

Thomas of Chillenden's Register: the earliest  
surviving register of testaments (1396 - 1455)  
kept by the Commissary-General of Canterbury.

by

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## ABSTRACT

The earliest surviving register of testaments kept for the Commissary-General of the Diocese of Canterbury has for a long time been known in manuscript, but has not yet been printed or made generally available. It has, therefore been a rewarding task to transcribe and calendar it. The introduction which precedes the Calendar opens with a description of the manuscript itself. A section follows on the general character of medieval testaments and the growth of the ecclesiastical law of Probate, dealing with the Diocese of Canterbury in particular.

The short survey of the testators themselves which follows, reveals that they belonged to the propertied class of whom the majority were married men, though there are some clerics and a few women, mostly widows. From the 1440's wills of Real Estate became more frequent and the special value of this register lies in the light it throws on the practice of Enfeoffment to Use at the end of the first half of the fifteenth century. An analysis has been made of the various ways in which testators employed this valuable device from which an interesting picture emerges of the Kentish land-market at this period. Bequests of chattels have also been analysed and some attempt has

been made to describe and classify the most interesting of these, while a consideration of the monetary bequests leads to a discussion concerning the social conscience of the age.

The significance of medieval testaments used in connection with other documents is exemplified by tracing the relationship of some individual testators with each other, and with better known characters of the fifteenth century. The social and political importance of men in this class in both local and national history is thus indicated, and the value of testaments and wills as historical raw material is finally emphasised.

CONTENTS

	<u>Pages</u>
List of Contents .....	3
Abbreviations .....	4
INTRODUCTION .....	5 - 149
(a) The Character and Scope of the Register .....	6 - 23
(b) Paleography and Binding .....	24 - 30
(c) Jurisdiction over Probate in the Middle Ages .....	31 - 43
(d) The Testators .....	44 - 61
(e) Wills of Real Estate and Enfeoffment to Use .....	62 - 90
(f) Bequests of Chattels .....	91 - 109
(g) Bequests of Money .....	110 - 129
(h) Kentish Society in the later Middle Ages .....	130 - 149
Note on the principles adopted in calendaring this manuscript with a list of abbrev- iations used .....	151 - 153
CALENDAR .....	154 - 307
Notes .....	308 - 311
Index .....	312 - 329
BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	330 - 339
MAP .....	340

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ABBREVIATIONS

Arch. Cant.	Archaeologia Cantiana
C.C.R.	Calendar of Close Rolls
C.F.R.	Calendar of Fine Rolls
Cam. Hist. Journal	Cambridge Historical Journal
C.P.R.	Calendar of Patent Rolls
Feudal Aids.	Assessments relating to Feudal Aids, 1284 - 1431
Harl. Ch.	Harleian Charters
Harl. Mss.	Harleian Manuscripts
I.P.M.	Inquisitions Post Mortem
T.R.H.S.	Transactions of the Royal Historical Society
V.C.H.	Victoria County History
Add. Ch.	Additional Charters

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I N T R O D U C T I O N .

(a) The Character and Scope of the Register

"Of all species of evidence whether of the kindred or of the possessions of individuals perhaps the most satisfactory is afforded by their wills", wrote Harris Nicolas in 1826, who was one of the first English antiquarians to make a really systematic study of Medieval testaments.<sup>1</sup> As it was impossible for him to see the originals of these documents, so it is in general out of the question for the student of to-day to be privileged enough to handle and examine many original Medieval wills, since these are few and far between. For the most part he must be content to study them from the copies made of them by contemporary scribes for the registers kept by the Ordinary of each diocese, or by those to whom the responsibility of probate had been delegated by the Ordinary. A scientific interest in old wills was at first confined to genealogists and local historians,<sup>2</sup> but before the end of the nineteenth century their value for the study of all branches of history was more fully appreciated, and in

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1. Nicolas Harris Nicolas; Testamenta Vetusta (London 1886) Vol. i, p.7.
2. e.g. The Genealogist, New Series, Vols. i, ii, iii published some transcriptions of original wills in the Public Record Office.



1888 the British Record Society began to publish in the Index Library a series of calendars, or rather indices of the testaments and wills contained in the earliest episcopal registers, county by county.<sup>1</sup> In this series the tenth volume, edited by J. Challenor-Smith, provided a list of those wills proved in the prerogative court of Canterbury from 1383 to 1558. A certain number of these had escaped his notice, however, for they had been bound up in archiepiscopal registers with other material.<sup>2</sup>

Other historians began to transcribe and edit Medieval testaments independently of the Record Society, and in 1888 Alfred Gibbons published his book based on the earliest episcopal registers of Lincoln.<sup>3</sup> This was neither a collection of transcriptions nor a calendar, but an introduction to some of the most interesting bequests in some of the oldest wills proved in the diocese of Lincoln, beginning with those registered during the episcopate of Bishop Burghersh (1320-42). London, too, found an editor

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1. The same year saw the publication of Fifty Earliest English Wills by the Early English text society, edited by F.J. Furnivall.
  2. I.J. Churchill; Canterbury Administration (1933), Vol. 1, pp. 392-403.
  3. Alfred Gibbons; Early Lincoln Wills (1888).

for its earliest wills, and in 1890 Sharpe's book containing the wills proved in the Court of Hustings from 1358 - 1688 was published.<sup>1</sup> Kent, also, which had already attracted the attention of medievalists, found scholars to examine its old testaments, and in the same year that Sharpe's book came out, Leland Duncan produced his Calendar of Kentish Wills.<sup>2</sup> In 1906 the same author analysed the bequests made by men and women of East and West Kent in the later Middle Ages towards the maintenance and embellishment of their parish churches.<sup>3</sup> Fourteen years later R.H. Plomer produced a great index of all Canterbury administrations from 1396 to 1558,<sup>4</sup> and in 1926 the importance of all this work was emphasised by Professor Caroline Skeel. "Their interest is manifold", she wrote in an article on Medieval Wills, "there is hardly a side of medieval life that cannot be illustrated by wills".<sup>5</sup> In 1937 was published the Canterbury Register of Archbishop Chichele in four volumes of which the second

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1. R.R. Sharpe: Calendar of Wills proved and enrolled in the Court of Hustings, 1358-1688 (1890).
  2. Leland Duncan: A Calendar of Wills relating to the County of Kent proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury between 1384 and 1559 (1890)
  3. Leland Duncan: Testamenta Cantiana (1906)
  4. R.H. Plomer: Index to all the Wills and Administrations at Canterbury from 1396 to 1558 (1920).
  5. Caroline Skeel: "Medieval Wills", History, Vol. x, New Series (Jan. 1926)

is a collection of testaments and wills proved before the Archbishop.<sup>1</sup> Among the more recent modern works on this subject is the interesting collection of Oxfordshire wills edited by Weaver and Beardwood.<sup>2</sup>

There remains, however, still unedited one of the oldest and most interesting registers belonging to the diocese of Canterbury,<sup>3</sup> now kept among the Kentish archives in the County Hall at Maidstone where it was placed in 1945 at the suggestion of D.D.M. Shorrocks, then President of the Probate Division at Somerset House.<sup>4</sup> In the preceding century this register had had a chequered career, for it was certainly at the Probate Registry Office in Canterbury from 1858, and Plomer saw it there as late as 1920.<sup>5</sup> In 1930, when that office was closed, the register with other archives was removed to Canterbury Prison, and from there

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1. The Register of Henry Chichele, Archbishop of Canterbury 1414-1443. Vol. ii. Wills proved before the Archbishop or the Commissaries. Edited by E.F. Jacob and H.C. Johnson (1937).
  2. J.R.H. Weaver and A. Beardwood; Some Oxfordshire Wills proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury 1393-1510. (Oxford Record Society, 1958).
  3. Kent Archives Office, Maidstone, PRC 32/1.
  4. In a letter to Dr. Hull, the County Archivist, its removal to Maidstone was suggested on the principle that local archives should be kept in local record offices.
  5. R.H. Plomer; op.cit. Introduction, p.vii.

soon after the outbreak of war in 1939, to Oxford where there was at that time a branch of the Public Record Office. Here it remained until it was sent to Maidstone. The whereabouts of the book before 1858 may be presumed to have been the Probate Registry Office as soon as that office existed, and, before that time, it was probably kept at Ivy Lane, Canterbury, in the house which was used by the Commissary General for the work of Probate in the later Middle Ages.

The register was begun in February 1396/7, probably at the initiative of Prior Chillenden, acting for Archbishop Arundel, whose exile took place six months later, for the title at the head of the quire on which the earliest testaments are inscribed reads "the Register of Testaments begun by Thomas Chillenden" and gives the date as February 6th. The first testament to be entered in full was proved by the prior himself as the probate note attests. It is for this reason that the register will be referred to as Chillenden's Register in the following pages, a name which, though not strictly accurate, may perhaps be permissible in the circumstances and is certainly convenient.

It would be very tempting to see in this activity of Prior Chillenden an illustration of one of the important

functions of a prior during a vacancy at this period, for "the prior and chapter," according to Shorrocks, "acted as guardians of the see" at a time like that of Arundel's exile, "and exercised all the jurisdiction which belonged to the archbishop in full see for the duration of the vacancy."<sup>1</sup> To do so, however, would be a mistake, since Chillenden had been appointed commissary-general by Archbishop Arundel on January 13th 1396/7, and was acting in this capacity when he began to have a record of testaments made.<sup>2</sup> That the prior, in his office of commissary-general, was responsible for the complete transcription of testaments which had been proved in that court, in place of a bare probate note which had formerly sufficed, seems apparent from the fact that the first testament to be so inscribed, that of John Vagge, rector of St. Martin's, Canterbury, follows Chillenden's heading on the same page, and was proved by him the very day the new heading had been written. Previous to this entry occur four pages bearing lists of probate notes, arranged in groups of three or four according to the domiciles of

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1. D.D.M. Shorrocks; 'Probate Jurisdiction within the Diocese of Canterbury', Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research, xxxi (1958) p.192
  2. B.L. Woodcock; Medieval Ecclesiastical Courts in the Diocese of Canterbury. (Oxford Historical Series 1952) p. 115.

of the testators. These earlier entries only record the names of the testator and of his executors with occasional remarks such as whether the testament fell into the category of prerogative wills. Even the name of the Probate Officer was omitted before the time of Chillenden.

It is true that there is one testament with a will of real estate on the page immediately preceding Chillenden's title-page, but the entry is out of place. It is that of John Reade of Deal and Headcorn who died in 1450, and therefore belongs chronologically to somewhere near the end of the register.<sup>1</sup> This is by no means surprising, since the whole book has obviously come to pieces, perhaps more than once, and several testaments have been replaced in the wrong order, while others are incomplete.

Of the one-hundred and fourteen brief probate notes in the first four pages, three are also those of prerogative testaments. They belong to John Dawe, of Sandwich, Richard Scharpe of Eastling - who had property

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1. Plomer thought this was "the earliest testament in the register" (op.cit., p.v.), but the correct date seems to be 1450. Not only in the scribe's hand of a characteristically mid-fifteenth century type, but the Probate Officer, Thomas Moonie, did not begin his duties as Commissary-General till 1420. For Thomas Moonie's career see B.L. Woodcock; op.cit., p. 116.

in the City of London - and John Jauntrel of Minster in Sheppey.

After Thomas Chillenden's heading there are one hundred and fifty entries, most of which are complete copies of the original testaments. Joan Denys and John Eythurst have two separate entries each.<sup>1</sup> Joan Denys' will disposing of her real estate occurs after that of John Eythurst, while her testament appears several pages later,<sup>2</sup> though according to the dates on these documents the latter had been drawn up about three weeks before the former. One entry has strayed into the wrong register altogether, for it is a copy of a Bull of dispensation granted by Pope Nicholas V to Geoffrey Multon which gave him the right to hold the cure of Brenzett.<sup>3</sup> There are in all one-hundred and forty-one testaments, or parts of testaments, beginning with that of John Reade and ending with that of William Godfray drawn up on November 29th 1455. A page at the end of the book records the administration

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1. Chillenden's Register, Nos. 107 and 110 (John Eytherst), Nos. 108 and 125 (Joan Denys).
  2. Chillenden's Register, Nos. 107 and 125.
  3. *Infra.*, p. 60. Chichele's Register records the installation of Geoffrey Multon at Brenzett on October 14th, 1441. (The Register of Henry Chichele, edited by Jacob and Johnson, Vol. 1, p. 311.)

of the goods of Jehn Alyn, Thomas Smethr', Andrew Pastor and William Drefforde, but these entries are brief notes comparable to those on the first four pages of the register.

The date of the manuscript lies between the last decade of the fourteenth century and the middle of the fifteenth. Of the one-hundred and fifty entries, twenty belong to the year 1396/7, of which one, the testament of Henry Lyncoln of Westbere, near Canterbury, is followed by an ultima veluntas disposing of real estate, the earliest in the register. The next twenty-nine testaments, which certainly appear to be out of order, belong to the early fifteenth century; the fiftieth entry, Thomas Jeskyn's testament, breaks off abruptly in the middle of a sentence.

Several testaments of the 1420's and 1430's follow, and when the year 1436 is reached, the manuscript is very much rubbed and worn away at the edges. Moreover, the entries have been inscribed over earlier, incomplete erasures and the use of a weaker ink just at this point makes these leaves almost illegible in some places. The testaments of Thomas Brown, John Lyon and Robert de Bradgare have suffered in this way. Moreover, John Lyon's testament breaks off in the middle of a sentence, and



Robert de Bradgare's, which follows that of John Lyon, begins half way through the document. The folios which follow, from the testament of Robert de Bradgare to that of John Hamo, which also breaks off at the words in primis, appear to be out of their original order, as do all the entries for the 1440's. No. 120 begins the testaments of the 1450's, starting with that of John Downe. There are no less than twenty-two of these later testaments, and most of them include wills disposing of real estate. They form in some ways the most interesting section of the whole register. Save four only, all the testaments and wills in the register are written in Latin. The English wills belong to Margery Mason, Steven Cosyngton, John Poland and Joan Odyerne, but Margery Mason and Joan Odyerne also left Latin testaments bequeathing their personal and domestic chattels.

The probate notes are particularly interesting and useful to the historian, since they give evidence concerning the date of office of several commissary-generals, but unfortunately, only fifty-eight testaments are followed by their probate note, and in the case of the other eighty-two testaments, the probate note is tantalisingly absent.

After John Vagge's testament, proved, as has been noted above, by Prior Chillenden, all the fourteenth

century testaments were proved by William Hunden who was appointed to the office of commissary-general on February 12th 1396/7.<sup>1</sup> Roger Basset appears as commissary-general from February 3rd 1400/1, to May 15th 1405, and his name is followed by that of Matthew Assheton, which appears again in various probate notes from November 18th 1405, to October 3rd 1410, then on March 31st 1416/17 and on November 13th 1419. It appears for the last time in this register on December 2nd 1430. The names of Richard Godmersham and Robert Danby appear once only, for the former proved Henry Tolbache's testament of April 16th 1414, and the latter, Margery Walter's on July 28th of the same year. The few testaments of the years 1420-1427 have no probate note, and the next commissary-general's name to occur in the register is that of Thomas Moonie, who granted probate to the testament of Cecilia Parkere on February 22nd 1428, and whose name appears again on December 20th 1435. From that date the probate note, when inserted at all, always bears the name of Thomas Moonie till November 18th 1450. He was again in office in 1455, as is apparent from the entry of October 13th that year. The only other commissary-general to appear in the register is Richard Raynhill whose name occurs in the probate note of January

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1. I.J. Churchill: Canterbury Administration (1933), Vol. ii, p. 229; and B.L. Woodcock: op.cit. p. 116.

26th 1451/2 after the testament of Edward Septvans. The last twenty entries are not followed by probate notes.

The probate notes are sufficient evidence to determine the fact that the register was kept for the commissary-generals of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and that it passed from one officer to his successor. There is no doubt that the testaments and wills it contains form a purely local collection. The titles "commissary-general of the city and diocese of Canterbury" or "commissary-general of Canterbury" seem to indicate a person whose authority is exercised over a particular area, says Woodcock.<sup>1</sup> Besides this, the majority of the testators were East Kentish people of no national significance at all, if one excludes John Martyn, the Justice of the Common Pleas.<sup>2</sup> They were knights and squires, gentlemen, clergymen and merchants who belonged to the country villages, to the ports of Sandwich, Dover and Deal, or to the city of Canterbury itself. At a first glance it might seem odd that such people should attract the attention of the commissary-general who was the Archbishop's special delegate, and one would expect their testaments to be dealt with by the normal official in cases of probate of this kind, the archdeacon. A closer look

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1. B.L. Woodcock; op.cit., p.8.

2. See E. Foss: The Judges of England (London 1851)  
Vol. iv. p. 342

at the place of their residence, however, reveals the reason why the probate of their wills was reserved for the archbishop's special delegate. Many of them lived in parishes which had long received particular privileges, one of which consisted in exemption from the jurisdiction of the archdeacon. Such parishes were situated in manors, either of the archbishop himself, or in those of Canterbury Cathedral Priory.<sup>1</sup> The table on page 19 shows this more clearly for it provides a total of ninety-one testators who lived on the manors of the archbishop or of the priory. And the Archbishop also had tenants in Smarden and Benenden, which probably accounts for the presence of four more entries.

In addition to these testaments, there are several which are not so easy to account for in the registry of the commissary general. Their testators lived in various parts of the diocese, in Faversham and St. John's, Thanet (Margate), in Harrietsham, Otterden, Sheldwich, Stalisfield and Throwley on the North Downs, in Westbere and Littlebourne near Canterbury, in Bennington and Kingsnorth near Ashford.

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1. V.C.H. Kent, the Domesday Monachorum. pp. 257-8  
cf. Inquisitions and Assessments relating to Feudal  
Aids. Vol. iii, p.9; and R.A.L. Smith: Canterbury  
Cathedral Priory. (Cambridge 1943) map.

Table of Archbishop's Tenants

<u>Parishes</u>	<u>No. of testators</u>	<u>Parishes</u>	<u>No. of Testators</u>
Adisham *	3	Ivychurch	2
Aldington	1	Little Chart *	1
Appledore *	1	Lydd	5
Ash, near Sandwich	2	Lyminge	1
Birchington	7	New Romney	6
Boughton-under- Blean	2	Sandwich *	6
Charing	4	Staple *	2
Chartham *	1	Stone-cum-Ebeny	1
Deal	2	St. Alphege's, Canterbury	1
Dover	2	St. Martins, Canterbury	1
Egerton	1	St. Nicholas-at- Wade	3
Eastry *	1	Reculver	5
Godmersham *	3	Wittersham	1
Graveney	1	Woodchurch	2
Herne	7	Wootton *	1
Hollingbourne *	2	St. Dunstan's Canterbury	1
Hythe	3		
Ickham *	1		

Note: The manors asterisked are those of the priory, the rest belonged to the archbishop.

However, these testators very possibly held property in both the jurisdiction of the archbishop and in that of the archdeacon, for if this happened it seems that, although in theory probate for the lands or goods in the non-exempt district was to be sought in the archdeacon's court and probate for those in the exempt district in the archbishop's court, (i.e. in the court of the commissary general) in practice probate in such cases was usually granted by one court.<sup>1</sup> There is no need to press the point too closely, for the archbishop did not consider himself limited in his jurisdiction by any factor; his authority was all-embracing and omni-competent within his own diocese, and could be made use of anywhere at a time like that of a visitation. Professor Jacob has suggested that he probably proved the wills of all those he wished to prove, and perhaps the same may be said of the commissary general who acted on behalf of the archbishop.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, it seems that in cases of little importance, testators and their executors were free to choose which court they preferred, and it is also probable that the nearer court was preferable.

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1. D.D.M. Shorrocks: op.cit. pp. 186-187; and B.L. Woodcock: op.cit. p. 29
2. E.F. Jacob: Introduction to Vol. ii of The Register of Henry Chichele, p. xix.

Another reason for the interest of the commissary-general may be found in the fact that in some instances testators had considerable property (bona notabilia) in more than one diocese, and their testaments thus came within the category of the prerogative jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Canterbury. This prerogative was a right which had been maintained after a lengthy struggle, especially with the Bishops of Lincoln, and which the Metropolitan of the Southern Province held very dear, as the late Dr. Churchill has shown.<sup>1</sup> Not only is the word 'prerogative' written in the margin beside the copy of these testaments in the register, but the note of probate often records the reason for the archbishop's interest by the insertion of the well-known formula, "pro eo quod idem defunctus tempore mortis sue nonnulla bona in diversis diocesisibus optinuit ...". Altogether there are ten prerogative wills in the register. However, it may be noted that of these ten, two came from Sandwich, one from St. Alphege's parish, and another from St. Dunstan's in Canterbury, one from Ickham and another from Stone-cum-Ebony, so these six would have come before

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1. I.J. Churchill: op.cit., Vol.1, pp. 380-409. The agreed value which constituted bona notabilia was fixed at £10 in the diocese of London, and at £5 elsewhere according to Churchill: op.cit., Vol.1, p.412.n.

the archbishop's court in any case. The other four of the ten prerogative testaments belong to Richard Blakebroke of Newington; Edmund Haute of Bishopsbourne; Steven Peytwyn <sup>in</sup> of Leysdown in Sheppey; and Thomas Wykes of Nackington. Of these Thomas Wykes certainly held property in Canterbury, and it is quite possible that all were tenants of the archbishop.<sup>1</sup>

This collection of testaments and wills does not, therefore, belong to the same category as the Registrum Prerogative which first appeared during the episcopate of Archbishop Chichele, whose wills were all of a special character, viz. those proved by the commissary-general exercising his prerogative jurisdiction in every case.<sup>2</sup>

Chillenden's register begins soon after the death of Archbishop Courtenay, includes the period belonging to the rule of Archbishops Arundel, Chichele and Stafford, and ends at the outset of that of Archbishop Bouchier. It may be described as a collection of local testaments and/or wills proved before the commissary-general<sup>to</sup> at

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1. c.f. Feudal Aids 1431. The Inquisitions show that Thomas Wykes held property valued at 40/- in the city of Canterbury, and Edmund Haute probably did. He was keeper of the Castle when he died and was buried in the Cathedral.
2. I.J. Churchill: op.cit. p. 401.



Canterbury for a variety of reasons of which the chief seems to have been that most testators were tenants of the archbishop.

(b) Paleography and Binding

Chillenden's register is a collection of seventy-five folios, some of which are composed of paper and some of parchment. The excellent and very strong modern binding makes it impossible to discover the original quires, and only the darkened and tattered edges of some pages reveal the probable original exterior folios of these quires. When it first came into existence as a book, the register must have consisted of a number of these quires, perhaps sewn together, and placed within a parchment cover. This original parchment cover seems to have been what is now the first leaf of the register, for it is darkened with use and exposure, is scribbled upon with two patterns of small, interlocking circles, and with the names of at least three officials of the commissary-general's court. One of these is Roger Reynold, and in a smaller hand is inscribed John Knyght, clerk of Master John Colman of the Commissary Registry of Canterbury.<sup>1</sup>

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1. John Knyght and John Colman were temporary joint registrars of the Archdeacon's court in 1494. Earlier (January 1st, 1483/4) John Colman had been appointed as a registrar of the Consistory Court. He continued to record the acta of the Court till October 1534. See B.L. Woodcock: op.cit. p. 120, and also pp.39 and 59 for other details of his career.

Four and a half inches from the top of the page occurs the title Registrum Testamentorum, written in majuscules three quarters of an inch long, which is an unprofessional fifteenth century English imitation of the style familiarly found at the head of Papal Bulls. A later hand as inscribed the same words in small letters beneath the original title.

The very make-up of the register is interesting in that it is composed partly of parchment folios and partly of paper. The first ten folios are of paper; parchment follows from folios eleven to thirty-four, while from folio thirty-five to the end of the book paper again was used. Thus it appears that the book grew as the register continued to be kept on separate quires, and when the initial supply of paper ran out, parchment was bought. It is difficult to say when these separate quires were joined together to make one volume. However, the fact that Chillenden's register began its existence as a paper book points to the importance attached to it, since paper was, in 1396, more expensive than parchment, owing to the fact that no paper mills existed in England at that date, and all supplies of the commodity had to be imported.<sup>1</sup>

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1. It cost not less than 10/- per ream, according to W.H. Beveridge: Prices and Wages in England from the twelfth to the nineteenth century (1939), Vol. 1, pp. 65-70.

Most of the paper used in England in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries had been manufactured in Italian mills and brought to England by Genoese or Venetian merchant-men.<sup>1</sup> However, it began to be used more frequently after the first decade of the fifteenth century, and Beveridge's tables show that while the price of parchment soared from 4d per skin in 1396 to 1/- per skin in 1455, that of paper steadily declined during the same period, and as early as 1425 it could be obtained at 5/- per ream.<sup>2</sup> But, apart from the price, the use of paper was comparatively rare in Europe at this time although "it was used occasionally alongside parchment .... for such purposes as keeping town accounts, or records of guilds and colleges."<sup>3</sup> The price was still prohibitive for all but official documents, even in Tudor times when, according to the Thorold Rogers a quire of white writing paper cost 4d or 5d, i.e. about the same as a labourer's daily wage.<sup>4</sup> The paper used in Chillenden's register is of a good quality, strong and white, though it has not worn as well as the parchment.<sup>5</sup>

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1. D.C. Coleman: The British Paper Industry 1495-1860 (1958) citing R. Lopez: "The English and the Manufacture of Writing Materials in Genoa." Economic History Review, Vol.x (1939-40); c.f. A.A.Ruddock: Italian Merchants and Shipping in Southampton (1951) pp. 75, 175, 190, 228.
  2. W.H. Beveridge: op.cit. pp. 69-70.
  3. D.C. Coleman: op.cit. p.10.
  4. T. Rogers: History of Agriculture and Prices, Vol.iv. p.595
  5. Watermarks are discernible on folios 9, 35, 36, 39, 44, 53, 62, 63, 64.

The whole book, paper and parchment folios, inside the parchment cover which has been described above, have been bound together inside a hard binding of sheepskin over boards. It is difficult to say when this was done, but it was certainly later than the eighteenth century, if the calligraphy of the titles on both the back and front of the sheepskin binding is contemporary with the binding itself.

On the present front of the register, the words Liber A are inscribed in black ink, and under this title is a capital letter C. On the present back, the inscription is not clearly distinguishable owing to the fact that the sheepskin on which it was written has itself been rubbed away, and this leads to the inference that the present back was at one time the front cover. The words "Liber Primus Testamentorum" can be seen quite clearly, followed by a word which is probably "inceptus", but the rest is illegible; the date possibly followed. In its present condition, for the old sheepskin binding has been beautifully mended with calf, the front and back covers measure eleven-and-a-half inches by nine-and-a-half inches, while the width across the back is just over one inch. Inside the fifteenth-century parchment cover, which now forms the first page and bears the inscription "Registrum Testamentorum" as described above, are the four pages of probate notes,

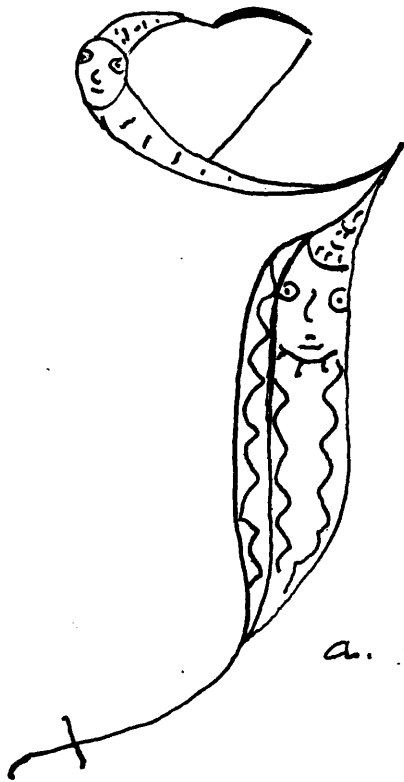
introduced by a simple title at the head of the first of of these pages, "Testamenta decedencium in iurisdictione exempta Cant..." (the manuscript is torn away at the top right corner of the leaf and the original title has been mutilated).

Several scribes can be detected as having worked on this register, as might be expected, since it continued to be made for over fifty years. The hands are typical court hands of the early fifteenth century, but a few of them are more worthy of attention than the others. There is the scribe with a very minute and exquisite hand who was responsible for copying out most of the fourteenth century testaments, and who is easily distinguishable from the even more careful scribe who wrote out Edmund Haute's testament with its long probate note, and was at work under Matthew Assheton.

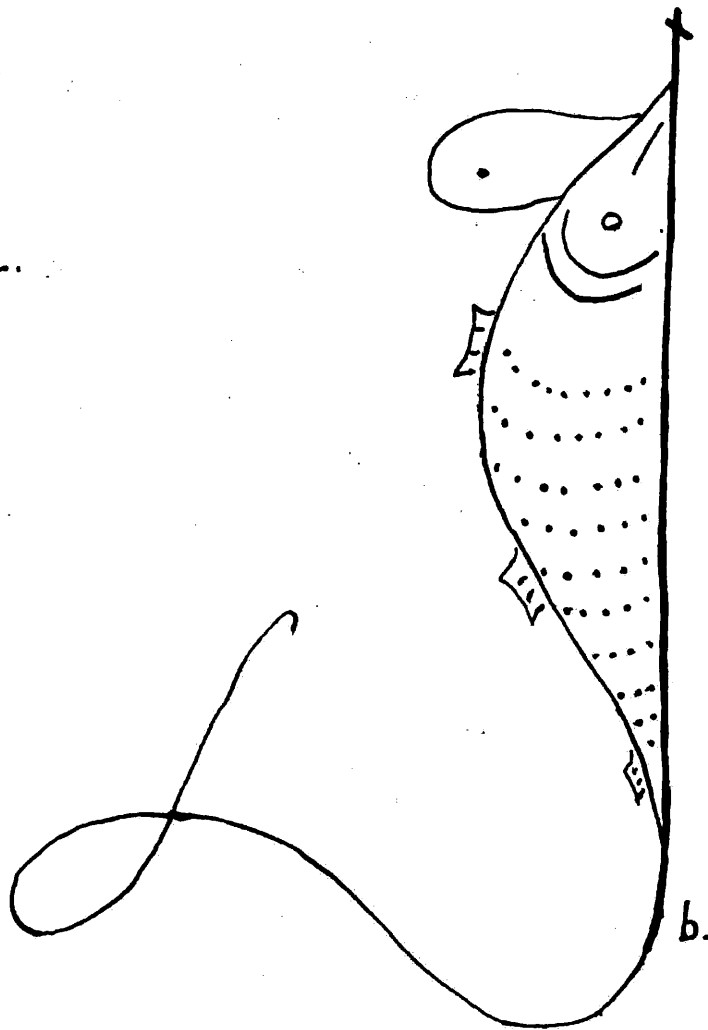
By contrast with these two, there is the untidy scribe who crossed out two pages of what he had written with great, ugly criss-cross strokes (folio seven verso and recto); and the impatient scribe with a round hand who made several mistakes and had to add insertions over what he had written. He used abbreviations whenever he could. This scribe was responsible for the copying into the register

of the testament of John Martyn, and was working in 1436.

There are some scribes who not only took an obvious pride in writing well, but who enjoyed themselves in making flourished capitals, like the scribe who wrote out Henry Lyncoln's testament and elongated the initial letter "I" of "In Dei nomine" into the representation of a delightful fish; while on the next page he improved on his first effort, making the creature even more realistic in his treatment of the "I" at the beginning of Walter Mychel's testament by the addition of fins, gills, an eye and small dots to represent scales. After this, several other scribes imitated these fishes. William Pyke's testament begins with a lovely curved fish, though the following entry is extremely simple by contrast, and William Wodlande's initial fish has a long tail which reaches to the end of the text of his testament. Other capitals, especially initial capitals, are decorated too, and of these the "H" of "Hec est ultima voluntas" at the beginning of Robert Stonestrete's will, and the "O" of "Omnibus" in Joan Denys's charter-will are worth noting, though they are not quite as elaborate as the fish initials. Walter Feyrfax's beautiful fish has flourishes which adorn the margin of the register and sweep round to the last two lines of his testament. The initial "I" of William Parker's testament contains two tiny clown-like faces topped by pointed caps. Humphrey Barroy's initial



a.



b.

a. The Clown initial, enlarged, from the testament of William Parker.

b. An early Fish initial, enlarged, from the testament of Walter Mychel.



is similar, but not so fine.

It may be claimed then that the calligraphy of the register is on the whole very good, and that the work of copying out the testaments and wills was done carefully, while the different hands employed by a number of scribes make the document interesting from a purely palaeographical point of view. In addition, it is orderly, with clear contemporary headings before every fresh entry. These headings are either written above the testament and/or in the margin on the left-hand side, and state the name of the testator and his place of residence.

This also has an interest of its own, as proper names were seldom spelt the same way twice. Except where a will of real estate is inextricably intermingled with a testament of chattels, the two documents are distinguished from each other, and the will often has a separate heading. The examination of such a document as Chillenden's register cannot help but rouse feelings of respect for the efficiency of the registry in which it was made.

(c) Jurisdiction over Probate in the Middle Ages

A medieval will was "a religious instrument made in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost,"<sup>1</sup> and this fact is borne out by the common form of all medieval testaments which persisted until as late a date as the eighteenth century. It is also evidenced by the numerous bequests for the soul of the testator, by the frequent appointments of clergymen as executors, and surveyors, no less than by their presence as witnesses when the testament was being drawn up. Until 1837 cognisance and probate of all wills and testaments in this country was the responsibility of the Church, and the court in which all matters testamentary were normally dealt with, was the court of the Ordinary of the diocese.<sup>2</sup> The origins of this custom may be traced to the twelfth century at least, and the reasons for it to the earliest occasions on which the dying Christian gave the Church gifts of money, possessions or land.<sup>3</sup>

The fundamental reason for all this lies in the familiar Catholic doctrine of the Western Church, unchallenged in general (though there are some exceptions to

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1. Pollock and Maitland: History of English Law, Vol II, p. 338.
2. J.D. Hannan: The Canon Law of Wills: p. 426.
3. Ibid: p. 33

this) before the Reformation that men can merit God's Grace, not in an absolute sense, de condigno, for grace is a free gift of God, but de congruo, according to the technical terms coined by theologians.<sup>1</sup> This means that most people took for granted the idea that any Christian could in part make up for his own personal sins and shortcomings and those of others, and draw down God's mercy on his soul and theirs by the practice of good works. The three eminent good works were "prayer, fasting and alms-giving", and by "almsgiving" was meant any sharing or devotion of one's goods and properties with, and to, the ecclesiastics of the Church, her religious orders, foundations, colleges and hospitals, as well as giving to the poor and sick. All giving of this kind was regarded as a work of charity, most beneficial to the soul of the giver.<sup>2</sup>

Thus it was most natural both that clergy should encourage such almsgiving, and that orthodox Christian people, both men and women, especially when they felt themselves at the point of death, should comply with such

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1. E. Towers: "Sanctifying Grace", The Teaching of the Church, Vol.i, p. 579. Ed. G.E. Smith (London 1948).
  2. Summa Theologica of St. Thomas Aquinas translated by Fathers of the English Dominican Province, second and revised edition (London 1928) Vol.18. Supplement Qs.xii, xiii, xiv, xv on Satisfaction.

encouragement and "do something for their souls". There existed a close association, therefore, between the last testament and the last confession, which gave the testament in the period before the Reformation a quasi-sacramental character. To make his testament came to be considered almost as much a necessary part of the dying man's preparation for the next world, as the need for shriving and the reception of Viaticum and the Holy Anointing. So accustomed were men to thinking along these lines that "a notion prevailed", say the authors of the History of English Law, "that intestacy, if not exactly a sin, is often God's punishment on sin, since to die intestate was to die unconfessed."<sup>1</sup>

In view of this, it is perhaps not altogether surprising that probate notes show a date very close indeed to that of the testaments themselves. The normal interval between the date of a medieval testament and its probate was about three weeks, and if, as seems likely, the majority of testaments were drawn up within a few days of death, if not actually in extremis, this is understandable. Even so, one cannot help but feel some respect for the speed and efficiency of the probate courts. Sometimes the interval

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1. Pollock and Maitland: History of English Law. Vol.ii, p.356.

between the testament and probate is so small as to be really amazing. Thomas Wyke's will was proved in three days, and on another occasion the interval was just a week.<sup>1</sup>

It is also to be expected that the common form of the testaments should bear witness to their religious and semi-sacramental origin. After the initial formula (which can be traced back as early as the beginning of the ninth century)<sup>2</sup> "In Dei Nomine, Amen," the testator commends his soul to God, occasionally invoking all Three Persons of the Blessed Trinity, or "God, my Creator", then to "the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God" and to "all the saints." He then disposes of his body by stating (that) his desires concerning his funeral and burial. This is a useful clause to the historian, for it gives a clue, which otherwise may be lacking, to the home of the testator, and occasionally he tells us that he wishes to be buried near certain members of his family, his wife normally, but sometimes his father and mother, or his brothers and sisters.<sup>3</sup> Requests to the

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1. Chillenden's Register. Nos. 34 and 53.  
See also E.F. Jacob, op.cit. Introduction p.xxv and Appendix B. p. lx.
2. The will of Aethelric, son of Aethelmund begins with the phrase "In the name of the Supreme Lord God..." This was drawn up in 804 A.D. The form is derived from the charter. See Dorothy Whitelock: English Historical Documents, Vol. 1, p.471.
3. Chillenden's Register. Nos. 25, 28, 32, 45, 51, 61, 69, 72, 99, 102, 122, 125, 135, 140.

high altar of his parish church, its Rood, shrines, and adornments as well as to its upkeep and repair follow. Its clergy were not forgotten either, and small bequests were left to the parish priest and clerk, and occasionally to the sacristan and bell-ringers. Some money was set aside to provide for mass, stipends for the testator's soul and for his parents and friends, while often the additional phrase occurs "and for the souls of all my benefactors and of all the faithful departed." This seems to be often mere common form form and has been omitted from the calendar, though the full content of each bequest has been transcribed. Bequests to Religious Houses nearly always had a place in a medieval testament of any length, and finally the executor was asked to dispose of any residue that might be left over after all the bequests had been fulfilled for the good of the testator's soul, and the latter was sometimes solemnly reminded of this serious responsibility.<sup>1</sup>

Such is the framework of the vast majority of medieval testaments, and only when these pious bequests had been made did the testator feel free to consider his friends and relations and to leave something to them. This does not mean that the Church was the greatest beneficiary in

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1. Chillenden's Register. Nos. 20, 38.

all testamentary dispositions, though she sometimes was, but even when pious bequests formed a minor part of the testament and bequests to relatives and friends were larger, richer and more important, the religious core of the testament was never lacking.<sup>1</sup>

In contrast to the testaments whose common form was ultimately derived from the old English diploma or charter, the *ultima voluntates*, or wills of real estate have in them very little to remind us of the Church or of religion. This is surely due to the fact that post-obit gifts of land were forbidden in England in the twelfth century when the laws concerning inheritance were being defined and established by the Common Law Courts,<sup>2</sup> and that until the fourteenth century Englishmen could not bequeath their immovable property.<sup>3</sup> There are, however, a few exceptions to this, especially where civic powers of probate existed, of which the Hustings Court in London is the best

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1. This apparently derived from the fact that the earliest testaments or wills known to the West after the fall of the Roman Empire concerned bequests of precious goods or post-obit gifts of land (*donationes mortis causa*) to the Church. See J.B. Hannan, op.cit. pp. 31-34 and 272-277.
  2. Ibid. p. 33.
  3. Pollock and Maitland. op.cit. Vol.ii, p. 328.

known example.<sup>1</sup> When testators began to desire to dispose of their landed property after their death in ways contrary to the restrictions imposed by Common Law, they were not so much concerned with the good of their souls or with the needs of the Church, as with their ambitions for other members of their family than the legal heir, or with the evasion of feudal incidents.<sup>2</sup> It was natural affection or economic interest that prompted the drafting of an ultima voluntas at this period, not piety. Moreover, the disposition of real estate could not validly become part of a testament whose competence extended only to chattels. Testators, therefore, added codicils to their testaments in which they disposed of their lands and tenements by the expedient of Enfeoffment to Use which was protected against the intervention of the Common lawyers by Chancery, and whose theory and practical value is discussed below.<sup>3</sup>

It was the religious factor in a Medieval testament which prevented the secular Courts from winning jurisdiction over probate in the experimental and expansive period of

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1. See R.R. Sharpe: Calendar of Wills Proved and Enrolled in the Court of Hustings 1358-1688. passim, for many examples of such wills.
2. c.f. Margaret Avery: Proceedings in the Court of Chancery (M.A. London, Thesis 1958) p. 98.
3. Infra. pp. 62-90.



the twelfth century. According to Hannan it was because "the baronial courts did not justly administer the estates of decedents"<sup>1</sup> that the ecclesiastical courts "in order to prevent the barons regarding the personality of the intestate as escheating to themselves" asserted the principles as to formalities which had been declared by Alexander III. He had insisted that wills were valid as long as the intention of the testator was clear, even though they might lack some of the requirements demanded by Roman law, such as the presence of seven witnesses while the document was being drawn up.<sup>2</sup> The aim of Alexander III as of Gregory IX and of the Third Lateran Council which re-enacted his decrees, thus making them part of the general law of the Church, was undoubtedly to protect bequests in which the Church had a special interest.<sup>3</sup> On the Continent the Canonists were not as successful as they were in England. Here they won a complete victory with the result that in this country the law of wills followed the canon law practice, and testaments became, with few exceptions, subject to ecclesiastical

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1. J.D. Hannan: op.cit. pp. 435-6.

2. Ibid: p. 272.

3. Ibid: pp. 275-6.

jurisdiction. According to Hannan the ecclesiastical courts at first "sought no more than concurrent jurisdiction" with the secular courts "in the matter of wills in general. But by reason of its being exercised very frequently to prevent the failure of the last will, due to the injustices of the baronial courts, their jurisdiction over all wills soon became exclusive."<sup>1</sup> The critical period was apparently the reign of Stephen, for by Henry II's time, the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts Christian over all matters testamentary was recognised by the writer of the book attributed to Glanvil.<sup>2</sup>

Blackstone's comments on this are worth noting.

"At what period of time the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of testaments and intestacies began in England is not ascertained by any ancient writer," he says, and quotes Lyndwood's remark "cujus regis temporibus hoc ordinatum fit non reperio", but he adds that although "we find it frequently asserted in our common law books that it is but of late years that the Church hath had the probate of wills, this must only be understood to mean that it had not always had this

1. J.D. Hannan: op.cit. p. 247

2. Glanvil's words are "si quis aliquid dixerit contra testamentum, placitum illud in curia Christianitatis audiri debet et terminari." (De Legibus et Consuetudinibus Regni Angliae. lib. vii. c.8)

prerogative, for certainly it is of very high antiquity."<sup>1</sup>  
 The right asserted by Glanvil was confirmed in the  
 thirteenth century by Bracton.<sup>2</sup>

There followed, as was to be expected, a period of  
 legislation by bishops in council or synod for the regulation  
 of the administration of the wills which fell under their  
 supervision. Thus, the Council of Lambeth in 1261  
 threatened with excommunication laymen who interfered with  
 the jurisdiction of the bishop's court in these matters,  
 while a similar threat was made at London in 1268 and at  
 Oxford in 1287.<sup>3</sup> Bishops demanded the appointment of an  
 executor by the testator, and "specified one year as the  
 time limit within which the executory was to be fulfilled."  
 An inventory sealed by the executors and a number of  
 witnesses "was to be made in the presence of honest  
 appraisers within fifteen days."<sup>4</sup> A constitution of the  
 Archbishop of Canterbury made in 1416 demanded the

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1. Sir William Blackstone: Commentaries on the Laws of England (1768), Vol.iii, ch.7, p. 96
  2. Bracton: De Legibus Angliae, edited by Sir T. Twiss (1878) vol.ii, ch.26, p. 487.
  3. J.D. Hannan: op.cit. p. 431.
  4. Ibid. p. 434, by the Synod of Oxford in 1287.

sequestration of the estate until the probate of the will.<sup>1</sup> Nuncupative (i.e. oral) wills were recognised as valid provided there were two witnesses and an executor.<sup>2</sup>

Though the privilege and responsibility for probate lay with the Ordinary of each diocese, the Ordinary himself did not actually prove all the testaments and wills which came under his jurisdiction. In the diocese of Canterbury, such routine work, from the thirteenth century onward, was carried out by the Archdeacon. However, from 1278 at latest, another officer appeared, the commissary-general, with special power to act outside the diocese in the peculiar jurisdictions of the Archbishop, and in all cases concerning churches and deaneries which were exempt from the jurisdiction of the Archdeacon. According to Marjorie Morgan, "there is clear evidence of a new type of general commission for non-provincial business. Several letters are in the name of Brother Robert of Selsey .... whose title was Frater Robertus de Seleseya gerens vices dominorum prioris et capituli ecclesie Christi Cantuarensis

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1. J.D. Hannan: op.cit. p. 431.

2. Pollock and Maitland: op.cit. Vol. ii, p. 337; also W. Lyndwood: Provinciale (Oxford 1679) p. 107, c.f. Corpus Juris Canonici (Friedberg edition, 1879) x, 3.26, 1-20.

et corundem officialis commissarius .... in ecclesiis et locis exemptis tam in civitate et diocesis Cantuariensi quam extra constitutis." She concluded that this Robert of Selsey was "the predecessor in office of Martin de Hampton the first Commissary-General of Canterbury whose commission has survived."<sup>1</sup>

In 1361 the Commissary-general, Richard de Shamelsford, was specifically empowered "to admit and receive the probate of testaments of all people dying within the city of London or elsewhere having goods in more than one diocese of the Province."<sup>2</sup> From that time it became customary for the Archbishop of Canterbury to create similar commissions for that purpose. However, Dr. Churchill has clearly shown that no prerogative court can be said to have existed before the time of Cardinal Morton. The commissary-general had competence over certain jurisdictions because he represented the Archbishop in a very special way. Until the sixteenth century there was no hard and fast rule about the appointment of a commissary-general or his functions and each Archbishop could please himself on the matter.

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1. M. Morgan: "Early Canterbury Jurisdiction, " English Hist. Review, xl (1945), pp. 392-399.
  2. I.J. Churchill: op.cit. vol.1, p.390.

However, it remains true that from the end of the thirteenth century commissary-generals were in fact appointed, and that by custom, their functions gradually hardened into certain specialised channels. They kept their own registers and had their own seals, and administered the business of probate from their own official headquarters in Canterbury in Ivy Lane.

(d) The Testators

The status and condition of the testators themselves is worthy of some consideration. To begin with, out of the one-hundred-and-forty, fifteen were women, which is interesting in itself. Of these fifteen, three were married, viz., Alice Frencheye of Woodchurch, whose husband's testament, made only thirteen days previous to her own, occurs in the same register,<sup>1</sup> Joan Hawkyn and Margery Walter.<sup>2</sup> Testaments of married women are comparatively rare in the Middle Ages, yet they do occasionally appear, and Lady Stenton says that it was probably the idea that intestacy implied a moral stigma "which influenced Medieval lawyers to allow married women to make testaments, though both law and custom put them under their husbands' power." She shows that as early as the twelfth century it had been felt "that a married woman should be able to make a valid will of such things as she had made her own by use, her jewels and her clothes,"<sup>3</sup> though Bracton commented that a woman should not make her will in her

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1. Chillenden's Register, Nos. 81 and 82.
2. Ibid. Nos. 28 and 89.
3. D.M. Stenton: The Englishwoman in History (London, 1957) pp. 31-34.

husband's lifetime without his consent.<sup>1</sup> There were clearly two views on this subject, one being that the wife, because she was dependent in law on her husband and subject to his authority, had no right to make a will, and the other contrary view, that her personal chattels were in some sense her very own, and that she ought, therefore, to dispose of them, just as much as her husband ought to dispose of his, for the good of her soul in a last testament. It was the second view which finally prevailed.<sup>2</sup>

But married women are in a small minority among Medieval testators, though there are a number of widows of whom no fewer than twelve appear in this register.<sup>3</sup> It is very likely that the majority of widows married again, for there are so many references to re-marriage in the fifteenth century (and several occur in this register) that we may almost conclude that it was a usual custom, though husbands, whether at the point of death or not, never liked the idea of this, and often tried to prevent it.<sup>4</sup> There

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1. Bracton: De Legibus Angliae, Vol.i, c.26, p.479.
  2. c.f. E.F. Jacob: op.cit. Introduction, p.xxxviii.
  3. Christina Benayt, Joan Denys, Anabilia Gobyon, Margery Mason, Joan Neweland, Joan Odyerne, Cecilia Parkere, Agnes Flesyngton, Alice Pocock, Cecilia Rechmond, Alice Sander and Petronilla Waller.
  4. Infra. pp. 80, 88.



existed also, however, the contrary, very ancient and beautiful custom by which widows consecrated their lives to God in a public ceremony, often before the Ordinary himself, and, after making vows, which included a promise of chastity, received a habit, veil and profession-ring.<sup>1</sup> It can be shown that this consecration of widowhood may be traced back to the Apostolic era, and grew more elaborate as time went on.<sup>2</sup> One form of Confession dates from the fourteenth century, being written in the hand of Bishop Edmund Lacy himself in the Exeter Pontifical, and is in English as follows: "I, N----, wedow, avowe to God perpetuell chastite of my body from henceforward and in the presence of the honorable fadyr in God, my Lord N---- by the Grace of God, Bishop of N----, I promyth stabilly to live in the Church, Wedowe. And this to do, of myne own hand, I subscribe this wrytyng." The widow then made the sign of the cross and received her profession ring in token of her espousals with Christ.<sup>3</sup>

Joan Denys of Littlebourne left two finger rings by testament; to the sacristan of St. Augustine's Abbey

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1. Eric Cutts: Scenes and Characters from the Middle Ages (London 1872) p.152.
  2. Mgr. Louis Duchesne: Early History of the Church, Vol. i, pp. 52 and 410.
  3. R. Barnes (editor): The Liber Pontificalis of Edmund Lacy, Bishop of Exeter, (1847), pp. 122-125.

she bequeathed her wedding ring, and there she asked to be buried by the side of her husband, John. But to "the sacristan of the shrine of St. Thomas the martyr" in the Cathedral, she left her profession ring and a legacy of £40 to the prior and monastery, besides a silver cup which was to be converted into a chalice "for use every day at the altar." It may be surmised that the ceremony of her consecrated widowhood had taken place in the cathedral before the Archbishop himself, or before the prior, since Joan Denys was a wealthy woman possessed of a fair quantity of this world's goods, and worth at least £120 in cash. She also held properties in Chislet, Hastingleigh, and Upper and Lower Hardres. Most of the widows in the register appear to have been well off, and Agnes Plesyngton was also an heiress with rights over her son's estates (he was a minor in the King's ward) in Yorkshire, till her death.<sup>1</sup> Her bequests of gowns furred with miniver indicate that she was also a lady of some social consequence, for only the nobility were permitted to wear miniver.<sup>2</sup>

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1. I.P.M. 17 Richard II. C.C.R. 7 Henry IV. She was the wife of Sir Robert Plesyngton. The Close Rolls give Northwode, Sheppey as her domicile.
  2. F.F. Baldwin: Sumptuary Legislation and Personal Regulation in England (1926) *passim*.  
c.f. C.C.R. 7 Henry IV.

