine Judds" included here seems to be a copying error (or, perhaps, an error in the original)

62 by what other name or names soever the same or any of the same are or
have been called or known by
63 with all and all manner of profits and appurtenances thereto belonging
unto the said Thomas
64 Pratt, my son, his heirs and assigns to the only use and behoof of the said
Thomas, my son,
65 his heirs and assigns forever. Provided always that the said Thomas Pratt,
my son, his heirs
66 executors or assigns, pay, or cause to be paid to the aforementioned Helen and
Margaret Rootes, the
67 aforementioned legacy of twenty pounds at such time and in such manner and
form as before in this my
68 will is set down, without fraud or covin. **Item:** I will and bequeath to
Richard Pratt, my youngest
69 son, all those parcels of land, meadow and wood called by the name of
Hasedenlands and **Haymans**
70 or by what other name or names soever the same, or any of the same, are
or have been called or known
71 by containing, in the whole, by estimation, three score acres, whether more
or less thereof be had, severally
72 lying and being at **Haseden** in Tonbridge, Bidborough and Leigh aforesaid
as the marks thereof

73 do severally divide and show. Also one other parcel of land and meadow
called **Bridgegates** containing,
74 by estimation, three acres whether more or less thereof be had, lying and
being in Tonbridge aforesaid.
75 And also all those other my parcels of land and wood called or known by
the name or names of
76 **Upper Judds or Broom Judds**, containing, in the whole by estimation, forty
acres, whether more or
77 less thereof be had together, lying and being in Tonbridge and Bidborough
aforesaid as the marks and
78 lane thereof do divide and show the same. To have and to hold all the said
parcels of land called
79 Hasedenlands and Haymans, the said parcel called Bridgegates and the
said parcel called Broom
80 Judds or Upper Judds withall and singular profits and appurtenances
thereto belonging and all
81 other my lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever (except those
herein willed to my son
82 Thomas, unto him, the said Richard Pratt, my son, his heirs and assigns, to
the only use and behoof of the said Richard, my son, his heirs and assigns
forever. Notwithstanding
83 my will and mind is that my said sons, Thomas and Richard, shall either of
them, their heirs or assigns,

84 pay out of the lands and tenements to them willed, twenty shillings lawful
money, a piece, yearly
85 unto **Alice Roots, widow, my daughter**, during the term of her natural life at
the feasts of Midsummer,
86 Michaelmas, Christmas and Th'annunciation by equal portions. And the
first term thereof to
87 begin at that feast of the feasts aforesaid which shall next come after my
decease. And for lack
88 of payment thereof, or any parcel thereof, I will it shalbe lawful for her, the
said Alice and her
89 assigns, to enter and distrain upon any part of the lands and tenements of
him or them that shall
90 so default in payment. And the distress or distresses there being taken and
found, from time to time,
91 lawfully to bear, lead, drive and carry away, and the same to withhold,
detain, impound and keep
92 until the said yearly sum and sums of twenty shillings apiece, with
th'arrearages thereof, be fully
93 satisfied and paid according to the tenor of this my will. **Item:** I likewise
give and bequeath to my
94 said son Richard Pratt my shop situated in the flesh shambles in the town
of **Sevenoaks**, to

95 have and to hold the same, with th'appurtenances, unto my said son
Richard, his heirs and assigns,
96 forever. Provided always, and my very will and mind is, that for a brotherly
unity and quietness to
97 be had and retained between my said two sons, they the said two sons
shall, within one month
98 next after my decease, make, seal and deliver to each other a sufficient
release of all the lands and
99 tenements herein to them, by me, severally willed without fraud or guile,
according as they are severally
100 set down in this my will. And if either of them refuse so to do, then I will
all my said lands, tenements
101 and hereditaments with th'appurtenances to him willed so refusing that
shall remain to the other tractable and
102 willing. To have and to hold the same, withall and singular
th'appurtenances, unto him willing, his heirs
103 and assigns for ever, any gift, bequest or any other thing whatsoever herein
before mentioned to the
104 contrary hereof, in any wise notwithstanding. In witness whereof to this
my present last will and testament,
105 I, the said Richard Pratt, the elder, have set my hand and seal yeven the
day and year first above written

106 in the presence of **William Harris**, **Thomas Walter**, shoemaker, and of me,
107 **Nicholas Hooper**, writer hereof
and others. Signum Richard Pratt, senior.

George Putland of Tonbridge

George Putland was a wealthy blacksmith with two sons, Stephen and George, both under twenty-one when he wrote his will. He left them £200 each and the arrangements for this money are interesting.

Within two years of his death, his overseers, or one of them, was to receive the £400 from his wife, who was his executrix, and use it to purchase "[such tenements or lands as may be had](#)" in the names of his two sons for their use. Until Stephen was twenty-one, George's wife was to receive the rents and profits from the purchased land "[not stripping or wasting any the woods there upon](#)" towards her and the sons' maintenance. Then Stephen was to receive his half of the rents and his wife the other half until George was twenty-one. "[And then my said sons to enter and enjoy the said tenement, lands and purchases to them and their heirs for ever](#)".

In addition to the £400 which was to be used to purchase this land, George owned lands and tenements in Heathfield in Sussex (which he left to Stephen) and the messuage in which he was living which was in the Town of Tonbridge; this he left to his youngest son, George. His wife, Marie was to have the rents of the land in Heathfield until Stephen was twenty-one again "[without wasting, felling or](#)

cutting down any the timber or timber trees thereupon" and those of his meassuage in Tonbridge until George was twenty-one. And George's will was that his wife should educate and bring up his sons "in good sort and with convenient maintenance until their several ages aforesaid (if she shall so long live)".

Will of George Putland of Tonbridge

written, on 20th July 1633

first part of the transcription is from the probate copy and the end from the original

This will (PCC: Russell 93, Prob 11/164 and Prob 10/520) was written by John Hooper, notary public and parish clerk of Tonbridge who wrote a large number of wills between 1601 and 1642. George was buried on 23rd July 1633 and the will proved in the following October..

- 1 In the name of god Amen. I, George
- 2 Putland of Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **blacksmith**, being of perfect
and good mind and
- 3 memory do ordain and make this my testament and last will in manner and
form following: **First:**
- 4 recommending my soul to the sweet mercies of God through Jesus Christ,
my saviour and my

body to the earth in decent manner to be buried. I will to the poor of Tonbridge twenty shillings.

Item: I give, will and appoint to **my two sons, Stephen and George Putland**, two hundred

pounds a piece of lawful english money which I will that my executrix shall pay to **Thomas**

Everest and James Dyker, mine overseers hereafter named, or to one of them, within two years

next after my decease to be, by them or one of them, paid, given and bestowed upon lands to be

purchased in my said sons' names to the use of my said sons, their heirs and assigns for ever.

And I do hereby give full power to my said overseers, and to either of them, to recover and receive

the said money to be given to my said sons, viz. four hundred pounds within the said two years off

my said executrix by any ways or means to them, or either of them, seeming like to be bestowed as

aforesaid. The residue and all other my goods and chattels whatsoever, I wholly give and bequeath to

Marie, my loving wife, whom I make the sole executrix of this my testament and last will. And

16 to my land, if it shall be required by my said overseers, or either of them, for
the payment of the
17 said four hundred pounds within two years aforesaid, to the purpose
aforesaid, before she shall
18 prove this my will. And I desire my good friends, the said Thomas Everest,
the elder, of Tonbridge
19 aforesaid, butcher⁵¹¹, and the said James Dyker (of the same town, **weaver**)
to be my overseers
20 that this my testament and last will may be performed so much as in them
shall lie and to which all
21 their pains so laid out and bestow the money aforesaid given to my said
two sons, upon
22 some purchase of such tenements or lands as may be had and bought for
my said sons and their heirs as
23 aforesaid. Of which tenement or lands or whatsoever else shalbe
purchased, I will that my said wife
24 shall have and receive the whole rents and profits thereof (not stripping or
wasting any the
25 woods there upon) until such time as the said Stephen, my eldest son, shall
accomplish the age

511 this could have been x390 (x denotes a reference in the database set up for a number of parishes) - see Everest

26 of one and twenty years (if he shall so long live) towards her and their
maintenance. And
27 when the said Stephen shall accomplish his said age, he to receive the one
half of the said
28 rents. And my said wife the other half until that George, my other son,
shall attain to his age
29 of 21 years; And then my said sons to enter and enjoy the said tenement,
lands and purchases
30 to them and their heirs for ever. And if my said wife shall decease before
the said ages of my
31 said sons, then my said sons and their heirs shall from her such decease
enter and enjoy the
32 premises as aforesaid. And my will is that if both my said sons shall
decease before their several
33 ages aforesaid without issue, that then my said wife shall have and receive
only the one half of the
34 the rents thereof during her natural life (there present? or anything therein
contained to the
35 contrary thereof notwithstanding). And I will to my said overseers for their
pains herein to be
36 taken, twenty shillings a piece over and above their charges hereby
occasioned. This is also the last