There is one of these widows who was perhaps not so wealthy as the others seem to have been. This was Petronilla Waller who was not sure whether her means would allow the necessary money to provide a stipend for a chantry priest to sing for her soul for one year. The stipend was ten marks, that is two marks over the maximum fixed by Archbishop Sudbury for parish priests in 1380,<sup>1</sup> but it seems to have been customary in the early years of the fifteenth century, for other testators mention the same sum.<sup>2</sup>

Of the male testators the greater number seem to have belonged to the class of landed squires and gentlemen, ninety-nine of them were certainly married or widowers, eleven were possibly unmarried,<sup>3</sup> (since although they mentioned other relatives, there is no reference in their testaments to a wife and children), and eleven were certainly clerics.<sup>4</sup> They were all men of middle status but some differences can be noted between them. There is one group which can be considered as belonging to the

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1. G.H. Cook: Medieval Chantries and Chantry Chapels (1947) pp. 48-9.
  2. Chillenden's Register. Nos. 72, 75, 106, 123, 131. For Archbishop Chichele's ordinance in 1421 see Wilkins' Concilia, Vol.iii, p. 402.
  3. Nicholas Jakeman, Hamo Kyngessnothe, John Fitzwillem, William Bertyn, Stephen Paytewyn, Robert Rasyll, John Cely, Thomas Cosyn, Thomas Hampton, James Powys, John Stace.
  4. John Vagge, Thomas Delaxort, Thomas Jeakyn, Thomas Smith, Richard Cauch, Adam Holme, Robert Brygham, Robert de Bradgare, Henry Tolbache, John Honte, John Clerke.

gentry of Kent, since they came from knightly families and were prominent local men. To this category belong Edmund Haute, William de Pympe, Roger Clyderowe of Ash, "esquire", William Clitherowe of Hythe, "gentilman", Steven Cosyngton, "squire", Sir Thomas Fogg and his friend, Sir William Septvans, Edward Septvans, Thomas Frogenale, John Martyn the Justice, John Notebem, Thomas Seyntleger and Edmund de Valaco. These families could trace their distinction to the reign of Edward I, or even before it.

One of the most eminent Kentish names in the Middle Ages was that of Haute, a family founded by Ivo de Haute in the reign of Henry II.<sup>1</sup> By the fifteenth century there were several branches of the family, the chief centres being Pluckley, Ightham, Wadden Hall, Petham and Bishopsbourne.

Edmund Haute, the testator, who was Sheriff of Kent and Keeper of Canterbury Castle when he died in 1408, was the second son of Sir Edmund Haute and Benedicta of Uvedale.<sup>2</sup> His brother, Sir Nicholas, whom he made one of his executors and to whom he bequeathed £5, left a son

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1. Hasted: History and Topography of the County of Kent (Canterbury, 1778, four vols.) Vol.ii, p. 249 and F.J. Bennett: The Story of a Kentish Village (1907) p.81.

2. Harl. Ch. 78/F/29.

Sir William, who seems to have inherited most of the family lands,<sup>1</sup> and his sons, Sir William and Sir Richard, found positions at the court of Edward IV whose cause they, like several other Kentish knights, had espoused.<sup>2</sup> They were both attainted by Richard III, but the reign of the first Tudor saw an even wealthier Sir William Haute settled on his Kentish estates.<sup>3</sup> There is a large collection of Haute deeds in the British Museum, which show that they not only possessed considerable property in the heart of the county and in Canterbury, Dover and Romney, but lands and tenements in London, and other estates in Buckinghamshire, Somerset and Sussex.<sup>4</sup> The Hautes seem to have prospered by marriages with heiresses, for the second William married Matilda Wydville, and by this means increased their lands, while they derived their incomes chiefly from rents, leases and the sale of timber.<sup>5</sup> The Hautes were apparently close associates of the Septvans and the Fogs, for the names of Sir William Septvans and Sir Thomas Fogg both

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1. Harl. Ch. 78/F/29.

2. Infra. p.134.

3. Harl. Ch. 78/G/8.

4. Harl. Ch. 78/F/31-41; and Feudal Aids 1346, pp. 23-29.

5. Harl. Ch. 76/C/18, 78/E/19, 78/F/18-58.

appear as witnesses to a private exchange of land between Edmund the testator and Sir Nicholas, while in the next generation Sir John Fogge performed the same service for Sir William and Sir Richard Haute.<sup>1</sup>

Of similar status and antiquity were the de Pympe whose distinction can be traced back to Sir Ralph in the reign of Henry III.<sup>2</sup> The head of the family at the outset of the fifteenth century was Reginald, who held the offices of Sheriff of Kent and Escheator for Kent and Middlesex.<sup>3</sup> But his relationship to William de Pympe, the testator who lived at Aldington near Thurnham, does not appear. The chief estates of the de Pympe were at Nettleded and East Farleigh, though, like the Hautes, there were several branches of the family, one of which was settled at Heo. Reginald's son, John, became much richer through the inheritance by will of the Farningham estates, many of which adjoined his own.<sup>4</sup> Like the Haute Brothers, two de Pympe, John and Reginald, were attainted by Richard III,

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1. Harl. Ch. 78/F/29 and 78/F/45.

2. Feudal Aids, 1242

3. C.F.R. 11 and 14 Henry IV.

4. C.P.R. 13 Henry IV; also Add.Ch. 36478, and I.P.M./C/139.

and like them, recovered their prosperity under the first Tudor King.<sup>1</sup> It can be demonstrated that all these families knew each other well. Reginald Pympe the elder, when in financial difficulties, could borrow £6 from William Notebem who was a brother of John Notebem, the testator,<sup>2</sup> while John himself showed his friendship for Sir William Septvans by appointing him his executor, leaving him his best silver cups and spoons, and making several bequests to his servants.<sup>3</sup> All these men, who may be regarded as the lesser aristocracy of the county, had scattered estates, of which a small number were held directly of the king, a few were held by knight service of some great lord, but the majority were held in gavelkind.<sup>4</sup>

Another most interesting testator, who was connected with the county aristocracy by marriage with Anne Boteler, whom Foss describes as an heiress, was John Martyn, Justice of the Common Pleas.<sup>5</sup> Unfortunately, he did not leave an ultima voluntas devising his estates, but some

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1. Hasted, op. cit. Vol. ii, p. 287.
  2. C.P.R. 9 Henry V.
  3. Chillenden's Register, No. 32.
  4. I.P.M./C/139, Feudal Aids for 1346, and 1431; also the Harl. Mss. cited above for the Haute lands.
  5. E. Foss: The Judges of England (London, 1851), Vol. iv.

information concerning them may be derived from other sources. He held land in Graveney through his wife, and in Stonebridge, his home according to Foss, in Dartford where his parents and other relatives were buried,<sup>1</sup> Dargate Manor in Hernhill,<sup>2</sup> and S.K. Keyes calls him "John Martyn of Franks in Horton Kirby", so presumably he held land there also.<sup>3</sup> Chichele's register shows that he was patron of the Church of Goodnestone, next Faversham, and had half the advowson of Westenhanger.<sup>4</sup>

His testament is of unusual interest though it begins ordinarily enough with detailed instructions for his funeral monument. But it is noteworthy that these instructions were fulfilled almost to the letter including the words of the psalm "Miserere mei Domine" which he wanted inscribed in a label over his head, by the monumental brass in Graveney Church (in Our Lady's Chancel as he wanted it). It shows the judge in his robes and coif with Anne Boteler

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1. cf. his testament and Mill Stephenson: op.cit.
2. Hasted: History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent. (Canterbury 1778) vol.iii, p. 10.
3. S.K. Keyes, Dartford, p.5.
4. E.F. Jacob: Register of Henry Chichele, vol.1. p.196.



by his side, both surmounted by a beautiful canopy, and is without question one of the largest and perhaps the finest English brass made at this period.<sup>1</sup> The next section of the testament concerns the arrangements he made for the settlement of all the family liabilities. He provided that his creditors and those of his parents with a maximum claim of 40/- should come to the spot appointed by his five executors (John, Robert and Thomas, his sons, Richard Bamme, his son-in-law and Thomas Pery) acting with the Abbot of Faversham and the Vicar of Graveney, so that there, in that little unofficial court they might be paid in full. And the oath of "men of good repute" was to be accepted as sufficient evidence. Only if the sum demanded exceeded 40/- was an investigation to be made, and even then the whole matter from first to last was to be undertaken and brought to a conclusion by the same seven men. That John Martyn, the younger, did fulfil his father's wishes can be shown from two entries in the Close Rolls for 1436 and 1437 where it is recorded that he granted to a certain James Hopwood and William Norton all the goods which his father owed them.<sup>2</sup>

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1. Mill Stephenson: op.cit. p.232; cf. W.D. Belcher: Kentish Brasses, (London, 1888) Vol.i, p.62 for a full-page illustration of this monumental brass.
2. C.C.R. 15 Henry IV.

The kind of work which the Justice expected his executors, who were in the main a family party, to do for him was exacting. He obviously preferred differences as well as debts to be settled by family conferences and distrusted litigation, for he also ruled that in the event of any disagreement arising out of the interpretation of his testament, the decision of his wife and eldest son was to be accepted. If those two could not agree, then the Prior of Christ Church, Canterbury was to be invoked to make a final decision.

Moreover, he seems to have been equally distrustful of the Ecclesiastical as of the Common Law Courts, for there is another remarkable clause in which he referred mysteriously to "a certain part of his treasure, concealed in a certain place known only to Anne, his wife and to his elder sons." This he left to them unconditionally and decreed that there was no need for them to obtain probate before the Ordinary or anyone else. That decree did not meet with the approval of the Ordinary, however, for the Archbishop, ever jealous of his rights in matters of probate, ordered the clerk to omit it from the testament, as being contrary to the liberties of the Church. The clerk did not do so, but in a postscript carefully recorded both what the omission should

be and why it should be omitted.

That a great Justice and landowner of the fifteenth century should hoard his wealth in the form of actual bullion and hide it for his wife and family is certainly amazing, but he may have done so in order to avoid costs, especially if the testament were contested. Books, paper, or parchment, clerks' fees, certificates, all had to be paid for, and one bill of costs of 1498, transcribed by Woodcock, shows that expenses could mount up very quickly.<sup>1</sup> In any case, even if the testament was not contested, the cost of probate rose in proportion to the wealth bequeathed by the testator. According to Jacob, the cost of probate had been so high in the fourteenth century that the Commons complained that the wills of testators could not be executed as they had stipulated. Archbishop Chichele and Stratford legislated on this matter to prevent abuses. Lyndwood's Provinciale gives a definite scale of expenses.<sup>2</sup>

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1. B.L. Woodcock: op.cit. pp. 60-62 and 136.

2. "For an estate worth between 30/- and 100/- the fee was 12d.; 100/- to £20, 3/-; £20 to £60, 5/-; £40 to £100, 10/-; £100 to £150, 20/-; and thereafter an increase of 10/- for every additional £50." - From E.F. Jacob's Introduction to the Register of Henry Chichele, p. xxxiv; citing Lyndwood: Provinciale, p. 181  
See also B.L. Woodcock: op.cit. p. 73, for the scale of fees in the 1520's in the Sandwich Act Book.  
For Archbishop Chichele's regulations in 1416, see Wilkins' Concilia, vol.iii, p.377.

The Judge showed himself to be not unaware of the advantages of interest and credit by the form his legacies took to Dartford and Graveney. To each of these parishes he bequeathed capital which was to be invested in trade, the interest to be used when it was necessary to assist the poorer parishioners to pay their tenths and fifteenths. This insurance against the incidence of taxation reveals a mind which regarded taxes not as necessary public responsibility, but as an evil to be relieved by almsgiving as the poor and sick should be relieved. Such a local and individualistic attitude towards taxation may have been usual in the fifteenth century, and indeed at a period later than this, but it is very striking here.

It would be most interesting if we could find out just how much John Martyn was worth in cash; the unspecified "treasure" is tantalisingly vague, but he must have been very wealthy. According to Margaret Hastings, a Justice of the Common Pleas had to go through such a long and expensive period of training that in the normal course of events only the sons of noblemen could afford it.<sup>1</sup>

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1. Margaret Hastings: The Court of Common Pleas in the Fifteenth Century (1947) pp. 61-62.

It is impossible to arrive at an exact estimate of their yearly income from the profits of justice, but in 1379 they were assessed at 100/- p.a. which compares well with the 10 marks assessment for barons. In 1522 the senior justices were valued at 500 marks p.a., but apparently there was no valuation made in the 1430's.<sup>1</sup> However, John Martyn, like others of his class, must have derived a great deal of income from his estates in addition to the rest. He may surely be reckoned among the lower aristocracy of the county.

Besides such men as these, there were also others who do not seem to have belonged to the knightly class but who, nevertheless, were possessed of a good deal of land in the county. Such were Robert Stonstrete, William Kynett, and Thomas atte Brygge who held many good properties in Romney Marsh and its neighbourhood, William Wodlande of Canterbury district and Whitstable, William Byrford who had a great deal of profitable woodland, arable and meadow in the weald of South Kent and the Sussex border, Thomas Wykes of Nackington near Canterbury, Thanet and Suffolk, the two Hamptons, Edmund Roper of St. Dunstan's, Henry Lynde,

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1. Margaret Hastings: op.cit. p.84.

Alexander Goffe, John Dowle and John Stace.<sup>1</sup> Some of these men appear in the Fine, Patent and Close Rolls, as Collectors of taxes and Escheaters, which shows that they were performing very much the same sort of offices for the Crown as were the knightly class of older families. The Inquisition held in Kent in 1431 also reveals that Edmund and John Wykes, Edmund Roper, John Lynde and William Wodlande held a good deal of land by knight service as did the Hautes, Septvans and de Pympe.<sup>2</sup> In fact, it looks as if the kind of tenure in Kent, whether gavelkind or knight service is no indication of either social status or wealth.

There remains one other small group of wealthy testators. These were merchants or well-to-do artisans who were often possessed of considerable property both in the towns and outside them. These were John Boteler, draper and Hugo Bys, merchant, both of Sandwich; John Bryan, mason; William Bryan and Henry Lyncoln, both bailiffs, all three citizens of Canterbury, and William Pyers, barber of Romney. They were some of the richest testators in the

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1. Challengden's Register, Nos. 51, 53, 67, 109, 111, 114, 118, 122, 123, 127, 131, 134, 136.

2. Feudal Aids: 10 Henry VI.

register, and their wealth, property and association with the landed gentry deserves separate consideration.<sup>1</sup>

The group of clerics remains to be analysed, none of whom were very remarkable, though two merit special attention. They consist of two rectors in Canterbury parishes, one eleemosinary chaplain from Christ Church Cathedral, five rectors and three vicars of country parishes, Geoffrey Multon and Robert Brygham. Robert Brygham had been a bachelor fellow of Merton College where he was bursar from 1411 to 1412.<sup>2</sup> His testament shows his affection for his College and his colleagues to whom he left his best mazer and two books.<sup>3</sup> It is possible that he also had some connection with the newly-founded College of Wye. His sister lived there, and he left credit notes to the value of over £44 to the parish.<sup>4</sup>

Geoffrey Multon, the vicar of Brenzett, was not a testator. The entry which concerns him is a copy of Pope Nicholas V's Bill of Dispensation allowing him to retain the cure of Brenzett in spite of his vows as a Cluniac.<sup>5</sup> The

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1. *Infra.* pp. 111-112, and pp. 140-144.

2. Emden: A Biographical Register of the University of Oxford to A.D. 1500, Vol. i, p. 292.

3. *Infra.* p. 105.

4. *Chillenden's Register*, No. 73.

5. *Ibid.* No. 113.

Bull was addressed to the Bishop of Clonfert<sup>1</sup> not to the Ordinary of the diocese, and it seems that the advowson of Brenzett had been in the gift of the Crown since the reign of Henry V; Multon had been nominated by Henry VI in 1441.<sup>2</sup> It was not therefore till seven years later that the necessary dispensation had been obtained. The papal letter gives the reason for Geoffrey Multon's departure from his monastery as infirmity. "A serious rupture" says the Bull (cum gravem rupturam subtus pateretur) "prevented him from living the monastic life." Other reasons, however, may be guessed at. He came from Tickford in Buckinghamshire which cannot have been a pleasant House at the best of times. An alien Priory, dependent on Marmoutier till 1426, when it came under Holy Trinity, York, it always had a bad reputation and was hardly ever out of debt or free from litigation. The prior from 1383 to 1416 was John Duien, a man notoriously unfitted for his office.<sup>3</sup> The year of Multon's departure from Tickford does not appear, but at the time of the dispensation he was already "advanced in years."

1. This bishop must have been John White, confused with John O'Heyne by Stubbs, Registrum Sacrum Anglicanum (Oxford 1958) p.148 and by Eubel; Hierarchia Catholica Vol.ii (1901) p.146. He was a suffragan of the Bishop of London in 1448. cf. Calendar of Papal Letters, Vol.ix (1912), p.224,n.
2. C.P.R. October 25th, 20 Henry VI,ccf; A. Hamilton Thompson; The English Clergy (1947) p.104 comments on "the immense number of presentations to rectories by the Crown.
3. V.C.H. Buckinghamshire; Vol.1. pp.360-5, also Knowles and Hadcock; Medieval Religious Houses of England & Wales. p.79.



(e) Wills of Real Estate and Enfeoffment to Use

Especially useful to the historian are wills of real estate. These were rare in the fourteenth century, though they do sometimes occur, but became more and more popular in the fifteenth century. Of the one hundred and forty testaments in Chillenden's Register, forty four are also real wills disposing of properties in almost every part of the diocese of Canterbury.<sup>1</sup> Their value does not so much lie in the fact that they explain in detail what lands and tenements were possessed and in what way they were held, for other documents, e.g. terriers sometimes do this better, but in the fact that very often for these particular people and these particular localities, no other evidence exists for this period. Moreover, there is some intrinsic value in the descriptions themselves. They are probably accurate as they are very careful; the testators often go

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1. The wills of John Reade, Henry Lyncoln, John Style, Thomas Wykes, Nicholas Rede, William Pyers, Hamo Aleyn, Richard Justyce, John Charlys, William Meryweder, Edmund de Valace, William Pyke, Thomas Wermyston, John Eythurst, Joan Denys, John Dowle, Thomas atte Brygge, Thomas Hampton, Thomas Frogenale, John atte Wode, William Byrford, Walter Feyrfax, John Downe, William Wodelande, Alexander Goffe, William Bryan, John Hampton, Edward Septvans, John Houghlyn, John Spyhyll, William Kynet, John Boteler, Steven Cosington, Robert Stonstret, James Powys, John Stace, William Clitherowe, John a Mede, Roger Clitherowe, John Poland, Joan Odyerne, Richard Cokryde, William Godfray.

to great trouble to state not only boundaries and field names, but when the property had been acquired and how it was held. Another advantage offered by these descriptions is that they give a new slant to the historian than that given by the terriers, for the latter present the point of view of the rent-collecting lord, while the former give that of the family actually in possession. One of these descriptions, taken almost at random from the register, will illustrate these points.

Robert Stonestrete of Ivychurch, held five acres in Brookland, seven in Brenzett, four in Morelane, five in Ivychurch, ten in Newchurch, ten in Romney and a messuage there too in the parish of St. Martin, and ten in the parish of Hope, all of which he wanted sold. These lands excluded the properties he left to his wife and to Nicholas Swetfray, his servant. In several cases he tells us from whom the properties had been bought, and in one case (that of Brookland) also gives us information that another was holding the property to farm.

When he comes to the lands and tenements he left his wife, the description is clearer and more detailed, for he described the house in which he was then living with the lands pertaining to it all clustered round the parish church

of Ivychurch. There was a piece of land called Rerewoldre, and next to that was a five-acre field called Pykepole. There was an eighteen acre field of barley and twenty-seven and-a-half acres lying separately, it may be, for they had been bought from different people, whose names are all given in his description. Lastly, he mentions a little property of three acres and one rod which he had inherited after the death of his mother, and which lay near "his own land called Long Schot." It is not often that the lord is mentioned in these descriptions, though occasionally he is, and Robert Stonestrete does so when he leaves a message and four acres to Nicholas Swetfray in Brookland, for he also tells us that Nicholas will hold these as a tenant of the prior and convent of Christchurch, Canterbury.

The absolute value of wills to determine land holding is limited by the nature of the documents. Testators, when drawing up these ultimas voluntates, did not intend to make complete terriers of their estates any more than they intended to compose an inventory of their chattels when they made their bequests. It follows that the wills have a positive value as evidence, but not a negative value. Their chief importance is derived from the fact that they illustrate the nature of society in the fifteenth

century, and help to clarify the development of the English land law, especially the law of Trusts. For Medieval wills could only be effective by the expedient of ~~Enfeoffments~~ to Use, and this practice sheds much light on the legal, economic and social conditions of the period.

The root idea of the Use, according to Holdsworth,<sup>1</sup> is the recognition of the duty of a man, to whom property has been conveyed for certain purposes, to fulfil those purposes, and he has shown how the idea of the Trust, both in the life-time and after the death of the grantor, is to be found in the institutions of early Germanic Law. In England, for example, before the Norman Conquest, land was sometimes given away to another, not for the benefit of the grantee, but for the use of a Monastic House, and such an estate was granted "ad opus monachorum." In such a case conscience obliged the legal owner to treat the estate not as his own individual property, but as really belonging to the monastery. The practice survived the Norman Conquest and the dictates of conscience in such matters were protected by law until the twelfth century. From the twelfth until

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1. Holdsworth: History of English Law, Vol. iv, pp. 402-450.

the late thirteenth century a long struggle ensued, for a battle was waged against the Use by the Common lawyers whose instinct was to protect only seisin and recognise only seisin, chiefly because it was difficult to discover by means of a local jury such delicate obligations as those the Use envisaged.<sup>1</sup> Edward I's legislation banished the Use effectually, if not specifically, from the English land-law, for in 1379 English judges declared that they could take no cognisance of any limitation set up on the estate of a feoffee unless it complied with the strict rules dictated by the Common Law.

But, to quote Holdsworth again, "The Use was too convenient, too widespread and familiar to disappear in consequence of the attitude of the Common Law, for an arrangement which makes the legal owner of property the executor of the wishes of a beneficiary with respect to that property would enable the beneficiary to deal freely and easily and secretly with the property ... It gave the beneficiary all the advantages of property, and yet left him subject to none of the legal disabilities which property entailed."<sup>2</sup>

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1. c.f. Pollock and Maitland: op cit. vol. ii, pp. 233-239.

2. Holdsworth: op. cit. p.416.

Sir Frederick Pollard remarked on the political advantage of the Use, for, as he pointed out, "assuming the feoffees to Uses to be willing and faithful instruments of the beneficial owner, his advantages were great. Though he were involved in the civil struggle of York and Lancaster and dealt with as a traitor by victorious enemies, the land would be secured for his children, for it legally belonged not to him, but to the feoffees to Uses, and therefore was not forfeited by his attainder." 1

It was inevitable that the Use should return, and should be popular despite the fact that feoffees might be disloyal and abuse their trust. Certain measures could be taken to give the greatest possible security: for instance a large number of feoffees could be created, so that each and all could act as a check on the designs of any one of them. One such example occurs at Dartford in 1398, when John Newport enfeoffed thirty-three persons in one acre of land on Gallowshill. By 1424 only three of the original feoffees were alive, and these enfeoffed thirty more to make up the original number.<sup>2</sup> However, on the average, the number of feoffees nominated by the testators of Chillenden's Register was small, four testators being content to trust their

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1. Sir F. Pollock: The Land Laws (London 1896), p.95.

2. S.K.Keyes: Historical Notes on Dartford ( 1933 ) p.94.

estates to two feoffees, four others to three feoffees, while the largest number of feoffees was a group of seven.<sup>1</sup>

This is evidence not only of fair dealing and trustworthiness among feoffees, but of a general feeling of security in the commission of one's affairs by Enfeoffment to Use at this time. No real anxiety appears among the testators that feoffees might prove unworthy of their trust, though the fact that such abuses of the Use did sometimes occur is evidenced by a discussion of this matter in the Commons as early as 1402.<sup>2</sup> Any anxiety feoffees might have entertained was seemingly occasioned by the knowledge that certain members of their own family, especially their sons who felt themselves deprived of their rightful inheritance by the terms of a father's will, might contest the will in the Common Law Courts. The Year Books show that many such contests took place, and testators tried to provide against them by making bequests of sums of money or dispositions of real estate dependent on the acceptance of all the clauses

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1. William Wodlande's feoffees, John Yerde Esq., John Grenforde, William Benet, John Lynde, William Baker, Hugh Brent and Thomas Petham for his lands in St. Cosmas and Damian, Whitstable, Hackington, Westgate, Sturry and Bekesbourne.
2. Holdsworth: op.cit. p. 417.

of an ultima voluntas or of a codicil to a testament.<sup>1</sup> But a remedy in law was also sought by an appeal to Chancery, and these appeals led to the assertion both of the right of landholders to dispose of their property as they thought fit while they were alive, either by sale or by deed of gift, and of the obligation of feoffees and all beneficiaries to remain loyal to a genuine trust.<sup>2</sup> The systematic support given by Chancery in the early fifteenth century to the beneficiaries under Enfeoffment to Use must be one of the main reasons why we find this device so frequently employed as early as the 1430's.<sup>3</sup>

The security afforded by the protection of Chancery did not prevent feoffors from making the disposition of their estates as safe as possible by other means also. Since a simple will or codicil expressing the wishes of the testator had in itself no legal binding force, they attempted to remedy this by the use of other expedients, e.g. by indentures and

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1. Chillenden's Register, Nos. 55, 56, 107, 115, 120, 123, 127, 131, 133, 140.
  2. F.W. Maitland: Equity pp. 29-30 (Cambridge, 1932).
  3. Margaret Avery: Early Chancery Proceedings (M.A. Thesis) London, 1958). She says that "by the middle of the fifteenth century the Chancery was snowed under by a great mass of litigation by cestuisque-use against feoffees" - p. 96. Examples of the various types of cases regarding abuse or fraud in connection with the Use are also cited, pp. 116-130.



charters made as secure as possible by the presence of attorneys, witnesses and the use of seals. Many a codicil refers to a previous tripartite indenture in which a detailed agreement had already been drawn up between the feoffor and his feoffees.<sup>1</sup> William Kynet showed that the existence of his long, rambling testament-cum-will was in part at least, quite unnecessary, since many of its provisions had already been declared in an indenture. Thomas atte Brygge made an arrangement with his first feoffee whereby the latter should reconvey to him his property if he did not die, as he feared he would, within a certain specified time. Directions were also given as to who was to have the custody of each part of the indenture, for he appointed the twelve jurors of Lydd as the supervisors of his will, with directions that they should keep the first part of the document in their common chest. The second and third parts were to be entrusted to his feoffees and to the Church of Woodchurch respectively.<sup>2</sup> By such means as these, landholders made conveyances in land even after death, and felt reasonably secure against fraud

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1. e.g. Chillenden's Register; Nos. 131, 111.

2. *Infra*; p. 128 for a note on the role of Churchwardens as Trustees.

or obstruction. A feoffor, if he were pressed for time, could also direct the whole business on to the shoulders of a trusted friend. For example, William Byrford chose one feoffee and entrusted him with the responsibility of enfeoffing two others who were to be nominated by his widow, and were to enfeoff another three named by the testator himself. Thus his feoffees were to be a group of six when this business had been concluded.<sup>1</sup> When the feoffees were also named as executors, as they were by William Godfray, this is an additional proof of the security which most landholders of this period seem to have felt in entrusting their estates to their friends and neighbours in this way.<sup>2</sup>

It would be of the greatest interest to find out what proportion of the total estate fathers did leave to their sons and how it was left, but this is often obscure, since when the laws of inheritance were allowed to follow their normal course, there was no necessity for the Use and its attendant documents, and wills are often silent on this point. It also happened sometimes that the sons were already enfeoffed with their lands at the time of their father's death, and this was especially likely to be the case if they

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1. Chillenden's Register, No. 118.

2. Ibid., No. 146. c.f. James Powys' concern regarding his own obligations as a feoffee, *infra.* p. 295.

had reached the legal age. If the estates, or some of them, were held by knight service, the Feudal Aids or Inquisitions Post Mortem occasionally fill up the gaps left by the information which can be derived from the wills alone. For example, we know that Edmund Wykes succeeded to many of his father's estates in and near Canterbury and in the Isle of Thanet, from the lists compiled by the jurors for the King at the general Inquisition of 1431.<sup>1</sup> His brother, John, succeeded to other estates, but if we had only the will, we would not even know that John existed.<sup>2</sup>

A great deal of property in Kent was, however, held in gavelkind, and was therefore subject to the custom of equal partition of land between all the legitimate sons. Since this was so, a will like Hamo Aleyn's merely emphasised, by the father's last wishes, what would happen in any case, for he wanted "all his lands and tenements in Kent to be equally divided" between his sons who were under age, and that while they were under age, Agnes, his wife, was to have custody of the boys and their property."<sup>3</sup>

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1. Feudal Aids, 1431, pp. 63, 69.

2. Chillenden's Register, No. 53; Feudal Aids, 1431, p.64

3. Ibid., No. 58.

The latter was a very frequent direction, but there was no need of a will or of feoffees to obtain that privilege, since one of the legal advantages of gavelkind was the retention of wardship by the 'prochain ami', usually the mother, who could not inherit.<sup>1</sup>

But by Enfeoffment to Use a testator could specify exactly which of his estates he wished each of his sons to have, and fourteen testators did this. While some of them tried to partition their estates equally, others seem to have showed a preference for one particular son. However, there is little hint of primogeniture in any of these wills - for the fathers do not appear to have given more lands to the eldest son; on the contrary, several showed anxiety for the rights of younger sons, especially if they were under age.<sup>2</sup> Three may be quoted as showing the strength of family feeling in Kent, and the custom of equal partition of lands between all the sons. Henry Lyncoln had three sons, Edmund, Robert, and Nicholas, and held properties in Canterbury and Sturry. He provided that Edmund should have the remainder of properties in Rushbourne after his mother's death; for

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1. N. Neilson: A Cartulary and Terrier of Bilsington. Introduction, pp. 22-23.

2. This was not confined to Kent. cf. F.M. Page; "The Customary Poor Law of three Cambridgeshire Manors." Camb.Hist.Journal Vol.iii, No.2 (1930) p. 127-8.

Robert there were houses in Canterbury; and for Nicholas a house and shops in Canterbury and three woods at Sturry.<sup>1</sup>

Steven Cosyngton also had three sons, William, Richard and Edmund, of whom William was the first born and Edmund, the youngest, was still a child. He had also three daughters, Catherine, Thomasine and Elizabeth - and left a widow, another Elizabeth. His will shows careful thought and determination to provide for his whole family. He had inherited several manors and other properties in Kent, of which many were in the North - in the neighbourhood of Aylesford and Maidstone, viz. Great and Little Cosington, Aylesford, Boxley, Rainham, Rings, New Hythe, Newington near Sittingbourne and Acrise. The last he left to his wife for life with remainders to his three sons in succession of age and then to his three daughters jointly; Mount was also to go to his wife for life, with remainder: first to Edmund Cosyngton, his youngest son, and then to his three daughters, Catherine, Thomasine and Elizabeth; another 30 acres of land near Acrise was left first to his wife as before, then to Edmund, his youngest son, and then to his three daughters jointly, and lastly to William, his eldest

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1. Chillenden's Register, No. 19.

son. To Richard, his second son, and Edmund he left lands in Kingsmede and New Hythe to be partitioned between them. To Edmund, who was under age, he also left estates in Boxley, Newington, Rainham and Aylesford, and certain other lands in the neighbourhood of Maidstone, while William was only to succeed to the manor of Cossington on condition that he did nothing to obstruct his father's will. These dispositions might mean that William and Richard were provided for already, or that Edmund was the favourite son, or simply that the father was anxious to safeguard the future of a child who was still young enough "to be sent to school."<sup>1</sup>

Thomas Frogenale's will shows in addition how Kentish landholders liked to keep land in the family. He had five sons, William, Thomas, Richard, Laurence and Nicholas. All were to have an exactly equal share in their father's estates, viz. five acres of land. All the tenements were carefully described with field-names and boundaries, while other properties the boys were to receive after their mother's death were also to be equally divided between them. Finally, he insisted that if any of his sons wished to sell, he must give the first offer to his brothers, and only when

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1. Chillenden's Register, No. 133.

all four had refused to buy could he offer it in the open market.<sup>1</sup> The age at which sons were allowed to inherit varied according to the dispositions of the father's will, and this was one of the advantages of enfeoffment to Use, for by custom of gavelkind, heirs attained their majority at fifteen years. Thomas Frogenale's feoffees were to enfeoff his sons at the age of sixteen, which is normal enough, but Thomas atte Brygge required that his sons should be eighteen, and John Dowle's and William Byrford's sons had to wait till they reached the age of twenty and twenty-four respectively.<sup>2</sup>

Of course, it was possible by enfeoffment to Use to devise everything to the eldest son, contrary to Kentish custom, but there is no example of this in Chillenden's register, and it was possible to leave nothing at all to any of them. There is no example of this either in the register, though the will of William Pyers showed what a testator could do in this respect if he wished.<sup>3</sup> His lands and tenements in the parish of Lydd and elsewhere, excluding his

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1. Chillenden's Register, No. 115.

2. Ibid., Nos. 115, 109, 111, 118.

3. Ibid., No. 56.

and 5 a. of land which were to be his wife's in perpetuity, and others he wanted sold messuage in Romney, ~~was~~ left to his wife, Alice, for the term of her life, and after her death the income accruing from them was to go to works of charity until twenty years had elapsed since the testator's <sup>wife's</sup> death. Apparently he had no sons, but he may have had nephews, for he left all his properties to Peter and James Pyers, the sons of a certain John Pyers who lived at Woodchurch. However, the grant was conditional, since they could not touch the property until the twenty years had elapsed. The will ends with a threatening clause that if James and Peter did anything to obstruct these arrangements, all the lands and tenements were to be sold so that the sons of John Pyers would get nothing, "et nihil habebunt."

By enfeoffment to Use it was possible to arrange that one's estate remain in the legal custody of feoffees while its revenues only went to the heirs, the widow, other members of the family, friends, servants, or to charity. Testators often directed their feoffees to do this, or to sell certain lands as they deemed necessary in order to fulfil the terms of their testament, i.e. to pay all their debts and legacies. As alternative to sale, land could be mortgaged. The use of land as a security for debt was well-known to English law at this time.<sup>1</sup> The Cosingtons, Sir Steven and

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1. Sir William Holdsworth: op.cit. Vol. iii, pp. 128-130.



his son, William, mortgaged their manors in the late fourteenth century to their London creditors,<sup>1</sup> while Robert Stonstrete directed his feoffees to try and mortgage the residue of his lands to the church of St. George, Ivychurch for him for twelve marks a year to provide a chantry for two chaplains there. But it seems that he foresaw some difficulty since he made provision for other arrangements if this proved impossible.<sup>2</sup> Land which was to be sold or mortgaged was usually part of those estates which had been recently acquired, though this was not always the case. James Powys in 1454 expressly stated that he wanted his feoffees to sell all his lands and tenements, both those he had inherited and those he had acquired, to pay his debts and fulfil the terms of his testament.<sup>3</sup> Ten other testators provided for the sale of some of their estates, very often to found charities, or pay a chantry-priest for a certain length of time.<sup>4</sup> The active land market in Kent at this period is also made evident by the numerous deeds of sale

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1. *Infra*: pp. 138-139.
2. *Chillenden's Register*, No. 134.
3. *Ibid.*, No. 135.
4. *Ibid.*, Nos. 131, 134, 141.

indentures, and private charters, as by the constant references to the buying and selling of land which appear in wills. A number of exchanges were also made.

A feoffor might require his feoffees to sell certain estates "for the best price possible," which was the common formula, or they might demand that a certain price be paid for certain lands. Alice Sander, for example, directed Thomas Philipp, ~~John~~<sup>James</sup> Schipman and John Martyn,<sup>1</sup> her feoffees, to sell everything she possessed in Herne and elsewhere, both land and chattels, and stated the price she wanted, the purchaser and the way in which the money was to be paid. Two clauses will suffice as examples: William Paramor was to be allowed to buy the house in which she (the testatrix) was then living, together with six acres of adjacent land, for ten marks, the whole to be paid within ten years, in instalments of  $13/4$  a year. He was not the real beneficiary, however, since he was to pay this money to the parish gilds of St. Thomas and St. Peter. Another twenty marks was to be obtained from the sale of nine acres to John atte Dane, the payment to be spaced over the term of three years, of which ten marks was to be paid in the first year. Her executors were to use this money to provide for a chantry chaplain "to

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1. This John Martyn was possibly the eldest son of the Justice, who had an estate in Herne.

sing for her soul" during these ~~two~~ <sup>first</sup> years. They were to get £6. 13. 4d. in the first year and 66/8 for two further years. Any residue was to be spent in almsgiving.<sup>1</sup> There were other expedients too, which could be devised from the sale or lease of land. Feoffees might be directed to enfeoff one relative in certain estates and make sure that the rents or profits of those estates were enjoyed by another. For example, Joan Odyerne left an estate to her son, John Glover, for which he was obliged to pay Juliana, her daughter, four shillings a year.

Some landowners preferred to leave annuities, rather than property to their widows, and this could be done by directing the revenues from certain estates to be given by the feoffees each year to the widow as long as she lived, or until she remarried. Alternatively, land could be sold to provide such an annuity. Three testators, William Kynet, Robert Stonstrete and John Eytherst, provided their widows with annuities, each in slightly different ways. William Kynet's widow, Joan, was to receive twelve marks a year from his hereditary lands in Bonnington, while six feoffees were

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1. Chillenden's Register: No. 142.

to retain the properties in their own hands and keep everything in good condition "without waste or damage."<sup>1</sup> Robert Stonstrete allowed his widow (also a Joan) the use of his house and stock and about fifty-six acres of land as long as she did not marry again; however, if she did so marry, his five feoffees were to continue to provide for her by granting her an annuity of six marks a year from the revenues of those lands.<sup>2</sup> John Eytherst left his widow, Lucy, an annuity of ten marks a year, to be raised from specified properties under two conditions. She must not remarry, and she must relinquish her legal right to certain estates which she held jointly with him at Ospringe. If she refused, everything he possessed was to go to his son, John.<sup>3</sup> Annuities could also be provided, by enfeoffment to Use for other members of one family, for example, for a mother, a sister or a daughter. Hamo Kynggesnothe settled an annuity of 12d a week, by this means, on his mother from the sale of lands at Wittersham,<sup>4</sup> and Thomas Wykes provided his daughter, Joan with an annuity of one hundred shillings until she married.

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1. Chillenden's Register, No. 131.
2. Ibid., No. 134.
3. Ibid., No. 107.
4. Ibid., No. 22.

This annuity was in addition to a handsome dowry of one hundred marks.<sup>1</sup> Walter, Feyrfax required his feoffees to direct his wife to let his chief tenement in Eastry for storage and stabling in order to pay the rent of 6/8 a year to his sister, Isabella, for the term of her life.<sup>2</sup> These annuities were by no means ungenerous, since one shilling was approximately the month's wage of a married man of the labouring population, for the yearly wage of carters, ploughmen and shepherds averaged 13/4 according to one authority.<sup>3</sup> Especially generous were the widows' dowers of ten and twelve marks a year.

Provision for the dower, which was provided for by the Custom of Kent, was naturally one of the most frequent concerns of testators, but it could take other forms besides a money income which was only possible in most cases by recourse to enfeoffment to Use. It could be very simple as when Richard Justyce directed his four enfeoffees to enfeoff his wife, Constance, "immediately after his death with all his lands and tenements in Sussex." As he did not include his Kentish estates in this direction, the presumption is

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1. Chillenden's Register: No. 53.
2. Ibid., No. 119.
3. Anthony Steel: Richard II, p. 56.

that they were divided between his sons according to the usual custom.<sup>1</sup> Edmund de Valaco's dispositions for his widow's dower was a little more complicated. His three feoffees were to enfeoff his wife, Joan, with his tenements in the market place of Faversham for the term of her life, while after her death they were to go to his son, John, with remainders to his daughters in succession.<sup>2</sup> The custom of disposing of remainders for several generations enabled the original grantor to deal with his property for many years after his death.

The Use also made it possible for testators to secure more for their widows if they wished to do so than the law of gavelkind allowed. Edmund de Valaco, beside the dower already referred to, left certain tenements in Canterbury to his widow in perpetuity. William Pyke of Romney, showed a similar concern for his wife, Rose.<sup>3</sup> Not only did he leave her a life interest in his lands and tenements in Romney and Ospringe, but directed his feoffees to enfeoff her in addition in all his estates in Hothfield in fee simple

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1. Chillenden's Register, No. 60.
2. Ibid., No. 101.
3. Ibid., No. 103.

and in perpetuity. He added, in order to make it clear that he wished her to have all the advantages of real ownership, "these lands are to belong to Rose, absolutely, and she may sell them if she wishes." Moreover, when Rose died, his feoffees were to dispose of all his properties according to her directions. As Rose was also William's sole executor, we have here an example of a beneficiary who received all the advantages of genuine ownership, while her husband's feoffees shouldered all the burdens of ownership.

Four other testators also directed their feoffees to enfeoff their wives unconditionally, and in perpetuity, but only with certain specified properties,<sup>1</sup> and it was more usual to grant the widow a life interest only in some estates. Twenty-three of the testators did this, and among them some very well-known Kentish names appear like Cosington, Septvans and Roper.<sup>2</sup> Of these twenty-three several ordered their feoffees to withdraw the use of the properties from their widows if they should marry again. William Meryweder, for example, left a series of instructions to his feoffees regarding a messuage and eleven acres of land at Broadway, near Canterbury. They were to allow his widow, Agnes, to retain the use of them for the term of her

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1. Chillenden's Register, Nos. 103, 112, 121, 124.

2. Ibid, Nos. 133, 40, 128, 67.

life if she remained a widow. This grant was conditional, however, for William Meryweder had a brother who was abroad at the time the will was drawn up, in what parts he unfortunately did not say, but he indicated that if his brother came back to England, those eleven acres and the messuage at Broadway should go to him. However, this was not all, for if Agnes were to bear him a child, then she was to have the use of them till her child came of age, when they would go to that child.<sup>1</sup>

Provision for unborn children was a great advantage which could be obtained by the Use. There are five cases of this in the register of which the above is one. John Reade's directions were slightly different. He asked his feoffees to sell certain lands and tenements in Deal to provide that Requiem be sung for his soul on condition that his wife were not pregnant at the time of his death. For, if she were, those lands and tenements were to be reserved for his unborn child with a life interest in them to his wife. This is particularly interesting, since by the wording of the will it would seem that his wife was not pregnant when he made it, nor did he wish her to have the life interest if she were

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1. Chillenden's Register: No. 100.



not. It shows what a flexible instrument the Use was.<sup>1</sup>

John Spyhyll, Nicholas Rede and Edward Septvans all provided for unborn children by Enfeoffment to Use. John Spyhyll simply left his manor of Pevington to his unborn child when it came of age, with a life interest to his wife, but the other two made more elaborate arrangements. Nicholas Rede directed his feoffees to divide the money from the sale of lands in Folkestone, from goods and cattle, between his daughter Joan's dowry and his unborn child, if and when he or she came of age. But the money was to remain in the hands of the feoffees till it was paid into those of his children.<sup>2</sup> Edward Septvans' provision for his unborn child shows even more foresight, for he made a difference between the use of his land according to whether the child was a boy or a girl. His wife was already pregnant and he directed his feoffees to raise the sum of forty marks, from the rents of his minor of Chequers in Ash near Sandwich, and from all his lands and tenements at Newington, except from one dovecot, to provide a dowry for his child, if a daughter. But if a son were born, he was to have the use of all the rents from Chequers, and was to be enfeoffed in all the lands and tenements in Newington in perpetuity.<sup>3</sup>

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1. Chillenden's Register: No.1.

2. Ibid., No. 55.

3. Ibid., No. 128.

Eight testators left property for the use of their daughters. John Style left his daughter, Clemence, a house in Sandwich which was not to go to Thomas, his son, till both Clemence and Constance, her mother, were dead.<sup>1</sup> John Charlys ordered his feoffees to divide certain lands and tenements between his three daughters, nor did he direct any property to the use of his three sons, though they were very probably already provided for.<sup>2</sup> William Wodlande left to Alice, his daughter, and to her heirs after her death, the manor of Haghisdowne, and all his pastures, rents and services in Mackington.<sup>3</sup> Three other testators were able to provide handsome dowries for their daughters through the expedient of enfeoffment to Use, viz. Nicholas Rede, William Ryngleton and Thomas Wykes.<sup>4</sup> The bequest of a large dowry and an annuity to Joan Wykes have already been noted,<sup>5</sup> but in addition, her father provided her with some of his Kentish estates, and directed his feoffees to enfeoff her in them as soon as she got married. In fact, she and her husband were to hold those lands jointly, for the feoffees were to arrange for an indenture to that effect to be drawn up

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1. Chillenden's Register, No. 35.
2. Ibid., No. 70.
3. Ibid., No. 122.
4. Ibid., Nos. 53, 55, 121.
5. Supra. p. 81.

immediately after the marriage had taken place. William Meryweder devised land to his sister Agnes, a messuage and eleven acres, which she was to have if his widow remarried,<sup>1</sup> and John Boteler left his brother, Thomas, two tenements in Sandwich.<sup>2</sup>

The value of Enfeoffment to Use may finally be exemplified by an examination of the terms of one particular will. William Kynet left a very long testament in which legacies and wishes for the use of his property were mixed together in a most untidy and disorderly way. However, it should repay careful analysis, for it shows many characteristics of Kent at this time, and in particular the active, busy land market. The lands in Bonnington which were to be set aside to provide the twelve marks annuity as his widow's dower, have already been noted.<sup>3</sup> All the rest, and he had a great deal of land, was to be sold, except for two small parcels in Bonnington of four acres in all, which were to go to Roger, the son of Walter Kynet. Most of this land had been bought both from other members of the Kynet family and from outsiders. There was, for example, one collection of lands and tenements of one-hundred and twenty-four acres,

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1. Chillenden's Register, No. 100.
2. Ibid., No. 132.
3. Supra. p. 80.

and besides this collection there were others in Aldington, Eastbridge, Newchurch, Burmarsh, Mersham and Charing. Much of this had been recently acquired.

The legacies which his executors were to pay from the money raised by the sale of these lands may be summarised as follows: To individuals he left over £80 mostly in small sums of one mark or half a mark, though there were a few larger legacies of several pounds each. For his funeral and tombstone, for pilgrimages to Rome, and other funds set aside for his own soul he left over £50; to various churches of the locality he bequeathed about £20; to Religious Orders, £14. 6. 8d., for public works £5. 19.s., and charity £39.6.8d; an interesting clause provided that £16 should be granted to the Churches of Bonnington, Bilsington and Ongarwick for the renovation of certain works of art, which were, perhaps, wall paintings or screen-paintings, but were more probably statues, and for a stained-glass window to be made.

It is particularly interesting that all these legacies were provided for out of the sale of newly acquired land, and by means of the device of Enfeoffment to Use. William Kynet was not a member of one of the old knightly families in Kent, yet he had inherited a good deal of land and perhaps had bought even more. Kynets had lived in

Bonnington since the reign of Edward III, and according to Hasted, took their name from the manor at Bonnington of the same name. They were to be important people in this locality till the sixteenth century, when some of their estates passed to the Knyghts. Since William Kynet made Richard Knyght junior one of his feoffees, and left 20/- each to the same Richard, to Peter Knyght's daughter, and the daughter of John Knyght, it would seem that the Kynet properties may have passed to the Knyghts by intermarriage between the two families.<sup>1</sup>

Not all wills are as informative as this one, but by studying them one fact emerges clearly, that all testators, however they held their land, however they had obtained it, and whatever their status, had exceptional freedom to do what they liked with their estates in the Kent land-market of the fifteenth century.<sup>2</sup>

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1. These Knyghts may have been of the same family as those mentioned in Testament No. 11 in this Register.
  2. For references to the sale of land, see also: Nos. 1, 55, 56, 100, 103, 106, 107, 109, 111, 112, 114, 117, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 126, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 142, 143, 144.

(f) Bequests of Chattels

The interest of this collection of testaments and wills is by no means confined to the clauses concerning the disposition of estates, for, though the testators themselves and their lands deserve much attention, their bequests either of money or of chattels, are not entirely devoid of interest. It is true that the chattels bequeathed by the men and women of Kent whose testaments are included in this register are not very different from those to be found in other collections of testaments of this period.<sup>1</sup> A few examples of the most usual or exceptionally interesting legacies among those in Chillenden's Register will therefore suffice.

The majority of the testators were farmers, and it is not, therefore, surprising that bequests of farm produce and animals should be most numerous. Corn, either barley or wheat, was a common bequest, either in small quantities of bushels and quarters or, at least once, in a whole cartload.<sup>2</sup>

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1. The Index of the Bequests to Vol.ii of Chichele's Register is a valuable collection of various types of Medieval legacies.
2. Chillenden's Register, No. 20.

Barley was mentioned in twenty-five testaments and wheat in fifteen. One or two testators left fields of standing corn to their beneficiaries.<sup>1</sup> Malt is a less frequent bequest, though it is mentioned sometimes,<sup>2</sup> and there is only one bequest of oats<sup>3</sup> and none of rye.

Requests of livestock are almost as numerous as those of barley and wheat, and of these the most frequent are legacies of one or two sheep, especially ewes and ewe-lambs, though one testator mentions rams specifically.<sup>4</sup> There are eighteen testaments containing bequests of sheep; cattle occur too, and the practice of leaving a cow, which was to be sold to provide monetary legacies of small denominations must be mentioned;<sup>5</sup> sometimes a cow was bequeathed to a church so that her profits might support the lights of its shrines or its altars.<sup>6</sup> Steers, bullocks and oxen also appear, though less frequently.<sup>7</sup> Pigs were included in the bequests of only four testators, of whom one left a number of farm animals, and one list included

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1. Chillenden's Register, Nos. 53, 123.
  2. Ibid., Nos. 23, 91, 112.
  3. Ibid., No. 82
  4. Ibid., No. 11.
  5. Ibid., Nos. 25, 32, 44, 54.
  6. Ibid., Nos. 44, 54.
  7. Ibid., Nos. 63, 32, 34, 132.

forty-eight horses.<sup>1</sup> Nine testators made bequests of horses, and most of these were described as "geldings"; Some may possibly have been cart-horses, while two testators also made bequests of the trappings and harness.<sup>2</sup>

Almost as frequent as bequests of farm products and livestock are those of articles of general utility such as beds and bedding, cooking pots and pans, dishes, cauldrons and ladles. Eleven testaments contain bequests of sheets or blankets, and twelve mentioned domestic utensils of various kinds. Testators sometimes left the whole equipment of living room, pantry and kitchen to their widows,<sup>3</sup> besides articles of greater value like the hangings (probably tapestries or carpets, for they were part of the furnishing of the hall) which Edmund Haute left to his widow, Elizabeth. It would be a mistake to think that these household goods are quite devoid of interest. Even in themselves the copper pans, the huge iron pots and cauldrons, the pewter vessels mentioned in three testaments,<sup>4</sup> to mention the least valuable of them, were usually well made and objects of real

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1. Chillenden's Register, Nos. 112, 123, 134, 142.