37 will of me, the said George Putland, made and declared the day and year
hereunder written
38 touching my lands and tenements. **Item:** I will and give to Stephen, my
son, and to his heirs and assigns
39 for ever, all my lands and tenements, with their and every of their
appurtenances, situated, lying and being
40 in **Heathfield**⁵¹² in the county of **Sussex**, or elsewhere in that county,
notwithstanding my will is that
41 the said Marie, my wife, shall have and receive the rents and profits of the
said lands and tenements
42 (without wasting, felling or cutting down any the timber or timber trees
thereupon) until such
43 time as the said Stephen shall accomplish his age aforesaid of one and
twenty years (if he shall
44 so long live). And from his said age (or his decease if it shall sooner
happen) I will that there she shall
45 be paid yearly and every year during her natural life, the yearly sum of
eighteen pounds of lawful
46 english money, half yearly, by equal portions or within fourteen days next
after the end of every
47 half year. And for default made in payment

512 about fifteen miles south of Tonbridge

from original

- thereof accordingly, I will that it shall and may be⁵¹³ lawful for her, the said Mary and her assigns
 - after every such default upon the said land and tenements, or any part thereof, to enter and
 - distrain⁵¹⁴ and the distress and distresses to hold and keep until she shalbe thereof and of
 - all arrearages thereof fully satisfied and paid (any gift or devise of the said lands and
 - tenements herein contained to the contrary thereof notwithstanding).
- Item:** I give and
- devise to George Putland, my youngest son, his heirs and assigns for ever, all that
 - messuage or tenement wherein I now dwell, situated in the Town of Tonbridge aforesaid.
 - And the houses, Barn, yard and garden, backside and all other appurtenances thereto

513 "bee" throughout the original text

514 "distreigne" here and below

- belonging. Notwithstanding my will is that my said wife shall or may ⁵¹⁵
- the said messuage and premises after my decease until the full age of one and twenty
- years to be accomplished by the said George (if she shall so long live). And from
- his said age (or his decease if it shall sooner happen) I will that my said wife shall be
- paid out of the said messuage and premises in Tonbridge during her natural life ⁵¹⁶
- of four pounds of lawful english money quarterly by equal portions or within
- seven days next after the end of every quarter. And for default of payment thereof that
- it shall and may be lawful to and for my said wife and her assigns upon every such default to
- enter and distrain upon the said messuage and premises and any part thereof. And the distress or distresses
- to hold and keep until she shall be thereof and of all arrearages thereof fully satisfied and paid from

515 rest of line unreadable

516 the rest of this line unreadable since it is on a crease in the paper but the meaning is obviously "the yearly sum"

- time to time according to the purport of this my will (Any thing therein contained to the contrary thereof
 - notwithstanding). And my will is that my said wife shall educate and bring up my said two sons
 - in good sort and with convenient maintenance until their several ages aforesaid (if she shall so long
 - live).
 - In witness whereof I, the said George Putland, have to this my testament and last will set my hand and
 - seal dated the twentieth day of July in the ninth year of the reign of our sovereign lord
 - Charles by the grace of God king of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith,
 - Ao dm one thousand six hundred and thirty three
- Sealed, published and declared George Putland
 in the presence of
Thomas Sommer **George Putland**⁵¹⁷ servant
Thomas Pearson and **John Hooper** notar. pbq.

⁵¹⁷ this name and the name of the testator written by the same person, presumably John Hooper

The Pyndens of Seal

The wills of Thomas and William Pynden of Seal have survived:

written

Thomas Pynden	13 Mar 1535	proved 24 Jul 1535	CKS: Drb/Pwr 9.134	page p.349
William Pynden	3 Mar 1590	buried 5 Mar 1590	CKS: Drb/Pw 15; Drb/Pwr 17.425	page p.351

It is probable that William Pynden was Thomas's son who was under age in 1534 and was therefore born after 1513. Since William, the testator, had a son, John, baptised in 1561 there was a maximum of 47 years between Thomas's son and William's son with 50 being the expected. William died as a result of being attacked during a burglary and this is described in [The History of Sevenoaks](#) and it is interesting to note the status of the people who witnessed Pynden's will.

In 1527, **Thomas Hadlow** appointed **Thomas Pynden** as his executor.

In 1564, **John Walter** left 13s 4d to John Pynden; if this was William's son, he must have been very young at the time since William's son John who was baptised in 1561 died in December 1562 leaving the possibility of another son John being born in 1563.

William Pynden was an overseer to the will of James Barre (#506⁵¹⁸) in 1577.

A **William Pinden** was mentioned in the Ightham Court Rolls between 1586 and 1618.

		#4382	Thomas	-	Thomasi na	#4383				
<i>will:</i>		13 Mar	1535							

	#22		#23		#4384		#4385		#4386	
		William	-	Juliana ⁵¹⁹		Joan		Alice		Ann
<i>will:</i>	3 Mar	1590								
<i>bur:</i>	5 Mar	1590								

	#24		#939		#938					
		John		Agnes ⁵²⁰	-	Robert Frenche				
<i>bap:</i>	20 Dec	1561		1 Jun	1564					
<i>bur:</i>	7 Dec	1562								

⁵¹⁸ # indicates a reference in the Seal database

⁵¹⁹ her grandson, Pynden Frenche (one of Agnes's sons) refers to her as "Gillian Pynden, my late deceased grandmother" in his will of 1638 - see *frenchew.will*

⁵²⁰ Agnes married on 24th November 1578 when she was only 14½; see *frenchew.will* for their children

1 In the name of god Amen. The 13th day of March
2 in the year of our lord 1534, I, Thomas Pynden, of Seal,
3 whole in mind, make my testament as follows:
4 **First:** I bequeath my soul to ?? , my body to be buried
5 in the churchyard of Seal. **Item:** to the high altar
6 20d. **Item:** I will have at my burying 7 priests
7 and at my month's day 9 priests. **Item:** I bequeath
8 to **William, my son**, all my lands and tenements lying
9 in Kent at 21 years of age. **Item:** I bequeath to the said
10 William, my son, two oxen, two kyne, 20 sheep, a great
11 brass pot and a great cauldron. **Item:** I bequeath to
12 **my 3 daughters, Joan, Alice and Ann**, at their marriage
13 to each one of them, £6 8s 4d. And if any of them
14 fail, I will that of them be others heirs. And if
15 they all fail, I will that William have the £20,
16 afore bequeathed to my daughters, at 21 years of age.
17 Also I will that, if it fortune all my children to
18 fail (before their?) age, then I will that **Thomasina, my**
19 **wife**, have all the said £20 and all my land

20 and tenements for time of her life provided all way
21 that, if it fortune my child to live and enjoy the said
22 land and tenements before specified, then I will my said
23 wife have the use of the said land and tenements for
24 her ?? 26s 8d yearly during her life.
25 And for lack of payment, she and her assigns to
26 ?? in any part of the said land and tenements
27 as said money, or any
28 of it The residue of all my goods unbequeathed
29 I give to Thomasina, my wife, whom I make my sole
30 executor, to dispose for my soul and ? ? And
31 I make my overseers **William Thomlin**⁵²¹ and **William Best**⁵²².
32 witnesses: **George Cughton?** and **?? Wood?**
Thomas Barren?, William Thomlin and
Xpher Swaynland⁵²³.

521 William Tomlyn witnessed a number of wills between 1526 and 1535

522 a William Best wrote his will only a month after Thomas Pynden

523 there were a number of Swaynlands in Seal during the 1500-1650 period

transcript from the probate copy except for the section inserted after the beginning of line 104 which is in the original will but not in the probate copy.

1 In the name of god Amen
2 I, William Pynden, of the parish of Seal
3 being in good and perfect memory, thanks
4 be unto Almighty god I will and bequeath
5 my soul to Almighty god and my body
6 to be buried in the earth
7 as it shall please Almighty god
8 This is the last will and testament
9 of me the said William Pynden. I give
10 and bequeath to **Julia, my wife,**
11 my house and my land that I now dwell in
12 lying at **Padwell** and two parcels of
13 land called Sto-- and one parcel of
14 land called the three acres ?? to
15 and one house and land ??
16 dwelleth in now ? and two houses

17 it . . and . . dwelleth in
18 with the land thereunto belonging
19 And my two houses . . .
20 **William Worlington**⁵²⁴ now dwelleth in
21 And that land to them belonging during
22 so long as she doth keep her a
23 widow and if she do marry she is
24 - to have the . . by . . year
25 and then to . . . **Item:**
26 I give, after the marriage or death
27 of my wife unto **Mildred Frenche**⁵²⁵,
28 **my daughter's daughter**, these two
29 houses and the land to them be-
30 longing at Ch ? and ??
31 . . to her and to her heirs
32 forever. **Item:** I give to **Agnes Frenche**⁵²⁶

524 William Worlington (#926) married in 1579 and had four children by 1590

525 William's daughter, Agnes (#939), was baptised in June 1564 and she married Robert Frenche in November 1578 when, if both these dates are correct, she would have been only 14½. Mildred was the youngest of their three surviving daughter, born 1588.