2. Ibid., Nos. 32, 45, 54, 61, 65, 91, 96, 123, 134.

3. Ibid., Nos. 44, 78, 110, 123.

4. Ibid., Nos. 1, 73, 118.



beauty. Pottery does not seem to have been thought worthy of being included in any bequest, though much of the better pottery of this period is excellent in design and decoration. Even if they were completely devoid of interest, which they are not, these objects would be worthy of study, for the light they throw on the standard of living of the landholders of Kent in this period.<sup>1</sup> The basins and ewers which occur so frequently in the testaments may be taken as an example.<sup>2</sup> These formed part of the equipment of the pantry and were a very important item in the dining room for those whose refinement made them appreciative of cleanliness in an age when forks were still a rarity and fingers had to be washed between courses. Many of these articles were of silver but "even those who could not afford silver ewers and basins made use of ones made of base metal." Charles Oman says that "attractive enamelled copper basins from Limoges" were popular as early as the thirteenth century, and that "brass ewers in the form of lions and huntsmen were in use to the end of the Middle Ages." Very few of these ewers and basins have survived, as

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1. Twelve testaments contain bequests of household pots and pans.
2. Chillenden's Register, Nos. 73, 94, 95, 105, 135.
3. Charles Oman: English Domestic Silver, p. 34

they were nearly all melted down later on. There does exist, however, in Christ Church College, Oxford, one example of such a basin which belonged to Bishop Fox and is hall-marked 1493, i.e. about forty years later than the last testament in Chillenden's Register. It is small, being only sixteen-and-three-quarter inches in diameter, and is decorated with an enamelled boss and the donor's arms.<sup>1</sup> Perhaps not all those bequeathed were as beautiful as the Christchurch basin, but their owners had enough affection for them to give them names. One ewer is called "chasyr", and three of these were bequeathed separately from their basins. With the bequest of a ewer and basin there was often associated that of a hand-towel<sup>2</sup> - (manutergium).

Silverware of various kinds was a feature of many medieval testaments. Silver spoons (coclearea) and drinking vessels are especially numerous, and of the former Oman says that "a certain glamour still surrounded them even at the end of the Middle Ages," for they were "the first pieces of plate that a rising yeoman or citizen would acquire."<sup>3</sup> Unfortunately, very few indeed have survived, but they were beautifully made, with the bowl and stem in one piece, the

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1. Charles Oman: English Domestic Silver, pp. 35-36.
2. Chillenden's Register, Nos. 73, 94, 105.
3. Charles Oman: English Domestic Silver, p. 36.

latter being diamond-pointed or shaped to the figure of a woodwose, for these were the most popular shapes in the first half of the fifteenth century. Some owners liked to have their silver plate inscribed, and John Bryan of Canterbury left silver spoons with his name upon them.<sup>1</sup> Equally frequent were bequests of silver drinking vessels. These formed perhaps the largest item of domestic utensils made in silver at that time, and were of several types, goblets, godets, hanaps, peciae, ciphi and chasers, none of which it is possible to identify exactly.

The most common type of silver drinking vessel was probably the chalice shaped cup with a lid. One such is the Foundress's cup in Christ Church College, Cambridge, whose date is 1435-40.<sup>2</sup> This is twelve-and-three-quarter inches in height and is exactly like a wiborium. Another popular type was shaped like an inverted bell, a pattern which can be traced back to as early as 1417. Drinking horns decorated with silver ware were still in use too. It seems a pity that such beautiful cups should be separated from their lids, yet some testators bequeathed the cup and lid to different beneficiaries. Many, however, undoubtedly loved and treasured their silver cups, for they bestowed

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1. Chillenden's Register, No. 27.

2. Charles Oman: English Domestic Silver, p. 35.

names on them, le Note, Motyn, le Chacerpece, and le Lastour.<sup>1</sup>

Another kind of precious or semi-precious drinking cup which is met with as frequently as the silver ciphus or pecia, was the mazer. Mazers were bowls made of spotted or speckled maple wood, and decorated with silver rims and bosses.<sup>2</sup>

There are few left now, but two good fifteenth century mazers are kept in the little museum of the old leper hospital at Harbledown, near Canterbury. *how in visit* *All Soul mazer*

After spoons and drinking vesseks, the silver salt-cellar was much valued and passed down in the family with the other precious domestic articles. It was thought worthy of inclusion in many a testament. Fancy salts became very popular in the late Middle Ages, and could be made in many forms and shapes, to represent shells, flowers, animals or human beings. The crowned falcon and the dragon were frequently used motifs. But the most beautiful of English Medieval salt-cellars, according to Charles Oman, is "the giant salt of All Souls' College, Oxford." It is the work of a mid-fifteenth century craftsman, and is made to

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1. Chillenden's Register, Nos. 73, 116, 125.
2. Charles Oman: op.cit. p. 20, and W.H. St. John Hope: "On the English Medieval Drinking Bowls called Mazers," Archaeologia, 1. (1887).

represent a huntsman holding a crystal bowl to contain the salt. "Around him are minute figures of a bag-piper and stags.<sup>1</sup>" Margery Mason left two salts, to her daughter Margaret, a silver vessel without a lid, and another with a cover to her other daughter, Elene.<sup>2</sup>

Another quite different article of daily use which was often decorated with gold or silver was the belt. The best belt was clearly an important and valuable bequest, and was therefore often reserved for the eldest son.<sup>3</sup> They were often handed down in the family, and John Hampton left his daughter, Isabella, a silver belt which had once belonged to her mother.<sup>4</sup> Another testator left a belt to be equally divided between his two daughters, who were to arrange between them who should keep the belt itself, and give the other sister half its value.<sup>5</sup> These belts have been made a subject of special study by Joan Evans, who describes them as "an important feature of fifteenth century dress for both men and women." Some of them were studded with plaques of gold or enamel, others were decorated with silver, or made entirely of

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1. Charles Oman: English Domestic Silver, p. 32
2. Chillenden's Register, No. 116.
3. Ibid., No. 126.
4. Ibid., No. 127. Thirteen testaments in the Register contain legacies of silver belts.
5. Chillenden's Register, No. 106.

silver clasps. "Even the humbler folk," she says, harnessed their leather belts or belts of stuff with precious metal."<sup>1</sup> Perhaps, on account of this, these belts should be classed as jewellery. William Parker mentions his silver belts along with his brooches, a gold collar, gold laces, and bodices made of cloth of gold.<sup>2</sup>

Among the bequests of jewellery, we may also include rosaries, several of which occur in the register. The beads were made of coral, agate, beryl or amber, and some had coins or medals of some sort attached to them. Thomas Jeakyn, Vicar of Newington, left two rosaries, one of amber and one with coral aves and pater-nosters of silver.<sup>3</sup> Rosaries were often worn round the neck like a necklace at this period, and could be made of even more precious material and delicately shaped.<sup>4</sup>

Other jewelled articles to occur in Chillenden's register are jewelled swords and daggers, brooches, rings and an ivory comb.<sup>5</sup> Several testators left finger-rings, either of gold or silver; for example William Herberd left four

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1. Joan Evans: A History of Jewellery 1100-1876, p.78.
  2. Chillenden's Register, No. 63.
  3. Ibid., No. 50.
  4. Joan Evans: A History of Jewellery 1100-1876, p. 83.
  5. Chillenden's Register, Nos. 45, 54, 57, 63, 90.

gold rings of which one enclosed a sapphire, and a silver signet ring in addition.<sup>1</sup> Margery Mason also had three gold rings which she ordered to be sold after her death.<sup>2</sup>

That these precious objects should be left as legacies causes little surprise, but at first it seems strange that the important landed folk of the fifteenth century should consider it worth while to leave their personal garments to their families and friends. This was, however, a usual custom, and few testaments omit such a characteristic bequest, although only a minority of these garments were made of materials which were luxurious. Satin was mentioned once in this register, velvet or silk once or twice, and a few cloaks were furred with miniver which was reserved for the nobility or the very wealthy, for it was really expensive;<sup>3</sup> but the greater number were made of good, ordinary English cloth, like blanket or russet, and were either lined to keep out the cold, or furred with coney, beaver or lamb. But some indication was always given as to the type of garment, whether it was a colobium, jupa, doublet, kirtle, cloak with or

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1. Chillenden's Register, No. 136.
2. Ibid., No. 116.
3. F.E. Baldwin: op.cit. pp. 89, 81.

without a hood, or simply a toga. The colour was also mentioned of which the most popular seems to have been blodius, a vivid blue, but striped (stragulatus) garments were favoured too.<sup>1</sup> Some of these clothes sound most attractive, like the scarlet cloak furred with miniver which Agnes Plesyngton left.<sup>2</sup> Testators occasionally bequeathed shoes,<sup>3</sup> but these were generally offerings for the poor, while cloaks and gowns would be bequeathed to one's best and most respected friends. There can be no doubt that clothes were treasured as valuable chattels, and that the early fifteenth century was also a dress-conscious age.<sup>4</sup>

Of household furniture more mention is made than one would expect. Beds one would expect, for they were an almost inevitable bequest in any English will until at least two hundred years later. The sort of beds mentioned in testaments were by no means simple couches or truckle-beds,

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1. For a detailed account of materials and colours in use at this period, see Daniel Rock: Textile Fabrics (1870), a descriptive catalogue of South Kensington Museum.
2. Chillenden's Register, No. 47.
3. Ibid., Nos. 12, 20, 28, 33, 82, 83, 94.
4. Luxu/ry materials were terribly expensive. Baudekyn (cloth of gold) cost £11 the yard, according to Rock: op.cit.p.42; but of ordinary cloths the most expensive such as murrey and mustrevilliers cost 2/6 per yard, and the cheapest, as russets, 5d to 8d. per yard. cf. Power and Postan: English Trade in the Fifteenth Century, p.8



though we know these were <sup>in</sup> common use at this time, but great erections of wood and cloth with elaborate hangings and covers. The whole bed was sometimes of enormous proportions, "like a room within a room", wrote John Gloag.<sup>1</sup> Testators often describe the various parts of these beds, the frame or tester<sup>2</sup> with its supporting posts, the canopy, the heavy curtains which hung round the whole erection, the counterpane, embroidered or decorated, and the bedding consisting of mattresses, which were sometimes feather-stuffed, bolsters, pillows, sheets, blankets and quilts.<sup>3</sup> Less frequently does one find bequests of articles of furniture, though tables together with their trestles, cupboards, benches, stools, settles and chairs all occur.<sup>4</sup>

There are said to have been few chairs in ordinary use in the fifteenth century, so the latter are the most surprising bequests made by Margery Mason and Alice Sander. Even in Tudor times chairs were rare, for "settles, benches, and stools were the ordinary seats," chairs being regarded as "symbols of authority reserved for the master of the house and distinguished guests."<sup>5</sup> Neither of the testators

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1. J. Gloag: A History of English Furniture (London 1952) p.43

2. The testers were sometimes carved or painted.  
cf. Chillenden's Register, Nos. 54, 91.

3. Chillenden's Register, Nos. 32, 39, 47, 64, 73,  
76, 93, 94, 116, 135, 142.

4. Ibid., 1, 94, 116, 142.

5. Ralph Edwards: A History of the English Chair (London 1951)  
p.5.

described her chair, but they may have been X-shaped like the fifteenth-century chair in York Minster which was "originally covered with fabric and leather." Or they may have been box-like chairs with very high backs like thrones. Such throne-like chairs were made by coffer-makers during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, but were not at all common.

The coffer, however, from which they had been derived, was to be found in almost every house, and already had a long history by the beginning of the fifteenth century. There are several references to coffers or chests in this register and some testators mentioned more than one.<sup>1</sup> Chests, like silver cups and ewers, seem to have been objects of special affection, for pet names were given them. A favourite name was "ship-worthy" which probably describes a sea-chest. John Bryan left "his chest, called Shipwirth, the best of two he had," to the Sacristan of St. Gregory's Church in Canterbury; and Christine Benayt described one of her four chests as Schypwycth.<sup>2</sup> Margery Mason left two large chests, one with six locks.<sup>3</sup> However, none of the testators in

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1. Chillenden's Register, Nos. 27, 94, 116.

2. Ibid., 27, 94.

3. Ibid., 116.

Chillenden's register mentioned a Flanders chest, which is a little strange, since these were extremely popular at the time and were being imported in considerable quantities.<sup>1</sup>

However, one of the chests mentioned in the register may almost certainly be identified, though it was not a bequest. This is the fine and very early English chest in Graveney Church, whose date cannot be later than the first quarter of the 13th century, and which Roe describes as "a simple receptacle of heart of oak," whose only decoration consists in "the pointed arches very lightly incised on the facade."<sup>2</sup> It is more than likely that this is the very chest mentioned by John Martyn in which he wished the ten marks bequeathed to Graveney parish to be kept.<sup>3</sup> Chests were used as cupboards for keeping money and valuables, for storing clothes, and especially for books.

Books, in fact are among the most interesting bequests in any series of wills, and especially fascinating

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1. Fred Roe: Ancient Church Chests and Chairs in the Home Counties: (London 1929) p. 26.
2. Fred Roe: op. cit. p. 104.
3. Chillenden's Register, No.25. The earliest ruling regard-parochial chests seems to have taken place at Esher in Surrey in 1308, after a dispute between the rector and his parishioners over the loss of Church goods by theft. The Bishop ordered a chest to be provided at the parishioners' expense in which books, vestments and chalice were to be kept, locked. cf. Charles Drew: Early Parochial Organisation in England, (1954), St. Anthony's Hall Publication No. 7.

in the Medieval period when they were still comparatively rare. A few occur in this register. Robert Brygham left a Bible and a part, or perhaps the whole, of Gratian's Liber Decretorum to Merton College, Oxford. Both volumes may have had their first folio missing, for Brygham quoted the incipit of the second folio in each case. It is possible that these books were complete, however, for there was a custom of identifying books by the second folio rather than the first because "those of the first leaf would be the same in many copies."<sup>1</sup> The Bible incipit, "Die de terra" creates a difficulty, since no such incipit exists. However, the testator may possibly have been referring to Genesis ii, 4, "in die quo fecit Dominus Deus caelum et terram."<sup>2</sup> The incipit of the Liber Decretorum is easier to recognise, for "Quadragesimo sex septimanas" must refer to the part of the decretal on the Lenter Observance."<sup>3</sup>

John Clarke, eleemosinary chaplain of Christ Church, Canterbury, left several books. A Benedictional was bequeathed to Matthew Assheton, the Commissary-General; a Missal to the nuns of Minister in Sheppey; a Manual and Processional to the parish of Minster, and an Antiphonal for daily use in the

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1. C. Wordsworth and H. Littlehales: The Old Service Books of the English Church (1904) p. 85.
2. Biblia Sacra iuxta Vulgatae (Edited Fillion).
3. Gratian: Corpus Juris Canonici (Friedburg edition) 1879.

elemosinary chapel of Christ Church Cathedral. To John Walter, the chaplain of the same chapel, he left his own Breviary and a copy of Pars Oculi. It is impossible to be certain which Manual this was. It may have been the Manuale Sacerdotis of John Mirk, which is described by Mr. W.A. Pantin as "an elaborate and learned treatise on the responsibilities and duties of the priestly state."<sup>1</sup> There were, moreover, several treatises or manuals of pastoral theology extant at this time, so it may have been any one of them. On the other hand, it may have been an ordinary service book, containing the occasional offices a priest had to perform, such as the Baptismal services, the Purification of women or the Visitation of the sick, for all such books were also familiarly known as manuals.<sup>2</sup> Pars Oculi is easy to identify. It was the first part of the well-known treatise for parish priests known as Oculus Sacerdotis, almost certainly written by William of Pagula in the fourteenth century. Part one was a manual for confessors.<sup>3</sup>

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1. W.A. Pantin: The English Church in the Fourteenth Century p. 215.
  2. C. Wordsworth and H. Littlehales: op.cit. pp. 213-216.
  3. Ibid., p. 215.

Thomas Smith, the rector of Little Chart, left a legacy of several sets of vestments and altar hangings to his own, and to other parish churches.<sup>1</sup> His bequests also included a Breviary.<sup>2</sup> Not all testators of books were clerics. A copy of the Matins of our Lady was left by John Lyon to his daughter, Alice; and another by Christina Benayt to her son, William. Hamo Kynggesnothe left Hamo, son of John Dryver, a Primer and a Psalter.<sup>3</sup> Perhaps the beneficiary was his godson, for godchildren often took the Christian names of their sponsors, and many testators of this period made a point of leaving something to their godsons and god-daughters.<sup>4</sup>

It is interesting to learn that laymen and laywomen possessed such books and passed them on to others, probably for their personal use since, according to Mr. Pantin, "the rise of the devout and literate layman was one of the most important phenomena of the religious history of the later Middle Ages,"<sup>5</sup> and he has shown that this was true not only of members of the nobility like Cicely, Duchess of York, but of

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1. He left bequests to the Church of Lenham, the chapel at Burley, the chaplain of St. Pauls, London, the rector of Ditchling, and the Reverend William Chamber of Wye.
2. Chillenden's Register, No. 54.
3. Ibid., No. 22. The Primer was the most usual prayer book for the laity from the thirteenth century until the Reformation: cf. Wordsworth and Littlehales, op.cit. p. 228
4. Eighteen testators in Chillenden's Register did so.
5. W.A. Pantin: op.cit., p. 253.

ordinary householders on a lower level of society. Testators also left money sometimes, that books might be bought for a church or repaired. James Powys bequeathed six silver marks to the church of St. Nicholas in New Romney that the parish might be able to buy a book containing the lives of the Saints, Legenda Sanctorum; and Edward Septvans of Ash wanted a missal to be mended for use in the parish church of Worth.<sup>1</sup> This Legenda Sanctorum was probably of the type described by Wordsworth and Littlehales for use in the parish church, rather than the legenda of the Breviary. They say "besides the books which fall properly under the heading of the legenda and the volumes from which was compiled, we find a few other books occasionally mentioned in Church inventories. Some volumes were laid upon desks and sometimes secured by chains for the edification of those who could read them, and for the benefit of the clerks watching the shrines and altars or waiting for penitents to be shrived. Others were provided to enable the clergy to give instruction to their parishioners, and either took the form of what a later age has called 'sermon-helps' or of books to be read aloud for edification of the people."<sup>2</sup>

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1. Chillenden's Register, Nos. 128 and 135.

2. C. Wordsworth and L. Littlehales: op.cit., p. 139

The bequests of chattels provide a fascinating topic for further inquiry, as these fifteenth-century testators revealed so much about their values and way of living by the bequests they made. Not only their furniture and clothing, but even their piety and education emerge as we read what they left to their families and friends. Without the bequests of chattels, a delightful and intimate glimpse into the daily life of the testators would be lost to us. For this fact alone, they are of real historical value.



(g) Bequests of Money,  
and the uses to which these were put.

Money bequests form a large proportion of the total number in many of these testaments, and it is useful, not only to consider who the chief beneficiaries were, and how much was left to them, but to examine the status and geographical distribution throughout the county of the richer testators. Such an attempt ought to be made, yet it is full of dangers. In the first place, it must be borne in mind that a bequest of money does not logically mean that the testator had that much money, for it has been suggested that Medieval testators bequeathed more than they possessed. If this were true, it would make any arguments based on such bequests hazardous. However, it is difficult to believe that the majority of testators were in the habit of leaving specific sums of money which they knew were quite beyond their resources, and common-sense demands some sort of equation between the actual bequests and the wealth of the testator.

Another difficulty arises from the terminology of a great many testators whose vagueness makes an exact statistical examination of their testament impossible, or whose bequests were subject to conditions whose fulfilment cannot now be ascertained. All that can be done in such cases is to add up the actual figures as they appear in the testaments

and proceed to argue from the data they provide. The results may perhaps be not absolutely without value if the above warnings are taken into consideration.

An examination of the testators who bequeathed the most money suggests that the richer men and women of Kent were not concentrated in Canterbury or any one of the large towns. Nor were they all merchants. Of the thirty-three who left over £20, only three were definitely merchants; John Boteler, John Style and Hugh Bys; these three were Sandwich men. John Boteler, the cloth merchant left over £450, and more than any other testator in the register. John Style, a shipmaster, left over £84; and Hugh Bys, a merchant engaged in the foreign wine trade, over £27. The ten richest testators who left between them £1713, were: John Boteler, William Kynet, Thomas Wykes, Joan Denys, Edward Septvans, John Martyn, Robert Brygham, Henry Lynde, John Spyll, and Edmund Haute, in that order. None of these left less than £85 in legacies and money, and of these ten at least five drew their wealth from rural estates. It is possible that all did. Only eight testators left over £100, and of these one came from Sandwich and two from Canterbury. William Kynett of Bonnington, second richest testator in the register bequeathed £240, all of which was

to be raised from the sale of lands in the rich soil of the North of Romney Marsh. Those who left between £50 and £100 included two men and one widow from Canterbury, the Sandwich shipmaster John Style, John Spyhyll of Pevington, Edmund Haute of Bishopsbourne, and Thomas atte Brygge of Lydd. There is a larger group of eighteen testators who left between £20 and £50. This group includes one Canterbury testator, Robert Bartlott, and the Sandwich merchant, Hugh Bys. The rest, among whom occur such famous Kentish names as Fogg, Septvans, and Cosington, were mostly rural estate holders whose houses were in the prosperous little Kentish towns of Aylesford, Ivychurch, Ash, Staple, Kingsnorth, Harrietsham, Smardon and Hythe. Thus, the testators who bequeathed most money appear to have been as representative a body of both the towns and the rural areas in Kent as one could wish to find. If these figures mean anything at all, they show that Kent in the fifteenth century did not depend on the trade or industry of any one urban agglomeration, but on a considerable number of prosperous small towns and on its rich soil. And W.K. Jordan came to the same conclusion when he examined the character of Kent during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.<sup>1</sup>

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1. W.K. Jordan: Social Institutions in Kent, 1480-1660  
Arch.Cant. lxxv (1961), p.3.

The chief beneficiaries of this wealth were members of the testators' own families. Of a total of over £2200, over £1000, or nearly fifty per cent of all the monetary bequests, went to the relations of the testators. And a great deal of this, if one excepts the large bequest of five-hundred marks which John Boteler left in trust for his son, Richard, was set aside to provide marriage dowries. The dowry money amounts to over £400, nearly twenty per cent of the total, and this does not include charitable giving, such as dowries to poor, unnamed relatives or other poor girls which come into a different category. Dowries ranged usually from ten to twenty marks, though some provided forty marks for this purpose, and Thomas Wykes left the exceptionally generous dowry of a hundred marks for his daughter Joan. The rest of the money bequeathed to relatives was left to fathers, brothers, mothers and sisters, and there are a few bequests to nephews and nieces. After relations, the testators remembered their friends by the bequest of many a small money legacy, particularly if those friends were also executors or feoffees. Some of these are of special interest like the forty shillings which Edmund Haute left to William Hugham, the vicar of Northgate, Canterbury, for it is pleasant to know that the vicar remembered Edmund Haute in his will, when

he, like his friend, came to die and left money to be spent on requiems for him.<sup>1</sup>

After their families and friends a great deal of the money mentioned in these testaments was left for the soul of the testator himself, or for requiems for himself and others. Altogether over £230 was bequeathed for the testators' own souls, that is over eleven per cent of the total, and this sum does not include certain rents and other revenues from lands which were to be set aside for this purpose, nor the endowment of a chantry chapel at twelve marks per year. Most of this money was to be spent in the provision of stipends for a chantry priest for a specified length of time, while many smaller sums were devoted to the requiems which were customary on the Funeral Day, the Month Mind and Anniversary. The custom known as legitim by which the testator's wealth was divided into three portions, one of which was reserved for the soul of the testator, does not seem to have been common in Kent for only three testators refer to it.<sup>2</sup> Of the monetary bequests for the soul of the testator

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1. cf. Chichele's Register, Vol.ii, pp. 102-105 for the testament of William Hugham. He left two separate sums for Edmund Haute, £6.13.4. to the Reverend William Bedynden, Canon of St. Gregory's Priory, Canterbury "to pray for my soul and the soul of my friend, Edmund Haute" and five marks to the Vicar of Bekesbourne "to pray for soul of Edmund Haute." He also left James, a servant of Haute's, 3/4d.
  2. Chillenden's Register. Nos. 45, 58, 129.

the most interesting are those which require a pilgrimage to be made to some well-known shrine, there to pray and offer mass in the name of the testator. Two testators required a pilgrim to go to St. James of Compostella in Spain, four mentioned Rome and in particular, the Church of Scala Celi, while others were content with Walsingham or Brislington.<sup>1</sup> It is worth noting that this money was less than that set aside for the poor, infirm, prisoners, or hospital-dwellers, and for old servants. For these needs, about £550 was left, i.e., about twenty-five per cent of the total.

This subject brings to us one of the most fascinating aspects of history on which the study of testaments throws some light, the social conscience of the time. Though conscience belongs essentially to individuals, and exceptions can be found in every society and age, there does exist, and can be demonstrated, a norm of thought and behaviour which may be regarded as the reflection of the social conscience of a particular period. Nothing else is so elusive as this, and surely no aspect of History is more susceptible of vagueness and loose generalisation. In the past, the fifteenth century has suffered particularly from general-

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1. Chillenden's Register, Nos. 22, 94, 105, 125, 127, 131.

one-sided evidence. Huizinga considered the later Middle Ages an hysterical and morbid period characterised by both emotionalism and shallowness of thought.<sup>1</sup> He was chiefly concerned with the Netherlands, but many of his remarks apply equally to France and England, for the society he condemned in the low Countries was not isolated from the rest of Europe, and had affinities with these two countries in particular. It should be remembered that Huizinga's view was questioned almost at once. C.G. Crump remarked that The Waning of the Middle Ages "leaves on the mind a curious impression, a sort of suspicion seizes the reader that if Professor Huizinga was right, most men who lived in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries must have been practically insane," and he at once added, "one's mind revolts from such a conclusion." and suggested where "an antidote might be found to such a poisonous error." It consisted in remembering that no society ever existed in which most men and women were not engaged in the regular daily task of earning their own living. This methodical basis of all history must always have gone in the most violent and apparently the least sane periods.<sup>2</sup>

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1. J. Huizinga: The Waning of the Middle Ages, translated translated by F. Hopman (1929) especially Ch.ii "Pessimism and the Ideal of the Sublime Life."
  2. C/F. Crump's Review of Huizinga's book. History (July 1925)

But even so great a historian as David Knowles echoes Stubbs' condemnation of the age as a whole and retains a most gloomy view. "With the decline of philosophy and theology, with humanism still the pursuit of a very few", he writes, "the level of culture of the civilised intelligent life fell to a uniform mediocrity.... pecuniary values and economic gains were nearly exclusive of all others... It is an earthy, selfish, grasping age."<sup>1</sup> Knowles was dealing primarily with monastic life, where, it is true, little vitality can be found at this period. Nevertheless, even the Religious Orders were not all decadent, for the Carthusians and Brigittines provide a striking exception, while spiritual sincerity and real seriousness of purpose was by no means confined to the monasteries at any period of history. Just because of the growing importance of lay society and lay education at this time, the moral attitude and religious principles of secular men and women in the fifteenth century deserve special attention from historians.

An extraordinarily different viewpoint from that of Professor Knowles is provided by the work of Pierre Janelle. To this French historian the English fifteenth century saw a religious revival after the really dark period of the

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1. D. Knowles: The Religious Orders in England.  
(Cambridge 1959) Vol. III, pp. 5-6.



fourteenth century "Il en va tout entremment à la fin du XV<sup>e</sup> siècle" he wrote, "nous observons de tous côtés les manifestations d'un véritable renouveau de la foi et surtout de la piété dans le cadre de la religion traditionnelle."<sup>1</sup> He formed this opinion chiefly from the English demand for ascetical, liturgical and mystical literature as soon as the printing press was established, and from the testimony of English wills. He noted too, the movement for the education of the clergy which began with the foundation of Queen's College at Cambridge in 1445. To Janelle the characteristics of spiritual vitality, especially among the English laity of the fifteenth century were an interest in the contemplative life, earnest striving after personal moral perfection and an intense awareness of the Providence of God.

It is significant that he did not neglect the study of English wills, for in the absence of diaries, letters or other more intimate contemporary documents, wills and testaments remain the chief source of information on this point.

So far it has been suggested that family affection, care for the needy members of society, and care for one's own

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1. Pierre Janelle: L'Angleterre Catholique à la veille du Schisme (Paris) 1935, pp. 13-34.

soul after death were the most influential factors determining the disposal of monetary wealth on the part of the majority of fifteenth-century testators. There is nothing unexpected or unnatural in this, even if provision for one's family and almsgiving had not long been regarded as the primary obligations of the testator. What is perhaps a little surprising as it is certainly admirable, is the difference in the percentage of the total between the bequests for the testator's own souls, viz. eleven per cent, and the bequests for almsgiving, viz. twenty-five per cent.

Testators also seem to have taken a genuine interest in the upkeep and decoration of their parish churches, for although the small sums bequeathed "to the high altar to atone for tithes neglected or omitted" may be nothing more than common practice and common form, many additional bequests were made to these and other churches in the neighbourhood and mention of special shrines, of windows, bell-towers, paving stones, roods, cemetery enclosures, reredos, benches and other church furniture reveals a piety which might be criticised as unthinking, but which was certainly individual and practical. The fact that hardly an old English parish church exists which did not receive some addition or alteration to its structure at this period from the donations of lay folk is a proof of the interest which was taken in them.

It is doubtful whether at any age so much was given by private individuals of moderate means towards church building in England as in the fifteenth century. "There is no period at which money was lavished so freely on English parish churches as in the fifteenth century," wrote Hamilton Thompson<sup>1</sup>, and this is as true of Kent as any other county.<sup>2</sup>

The testaments in Chillenden's Register give some indication of this, for of the total bequests over £300, about fourteen per cent of the total was left for the fabric, extension or decoration of parish churches. There occur a number of legacies to the fabric of the nave, and in one or two cases we are given the information that the nave or church was actually being built at the time.<sup>3</sup> Several legacies were left for the repair or completion of bell-towers,<sup>4</sup> four testators left money to provide for the erection of stained-glass windows,<sup>5</sup> two left bequests for paving the church.<sup>6</sup> On the other hand, only three testators took care to specify what sort of a monument they wanted,<sup>7</sup>

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1. A. Hamilton Thompson: The English Clergy (1947) pp. 128-30.

2. W.K. Jordan: Social Institutions in Kent 1480-1660, Arch. Cant. Vol. lxxv (1961), p. 117.

3. Chillenden's Register, Nos. 15, 39.

4. Ibid., Nos. 2, 20, 28, 90, 139.

5. Ibid., Nos. 27, 53, 75, 131.

6. Ibid., Nos. 54, 131.

7. Ibid., Nos. 25, 28, 131.

though historians of this period have remarked on "the deep concern with which men and women of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries made arrangements for their obsequies."<sup>1</sup> A morbid pre-occupation with death is said to have been characteristic of the late Middle Ages as a feature of a civilisation in decay. Such a pre-occupation is not suggested by the number of bequests for wax candles round the bier or black-hooded tunics for the six men who accompanied the bier, torches in hand. It is true that some testators mention these things, but the majority took all the details of their obsequies for granted, and after setting aside a certain sum of money for funeral expenses left the outlay of that money to their executors.<sup>2</sup> And it may not have been morbid pre-occupation with death, but family pride which directed John Martyn to spend so much time describing the details of his monumental brass which was to be "as fine as possible."<sup>3</sup> It is noteworthy that he took great care to describe the coats of arms he wished engraved upon this brass, both his own and those of his wife. However, he is the sole example in this Register of a testator who showed himself deeply

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1. N. Harris Nicholas: Testamenta Vetusta, (London, 1826) p.vi.
  2. Only five testators actually mentioned these things in their testaments, i.e. Nos. 48, 76, 94, 103, 131.
  3. Chillenden's Register, No. 25.

concerned with armorial bearings. This may be due simply to his exceptional position and wealth as a Justice of the Common Pleas, but other testators were wealthy too, and it has been shown that their chief interests seem to have been directed towards the disposition of their real estate by Enfeoffment to Use, which demonstrates a healthy concern for the living as well as a clear and hard-headed business sense.

However, it must be remembered that these Kentish land-owners were generous as well as business-like, and their attitude to the poor and towards their social responsibilities as a whole needs closer attention. Professor Jordan in a recent work has criticised strongly the whole attitude of the Middle Ages towards human suffering, for he argues that they "were acutely sensitive to the spiritual needs of mankind while displaying only scant or ineffectual concern with the alleviation or cure of the ills that affect the bodies of so large a mass of humanity."<sup>1</sup> However, it is a fact that the vast majority of medieval testators not only set aside money for the poor of their locality, but often left bequests of other necessities such as food, clothes, furniture and firewood. When Professor Jordan comes to the consideration of Kent, he admits that "concern with the plight

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1. W.K. Jordan: Philanthropy in England 1480-1661  
(London 1959) p. 16.

of the poor was marked in Kent at the very outset of our era (i.e. 1480) even though the problem of poverty was at no time so acute in Kent as in most parts of the realm "and allows that "even during the decades prior to the Reformation ... there was in Kent not only a substantial but an intelligent concern with the problem of indigence.<sup>1</sup>

An examination of Chillenden's Register reveals that if we set aside funeral doles altogether, the one-hundred and-forty testators in East Kent in the short period under consideration left the poor of the locality over £500 and in addition a good deal of clothing, including gowns and cloaks, ninety-three pairs of shoes, ten sheets, a feather bed, twelve ells of blanket and two hundred logs for firing, (the last to be given at Christmas time for a period of ten years). Specific mention was twice made of the disabled<sup>2</sup> and two testators mentioned a needy person by name. In one case the wife was entrusted with the care of such a person, and her legacy was dependent on her fulfilling the trust.<sup>3</sup>

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1. W.K. Jordan: Social Institutions in Kent. pp. 5-7.
  2. Chillenden's Register, Nos. 2, 46.
  3. Ibid, Nos. 102, 104.

Prisoners were not neglected either,<sup>1</sup> and money was once left for the maintenance of a poor boy.<sup>2</sup> John Martyn's interesting bequest to the parishes of Dartford and Graveney has already been noted.<sup>3</sup> Such bequests created a fund which could be used in cases of real need. Others were concerned with the welfare of their dependents, servants and apprentices. Altogether twenty-four testators left legacies to servants, many of which were monetary bequests of various denominations from forty pence to ten marks, and others made bequests of stock such as corn, sheep, cattle or household goods. Two testators made arrangements with their feoffees for land to be given as a reward for good service. John atte Wode of Hollingbourne, who made his will in 1447 left Stephen Ladreve, his servant, three acres of land "called Storroke adjoining Blowhunt Forstall", in perpetuity after the death of his widow, Juliana.<sup>4</sup> Nicholas Swetfray, the servant of Robert Stonstrete was rewarded with a messuage and four acres of land in Brookland

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1. Chillenden's Register, Nos. 25, 46, 54.

2. Ibid., 46.

3. Supra. 57.

4. Chillenden's Register, No. 117.

for the duration of his life.<sup>1</sup> Historians have already remarked on the interesting clause in Sir William Septvans' testament by which he granted his ~~six~~<sup>five</sup> serfs "their full liberty" and directed that each should receive a charter of manumission.<sup>2</sup> Richard Blakebrook left Mabel, his godchild, £5 on condition that she worked for Isabella, his wife, and accepted Isabella's advice concerning her marriage, while Nicholas Rede left 26/8 to Henry, his apprentice, stipulating that he should work in the testator's shop for a year after his death for his wife, Joan.<sup>3</sup> These bequests seem positive and practical enough, and the grants of a house and land to old servants were exceptionally generous.

It is true that many of the bequests for the poor may be described as funeral doles and might deserve the epithet of indiscriminate, but the amount spent on such almsgiving as a work of piety was not large enough to encourage pauperism, and Jordan has not succeeded in proving his contention that "such almsgiving created a greater poverty than it cured." Most historians are agreed that the terrible problems of poverty and vagrancy which troubled

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1. Chillenden's Register: No. 134.
  2. Ibid., No. 41: cf. Alexander Savine, "Bondmen under the Tudors". T.R.H.S. New series, Vol.xvii (1903) p.235,n.5, and M.T. Pearman, "Villinage in Kent", Arch.Cant.Vol.xii (1878), p. 285.
  3. Chillenden's Register, Nos. 33 and 55.



the state in the mid-sixteenth century had little to do with almsgiving or the lack of it. Certainly the efforts made by the state to deal with the particular problems of the sixteenth century were quite uncalled for at the period within which these testaments lie. In fact, the really hard cases of poverty in a medieval village, those which concerned the widowed, the aged and the impotent, were probably all dealt with in a very constructive way by the customary land-law which provided dower for such persons. Frances Page has proved the existence, and demonstrated the practical working of a customary poor law on the Abbot of Crowland's manors in Cambridgeshire, and has drawn attention to interesting parallels in districts as far apart as Lancashire, Durham, Hampshire, Wiltshire and Hereford.<sup>1</sup>

W.K. Jordan, however, who was concerned more with private giving than with customary law, after noting the efforts of individuals to heal the social wounds of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and after studying wills and testaments of those two centuries, claims that "the sensitive social conscience of the late sixteenth and seventeenth centuries was mainly responsible for a veritable revolution during which private donors repaired the damage society had maintained from the slow ruin of the Middle Ages."<sup>2</sup> The proof of this

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1. Francis M. Page: "The Customary Poor Law of three Cambridgeshire Manors", The Cambridge Hist. Journal. vol. iii, No.2 (1930) pp. 125-133.
  2. W.K. Jordan: Philanthropy in England, p. 241.

assertion was to be found in the graph indicating an extraordinary rise in the scale of private giving from 1550 to 1600. However, according to Laurence Stone, Jordan's graphs are not to be trusted, for they are based on "a major methodological error", since Jordan did not succeed in constructing a reliable index of monetary inflation, and admitted that all his figures were of face value. Since the period with which he was dealing was one of ever-increasing inflation, Stone has reversed the conclusions he made. "Never", according to Stone, did the level of giving in the late sixteenth and seventeenth centuries "reach the level of the first decade of the sixteenth century."<sup>1</sup>

It is a pity that the same methodological error is to be found in Jordan's latest book, Social Institutions in Kent, and it would be most rewarding to be able to consult a graph which might indicate the level of giving for the century previous to 1480. But no historian has attempted to make such a graph. While the lack of sufficient documentary evidence would render such a mathematical approach unreliable, it may be argued that the testaments of the early fifteenth

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1. Laurence Stone: Review of Jordan's Philanthropy in England, History (October, 1959).

century certainly do not suggest a callous unconcern for human needs. On the contrary, they are indications that a social conscience was beginning to develop among the merchants and landholders which concerned itself with the general welfare of the parish and the locality.

Besides leaving money for the fabric and work of their parish churches, for specific works like the erection or repair of bell towers, naves and chancels, testators also made some bequests for the repair of roads, the maintenance of bridges and walls, and provision of utilities like market stalls. Altogether £40 was left for these purposes, i.e. 1.5 per cent of the total monetary bequests. And the emergence of the churchwardens as trustees of the parishioners which was a fifteenth-century parochial development, provided the necessary local machinery for the administration of money or any form of property left to a parish for a specific purpose.<sup>1</sup> So John Martyn left his bequests for the poor at Dartford and Graveney in the hands of "men of the better sort"

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1. cf. Charles Drew: op.cit., p. 20. cf. Chillenden's Register No. 105. Drew has shown that the earliest series of Churchwarden's accounts date from the mid-fourteenth century. The office originated by reason of the collective responsibility placed upon parishioners of providing in part for the upkeep of the church and the safe custody of its ornaments and utensils.

in those parishes, who were to be responsible for the money which accrued and keep a balance in the parish chest.<sup>1</sup>

Thomas atte Brygge of Lydd made his will in the form of a tripartite indenture and entrusted the churchwardens of Woodchurch with the third part of it, while his feoffees were to keep onexpart and the twelve jurors of Lydd the second part.<sup>2</sup> One can hardly doubt that these arrangements, no less than the bequests themselves, reveal a sense of social responsibility, incipient as yet but promising.

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1. Chillenden's Register, No. 25.

2. Ibid., No. 111.

(h) Kentish Society in the Later Middle Ages

In some ways the early fifteenth century was probably a golden age for the landed men of Kent, and this view, which is borne out by the researches of several historians today, quite contradicts the older conception of later Medieval society which may be found, for example, in the pages of Denton or Holdsworth. To the former, the fifteenth century was the end of an era,<sup>1</sup> and Holdsworth contrasted the static character of society in the fifteenth century with the expansiveness and progress of the sixteenth. "In the Middle Ages", he says, "the lines between the different classes of society were well defined, the various orders of the peerage, the knights, the esquires, the gentlemen, the clergy, the lawyers, the merchants, the yeomen, the villeins, all held a very different status of their own." And later on he went so far as to say that "this sharpness of definition gave to all the class distinctions of the Middle Ages a certain element of caste."<sup>2</sup>

By contrast, when speaking of the sixteenth century, he

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1. W. Denton: England in the Fifteenth Century (London 1888) His views were criticised by C.L. Kingsford, who in Prejudice and Promise in Fifteenth Century England (Oxford, 1925), showed that in many respects the fifteenth century saw the dawn of a new era of progress and expansion.
2. W. Holdsworth: History of English Law, Vol. iv, pp. 202-3.

says "more scope was allowed to individual activity and initiative, it was never impossible for talented members of a family to rise in a few generations to the highest positions in the state," and concludes with the theory that "by the end of the sixteenth century the rigidity of the Medieval class system has given place to the definite yet flexible class distinctions of modern English Society." These opinions on the difference in the nature of society between the so-called "Medieval" and "Modern" England have been, and still are, widely accepted. However, there can be no doubt that they are false, because they are grossly exaggerated. Though sharpness of definition may undoubtedly be found in the fifteenth-century documents, e.g. in the Sumptuary laws, it is possible that this terminology was in point of fact of less importance in every-day life than is sometimes imagined. Rather it seems true to say that in the fifteenth, as in the sixteenth century, the possession of money and land was the really significant factor in determining social status. And the fifteenth century, like the sixteenth, saw many a union of merchant and knightly families. Furthermore, the land-market in Kent at least, was quite exceptionally busy, so that new men were able to take their place among the older landed families of the shire.

Silvia Thrupp has pointed out a great number of examples of inter-marriage between merchants' sons and daughters and those of the aristocracy at this period. According to her, "social relations between merchants and gentry, in the fifteenth century, were already complex and were far from being governed in all respects by clear-cut attitudes of superiority on one side and inferiority on the other."<sup>1</sup>

Two examples of such marriages may be quoted here, since they concern two of the testators in Chillenden's Register. The first concerns Sir Thomas Fogge<sup>2</sup> whose grandson, Sir John, rose to be treasurer of the Household of Edward IV.<sup>3</sup> It was this Sir John Fogge who gave his eldest son in marriage to one of the four daughters of Richard Lee, son of Richard Lee, the wealthy London grocer, who attained the honours of knighthood in 1471 and left this son property in Kent, Essex, Surrey and Sussex.<sup>4</sup> This example, which demonstrates the mobility of society and the importance of both money and

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1. Sylvia Thrupp: The Merchant Class of Medieval London, p.234.
  2. Chillenden's Register: No. 41.
  3. Note 3. J.R. Lander: "Council Administration and Councillors 1461-1485", and R.L. Storey: "English Officers of State 1399-1485" in the Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research (1959).
  4. Sylvia Thrupp: op.cit. p. 353.

land-holding in the later fifteenth century, can be matched by an example from the early years of the century. This time it was a London goldsmith's son, Richard Bamme Esq., of Gillingham and Dartford, who married Joan, the daughter of John Martyn, a Justice of the Common Pleas.<sup>1</sup> John Philpot tells us of the tomb of Richard Bamme and Joan, his wife, proud with its armorial bearings in Gillingham parish church.<sup>2</sup>

It may be that Kent, on account of its nearness to London, was rather different in its social structure from the rest of England, and especially from the North and West, but what is patent is that in the later fourteenth and in the fifteenth century, a Middle Class existed in this country drawing its income either from the land or from trade, or from both, some of whose members were at times very close to the court and the higher aristocracy, and whose influence on the county could have a considerable effect on

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1. Chillenden's Register, No. 25.
2. John Philpot: "Monuments and Arms in the Churches of Kent" p. 66 (Harl.Mss. 3917).



politics, as Cora Scofield has shown.<sup>1</sup> Others, however, of the same class, had associations equally with merchants, not only of London, but of Sandwich, Dover and Romney.

There are indications that society was very mixed in spite of the class-consciousness which undoubtedly did exist. The term "gentleman", which William Clitherowe used of himself,<sup>2</sup> was just coming into fashion in the fifteenth century, but it is almost impossible to define it. It was used of wealthy merchants' sons, it was used of the younger sons of knights and lawyers, it was used of yeomen who had acquired estates, for the words of Sir Thomas Smith were as true of the fifteenth

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1. e.g. That Edward IV was accepted in Canterbury in 1461 was largely due to the influence of Fogge, Scott and Horne. See Cora L. Scofield: Life and Reign of Edward IV. (1923) i, pp. 76-77. She says of the Yorkist earls who had invaded Kent on June 26th 1490 - "before nightfall they had arrived at the Church of St. Martin outside the walls of Canterbury. There they halted... because they knew that there were three famous captains in Canterbury, Robert Horne, John Scott and Sir John Fogge who had orders not to let them set foot in the city. As it proved, however, the three captains were either Yorkist at heart, or thought resistance useless, for they came out at once to parley with the earls and soon reached an understanding with them. Canterbury's gates were thrown open and the Yorkists immediately hastened to the Cathedral..." She continues later, in her account of the following day, the Yorkists marched out of Canterbury followed by a much larger force than had entered the city with them, as not only had Horne, Scott and Fogge thrown in their lot with them, but many other men including the Duke of York's old friend, Lord Cobham, had been flocking to their standard." William of Worcester estimated this Kentish force at 20,000 men by the time they reached London.
2. Chillenden's Register, No. 138.

century as of the time when he wrote them, "Many yeomen, after setting their sonnes to schooles at the Universities, to the lawe of the Realme or otherwise, leaving them sufficient landes whereon they may live without labour, doe make their saide sonnes by those means gentlemen."<sup>1</sup>

An examination of the Odyerne family shows a close connection between those who were styled "gentlemen" and those who were simply called "yeomen" or "husbandmen" in the small village of Witterham in the Isle of Oxney. In 1450, William Odyerne, "gentleman" was pardoned for his part in Cade's Rebellion. His name comes first on the list of Wittersham people, and along with him were pardoned a number of lesser folk: James and John Glover, who are described as "yeomen"; William and Augustine Potyn, a husbandman and a yeoman respectively; James Maplesden, a yeoman; Stephen Boyden, a husbandman.<sup>2</sup> Five years later, on June 18th, Joan Odyerne, a widow of Wittersham died, and the name is too unusual to suppose she was not some relation of William Odyerne, and may have been his widow.<sup>3</sup> Moreover, several of the people

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1. Sir Thomas Smith: De Republica Anglorum (Ed. L. Alston: Cambridge, 1906), i, 23, p. 43.
  2. W.D. Cooper: "John Cade's Followers in Kent," Arch.Cant. vii (1878), p. 259.
  3. The name does not appear in A.H. Reaney's Dictionary of Surnames.

who had joined William at the time of the rebellion and received pardons with him in 1450, appear in her will. James and John Glover are mentioned as her sons to whom she left some property, while James was also one of her feoffees. Stephen Boyden was an executor, while James Maplesdon and Thomas Potyn were also feoffees. In this case, we find a man described as a gentleman in the pardon lists whose relations seem to have been yeomen and husbandmen. The difference between them can hardly have been very great.

The term "gentleman", then, implied a landowner who derived income from his estates, but it is difficult to ascertain what else, if anything, it did mean. Sylvia Thrupp says that only one thing is certain. "The connotation of the term gentlemen was not restricted to birth.<sup>2</sup> If 'gentleman', 'yeoman' and 'husbandman' could be closely related, it can also be shown that knights and merchants had much in common. Merchants obtained land and a knighthood as did Sir Richard Lee<sup>3</sup>, while knights not only married their daughters to merchants' sons, but themselves also engaged in trade. The second Sir Steven de Cosington, and his son, Sir William,

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1. Chillenden's Register: No. 143.

2. Sylvia Thrupp: op.cit. p. 236.

3. Supra., p. 132.

provide good examples of this. The Cosingtons were an old family by the beginning of the fourteenth century as a little family history will show.

They got their name from the tiny village of Cosington, North East of Maidstone, and Hasted says they were at Aylesford as early as the reign of John.<sup>1</sup> In Cosington itself they obtained a half fee before 1210. There had been a contention for the chief lordship of half a knight's fee at Cosington as early as 1173 between the King and the Archbishop of Canterbury. It was held then by William de Ros. In 1202 King John granted it to the Archbishop.<sup>2</sup> By 1210-12 William de Ros held a fee in Cosington, but there was also a half-fee held by a Stephen of Cosington, who was a tenant of the Archbishop.<sup>3</sup> In the early thirteenth century Stephen of Cosington acquired land in Sheppey and in Ifield near Gravesend,<sup>4</sup> and the Feudal Aid for the thirty-eighth year of Henry III's reign shows that the head of the Cosington family also held a fee of two knights in Acrise of the barony

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1. Hasted: Vol. ii, p. 173.
2. Lambeth Ms. 1212, pp. 47, 197-8.
3. Red Book of the Exchequer.
4. Kent Feet of Fines: pp. cxvi, 43, 107.

of Ros.<sup>1</sup> They attained some degree of eminence in the reign of Edward I when the first Sir Stephen Cosington was knighted. At the end of the fourteenth century the second Sir Stephen possessed, in addition to Acrise and Great Cosington, the manors of Boxley, Mount, Rings, Little Cosington in the parish of Northflete, Frene and Swanscombe. A collection of seven deeds (dated between November 10th 1361 and July 12th 1376) show that Sir Stephen was buying wool at the Staple of Westminster and moving about the country a good deal, chiefly for journeys up to London.<sup>2</sup> He got into debt, at one time owing £90, at another, several hundreds of pounds, at another four hundred marks. His chief creditor was the wealthy London merchant, John Piel (Mayor of London in 1372)<sup>3</sup> to whom the King himself was also in debt at the same period, for £10,000. Edward III paid off at least part of his debt in 1372 by ordering the collectors of Customs at the Port of London to make sure that 1200 sacks of wool destined for the foreign market, should not be loaded till payment of twenty shillings on each sack had been made to John Piel.<sup>4</sup>

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1. Feudal Aids, 38 Henry III.
2. Harl. Charters 48/H/22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28.
3. C.F.R. January 21st, 46 Edward III, also February 6th and 28th, 47 Edward III.
4. C.F.R. October 8th, 12th, 28th, 46 Edward III, also Sylvia Thrupp: op.cit.p. 362 and Alfred Gibbons: Early Lincoln Wills, p. 66.