526 Agnes was their eldest daughter, baptised 1580

33 **my daughter's daughter**, my house
34 and my land at ?? in **Igham** that
35 Brominge? dwelleth in now in, to
36 her and to her heirs forever. **Item:**
37 I give to **Jane Frenche**⁵²⁷, **my daughter's**
38 **daughter**, my house and my land
39 whereof **Gale's wife** now dwelleth in
40 at **Brockett** and **Barrett** . .
41 to her and to her heirs forever.
42 and if any of them do decease
43 without heirs of their bodies
44 lawfully begotten before they
45 reach the age of 21 years or be married then
46 I will the one to be each other's
47 heirs of the daughter equally between
48 them all to be divided. **Item:** I give
49 the residue of all my lands and
50 tenements lying in Seal and Kemsing
51 in the County of Kent or elsewhere
52 to **Agnes Frenche**, **my daughter**,

527 baptised March 1582

53 during her natural life and,
54 after her decease to the heirs of
55 her body lawfully begotten
56 forever. **Item:** I give **Robert Frenche**
57 and **Agnes Frenche**, my daughter,
58 the wife of Robert Frenche, all my
59 debts, bills, bonds and half
60 my moveables to pay my debts.
61 the other half of my moveables to **Julia, my wife.**
62 **Item:** I will that Julia during her
63 natural life shall give and bestow,
64 out of my land that I do give her,
65 five shillings yearly to be paid to the
66 poor of Seal where she shall
67 think it most needed, at her will
68 and pleasure. **Item:** I will that Robert
69 Frenche and Agnes, his wife, my
70 daughter, during their natural life
71 shall give and bestow, out of my lands
72 that I do give her, five shillings
73 yearly to the poor of Seal to
74 be paid where she shall think it
75 most needed, at her will and pleasure.

76 **Item:** I do appoint and make Robert
77 Frenche and Agnes his wife, my
78 daughter, my whole and sole executors
79 of this my last will and testament
80 And I do appoint **William Porter** and
81 **Robert Hodssoll, my brother**, to be
82 my overseers . . I do give to
83 them and each of them 10s a ??
84 ?? witness to the same
85 will **William Porter and John Porter**
97 and given to Robert Frenche and
98 Agnes his wife, my daughter, or
99 to either of them, shalbe sold by the
100 discretion of my executors and
101 the money thereof to be employed
102 to discharge my debts and that
103 in as short and convenient time
104 as maybe.

Item: I will further that whereas **Andrew Brewer**

and **John Walter, the younger and Christopher Coates**⁵²⁸ are bound unto me the said William Pynden in ?? to pay unto me the sum of five pounds at the ?? next, I do declare that the sum ?
? bequest of **Alice Watts, the daughter of John Watts** And therefore I will that my executors ? ? ? five pounds shall pay the sum to the said Alice Watts. And if it is not (paid?) according to the law, I will my said executors to suffer the said bond to be paid and the ?? thereof to be to the said Alice and also all assigns of ? ? ? Alice. And also my executor Julia ? ? bond

Line 104 of the probate copy continues:

This will was sealed

105 and published the third day of March
106 in the 32nd year of the reign of
107 Majesty Lady Elizabeth, by the grace
108 of god, of England, France and
109 Ireland, queen, defender of the faith
110 and witnesses at the publishing

528 Andrew Brewer (#276) was about 50 in 1590; John Walter (#1218) married in 1585 and his father, also John, was buried 26th February 1590, a few days before Pynden was attacked; Christopher Coates (#1017) was John Walter's brother-in-law (see [walterw.wll](#) and [coatesw.wll](#)). Alice Watts has not been identified but there was a John Watts in Ightham who was buried in January 1578.

111 hereof: Richard Theobald; Richard
112 Blage; Edward Holman; John ??
113 William Porter, jurat; Robert Hodsoll, jurat⁵²⁹

529 see next page for details of these witnesses

Witnesses to William Pynden's Will

No Richard Tebold/Theobald is known to have been living in Seal in 1590; he may have come from Sevenoaks. The Tebolds were parish gentry by this time and Richard Blage (#1729) is also described as "gent."

Edward Holman (#1285) who was described as a "practitioner in physic" in his will of 1607 was probably in his early thirties in 1590 when his eldest child was six. Perhaps he was at the Pynden house, after the attack on William, in his professional capacity.

William Porter (#58) was a prominent yeoman of Seal. There was a Robert Hodsoll of Kemsing (#587K) who died in 1592 and a number of Hodsolls in Ightham but not a Robert. Both are described as "jurat".