But Sir Stephen de Cosington, being unable to fulfil his obligations in this way had to mortgage his manors. This he did more than once, and by July 10th, 1375 had given up the struggle and lay in the Fleet prison. When he died intestate at the end of November, 1376, his affairs were still in a perilous condition.<sup>1</sup> A French indenture of the 7th day before Christmas of the same year shows that his eldest son, William, was obliged to give up the manor of Mount to John Piel, who was enfeoffed of it by order of Chancery, and incidentally, that William still owed John £130.<sup>2</sup> The Fine Rolls show that a certain William Cosington of East Anglia and his wife Elizabeth had been outlawed by the Court of King's Bench, on May 12th 1370<sup>3</sup> (i.e. seven years before Sir Stephen's death), and an earlier entry of May 16th 1369 in the Patent Rolls gives the reason; they had refused to appear when summoned before the court by their London creditors. The debts seem large, they owed £60 to Simon Bochele, citizen, £22 to Richard de Boxford, draper, £20 to Thomas Clench, Fishmonger, £84 to John Chichester, goldsmith

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1. Harleian Charter. 48/H/28.
2. Ibid., 48/8/27.
3. C.F.R., 12th May, 44 Edward III.

and £21 to Peter Littler, Chandler.<sup>1</sup> There is no evidence to show how they had spent these sums and it may be that the debts are no more than tradesmen's bills, but it is possible that like Sir Stephen, they had been buying wool. Whether the Cosyngtons resold this wool to a clothier, or even acted as clothiers themselves does not appear. But one fact is certain, somehow the Kentish Cosyngtons were able to meet all their liabilities and to get back their estates. For the will of Stephen Cosyngton, squire of Aylesford in 1446, shows that he died possessed of the family lands, and probably had acquired others. As if to remove any doubt, the will expressly mentions "all the lands and tenements that John Cosyngton and Steven Cosyngton, his son, and Steven Cosyngton the knight, possessed in the county of Kent."<sup>2</sup> There can hardly be room for doubt that the profits of the wool trade and the rapid development of England's premier industry - cloth - in the early fifteenth century had something to do with the recovery of all these properties.

If knights engaged in trade, mortgaging their family estates to meet their debts, merchants were also possessed

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1. C.P.R. 16th May 43 Edward III.

2. Chillenden's Register: No. 133.

of lands and tenements scattered all over the county in much the same way as those of the knights and squires. Some examples of this occur in Chillenden's Register. William Bryan, citizen of Canterbury, whose name also occurs on the pardon lists of 1450<sup>1</sup>, left a will dated October 6th, 1451, which shows that he possessed lands in Eastry some of which he had recently bought, which were worth at least £50, besides properties in Chislet.<sup>2</sup> Nor may this be an exhaustive list by any means, since he made no mention of any messuage in Canterbury, which as an eminent citizen (he was bailiff in 1439 and 1440 according to Hasted) he must have possessed.<sup>3</sup> It is tempting to speculate on the origin of his wealth and to connect his name with the other Canterbury Bryan in the Register, John the mason, who left silver cutlery inscribed with his name, but there is no evidence at all that any such connection exists,<sup>4</sup> for the name Bryan was fairly common in Canterbury in the fifteenth century and occurs several times on the citizen lists.

There is, however, more known about this William Bryan.

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1. W.D. Cooper, op.cit. p. 260
2. Chillenden's Register. No. 124.
3. Hasted: op.cit. 2nd Edition (Canterbury 1801)  
Vol. XII. "Additions", p. 604.
4. Chillenden's Register: No. 27.



Shaw's Memorials of Eastry gives a clue as to the position and size of his properties in that locality.<sup>1</sup> His will directed his feoffees to allow Margaret, his wife, the use of sixteen acres at Eastry called Stupinbregh, after which it was to be sold for ten marks. Shaw gives the additional information that John Frynne and Thomas Terrey of Eastry sold sixteen acres of land in 1437 at Stapenbergh to a William Bryan of Canterbury. Shaw also mentions a "large handsome house known as Statenborough" which he calls the principal estate in the parish" in his own day. The whole consisted of about one-hundred-and-fortyone acres of good land and "from diverse conveyances William Bryan seems to have been in possession of a considerable part of the estate."<sup>2</sup> William Bryan held this large estate as one of several properties, which leads to the inference that the wealth and standing of the fifteenth century citizen must have been considerable indeed.

The will of another member of the merchant class is also of some interest, showing, as it does, the landed

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1. W.F. Shaw: Liber Estriae (London, 1870) pp. 38-9.
2. Stepinbergh or Stupinbregh (identified as Statenborough) was assessed in Domesday Book and Domesday Monachorum at half sulung and was then held by an Archbishop's knight. It was at that time a small estate and included with the Finglesham assessments.

property outside their own city which people like this possessed. <sup>John</sup> Boteler, draper, of Sandwich, had his chief tenements in the parishes of St. Peter and St. Clement in the port itself, but he had several others besides; some of which he had recently bought. He also held lands in Eastry and Worth. His testament finds him leaving legacies of bullocks and sheep like any country farmer. Yet, on the other hand, he showed his interest in his trade by leaving forty shillings to provide a cloth stall in the Cornmarket Street - Sandwich, and his public spirit by leaving another forty shillings for tthe repair of the bad road between Sandwich and Woodnesborough.

As soon as one hears the name Boteler, one becomes suspicious that this Sandwich Draper and his brother, also a John, who was a barber in the same port, may have been members of the eminent Boteler (Pincerna) family who originally were settled at Butlers Fleet and held extensive properties in Kent, and so it proves. For Shaw tells us that a certain Richard Boteler of Sandwich was the ancestor of the Boteler family who were settled at Eastry in the seventeenth century, and this family was related to the

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more famous Botelers of Fleet and Graveney.<sup>1</sup>

It seems most probable that the Richard Boteler mentioned by Shaw is the same Richard as the son of John Boteler the draper of Sandwich, for in 1452 he was under age when his father left him properties in Sandwich, Eastry and Worth. This Richard was the first of the Sandwich branch to become armigerous (in 1470) and his arms are certainly identical with those of the aristocratic Botelers. Shaw thought, however, that the Botelers first came to Eastry in 1682<sup>2</sup>, which is certainly untrue, since the will shows they held land there as early as the middle of the fifteenth century. He describes the estate as consisting of "arable and pasture, twenty-two acres in all," which is small if one compares it with the Eastry estates of William Bryan.

Thus, an examination of the Kentish Botelers furnishes certain evidence that the old landed aristocracy of Kent was linked by family connections with merchants and artisans, and that merchants and artisans were buying property outside the towns and eventually became landed gentlemen. John Boteler, incidentally, was one of the richest testators among those in the Register, for he left over £450 in cash.<sup>3</sup>

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1. Shaw: op.cit. p. 56, cf. Philpot, op.cit., p. 63  
Hasted, Vol.i, p.541, Vol.iii, pp. 16-18.

2. Shaw: op.cit. p. 56.

3. Chillenden's Register, No. 132.

Similar characteristics were revealed by the examination of the Cosington, Bryan and Martyn families.

There can be little room for doubt that the gentry of Kent were animated in the main by family interests which were also local interests. But this is not the whole truth, and leads to another and more interesting fact. It is quite possible to detect the origins of a wider interest and the development of the national significance of the Middle Classes in shire and borough which was to become so marked a feature of society in the Tudor period. It is becoming apparent that the sixteenth century saw not the emergence of these classes to political pre-eminence, but their political maturity and triumph, which is a very different matter. Though there can be no doubt that the power and support of the Crown was in great measure responsible for that triumph, "so that", as Christopher Hill put it, "new men prospered under the shelter of the throne,"<sup>1</sup> yet, whether we are considering the Yorkist policy of the 1460's or the Tudor policy of the 1480's, it is obvious that this royal protection and alliance could only be effective if a strong Middle Class were already in existence to profit by it. All the evidence, at least as far as Kent is concerned, shows that in the period covered

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1. Christopher Hill: The English Revolution. p. 39.

by Chillenden's Register, such a Middle Class already existed, wealthy, progressive, expansive, articulate, and to some considerable extent experienced, not only in local, but also in central government. The political influence of the Foggs, Hautes, Scotts and Septvans has already been noted. These men gave their support to Edward IV; many of their names are found among the followers of Jack Cade, and some attained prominence in Edward's Council.<sup>1</sup> Not a few were attainted by Richard III, and by throwing in their lot with either Buckingham or Richmond, secured the favour of the new dynasty in 1485.

This is not the place to write of purely parliamentary or administrative developments. Yet the words with which Sir J.G. Edwards ended the Creighton lecture five years ago may be recalled without irrelevance. "If we are to see the representative parliaments of Medieval England as they really were," he said, "the Commons, who were in them and who made them representative, must be treated without disparagement."<sup>2</sup> Though they did not yet have to bear anything like the full burden of responsibility for the nation's policy, they did

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1. Edward IV. organised his Household shortly after the second battle of St. Albans and showed his gratitude to the Kentish knights by the immediate appointment of Sir John Fogge as Treasurer, and Sir John Scott as Comptroller. cf. Cora L. Schofield, op.cit., p. 157.
2. J.G. Edwards: The Commons in Medieval English Parliaments (London 1958), p. 25.

possess the means to check and modify that policy, for to quote Sir J.G. Edwards once again, "the instrument by which taxes were granted to the King was the indenture drawn up in the name of the Commons with the assent of the Lords, and the Commons by these indentures did not petition the King, or offer taxes, they granted them."<sup>1</sup> This growing political importance of the knights and merchants had its roots in the economic opportunities and social security which these classes had begun to exploit as early as the fourteenth century.

Not only did the gentry of countryside and town make law every time they, as Members of Parliament, granted taxes of tenths or fifteenths, in the name of the locality they represented, to the King, they also were the chief Agents for the enforcement of the law. The same class of people, i.e. the brothers or cousins or sons of Members of Parliament undertook the responsibility of collecting the taxes they had granted. In Kent, for example, at this period, the parliamentary knights of the shire were drawn from families like the Septvans, the Hautes, the Foggs, the Cosingtons, Clitherowes, Notbemes and Pympe<sup>2</sup>, and the same names occur among Justices of the Peace, Tax Collectors, Escheaters -

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1. J.G. Edwards: The Commons in Medieval English Parliaments (London 1958), p.25.
2. Hasted: Vol.1, pp. lxxiv - ox.

Keepers of the Castle of Canterbury, Sheriffs and other local offices for the Crown.<sup>1</sup> To quote many examples of this would be tedious - one will suffice. In 1407 Sir Robert Notbeme was a Member of Parliament for Kent; in the same year William Notbeme received a commission to levy and collect from Sandwich the subsidy which had been granted the King by the Commons in 1405. In 1410 the same William Notbeme received the office of Escheator for the counties of Middlesex and Kent. In 1411 he was Sheriff of Kent, and again in the twelfth and seventeenth years of the reign of Henry V. The centre of the Notbeme estates was at Ruckinge, and the testament of William's brother, John, who left him twelve silver spoons and a silver belt is in this Register.

Thus the study of Medieval testaments has a more than antiquarian interest. When the evidence which these testaments afford is examined in close connection with other fifteenth-century documents, a new pattern emerges till it becomes possible to get a glimpse of a living society. It is, in truth, only a glimpse, for unfortunately no great collection of private letters has been discovered to throw light on the history of a Kentish family as they have to

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1. C.C.R. and C.P.R. for the reigns of Richard II, Henry IV, Henry V, and Henry VI.

reveal that of the Pastons, Celys and Stoners, and although a number of private deeds exist, these are not nearly enough to enable the student to form a solid and satisfactory history of even one of these families. But the evidence, though slight, all points one way, to the existence of an intelligent, humane, sometimes hard-headed landed class composed of many different elements in towns and countryside, united by local interests and blood relationships, ready to play and indeed often already playing a vital part in national, political life.



CALENDAR

Note on the principles adopted in calendaring  
this manuscript

Nothing that was not thought to be significant has been included in this Calendar, since space was limited. Thus, the common formulae and some pious aspirations have been omitted, together with unnecessary repetition of the names of persons or places. In many testaments several clauses have been telescoped together or abbreviated where the same bequest was made to a number of beneficiaries, and this has occasionally resulted in a slight alteration of the original order. No actual bequest has been left out, however, or its sense altered in any way.

A consistent system of arrangement has been adopted throughout whereby the names of feoffees occur at the beginning of each will of Real Estate, together with the places mentioned by the testator as those in which his lands and tenements lay. The spelling of all place names, with the exception of local field-names or names of streets, have been modernised. Executors and witnesses, where they are mentioned, are placed at the end of each testament. Medieval reckonings of time have been converted to the day of the month and the year of grace. In order to avoid

confusion in interpretation the pronouns, "his" and "her" are only used of the testator or testatrix. Thus, "his son" always means the testator's son. In all other cases the names of relations or friends are written in full. Probate notes have been severely abbreviated to give only the essential details of date, the name of the Commissary-General and whether the testament came into the Prerogative category.

Whenever properties have been left to a beneficiary for life only, or on any other conditions, the condition is always stated explicitly in the Calendar. The phrase: "to N..., all his/her lands and tens.," therefore means: "To N..., and all N's legitimate heirs, all the testator's lands and tens. in perpetuity." The phrase: "Remainder to M.," thus implies that M. would only inherit in the event of N... dying without legitimate heirs.

A list of abbreviations used in the Calendar follows:

ABBREVIATIONS RELATING TO THE CALENDAR

a.	acre or acres.
acc.	according
b.	bushel
Bequ.	Bequests
Bet.	between
Bur.	place of burial
ch.	church
clk.	clerk
da.	daughter
div.	divided
Exec.	Executor
Execs.	Executors
fr.	friar
frs.	friars
h.a.	high altar
hosp.	hospital
hosps.	hospitals
nr.	near
par.	parish
pr.	pair
qr.	quarter
Surv.	Surveyor
tens.	tenements
w.	wife or widow

Testamenta decedencium in iurisdicione exempta Cant...

[Mss. mutilated]

[A list of Probate Notes pertaining to the immediate jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Canterbury].

Alice atte Combe of Challock. Exec., Philip atte Combe,  
her son.

Agnes Spenser, of Egerton. Execs., Thomas Spenser, her  
husband, and Agnes Walpole, her da. - Administrator.  
Surv., the Vicar of Lenham.

Catherine Cowper, of Aldington. Execs., John Clynton and  
Roger Mayhewe. The Testator had not sufficient  
means to enable the execs. to implement her  
testament. They were, therefore, sworn to administer  
her property according to her wishes as far as her  
means would suffice.

Roger Gwayn, of Charing. Exec., Joan his w.

The w. of John Tenacre, of Boughton-under-Blean. Exec.,  
John Tenacre.

The w. of John Feyrebroke, of Boughton-under-Blean. Exec.  
John Feyrebroke.

Administration of an estate in Boughton-under-Blean,  
committed to John Crylotte and John Harte.

John Wolson, of Westwell. Exec., John Brawer.

James Lowlale, of Witterham. Exec., Agnes, his w.

John Clerke of Wittersham. Exec., Jacobina, his w.

Hugo Yve, of Romney. Exec., Hugo Fletcher.

Alice Comber of Challock. Exec., Richard Comber, her husband.

Catherine Cowper, of Aldington, Execs., Roger Mayhew and  
John Klynton.

John Nuystede, of Lyminge. Exec., his w. [Mss. Mutilated]

William Wodman, of St. Laurence. Exec., Juliana, his w.

John Harry, of Challock. Execs., Celia, his w. and  
Richard, his son.

Alice Walsch, of Challock. Execs., William Walsch.

Rev. Richard Belgrave, of St. Nicholas. Execs., the  
vicar of Romney and Rev. John Waynflete.

Joan Millere, of St. Nicholas. Exec., Stephen Miller.

Roger Perns, of St. Nicholas. Exec. Isabella, his w.

Christina Hawe, of St. Nicholas. Exec., John Hawe, her husband.

Steven Langedon.

Felicie Benerith, of St. Nicholas. Execs., John Badawe and  
John Fidenotte.

Agnes Gowh of St. Nicholas. Exec., John Gowh, her husband.

Alice Thatcher, of St. Martin's. Exec., John Thatcher,  
her husband.

.... atte Gate, of St. Martin's. Exec., Thomas atte Gate,  
her husband.

Roger Yve, of St. Martin's. Exec., Alice, his w. and Thomas,  
his son.

Thomas Longe, of Newchurch. Exec., Margaret, his w.

Agnes Knoldale, of Newchurch. Exec., John Knoldale, her  
husband.

Adam Ryche, of Lydd. Execs., Joan, his w., and Nicholas  
Godeshewe.

Alice Hatte, of Lydd. Exec. Nicholas Godehewe.

Joan Assheforde, of Lydd. Exec., Lawrence, her husband.

John Knyhte, of Challock. Exec., ..... [mss. mutilated]  
.... Isus, of .... Execs., John Broc and Richard Olgate.  
Administration of the goods of John Knyght. Administrators  
Margaret, his w. and Thomas Knyght.

Cecilia Dane. Exec., Thomas Dane.

Cecilia Den, of Herne. Execs. Thomas Williams, her husband  
and Thomas Colhade.

John Brown, of Wittersham. Exec., [mss. mutilated].

Joan Grovys, of St. Alphege's. Exec., Thomas, her husband.

Godleve Lytttilwode, of Reculver. Exec., John, her husband.

Elene Kendale, of Ickham. Exec., Robert, her husband.

John Wevere, of Smeeth. Execs., Thomas Smyth and Margaret,  
his w.

John Corde, of Eastry. Exec., Joan, his w.

John Beltynge, senior of Godmersham. Exec., William Scharppe,  
clerk.

Richard Brownynge, of Godmersham. Exec., his widow and  
Thomas Brownynge.

Juliana Huberde, of Godmersham. Execs. Thomas Fowghth and  
Lawrence Herry.

John Duraintre, of Godmersham. Exec., Henry Jenky.

Henry Dawe, of Lyminge. Execs. Dionysia, his w. and  
Henry Jankyn.

Rev. John Blicc, of Lyminge, Execs. Rev. William Wendyston  
and Richard Blicc.

John Felice, of Worth. Exec., Rev. William Warreham.

Alice, w. of John Sayer, of Worth. Half of her estate to  
the poor.

William Crulde, of Lyminge. Exec., Joan, his w.  
Administration of the goods of John Golfynch of Hythe  
committed to Thomas Caselione and John Kenynton.  
Simon atte Hurste, of Westwell. Execs. Thomas and William  
atte Hurste.

John Dawe, of Sandwich. Exec., Alice, his w. (Prerogative).  
John Benette, of Herne. Execs., John Gate and John Sandre.  
Alexander Loffe, of Reculver. Exec., Nicholas Loffe.  
Richard Cootewyse, of Ivychurch. Exec., Alice, his w.  
Rev. Richard Binter of Reculver, Execs., Rev. William  
Wendeston and the vicar of Reculver.

John Bachelor, of Egerton. Exec., Thomas Olgate.  
Thomas Lokyer, of Boughton-under-Blean. Execs. Isabella,  
his w. and John Ricard.

Robert Chakelton, of Hoath. Execs., Isabella and Thomas,  
his son. To each .... ar... [mss. mutilated] 20d.

John Hewe, of Hernhill. Exec., John Martins.  
John Lonsdel, of Staple. Execs., Joan, his w. and  
Robert atte Broke.

Eleanor Vakkes, of Eastry. Exec., Colymas Vakkes.  
John Taylor, of St. Alpheges. Exec., Agnes Lyndesey.  
Thomas Clarke, of St. Alphege's. Exec., Joan, his w.  
John Ryke, of St. Alphege's. Exec. Cecilia, his w. and  
John Langedon.

Bartholomew Devenisch of St. Alphege's. Exec., Joan, his w.  
John Klynton. .... [mss. mutilated].

Alice Roger, of Eastry. Execs., Robert Ewytham and John  
Roger.

John Laurens. Exec., Robert Laurens.  
Alice, the w. of Robert Laurens. Exec., Robert Laurens.  
John Perterall. Execs. Joan, his w. and John Chirch.  
Margaret Pastawre of Deal. Exec., Robert Pastowre.



Richard Sharpe, of Eastling. Execs. Catherine, his w. and  
Thomas Scharpe. Prerogative. Property in the city  
of London.

Rev. William Baynton, chaplain of Bredhurst. Exec., Gerard  
Elys.

Robert Broke, of Hollingbourne. Exec., Dionysia, his w.  
Alice Porte, of Hollingbourne. Exec., John Porte, her husband.  
Alms to the poor.

Lucy Thomas, of Hollingbourne. Exec. John Thomas.

Henry Symonde, of Birchington. Execs., Elena, his w. and  
Thomas Simonde.

John Sandre, of Saltwood. Execs., John Edyngham and John  
Colyn of Hoath.

Margaret London, of All Saints. Exec., Henry London.

William Barly, of Godmersham. Exec., Christina, his w.

Thomas atte Folde, of Challock. Execs., Margery, his w.  
and John Bowst.

Matilda atte Folde, of Challock. Exec., Margery, the w.  
of Thomas atte Folde.

John Rolfys, of Challock. Execs. Juliana, his w. and  
Thomas Postreve.

Margery Carpinter, of Hernhill. Exec., William Folke.

Alice atte Hoke, of Charing. Exec., Emma, her da.

Richard Scwale, of Eastry. Execs., Arnold Roment of  
Sandwich, and Thomas Kempe of Worth.

.... Bradmore. Exec., Nicholas Bradmor'.

Henry Smyth of Challock. Execs., Joan his w., and Thomas  
de Bery.

Joan Crandon of Hollingbourne. Exec., John, her husband.

John Barbor. Exec., his w.

Robert Broke. Exec. Dorothea, his w.

- Lucy, w. of John Thomas. Exec., John Thomas.
- John Crockhorne, of St. Alphage's. Execs., James Russhelyne  
and Joan, his w.
- Alice Smythyotte, of Challock. Exec., Richard Smythyotte.
- John Jauntrel', of Minster in Sheppey. Exec., Thomas  
Hethe of the same place. Prerogative.
- John Cotyng, of Birchington. Execs., Rev. John Curlewe  
and Thomas Hamonde.
- Margery Carpinter, of Birchington. Exec., William Folke.
- John Helare, of Hermhill. Exec., John Helar', his son.
- John Robyn, of Boughton-under-Blean. Exec., Joan  
Robyn, his w.
- Thomas Hastyng, of St. Nicholas. Exec., Joan, his w.
- John atte Marssh, of Hernhill. Execs., Andrew atte Marsh  
and Wilhelmina, his w.
- Elias Marys, of Wode. Execs., Joan, his w., William  
Renalde, John Harry.
- William Grygge, of Canterbury. Execs., Christine, his w.  
and Robert Bocharde.
- John Hende, of Birchington. Exec., Joan, his w.
- Walter Pope, of Deal. Exec. William Pope, his son.
- John Conyng. Exec., John Conyng, his son. [5/- superscription]
- John Bradstrete, of Hollingbourne. Exec., Stephen Jamys.
- Roger Webbe, of Hollingbourne. Exec., Joan, his w.  
[3/4 superscription]
- John Rochere of Hollingbourne. Execs., Thomas Bocher and  
Robert Gyfflete.
- Thomas Woston, of Worth.
- Joan, the w. of John Baker, of Egerton. Exec., John, her  
husband.

1. 1450 John READE, of Deal and Headcorn.

Bur. in the chancel of St. Leonards', Deal.

Bequ. h.a., 10d; par.clk., 4d; for making a bench for the par.ch. to be completed within two years, 10d; each godchild, a measure of wheat and a measure of barley; Thomas, son of Richard Burdenne of Headcorn, 1 cooking pot to hold 5 gallons, 2 pans, 2 pewter dishes, and a black gown; Isabella, da. of Richard Burdenne, 1 cooking pot to hold 5 gallons, 2 pans, 2 pewter dishes and 1 blue gown. Residue to Elizabeth, his w.

Execs. Elizabeth, his w., and Thomas Burdenne of Headcorn.

Last Will: 1450, 31st March, to Robert Atte Wode at Michaelmas, 1 acre of land, div. called Gold'ell in Deal; to Joan atte Wode, 1 acre of land div. in Deal, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre and  $\frac{1}{2}$  a rod and 10 feet of land at Chalkpett, and 1 rod at Dedeham; To Juliana Goston, 1 acre of land in Dedeham; To be sold, all lands and tens. in Deal and pasture for 2 cows in Myddylshepe Marshe to provide for 1 priest to celebrate for half a year for his soul and his mother's soul in the par.ch. of Deal unless Elizabeth his w. becomes pregnant in which case all lands and tens. in Deal were to go to Elizabeth his w. for life with remainder to his son or da.; To Elizabeth, his w. all lands and tens. in Headcorn for life, with reversion to Joan, the w. of Richard Bordenne and her heirs in perpetuity.

Feoffees: Thomas, Richard and John Bordenne, the sons of Thomas Bordenne of Headcorn, and William Wyntirborne of Ashford.

Probate: Thomas Moonie; 1450, 22nd June. [Folio 1]

[Before the next entry occurs the original heading of  
Thomas of Chillenden]

2. 1396/7      John VAGGE (VAG'), Rector of St. Martin's,  
Canterbury.

Bur. in the chancel of St. Martins, Canterbury.

Bequ. St. Martin's, Canterbury - for the work of the  
bell-tower, 6/8d; the light for the Rood, 12d; the  
light of Blessed Mary, 12d; for the poor on his  
funeral-day, 13/4d; for his month-mass, 13/4d;  
John Cocon, 12d; Hugh Flemyng and w. 12d;  
Catherine Vec, 6d; John Pecham, 12d; John Pecham,  
junior, 20d; Alice Trippe, 6/8d; John Schnether,  
his godson, 12d; the Dominican frs. of Canterbury,  
5/-; the Franciscan and Augustine Frs. there, 5/-  
equally div. between them; fr. John Torhold,  
physician, 6/8; fr. Roger Torhold, 40d; for a  
stipend for 1 priest to say requiems for his soul  
for 1 year, 9 marks; each chaplain saying mass at  
his funeral, 4d; John Wyllington's w. and Joan,  
his da., 13/4d; 20 bedridden men, 40d. Residue:  
The Reverend Reginald Body and Thomas Bray.

Execs. The Reverend Reginald Body and Thomas Bray.

Surv. John Wyllington.

Probate: Prior Chillenden, 1396/7, 6th February.

[Folio 2]

3. 1396, 19th November, John BAKARE, of Hoath, Reculver.

Bur. in the cemetery of St. Mary's, Reculver.

Bequ. St. Mary's, Reculver - h.a., 20d; the fabric of  
the ch. 20d; for his funeral expenses, 10/-;  
month-mass, 3/4; anniversary, 16d; his sons and  
das., a qr. of barley each; Isabella, his sister,

4 b. of wheat. Residue to the poor.

Execs. Juliana, his w., and John Hardes.

Probate: William Hunden; 1396/7, 12th February. [Folio 2]

4. 1396/7, 15th January, Alice POCOOKE (POCOK), widow, of  
St. Nicholas-at-Wade.

Bur. in the cemetery of St. Nicholas', Thanet.

Bequ. St. Nicholas', Thanet - h.a. 6d; the Rood, 6d;  
the altar of Blessed Mary, 6d; the image of St.  
Catherine, 3d; for the fabric of the vestry, 3d;  
Thomas Edhyn junior, 3 b. of barley; one trental  
for her soul; to the fabric of the nave of St.  
Nicholas', 1 chalon; for her funeral expenses, 10/-;  
her month-mass, 10/-; her anniversary, 10/-; Alice  
Taberer, 1 russet kirtle; Agnes Starpyn, 1 tunic  
with a blue hood; Adam Bocher for his trouble,  
20d; John Clerk, 6d. Residue to Thomas Edkyn, her  
son; to Cecilia, Edhyn, 1 b. of wheat.

Execs. Thomas Edkyn and Adam Bocher.

Surv. Thomas Here - to whom 120d. for his trouble.

Probate: William Hunden; 1396/7, 12th February.

[Folio 2  
verso]

5. 1396/7, 31st January. Petronilla WALLERE (WALLARE),  
widow, of St. Nicholas-at-Wade.

Bur. in the cemetery of St. Nicholas' Thanet.

Bequ. St. Nicholas', Thanet - h.a. 4d; the altar of  
Blessed Mary, 2d; the altar of St. Thomas, 2d; the  
altars of St. James and St. Margaret, 2d each; for  
her funeral expenses, 6/8d; for her month-mass,  
3/4; her anniversary, 3/4; the vicar of St. Nicholas'  
12d; to provide a stipend for 1 secular chaplain to  
celebrate for her soul and those of her benefactors

for 1 year is possible, 10 marks, or for half a year, 5 marks, if her means would not allow for a whole year; the par.clk. 6d; for the fabric of the nave of St. Nicholas', 2/-; the vicar of St. Egidius', 12d. Joan, her da., her best dress; Alice Wallare, 1 green tunic; Christina Wallare, her best colobium with a hood, and 1 ewe; Joan Dormor, 1 russet tunic; Petronilla, her god-da., 1 small copper cooking-pot, 4 b. of corn, 1 sheep; Cecilia Tristram, 1 russet tunic and 1 qr. of barley; William Rokelonde, 4 b. of barley; Cecilia Tristram 1 pr. of sheets and 1 blanket; John Lely, 4 b. of wheat; Simon Potyn, her god-son, 1 b. of barley and 1 lamb; Thomas Bot' 1 b. of barley and 1 lamb; Thomas Shepherde junior, 1 b. of barley and 1 lamb.

For the fabric of St. Nicholas', 2 sheep; Simon Tristram, 4 b. of corn; Agnes Sandre, 1 b. of barley. Residue to Simon Wallare, William Wallare and Joan Wallere, her children.

Execs. Simon and William Wallare (to whom 3/4d. each )

Surv. John Tristram (to whom 3/4d.)

Probate: William Hunden, 1396/7, 12th February.

[Folios 2 verso and  
3 recto]

6. 1396/7, 13th January. Nicholas JAKEMAN, of Herne.

Bur. in the cemetery of St. Martin's, Herne.

Bequ. St. Martin's Herne - h.a., 12d; light of h.a., 6d; for the work of the ch., 6d; Nicholas Waller, 6d; Franciscan and Augustine Frs. at Canterbury, 6/8d; John William, clk., 4d. Residue to his execs. for his soul.

Execs. Robert Blycc and William Balendeny.

Probate: William Hunden: 1396/7, 12th February.

[Folio 3 recto]

7. 1396/7, 12th February. John RYDERE.  
 Probate: William Hunden. [Folio 3 verso]
8. 1396/7, 6th February. William de PYMPE, of Aldington.  
 Bur. in St. Martin's, Aldington inxta Thornham.  
 Bequ.: St. Martin's Aldington, h.a. 20/-; the light of  
 the Rood, 20/-; Carmelite frs.; Aylesford, 100d.;  
 viz. 8/4d. for 100 masses for his soul and those  
 of all the faithful departed; his executors 40/-  
 each. Residue to Joan, his w.  
 Execs.: Joan, his w. Reverend Roger, vicar of Thornham,  
 Reverend John, vicar of Aldington.  
 Probate: William Hunden, 1396/7, 15th February.  
 [Folio 3 verso]
9. 1396/7, 15th February. Laurence KENET.  
 Probate: William Hunden. [Folio 3 verso]
10. 1396/7, 21st January. Richard SOLAYN, of Canterbury.  
 Bur. in the cemetery of St. Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury.  
 Bequ.: The rector of St. Mary Bredman, Canterbury, 3/4d;  
 brothers of this ch. 3/4d; par.clk. 12d; the  
 Mendicant Orders in Canterbury, 2/6d. each for 3  
 trentals of masses; for 1 trental of St. Gregory,  
 10/-; Henry, his servant, 1 black tunic of double  
 worsted; Rook, his servant, 1 particoloured tunic  
 of red and green, lined with skins of cunicles and  
 hooded; John Peny, 1 green kirtle lined with  
 blanket. Residue to Margery, his wife.  
 Execs. Margaret, his w., Robert Boklond.  
 Probate: William Hunden, 1396/7, 16th February.  
 [Folio 3 verso]

11. 1396/7, 27th January. William KNYTH (KNYGHTE) of Lyminge. Bur. in the cemetery of St. Mary's, Lyminge.

Bequ.: St. Mary's, Lyminge, h.a., 1 ram; the fabric of the ch. 1 ram; the four das. of Andrew Knyth, 1 ewe each; the da. of Henry Knyth, 2 ewes; Andrew Knyth, the son of Henry Knyth, 1 ram and 1 ewe; Andrew Knyth, his son, 2 rams and 2 ewes; Henry Knyth, his son, 2 rams and 2 ewes; John Knyth, senior,  $\frac{1}{2}$  qr. of barley; William Knyth,  $\frac{1}{2}$  qr. barley; Andrew Knyth, son of Henry Knyth,  $\frac{1}{2}$  qr. barley; John Knyth, junior, 1 qr. barley. The fabric of St. Mary's ch. 12d; the clk. there 6d; Augustinian Frs. Canterbury, 5/-; Dominican and Franciscan Frs. Canterbury, 2/6d each; Andrew Knyth, son of Henry Knyth, 13/4d. Residue to Andrew and Henry Knyth, his sons.

Execs. Andrew and Henry Knyth, his sons.

Probate: William Hunden, 1396/7, 21st February.

[Folio 4 recto

12. 1396/7, 12th November, John KETYNTON, senior, of Adisham. Bur. in the cemetery of Holy Innocents' Church, Adisham.

Bequ.: To the work of Holy Innocents' ch. Adisham, 1 small cow; to the work of the chancel of St. Mary, 8 b. barley; to John his son, to provide for 2 wax tapers, one for the Rood and one for St. Mary's image, 8 b. barley and 4 sheep; the par. chaplain, 3/8d; par.clk., 6d; Carmelite Frs. Sandwich, 1 b. barley; Augustinian Frs. Canterbury 1 b. barley; Thomas Ketynton, 8 b. barley and 4 ewes; Aubrey Ketynton, 8 b. barley and 2 ewes; Nicholas, the testator's son, 8 b. barley; Juliana



Raynolde, 2 ewes; Thomas Fraunce, 2 b. barley;  
 Elene Ketynton, 1 b. barley; Alexander Brand,  
 2 b. barley; Julian Royses, 1 pr. of new shoes;  
 Elyne Walles, 1 pr. of new shoes. Residue to  
 John, his son.

Execs. John, his son, and Thomas Raynolde.

Probate: William Hunden, 1396/7, 27th February.

[Folio 4 verso]

13. 1396, 21st December. Thomas WEBBE, of Adisham.  
 Bur. in the cemetery of Holy Innocents' Church, Adisham.  
 Bequ.: Holy Innocents' Adisham, h.a., 4d; to the works  
 of the ch. 6d; Thomas Moraunt, 4 b. barley.  
 Residue to Margaret, his w. and William, his son.  
 Execs. Margery, his w. and Peter Moraunt.  
 Probate: William Hunden, 1396/7, 27th February.

[Folio 4 verso]

14. 1396/7, 28th January. Henry LOSTINGTON (LUSTINGTON)  
 of Smeeth.  
 Bur. in the cemetery of St. Mary's, Smeeth.  
 Bequ.: St. Mary's, Smeeth, h.a., 12d; par. priest for  
 his trouble, 12d; par. clk. 8d; the fabric of  
 the ch. 3/4d; William Godard, 1 best gown.  
 Residue to Joan, his w.  
 Execs.: Joan, his w., John Lustington, senior.  
 Probate: William Hunden, 1396/7, 28th February.

[Folio 5 recto]

15. 1396/7, 11th January. Henry ATTE SONNE (SUNE) of  
 Charing.  
 Bur. in the cemetery of SS. Peter and Paul, Charing.  
 Bequ.: SS. Peter and Paul, Charing, h.a., 2/-; to the  
 building of the new nave, 6/8d; Peter atte  
 Neysthe at Michaelmas, 12 sheep and 1 qr. barley;

Henry, son of Peter atte Neysche at Michaelmas, 4 b. wheat; Dionysia, da. of Peter atte Neysche, at Michaelmas, 4 b. wheat; Edmund Godard at Michaelmas, 1 qr. barley. Residue to Dionysia, his w.

Execs.: Dionysia, his w.

Probate: William Hunden, 1396/7, 1st March.

[Folio 5 recto]

16. 1396, 30th December. William SYMEON (SIMEON) of Reculver.

Bur. in the cemetery of the par. ch. Reculver.

Bequ.: Par. Ch. Reculver, h.a. 6d; St. Mary's altar, 5d; Rev. Robert de Langton, vicar, a trental; Henry Cornwayle, par. clk., 4d; John Tonsawnd, a russet jupa with a hood; John Walter, a tannay jupa with a striped hood; six poor people, 2d. each. Residue to Isabella, his w.

Execs.: Isabella, his w.

Probate: William Hunden, 1396/7, 1st February.

[Folio 5 verso]

17. 1396, 9th October. JOHN FORMYGER, of Herne.

Bur. in the cemetery, Herne.

Bequ.: Ch. of Herne, h.a., 4d; Residue to Joan, his w.

Exec.: Joan, his w.

Probate: William Hunden, 1396/7, 1st March.

[Folio 5 verso]

18. 1396, 27th November. John LENOWD, of Adisham

Bur. in the cemetery of Holy Innocents' Ch. Adisham.

Bequ.: For the works of the ch. of Holy Innocents, Adisham, 6/8d; the light of Blessed Mary, 2 sheep; to the works of the churches of Littlebourne and Welle, 6/8d. each; Fr. Thomas Staunton,

Carmelite of Sandwich, 2 trentals; Fr. John Grym, Augustinian of Canterbury, 1 trental; Residue to Juliana, his w.

Execs.: Juliana, his w. and John Somerfelde.

Probate: William Hunden, 1396/7, 27th February.

[Folio 5 verso]

19. 1396/7, 22nd February. Henry LYNCOLN, of Canterbury. Bur. in Westbere ch.

Bequ.: Westbere ch. the fabric of the nave, 8/8d [sic] Rev. John, par. chaplain, 6/8d; Rev. John Gardyner, chaplain, 3/4d; chapel of Hoath, the fabric of the nave, 3/4; the three Mendicant Orders at Canterbury, 13/4d each; the nuns of St. Sepulchre's, Canterbury, 6/8d; the eleemosinary sisters of St. Augustine's, Canterbury, 6/8d; the brothers and sisters of Maynard's Hosp. Canterbury, 6/8; for repairing the king's highway bet. Canterbury and Sturry, 20/-; Robert Lyncoln, his son, 40/-; Nicholas Lyncoln, his son, 40/-; John Lyncoln, his kinsman, a velvet sloppe of the cut of the burghers of the city of Canterbury; for his funeral expenses and month-mass, £10; for his anniversary, 5 marks; Matilda Fox, 6/8d. Residue to Isabella, his w., Nicholas, his son and Edmund, his second son, to be div. bet. them at the discretion of Isabella.

Execs.: Isabella, his w., Ralph Roper of Westgate, Canterbury.

Probate: William Hunden, 1396/7, 22nd March.

Last Will: 1396/7, 7th March: To Isabella, his w. for life, all his lands and tens. at Rushbourne in the par. of Westbere, Sturry, except Merdenge, Clayerangers, Chalnyntegh and Recolve', on condition that she claims

no other dower, with remainder to Edmund, his son and the heirs of Edmund, then to his own right heirs. To Robert, his son and the heirs of Robert, all his messuages in the par. of St. Mildred, Canterbury, and 1 messuage near the Bulstake, all his rents in Wincheap and Alder manr' of Worgate hundred.<sup>1</sup> Remainder to his right heirs. To Nicholas, his son and the heirs of Nicholas, 1 messuage next to Specheous in Canterbury, and all his shops at Northgate and three pieces of wood, and lands in Sturry called Merdenge, Clayeranger and Chalnentegh. Remainder to his right heirs.

Witnesses: John Hardres, Henry Gate of Hoath, Laurence Hobbe, Henry atte Nassh of Rushbourne, William Clerke of Herne.

[Folio 6 recto]

20. 1396, 13th September, Walter MYCHEL, of Chartham.  
 Bur. in the cemetery of St. Mary's, Chartham.  
 Bequ.: Rev. Richard Kentwardy, parson of St. Mary's, Chartham, 20/-; Rev. John Cook, par. chaplain, 6d; the par. clk. for tolling the bell, 3d; the sacristan, 2d; each godchild, 2d; Alice, his w. 5 marks and one moiety of the residue of his goods; for a stipend for 1 chaplain to celebrate for his soul at the altar of St. Margaret, Chartham and not elsewhere, 8½ marks.  
 Last Will: One piece of land called Ratecroft in the par. of Seasalter to be sold, and 20/- to be given by his feoffees, execs. or attorneys to Joan Tailor, called Mychel, and 20/- to John Tailor, her brother.

Bequ.: John Mellere, 1 load of barley and 2 ells of russet; Joan Mychel, 2 ells of plunket and 1 pr. shoes and 2/-; William Cook, chaplain, towards the erection of a stone bridge at Shamlsford, 10/-; for distribution to 6 poor men and women in greatest need, 6 tunics of blanket and 12 prs. shoes; Joan Tailor, his kinswoman, 1 load of barley; the light of St. Margaret at Chartham, 12d; Fr. Thomas, Franciscan at Canterbury, 2 ells of blanket and 2/6d for one trental for his soul; for the repair of the church at Chartham or the bell-tower, whichever needs it most, 20/-; a moiety of the Residue of his goods for the poor and for the repair of the bridge and the roads in the par. of Chartham, and to repay his execs., attorneys and feoffees for their trouble.

Execs.: John Turhold, William Balle.

Surv.: John Adam, senior, of Chilham, since John Turhold refused to act as surveyor.

[Folio 6 verso]

[All the entries on folio 7, recto and verso, have been crossed out. One of these entries is the testament of Michael Denne. Another is an additional unfinished copy of the testament of Hamo Kyngessnothe. The third entry dated 20th March 1397 is not part of a testament, but is a fragment apparently concerning a certain payment made by Richard Clifford, Archdeacon of Canterbury.]

21. 1394, 14th December. Michael DENNE, spicer of Canterbury.

Bur. in the cemetery of St. Augustine's, Canterbury.

Bequ.: The Abbot and Monastery of St. Augustine's Canterbury, 40/-; the work of Christ Church, Canterbury, 40/-; the Prior and Monastery of Christ Church, Canterbury, 10/-; Rev. Laurence Tennet, 3/4d; Rev. John Otteford, 3/4d; Rev. John Bercham; 3/4; h.a. of the ch. of St. Andrew, 20/-; the work of the same ch. 20/-; the h.a. of the ch. of St. Egidius' of Kingston, Canterbury diocese, 6/8d; the rector and the work of the same ch. 3/4d each; Agnes de Denne, his mother and Thomas de Denne, his brother, 20/- each; Juliana, da. of the same Thomas, 6/8d; Alice Jurdan, w. of John Jurdan, 3/4d; John de Denne, his brother, 20/-; and a silver cup with a cover; for distribution to the poor and for medicines for the infirm, 40/- to be equally divided in goods from the shop belonging to the testator, William Mason and Thomas Bray.

Thomas Bray, 6/8d; Master John Palude, 10/-; to each of John Palude's sons, 3/4d; each Dominican fr. to celebrate for his soul, 12d; each junior fr; 6d; the House of the Dominican frs. 6/8d; fr. John Torold, doctor, 6/8d; each Franciscan fr. to celebrate for his soul, 12d; each junior fr. 6d; the work of the Augustinian frs. 10/-; the House of Augustine frs. 5/-; the Hosp. of Northgate, 3/4d; the eleemosinary sisters of St. Augustine, 2/-; the Sisters of St. Laurence, 3/4d; the nuns of St. Sepulchre's, 3/4d; ....  
[mss. breaks off]

[Folio 7, recto]

22. 1397, 8th October. Hamo KYNGESSNOTHE, of St. Alphege's Bur. in the cemetery of St. Augustine's ch. Canterbury. Bequ.: The fabric of the nave of the ch. at St. Mary Cray and for books and vestments for the same ch. 60/-; for the fabric of the nave of the ch. at Kingsnorth, 13/4d; for the repair of the king's highway in the par. of St. Mary Cray, 13/4d; Agnes Penebregge, 40/-; each godchild 12d; Hamo, son of John Dryvere, a primer and his best psalter. The abbot of Lesnes, 6/8d; Rev. Robert Norton and Rev. John Brokehale, canons there, 3/4d; each; each other canon there 2/-; John MerSSH, John Polle, Joan Synder, 5/- to be equally div. bet. them; for distribution to 6 poor people, 6 tunics with russet hoods; for 5 trentals of St. Gregory for his soul, 100/-; for a stipend for 1 chaplain to celebrate for his soul at the ch. of Scala Celi<sup>1</sup> and St. John Lateran, £10.

Last Will: His feoffees from his lands at Wittersham to provide for his mother, 12d a week for life. Remainder to be sold to provide for various works of charity. All his lands and tens. in the liberty of the city of Canterbury to be sold for the payment of his debts and legacies. A stipend to be provided for a pilgrim to go in his name to the shrine of St. James in Galys,<sup>2</sup> John Bastard and John Sherreva for their trouble.

Execs.: John Bastard, John Sherreva.

Probate: William Hunden, 1397, 11th December.

Acquittance: 1397, 12th December.

[Folio 8 recto]

23. 1406, 1st April. John BIRCHOLTE, of St. Alphege's  
par. Canterbury.

Bur. in the cemetery of the Dominican Frs. Canterbury.

Bequ.; St. Alphege's ch. h.a., 6/8d; par. clk. 20d;  
Dominican frs. Canterbury, 20/-; Franciscan frs.  
Canterbury, 6/8d; Augustinian frs. Canterbury,  
3/4d; the brothers and sisters of the Hosp. of  
St. John, Northgate, 6/8d; the brothers and  
sisters of the Hosp. of Harbledown, 10/-;  
Cecilia Coryn, 2 qrs. barley; Cecilia Hertis,  
2 qrs. malt; Henry Coryn 3/4d; John Vynirie, 1  
small copper cooking pot, John, his son, 1 coverlet,  
2 sheets (best), 1 blanket; Thomas Rabyn, 13/4d;  
Henry Pecche, 1 pr. shoes; for his funeral  
expenses and distribution to the poor, 26/8d.  
Residue to Thomas Bygge and John Hert for his  
soul.

Execs.: Thomas Bigge, John Hert (to T. Bigge 5/- and  
to J. Hert, 3/4d)

Bequ.: The works of St. Alphege's ch. 10/-; a stipend  
to be provided for 1 chaplain to celebrate  
for his soul for six months; his sister, 10/-.

Probate: Matthew Assheton, 1407, 4th November.

[Folio 8]

24. 1437, 2nd September. John BRENCHESLE, of Benenden.

Bur. in the par. ch. Benenden.

Bequ. Par. ch. Benenden, h.a. 20/-; par. chaplain,  
3/4d; John Telden, clk. 20d.; the sacristan,  
6/8d; Henry Maplesden, farmer, rector of Benenden,  
13/4d; each godchild, 20d; Residue to Margery,  
his w. and John, his son.



Execs: Margery, his w., John, his son, John  
Watte of Hawkhurst.

Probate: Thomas Moonie, 1437, 30th October.

[Folio 9 recto]

25. 1436, 14th October. John MARTYN, of Graveney, Justice  
of the Common Pleas.

Bur. at Graveney in front of the altar of the new chapel  
of Blessed Mary in the ch. of All Saints. On a  
marble stone, two figures of himself and his  
wife, Anne with a heart bearing a label with the  
verse "Miserere mei Domine, etc." his coat of  
arms to be quartered with that of Anne, his w.,  
and their coats of arms also separately on either  
side, the whole to be surrounded by an inscription  
bearing the date of his death, with a verse under  
his feet and those of Anne, his w. To be wrought  
of brass and as finely as possible.

Debts: All his debts and those of Richard, his father and  
Margery, his mother, to be settled as follows,  
those who had any claim were to state it and come  
to a place which was to be appointed for settle-  
ment by his execs., the abbot of Faversham and  
the vicar of Graveney. If the claim did not  
exceed 40/- the oath of all claimants of good  
repute was to be accepted. If the claim exceeded  
40/- satisfaction should only be made after an  
examination of the matter and according to the  
decision of his execs. or of the majority of his  
execs. with the advice of the abbot of Faversham  
and the vicar of Graveney.

Bequ.: Fabric of the ch. of Dartford where his father, mother, brother, son and da. were buried, £20; for distribution among his poor kinsfolk at Dartford, 20 marks, and at Graveney, 10 marks. To be given to two or three of the better parishioners at Graveney for trading, the sum of 10 marks, a yearly account to be rendered to the vicar of Graveney and the parishioners of the better sort, the profit accruing from it annually to be kept in a chest in the ch. to pay the tenths and fifteenths of the parishioners when they were demanded. A minimum sum of 10 marks to be always kept in the chest.

To be given to 4 of the better parishioners at Dartford, £10, for the purchase of 30 cows, the profits from the sale of the meat to be used as follows: to provide stipends for the celebratim each year of the anniversaries of Richard, his father, Marion, his mother, Richard and William, his brothers, and for his children who were buried there; for the vicar in residence and performing the services there, 3/4d; for each priest performing pastoral duties there, 4d; for each of the 4 parishioners responsible for the 30 cows, 20d. p.a.; the residue to go to 2 clks. there and for distribution to the poor.

To be given to 4 of the better parishioners of Dartford for trading, £10, of which an annual account was to be rendered to the vicar of Dartford and the parishioners of the better sort, the profit accruing to be kept to pay the tenths and fifteenths for the parishioners - a minimum

of £10 to remain in the ch. at Dartford.

For the upkeep of Rochester bridge, £20; the Franciscan frs.,<sup>m</sup> London, to keep his obit every week, 20 marks; the Carmelite frs. and the Augustinian frs. London, and the Dominican frs., Canterbury, to keep his obit every week, 40/- each; the fabric of the churches of Teynham, Horton, Frinstead, Warbledown, Graveney, 20/- each; each Leper Hosp. bet. Westminster and Dover, 3/4d; each prisoner in the Fleet prison, 3/4d; each prisoner in Ludgate prison, 8/- each; each prisoner in Newgate prison, 10/-; to each Counter prison, 6/8d; each prisoner in the Marshalsea prison, 6/8d; each prisoner in the Common Pleas, 10/-. The Franciscan frs. Canterbury, 10/-; the Augustinian frs. Canterbury, 6/8d. Residue to his execs. for works of charity except a certain part of his treasure in a certain place made known to Anne, his w. and John, his eldest son, and Robert, which he left to them absolutely by the assistance of his execs. without need of further trouble or probate before the Ordinary or anyone else.

Execs.: Anne, his w., John, his eldest son, Robert, his son, Thomas, his son, Richard Banne, Thomas Pery.

Survs.: Anne, his w., John, his eldest son, Robert, his son.

In the event of any disagreement over the terms his testament or alteration the matter should be settled by Anne, his w., and John, his eldest son without anyone else being called in. In the event of any disagreement between Anne,

his w., and John, his eldest son, on private matters, alteration should be effected according to the advice of the Prior of Christ Church, Canterbury, who was to be remunerated according to the discretion of his execs.

Witnesses: The vicar of Graveney, Robert Croste, John London, William Stephen, Stephen Smythe and others.

Probate: Thomas Moonie, 1437, 27th October. Prerogative.

Postscript (added by the clerk): One clause in the above phrase "except a certain part of his treasure in a certain place made known to Anne, his w., and John, his eldest son, and Robert, which he left to them absolutely by the assistance of his execs. without need of further trouble or probate before the Ordinary or any-one else" - viz. that particular clause "without need of further trouble or probate etc." is contrary to the prerogative of the Church, and the Archbishop of Canterbury desired that it should not be included, and should be regarded as if it had not been written, and so made known to me by letter.

[ Folio 10 ]

26. 1400/1, January [mss. worn here] Thomas REGEWYE, of Herne.

Bur: In the par. ch. Herne.

Bequ.: Par. ch. Herne, h.a., 12d; the light of Blessed Mary, a red calf aged one year on condition that he was buried at the entrance to the chancel of Blessed Mary. Thomas Elys, chaplain, 6d; Thomas the clk., 2d; Nicholas Rocer, 6d; John Elys, 4d; Agnes, Isabella and Alice, his das., a dowry of 4 marks each;

Robert Barbor, 3/4d; his funeral expenses, 6/8d; his month-mass, 13/4. Residue to Christina, his w.

Exec.: Christina, his w.

Probate: Roger Basset, 1400/1, 3rd February.

[ Folio 11 recto ]

27. 1400/1 4th February. John BRYAN, Mason, of Northgate, Canterbury.

Bur. in St. Gregory's ch. Canterbury in front of the altar of the Holy Cross nr. the entrance to the Chapel of Blessed Mary.

Bequ.: St. Mary, Northgate, 10/-; the vicar there, 10/-; the vicar there, 10/-; par. clk., 3/4d; hosps. of Northgate and Harbledown, 10/- each; Dominican, Franciscan, Augustinian frs. and nuns of St. Sepulchre's, Canterbury, 10/- each; hosps. of St. Laurence, St. James, Maynard's, 3/4d each; the prior of St. Gregory's, 6/8d; each canon there, 3/4d; for a glass window in the chapel of St. John in the par.ch. of Fordwich, 10/-; the light of St. Christopher in the ch. of St. Mary Northgate, 3/4; Agnes, his w. 1 small silver cup, and 1 small mazer and 6 silver spoons inscribed with his name, 4 prs. sheets; for distribution to the poor on his funeral day, 7/-; the sacristan of St. Gregory's, 1 chest called Shipwuthe, the best of two in his shop, for the vestments of the ch; to his execs., 13/4d. to be equally div.

bet. them. All his goods moveable and immovable and his shop to be sold to fulfil the terms of his will. Residue to his execs. for his soul.

Execs.: John Bernesole Smyth and William Compys, wexmaker of the parish of St. Alphege, Canterbury.

Probate and Acquittance: Roger Besset, 1400/1, 28th February. Prerogative. [ Folio 11 ]

28. 1401, 14th May. Joan HAUKYN, wife of John Haukyn.

Bur. in the cemetery of ch. of SS. Peter and Paul near the grave of her father according to directions of John, her husband.

Bequ.: Ch. of SS. Peter and Paul, h.a., 3/4d; to mend the bell-tower, 56/8d; par.clk. 8d; sacristan 4d; par.ch. of Hernhill, h.a. 20d; Franciscan frs. Canterbury, 2/6d; the w. of Thomas Cornmanger, her violet tunic; the w. of Henry de Childryn, her red and green cloak with a lined hood; the wo. of John Herry, a red tunic; Alice Compare, her blue tunic; Matilda Maundeby, a zany tunic; for distribution to six poor people, six prs. shoes; Christine Skynner, 1 russet tunic with a lined hood. Residue to Catherine, her da.

Execs.: John, her husband, and John, her son.

Bequ.: Robert, her servant, 3/4d.

Probate: Roger Basset, 1401, 17th June. [ Folio 11 verso ]

29. 1401 [mss. rubbed and indistinct here]

Thomas DELAXORT, rector of St. Alphege's, Canterbury.

Bur. in the chancel of St. Alphege's, Canterbury.

Bequ.: St. Alphege's, Canterbury, 1 set of green vestments, a gradual, breviary and processional; each elemosinary priest there, 12d; each priest attending his obsequies and at mass, 4d; each priest attending mass only, 2d; Matilda Southfolk, 1 cloak; Rev. James Bour', a gown furred with calabre'; Rev. William Hamon, a blue gown furred with black skins; Rev. Richard Howtyng, 2 best, new gowns and a silver cup with a gilded cover; the son of Hugh Boyden' 20d; the servants in the almonry, 3/4d between them; each order of Friars in Canterbury, 10/-; the par. clk. 20/- and one furred gown; Hosp. of Northgate, 3/4d. Residue to Richard Houting'.

Execs.: Rev. James Bour', Rev. William Hamon'.

[Folio 12 recto]

30. 1401, 18th September. Joan NEWELOND, widow of  
Canterbury.

Bur. in the cemetary of Christ Church, Canterbury.

Bequ.: St. Alphege's ch. Canterbury, h.a., 2/-; the vicar of Westwell, 20d; the Carmelite frs. Aylesford, 6/8d; Franciscan and Dominican frs. Canterbury, 6/8d each; to the work of Christ Ch. Canterbury, 40/-; Residue to Robert Newelond, her son, and Joan, his w. to pray for her soul.

Execs.: Robert and Joan Newelond.

Præbate and Acquittance: Roger Basset, 1401, 19th  
October.

[Folio 12 recto]

31. 1401, 12th June. Alan HONYWED (HONYWODE) of Hythe.  
Bur. in St. Leonard's Ch. Hythe.

Bequ.: St. Leonard's, Hythe, h.a., 6/8d; the fabric of the ch. 6 marks; gilds of St. John Baptist and St. Catherine, 2/- each; John, par. chaplain, 2/6; John Purle, chaplain, 2/6; Hamon Stervayn, 2/6; the par. clk. 8d; Lawrence Heywar', clk. 6d; Robert, his son, a belt fastened with silver; John his eldest son, 20/-; Alice Honywed, 3/4d; Fr. John White, Franciscan, 2/6d; William Honywode, 6/8d; Thomas Clerke, 6/8d; Alan, son of John Honywode senior, 6/8d; Alan, son of Robert Honywed, and Nicholas, son of John Honywed, clk., 13/4d each; the two das. of John Honywode, clk., 13/4d each; William Neweman, one long gown of russet with a white hood. Residue to Joan, his w.

Execs.: Joan, his w., John and Robert Honywed, his sons.

Probate: Roger Basset, 1401, 9th November.

[ Folio 12 verso ]

32. 1401/2, 4th March. John NOTEBEM, of Ruckinge.  
Bur. in St. Mary Magdalen's Ch. Ruckinge, nr. his wife.

Bequ.: Sir William Septvants, two silver cups with covers and his 12 best silver spoons; Thomas, son of Juliana Longe, a silver cup; Juliana Longe, a silver cover for it; Thomas and Juliana Longe, 6 cows; John Lynne, his kinsman, a gray horse saddled and bridled, a sword and a shield, a black satin gown and a silk doublet; William Notebem, his brother, 12 silver spoons; the wife of William Notebem, his best silver belt; the par ch. of Ruckinge, h.a., a cow; the fabric of the church,



two cows and a silk gown to be made into a set of vestments; Margery, his da. 6 two-year old bullocks, 20 ewes, a coverlet, a tester, 1 pr. sheets, 2 blankets; Elizabeth, his da., a white coverlet, a tester, 1 pr. sheets, 2 blankets, a mattress; Sir William Septvantz, 6 wethers; Isabella, a servant of Sir William, 4 ewes, a lamb; another servant of Sir William, 3 ewes; Petronilla, another servant of Sir William, 2 ewes; five servants in the house of Sir William , , , , [ms. mutilated].. a wether; John Bisford, a green gown; the other servants in the household of Sir William Septvantz, 3/4d; Juliana Longe, the coverlet, tester, 1 pr. sheets and 2 blankets in which he then lay; John Hungerford, a long, blue, gown with a black hood, and 4 ewes; the church at Ruckinge, a set of vestments; William Walter, a black doublet. Residue to Sir William Septvantz.

Execs. Sir William Septvantz, William Noteben and Stephen Wynder.

Probate: Roger Basset, 1402, 9th December.

Acquittance: 1402, 20th December.

[ Folio 12 verso ]

33. 1402, 2nd December. Richard BLAKEBROKE, of Newington. Bur. in the cemetery of the ch. of Newington. Bequ. Par. ch. Newington, h.a., 6/8d; the work of the ch. 20/-; h.a. of the churches of Upchurch and Barham, 3/4d; the da. of William Cosyn of Newington, his godchild, 1 qr. barley; Richard, the son of Walter Longe, Isabella, da. of John Whitlood of Barham, his godchildren, 1 qr. barley each; Mabel, his godchild, 100/- on condition that

she remained with Isabella, his w. and worked diligently for her, and was willing to be married to a man of Isabella's choice; and if she did not agree to these conditions she would get 1 qr. barley; Richard Tuny, when he came of age, if he had behaved well, 20/-; John Longe, his best gown with a hood, each godson 1qr. wheat... (ms. mutilated); Giles Parker, his second gown with a lined colobium; Richard Parker, his other gown; Roger Valetyn, another gown; to be given to four poor men, 4 russet tunics with 4 hoods; for distribution to 13 poor men, 13 prs. shoes; to be given on the Good Friday after his death; par.clk. 2/-; sacristan, 12d; Residue to Isabella, his w.

Execs.: Geoffrey atte Sonne of Hartlipp (to whom 20/-) and Isabella, his w.

Surv. Giles Parker, of Barham (to whom 20/-).

Bequ. Each Hosp. of Mendicants bet. London and Canterbury 13d; stipends for 300 requiems to be celebrated for his soul at once; each poor person asking alms on his funeral day 1d; on his month-mind, 1d; on his anniversary 1d; two lbs. wax to make 4 candles to burn at his funeral and after his funeral to be placed in front of the Rood.

Probate and Acquittance; Roger Basset, 1402/, 7th February.

[Folio 13 recto]

34. 1403, 27th March. Hamo de WESTGATE of Thanet.

Bur. in the cemetery of All Saints', Birchington.

Bequ.: All Saints', Birchington, h.a., 6d; for the work of the ch. 12d; the light of the Rood, 4d; the light of Blessed Mary, 4 b. of barley; the light

of St. Nicholas, 8 b. of barley; the light of the Holy Trinity, 2d; the light of St. Margaret, 2d; for the work of the ch. of Monkton, 2d; h.a. there, 4d; par.chaplain of Birchington, 6/8d; John Sammyng, clk., 1 b. of wheat; Hamo, his son, 4 b. wheat and 4 b. of barley; .. [mss. mutilated] John, his son, 2 b. wheat; Margaret, his da. 1 qr. wheat and 1 qr. barley; Cecilia, his da. 2 b. wheat and 2 b. barley; the w. of John de Westgate, 1 b. wheat and 1 b. barley; John Philpot, 1 b. wheat; Margaret, his da. 1 bullock and 2 ewes. Residue to his execs. for his soul.

Execs.: Hamo, his son; Robert Helewalle.

Probate: Roger Basset, 1403, 3rd April.

[ Folio 13 verso ]

35. 1403, 19th June. John STYLLE, of Sandwich.

Bur.: in the cemetery of St. Clement's, Sandwich, nr. his sons.

Bequ.: Rev. Thomas Covener, vicar of St. Clement's, enough money to provide a great rood<sup>l</sup> for the chancel; par. clk., 2/-; sacristan, 2/-; St. Clement's ch. a cope; Rev. John Walter, chaplain to celebrate for his soul for 1 yr. in St. Clement's 10 marks; Thomas Alisander, 20/- and a moiety of his long boat and his baselard; Richard Langnase, junior, a moiety of his black boat; John Mot, 2 nobles and a russet gown. Residue to Constance, his w.

Execs.: Constance, his w., Jehn Whicheb, Richard Alayn.

Codicil, 1403, 20th June: To Constance, his w., all

his tens. in Sandwich for life except the one called Hwete hous in the par. of St. Clement in Terschepstrete; To Clemence, his da., a ten. called Hwete hous when she came of age; remainder to Constance for life, then to Thomas, his son, then to be sold for masses to be celebrated for their souls.

To Thomas, his son, £50 with remainders to Clemence, his da. and then to provide masses for their souls. To Clemence, his da. 40 marks, remainder to Thomas, his son, then to Constance, his w.

To Thomas, his son, his best belt and baselard; to Clemence, a best belt, to Constance all the household goods, remainder to be sold. To John Stell, a moiety of his black boat; to Richard Aleyn and John Hwicked, 1 vat of wine for their trouble; to Joan Hortyn, to be given to her by Robert Holand, 20/-.

Probate: Roger Basset, 1403, 7th July.

[Folio 14 recto]

36. (undated) John COLKYN, of Boughton-under-Blean.

Bur.: in the ch. of SS. Peter and Paul, Boughton-under Blean.

Bequ.: To the work of this ch. 20/-; the vicar 40/-; the lights of the Rood, Blessed Mary in the Chapel of St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Peterm SS. Catherine and Margaret, 6/8d each; par. clk., 2/-; sacristan 2/-; the work of the ch. of Selling, 20/-; the light of Blessed Mary there, 10/-; the light of St. John, 1 qr. wheat; the Franciscan,

Dominican and Augustinian frs. Canterbury, 6/8d. each; the Carmelite frs. Sandwich, 6/8d; Hosps. of St. Lawrence, Harbledown and Northgate in Canterbury, and to the Hosp. of Ospringe, 40d each; each godchild, 1 b. wheat; John, the son of Hamo atta Mell, 1 qr. barley; John Ussher, 6/8d; Catherine Jolif, 20/-; William Brokere, 4 b. barley; William Aldirman, 4 b. wheat; Margery, the w. of Henry de Childryn, 6/8d; Joan, the da. of John Townesende, 20/- for distribution to the poor, 40/-.

Residue to Alice, his w. and William, his son.

Execs.: Alice, his w. and William, his son.

Probate: Roger Basset, 1405, 22 nd May.

[Folio 14 verso]

37. 1405, 14th May. John CATELOTE, of Dover.

Bur. in St. Mary's Ch. Dover.

Bequ.: St. Mary's Dover, h.a., 12d; par.clk., 6d; fabric of the ch. 6/8d and 1 wether; friar Robert Caldham, 6/8d; fabric of the churches of Birchington and St. John's, Thanet, 6/8d. each; John Elys, his godson, 40d; the son of John Rudd', 12d; the prior of Dover, 6/8d; all the monks there, 13/4d, to be equally div. bet. them; Rev. John Flete, monk, 6/8d; Edward, his brother, his best dress and best hood; William Cortydre, his green dress, good hood and decorated belt; each poor person asking alms on his funeral day, ½d; at his month-mind ... [mss. mutilated], James Corby and wife, 40d.

Residue of his chattels [mss. mutilated] in Dover to Joan, his w. except 1 belt and his garments already bequeathed, and 1 other mounted belt to be sold by his execs. to pay their expenses.

Execs.: Joan, his w., William Elys, John Webbe, William Ronyll' of Gore's End.

Probate: Roger Basset, 1405, 15th May.

[Folio 14 verso]

38. 1405, 11th November. John FITZWILLEN, of Canterbury.

Bur.: In the Conventional ch. of the Dominican Frs. Canterbury.

Bequ.: Robert, son of Fulk, his kinsman, 20/- and a striped gown, furred with white lamb; Alice Lenham, his kinswoman, 13/4d; Joan Chalker, 13/4d; Residue to Thomas Lane and John Cheseman according to the advice of Fr. John Turheld, to be used for pious purposes.

Execs.: Thomas Lane and John Cheseman.

Witnesses: William Chilton, Alexander Sconyngton, Thomas Borne.

Probate: Matthew Assheton, 1405, 18th November.

[Folio 15 recto]

39. 1405, 14th December. Anabilia GOBYON, widow of John GOBION, Canterbury.

Bur.: In the ch. of Friars Hermits, Canterbury.

Bequ.: Friars Hermits, Canterbury, for the fabric of the new work in their ch. 10 marks; Dominican and Franciscan Frs. Canterbury, 20/- each; the parson of Pevington, to celebrate for her soul for 1 year, 10 marks; the ch. of Charing, h.a., 2 marks; for a chaplain 10 marks, to celebrate for her soul for one year; John Adam of Egerton, once her servant, 6/8d; Elisabeth Belhous, a bed of worsted, covered and with all its belongings, 1 mattress, 1 pr. blankets, 1 pr. sheets and 1 quilt; Joan, her da., 6 marks,

Alice, her servant, 6/8d, a bed and 1 pr. sheets; the new fabric of Christ Ch. Canterbury and the nave of St. Alphege's, 40/- each; Joan, her da. all her utensils in the house of Thomas Brunne, smith, of Canterbury; for her funeral expenses, 10 marks; her month-mass and anniversary. For 14 needy paupers, 104/-, viz., to each of them in the city of Canterbury and elsewhere every week after her death for one year, 2d; the Hosps. of Northgate, Harbledown and Maynard's, Canterbury, 40d each; Robert Islep, parson of St. Alphege's, Canterbury, for his trouble, 4 marks; John Sheldwich for his trouble in seeing to her will concerning the manors of Fairbourn and Pevington, effected by an indenture bet. herself and Robert, John and Henry Babsnoth, 100/-; Henry Babsnoth, 20/-; John, the par. clk. of St. Alphege's, 40d. Residue to her execs. for her soul.

Execs.: Robert Islep and John Sheldwich.

Probate: Matthew Assheton, 1405, 26th December.

[Folio 15 verso]

40. 1406, 4th June. John ATTE PETTE, of Canterbury.

Bur.: "Where God wills."

Bequ.: The rector of St. Alphege's, Canterbury, 2/-; residue to Elianore, his w.

Last Will: To Elianore, his w., 1 messuage in the par. of St. Alphege's for life, remainder to be sold for his soul.

Execs.: Elianore, his w. and Thomas Poldre.

Surv.: Rev. Robert Islep.

Probate: Matthew Assheton, 1406, 7th December.

[Folio 15 verso]

41. 1407, 21st April. Sir Thomas FOG (FOGG), of Canterbury.  
Bur.: in the Cathedral Ch. of Canterbury.

Bequ. To the work of the same ch. 10 marks; the Abbey of St. Augustine, Canterbury, 10 marks; the Dominican, Franciscan and Augustinian Frs., Canterbury, 40/- each; Matilda Malt'one for her dowry, 10 marks; Agnes Kykkeby, 40/-; Henry Batsnod, 40/-; Richard Crowe, 20/-; Alice, a servant of his w. 20/-; his other servants to be remunerated according to the discretion of his execs. Residue to Joan, his w.

Execs.: John, his son and Fr. John, clk. of the Hermits of St. Augustine (to each of whom, 5 marks).

Survs.: Joan, his w., William Makenade, Henry Batsnod'.

Probate: Matthew Assheton, 1407, 8th August.

[Folio 16 recto]

42. 1407, 29th August. Sir William SEPTVANN, of Canterbury.  
Bur.: in Christchurch, Canterbury, next to Sir Thomas Fogg.

Bequ.: The prior of Christ Church, Canterbury, 3/4d; each monk there 20d; the abbot of St. Augustine's, Canterbury, 3/4d; each monk there, 20d; the prior of St. Gregory's, Canterbury, 3/4d; each canon there 20d; the Franciscan, Dominican and Augustinian frs. Canterbury and the Carmelite frs. Sandwich, 20/- each; William Notebem, £5; Thomas Ikham, 40/-; the rector of the ch. of Milton, 40/-; Joan Cheyne, his sister, 5 marks; Alexander Cheyne, 20/-; Alice Grene, his servant, 20/-; Thomas Brygge, 20/-; John Calow, 20/-; John Chapmane, William Wagnall, Adam Standerede, Thomas



Hamonde, 20/- each; Christopher Haselseht, 6/8d; each serving boy in his household, 6/8d; John Wardeyne and the 3 das. of John Wardeyne, 10 marks; Adam Standerde, Thomas Hamonde, Robert Standerde, Robert Cherche and John Rychefford, his servants and nativ<sup>l</sup> for their good service, their full liberty; each of them to have a charter of manmission. Residue to Elizabeth, his w.

Execs: Elizabeth, his w., William Notebem, Thomas Ikham, Rev. John Martyn, rector of Milton.

Probate: Matthew Assheton, 1407, 4th October.

[Folio 11 recto]

43. 1407/8, 29th February. William BERTYN, of Stone in Oxney.

Bur.: Inside the west doorway of the par.ch. of Stone.

Bequ: h.a. there, 13/4d; par.clk., 2/-; fabric of the belfry, 20 marks; to the work of the churches of Ebony, Tenterden and Rolvenden, 6/8d. each; h.a., Ebony and Newenden, 6/8d each; to the work of the ch. of Newenden, 13/4d; h.a., Tenterden and Rolvenden, 40d each; each priest at the ch. of Stone on the eve of his funeral for placebo and dirige and for celebrating mass there next day, 12d; each priest friar of the Franciscans and Dominicans of Winchelsea, 2/6d; each priest friar of Rye and Newenden, 2/6d; each Dominican novice, 12d; each godchild, 20d; Margery, his kinswoman, 40/-. Residue to John Lovell, Chaplain, William Marchant, and Robert Bederynden.

Execs.: John Lovell, chaplain, William Marchant, and Robert Mederynden.

Probate: Matthew Assheton, 1407/8, 7th March. Prerogative.

[Folio 16 verso]

44. 1405, 23rd June. Thomas SEYNTLEGER, of Otterden.

Bur.: In the cemetery of par. ch. of St. Lawrence Martyr, Otterden.

Bequ.: To provide torches to be lit in the par.chr. of Otterden at the Elevation during all the masses there, 1 cow; to provide 1 wax taper to burn before the Rood called Brownrode during mass, 1 cow; to provide 2 wax tapers, one at the Easter Sepulchre and one in the chapel of Blessed Mary on Sundays and feast-days during divine service, 1 cow; for the chapel of St. Thomas at Marston, 1 cow; the ch. at Frinstead, 3/4d; the ch. at Elmley, 3/4d; Juliana, his w., one third of his household furniture and utensils, viz. one third of his linen, woollen goods, and other utensils of his butlery, pantry and kitchen, a plain silver cup having a cover with a gilded rose on top; the rector of Otterden, 3/4d; the vicar of Stal-  
isfield, 2/-; each hosp. bet. London and Canterbury along the king's highway, 3/4d; each House of Friars in Canterbury 6/8d; for his anniversary, 40/-; Residue to Juliana, his w., Rev. Laurence Greyng, Simon Berold of Otterden.

Execs.: Juliana, his w., Rev. Laurence Greyng, Simon Berold of Otterden.

[Folio 16 verso]

45. (mss. mutilated) 22nd January. Henry HUSEE, of Sittingbourne.

Bur.: In the chancel of St. Mary in the par. ch. nr. Margaret, his late w.

Bequ.: h.a. there, 6/8d; Rev. John Bodiam, chaplain, 2/-; Rev. William Sprotte, chaplain, 2/-; the chief. par. clk., 12d; the light of the Rood, 6/8;

to the work of the ch. 40/-; each poor person coming to his funeral and month-mass, 1d; to provide for 1 pilgrim to Walsingham after his death, 10/-; and to Brislington, 20/-; the Carmelite frs., Aylesford, the Franciscan, Dominican and Augustinian frs. Canterbury, 100 masses each, 33/4d; Mark, his son, all his armour, with his large silver baselard, his 8 best furred garments, one coverlet, 1 tester, 1 pr. blankets, 1 pr. sheets, 1 mattress and 1 pillow, 1 gray horse which he bought from Thomas Bugge, with his best saddle, another horse, also grey, called gylding, and another good saddle; Thomas atte Combe, his servant, 20/- to be paid within one year of his death. All his possessions in Kent to be div. into three equal parts after his debts and legacies were paid, one for himself, one for Christina, his w., and one for his sons and das. Residue to Christina, his w., and to his sons and das.

Execs.: Christina, his w., and Mark, his son.

Surv.: Henry de Byrtonten.

[ Folio 17 recto ]

46. 1408, 30th September. Edmund HAUTE, of Bishopsbourne.

Bur.: In Christchurch, Canterbury, wherever the prior pleased.

Bequ.: To the work of this ch. £10 on condition that nothing further is asked for his funeral expenses by the Prior, Sacristan or any other member of the community of Christ Church; the Abbot and Monastery of St. Augustine, Canterbury, 100/-;

the Prior and Monastery of St. Gregory, Canterbury and Prior and Monastery of Leeds, 100/- each; the Franciscan, Dominican and Augustinian frs. Canterbury, and the Carmelite frs., Sandwich, 5 marks each; hosp. of Le Maldry, Sandwich, 3/4d; the prioress and convent of St. Sepulchre's, Canterbury, 5 marks; the sisters of St. Laurence, nr. Canterbury, 20/-; the sisters of St. James nr. Canterbury, 20/-; the hosps. of Harbledown and Northgate, 20/- each; each brother and sister of the hosp. called Maynard Spittle, 12d; each poor person qui non potest transire and each prisoner in Canterbury, 6d; Elizabeth, his w., all his household utensils, viz. the furniture of his room and the kitchen equipment, the linen of the pantry, the hangings and curtains in the hall and £20; Edmund, his son, a silver cup with its cover and 6 silver spoons. All his other silver cups and spoons to his das. to be div. bet. them as part of their dowries; the h.a. at Bishopsbourne, 6/8d; to the work of the church at Bishopsbourne, 20/-; the h.a. at Tythesey and the work of the church, 20/-; John Forster, 40/- and lworsted gown; Alice, his servant, 15/4d; to provide for the education or training of William Langeham acc. to the discretion of his execs., 10 marks; Geoffrey Langle' 13/4d and a striped gown; Sir Nicholas Haute, his brother, 100/-; Richard Crudare, 6/8d; James Bakere 3/4d; Hwyte, 12d; Rev. John, chaplain, 12d; each.

chaplain at his requiems on his funeral day, month-mass and anniversary, and each chaplain celebrating for him on each of those days, 4d; the work of St. Margaret's ch. Canterbury, 6/8d; Master William Hugham, 40/-; John Hawte of Pluckley, 40/-. Residue to his execs.

Execs.: Sir Nicholas Haute, Master William Hugham, John Haute.

Probate: Matthew Assheton, 1408, 9th October, Prerogative.

[Folio 17 verso]

47. 1409, 22nd October. Agnes PLESYNGTON, widow of Sheppey.

Bur.: In the Monastery ch. in Sheppey.

Bequ.: All Saints' Ch. Sheppey, h.a., 20/-; the work of this ch. 40/-; John Boteler, her son, her best bed, her best cup [pecia] with a cover, her best mazer; Richard, her son, her second best bed, 1 cup with a cover, a second best mazer, 1 pr. sheets, 1 napkin, 1 hand towel; Alice, her sister, a gown furred with miniver, a cloak with a gray hood and £10 of silver; Anne, daughter of John Boteler, a scarlet cloak furred with miniver and 1 primer; Richard Boteler, junior, a cup (pecia) and 6 silver spoons of the best; Agnes, the da. of John Boteler, a cup [pecia] and 6 silver spoons; Elizabeth Waytes, 10 marks; Thomas Facunbergh, 40/-; Rev. Henry, her chaplain, 1 set black vestments; Richard Garkyn, 24 sheep; John Cole, 22 sheep; William Pocli', 6 sheep, Thomas Gerard, 10 sheep; John Foxton, 7 sheep, Stephen Dygon, 12 sheep; William Masham, 6 sheep; William Stanbere, 12 sheep;

Thomas Colyn, 6 sheep; Anthony Bokingham, 12 sheep; Agnes Yob, 4 sheep; Alice Francis, 8 sheep; and all these bequests of sheep to be taken for ewes. Residue to Stephen Paytewyn, William Elys, William Enolde, chaplain and Richard Sarkyn.

Execs.: Stephen Paytewyn, William Elys, William Enolde, Richard Sarkyn.

[Folio 17 verso]

48. 1409/10, 22nd March. John SWETT Esq., of Stalisfield.

Bur.: In front of the altar of St. Catherine, in St. Mary's, Stalisfield.

Bequ.: The vicar of Stalisfield, 6/8; for the repair of the ch. 20/-; 10 lbs. wax for candles at his funeral and anniversary, the residue to be used at masses on the days following; for 6 poor men holding torches at his funeral, 6 black gowns with hoods; 2 of these torches were to go to the ch. at Eythorne afterwards, and the others to Stalisfield; Ralph Well, 6/8d and a gown de liberata decani reg'; provision for 1 chaplain to celebrate at Stalisfield for 2 years after his death; for a memorial tombstone of marble to be laid 5 years after his death, 10 marks; Thomas Gissington, his servant, 26/8d and a royal liveried belt with fur; John Massheham, his servant, 20/-; each other servant of his household 40d. Residue to Matilda, his w.

Execs. Matilda, his w., Roger Rye, Thomas Weste.

[Folio 18 recto]

49. 1410, 20th September. Stephen PAYTEWYN, of  
Leysdown, Sheppey.

Bur.: In the ch. of St. Sexburga, Sheppey.

Bequ.: The Vicar of Eastchurch, 20/-; to the work of  
the nave of the churches at Bobbing and Milton,  
20/- each; Mabel Smutyngge, 20/-; John Therlonde,  
20/-; Catherine Bougge, 10/-; John Shorte, 20/-;  
Richard Rowhede, 20/-; John Crawde, 20/-;  
Residue to Bartholomew Seyntlegere.

Execs.: Bartholomew Seyntlegere, his father, William  
Elys, his kinsman.

Witnesses: Revs. Henry Mole and John Burgayne, the  
vicars of Eastchurch and Leysdown.

Probate: Matthew Assheton, 1410, 3rd October.

Prerogative.

[Folio 18 recto]

50. 1410/11, 5th February. Thomas JEAKEYN, vicar of  
Newington, near Milton.

Bur.: In the centre of the main chancel of the par.  
ch. of Newington.

Bequ.: For the endowment of a chantry priest at  
Newington, 12 marks p.a. in perpetuity; the  
Abbot of Lesnes, 20/-; each canon at Lesnes, 40d;  
the fabric of the ch. at Newington, 40/-; to the  
same ch. a silver cup, gilded, worth 40/- worthy  
to contain the Body of the Lord; the light of  
the Rood there, 2/-; the lights in the chancel,  
20d; the light of Blessed Mary, 40d; the light  
of the Rood over the entrance, 12d; a taper to  
burn before St. Christopher for 5 years at masses  
on Sundays and Festivals; Robert, the par. clk.  
40d; the sacristan, 20d; the parish clergy 4d.

each.

The fabric of the ch. of Bapchild, 10/-; the h.a. there 40d; the vicar, 12d; the par. clk. 8d; the sacristan, 12d; to the same ch. a set of vestments worth 40/-; provision to be made for 1 priest to celebrate for 1 year in the same ch. for Alice, his mother, for Matilda, William and Thomas.

The Hosp. of Puckleshall, 6/6d; John Sexteyn of Bapchild, 40d; the ch. of Borden, 10/-; the vicar there, 2/-; the par. clk., 6d; the sacristan 6d; to the same ch. a set of vestments worth 10 marks. Matilda Breghame, 40d and a rosary with amber beads; Elsie and Peter Breghame, 40d each; provision to be made for 1 priest to celebrate in the ch. of Borden for 1 year for Thomas Jeakin and his parents.

Thomas Longe and Thomas Braye, his godsons, 40d each; Thomas Lidesingge, 20d; John Mayner, his godson, when he came of age, 20/-; John Herry, clk., 10/-; Ibote Herry, a rosary with coral beads and pater noster of silver and 6/8d; John Mayner, senior, 6/8d; for equal distribution between 40 poor people in the par. of Newington, 40/-; for carting gravel [harenam] from St. Mary's Lane and from the road at the Pichlingore Cross, and from the road between the house of Thomas Loksmyth and le Sumpe, 6/8d each; for each priest attending his funeral and celebrating mass, 6d and dinner; for each priest celebrating for his month-mind, 4d and dinner; each Hosp. from Canterbury to London, 4d; each order of Mendicant frs. in the



city of Canterbury, 6/8d; the Carmelite frs. of Aylesford, 6/8d; the Hosps. of St. Mary Bethlem, St. Mary Roncevall, 12d each; the Hosp. ....  
[mss. breaks off].

[Folio 18 verso]

51. 1427, 26th October. Henry LYNDE, of Canterbury.

Bur. Near the tomb of John Lynde, and Joan Lynde, his parents, in St. Mildred's ch. Canterbury.

Bequ.: The rector of St. Mildred's, 20d; for the repair of same, 20/-; the par. clk., 12d; all his stock and chattels to be sold as well as his lands and tens. in Kent, as far as it was necessary, to provide for Catherine, his w. and Isabella and Alice, his das., the money to remain in the hands of his execs., and to be divided as follows: To Isabella and Alice, dowries of £40 each when they reached the age of 17 (cross remainders); to Catherine, his w., £40; Margery Osborn, his servant, 8 marks when she was 16 yrs. old; Thomas de Ore, his servant, 40/-; John Badcock, his servant, 40/- and his best blue gown with fur and his doublet of spruce leather; Elias Moli, a striped gown with fur and 6/8d; Christina, lately servant of John Hacche, 40/-. Residue to Catherine, his w.

Provision to be made for 1 priest to celebrate at St. Mildred's for 6 years for his soul, the souls of John Hacche, Agnes, the w. of John Hacche, and Joan, the da. of John Hacche, and late w. of the testator.

Execs.: Catherine, his w., the chief executor, John Bolde and John Halle of Chislet. Remuneration as follows:- To John Bolde, 5 marks; to John Halle, 26/8d.

Surv.: John Sheldwych', John Lynde, his brother;  
remuneration, 13/4d each.

[Folio 19 recto]

52. 1428/9, 4th January. Cecilia PARKERE, widow, of  
Birchington.

Bur.: In the par. ch. of Birchington, Thanet.

Bequ.: The h.a., Birchington, 6/8d; the fabric of the  
ch. of Monkton, 40d; Thomas Iryssh, chaplain,  
40d; the fabric of the ch. of Birchington, 6/8d;  
for equal distribution to the poor on her funeral,  
day, £4; Alice Sane, her best gown and 1 hand-  
towel; the light of Blessed Mary in the ch. of  
Woode, 40d; for the torches there, 40d; John  
Gerard, 6/8d; Cecilia, the da. of Thomas Walter,  
a small box and 20/-. Residue to her execs.

Execs.: John Gerard and John Jory.

Surv.: John Queke.

Probate: Thomas Moonie, 1428/9, 22nd February.

[Folio 19]

53. 1425, 27th September. Thomas WYKE (WYKES) of Nackington.

Bur.: In the chapel of St. Pancras, behind the monastery  
of St. Augustine outside the city walls, if he  
died near Canterbury, if not, then where God  
pleased.

Bequ.: To be spent on food, clothes and other necessities  
for 20 poor people on the day of his death, 20  
marks; the vicar of Nackington, 6/8d; for the  
work of the ch. at Nackington, 20/-; John Good-  
wyne and w. 13/4d; Alice Tubbe, 6/8d; the Abbot  
and Monastery of St. Augustine, Canterbury, 20

marks; the Augustinian frs. at Canterbury, for a font [lavacrum], £5; the Franciscan and Dominican frs. at Canterbury, 13/4d each; for a window to be made in the convent chapel of St. Sepulchre's in honour of St. Ethelreda, 40/-; for repairs to the same chapel, 40/-; Joan, Elizabeth and Isabella, das. of Edmund Wyke, dowries of 20 marks each (cross-remainders), to be kept, till it was paid, by his execs.; Joan, his da. a dowry of 100 marks.

Will: To Joan, his da. and her husband jointly, at the time of her marriage, all lands and tens. etc. in Kent or elsewhere, as had been set out. Remainders to Joan, Elizabeth and Isabella, das. of Edmund Wyke, in that order, then to Edmund Wyke, the testator's son, then to his right heirs. To John Lenency, chaplain, £40 to celebrate for his soul and that of Elizabeth, his w., at 10 marks p.a.; if the chaplain was promoted he was to get 10 marks in the first year after his promotion, and then another chaplain was to be found. To Edmund, his son, the standing crops and cornfields in his manor of Nethercourt at St. Laurence, Thanet (as was described in an indenture between the testator and John Herry, his farmer), various granaries and other goods in Nackington (as was described in a codicil), on condition that Edmund gave security to his execs. within 4 days that he would pay to Joan, Edmund's sister, 100/- p.a. from the time of the testator's death until her marriage. Otherwise

all his goods were to remain in the hands of his execs. till Joan's marriage, with residue to Edmund.

To John Lenency, certain lands and chattels named in a codicil; his lands and tens. in Suffolk at Newmarket and Exning in which Peter Fydele and Peter's w. Isabella had a life interest, were to be sold after their death, and the money from the sale was to be spent to provide requiems for his soul and for other works of charity. Residue to his execs. for works of charity, their own remuneration to be left to their discretion.

Execs.: William Benyt, John Rollyng, Master David, the notary, Rev. John Lenency, chaplain.

Note. Master David, the notary, refused to undertake the administration of this will, and the other execs. acted without him.

Probate: Thomas Moonie, 1425, 30th September.

Prerogative.

[Folios 19 verso]

[ and 20 recto]

54. 1431, 19th August. Reverend Thomas SMITH, rector of Little Chart.

Bur.: In the par. ch. of Little Chart, in the chancel in front of the image of St. Mary.

Bequ.: The par. ch. of Little Chart, h.a., a set of white damask vestments and a green cape, 2 altar cloths for feasts of double class, a hanging for the Easter Sepulchre, a breviary, 2 surplices, a burse for the blessed sacrament, a set of vestments embroidered with red crosses; the gilds

of St. Catherine and St. Laurence at Lenham, a set of green vestments each; the chapel at Burleigh, a set of white silk vestments; Catherine his kinswoman, the w. of Thomas Bledyn, his best scarlet gown with his best silver belt, green and gilded; Lettice, his kinswoman, of Cosham, his second-best gown, bright blue and furred with Polish squirrel, with a blue belt of silver to match, and a mazer; Margaret, his kinswoman of Langparys, a sanguine coloured furred gown, a red silver belt and a mazer; Joan, the da. of Margaret, a violet gown furred with coney, and a furred biodono; Thomas Furnor of Ospringe, 2 horses with 2 saddles and reins, and a best baselard; Robert Brace, chaplain, 1 blue gown furred with Polish squirrel; John Kole, chaplain, a velvet bag with all its fittings; John Mobray, rector of Wichling, a length of blue cloth; William Chamber, living at Wye, a length of violet cloth; John Mobray a red bed with its curtains and canopy; William Chamber, a bed on which was painted Jesu Merci with its curtains and canopy.

For the poor in each of the parishes of Little Chart, Egerton, Charing, Pluckley, Lenham and Westwell, 1 qr. corn and 1 qr. barley; each chaplain at his funeral and celebrating on the day of his death, at his month-mind and anniversary, 8d each time; John Kole, John Mobray and William Chamber, a ewer and basin each; for 6 poor people, 6 shifts; each order of frs. in

Canterbury, 2/6; the Convent and frs. of Mottenden, 40/-; for the prisoners in the castle of Canterbury, and in the following prisons: Westgate, Maidstone, Newgate, King's Bench, Ludgate and Marshalsea, 12d each.

The par. of Little Chart, 6 cows to provide 5 candles for use at Paschaltide in perpetuity; each hospice in the par. 20d; for distribution among the poor of the par. 6/8d per a. for 6 years; his executors were also to provide for the paving of the chancel in the ch. of Little Chart in Flanders Style. Residue to his execs. Execs.: John Kole, John Mobray, William Chamber. Probate; Thomas Moonie, 1431, 14th September.

[Folio 20 verso]

55. 1431, 27th December. Nicholas REDE, of Canterbury. Bur. In St. Alphege's, Canterbury. Bequ.: St. Alphege's, h.a., 3/4d; to the work of the ch. 13/4; each of the four orders of Frs. in Canterbury, 3/4d; each hosp. in Canterbury, viz. St. John's, Northgate, Harbledown and Maynardspittle, 2/6; William Rede, his brother, 40/- on condition that he assisted Joan, the testator's w., in her legal proceedings; John Rede, his brother, 6/8d; Thomas Henry, his uncle, 6/8d on the same condition; Elene Croke', his sister, 6/8d; Henry, his apprentice, 26/8d on condition that he worked well for Joan, the testator's w., in his workshop for the year following the testator's death, from Easter to Easter; for 100 requiems to be celebrated within 1 month of

his death, 26/8d; Isabella Schotyere, 20d; Thomas Pers, 3/4d; Nicholas Chawncerell, 1 gown of variegated colours furred with black lamb and a quiver of arrows; each godchild, 12d; Thomas Proud and Thomas Cok, 20/- each. Residue to Joan, his w.

Execs.: Joan, his w., Thomas Proud, Thomas Cok.  
 Will: Feoffees: Thomas Proud and Thomas Cok. To Joan, his w., for life, his larger croft in the par. of Folkestone within 1 year of his death, on condition that she followed the directions of his feoffees concerning her marriage. Remainder to Joan, his da., and her heirs in perpetuity, unless she predeceased his w., in which case the croft was to be sold to provide for requiems.

All his other lands and tens. to be sold within a year of his death, the money from the sale to be kept by his feoffees till Joan, his da., married when she was to receive a dowry of 20 marks. Chattels were to be sold, if need be, to make up this sum. If his w., were pregnant at the time of his death, and her child came of age, a further 10 marks was to be added to the 20 marks aforesaid, of which £10 was to go to Joan, his da. for her dowry, and £10 to his other child when it came of age.

Remainders as follows: of Joan's £10 dowry, 10 marks was to provide for a stipend for a chantry priest in the ch. of St. Alphege's, and the residue to be disposed of according to the discretion of his feoffees. Of his other child's

portion of £10, 10 marks were to go to Joan, his w., and the other 5 marks to be disposed of according to the discretion of his feoffees.

Cross-remainders between his children if either outlived the other. If Joan died before marriage, and his other child died before it came of age, the portions of both of them should be disposed of for his soul etc.

Concordat cum voluntate approbata, J. Lovelych.

[Folio 21]

56. 1431/2, 12th January, William PYERS, barber of Romney.  
Bur.: In St. Laurence's, Romney.

Bequ.: H.a., St. Laurence's, 6/8d; the par. chaplain, 3/4d; the fabric of the ch. 6/8d; the par. clk., 3/4d; the gild of the Holy Trinity, 3/4d; the gild of the Holy Cross, 3/4d; each other gild, 20d; each godchild, 12d. Residue to Alice, his w.

Exec.: Alice, his w.

Will: 1431, 13th March.

Feoffees: <sup>John Tannare</sup> Adam Tannare, Geoffrey Porter, Thomas Juglond of Romney and John Masseday, of Iychurch.

To Alice, his w. <sup>in perpetuity</sup> the messuage inhabited by the testator at the time of his death and 5 a. of land in Lydd farmed by John Brange of Lydd; and a life interest in all his other lands and tens. and fish traps, <sup>except</sup> 1 ten. called Brabscores,

3a. at Westheath; 1 barn which once belonged to William Roper, the butcher, 1 ten. in the par. of St. Martin, which once belonged to Stephen atte Welle; 1 ten. in which John Palmer was



living in the par. of St. Nicholas, 3 rods of land in the par. of Lydd adjoining the lands of Richard Walters; all the rents from various tens. in Romney (except that from the ten. <sup>which</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>once belonged to</sup> John Barbor, in the par. of St. Laurence) ~~in~~ ~~which~~ ~~some~~ ~~lands~~ ~~and~~ ~~tens.~~ ~~which~~ ~~were~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~sold.~~

After the death of Alice the income from all the ~~lands~~ <sup>in which she held a life interest</sup> and tens. <sup>^</sup> was to be distributed in works of charity till 20 yrs. had elapsed since the testator's <sup>wife's</sup> <sup>^</sup> death. After 20 yrs. the lands and tens. were to go to Peter and James, the sons of John Pyers of Woodchurch on condition that they did not obstruct this will. If they did so all was to be sold for charity, at nihil habebunt.

[Folio 21 verso]

57. 1429, 26th May. Richard CAUGH, (CAWCH) Rector of Ickham.

Bur.: In the chancel of the par. ch. of Ickham in front of the image of St. Mary.

Bequ.: To repair and renovate the reredos of the h.a. of the par. ch. and the painting of the images of St. Mary, St. John the Apostle, and the archangel, and also the newly-painted figure of Christ on the same reredos, 40/-; for the repair of the benches in the nave, 13/4d; the h.a., 2 silk cloths which were in his oratory in the rectory; Andrew Cauch, his kinsman, a red and black bed, 2 blankets, 2 sheets, 1 coverlet, 1 mattress, and 1 pillow; Master William Hertlonde, his breviary; his godson, the son of William Cros, 1 qr. barley; his god.da., Elizabeth atte Wode, 1 qr. barley; his godson, Robert Rokysle,

6 b. barley; Thomas Arnolde and Richard Hersyng, 4 b. barley each; John Clerke, 1 hooded gown; John Brede, 1 green coverlet, 1 blanket and 1 sheet for his sons; Richard Crosse, 1 silver cup and cover, 1 white amber rosary; John atte Wode, 1 burse and 1 gold brooch; John Cros, 6/8d and a burse with a little gold ring; the da. of Richard Cros, 4 b. barley; Isolde, his kinswoman living under the care of the Prioress of Wrexale, 1 small mazer and 4 silver spoons; the same Prioress, 1 pomander against the plague;<sup>1</sup> John Brownyng, his kinsman, servant of the same Prioress, 1 hooded gown of mustivelers,<sup>2</sup> an ivory comb and 6/8d; for distribution to the poor of Ickham on the day of his funeral, 13/4d; 100 requiems on the day of his funeral, requiems for his parents for 1 year.

Residue to William Hertlonde and Richard Crosse.

Execs.: William Hertlonde and Richard Crosse.

Bequ.: To Richard Rutborne, 6/8d; Thomas Batyn, 3/4d; Ralph, 5/-; Vincent, 3/-; Richard Crosse was to be remunerated for his trouble.

Probate: Thomas Moonie, 1432, 18th May. Prerogative.

[Folio 22 recto]

58. 1430/1, 7th February. Hamo ALEYN, of Lydd.

Bur.: In the cemetery of the par. ch. of Lydd.

Bequ.: H.a. of the same ch., 2 sheep; the fabric of the ch. 2 sheep; the gild of St. Mary in Old Romney, 2 sheep; Rev. John, chaplain of Lydd, 12d; the two clks. there 12d.

Will: All his lands and tens. in Kent to be equally div. between his heirs. Agnes, his w. to have wardship till his sons came of age. Residue of chattels to be div. into 3 equal parts, the first for his soul, the 2nd for Agnes, his w., the 3rd for his sons and das.

Exec.: Agnes, his w., Godfrey Maker of Lydd.

Probate and Acquittance: Thomas Moonie, 1430, 18th April.  
[Folio 22 verso]

59. 1430, 8th November. William TURNOR, of Lydd.

Bur.: In the North end of the par. ch. of Lydd.

Bequ.: H.a. of the same ch. 10/- ; for the fabric of the North end of the ch. 10 marks worth of lead; the gild of the Holy Trinity 3/4d; the light of St. James, 3/4d; the light of the Rood, 20d; the light of Westbrook, 30d; the light of Denge-marsh there, 20d; the light of St. Mary, 12d; the light of St. Peter, 12d; the light of All Saints, 12d; the light of St. John the Baptist, 12d; the light of St. George, 12d; the par. chaplain, 16d; William, the clk., 12d;..... [mss. mutilated].. the other clk., 8d; each godchild, 6d; Joan, his w., his best mazer and best silver dish with a turned and decorated rim [swagged], 2 other silver dishes; Alice, his da., his second-best mazer, a silver dish with turned and decorated rim, and 2 other silver dishes; Alice Wyllys, a dowry of 40/-; 3 silver spoons, a dish worth 5/- and a bed; Henry Lisson, a silver belt with a black bodice; for the poor of Lydd, the value of his best

belt, the alms to be distributed on Fridays; Idonie, his kinswoman, sufficient red cloth to make 2 hooded tunics; Joan, his kinswoman, sufficient blue cloth to make 1 tunic; Thomas Redend, 13/4d; the w. of the same Thomas, 6/8d; the w. of Henry Roger, 3/4d; William Parys, 3 silver spoons and 1 entire bed; Thomas Buncy, 1 gown of good russet; the w. and each da. of Thomas Buncy, 1 gown of russet of inferior quality; 200, requiems to be celebrated on one day within 1 month of his death; the Franciscan frs. at Winchelsea, 5/-; the Friary at Rye, 2/6 for 1 trental; the Friary at Lossenham, 2/6, but if the prior of that house was willing to celebrate a trental of St. Gregory for his soul, he was to receive 20/-. Residue to Joan, his w., and Alice his da.

Execs.: Joan, his w., Thomas Redene, Stephen Fermor.

Survs.: Thomas Smyth of Romney, draper, and John Blakene of Lydd.

[Folio 22 verso]

60. 1432, 12th July. Richard JUSTYCE, of Sandwich.

Bur.: In the Carmelite ch. at Sandwich.

Bequ.: H.a. of St. Peter's, Sandwich, 20/-; the fabric of the ch., 6/8d; Joan Pendoe, his servant, the value of his best blue gown, furred with the skins of mountain sheep; Agnes Marohan, his servant, 6/8d; Robert Warde, his bastard son, the value of two second-best gowns, to place him in a good workshop. Residue to Constance, his w.

Execs.: Constance, his w., chief exec.; John Halle Esq.,  
Robert Chewesworth.

Probate: Thomas Moonie. Prerogative.

Will: Feoffees: John Halle, Esq., William Taylor,  
cleric, William Wytecherche, cleric; Thomas  
Haddon.

To Constance, his w., all his lands and tens. in  
Sussex with some of his mobile goods... [mss.  
apparently ends here, but there has been an  
erasure..]

[Folio 23]

61. 1431/2, 27th January. Robert BARTLOTT (BERTLOT)  
of Canterbury.

Bur.: In the Monastery of St. Augustine, Canterbury  
near the tomb of Margaret, his late wife.

Bequ.: H.a. of St. Peter's, Canterbury, 6/8d; the fabric  
of that ch. 6/8d; the par. clk., 20d; the  
Franciscan, Dominican and Augustinian frs.,  
Canterbury, 6/8d each; the Hosps. of Northgate,  
Harbledown and Maynardspittle, 40d each; the  
fabric of the ch. of St. Augustine, 20/-.  
Henry Milton, 100/-; William Tulle, 20/-; each  
of his servants, 20d; Matilda Cook, 10/-;  
Isabella Bekyll, 10/-; Alice Adryan', 10/-;  
John Petye, 40/-; John Scheldwych, 40/-; John  
Bartlott, 40/-; the Prior of Christchurch,  
Canterbury, £10 from the sale of two messuages  
in the parishes of St. Peter and St. Margaret.  
Residue to Joan, his w., except for 100 sheep  
and 2 of his better horses which he left for his  
soul.

Execs.: Joan, his w., and John Bertlot, his brother.

Surv.: John Quek.

[Folio 23 verso]

62. 1431, 8th July. Humphrey BARROY (BARRY), of Charing.

Bur: In front of the image of St. Christopher in the par. ch. of Pevington.

Bequ.: H.a. of par. ch. of Pevington, 40d; for paving the ch., 40/-; H.a.'s of Charing, Ashford and Warehorne, 40d each; for the fabric of the churches of Charing, Ashford and Warehorne, 13/4d each; for a chaplain to celebrate for his soul etc. in the ch. of Pevington, 10 marks; the Priory of Horton, 4 nobles; the Augustinian frs., the Franciscan, and Dominican frs. at Canterbury, 20/- each; Isabella, his w., his two best silver cups and 20/-; Henry, his son, his third silver cup; Richard, his son, his fourth cup; Edward, his son, his fifth cup; John, his son, his sixth cup; Isabella, his sister, a silver goblet and 40/-; John Swetyng, a second-best gown; Thomas Brokhelle, 20/-; Master John Egerdon, 20/-; Joan, his da., a silver laver. Cross remainders between all his sons and das. Residue to Isabella, his w.

Execs.: Isabella, his w., Thomas Brokhelle, John Egerdon.

[Folio 24 recto]

63. 1421, 10th June. William Parker, Esq., of Kingsnorth.

Bur.: In the chancel of the par. ch. of Kingsnorth.

Bequ.: The ch. of Kingsnorth, 1 set of vestments of white damask, 1 set of black and 1 set of green; the ch. of Warley in Essex, 6 marks to make a vestment of black damask; h.a. of the ch. of St. Lawrence Jewry, in London, a length of blue damask; Margaret, his w. a bed with curtains, tester and coverlet according to her choice, and all his rings, owches, pearls, brooches, chains, his collar of gold, his belt, laced with gold and all his bodys of gold and coral which were in her keeping; Thomas Elys, £10; Thomas Chapman, £10; Thomas Nycoll, 40 marks; John Parker, 100/-; Walter Tany, 4 nobles and 1 small purple gown with fur; Richard Kelle, 2 nobles and 1 green furred gown; John Cook, 1 noble; Matilda Dyngle, 5 marks; Margaret, his servant, 1 noble; Rose Dyrany, 2 nobles; John Redewell', 1 steer; William, son of Roger Parker, 1 steer; Robert Hogelett, 1 steer. Residue to Thomas Elys, Thomas Chapman, Thomas Nycholle.

Execs.: Thomas Elys, Thomas Chapman, Thomas Nycholle.

[Folio 24 recto]

64. 1432, 18th July. William LOVE, of Romney.

Bur.: In the cemetery of St. Nicholas', Romney.

Bequ.: H.a. St. Nicholas', 2 nobles; the fabric of the ch., £3. 6. 8d; the gild of St. George, 40d; St. Laurence's ch., Romney, 6/8d; St. Martin's

ch. Romney, 6/8d; John Love, his father, 40/-;  
 John Love, his brother, his best blue gown and  
 40/-; Stephen Love, his brother, his second-  
 best gown and 1 silver baselard and 40/-;  
 Richard Love, his brother, 1 gown and 40/-;  
 Laurence, his son, his best baselard; Joan, his  
 da., a dowry of 10 marks; each godchild, 6d;  
 William Warmestone, 40/-; Residue to Sarah,  
 his w., William Warmestone and Laurence, his  
 son.

Execs.: Sarah, his w., William Warmestone and Laurence  
 Love, his son.

Surv.: John Adam Cavere.

[Folio 24 verso]

65. 1430, 14th December. John BROKE, of Snaxston,

Bur.: In front of the altar of St. Staple:

Catherine, in the par. ch. of Staple.

Bequ.: H.a. of the par. ch. Staple, 6/8d; h.a. of the  
 par. ch. of Ash, 2/-; h.a. of the par. ch. of  
 Goodnestone, 2/-; the fabric of the ch. of  
 Staple, 1 horse called le gray Awmbelar and 1  
 best silver cup with a cover and 30 grs. of  
 lime; Constance Cherchegate, a dowry of 10  
 marks and 20 ewes; Isabella and Godleve' the  
 das. of John Broke, junior, a dowry of £10  
 each (cross remainders between the two sisters);  
 Thomas Hunte, 12 ewes; Richard Hunte, 1 qr.  
 barley and  $\frac{1}{2}$  qr. wheat; Nicholas Colyn', 1 qr.  
 wheat; John Symond, senior,  $\frac{1}{2}$  qr. wheat;  
 Stephen Colyn, 1 qr. barley; John Colyn, 1 qr.  
 barley; William Webbe, senior,  $\frac{1}{2}$  qr. wheat;  
 Rev. James Cape', of Staple, 2/6d; the clk.,



there, 2/-; fr. John Perott, senior, 5/-; fr. John Perott, junior, 2/6d; Thomas Colyn', 20 sheep. Residue to John Broke, his son.

Exec.: John Broke, his son.

Surv.: John Oxynden'.

[Folio 24 verso]

66. 1433, 15th June. John WYNDCHILSE (WYN'CHILSE) of Appledore.

Bur.: In the cemetery of the par. ch. of Appledore.

Bequ.: H.a. of the par. ch. of Appledore, 10/-; each light there, 20d; each godchild, 4d; a stipend of 20 marks for a chaplain to celebrate for his soul for two yrs. at Appledore; each of the four Orders of Frs., 2/6d; to make a drinking cup in Appledore, 13/4d; the ch. of Stone, 10 lbs. wax; the ch. of Fairfield, 10 lbs. wax; the ch. of Southgate, 10 lbs. wax. Residue to Agnes, his w.

Exec.: Agnes, his w.

[Folio 24 verso]

67. 1433, 13th December. Edmund ROPERE, of Canterbury.

Bur.: In St. Dunstan's, Canterbury.

Bequ.: H.a. of St. Dunstan's, 6/8d; the par. clk., 20d; the lights of the Rood, St. Mary, St. Dunstan, St. Anne, 3/4d each; the lights of St. John the Baptist, St. Nicholas, St. Christopher, 20d each; the fabric of the ch. 20/-; the fabric of the ch. of Hackington, 5/-; the vicar of Hackington, 3/4d; Alice, his w., a life interest in his chief messuage in the par. of St. Dunstan, Canterbury; the Franciscan

Dominican and St. Augustinian frs., Canterbury, 6/8d each; the Hosps. of Northgate and Harbledown, 6/8d each; St. Sepulchre's, 3/4d; Maynard-splittle, 12d; John Sparrewe, senior, 2/-; Residue to Alice, his w.

Exec.: Alice, his w.

Surv.: John Pyrye.

Probate: Thomas Moonie, 1433, 16th December. Prerogative.  
[Folio 25 recto]

68. 1434, 24th July. Adam HOLME, parish chaplain of Egerton.

Bur.: In the chancel of the par. ch. of Egerton.

Bequ.: H.a. of the same ch. 3/4d; the par. chaplain to celebrate for his soul in the same ch. 20d; the par. clk. and sacristan, 20d; the light of St. John the Baptist, 6/8d; for the work of the ch. 6/8d; for the chief light, 12d; for distribution to the poor of the par. 20/-, (6d each person); for distribution to the poor outside the par. 1d each; fr. Stephen Godwyn, 3/4d, fr. Robert Longman, 20d; For his funeral expenses 20/-; for his month-mind, 13/4d; Juliana Smytheotte, 6/8d; Alice Wardon, 6/8d; Agnes Smytheotte, 3/4d; John Smytheott, 3/4d and 1 ewer and basin; the rectors of Little Chart, Pluckley and Boughton Malherbe, 12d each; the rector of Pevington, if resident, 12d; the vicar of Charing, 12d; each exec., 3/4d to provide one vestment for the par. of Egerton, if the parishioners were willing to make up the residue of the cost, 20/-; for his anniversary, 6/8d; John Godard and

William Swadys, 3/4d each; John Roberd, 12d;  
 Richard Atwell and Robert Thetchar, 20d each;  
 Isabella, the w. of Robert Cooke of Tenterden,  
 6/8d; Robert Cooke, 1 blue gown, furred; for  
 each of his poor kinsfolk if they were in need,  
 6/8d. Residue to Alice Warden and Juliana  
 Smytheotte.

Execs.: John Smitheotte and Henry Knot of Egerton.

Probate: Thomas Moonie, 1434, 16th Deptember.

[Folio 25 verso]

69. 1436/7, 2nd January. Thomas BROWN, of Canterbury.

Bur.: In the Dominican ch. at Canterbury, next to  
 John Brown, his brother.

Bequ.: H.a. of the par. ch. of St. Alphege ... [mss.  
 mutilated ...] par. clk., 6d; the work of the  
 Monastery of St. Augustine... [mss. mutilated]  
 ... 6/8d; the Prior and Monastery of St. August-  
 ine, 40d; the Brothers and Sisters of the Hosps.  
 of Harbledown and St. John the Baptist, Canter-  
 bury, 20d each; John, his son, his best bed, 2  
 pr. sheets, 1 pr. best blankets and all its  
 other furnishings, and his best bed [sic],  
 4 ... [mss. mutilated] ... of Mustrevillier  
 cloth; William Brown, 2 Matins Books, his best  
 copper cooking pot, his best pan, 1 small cooking  
 pot with a ciroule, 1 basin and 2 pewter ewers;  
 John Brown, junior, 1 cooking pot and 1 russet  
 gown; Christina Brown, half a dozen pewter  
 vessels; Alice Brown, half a dozen decorated  
 pewter vessels. Residue to John Brownm his son  
 and to the Rev. Henry atte Hilles, rector of  
 St. Alphege's.

Execs.: John Brown, his son, and the Rev. Henry atte Hilles.

Surv.: Rev. John Lovell, rector of St. George's, Canterbury.

[Folio 25 verso]

70. (Undated) John CHARLYS, Of Reculver.

Will: Feoffees: Alexander Calkett, Richard Calkett, Simon Vines of Reculver, John Toule of Hoath. Lands and tens. in the pars. of Herne, Reculver, Beltinge and Hoath.

To be sold: one piece of land at Helweldyngwode, the money from the sale to be disposed of by Juliana, his w., and John Toule, his exec. for his soul.

To Juliana, during her widhowhood, a messuage at Broomfield with an adjacent piece of land, after her widowhood it was to be sold and of the price obtained for it, she was to have 5 marks, and each of his three sons, 20/-, when they reached the age of 16, and his execs., 40/- for his soul.

From the income of his lands he wished to have 250 masses celebrated for his soul; to provide for 1 pilgrim to go to Walsingham in his place, 6/8d; for the repair of the road between his gate and that of Robert Alayn, 40d; for the repair of the road at Flouris, 40d; each godchild, 4d; each feoffee, 40d; to Joan, his da. at the age of 18, 2 pieces of land at Sondes; to Alice, his da. at the same age, 1 piece of land at Tragethey; to Margery, his da.

at the same age, 1 piece of land at le Ferthing;  
cross remainders between his das. for works of  
charity and to provide 40/- to celebrate for  
the souls of John Charlys, Joan, Alice, and  
Margery, his das. and Laura, his late w.

[Folio 26]

[The testaments of Hamo Aleyn, and William Turnor  
occur for the second time on Folio 26 verso.  
William Turnor's breaks off after the words, "the  
wife of Henry Roger, 3/4; William .....

71. 1434, 2nd January. John LONDOY (LUNDOY) of  
Birchington.

Bur.: In the ch. of All Saints, Birchington.

Bequ.: H.a. of the same ch. 40d; Henry Londoy, his  
brother, a gown furred with fox skins; for two  
poor persons, 2 gowns; Margery, his w., all his  
goods mobile and immobile and all the debts owed  
to him in England. To be sold by Henry Londoy  
to provide for a priest to celebrate in the ch.  
of All Saints for 2 years for his soul, 14 a.  
of land called Philipp if this was not enough,  
another parcel called Bybylly was also to be sold.

Execs.: John Ely of Asford and Henry Londoy.

Probate: Thomas Moonie, 1434, 22nd February.

[Folio 27 recto]

72. 1424, 24th August. John BROKE, of Staple.

Bur.: In St. James' ch., Staple.

Bequ.: H.a. of St. James', Staple, 2/-; the par. clk.,  
12d; the fabric of the ch. 100/-; Alice Swaltres,  
40d; Isabella and Godleve, his das., dowries of

£10 each; cross -remainders between the sisters; remainder to be divided as follows: £10 for charity and £10 to be divided equally between his sons.

Residue to Thomas Colyn, John Petit and Alexander Stepheaday.

Execs.: Thomas Colyn, John Perott, Alexander Stepheaday.

Probate: Thomas Moonie, 1435, 20th April.

[Folio 27 recto]

73. 1434. Robert BRYGHAM, of Canterbury.
- Bur.: In the cemetery of St. Augustine's, Canterbury near the grave of his father.
- Bequ.: H.a. of St, Alphege's, Canterbury, 3/4d; for the repair of the ch. of All Saints, Canterbury, 6/8d; for distribution to the poor of that par. 6/8d; to provide a stipend for 1 priest to celebrate there for 1 year for his soul, his parents, and for Henry Woodchurch and William Sparke, 10 marks; for repairs to the par. ch. of Fenchurch, London, 6/8d; for distribution to the poor there, 6/8d; for repairs to the ch. of St. Andrew, London, 6/8d; for the poor there, 6/8d; the par. ch. of Wye, 5 marks which he had promised; for the poor in Wye, 20/-; to provide a stipend for 1 priest to celebrate at Wye for 1 year for the souls aforesaid, 10 marks; Merton College, his best silver mazer with a gold base and maple cover to be used on fast days provided that one of the senior members of the college was present, the mazer to be kept in the custody of the bursar, a Bible, beginning

at the second folio with the words Die de terra, and a Liber Decretorum, beginning at the second folio with the words Quadragesimo sex septimanas; also 20/- to be div. between the members of the same college for masses to be celebrated as soon as they received news of his death.

Thomas Brygham, his brother, his best dress of murrey with a hood furred with polecats' skins, a cup of three of Paryswurke with a plain, inscribed cover; the w. of Thomas Brygham, his second mazer and towel; the da. of Thomas Brygham, dowries of 100/- each with remainders to the poor within 5 days of death; his sister and her husband at Wye, 40/-; 6 silver spoons, 1 small undecorated cup; Agnes, the da. of the same sister, and her husband, 26/8d; 6 silver spoons which were in daily use in his hall at Canterbury, 1 undecorated smaller cup; the other da. of the same sister, 1 mazer in daily use and 20/-; Isabella, da. of his deceased sister, the late wife of William Belle, a dowry of 5 marks; William Osswell, monk of St. Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury, and brother of the same Isabella, 40/-.

William Clerke, farmer of Thannington, £4. 14. 9d, to be taken from the sum of £44.14.9 which had been credited to him according to an indenture drawn up between the testator and William Clerke, the residue of £30 to go to the par. of Wye, and in particular to provide a stipend for 1 priest to celebrate there, 10 marks; for the ch. 10 marks; for the poor, 20/-;

for the parson of the ch. of Wye, 15/-; Agnes, his sister there, 26/8d; his younger sister there, 20/-; in satisfaction of a debt he owed to Isabella, his sister, late wife of William Belle, 5 marks; William Osswell, her brother, 40/-.

Isabella, his sister ..[mss. mutilated] ... his second best murrey gown with a scarlet hood; William Clerke, all his brass and pewter household vessels and ironware, a bed of red and green worsted, with a tester and 2 blankets ... [mss. mutilated]... a second-best bed with 3 pr. sheets and 1 mattress; John Valentyn of Fenchurch, London, and Alice the w. of John Valentyn, 1 new ewer and basin, 1 silver bag; John, the son of John Valentyn, his gown furred with beaver and 6/8d; the fabric of the ch. of St. Augustine, Canterbury, 5 marks; the fabric of Christ Church, Canterbury, 40/-; John Pyrye, his gilded cup called Note with a silver cover; his godfather, his best surplice; William priest in Christ Church celebrating on behalf of Benchley, his other surplice; John Aston, baker; 1 new ewer and basin; James, his clk., his blue bed with all its belongings of worsted and 40/-; Residue to his execs. for his soul.

Execs.: Rev. Henry Hille, his godfather, Rev. Thomas Colbroke, rector of St, Mary Bredman, Canterbury, Thomas Brygham, his brother of the par. of St. Cross, Canterbury, to each of whom he left 20/- for their services to him.

[Folios 27 verso  
and 28 recto]



74. 1434/5, 11th February. Hugh BYS, of Sandwich.  
 Bur.: In St. Peter's, Sandwich, to the North end of the ch.  
 Bequ.: H.a. of St. Clement's, Sandwich, 6/8d; John Connor, £30. 13. 4d for payment of his debts and expenses to Alphonsus Vaskes, merchant of Lisbon. This money was to be handed to Roger Richard of Bordeaux, representative [plegius] of the same Alphonsus Vaskes, and was to be raised by the execution of a withernam<sup>l</sup> there to be conducted according to the law and custom of the Cinque Ports under the direction of John Connor. Residue to Wilhelmina, his w.  
 Execs.: Wilhelmina, his w., John Palmer, William Chapman.  
 Probate: Thomas Moonie, 1435, 5th June. Prerogative.  
 [Folio 28 verso]
75. 1434/5, 25th February. John LYON, of Canterbury.  
 Bur.: In St. Alphege's, Canterbury.  
 Bequ.: H.a. of St. Alphege's, 6/8d; the par. clk., 12d; Alice, his da., 1 Matins Book of Our Blessed Lady; John Halliday, his servant, a russet gown furred with otter; Thomas, his servant, 40d; Dionysia Chapman, a bed ...[mss. mutilated].. John Cosyn, a russet gown furred with otter; William, vicar of Hollingbourne, a green gown furred with the skins of pole-cats; Agnes, his da., 6 silver spoons; to pay for the fabric of one window to be placed in the ch. of St. Alphege, his corner ten. with a garden adjoining it in the same par., lately occupied by John

Buns; Joan, his w., all his lands and tens. in Canterbury, viz. a garden near the messuage of Robert Alanday, and another garden near Waterlock, another ten. with two shops .... [mss. breaks off].

[Folio 28 verso]

76. (No date) Robert de BRADGARE, vicar of Newington.

..... [mss. begins here].. St. Thomas, Southwark, 12d; John Herry, senior, a sheaf of arrows, a bow, a sword; John atte Wode, his servant, 10 marks, a bed, a furred and hooded gown, a cooking pot and dish; Thomas Dane, his servant, 10/-, a bed, a cooking pot and dish; William Dane, his servant, 6/8d and a bed; William Brembil, 10/-; for his funeral and month-mind, 6 torches; for distribution to 6 poor parishioners who were to carry the torches, a black tunic each according to the discretion of his execs.

His successor, the vicar of Newington, on condition that he did not annoy his execs. nor demand anything further, a red and black set of furniture for the hall, 3 bench coverings and 6 cushions of the same colour, 1 table, 2 little benches, 1 napkin, 1 towel, 2 table-covers, 1 ewer and basin, 6 platters, 6 dishes, 6 saucers, 1 quern, 1 oven, 1 Knedyng-trowh and 6/8d.

Thomas Newe, rector of Kingsdown, 6/8d and a gown; the college of Holy Trinity, Bredgar, 10/-; John Herry, senior 20/-; Rev. Nicholas atte Courte, vicar of Hartley, 20/-; Thomas Mayn', 20/-;

Rev. Thomas Walsingham, chaplain, to celebrate for five years for his soul in the ch. of Newington, 10 marks pa. Residue to his execs. Execs. Rev. Nicholas atte Courte, Mark Brode, vicar of Stockbury, John Promehulle, clk., and John Herry, senior.

Probate: Matthew Assheton, 11th March. Prerogative.  
[Folio 29 recto]

77. 1411, 10th February. John PARKERE (PARKER)  
of Birchington.

Bur.: In the ch. of All Saints, Birchington.

Bequ.: For his funeral day, £4; for his month-mind, £10; for his Anniversary, £4; for the fabric of the ch. of Birchington, £5; the fabric of the ch. of Monkton, 26/8d; the fabric of the ch. of Wode, 10/-; h.a. of All Saints', Birchington, 6/8d; each godchild, 1 b. of wheat and 1 b. of barley. Residue to Cecilia, his w.

Execs.: Cecilia, his w., and William Jory.

Surv.: John Curlewe, Chaplain.

Probate, 1411, February 18th. [A note follows to say that a codicil was proved at the same time as the testaments of which there were two copies, one kept with the other testaments and the second by the Prior of Christ Church].

[Folio 29 recto]

78. 1435, 6th April. John CHILDMELL, of Elmerton, Throwley.

Bur.: In the cemetery of St. Michael's, Throwley.

Bequ.: H.a. St. Michael's ch. 20d; the fabric of the ch. of Buckland, 3/4d; to provide the stipend

for 100 requiems to be celebrated before his month-mind, 13/4d; for 1 priest to celebrate for his soul in Throwley, 5 marks; 1d. alms to be given to each poor man or woman who were present at his funeral service; and ½d to those who came to his house; the same alms at his month-mind and anniversary; Joan, his w., all his utensils in the hall, kitchen and chamber, and 40 marks of English money; Agnes, his da., £10. Residue to Joan, his w., William of Faversham, Thomas Amyce of Throwley.

Execs.: Joan, his w., William of Faversham.

Probate: Thomas Moonie, 1435, 20th December.

[ Folio 29 verso ]

79. 1434, 4th July. John WEBBE, draper, of Dover.

Bur.: In St. Mary's, Dover.

Bequ.: John Tulke, the curate there, 2/-; the fabric of the same ch., 3/4d; the lights of St. James and the Rood, 20d each; the Prior of Dover, 3/4d; each monk in Holy Orders there, 20d, each novice, 4d; The Master of Domus Dei, Dover, 3/4d; each priest there, 20d; each novice, 4d; the Abbot of St. Radigund's, 3/4d; each canon in Holy Orders there, 20d; each notice, 4d.

For the repair of bad roads at Leffryth between two crofts and elsewhere where it was chiefly necessary, 40/-; Joan, the da. of John Swanton', 40/-; h.a. of St. Mary's ch. Dover, 12d; the par. clk., there, 12d; each godchild, 6d; Elizabeth, his w., all his woollen cloths, his woollen yarn to make cloth, and all his wool;

also to Elizabeth, all the goods which were unused in his house and which she had brought with her as her dowry, and 13 marks; John Robyn, 6/8d. Residue to John Swanton and John Robyn for the soul of the testator.

Execs.: John Swanton and John Robyn.

Probate: Thomas Moonie, 1435/6, 11th January.

[Folio 29 verso]

80. 1430/1, 16th March. Robert RASYL, of Hollingbourne.  
 Bur.: In the cemetery of All Saints', Hollingbourne.  
 Bequ.: H.a. of the same ch., 2/-; the rector, 12d;  
 the rector of Harrietsham, 20d; the rector of  
 Headcorn, 2/-; the rector of Bromley, 12d; the  
 light of St. Mary in Hollingbourne, 12d; the  
 light of St. James, 12d; the par. clk., 6d.  
 Residue to Thomas, his father.

Exec.: Thomas, his father.

[Folio 30 recto]

81. 1413, 10th October. Thomas FRENCHYE, of Woodchurch.  
 Bur.: In the cemetery of All Saints', Woodchurch.  
 Bequ.: H.a. of same ch. 6/8d; the light of the Rood,  
 3/4d; the light of St. Mary, 20d; the chaplain,  
 20d; Peter Bodynden, 40d; John Bodynden, 20d;  
 Henry Dokene, 12d; Richard Hochon, 12d; Robert  
 Boydon, 12d; John Bette, 20d; Margaret Henherst,  
 12d; Agnes Deckare, 12d; Juliana Munde, senior,  
 12d; John Bolt, 12d; Joan Cheys; 40d; and 12d  
 to each of the following: Thomas Blecche, Matilda  
 Blecche, Christina atte Whyte, Joan Andrew, Joan  
 Towlonde, Thomas Weldyssh, Henry Towlonde,

Thomas Munde, Agnes Hoberd and Juliana Aleyn;  
 Henry Aleyn, 20d; Thomas Ryggewaye, the son of  
 William Roggeweye, 20d; Thomas Spayne, junior,  
 20d; the son of Roger Grygge, Henry atte Hope,  
 and William Hert, junior, 12d each; Juliana  
 Robyn, 20d; William Type, Reygate and Alice  
 Frensch, 12d each; Robert Whytyng, 20d; the  
 heirs of James Howlehale, 20/-; Alice Hope, 6/8d;  
 Residue to John Harlakenden, Thomas Willis and  
 William Willis.

Exec.: William Wyllis.

[ Folio 30 recto ]

82. 1413, 23rd October. Alice FRENCHYE (FRENSSH'),  
 wife of Thomas Frenchye of Woodchurch.

Bur.: In the cemetery of All Saints', Woodchurch.

Bequ.: H.a. of the same ch. 2/-; the light of the  
 Rood, 10d; the light of St. Mary, 8d; for dis-  
 tribution to 8 poor persons, 8 prs. of shoes;  
 the das. of Christina atte Whyte, 13/4d; John  
 Rolker, a 2 year old heifer; the ch. of All  
 Saints, 1 best alter cover; Thomas Dewere, 2  
 sheets; Agnes Dewer, 4 b. of oats; John Bolt,  
 2 b. of oats; Henry Dokene, 2 b. of oats; Richard  
 Hochon, 2 b. of oats; the w. of Richard Hochon,  
 1 pr. of shoes; William Soma', junior, 1 ell of  
 russet; William Hert, junior, 8d; the sacristan,  
 6d. Residue to Juliana, her sister.

Execs.: Juliana, her sister and William Willys.

[ Folio 30 recto ]

83. 1430, 26th November. Joan MARACH, wife of John  
Marach of Canterbury.

Bur.: In the cemetery of Christ Church, Canterbury.

Bequ.: H.a. of St. Alphege's ch., 6/8d; for the work of the nave there, 6/8d; the par. clk., 12d; the Augustinian, Franciscan and Dominican frs., at Canterbury, 3/4d each; the Carmelites at Sandwich, 3/4d; for distribution to the poor on her funeral day, 4 prs. of shoes and 3/-; for 20 priests at Vespers and Matins and celebrating Mass for her soul, 4d each; or if Mass was not celebrated, 2d each; Marion Barham, 1 red gown furred with rabbit skins, 1 blue kirtle, 1 red hood and 1 hooded cloak of blue and green; Catherine, the servant of John Brown, 1 red kirtle; Lucy Kykys, her sister, 1 best medley tunic, furred; Elene Lilkyn, 1 russet gown, furred with black lamb; Joan Plomeris, 1 fur of white lamb; Joan Schanthrel, 1 green gown and 1 blue kirtle; Alice Mason, 1 lined, violet gown; Margery Merssh, 1 best cotton kerchief; Joan and Alice, the das. of the same Margery, 2d each; Residue to John Marach, her husband.

Exec.: John Marach, her husband.

Probate: Matthew Assheton, 1430, 2nd December.

[Folio 30 verso]

84. 1414, 31st March. Henry TOLBACHE, vicar of Charing.  
Bur.: In the chapel of St. Mary in the ch. of Charing.  
Bequ.: The Chaplain for the celebration of requiems for his soul, 12 marks; the Franciscan and Dominican frs. at Canterbury, 6/8d each; the

Augustinian frs. there, 20/-; the Hosp. of St. Thomas the Martyr, 20/-; Residue to Master Henry Tolbache.

Exec.: Master Henry Tolbache.

Surv.: Rev. Robert Rolleston, rector of Charing.

Probate: Richard Godmersham, 1414, 16th April.

[Folio 30 verso.]

85. 1414, 24th August. Thomas ATTE CHIRCHE, of  
Birchington.

Bur. In the cemetery of All Saints', Birchington.

Bequ.: H.a. of the same ch. 4d; the fabric of the ch., 12d; Thomas Weller, 6d; for a trental to be celebrated in the same ch., 2/6d; for his funeral expenses, 40d; his month-mind, 40d; his anniversary, 40d. Residue to Joan, his w., and to his sons; John Blechyndon, 20d for his trouble.

Execs.: Joan, his w., and John Blechyndon.

[Folio 31 recto.]

86. 1414, 3rd September. Hamo LAAS, minor of Gore's  
End, Thanet.

Bur.: In the cemetery of All Saints', Birchington.

Bequ.: H.a. of the same ch., 8d; the fabric of the ch. of Monkton, 6d; for the work of the ch. of Birchington, 12d; for the light of the Blessed Sacrament, 2 b. of barley; the light of St. Mary, 2 b. of barley; the Dominican frs. Canterbury to celebrate one trental for his soul, 2/6d; William Stephene, 20d; for his funeral expenses, 6/8d; for his Month-mind and Anniversary, 10/- each; Thomas atte Felde, 40d; Residue to Elene, his w.



Execs.: Elene, his w., and Thomas atte Fekde.

[ Folio 31 recto ]

87. 1414, 28th June. John DAVY, of Birchington.

Bur.: In the cemetery of All Saints', Birchington.

Bequ.: For the work of that ch., 12d; the Dominican frs. at Canterbury, and the Carmelite frs. at Sandwich for requiems for his soul, 2/6d each; H.a. of All Saints', Birchington, 6d; for his funera] expenses and month-mind, 6/8d each; for his anniversary, 10/-; Thomas Phylp, 40d; Joan, his w., 1 cown 12 b. of wheat and 3 qr. of barley; Adam Twygth, 1 green gown; William Wat', 1 cauldron; Residue to his execs.

Execs.: Joan, his w., and Thomas Phylp.

[ Folio 31 recto ]

88. 1414, 25th June. John CELY, Esq., of Reculver.

Bur.: In the cemetery of St. Mary's, Reculver.

Bequ: H.a. of the same ch., 4d; Rev. Robert, the par. chaplain, 4d; John, the par. clk., 4d; John Aleyn, 1 red tunic and 1 pr. russet hose; Thomas Cely, 1 lined gown of russet; Margaret Lyttlywode, 2 sheep. Residue to his execs.

Execs.: Henry Aleyn and William May.

[ Folio 31 recto ]

89. 1414, 10th July. Margery WALTER, wife of Thomas  
Walter of Birchington.

Bur.: in the ch. of All Saints', Birchington.

Bequ: H.a. of the same ch., 12d; the lights of the Rood, St. Anne, St. Mary, St. Margaret, 1 b. of barley each; the fabric of the ch. of Monkton,

2d; the fabric of the ch. of Wode, 2d; Thomas Weller, clk., 4d; the Carmelite frs. at Sandwich, 6/8d; William Watte, Geoffrey Gayn, John Herry, Stephen atte Chirche, 1 pr. of shoes each; Constance Philpot, her best tunic.

Residue to Thomas Walter, her husband.

Exec.: Thomas Walter, her husband.

Probate: Robert Danby, 1414, 28th July.

[Folio 31 verso]

90. 1414, 4th September. John SANDRE, of Churchdown, Thanet.

Bur.: In the ch. of St. John, Thanet.

Bequ.: For the works of the ch. on condition that he was buried there, 40/-; H.a. and other altars, 5/-; a stipend of 20d for a daily taper before the Rood; John, a beneficed priest there, 12d; John Hamon, 8d; for a light every day before the image of St. Anne, 1 qr. barley - to be kept by William Culvirhouse, so that a light might burn there during divine service; each of his sons, 1 b. of barley; John Bergh, 4 b. of wheat; Thomas Webbe, 4 b. wheat; Henry Strangbeghe, 2 b. barley; Dionysia HwYTE, 2 b. barley; Petronilla Bakere, Joan Post, Martha Folke,  $\frac{1}{2}$  qr. barley each; Petronilla Mathew, 6 b. barley; John Hayward, 13/4d; John Curlyng, 1 qr. barley; John Kempe, his godson, Thomas Lydun, William Grigori, Robert Rotyer, 4 b. barley each; Cecilia Lacy and Cecilia Tredar, 2 b. barley each; the chapel of Salmestone, 20d; John, his son, his best belt, a silver baselard, a mazer, a silver goblet, a

silver finger-ring; Cecilia, his w., 1 mazer, a silver goblet, 2 belts; John atte Berton, for his services, 26/8d; Nicholas Canteys and Henry Lyon, for their services, 13/4d each; Richard Cotysle, 13/4d; the four Mendicant Orders at Canterbury and Sandwich, 4 nobles; for the bell-tower of St. Peter's in Thanet, 6/8d; Joan, his da., his best mazer, 1 silver goblet, 1 silver belt. Residue to his execs.

Execs.: Cecilia, his w., Nicholas Canteys, Henry Lyonn, Richard Cotysle, John atte Flerd.

Survs: Nicholas and John atte Berton.

[Folio 31 verso]

91. 1414, 2nd November. JOHN HONTE,  
rector of Wootton.

Bur.: In the par. ch. of Wootton.

Bequ.: The fabric of the same ch., 10 marks; the lights of St. Martin, St. Mary and St. Catherine, 4 b. of wheat each; the light of St. Nicholas, 2 b. of barley; William Wotton, 1 silver cup with a cover; Thomas Myddilton, chaplain, a coverlet with a tester worked with swans; Rev. Roger, chaplain, 2 trentals; the Abbot of St. Radegund, 20 sheep; each canon there, 12d; the Archdeacon's official, 6/8d; Robert Becket, 3/4d; Peter Rocher, bailiff of the Hundred, 20d; Joan, the w. of John Wotton, his best gown; Joan, the w. of John Wykham, his second-best gown; Richard Neal, 1 cauldron, 1 pan, 1 tripod, 1 qr. malt, 1 cloak; William Graunt, 1 horse, 1 filly, 2 male calves, the bed in which he lay with all its furnishings and 20 stooks of corn; Catherine, his godchild,

2 b. barley, 1 calf, 3 ewes; Robert, John and William, the sons of John Wotton, 3 sheep and 2 b. barley; the same to Constance and Christina, the das. of the same John; William Denne, Thomas Wodeland, Richard Webbe, John Honewood, Christina Whyderys, Justina Kynght, Emmotte Webbys, Alice Betone, William Snappe, Agatha Halfguyth, William Lodwod, Robert Atte Helle, Robert Betone, Christopher Carpenter, John Bate, John Monte, Alice Harry, Thomas Owenden, Simon Cary, Richard Neal, John Wotton, William Grygge, John Wykham, 2 b. grain each; John the son of Thomas Marchand, 10/-; to be kept for him by John Hylles; John, the son of John Greneford, 6/8d, to be kept for him by Isabella atte Hoth; John Colord, junior, John Ryche, John Simon, John Parker of Ewell, Alice Andrew of Dover, John Hern' of Ewell, Henry Maydeston, 2 b. grain each; Thomas Marchand, 6/8d; John Badeford, rector of Knowlton, 1 trental; John Bate, 1 russet gown; Solomon Goldsmyth, 1 green gown; John Wodecot, junior, of Swynefeld [sic]; Rev. Thomas Spyrk, chaplain, 1 decorated silver belt, 1 baselard, 1 gold finger-ring called a signet, 1 book called Pars Oculi. Residue to Christina, his sister and John Wotton, Christina's son.

Execs.: William Ladewod and John Wotton.

Surv.: Thomas Marchand.

[Folio 32 recto]

92. 1416/7, 23rd January. Thomas MENNESSEE, of Deal.  
 Bur.: In the cemetery of St. Leonard's, Deal.  
 Bequ.: H.A. of the same ch., 2/-; the fabric of the same ch., 20/-; the light of the Rood, 12d; for his

funeral expenses, 20/-; for his month-mind, 13/4d; for his anniversary, 6/8d; the par. clk., 6d; each godchild, 1 b. barley; Alice, the da. of Thomas Brandrede, 1 qr. barley. Residue to Alice Menesse.

Execs.: Alice and Thomas Menesse.

Probate: 1416, 29th March.

The inventory of this testament contains £33, 40s. and 7d. (sic).

[Folio 32 recto]

93. 1416/17, 22nd March. John CLERKE, elemosinary chaplain of Christ Church, Canterbury.

Bur.: In the cemetery of Christ Church, Canterbury.

Bequ.: H.a. of the same ch. 6/8d; Rev. John Wednysbergh', Prior of Christ Church, Canterbury, 2/8, which was owing to the testator from Master Matthew Assheton, Commissary General of Canterbury, and 11/8d which was owing to the testator from the rector of the ch. of Ickham; Rev. Thomas Herne, monk of Christ Church, Canterbury, 26/8d, which was owing to the testator from Thomas Gerond, clk. of St. Paul's, Canterbury, and one best pilche; the nuns of Minister in Sheppey, one missal and £5. 6. 8; the par. ch. of the same convent, a manual and a processional; the elemosinary chaplain of Christ Church, Canterbury, one antiphonal for daily use there; John Gower, chaplain, 1 small breviary, his best bed with a tester, a canopy with 3 blue curtains, 1 pr. best blankets, 2 pr. best sheets, 2 best gowns, 2 best hoods, 1 cithara, a book called Pars Oculi and 13/4d; Laurence Gyle, chaplain,

an ordinal, a Legenda and 6/8d; Thomas Brystil, chaplain, 1 blue bed, 1 canopy with a tester, 2 gowns, and 6/8d; John Sone, chaplain, 6/8d; Rev. William Boydde, 6/8d. Residue to his execs.

Execs: Rev. John Sone and Rev. Laurence Gyle, chaplains, to each of whom he left for their services, 6/8d.

Surv.: Rev. John Wednysbergh, Prior of Christ Church, Canterbury, by special favour, to whom he left for his services, 6/8d.

Probate: Matthew Assheton, 1416/17, 31st March.

[Folio 32 verso ]

94. 1418/9, 7th March. Christina BENAYT, of Canterbury.

Bur.: In the chancel of St. John, in St. Mildred's Canterbury.

Bequ.: H.a. of the same ch. 3/4d; the lights of the Rood and St. John, 3/4d each; the par. clk., 20d; for use at the churching of women there, 1 large bench-covering (banquer), 1 dossal (docer)<sup>1</sup> and 3 white and green cushions; to the same ch., one bench called Longsetyl for the chancel, 1 red chest for storing vestments, 1 black carpet with black fringes for use in front of the H.a., 5 candles of 5 lbs. weight each to burn around her corpse on the day of her funeral, and at her month-mind, afterwards to be distributed as follows, one to the H.a. and three others to the altars of St. Mary, St. John, St. Nicholas, and one to burn before the Rood.

For each poor person coming to her funeral,  $\frac{1}{2}$ d, and to her month-mass,  $\frac{1}{2}$ d; for a suitable chaplain to celebrate a trental of St. Gregory, 10 marks; the Augustinian, Dominican and Franciscan

frs. at Canterbury, 6/8d each; the brothers and sisters of the Hosps. of Northgate and Harbledown, 6/8d each; the hosp. of Maynards Spittle, 3/4d; for distribution to 6 poor men, 6 black gowns; for distribution to 13 poor people on her funeral day, 13 prs. of shoes; St. Mildred's ch. Canterbury, 1 silver goblet with a cover and 6 silver spoons to be made into a chalice; Rev. John Cherche, canon, 6 silver spoons inscribed with the letter W; William, her son, 12 silver spoons of one pattern and six of another, 1 best silver cup with a cover, 1 second-best silver goblet, 1 small goblet with a cover, 1 Matins Book of Our Lady with a Prus [Spruce?] covering, all the armour, a mail tunic 2 best mazers, 2 feather mattresses, 2 bolsters and 6 feather pillows, 1 doz. decorated pewter vessels, 4 pewter dishes, 1 best chest and another chest called Schypwyoth, 1 silver salt cellar, 1 silver casket, 1 bed with coverlet and tester, 4 pr. sheets, 3 curtains and 1 serge cloth, all of the best, 1 table with trestles, 2 napkins, 1 long towel, 2 short towels, 1 hanging ewer with a basin, 1 round ewer, 2 copper cooking pots, 2 copper pans, 1 dish, 2 feather mattresses, 2 bolsters and 6 feather mattresses of the best; all on condition that he placed a marble tombstone over her body,

Isabella, the w. of William Benayt, 1 best casket, 3 gold finger-rings; William Farna', 1 ewer and basin, 1 third-best copper cooking pot, Alice Gygo', 1 rosary of beryl, 1 gown, 1 kirtle,

1 best cloak with a hood; Margery Stone, 1 second-best gown and 3/4d; Margery Charkton, 2 small caskets.

To be sold; all the pewter vessels and furniture of wood or metal, certain benches and tables of her second-best, which were not otherwise bequeathed, the money from the sale to be spent by her execs. on repairing the road in Crabbe Lane; for the neighbouring poor, all the fuel in the yard, to be distributed by her execs; William, her son, 1 acre of land in the par. of St. Mildred bet. the land of the heirs of John Bastard to the North and that of the Prior of Christ Church to the West, on condition that he paid for one pilgrim to go to St. James' Shrine in Spain.

For 20 chaplains present at her funeral and celebrating Mass, 6/8d each; for the same at her month-mind, 6/8d; Paul Fekelyn, 3/4d; Rev. William Sare, 1 black casket; the rector of St. Mildred's, 1 feather mattress of third best value; each godchild, 4d; to be placed over the Rood on the feast of St. Mildred, 1 second best cloth; for the altar of St. Mary in the hosp. of Northgate, one cloth decorated with blue shears; John Cheseman, 3/4d; the w. of John Cheseman, 1 green gown, 1 kirtle with a red hood; Christine, the da. of John Cheseman, a chest; Joan Gravene, 1 gown of russet with a hood; the w. of Nicholas Boor, 1 medley gown with a hood; John Heyward, 3/4d; Rev. Nicholas Lord, a



brother of Harbledown, 1 coverlet decorated with green and blue birds and 1 pr. sheets; Juliana, a sister there, at one time the testator's servant, 1 bench and a small coverlet decorated with women's heads and 1 pr. sheets.

Residue to William, her son.

Exec.: William, her son.

Probate: Matthew Assheton, 1419, 13th November.

[Folios 32 verso]  
[ and 33 recto]

95. 1420/1, 18th March. Thomas COSYN, of Boughton under Blean.

Bur.: In the cemetery of the ch. of Boughton under Blean.

Bequ.: H.A. of the same ch., 2/-; the par. clk., 8d; the sacristan, 4d; Rev. John Gole, 12d; the h.a. of the par. ch. of Goodnestone, 6d; the h.a. of the par. ch. of Faversham, 20d; each House of Frs. in Canterbury, 12/6d; the Carmelite frs. at Sandwich, 2/6d; for distribution to the poor in the par. of Boughton under Blean and Hernhill, 12 prs. of new shoes; the Hosps. of Harbledown and Northgate, 6/8d;  $\frac{1}{2}$  qr. wheat and  $\frac{1}{2}$  qr. barley each; for distribution to the poor in the par. of Boughton under Blean 1 qr. wheat and 1 qr. barley; for distribution to the poor at his month-mind, 13/4d; for the expenses of his testament, 26/8d; each god-child, 4d; Joan, the da. of John Bole, 1 copper cooking pot of 4 gallon measure and 1 ewer and basin; John Bole, 6/8d; William Webraw, 10/-;

To repair the King's highway at Fairbrook, 10/-; to repair the road between Poplar and Ford, 10/-; John Cosyn, his servant, 13/4, a tan-coloured coverlet, 1 pr. sheets, 1 cooking pot and pan; Cecilia Fyssh, 1 large brass pan, 1 casket, 1 rosary, 1 small [hand] mill, 6 b. barley, 2 b. wheat; the Hosp. of Ospringe, 6 b. wheat, 2 b. barley and a ham<sup>1</sup>; Mabel Cosyn, a ham, 1 b. wheat, 1 b. barley; the Hosp. of Chetham Hill, 1 b. barley and half a ham; for the lights of St. Margaret and the crufix in the ch. of Boughton under Blean,  $\frac{1}{2}$  qr. barley; for the lights of St. James and St. Peter in the same ch., 1 b. barley; Thomas Farebroke, senior, 6/8d. Residue for the poor.

Execs.: Stephen Cosyn and William Webraw.

Surv.: John Bole.

[Folio 33 verso]

96. 1423/4, 20th January. John WERYN, of Harrietsham.

Bur.: In the cemetery of St. John the Baptist's, Harrietsham.

Bequ.: H.a. in the same ch., 6/8d; for one thousand masses to be celebrated on one day immediately after his death, £4. 3. 4d; to the Prior and Convent of Leeds, for the inclusion of his name in their martyrology and for his annual obit, 5 marks; for the repair of the roads bet. Harrietsham and Romney, 20/-; and bet. Harrietsham and London, 20/-; for a chaplain to celebrate for his soul for one year after his death in the par. ch. of Harrietsham £6. 13.4d; the Franciscan and Augustinian frs., London, 20/- each; the

the Carmelite frs. at Aylesford, 20/-; each Hosp. bet. Canterbury and London Bridge, 3/4d; for distribution among the prisoners at Ludgate, Newgate, the Fleet and the Marshalsea 3/4d each; Guy Hoke, for his services, 20/-; each canon at Leeds Priory, 3/4d; for 4 torches, 20/-; Rev. William, the chaplain at Harrietsham, 20d; John Baker, clk., 8d; Alice, his da., all his chattels in the hands of John Tayner at Byddenne worth £15; William Felde, and Joan, the w. of the same William and the testator's da., all his chattels in the parishes of Ivychurch, Snave, Brookland, Brenzett and Newchurch, on condition that they paid the 10 marks which he, John Weryn, owed for land he had bought; Walter Knyght, 40/- and 2 horses, one black, and the other morell and dun. Residue to Joan, his w.

Execs.: William Felde of Harrietsham, John Taylor of Romney, Joan, his w., and Joan, his da.

Surv.: John Surynden, the Prior of Leeds, to whom he left 20/-.

[Folios 33 verso]  
[and 34 recto]

97. 1446, 17th April. Thomas HYLLE, Esq., of Godmersham.

Bur.: In the chancel of the ch. of St. Mary, Godmersham.

Bequ.: H.a. of the same ch., 6/8d; the par. clk., 12d; the lights of St. Laurence, the Rood and St. John, 20d each; the fabric of the ch., 13/4; the Augustinian, Franciscan and Dominican frs. at Canterbury, to celebrate for him on the day of

his death and at his month-mind, 3/4d each; the fabric of the ch. at Waltham, 6/8d; the h.a. of the same ch., 3/4d; the h.a. of the ch. at Crundale, 20d. Residue to Thomas Hell', his son.  
Exec.: Thomas Hyllye, his son.

[Folio 34 recto]

98. 1425, 5th June. John HAMON, of Reculver.  
[mss. breaks off after the words in primis].

99. 1426, 9th October. John CELY Esq., of Sheephurst,  
Sheldwich.

Bur.: In the chapel of Lydelys in the par. ch. of Sheldwich, near Isabella, his late w.

Bequ.: John, the vicar there, 20/-; the clk., and water carrier there, 20d; to repair the chapel of Lydelys, 6/8d; the fabric of the ch., 26/8d; the fabric of the ch. of Boughton, 26/8d; the Augustinian frs. Canterbury, 40/-; the Dominican and Franciscan frs., Canterbury, 20/- each, the Carmelite frs. Sandwich, 20/-; the Hosps. of Harbledown, Northgate and Maynardspittle, Canterbury, 3/4d each; the Nuns of St. Sepulchre's, Canterbury, 6/8d. Residue to his execs. for his soul.

Execs.: Robert Arthur, rector of Chartham, John Pettut of Shalmsford and Stephen Cherch' of Eastling.

[Folio 34 verso]

100. 1431, 17th August. William MERYWEDER (MERYWEDAR),  
of Canterbury.

Bur.: In the cemetery of Christ Church, Canterbury.

Bequ.: H.a. of St. Alphege's, Canterbury, 20d.

Residue to Agnes, his w.

Execs.: William Dens and Thomas Prowde.

Will: To Agnes, his w. if she remained a widow and as long as his brother did not return from abroad, a piece of land called Dwnsterwesdand in Canterbury, and about 11 a. with a messuage at Bradeway. If she became pregnant, she was to hold these properties for her child till that child came of age. However, if his brother returned from abroad, he was to have the afore-said lands, and Agnes, the testator's w. was to have her rightful dower assigned to her. Remainder of these properties to Agnes, the testator's sister.

To be sold after the death of his mother, 6 a. of land called Oldtownys to provide for the celebration of requiems for his soul.

To Agnes, his w., in perpetuity, 1 a. of land at Waltham next to Ansdore.

To the work of the ch. of Petham, 1 noble from the revenues of the same 6 a. of land. John Comber, the monk, 20/- .....(mss. breaks off). [Folio 34 verso]

101. 1446/7, 22nd March. Edmund DE VALACO, of Faversham.

Will: Feoffees: William Marys Esq.: William Palmere, clk.; John Poland.

To Joan, his w., a life interest in his ten. in the market-place in Faversham, with remainders first to John, his son, then to Joan, Alice and Margaret, his das., in that order.

To Joan, his w., his entire ten. in Canterbury in perpetuity. [Folio 35 recto]

102. 1436. John FOSKYN, of Dover.  
 Bur.: In the cemetery of the ch. of St. John the Baptist, Dover, near his w.  
 Bequ.: H.a. of the same ch., 3/4d; William Goodson, a russet gown; Avise, his da., 40/-; an old woman called Margaret, 1 feather bed and 6/8d.  
 Execs.: Simon Vagga and John Matthew.  
 Probate: Thomas Moonie, 1439, 20th September.  
 [Folio 35 recto]
103. 1446/7, 21st March. William PYKE, of Romney.  
 Bur.: In St. Nicholas' ch., Romney.  
 Bequ.: H.a. of the same ch., 6/8d; the light of each gild there, 12d; the fabric of the ch., 10d; each godchild, 12d; Alice Wotton, 6/8d; Avise, his servant, 40/-; John Bakar', his apprentice, 10 marks, on condition that he worked for Rose, the testator's w. and completed his apprenticeship; William Whytyng, 1 green gown; Rose, his w., 1 gown of mustivelers; for distribution to 4 poor men who were to carry torches during divine service and follow his body; 4 yds. of black cloth on the day of his death; the same torches to be used at his anniversary. Afterwards two of these torches were to go to St. Mark's and St. Laurence's, Romney, and the other two were to remain in St. Nicholas'; the chaplain of St. Nicholas', Romney, 20d; the par. clk., 12d; stipend to be given to 1 chaplain to celebrate for his soul in the ch. of St. Nicholas for 1 year. Residue to Rose, his w.

Will: Feoffees: William and John Bernys: William Herbard of Romney.

To Rose, his w., a life interest in all his lands and tens. at Cades in Ospringe, with remainder to his feoffees to pay 5 marks each to the chs. of Ospringe, Charing and Faversham, and provide stipends for a chaplain to celebrate in the ch. of St. Nicholas for his soul etc. for 1 year and another in the ch. of Faversham for 1 year. To Rose, his w., a life interest in 3 a. of land he had recently acquired from John Badmynton in Romney with the obligation of providing a lamp in front of the h.a. in the ch. of St. Nicholas in perpetuity.

To Rose, his w., in fee simple in perpetuity, all his lands and tens. including a garden in Hothfield, to be sold if Rose wished. Remainder to be disposed of according to her wishes.

[Folios 35 verso]  
[ and 36 recto]

104. 1440, 12th May. Clement HARRYESSON' of Sandwich.

Bur.: "Where God willed."

Bequ.: H.a. of St. Peter's, Sandwich, 3/4d; Carmelite frs.; Sandwich, 6/8d; each fr. there, 4d; Residue to Joan, his w., on condition that she looked after Margery Calthehythe in sickness and in health until the end of her life.

Execs.: Joan, his w., and John Palmer to whom he left 6/8d.

Surv.: William Clerk, to whom he left 6/8d.

Will: Feoffee: William Clerk.

To Joan, his w., on condition that she looked after Margery Calthehythe for life, all his lands and tens. in perpetuity. To Joan, Isabella and Agnes, his das. £4 each, with cross-remainders between the das. who were to remain in the wardship of Joan, his w. till they came of age.

[Folio 36 verso]

105. 1447, 13th November. Cecilia RECHEMOND, of Canterbury.

Bur.: In the Monastery of St. Augustine, Canterbury.

Bequ: The same monastery, 6/8d; the h.a. of St.

Alphege's ch. Canterbury, 3/4d; the Rood there, 7d; the light of St. Mary, 6d; the light before the Body of the Lord, 4d; the par. clk., 8d; for each poor person asking alms on her funeral day, 1 loaf of bread worth ½d; and for each asking alms on her month-mind, a loaf worth ¼d; each House of frs. in Canterbury on her funeral day, 5/- to celebrate for her soul etc. Agnes, the w. of John Couper, 1 second-best gown and her third kerchief; Joan, the da. of John Couper, 1 silver belt when she came of age, with remainder to Joan, her mother, to be sold. Agnes, the w. of John Hendyman, junior, 1 best gown, 1 second-best kerchief, 1 jet rosary with gaudies<sup>1</sup> of silver and a pendant silver cross; John Hendyman, 3 silver spoons, 1 jet rosary with gaudies of beryl; 1 metal basin and ewer, 1 best green coverlet,



1 pr. sheets, 1 blanket, 4 cushions of tapestry work; Robert Watson, 1 hand towel of diaper-work; Alice George, 1 best kirtle and 6/8d; Margaret Clyve, 1 cloak; Joan Syben, her third gown and kerchief of Norfolk thread; to the four men who carried her body to burial, 1 pr. shoes each; for a pilgrim to celebrate 2 masses for her soul etc. at Scala Celi in Rome, 6/8d; Cecilia Caxton, 1 amber rosary; Margery Caxton, 6d; Anabilia Godyn, her best hood and kerchief of Norfolk thread; to be sold, all her utensils not otherwise bequeathed; the Monastery of Christ Church, Canterbury, 8/-; John Hendyman, senior, 6/8d; Thomas atte Welle, a monk in Horton Priory, 3/4d. Residue to her execs.

Execs.: Robert Watson, Thomas atte Welle, the weaver and Richard Skynner.

Surv.: John Hendyman, junior.

[Folios 36 verso ]

[and 37 recto    ]

106. 1447. 31st July. Thomas WERMYSTON, of Romney.

Bur.: In the ch. of St. Laurence, at Romney, in front of the Rood.

Bequ.: H.a. of the same ch., 3/4d; the gild of the Holy Cross, 2/-; each light there, 12d; Rev. William, the par. chaplain, 8d; William Lynde, John Lynde, senior and John Lynde, junior 20/-; each godchild 4d; Hugh Chalton, his best bow; John Chalton, his best gown and best hood; Marion, his w., 1 best silver belt for her life,

with remainder to Alice and Joan, his das., the da. who kept the belt was to give half its worth in money to the other sister; for the fabric and repair of the ch. of St. Laurence, Romney, 40/-; to be kept by his execs. and paid to the guardians of the ch. when necessary; William Brokman, 1 qr. wheat; for the poor, 12 ells of blanket to be divided bet. them and made up into petticoats. Residue to Marion, his w.

Execs.: Marion, his w., and Hugh Chalton.

Will: Feoffees: Richard Ford and Hugh Chalton.

To be sold at once to provide a stipend for a priest to celebrate a trental of St. Gregory for 1 year, certain lands called dennis and 2 a. of woodland, the residue to be disposed of by his execs. for his soul etc.

To Eleanor, the da. of John Kempe, a dowry of 5 marks to be raised from his lands called Culverhouse in Lydd, recently acquired from John Gleweye; to William Brokman, 2 a. of land at Ronton in perpetuity.

To Marion, his w., all his other lands and tens. on condition that she remained chaste. Remainder to go to Alice and Joan, his das. one year after the death of his w., in perpetuity.

[Folio 37 verso]

107. 1447, 24th November. John EYTHEERST, of Smarden.

Will: Feoffees: Thomas Bettenham, John Horne, Robert and William Nynne.

To Lucy, his w., as long as she remained a widow, an annuity of 10 marks p.a. to be raised from all

his lands and tens. in Smarden, Charing and Egerton, including a messuage called Slebynden and his mill called Fyldesnell with the roads leading to it. Remainder to John, his son, then to Agnes, Catherine and Joan, his das. jointly.

To John, his son, in perpetuity, all his lands and tens. in Challock and Westwell, which William Egerynden once held. Remainder to Agnes, Catherine and Joan, his das.

For the work of the churches of Teynham and Smarden, 20/- each; for the work of the churches of Egerton, Charing and Challock, 13/4d each; the three Mendicant orders in Canterbury, 25/- to be equally divided bet. them; to provide a stipend for 1 chaplain to celebrate for his soul etc. in the ch. of Smarden for 1 year, 10 marks; Lucy, his w., 10 marks; Joan, Alice, Agnes and Catherine, the das. of Agnes, his da. 40/- each, to be raised from the sale of chattels.

Postscript: If Lucy, his w. refused to relinquish her legal rights to certain lands and tens. at Ospringe which he and she had sold, then the annuity of 10 marks p.a. would not be paid to her.

Witnesses: John Chirche, John Eytherst, his son, Nicholas Garlyng, John Tilden, John Fernd.

[Folio 38 recto]

108. 1441/2, 1st March. Joan DENYS (DYNYS) of Welle,  
near Littlebourne.

Will: Feoffees: John Denys Esq. and John Isaak,  
senior, Esq.

[in the farm] Lands and tens. in Chislet, Hastingleigh,  
[of a charter] Upper Hardres, Lower Hardres.

To John Morys, 1 marsh called Risshbourne-  
marssh in the par. of Chislet, and 1 piece of  
land called Brokton, and 1 parcel of woodland  
in the par. of Upper Hardres.

To Thomas Burden, 1 piece of arable land of 4  
a. in the par. of Upper Hardres.

To William Isaak, the son of John Isaak, all  
her other lands and tens. in the par. of  
Chislet, to be sold to him for £20.

To William Dynys, son of John Dynys, all  
her lands and tens. in the par. of Lower Hardres  
when he came of age and the same William was  
to provide a stipend for 1 chaplain to cele-  
brate for 1 year in the Monastery of St. August-  
ine, Canterbury.

Residue for her soul.

To each feoffee, 20 marks.

[Folio 38 verso]

109. 1442. 2nd October. John DOWELE (DOWLE), of Herne.

Bur.: In the cemetery of St. Mark's ch., Herne.

Bequ.: H.a. of the same ch., 12d; the light in the v  
ch., 4d; John Bedale, the chaplain, 12d;  
William Groveley, the clk., 4d; Residue to  
Elena, his w.

Execs.: Elena, his w., and William Pratte.

Will: Feoffees: William Pratte, John Percyvale, Thomas Boykyn of Herne, Henry Badcock of Reculver.

To be sold, 4 a. of land in Reculver, which he bought from Thomas and Henry Frawnceys, 1 a. of land bought from Simon Kenet, 3 pieces of land called Donstonys, and 3 virgates bought from Nicholas Ewell.

To Elena, his w., wardship of all his other lands and tens., woods and pastures till his sons, John and Henry came to the age of 16, when they were to receive the income from those lands.

To John and Henry, his sons, when they reached the age of 20, all his lands and tens. etc., except 2 pieces of land containing 11 a. called Le Mayes which was to go to Elena, his w., for her life with remainder to John and Henry, his sons.

Cross-remainders between the two sons. If both his sons predeceased Elena, his w., she was to receive a life interest in their lands and tens. In the case of her death before his sons came of age, the wardship was to go to William Pratt, which included the obligation to see to the repair and maintenance of his houses at Broomfield and present a financial statement [compotus] every year to his feoffees.

Remainder of all his lands and tens. after the death of his w. and sons, first to his das., then to Jean, his sister except the two pieces of land called Le Mayes, which was to be sold to provide for works of charity for his soul etc. Remainder if Joan died, to be sold to provide for the repair of the roads in the par. of Herne and to find a

priest to celebrate for his soul in the ch. of Herne.

Joan, his da., a dowry of 10 marks.

Probate: Thomas Moonie, 1442, 16th November.

[Folios 38 verso  
and 39 recto]

110. 1447, 20th November. John EYTHERST, of Smarden.

Bur.: In the ch. of St. Michael, the Archangel, Smarden.

Bequ: H.a. of the same ch., 12d; the chaplain, 12d; the par. clk., 5d; the light of St. Thomas, 6d; each godchild, 6d; for distribution to the poor on his funeral day, 40/-; at his month-mind, 4 marks; at his anniversary, 20/-; Lucy, his w., all his domestic and household goods in the hall, private rooms and the kitchen at Smarden. Residue to his execs. for works of charity.

Execs: Robert and William Nynne.

[Folio 39 verso]

111. 1443, 31st October. Thomas ATTE BRYGGE (ATTE BREGE), of Lydd.

Will: [In the form of a tripartite indenture].

Feoffees: John Sarlis of Lydd, John Hughelyn of Ivychurch, Henry Aleyn of Lydd, William Godfrey, otherwise called Fermor, of Lydd, William Harlaykynden of Woodchurch.

Lands and tens. in Lydd, Broomhill, Midley, Old Romney and Woodchurch.

To be sold: On [super] the denn. of Stongehilde, about 12 a.; or [super] the denn of Heye about 9 a. called Blitnebury; in Broomhill, 7 a. in several parcels, viz. 2 a. in Poundfeld,  $\frac{1}{2}$  a. south of the

ch. and extending to the church road and which he had recently acquired from John Geffray; 2 other a. in Poundfold, which were surrounded by the lands of Sir Thomas of Eccingham, and which he had also acquired from John Geffray; a piece of land of  $\frac{1}{2}$  a. and  $\frac{1}{2}$  rod extending towards the South West with Kentewall, another piece of land in Cuttishoke of about 1 a. and about 1 rod, lying towards the North East with le Farthe and another piece of land in Cuttishoke of  $\frac{1}{2}$  a., which he had also acquired from John Geffray. In Bilsington about 2 a. of land extending towards a road called Robertsway to the South West, and was in the fee of the Prior and Convent of Bilsington. The money obtained by the sale of these lands was to go to his execs. to pay his debts. Residue to John, his son, to provide the stipend for 1 priest to celebrate for 3 years in Lydd for his soul. To Alice, his da., a dowry of 40 marks, if she followed the advice of his execs., with remainder as follows: for the fabric of the ch. of Lydd in return for an obit every Sunday, £5; the next heirs of the mother of his da. Alice, 20 marks, £8. and 6/8d; Joan and Idonie, his das. 20 marks.

Wardship of John, his son, and Alice, his da., to his feoffees.

To John, his son, at the age of 18, all his other lands and tens. in perpetuity, with remainder first to Joan, Idonie and Alice, his das., then

to Henry Aleyn, but only of his lands in Woodchurch. The rest were to be sold by the same Henry to provide stipends for priests to celebrate in the ch. of All Saints, Lydd, and of Woodchurch for the souls of Thomas atte Brygge, his parents etc., and also to provide dowreis of 40/- each to 20 girls in need, any relatives of Henry Aleyn to have first preference. The fabric of the ch. of Lydd was to receive £5 in return for keeping his obit on Sundays. Residue for the poor, for the repair of bad roads and other works of charity. Each of his execs. £3; William Harlakynden and William Godfray, 20/- each to be paid to them within one year of his death, as were all his other legacies.

Execs.: John Sarlis, John Hughelyn and Henry Aleyn.

Survs. The 12 Jurors of Lydd, who were to keep the 2nd part of this indenture in their common chest at Lydd, his feoffees were to keep the 1st part, and the guardians of the church of Woodchurch, the 3rd part.

Witnesses: James Ayllewyn, Richard Glover, William Scharley, John Quykman, John Norton, the barber, John Brode, William Leycroft and many others.

[Folios 40 and 41]

112. 1446, 25th April. Alan FREEM, of Hollingbourne.

Bar: In the cemetery of the par. ch. of Hollingbourne.

Bequ: H.a. of the same ch., the light of St. Christopher and St. James, 4d each; for the repair of the road to the gate of John Mellere at



Merston, 6/8d; sufficient money for one thousand masses to be said in one or two days after his death; Joan, his w., 8 best ewes and 8 ewe lambs, 1 cow with a calf, 3 piglets, 1 measure of wheat, all his malt, and everything in his storehouse and home, all his other domestic utensils, his clothing, linen and woollen goods, 1½ pipes of cider, and pasture for the cow. For the poor on his funeral-day and at his month-mind and anniversary, 6/8d. Residue to his execs. and to William Gadde to each of whom he left 6/8d. To his execs. sufficient money to pay for his funeral expenses.

Will: Feoffees: Thomas Frer and Thomas Croscombe. To Joan, his w., all his lands and tens. in Sutton, with remainder to her child if it came of age, if not then to be sold to provide stipends for masses to be celebrated for his soul.

Execs.: Thomas Frer of Roysten and Thomas Jolyn.

Surv.: William Gadde.

Probate: Thomas Moonie, 1446, July 26th.

[Folio 41 verso]

[At the top of this folio occurs the heading Publicum Instrumentum ]

113. 1448, 30th May. Geoffrey MULTON, of Brenzett.

A pardon granted by Bull of Pope Nicholas V through John, Bishop of Clonfert to Geoffrey Multon, monk of the Order of St. Benedict, of the Monastery of Tickford, in the diocese of Lincoln, for leaving his Monastery and accepting a cure as Vicar of Brenzett.

Value p.a. of the cure of Brenzett estimated at a maximum of 50 gold ducats.

Given at St. Paul's, London.

Promulgator: Rev. Thomas Maybell (Mabiell) clerk of the Diocese of Bath and Wells, Public Advocate and Apostolic Notary, Proctor General for the court of Canterbury for John, Bishop of Clonfert.

Witnesses: John Grey, Doctor of Civil and Canon Law, Advocate of the Court of Canterbury; Thomas Edyngham, rector of the par. ch. of Hardres; William Hewinge, Bachelor in Decretis, Public Advocate and Apostolic Notary of the diocese of Canterbury; Master Andrew Baker, Bachelor of Civil and Canon law of the diocese of Norwich.

[Folios 42 and 43]

114. 1448, 16th September. Thomas HAMPTON, junior of Ripple.

Bur.: In the ch. of St. Nicholas at Wade in Thanet.

Bequ.: H.a. of the same ch. 12d; the altar of St. Mary, there, 4d; the vicar there, 28d; Laurence Haket, a black hood and 2 sheep; John Brandon', 6d; Richard Arnold, a gown and a hood; John Hulkebone, 6d; Simon Juffrey, a tunic. Residue to his execs.

Execs.: Robert Thornton and Thomas Blechinden'.

Will: Feoffees: William Manston, Eq., Thomas P'awlyn, John Bernard, yeoman, Robert Thornton of the par. of St. Nicholas at Wade, Henry P'etyte of the par. of Ripple.

To be sold: All his lands and tens. etc. in the pars. of St. Nicholas at Wade, Sturry and

Reculver for the payment of his debts and legacies. Residue for the provision of stipends for chaplains to celebrate in the par. of St. Nicholas and Ripple for his soul etc.

Witnesses: Rev. Robert Smale, vicar of St. Nicholas at Wade, John Jamys, par. clk., Laurence Haket and others.

[Folio 43 verso]

115. 1448/9, 20th January. Thomas FROGENALE, of Godmersham.

Bur.: In the cemetery of St. Laurence's ch., Godmersham.

Bequ.: For the lights in the same ch., St. Mary's, the Rood, St. Peter, St. John, 12d each; Roger Draper, the par. clk. 6d; for the repair of the bell-tower, 20/-; each godchild, 1 b. barley. Residue to Joan, his w.

Execs.: Joan, his w., Nicholas Lellys.

Will: (Recited by the testator to his feoffees).

Feoffees: Nicholas Lellys, Henry Southows, Hamond Pope, John Meller.

To Joan, his w., in fee simple in perpetuity, 1 a. of land which he and she held jointly during his lifetime, and the wardship of other lands and tens. etc. until his sons reached the age of 16, on the condition that she remained a widow, with the exception of 5 a. of land, lying bet. the land of Richard Carter and Richard Baker towards the South, and the testator's lands towards the North East and West, which were to go to William, his son, when William married. If she remarried she was to have 10

marks from the sale of chattels and keep her 1 a. of land, but lose the wardship, and all his other lands were to be equally divided between his sons as follows:

To Thomas and Richard, his sons, 5 a. each; to Laurence, his son, a croft opposite the testator's gate lying towards the land of Nicholas, his son to the North East, and 2 a. in Wrotham at the North Headland (in Boriali capite); to Nicholas, his son, 2za. in Wrotham at the South Headland (in capite Australi), and a garden called Frogenale Gardyn situated near the land of Nicholas Cellys to the North, and 1 piece of land called le Swebbe.

Remainder of all his lands and tens. if Joan were to die before his sons came to the age of 16, to his sons as above, and in addition 4 a. of woodland next to Hormerestrete, the land called Vynes, 1 piece of land called Rutham, a garden of 7 rods, and 12 a. of pasture called Frogenale Downe which were to be equally divided between them. If any of his sons wished to sell the land he must give the first offer to his brothers.

[Folio 44 verso]

116. 1449, 30th July. Margery MASON, of Canterbury, widow of Alexander MASON.
- Bur.: In the cemetery of St. Margaret's ch. Canterbury.
- Bequ.: H.a. of the same ch., 3/4d; for the repair of the ch., 6/8d; Margaret, her da., a silver

salt-cellar without a cover, a small silver cup called le Lastour, a silver cup with a cover called le Chacer pece, a gown of mustard vilers furred with croppys, a green silver belt; Elene, her da., a silver salt-cellar with a cover, a silver goblet, gilded, a blue gown furred with Polish squirrel, a red kirtle, a cloth decorated with giants, her best dining board with trestles, a chair and cupboard which were in the hall, a blue silver belt, and a fur.

Residue to her execs.

Execs.: Alexandet Johnsone of Sandwich and William Boole, shersman, of Canterbury.

Will: To be sold to provide stipends for a priest to celebrate for her soul and that of her late husband: a large white painted bed, together with its canopy and three curtains, and arras coverlet, a feather mattress, and a bolster, 2 large chests for clothes, one with 6 locks, a silver cup called Motyn, a length of 4 yards of crimson cloth and a grey fur for a gown, a green gown lined with buckram, all her credit notes called Debentes<sup>l</sup> with a royal patent which were in the custody of James Dayvrell of Calais, 3 gold finger-rings, a large dish and a cloak. Expenses of her funeral were to be met by the sale of other unspecified goods. Residue to be equally divided between her das.

Witnesses: Rev. Richard Wellsh, Richard Yaldyng, John Henry and Thomas Gerard of Canterbury.

117. 1447, 12th May. John ATTE WODE, of Hollingbourne.

Bur.: In the cemetery of St. Margaret's, Hucking, near Hollingbourne.

Will: Feoffees: William Romynger, Thomas Stonakur'. To Juliana, his w., a life interest in all his lands and tens., with remainder to be disposed of as follows: 1) To be sold, 18 a. of land in Hucking lying separately, of which 6 a. lay in Eastfield and Payns, another 6 a. next to Forstall called Blowhunt West, 3 a. called Paynerede, 1 a. called Strake, 2 a. called Denysland near Blowhunt Forstall; the money from the sale to be disposed of according to the following directions: to the work of the ch. of Hucking, 20/-; to the work of the ch. of Hollingbourne, 3/4d; for masses to be celebrated in the ch. of Hucking for his soul and that of Juliane, his w., 10 marks; each feoffee, 6/8d. 2) To John Doke of Hucking and the heirs of John Doke, the messuage in which the testator was living and 30 a. of land with certain woodlands lying separately in Hucking, viz., 2 a. in a croft called Colton; 2 a. in the Mede, 12 a. in a plain called Blakelond, 5 a. and a wood in Northfeld, 4 a. in Nethirfeld, 3 a. in a croft called Catilot's Croft, 5 a. in a croft called Blowhunte at Forstall to the North of the King's highway; Remainder to be sold for the soul of the testator, John atte Wode and the soul of his w. Juliana etc.

3) To Stephen Ladreve, his servant, in perpetuity,  
3 a. of land called Storroke, adjoining Blowhunt  
Forstall.

Execs.: William Romynger and Thomas Stonakyr', who were  
to sell the residue of his immobile goods for  
his soul, and the residue of his mobile goods  
first to pay his debts and then for Juliana, his  
w.

[Folios 45 verso]  
[ and 46 recto ]

118. 1446, 20th April. William BYRFORD, of Benenden.  
Will: [In the form of a charter]. Feoffees: Peter  
Waterman, of Bodiam, who was to enfeoff two  
others nominated by the testator's w., who were  
to enfeoff Thomas and Henry, the sons of Adam  
Beggenden and William Coppe of Benenden.  
Properties in Benenden, Rolvenden and Sandhurst,  
Kent, as well as recently acquired properties  
in Ewhurst, Sussex.  
To Agnes, his w., a life interest in his chief  
messuage in Benenden on [super] the denn of  
Dingleden, in which he was then living, and in  
all his lands and tens. at [super] Dingleden,  
in three pieces of woodland at [super] Densharst,  
in all his lands on [super] the dennes of Casyng-  
ham and Stonden, in 5 pieces of land at [super]  
Folkynden together with an annual rent of 6d  
from the lands adjoining Osbarnys which was let  
to Thomas Stephyn. Remainder of all these lands  
and tens. first to Richard, his son in perpetuity,  
then to his heirs by Agnes, his w., then to his  
other right heirs.  
To Richard, his son during the lifetime of Agnes,  
his w., an annual income of 24 marks and 20d; to

be raised by Agnes, his w., and John Myrsyn, his exec., from all his lands and tens. afore-said and from certain rents in Eghurst, Sussex, viz., from a messuage with lands and tens. attached to it, called Hyghlandes and from an annual rent of 13/4d coming from a messuage with land called the messuage atte Broke. To William, his eldest son, after the death of Agnes, the messuage and land called Hyghlandes, the reversion of the rent of 13/4d. from his messuage atte Broke, an annual rent of 5/- from the lands and tens. called Julyanlandes in Ewhurst, and another annual rent of 3/- from Webley in Ewhurst. Remainder of all these properties, first to John, his son, then to Robert and Christopher, his sons, jointly (with cross-remainders between these two), then to Richard, his son.

To John, his son, at the age of 24, a piece of land called Brokefeld on [super] denn of Folkyn-den, called le Lengfeld, and Pettfeld, 1 meadow on [super] the manor of Hope in Sandhurst, a garden adjoining a lane called Hopelane, a pathway to the garden facing the lane, and an annual rent of 2/6d from a messuage called Benett's Croft in Sussex, provided John did not also get the remainder of William's lands.

To Robert, his son, at the age of 24, his lands in Sandhurst. Remainder of the lands to be divided into two moieties which were to go to Christopher and John, and the residue of all his



lands and tens. on [super]on the denn of Hope, with remainder first to his right heirs by Agnes, his w., then to his other heirs.

To Christopher, his son, at the age of 24, a rent in Ewhurst of 2/4d, and an annual rent of 20/- from his lands and tens. on [super] the denn of Brokton in Ewhurst. Remainder to John and Robert, his sons. Wardship of all these lands to Agnes, his w. till his sons reached the age of 24.

**Testament:**

**Bur.:** In the cemetery of St. George's, Benenden.

**Bequ.:** H.a. of St. George's ch., Benenden, 20d; the works of the ch., 8 marks; the churches of Rolvenden, Sandhurst and Ewhurst, 6/8d each; the frs. of Lossenham, 20d; the frs. at Rye, the Franciscan and Dominican frs. at Winchelsea, 20d each; Margery, his da., 10 marks; Alice, his da., the w. of John Smyth, 2 marks; Joan, his da., the wife of Peter Waterman, 2 marks; Richard, his son, after the death of Agnes, his w., 1 copper cooking cauldron, 1 copper water carrier, 1 spit, 1 ewer and basin, 1 candelabrum, 6 pewter cups, 6 silver spoons. Residue to Agnes, his w.

**Execs.:** Agnes, his w., and John Myrsyn.

**Probate:** Thomas Moonie, 1446, 24th May.

[Folios 46, 47 ]  
[ and 48 recto ]

119. 1439, 17th July. Walter FEYRFAX (FAYRFAX), of Eastry.

Bur.: In the cemetery of St. Mary's ch., Eastry, to the west of the chapel in the cemetery.

Bequ.: H.a. of the same ch., 12d; the par. clk., 4d; for alms and requiems on the day of his death, 5/-; for his month-mind, 10/-; for his anniversary, 10/-; Thomas Lamborne, 1 qr. barley; Residue to Agnes, his w.

Execs.: Agnes, his w., Andrew Whitfelde, Allan Andrews of Eythorne. (To each of these two 5/- for his services).

Will: Feoffees: John Tourney, senior, William Symonet, Richard Sutton, Andrew Whitfeld.

Properties in Eastry and Woodnesborough.

To Agnes, his w., a life interest in all his lands and tens. Remainder first to Richard Fayrfax, the son of William Feyrfax, his brother, and the male heirs of Richard Fayrfax, then to John Andrew, the son of Isabella Andrew and the male heirs of John Andrew, then to Roger, the son of John Andrew and the male heirs of Roger Andrew, then to his own right heirs.

To Isabella Feyrfax, his sister, for life, an annual rent of 6/8d from his chief ten. in Eastry which was to be let by Agnes, his w., for stabling 2 horses at 40/- and 1 cow at 10/-, and also for storing 3 qr. wheat, 6 qr. barley, 3 qr. hay and vetches. The kitchen of the same ten. was also to be let for storing 1 quern, 1 cooking cauldron, 1 kneeding trough, 1 large

and 1 small copper cooking pot, 1 large and 1 small cooking pot, 2 large flat metal dishes, 6 pans, 6 dishes and 6 metal saucers [salsaria]. Agnes, his w. was also to provide 2/2 annually for 13 gifts of alms and 13 masses for his soul and his heirs to do the same as long as they lived.

[Folio 48 verso]

120. 1450, 20th February. John DOWNE (DOWN) of Godmersham.

Bur.: In the cemetery of St. Laurence's ch., Godmersham.

Bequ.: H.a. of the same ch., 4d; the par. clk., 2d; Thomas Dayne, his godson, 4d; Joan Phelipp, his best russet gown; Thomas Houghelot, a russet tunic.

Residue to Margery, his w.

Execs.: Thomas Wightesham and William Dayn' (to whom 20d each).

Will: Recited to his feoffees, William Dayn' and Thomas Wightesham.

To Margery, his w., a life interest in all rents and income from all his lands and tens. except 3 a. and 3 rods of land which were to be sold at Beltinge in Hinxhill lying between the land of Nicholas Goodffelawe to the East and that of John Beltynge to the West; from the price of these lands 40/- was to go to Margery, his w. and 13/4d; to Petronilla, his da. when she came of age, with remainder to Margery, his w.

To each order of frs. in Canterbury, 20d; for the lights of St. Peter, the Rood, St. John the

Baptist, St. Mary, the Cross called de la Pyte in St. Mary's, Godmersham, 2/-; John junior, his son, his chief messuage, after the death of Margery, his w., and 8 a. of adjacent land. Remainder to all his other sons to be equally divided between them; to William, his brother, 26/8d to be paid to him the year after the testator's wife's death. To Richard and John senior, his sons, after death of Margery, his w., 2 a. of land at Godsmersham which was let to John Beltinge, to be equally divided between them.

His sons were to provide for 1 priest to celebrate for one year in the ch. of Godmersham for his soul. If they should refuse to do so all his lands were to be sold and the money spent in works of charity as follows: one third to Holy Church, one third to the poor and one third for mending bad roads.

[Folio 49]

121. 1450, 6th September. William RYNGLETON, of Canterbury.

Bur.: In St. Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury.

Bequ.: H.a. of St. Andrew's ch., Canterbury, 3/4d; the fabric of the same ch., 3/4d; the par. clk. 12d; Alice, his da. a dowry of 5 marks; Thomas Ware and Nicholas Faunt 2 marks each for their services. Residue to Margery, his w. One chaplain at St. Andrew's ch. to celebrate for his soul for 1 yr.

Execs.: Margery, his w., Thomas Ware, Nicholas Faunt,

Will: Feoffees: Thomas Ware and Nicholas Faunt.

To Margery, his w. in perpetuity, his ten. in the par. of St. Paul, Canterbury.

To Alice, his da. in perpetuity, his ten. in Sandwich, when she reached the age of 18.

Remainder to revert to his feoffees to be sold for his soul.

[Folio 49 verso]

122. 1450, 24th October, William WODLANDE, of  
; Canterbury.

Bur.: In St. Cross's ch., Canterbury, near his father and mother.

Bequ.: H.a. of the same ch., 13/4d; for the light of the Rood, 3/4d; and of St. Mary, 20d; of St. John the Baptist, St. Christopher and St. George, 2/- each; of St. Catherine and St. Margaret, 12d each; the light called le pyte, 6d; each order of frs. in Canterbury, 2/-; the hosps. of Northgate and Harbledown, 3/4d each; hosp. of Maynard-spittle, 20d; of St. James, 6/8d; of St. Laurence, 7d; the fabric of St. Cross's Ch., to repair the lead, 5 marks; the par clk., 2/-; the w. of Jehn Wodlande, 6/8d; provision to be made for 50 requiems to be celebrated with placebo and dirige in the ch. of St. Cross from his funeral day to his month-mind; Isabella the sister of Catherine, his w., 6/8d with 1 cow. Alice, the sister of Catherine, his w., 3/4 with 1 cow. Cross Remainders of this money and the cows bet. Isabella and Alice. Geoffrey

Greneford, monk of the Abbey of St. Augustine, Canterbury, 6/8d; Agnes Chamber, his servant, 1 cow and 3 ewes. Residue to Catherine, his w.

Execs.: Catherine, his w., William Boles, Thomas Wode.

Surv.: William Hall' (to whom 20/- for his services).

Will: Feoffees: John Yerde, Esq., John Greneforde, William Benet, John Lynde, William Baker, Hugh Brent, Thomas Petham.

Properties in St. Cosmas and Damian, Whitstable, Hackington, Westgate, Sturry and Bekesbourne.

To pay his debts and legacies: all the revenues for 10 years from his lands and tens. in St. Cosmas and Damian and in Whitstable, and from 1 a. of land recently acquired from Thomas Norynton, and from 16 b. barley, being the annual rent from the lands and tens. which had been held till recently by Edmund Littletegh, (deceased), in Bekesbourne. Residue to be spent for the repair of the street of the Cause at Cusinesblen from the gate of Richard Bluore to the Spina Sancti Thomas.

To Alice, his da., at the age of 21, in perpetuity all his lands and tens. in St. Cosmas and Damian and in Whitstable, remainder to be sold and the money to be spent partly on the repair of bad roads, viz., £10 on the road from Whitstable ch. to Bartong's Cross, £40 on the road from Haghisdowne next to Bartony's Wood to North Street, Hackington and Stone Street,

and partly to provide a stipend for one priest to celebrate in the ch. of Westgate for 1 year for his soul, and those of Richard Wodlande and Rose, the w. of Richard Wodlande, Joan and Emote, his wives, Thomas Burton, clk., John Norris and Sarah, the w. of John Norris.

Residue to be spent on stipends for requiems and for mending bad roads.

For the repair of the dorter of the Franciscan frs. at Canterbury, 5 marks besides the 18/8d. which they owed him; for 7 poor men and 6 poor women, 1 pr. of shoes and 1 chemise each every year after his death for 10 years; to 13 bedridden folk, 1 sheet every year for 10 years; to 7 poor men and 6 poor women on the days of his funeral and month-mind, 1 russet gown and 1 pr. of shoes each; to 40 poor people for 10 years after his death, 5 logs each at Christmas time, to be cut from the underwood called Courtfaggot in the weedland at Cosincerisblen from a wood known as Knollys: to the poor each year and for the repair of bad roads, the money from the sale of 1 a. of underwood in the wood known as Maiwode at Haghe until Alice, his da. came of age; for distribution among 7 poor, bedridden folk in the parishes of Westgate, St. Dunstan and St. Peter in Canterbury, of Hackington and Cosinerysblea 2d each; every Friday for 1 year after his death.

John Yerde, John Greneforde, William Benett, 6/8d each; John Lynde, 13/4d; Hugo Brent, 3/4d;

Thomas Petham, 3/4d;

To Catherine, his w., a life interest, which was to commence one year and one day after his death, in all his lands and tens. at Maytone, which he had recently acquired from William Flomer in the parish of Sturry, and all his lands and tens. in Stonestreet in the par. of Hackington, and all the lands and tens. in Westgate, and those at Bekesbourne recently acquired from Edward Lytttilbergh.

To the same Catherine, 3 months after his death, 1 croft which he had recently acquired from Christine Gerard in Hackington next to the ten. of Walter Baxe to the East, and a lane called Downslane to the West and the King's Highway to the South, and the Archbishop's land to the North, and all the revenues from the manor of Haghisdowne until Alice, his da., came of age. Remainder to Alice and her heirs in perpetuity, and failing this to be sold for charity.

To Alice, his da., in perpetuity, the manor of Haghisdowne and all his lands and tens. at Maytone in Hackington. Remainder to be sold, and of this money 100/- was to be given to the Franciscan frs. at Canterbury to repair their ch. and 100/- to repair the ch. of Westgate, and 100/- each to the Dominican and Augustinian frs. Residue for works of charity. A moiety of the revenues from Cosinerisblen, Whitstable and Haghisdowne to his execs. to provide requiems for his soul every year till Alice, his da. came of age, and the other moiety to



Alice.

To Catherine, his w. every year, 20 cartloads of faggots for kindling, from the underwood called Courtfaggot in his wood of Knollys. All his lands and revenues to be administered by his execs. till Alice, his da., came of age, viz., when she was 22 years old.

Execs.: Catherine, his w. William Bolde, Thomas atte Wode.

Surv.: William Halle.

Probate: Thomas Moonie, 1450, 18th November.

Folios 50 and 51

123. 1451, 20th September. Alexander GOFFE, of Herne.

Bur.: In the cemetery of St. Mark's ch. at Herne.

Bequ. H.a. of the same ch., 20d; the light of St. Mary, 20d; of St. Martin, 4d; John Ecton, the par. chaplain, 12d; for masses to be celebrated for his soul for 6 months in Herne, 5 marks; for his funeral expenses, month-mind and anniversary, 20/- each. Residue to John and Andrew Goffe, his sons.

Execs: John and Andrew Goffe, his sons.

Surv.: John Willyam.

Will: Feoffees: William and Thomas Philipp of Herne. To Elena, his w., for 1 year after his death, his chief messuage and an adjacent croft, a life interest in 4 a. of land called Sisgeffe, 10 a. of land at Scottyffeld, 3 a. of land called Wilgoffys, and in addition all the equipment and furnishings of his hall, his own room [camera] and kitchen, (except one copper cooking pot, which was for Andrew, his son), 3 cows,

20 sheep, 1 grey horse, one third of all his grain crop of that year, half his woods and half the wood already cut down for kindling that year, 2 pigs.

To John Goffe, his son, in perpetuity, his chief messuage and adjacent croft after 1 year had passed and, at once, 8 a. of land in front of the gate of the same messuage called Oldbatys, 6 a. of land at Brolbrygge, one messuage called Helweldyng with 12 a. of land, 3 a. of land called Oylbotys. After the death of Helen, his w., 10 a. of land at Scottyffelde and 3 a. of land called Wylgoffys, and during the lifetime of Elena, the testator's w., 3 a. of land at Stokyffelde.

To Andrew Goffe, his son, in perpetuity, after the death of Elena, his w., 4 a. called Syggoffys and 3 a. of land at Stokyffelde, and, at once 9 a. of land and an adjacent garden called Hawkyns, and 4 a. of land facing the street called Hawkyns, 1 dun horse. To John, 1 white horse.

To John and Andrew, his sons, 20 sheep and 20 lambs each and one third of all his grain crop of that year, 1 cart and 1 plough with all its fittings. John Mathon, 4 sheep; Nicholas Fysshers' 4 sheep. For works of charity, e.g. in buying shoes for the poor for 20 years from the time of his death, the revenue from the farm of 4 a. of land in Midelfelde. Remainder to be sold for charity.

If George Stud failed to pay a debt of £6 which he owed according to an indenture dated May 5th, then 3 a. of land which he had received from George Stud were to be sold and the money distributed in works of charity for his soul etc.

[ Folios 51 and  
52 ]

124. 1451, 6th October. William BRYAN, citizen of Canterbury.

Will: To be sold at once, 1 ten. with its lands formerly held by Adam Carpinter in Eastry to provide a stipend of 10 marks for 1 chaplain to celebrate for 1 year in the par. ch. of Eastry, the residue for the repair of the ch.

To Margaret, his w., for 5 years, his ten. called Stupinbregh in Eastry; after 5 years it was to be sold to provide a stipend of 20 marks for 1 chaplain to celebrate for 2 years in the par. ch. of Eastry; for the repair of the same ch., 40/-; for a priest to celebrate in the ch. of St. Andrew for 3 years, 30 marks.

Bequ.: To Margaret, his w., £20; the par. ch. of Finglesham, 13/4d; the par. ch. of Worth, Chislet, and Woodnesborough, 13/4d each; for the repair of bad roads between Eastry and Sandwich, 10 marks.

Residue to Margaret, his w.

To Margaret, his w., all his lands and tens. in Chislet in perpetuity.

[ Folio 52 verso ]

125. 1441/2, 8th February. Joan DENYS, of Welle,  
Nr. Littlebourne.

Bur.: In St. Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury, near  
John, her husband.

Bequ: The Prior and Monastery of Christ Ch. Canter-  
bury, £40; the Abbot and Abbey of St. Augustine,  
Canterbury, 20 marks: the Abbot and Abbey of  
St. Radegund, Dover, 10 marks; the Prior and  
Priory of St. Gregory, Canterbury, 20/-; the  
Prioress and Convent of St. Sepulchre, Canter-  
bury, 20/-; the Hosps. of St. John Northgate,  
Harbledown and St. Laurence, Canterbury, 20/-  
each; for the repair of the Hosp. of St. James  
near Canterbury, £10; the Augustinian, Francis-  
can and Dominican frs. Canterbury, 20/- each.  
Rev. Edmund, the chaplain at St. James', Canter-  
bury, on condition that he made a pilgrimage to  
Rome to celebrate there for 1 yr. for her soul,  
£20; for the fabric of the ch. of Welle, near  
Littlebourne, 20/-; for the chapel of Lokyndanne  
in the par. of Littlebourne, 13/4d; for the  
fabric of the churches of Patrixbourne, Bridge  
and Bekesbourne, 6/8d each.

Joan Eldrithgat<sup>r</sup> and Joan Morys, her godchildren,  
40/- each; for the repair of the road in front  
of the gate of St. James' Hosp., 20/-; for alms  
of 1d each and one dinner every Sunday to 3 poor  
persons for 1 year; John Dygges Esq., a silver  
cup called le Note,<sup>1</sup> gilded and decorated; the  
w. of John Dygges, her mantle furred with grey  
skins; Margaret May, her servant, her best dress;  
the w. of John Isaak, a gown furred with miniver;

Agnes, one of the sisters at the Hosp. of St. James, a dress lined with buckram; Alice Harnehill, a mantle lined with buckram; Isabella Morys, a dress furred with byse; the Sacristan of the Shrine of St. Thomas the Martyr in Christ Church, Canterbury, her profession ring; the sacristan of St. Augustine's, her wedding ring; the Hosp. of St. James, a cloth decorated with scenes from the life of St. James; the Sub-prior of St. Augustine's Abbey, 10 marks; Rev. Edmund, the chaplain of the Hosp. of St. James, 20/-.

The Brethren and Sisters of Maynardspittle, 13/4d; each priest celebrating at her funeral and month-mind, 4d; the Sub-prior of Christ Church, Canterbury, a best ungilded silver cup with a cover, to be made into a chalice for everyday use there at the high altar; to be sold, all her other silver cups and dishes both ungilded and gilded. Her exces., £40 equally divided between them.

Execs.: Rev. Edmund, the chaplain of St. James' Hospital, Canterbury; John Nynne, John Morys.

Surv.: John, Prior of Christ Church, Canterbury, to whom £20 for his trouble. [Folio 53]

126. 1442/3, 1st February. John PRESHANEN, senior, of Hythe.

Bur.: In the ch. of St. Leonard at Hythe.

Bequ.: H.a. of the same ch., his best cow or 10/-; for the work of the same ch., a large leaden oven; the central lamp there, 3/4d p.a. in perpetuity; the light of the Gild of St. James there, 2/6d; the par. chaplain, 12d; the par. clk., 8d; Rev.

John, his own chaplain, 12d; Alice Mongham, a coral rosary with 2 rings, a gold crucifix and a gold and silver pendant hanging from it; Margaret Mongham, a silver mazer, gilded and decorated with a representation of St. Mary in the centre; Alice, his w., his Stondyng Coppe of silver with a cover and his best decorated mazer; John Preshanen, his son, a silver dish, his best belt with silver clasps and a decorated baselard; Margery, a silk belt with silver clasps which once belonged to her mother; John and Thomas, the sons of John Preshanon, his son, 1 horn with a silver belt belonging to it; Christina, the da. of his w., a silver dish; Juliana, da. of John Preshanon, his son, a silver dish; Agnes, da. of his w., a silver dish and 2 silver spoons; John Preshanen, his son, his two shares in two small boats; William, his servant, 4 nets called Schottmett' and 4 other nets called Flewes.

John Mongham, and John Leygh, junior, 5 silver spoons each; Thomas Cowles, 1 silver spoon; Alice, his w., 1 silver goblet; his godchildren, 4d each; Alice, his w., his two best cows; the da. of Isabella Mongham, 1 cow; John Preshanen, his son, all his other cows; Alice, his w., and John, his son, were to provide the stipend for 1 priest to celebrate for his soul for 3 years; distribution of alms to the poor on his funeral day 2d each, and on his month-mind, 1d each. Residue to Alice, his w., and John, his son.

Execs: Alice, his w., and John, his son.

Survs.: Thomas Heghsted and John Benamyn.

Will: To Alice, his w., a life interest in the ten. in which he was living, with a garden and piece of meadow as was specified in an agreement made with Henry Ganiworde and Henry Perys. Remainder to his son John in perpetuity.

[Folio 54 ]

127. 1451, 3rd December. John HAMPTON, senior of Herne.

Bur.: In St. Mark's ch., Herne.

Bequ.: H.a. of the same ch., 4d; for the works of the ch., 12d; for the lights of St. Mary, St. John and St. Catherine, 1 measure of barley each; John Hampton, minor, his best dress; each god-child, 4d;

Residue and 20d each to his execs.

Execs.: James Hampton and John Hampton, junior.

Will: Feoffees: James Hampton, John Boykyn.

To his feoffees for 1 year after his death, all his lands and tens. in Herne except 2 weirs which were to be sold at once, the first offer to be made to John, his son, at the price of 40/-. Of this money 26/8 was to go to Robert, his son who was a monk.

To be sold after 1 year, 3 pieces of land of about 7 rods in Herne and Hampton, lying separately, 1 piece of land in Longacre at Stonyland, another piece in Stonylandysbusch, and a third piece near the croft of John Dewe at South'ull,

to provide 40/- each for Margaret and Isabella, his das., when they come of age. Cross-remainders between these two, then remainder to Robert, his son, the monk.

To John, his son, in perpetuity after 1 year, his chief ten. with a croft adjoining at Herne, on condition that he made no claim to a messuage and 8 a. of land which was left to Stephen and William, his other sons.

To Stephen and William, his sons, to be equally divided between them after 1 year, a messuage with 8 a. of land at Herne in the par. of Swalecliffe lying separately as follows: 1 piece next to the messuage itself, 1 piece in Stonyland, 2 pieces in South'ull, 1 piece in Brodpece, 1 piece in Stokgrove, 1 piece in Bakerys, 1 piece in the par. of Swalecliffe in Bekerys, on condition that they did not make any claim to his chief ten. with the adjoining croft which was left to John, his son.

Bequ.: Stephen, his son, 1 green coverlet; William, Hampton, 1 red coverlet; Margaret, his da., 1 coverlet and 1 amber rosary; Isabella, his da., 1 silver belt which once belonged to her mother and 1 green coverlet. Cross remainders between his sons and das. For his funeral, 10/-; alms for the poor on that day, 20d; for his month-mind, 20/-; and alms for the poor on that day 20d; for his anniversary, 10/-; John Hampton, his son, 6/8d for a pilgrimage to Walsingham. Each feoffee, 20d. Residue to his execs. for



works of charity for his soul etc.

[Folio 55 ]

128. 1451, 9th September. Edward SEPTVANNNS, Esq., of Ash.  
Bur.: In the cemetery of St. Augustine's, Canterbury,  
next to the hawthorn near the charnel.

Bequ.: To repair a missal in the ch. of Worth, 6/8d;  
to the work of the ch. of Ash, 6/8d; for the  
chaplain, for almsgiving and other necessities  
at his funeral and the celebration of masses  
for his soul, £3. 6. 8d; for his month-mind, 10  
marks; for his anniversary, £10. Residue to  
Benedicta, his w.

Exews.: Benedicta, his w., William Symnet, Thomas  
Arnolde.

Probate: Richard Raynhill, 1451/2, 26th January.

Will: 1451, September 12th. Feoffees: William Symnet  
and Thomas Arnolde, both of Sandwich.

To Benedicta, his w., a life interest in all  
his lands and tens. called Feldisland Court, with  
remainder first to John, his son, then to Joan,  
Alice and Constance, his das., jointly, then  
to Thomas Septvanns, his brother. A dowry of  
40 marks to each of his das. For the child with  
which his wife was pregnant, if a daughter, a  
dowry of 40 marks to be raised from the annual  
rent of his manors of Chequers in Ash/<sup>and</sup> from his  
lands and tens. in Newington except from one  
dovecot there; if a son all the annual rents  
from his manor of Chequers in Ash, and all his  
lands and tens. in Newington in perpetuity.  
Remainder first to John, his son, then to Joan,

Constance and Alice, his other das. jointly.  
[Folio 56 ]

129. 1452, 5th April. John HOUGHLYN, senior of  
Ivychurch.

Bar.: In the par. ch. of Ivychurch.

Bequ.: H.a. of the same ch., 6/8; for the fabric of  
the ch., £5; the par. priest, 20d; the par. clk.  
20d; the gild of St. Michael, 20d; the lamp  
burning in front of the Sacrament, 20d; the  
lamps of St. Mary and of the Rood, 20d each;  
each godchild, 5/-; Residue to be divided into  
three parts, one for his soul, one for Idonea,  
his w., and one for William, his son.

Execs.: Thomase Heede and Idonea, his w.

Will: Feoffees: John Serlys, Alan Dugeham, William  
Robyn, Thomas Heede.

Lands and tens. in Ivycburch and elsewhere in  
Kent and Sussex as had been previously set forth  
in a charter.

To Idonea, his w., in perpetuity, 8 a. of land  
recently acquired from William Downe.

To be sold to pay his debts and legacies, lands  
to the value of £20 or more if necessary.

To Agnes Launsyn, a life interest in about 5 a.  
of land at Breasetebregge, with remainder to  
William, his son. To John Watte, a life interest  
in 5 a. of land he had acquired from John Adam,  
with remainder to William, his son. And to the  
same William, his son, when he came of age, all  
his other lands and tens. in perpetuity.

Remainder to be sold for works of charity for

his soul etc.

Bequ.: John Quykman and John Castelayn, 40/- each;  
John Hughelet, 20/-; Clement Stukpeny, 33/4d;  
William Robyn, 20/-. [Folio 57 ]

130. 1452, 11th December. John SPYHYLL, of Pevington.

Bur.: In the chancel of the ch. at Pevington in front  
of the image of St. Mary.

Bequ.: For the repair of the same chancel, 13/4d; the  
fabric of the ch., 10 marks; to provide a  
stipend for a chaplain to celebrate for his soul  
for 1 year in the ch. of Pevington, 10 marks;  
Thomas Heece, 40/-; each servant, men and women  
alike, 3/4d; each da. of Thomas Pansherst a  
dowry of 20/-; each godchild, 3/4d; the fabric  
of the ch. of Ewell 40/-; the factory of the  
rectory at Pevington, 6 marks.

Residue to Agnes, his w.

Exec.: Agnes, his w., John Epyhyll, Gregory Brent,  
William Nynne (to each of whom 20/-).

Will: To Agnes, his w., if she were pregnant at the  
time of his death, the manor of Pevington for  
her child; remainder to be sold to provide for  
requiems for his soul; to be paid to the  
College of Knoll, nr. Coventry, 100 marks.  
To Agnes, his w., a life interest in all his  
lands and tens. in Staplehurst, Cranbrook,  
Sandhurst and Mongham in Kent. Remainder for  
his soul etc.

[Folio 58 ]

131. 1451/2, 20th January. William KYNET (KENET) of  
Bonnington.

Bur.: Wherever it pleased the Holy Trinity.

Bequ.: Robert Kempe, rector of Bonnington, 20/-; John Lake, rector of Eastbridge, 40d; the rector and vicar of the parish where he was buried, 20d p.a. for 7 years; each light of the same ch. 3/4d; to provide dowries for 6 poor girls in the same par., 1 mark each; for four tapers to burn at his funeral and month-mind, 4/-, and afterwards the tapers to be distributed to the shrine of the Trinity, the Rood and St. Michael. Residue to his execs. for his soul.

Execs.: Hugh Brent, Richard Knygth, John Miller of Aylesham, William Doys.

Will: Feoffees: Hugh Brent, John Carter of Aldington, Andrew Sppat, John Millar' of Aylesham, Richard Knygth, junior, William Doys.

Lands and tens. in Bonnington, Bilsington, Aldington, Eastbridge, New Hythe, Burmarsh, Merstham and Charing.

To Joan, his w., an annuity of 12 marks p.a. from the revenues of all his lands and tens. in Bonnington which had been held by Stephen Kynet, his father, and which his feoffees were to keep in their own hands; the residue of those revenues were to go to the par. in which he was buried. Remainder, after Joan's death, to be sold (unless Richard Knygth or any of Richard Knygth's sons wished to buy them for at least 10 marks), for the best price possible. With this money his feoffees were to buy 3 tens. worth 3/4d p.a.

for Andrew Sppat and Joan, the w. of Andrew and da. of Richard Knygth, remainder to be sold and the money divided between his next heirs. The sons of Richard Knygth, £10 equally divided, on condition that they did not obstruct the will. Residue for his soul.

Bequ.: To gild with brown gold the Rood and images of St. Mary and St. Rumwold in the ch. of Bonnington, 10 marks; the Prior and Priory of Horton, 6/8d; the monks of Horton, 13/4d; equally divided; the Prior and Priory of Bilsington, 6/8d; the canons of Bilsington, 13/4d., equally divided; the Augustinian frs. at Canterbury, 20/-; 13 of the poorest people in the parishes nr. Bonnington, 13/4d; for lamps to burn in perpetuity before the Rood, St. Mary and St. Rumwold in the ch. of Bonnington, 100/-; for 1 basin for the lamp, 20/-; for the Sekyng Chancel at Bonnington, 20/-; for glass and iron to make a window in the South of the Choir of the ch. of Bonnington, 26/8d; the Augustinian frs. at Canterbury so that one fr. could celebrate daily for 1 yr. for his soul, £4; for the repair of the causeway between the cemetery of Bonnington and le Frygthstyle, 13/4d; the Franciscan and Dominican frs. at Canterbury, 20/- each; for the repair of the ch. of Eastbridge, 53/4d., for the repair of the ch. at Burmarsh, 6/8d; for the works of the chapel of St. Mary at Mersham, 20/-; the ch. of Hurst, 20/-; of Lympe, 6/8d; of Aldington, 20/-; of Mersham, 40/-; of New Hythe,

6/8d; of Sevington, 20/-; of Great Chart, 6/8d; of Ashford, 20/-; of Bilsington, 6/8d; for gilding with brown gold the image of St. Mary and St. Anne in the ch. of the Priory of Bilsington, 40/-; for painting the image of St. Matthias in the ch. of Orgarswick, 20/-; for the repair of bad roads in the parishes of Bonnington and Hurst, 10 marks; to provide dowries for poor girls in the parishes nr. Bonnington, 10 marks; to any of his heirs distressed by poverty, 10 marks; the Augustinian frs. at Canterbury, 40/-; for the fabric of Lympe town wall between Gullistrowys and Hobbelistros, 20/-; the frs. in Flest Street, London, 40/-, equally divided; for the paving of the ch. of Bonnington if he were buried there, 40/-; for the enclosure of the cemetery where he was buried, 20/-; the ch. of Mersham, 6/8d; the chapel of St. Mary at Aldington, 3/4d; the repair of the roads between Claphill and Aldington ch., 6/8d; for the repair of the bad roads at Hegtrowe in Aldington, 6/8d; between Halis and Pevington ch., 20/-, and near Fowlr'de in Kingsnorth, 20/-; for 1 priest to celebrate at Scala Celi for his parents and for William Holynbroke, £3. 6. 8d; John Pownd, son of William Pownd, 40/-; Elizabeth, the sister of William Pownd, 40/-; each da. of Dionysia, the da. of Henry of Bonnington, 20/-; each son of Alice, the da. of Henry of Bonnington, 20/-; William, the son of Thomas Hert of Woodchurch, 40/- on condition that he did not obstruct this will;

for the repair of bad roads from Hobbelistros to Bremtistrete, 20/-; to repair the Cowsey in Knolstrete, 20/-; William Knygth, the son of Richard Knygth, senior, 20/-; William Colier, the son of John Colier, senior, 20/-; e each da. of John Colier, senior, a dowry of 6/8d; each da. of Richard Horns, late of Burmarsh, a dowry of 3/4d; the w. of Thomas Frost, 6/8d; Alice, the w. of Roger Kenet, 6/8d; for the repair of bad roads at Henewode in the par. of Ashford, nr. East Stour, 6/8d. To Roger, the son of Walter Kynet, in perpetuity, 2 pieces of land in Bonnington, of which one of 4 a. was called Northwodisland, and the other of 1 a. was called Wylmots; remainder to the right heirs of Richard and Roger Kynet.

To be farmed by his feoffees: 114 a. of land in Bonnington and Bilsington which he had received from Richard, Roger and Walter Kynet, the heirs of Roger Kynet, senior; viz., 40 a. called de lande att Wodes, and other parcels of land which Roger Kynet had acquired lying between the lands aforesaid and containing about 23 a., 1 messuage with 40 a. of land belonging to it and lying separately as follows: 3 a. of wood next to Holton which was formerly held by Simon Kynet and passed by inheritance to Cecilia, the da. of Simon Kynet, and which William Kynet, the testator, bought from her while she was a widow, another piece of land with 2 gardens containing about 3 a. called Austanis which he had recently bought from Joan Devenesse, the da. of John

Clynton, 1 messuage with 2 pieces of land containing 3 a. which he had recently acquired from Simon Davy and the feoffees of John Crowe, which had been held by enfeoffment from Roger Kynet, 1 piece of land called Empootemed of 3 a., two gardens called Cohemannysgardenes of  $\frac{1}{2}$  a., 1 piece of woodland called Heghred of 3 a. which he had recently acquired from William Wykman. The revenues from the farm of these lands and tens. were to be used as follows: to provide for 1 chaplain to celebrate in the ch. where he was buried for 15 yrs., and another to celebrate in the ch. of Bonnington for another 5 yrs. After these 20 years, all these lands and tens. were to be sold for the payment of his debts and legacies.

To be sold at once, all his lands and tens. at Aldington, Eastbridge, Newchurch, Burmarsh, Mersham and Charing for the following legacies and debts: His funeral expenses, £6. 13. 4d; his month-mind, 25 marks or more if necessary; to provide 4 torches at his funeral, 40/-, and 4 black gowns for 4 poor torch bearers, 20/-; for distribution to the poor, 20 marks; for alms and for celebration of masses in the par. where he was buried, 40/- p.a. for 5 years; for the repair of bad roads in the locality, 10 marks; for a marble tomb-stone, 5 marks; John London, £20, on condition that he did not obstruct this will nor make any claim on his lands and tens.; William, his godson, the son of John Brode,



when he came of age, 10 marks; John Doys, his godson, the son of William Doys, 40/-; his godsons, the son of Robert Herry, 6/8d; and the son of Simon Davy, 6/8d; Alice, the da. of John Gate, a dowry of 6/8d; Hugh Brent, for his expenses concerning this will, 40/- which had been promised to him; the son of Hugh Brent, 40/-; each da. of Hugh Brent, a dowry of 20/-; John Brody, for his expenses, 20/-; the Prior of Horton, 6/8d; the monks of Horton, 13/4; the Prior of Bilsington, 6/8d; the canons of Bilsington, 13/4d; William Pownd, 10 marks; William Doys, 40/-; John, the son of William Pownd, 20/-; Richard Knygth, junior, 20/-; Thomas Frensch, 40/-; Agnes Forthell, 20/-; Elizabeth Pownd, 40/-; William Hogman, 6/8d; John Forthell, 3/4d; John Millare, 40/-; the das. of John Millare, 40/- between them; the das. of William Doys, 40/- between them for their dowries; the da. of Peter Knygth, 20/-; the da. of John Knygth, 40/- for their dowries; Joan, the da. of Thomas Stile, his god-da. a dowry of 13/4d.

The ch. of Mersham for a new bell, 40/-; William Kynet of Mersham, 20/-; Henry Kynet, the brother of the same William, 6/8d; Joan, the sister of the same William, who was formerly the servant of William Kynet, the testator, 20/-; William Fox of Mersham, 20/-; William Brent, 20/-; John Brent, 6/8; for distribution to the poor of the par. where he was buried for 1 year after his

death, 40/-; to provide for two priests to make a pilgrimage to Rome and celebrate at Scali Celi for his soul etc., and for John and Robert, for the wives of John Kynet and Nicholas Kynet, for William Holynbroke, senior, William Holynbroke, junior, and Simon Londre and his sons, 6 marks. Roger, the son of Roger Kynet, 20/- to provide a lamp to burn in perpetuity in the ch. where he was buried, £5; William Webbe of Aldington, 6/8d; Simon Webbe of Aldington, 6/8d; Peter Kynet of Willesborough, 6/8d. Residue.... [mss. breaks off].

[Folio 58 verso  
59, 60 and 61  
recto]

132. 1452/3, 4th January. John BOTELEER, draper of Sandwich.

Bur.: In St. Peter's ch., Sandwich.

Bequ.: H.a. of the same ch., 20/-; for the work of the ch., 5 marks; each light in the ch., 12d; for distribution to the poor on the day of his funeral, 10 marks; for his month-mind, 10 marks; for his anniversary, 10 marks; for 1 chaplain to celebrate in the ch. of St. Peter for his soul and those of Agnes, his w. and Henry Cacherell' for 10 years, 100 marks; to repair the Hosps. of St. John the Baptist and of Le Maldry, 6/8d; the Carmelite frs. at Sandwich, 1 bullock, 1 sheep; and the same bequest to the Carmelites at his month-mind and anniversary; to make a cloth stall in the Cornmarket, 40/-; for the repair of the bad roads between Sandwich and

Woodnesborough, 40/-; Joan Relfe, his sister, 3 of his wife's gowns, 2 tunics of red and violet and 1 scarlet hood. Residue to his execs.

Execs.: Simon Ruddock and Hugh Cakston.

Will: Feoffees: Simon Ruddock, Robert Mayhew, Hugh Cakston, Simon Leycestre, as had been set out in a charter.

To Thomas Boteler, his brother, 1 ten. in Knyghtenstrete in the par. of St. Clement, and 1 ten. in the par. of St. Peter adjoining the rectory.

To Richard, his son in perpetuity, when he came of age, all his other lands and tens. in Sandwich, Eastry and Worth with following remainders: To Thomas Boteler, his brother in perpetuity, 1 ten. which he had recently acquired from the heir of Roger Man and 1 ten. in which the testator was then living and all the shops annexed to it as far as the sea gate towards the East; to the da. of Thomas Raven, of all the lands and tens. which he had recently acquired from Cecilia Nonnet in Sandwich, or, if she died before she came of age, to Thomas Raven; to John Boteler, the barber, his corner ten. at the end of the butchery; while all his other lands and tens. were to be sold for his soul.

To Richard, his son, all the stock in his house, such as silver vessels, jewels, copper and tin vessels, towels and linen, sheets, etc.

Remainder to be distributed among those aforesaid. Also to Richard, his son, when he came to the age of 20, 500 marks. Hugh Cakston and Simon Ruddock were to give security to the mayor and jurats of Sandwich that the 500 marks would be paid; remainder to be disposed of as follows: 100 marks to provide a set of vestments of cloth of gold for the ch. of St. Peter in Sandwich and the rest in charity.

Wardship of Richard to Hugh Cakston and Simon Ruddock.

Joan Rolfe, his sister, £10 worth of chattels; Anne and Margaret, his sisters, 5 marks worth of chattels each; Thomas Boteler, his brother, £20 and all the cloth in his shop to be bought for the same price at which Thomas Boteler first valued it, of which an account was to be rendered to his execs; Thomas Crystyan, 40/-.

[ Folio 61 verso ]  
[ and 62 ]

133. 1446, 13th May. Steven COSYNGTON, Squire of Aylesford.

Will: To Elizabeth, his w., a life interest in the manor of Acrise, with remainder first to William Cosyngton, his son, then to Richard Cosyngton, his younger son, then to Edmund Cosyngton, his youngest son, then to Catherine, Thomasine and Elizabeth, his das. to be equally divided between them, then to John Skote, then to Joan Skote, the sister of John Skote, then

to Joan Skote, the sister of John Skote, then to Gervase Clyfton's heirs by Isabella, the mother of John and Joan Skote, then to his own right heirs.

To Elizabeth, his w., a life interest in the manor of Mount, with remainder to Edmund Cosyngton, his youngest son, and then to Catherine, Thomasine and Elizabeth, his das. to be equally divided between them.

To Edmund Cosyngton, his youngest son, the tens. of Epynge and Lutviys in the parishes of Acrise and Newington, with remainder to Catherine, Thomasine and Elizabeth, his das. To Elizabeth, his w., a life interest in 30 a. of land in the par. of Acrise of which one piece was called Frelande and the other Ladwood, with remainder to Edmund, his son in perpetuity, then to Catherine, Thomasine, and Elizabeth, his das. in perpetuity, then to William Cosyngton, his eldest son.

To William Cosyngton, his eldest son in perpetuity the manor of Cosyngton on condition that he did not obstruct his will.

To Edmund Cosyngton in perpetuity, all his lands and tens. at Sawolken<sup>1</sup>, Boxley, Newington, Rainham, Aylesford, Malling and Maidstone, with all the lands and tens. that John Cosyngton and Steven Cosyngton, son of John Cosyngton, and Steven Cosyngton, the knight, possessed in the county of Kent, with remainders to Catherine, Elizabeth and

Thomasine, his das., then to John Skote, then to Joan Skote, John Skote's sister, then to the heirs of Gervase Clyfton by Elizabeth. To Richard Cosyngton and Edmund Cosyngton, his sons, Asshemed' in New Hythe, Higgemedede, and Sweth' in Kingsmede to be equally divided between them. If William Cosyngton, his eldest son, obstructed this will in any way, his feoffees were to keep the manor of Cosyngton, using its revenues for the maintenance and dowries of Edmund, his son and Catherine, Thomasine and Elizabeth, his das. Wardship of Edmund to Elizabeth, his w., with Thomas Shingilton squire as overseer. To send Edmund to school, 5 marks from the revenue of the manors which were to be his. For his das. dowries, £6 from the same manors and if any of his das. entered Religion she was to have 20 marks, and the residue was to be divided between his other two das.

Witnesses: Henry Stanlowe, squire, Thomas Masby, squire, Roger Bury, Richard Wyrall, John Carter and many others.

[Folio 62 verso]  
[63 and 64 recto]

134. 1449, 20th May. Robert STONESTRETE, of Ivychurch.  
Bur.: In St. George's ch., Ivychurch.  
Bequ.: H.a. of the same ch., 6/8d; the par. chaplain, 6/8d; the par. clk., 2/-; the light of St. Mary, 3/4d; the lamp before the Sacrament, 6/8; the gild of St. Nicholas, 6/8d; the fabric of

the ch., 40/-; the fabric of the churches of Brenzett, Halden, Old Romney, Newchurch, Snavé and Snargate, 6/8d each.

Agnes, the da. of John Hamyngharst, 3/4d; Alice Ome, a dowry of 40/-; Alice Spon', 6 sheep; Isabella Keterell, 6 sheep; Joan Raulyn, a heifer; Agnes Warde, 12 sheep; Alice Warde, a dowry for 10 marks with 5 marks remainder for a dowry for Agnes Warde; the w. of Stephen Knobe, 6/8d; each of the sons and das. of Stephen Knobe, 3/4d; William Warde, a bay gelding; Joan, the testator's w., a horse called Gray Ombelere [Ambler], 8 best cows, a plough, a harrow, 6 best mares; 40 geldings, 40 sheep with 40 best little lambs, 40 wool fleeces, 8 best pigs and a sow; each of his godchildren, 12d; Stephen Knobe, 6/8d; Joan, his w., all the utensils and stock in his house which were hers before their marriage, as long as she remained a widow and stayed in his house at Ivychurch. If these conditions were not fulfilled, then the chattels were to be divided, half to be kept by Joan, his w., and the other half to be disposed of to provide alms for the poor and the works of charity for his soul.

Joan, his w. was to have custody of his two silver belts during her lifetime and was to give legal security for them to his execs. Also to Joan, his w., his goods in store and his stock of malt from the day of his death

to the feast of St. Michael following - after that date all was to go to his execs.

Execs.: Andrew Aylwyn, clk., Stephen Portere, Roger James, Stephen Harrnden.

Will: 1450, 24th May.

Feoffees: Andrew Aylewyn, clk., Stephen Porter, Henry Aleyn, Roger Jamis.

To be sold: 5 a. of land in Brookland which Henry Whar' was holding to farm, 7 a. in Brenzett, which he had bought from William Bekherst and Agnes, William's w., 4 a. adjoining Morelane which he had bought from Thomas Rolff, 5 a. in Ivychurch, adjoining the land of John Barnard, which he had bought from John Rollyng, 7 a. in Newchurch which he had bought from the same; 3 a. in the same par. which William Fox was holding to farm; 10 a. which he had bought from John Porter of Romney, 1 messuage in Romney in the par. of St. Martin, 10 a. in the par. of All Saints, Hope, which he had bought from Thomas Engeland. The money from the sale of these lands was to provide for his debts and legacies, more was to be sold by his execs. if that was not sufficient.

To Joan, his w. as long as she remained a widow, the tenure of the house in which he was then living with all the lands pertaining to it around Ivychurch ch., viz., the land called Rerewoldre and 5 a. adjoining that called Pykepole, an 18 a field of barley next to the ten. of Robert Stuppeney, 6 a. which



he had recently bought from Andrew Colin', 2 a. held of the heirs of John Spor', 2 a. recently held by Mabel Geffrey; 6 a. formerly held by the widow of John Mastay, junior, 6 a. bought from the feoffees of Roger at Hale in Ivychurch, 3 a. bought from John Walter, 2 a. and  $\frac{1}{2}$  a. bought from John At Chapell', 3 a. and 1 rod which he had inherited after the death of his mother lying near his own land called Longschot. If Joan, his w. married again she was to receive an annuity of 6 marks p.a. from the revenue of these lands. To Nicholas Swetfray, his servant, a life interest in a messuage and 4 a. of land attached to it in the par. of Brookland as tenant of the Prior and Priory of Christ Church, Canterbury, with remainder to Robert Verne for life<sup>and</sup> after Robert Verne's death to revert to his feoffees. Residue to be mortgaged to the ch. of St. George to provide for his obit in the ch. of St. George at Ivychurch and for 2 chaplains to celebrate there for his soul in perpetuity - each chaplain to have a stipend of 12 marks, if his means sufficed, if not then 1 chaplain was to celebrate as aforesaid. If this mortgage proved difficult, his feoffees were to enfeoff 6 or 8 trustworthy men of the same par. in these lands and tens. so that they and their heirs should provide for these chaplains in perpetuity. Any amendments to this will to be made by Master Walter Maile, sergeant-at-law, and if his arrangements for

his perpetual obit and chaplaincy proved impossible, then his lands and tens. were to be sold to provide for alms, celebration of masses for his soul and other works of charity e.g. for the repair of bad roads.

[Folios 64-66 ]

135. 1454/5, 20th March. James POWYS, of Romney.
- Bur.:** In the cemetery of St. Nicholas' ch., Romney, near the grave of his father and mother.
- Bequ.:** H.a. of the same ch., 3/4d; the work of the ch., 12d; the gilds of St. John and St. George, 12d each; the gilds of St. Edmund and St. Catherine, 6d each; Agnes, the da. of William Martin of Romney, lately deceased, 1 cover and 1 white coverlet decorated with roses, 1 ewer and basin; Alice, the sister of the same Agnes, 1 mattress and a ewer and basin called chasyr; Petronilla, the da. of John Porter, and sister of Agnes and Alice, 1 quilt and 1 bolster; John Porter, 1 pallet; each godchild, 8d; Thomas, the son of William Chambyr, 13/4d; Isabella Chambyr, for her good service and diligence in his house, 13/4d; Constance Paye, for her services, 13/4d; Robert, the par. clk. of St. Nicholas', 8d. Residue to his execs.
- Execs:** Andrew Aylewyn of Romney, John Powndherst, Thomas Schrympynden.
- Will:** Feoffees: Andrew Aylewyn clk.; Thomas Juglond; John Powndherst; Thomas Schrympynden.
- To be sold: all his lands and tens., both those

he had inherited and those he had bought, to pay his debts and legacies.

To the par. of St. Nicholas, 6 marks to buy a book called legendum de Omnibus Sanctis, or, if the par. preferred it, 6 marks to be spent on works of charity for his soul. To William Martin, the son of William of Romney, deceased, when he came of age provided his reputation was good, 5 marks, and if his reputation was not good the 5 marks was to be spent in stipends for the celebration of masses for the testator's soul in St. Nicholas' ch.

To Agnes and Alice, the das. of the same William Martin, and to Isabella, his da. the w. of William Martin, and to Petronilla, the da. of John Porter, and to each da. of Isabella when they came to the age of 18, a dowry of 40/-, with cross-remainders equally divided between them. Remainder, if any, to be spent in works of charity.

To Andrew Aylewyn, a grange in the par. of St. Martin at Romney as soon as he had paid a certain sum of money for it to his other feoffees.

His feoffees were to take care to fulfil all the obligations which he, James Powys, had undertaken as feoffee to use for any other persons. To his feoffees all his other lands and tens. that they might fulfil the terms of his will. To each feoffee, 13/4d.

[Folios 67 and  
68 ]

136. 1453, 3rd July. John STACE, of St. Nicholas at Wade.

Bur.: In the cemetery of the ch. of St. Nicholas at Wade in front of the west door.

Bequ.: H .a. of the same ch., 1 qr. barley; the light of the Rood and of St. Mary, 1 qr. barley each; Margaret, the da. of John Chirche,  $\frac{1}{2}$  qr. barley; John Here, 20/-; each godchild, 1 b. barley. Residue to Thomas Forster.

Execs.: Thomas Forster and John Here.

Will: Feoffees: William Manston Esq., Roger Manston Esq., John Moryn of Waldershare.

Land and tens. in St. Nicholas at Wade, All Santa, St. Egidius and Monkton in Thanet, in Reculver and in Herne.

To Thomas Forster and Christiana, the w. of Thomas Forster and da. of William Colyns, all the aforementioned lands and tens. in perpetuity except 7 virgates of land in Reculver next to a place called Mays.

To be sold by Thomas Forster, 4 virgates of land in Reculver in Mays to provide for the repair of the ch. of St. Nicholas, to be given to the custodians of the ch. by Thomas Forster as he saw fit, and 3 virgates of land in the same place to provide for 1 chaplain to celebrate 1 trental for his soul in the ch. of St. Nicholas.

Witnesses: Robert Droune, Thomas Denchekyn, Robert Thornton, John London, Richard Clement, William Somnor, John Tryster, John Sharp, Thomas Catelot.

[ Folio 69 recto ]

137. 1454/5, 10th January. William HORBERD (HERBERD) of Romney.

Bur.: In the cemetery of St. Nicholas' ch., Romney.

Bequ.: H.a. of the same ch., 12d; the work of the ch. 8d; the par. clk., 4d; John, his brother, all his vestments and gown with hood and hose, all the tools for his trade, his sword, armour, bows and arrows; Joan, his da., his 3 gold finger rings of which one had a sapphire; his w., his best gold ring without a sapphire, and his best silver belt; his brother, his silver signet ring. Residue to Marion, his w.

Execs.: Marion, his w., Joan, his da., John Horberd, his brother.

Will: Feoffees: Sir Gervase Clifton, Knight, John Cob, William Pilce.

To Marion, his w., a life interest in his chief ten. with remainder to Joan, his da., then to John Herberd, his brother, then to be sold to provide alms etc. for his soul.

Folio 19 verso

138. 1454/5, 12th February. William CLITHEROWE, (CLITEROWE), gentilman of Hythe.

Bur.: In the ch. of St. Leonard at Hythe in front of the image of St. Mary the Virgin, to the North of the ch.

Beq.: H.a. of the same ch., 6/8d; John Rathford, the par. chaplain, 20d; the par. clk., 12d; the lights of St. Mary and St. Leonard, 2 lbs. wax each; each of his servants, 3/4d; Cecilia, his

da., a dowry of £20 with a set of hangings for her room. Residue to his execs.

Execs.: Agnes, his w., William and Matthew, his sons.

Survs.: Roger Cliterowe, Esq., and John Noreys, Esq. who was living in the king's household.

Will: 1450, 13th April.

To Agnes, his w., a life interest in all his lands and tens. with remainder to Richard, his son, and reversion to his other right heirs, then to the right heirs of John Cheuve and Margaret, the w. of the same John, his sister, for life, after that to be sold to provide stipends for masses to be celebrated for his soul in the ch. of St. Nicholas at Romney.

Witnesses: Nicholas Brokhell' Esq., Arm ... [mss. mutilated] ... Wattys, John Schopper, Master Edward Cristor.

Witnesses on 12th February 1454/5 when he was dying:

Rev. John Rathford, the par. chaplain at Hythe,  
Master Edward Cristor, William Stace and many others  
[ Folio 70 ]

139. 1454, 8th April. John a Mede, of Romney.

Bur.: In the chapel of St. Mary, in the ch. of St. Nicholas at Romney.

Bequ.: H.a. of the same ch., 6/8d; the gild of St. Mary, 20d; the gilds of St. Stephen and St. George, 8d each; the gild of St. John the Baptist, 12d; the work of the bell-tower of St. Laurence's, Romney, 20d; Richard, his son and Marion, his da., all the chattels of his house equally divided between them except his nets, 11 silver spoons and his silver belts, 1 decorated jacket, a bow, a sword and his armour decorated with silver.

All his debts were to be paid by his execs. before any legacies were given. His execs., all his nets of which half were to be sold to provide for his soul and the other half were to go to Richard, his son. For distribution to the poor, all the money from debts owing to him. His execs., all his silver belts, 4 silver spoons of the 11 silver spoons mentioned above, which were to be disposed of by them for his soul. Richard, his son, 4 silver spoons, 1 decorated jacket, his bow, his sword and his armour mentioned above; Marion, his da., 3 silver spoons. Residue to his execs.

Execs.: John Cheyne\* and John Gore.

Will: 1454, 8th April.

Feoffees: John Cheyner and John Gore.

Lands and tens. in Romney, including 1 fish-trap and 1 windmill.

To Richard a Mede, his son, all his lands and tens. except his windmill, and the land on which it stood, which was to be sold by John Gore and William Bursyle together with John Cheyner acting as surveyor, to provide a stipend for 1 priest to celebrate in St. Mary's chapel in the ch. of St. Nicholas at Romney. John Cheyner, 13/4d; John a Gore, 6/8d; William Bursyle, 5/- for their trouble, the money to be taken from that obtained by the sale of the windmill.

[ Folios 70 verso  
and 71 recto ]

140. 1454/5, 7th March. Roger CLYDEROWE, Esq. of Ash.

Bur.: In the choir of St. Nicholas ch. Ash, near Joan, his da.

Bequ.: H.a. of the same ch., 20/- and a missal and 10 marks in addition to provide a chalice or other necessity for the altar; the fabric of the ch., 10 marks; John Haryes, Thomas Haryes, Thomas Serwyn, Richard Well', Baldwin Erlyscolys, 40/- each; each servant to be remunerated according to the discretion of his execs. Residue to Matilda, his w.

Execs.: Matilda, his w., Thomas Hardes, (sic) John Oxynden.

Will: Feoffees: Henry Oldcastell, Thomas Hardres, John Oxynden.

To provide for 1 chaplain to celebrate in St. Mary's chapel or in the choir of the ch. of Ash for his soul and that of Matilda, his w. and his parents etc. for 20 years, the revenue of the manor of Helmys, and an annual rent of 15/- from 1 ten. in the par. of St. Peter next to the Cornmarket in Sandwich, which recently belonged to William Armenteo, with remainder to Eleanor, his da. in perpetuity on condition that she did not obstruct this will. If she did so, then the manor was to be sold for works of charity. To Eleanor, his da., in perpetuity after the death of John Kyriell, the reversion of a ten. in Sandwich now called le Hert, and formerly called le Swan, under the same condition.



To John Harryws, 2 messuages in St. Mary's par. Sandwich, in perpetuity, with reversion to the testator's right heirs.

All his debts and legacies were to be fully paid by his execs. with the money left to John Norys his son, for that purpose.

[ Folio 71 ]

141. 1455, 8th May. John POLAND, of Faversham.

Bur.: In the cemetery of St. Mary's ch. Faversham.

Bequ.: H.a. of the same ch., 6/8d; the light called Corpus Christi, 3/4d; each light called an holeve light, 12d; Residue to Joan, his w.

Exec.: Joan, his w.

Will: To Joan, his w., a ten with an enclosure at Keys, which was to be sold, when Joan wished to do so, together with a ten. in which William Barvolle, was living, to provide the stipend for 1 priest to celebrate for 1 year for his soul in the ch. of Faversham. Residue for the repair of the ch. To Rev. William Thornburi, vicar of Faversham, a ten. in the market, to provide for a priest to celebrate in the ch. of Faversham for 2 yrs. after his death.

[ Folio 72 recto ]

142. 1450, 8th June. Alice SANDER, widow of John Sander, of Herne.

Bur.: In the cemetery of St. Mark's ch., Herne.

Bequ.: H.a. of the same ch., 20d; each clk. there, 6d; Richard atte Dane, a cow. Residue to Thomas Philipp and James Shipman for masses to be celebrated and other works of charity for her

soul.

Execs.: Thomas Philipp and James Shipman.

Will: (Recited personally by the testatrix to her feoffees)

1450, 18th June.

Feoffees: Thomas Philipp, James Shipman, John Martyn.

To be sold: all her lands and tens. and all her chattels to provide for the following bequests: James Shipman, 6 marks; William Dotyng, 6 marks; John Martyn, 6/8d; Alice Hogge, 6/8d; the three orders of frs. in Canterbury, 20/- each; the light of St. Martin at Herne, 6/8d; for the repair of bad roads in Herne, 26/8d; the Hosp. of Northgate, 6/8d; the Hosp. of Harbledown, 6/8d; the work of the ch. of the Hosp. of Harbledown, 26/8d; the lamp there, 6/8d; Isabella atte Dane, a feather bed, 1 best dress and a silver belt; each godchild, a sheep; Jean Paramore, 4 ewes, a cow, 8 metal utensils and a bed; Joan, the da. of William Paramour, a cow; John Stretend', 4 sheep; John Cirtman senior, 4 sheep; John Hamond, a pig; Richard Salmon, a sheep; Joan Salkin, 4 ewes; Thomas Pantyng and John Balkin, 2 ewes each; a stipend to be provided for 1 priest to celebrate for 1 year in the par. ch. of Herne; William Paramor to be permitted to buy the ten. in which she was then living and 6 a. annexed to it for 10 marks, the money to be paid within 10 years, viz. 13/4d annually for 10 years to the gilds of St. Thomas and St. Peter in the par. of Herne, e.g. 6/8d each; William

Paramor, 1 plough and 1 cart with the other implements belonging to it, 1 cask, 1 table, 1 chair, 1 ladder, 1 chest strengthened with iron, and all her wooden vessels; John atte Dane to be permitted to buyne a. of land in Nerne at Prowdyffelde for 20 marks which was to be paid to her execs. within 3 years to provide for 1 chaplain to celebrate for her soul for the first year, and to pay 66/8d to her execs. in the other two years. Residue to be distributed in alms for her soul.

[Folios 72 verso]  
[and 73 recto]

143. 1455, 12th June. Joan ODYERNE, widow of Wittersham.
- Bur.: In the cemetery of the ch. of St. John the Baptist at Wittersham.
- Bequ.: H.a. of the same ch., 12d; the light of the Rood, 12d; the lights of St. Mary and St. Catherine, 18d to be paid in 3 years after her death, equally divided; the lights of St. Nicholas and St. Christopher, 6d; each godchild, 4d, except to the das. of Stephen Adam and Robert Owhall. Residue to John Glover, her sons.
- Execs.: John and James Glover, her sons.
- Will: 1455, 18th June.
- Feoffees: James Glover, Laurence Thaylond, Thomas Potyn, James Maplesden of Wittersham. To Juliana, her da., in perpetuity, 1 piece of land called the Heele adjoining the land of James Glover on the South. Residue of all

her lands and tens. to John Glover, her son, in perpetuity, for which he must pay to Juliana, her da., 4/- p.a. at the Feast of the Purification during the lifetime of Juliana and if Juliana wished to sell her land she must offer it first to John Glover. Remainder to Juliana and Joan, her das., and to the das. of John, her son, in perpetuity, to be equally divided between them. John, her son, must pay for the wood on this land, at 13/4d p.a. till 40/- was paid in all. Juliana, her da., 20/-; Harry Potyn, 6/8d; James Glover, 3/4d; John, the son of John Glover, 3/4d. Residue for her soul.

Witnesses: William Martyn, rector, Stephen Boyden, Stephen Jeffe, John Jolyffe, Thomas Jolyffe and many others.

[ Folio 73 ]

144. 1455, 6th September. Richard COKRYDE, of Dengemarsh, Lydd.
- Bur.: In the cemetery of All Saint's ch. Lydd.
- Bequ.: H.a. of the same ch. 8d; the par. priest 4d; the two clks. there, 4d; the gild of St. John the Baptist 6d; Residue to Joan, his w.
- Exec.: Joan, his w.
- Will: 1455, 4th September.
- Peoffees: John Cokryde, his brother, and Stephen Hoge of the same par.
- Lands and tens. in Lydd and the fourth share of a fish-trap in the tenure of the Abbot of

Battle. To be sold at once, 1 a. of land in le Rabe and if necessary his fourth share of the fish-trap and other lands to pay his debts. To Joan, his w., the wardship of all his other lands and tens. till his son, William, came of age. To William, his son, all his lands and tens. in perpetuity, when he came to the age of 16. Remainder to Joan, his w., for her life, then half his lands to Agnes, Margaret, Joan, Alice and Christina, his das. in perpetuity, and the other half to be sold to provide a stipend for a priest to celebrate in the ch. of Lydd for as long as possible for his soul. Each of his das. a dowry of 6/8d; each feoffee 2/6d.

Witnesses: John Menewode, William Booker, William Lefeel, John Gerard junior, John Bradford, Adam Froste, William Leycroft and many others.

[Folios 73 verso  
and 74]

145. 1445, 14th October. Thomas BROK, of Sandwich.  
Acquittance: David Blodwell to Peter French and William Gerard, regarding the administration of the lands and chattels of Thomas Brok, deceased, late of the par. of St. Peter Sandwich.

[Folio 74 verso]

146. 1455, 29th November. William GODFRAY otherwise called FERMOR, of Westbrook, Lydd.  
Bur.: In the cemetery of the ch. of All Saints, Lydd.  
Bequ.: H.a. and the fabric of the same ch., the value of 1 cow equally divided; Rev. Thomas, the par.

priest, 6d; each godchild, 4d.

Will: Execs. and feoffees: John Godfray, otherwise called Fermor, junior, and John Kempe.

Lands and tens. in Lydd and Midley.

To John and Peter, his sons, in perpetuity, about  $15\frac{1}{2}$  a. of land, of which  $8\frac{1}{2}$  a. lay in Lydd and in the fee of Blecching extending to the East as far as the lands of the Brothers and Sisters of the Hosp. of St. John the Baptist in Romney, and 7 a. lay in Newlonde, and in Lydd, and Midley in Sigislee and Pykefolde, on condition that they paid to their sisters, Sally, Margaret and Agnes, dowries of 5 marks each whether they married or not, and to Joan, their sister,  $3\frac{3}{4}$ d. Cross-remainders between the sisters. If John and Peter refused to do this, then all his lands and tens. were to go to his das. Residue to be divided into two parts of which one was for his soul and the other to be equally divided between his sons and das.

Witnesses: Henry Alwyn, John Bregis, John Godfray, senior, otherwise called Fermor, Michael Swan, Nicholas Trondilherst, John Barley, John Maket, James Galeway, William Leycroft and many others.

[ Folios 74 verso ]  
[ and 75 recto ]

[ The following brief notes appear rather untidily on the last page of the register. ]

147. Administration by John Alyn of Brabourne and Andrew at Hall of Godmersham of the goods of Alice Wettrinfeld and William Alyn, the father of Alice.
148. Administration of the goods of Thomas Smethr' of Godmersham.
149. Administration after the testament and last will of Andrew Pastor, of Sandwich.
150. Administration by Agnes Drefforde of Benenden, the exec. of the testament and last will of William Drefforde, her late husband.
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Notes to the Calendar

- No. 19.<sup>1</sup>      Worgate      This is the old Worthgate or Wardgate near Wincheap gap, now disused and walled up; c.f. Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica, vol.i, p. 33.
- No. 22.<sup>1</sup>      Scala Celi -      One of three churches at Tre Fontane. So called on account of a dream in which St. Bernard saw souls ascending to Heaven from Purgatory at this place; c.f. Mariano Armellini; Le Chiese di Roma dal secolo iv al xix; ii, pp. 1169-1171; also F.M. Nichols; Mirabilia Urbis Romae, p. 30 and C. Huelsen; Le Chiese di Roma nel Medio Evo, pp. 143-4, n.8.
- No. 22.<sup>2</sup>      Galys      i.e. Galicia or Compostella, the famous shrine of St. James in Spain
- No. 35.<sup>1</sup>      A great rood      The mss. has roos.
- No. 42.<sup>1</sup>      servants and      This entry has been noted in Arch. Cant. xii, p. 285, and then by Alexander Savine, "Bondmen under the Tudors" in T.R.H.S., new series, vol. xvii (1903), p. 283, n.5.
- No. 57.<sup>1</sup>      pomander against      The mss. has pilam pro pestilentia.  
the plague.      For information on Medieval pomanders c.f. S.G.B. Stubbs and E.W. Blich, Sixty centuries of Health and Physick plate xliii



and pp. 120-123; also Castiglioni's History of Medicine, pp. 353-60.

No. 57.<sup>2</sup>

mustivelers

i.e. Mustrevillier cloth. c.f. Daniel Rock; Textile Fabrics (1876) ch. vii, p. 74, and for other textiles occurring in the Calendar, see this book and Rock's Descriptive Catalogue (South Kensington Museum, 1870).

No. 74.<sup>1</sup>

withernam

c.f. K.M.E. Murray; The Constitutional History of the Cinque Ports pp. 16, 52-57. A withernam was a process for the recovery of debts, "involving the issue of letters of warning to the town in which an offending person lived ... The next inhabitant of the offending community coming to the town from which the letters were directed was arrested ... and sent home to give notice of the judgment against him ... If after a further delay of 10 days, satisfaction was still not given, the goods and sometimes the <sup>next</sup> person of the defendant's town to come within the liberties of the port were arrested ... The process was used between the ports themselves and against both English and foreign towns."

- No. 94.<sup>1</sup>     banquer  
              and  
              dossal.     c.f. F.H. Stratman; A Middle English Dictionary, new edition, revised by H. Bradley (Oxford, 1891); and J. Wright, The English Dialect Dictionary, (London, 1898).  
The Oxford English Dictionary describes a banquer (banker) as "a covering, generally of tapestry for a bench or a chair", and a dossier (dossal) as "an ornamental cloth used to cover the back of a seat." J. Wright describes both bankers and dossiers as "cushions."
- No. 95.<sup>1</sup>     a ham             The mss. has simply "pernam". But the term "perna baconis" was frequently used of a large piece (lit. "limb") of salted pork; c.f. J.F. Willard, Parliamentary taxes on personal property 1290-1334 (Med. Acad. of America, 1934), pp. 66-68 where an assessment of movables made at Cuxham, Co. Oxon, in 1314 values a "perna baconis" at 8d.
- No.105.<sup>1</sup>     gaudies             i.e. the Paternoster beads.
- No.116.<sup>1</sup>     debentes            i.e. debentures. In the fifteenth century a debenture was simply a voucher certifying that a certain sum of money was owing to the person or persons designated in it.

No. 73<sup>1</sup>  
 No. 125.<sup>1</sup>

le Note

A fairly common type of drinking vessel, shaped like a nut, or made from a nut.

No. 133.<sup>1</sup>

Sawolken

i.e. Sawkin? There is a Sawkin's Farm near Canterbury, but it is not in the vicinity of the majority of the Cosington estates. Ken or Kin is an unusual ending for a Kentish place-name.

Index of Testators, their Executors and Feoffees

(Testators' names are in Block Capitals)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Number</u>
Adam, John:	20
Alayn, Richard:	35
Aldington, John:	8
Aleyn, Agnes:	58
ALEYN, Hamo:	58
Henry:	88, 111, 134.
Andrews, Alann:	119
Arnolde, Thomas:	128
Arthur, Robert:	99
Aylwyn, Andrew:	134, 135.
Babsnod, Henry:	41
Badcok, Henry:	109
BAKARE, John:	3
Juliana:	3
Baker, William:	122
Balendeny, William:	6
Balle, William:	20
Bamme, Richard:	25
BARROY, Humphrey:	62
Isabella:	62
BARTLOTT, Robert:	61
Joan: John:	61
Bastard, John:	22

<u>Name</u>	<u>Number</u>
de Bederynden, Robert:	42
Beggenden, Henry:	118
Thomas:	118
Benamyn, John:	126
BENAYT, Christina:	94
William:	94
Benet, William:	122
Benri, William:	53
Bernard, John:	114
Bernys, John:	103
William:	103
Berold, Simon:	44
atte Berton, John:	90
Nicholas:	90
BERTYN, William:	43
Bettenham, Thomas	107
Bigge, Thomas:	23
BIRCHOLTE, John:	23
BLAKEBROKE, Richard:	33
Isabella:	33
Blakene, John:	59
Blechinden, John:	85
Thomas:	114
Blyce, Robert:	6
Bocher, Adam:	4
Body, Reginald:	2
Bokland, Robert:	10
Bolde, John:	51
Bole, John:	95
Boles, William:	122

<u>Name</u>	<u>Number</u>
Boole, William:	116
Bordenne, John:	1
Richard:	1
Thomas:	1
BOTELER, John:	132
Bour, James:	29
Boykyn, John:	127
Thomas:	109
de BRADGARE, Robert:	76
Bray, Thomas:	2
BRENCHESLE, John:	24
John:	24
Brent, Gregory:	130
Hugo:	122, 131
Brode, Mark:	76
BROK, Thomas:	145
BROKE, John:	65, 72
Brokehelle, Thomas	62
BROWN, Thomas:	69
John:	69
Peter:	69
BRYAN, John:	27
BRYAN, William:	124
atte BRYGGE, Thomas:	111
BRYGHAM, Robert:	73
Thomas:	73
BYRFORD, William:	118
Agnes:	118
de Byrtonton, Henry:	45
BYS, Hugh:	74
Wilhelmina:	74

<u>Name</u>	<u>Number</u>
Cakston, Hugh:	132
Calkett, Alexander:	70
Richard:	70
Carter, John:	131
CATELOTE, John:	37
Cavere, Adam:	64
CAWCH, Richard:	57
CELY, John:	88
CELY, John:	99
Chalton, Hugh:	106
Chamber, William:	54
Chapman, Thomas:	63
William:	74
CHARLYS, John:	70
Cherche, Stephen:	99
Cheseman, John:	38
Chewesworth, Robert:	60
Cheyne, John:	139
CHILDMELL, John:	78
Joan:	78
atte CHIRCHE, Thomas:	85
Joan:	85
Clerk, William:	104
CLERKE, John:	93
Clerke, William:	19
Clifton, Sir Gervase:	137
CLITHEROWE, William:	138
Agnes:	138
Matthew:	138
Roger:	138
William:	138

<u>Name</u>	<u>Number</u>
CLYDEROWE, Roger:	140
Matilda:	140
Cob, John:	137
Cok, Thomas:	55
COKRYDE, Richard:	144
Joan:	144
John:	144
Colbroke, Thomas:	73
COLKYN, John:	36
Alice:	36
William:	36
Colyn, Thomas:	72
Compys, William:	27
Coppe, William:	118
COSYN, Thomas:	95
Stephen:	95
COSYNGTON, Stephen:	133
Cotsyle, Richard:	90
atte Courte, Nicholas:	76
Crosse, Richard:	57
Croscombe, Thomas:	112
Curlewe, John:	77
DAVY, John:	87
Joan:	87
Dayn, William:	120
DELAXORT, Thomas:	29
DENNE, Michael:	21
Dens, William:	100



<u>Name</u>	<u>Number</u>
DENYS, Joan:	108, 125
John:	108
DOWELE, John:	109
Elena:	109
DOWNE, John:	120
Doys, William:	131
Dugeham, Matthew:	129
Edkyn, Thomas:	4
Egerdon, John:	62
Ely, John:	71
Elys, Thomas:	63
Elys, William:	37, 47, 49.
Enelde, William:	47
EYHERST, John:	107, 110
Faunt, Nicholas:	121
de Faversham, William:	78
atte Felde, Thomas:	86
Felde, William:	96
Fermore, Stephen:	59
FAYRFAX, Walter:	119
Agnes:	119
FITZWILLEM, John:	38
atte Flerde, John:	90
FOG, Sir Thomas:	41
Joan:	41
John:	41
Ford, Richard:	106
FORMYGER, John:	17
Joan:	17

<u>Name</u>	<u>Number</u>
Forster, Thomas:	136
POSKYN, John:	102
FRENCHYEY, Alice:	82
Juliana:	82
FRENCHYEY, Thomas:	81
FRER, Alan:	112
Thomas:	112
FROGENALE, Thomas:	115
Joan:	115
Gadde, William:	112
Ganiwode, Henry:	126
Garkyn, Richard:	47
Gate, Henry:	19
Gerard, John:	52
Glover, James:	143
John:	143
GOBION, Anabilia:	39
GODFRAY, otherwise FERMOR, William:	146, 111
John:	146
GOFFE, Alexander:	123
Gore, John:	139
Grenforde, John:	122
Greyngge, Laurence:	44
Gyle, Laurence:	93
Haddon, William:	60
Hall, William:	122
Halle, John:	51, 60
HAMON, John:	98
Hamon, William:	29

<u>Name</u>	<u>Number</u>
HAMPTON, Thomas:	114
HAMPTON, John:	127
James:	121
John:	121
Hardres, John:	3
Thomas:	140
Harlakynnden, William:	111
Harndden, Stephen:	134
HARRYESON, Clement:	104
Joan:	104
HAUKYN, Joan:	28
John:	28
HAUTE, Edmund:	46
John:	46
Sir Nicholas:	46
Heade, Thomas:	128
Heghsted, John:	126
Helewelle, Robert:	34
Hellys, Nicholas:	115
Thomas:	115
Hendyman, John:	105
Here, Thomas:	4
John:	136
Herry, John:	76
Hert, John:	23
Hertlonde, William:	57
Hille, Henry:	73
Hobbe, Laurence:	19
Hoge, Stephen:	144
HOLME, Adam:	68

<u>Name</u>	<u>Number</u>
HONTE, John:	91
HONYWED, Alan:	31
Joan:	31
John:	31
Robert:	31
HORBERD, William:	101, 137
Horne, John:	107
HOUGHLYN, John:	129, 111
Idonie:	129
Hugham, William:	46
HUSEE, Henry:	45
Christina:	45
Mark:	45
HYLLYE, Thomas:	97
Ikham, Thomas:	42
Isaak, John:	108
Islep, Robert:	39, 40
JAKEMAN, Nicholas:	6
Jamis, Roger:	134
JEAKYN, Thomas:	50
Johnsone, Alexander:	116
Jory, John:	52
William:	77
Juglond, Thomas:	135
JUSTYCE, Richard:	60
Constance:	60

<u>Name</u>	<u>Number</u>
Kempe, John:	146
KENET, Laurence:	9
KENETT, William:	131
KETYNTON, John:	12
Knot, Henry:	68
Knygth, Richard:	131
KNYTH, William:	11
Andrew:	11
Henry:	11
Kole, John:	54
KYNGESSNOTHE, Hamo:	22
LAAS, Hamo:	86
Elena:	86
Ladewod, William:	91
Lane, Thomas:	38
Lenency, John:	53
LENOWD, John:	18
Juliana:	18
Leycestre, Simon:	132
LONDOY, John:	71
Henry:	71
LOSTINGTON, Henry:	14
Joan:	14
John:	14
LOVE, William:	64
Laurence:	64
Sarah:	64
Lovell, John:	41, 69

<u>Name</u>	<u>Number</u>
LYNCOLN, Henry:	19
Isabella:	19
LYNDE, Henry:	51
Catherine:	51
John:	51
Lynde, John:	122
LYON, John:	75
Makenade, William:	41
Maker, Godfrey:	58
Manston, William:	136, 114
Roger:	136
Maplesden, James:	143
MARACH, Joan:	83
John:	83
Marchand, Thomas:	91
Marchant, William:	43
MARTYN, John:	25
Anne:	25
John:	25
Robert:	25
Thomas:	25
Martyn, John:	42
Martyn, John:	142
Marys, William:	101
MASON, Margery:	116
Matthew, John:	102
May, William:	88
Mayhew, Robert:	132
a MEDE, John:	139

<u>Name</u>	<u>Number</u>
Mellier, John:	115
MENNESSE, Thomas:	92
Agnes	92
Thomas	92
MERYWEDER, William:	100
Millare, John:	131
Mobray, John:	54
Moraunt, Peter:	13
Moryn, John:	136
Morys, John:	125, 138
MULTON, Geoffrey:	113
MYCHEL, Walter:	20
Myrsyn, John:	118
atte Nassh, Henry:	19
NEWELOND, Joan:	30
Joan:	30
Robert:	30
NOTEBEM, John:	32
Notebem, William:	42, 32
Nycholle, Thomas:	63
Nynne, John:	125
Robert:	107, 110
William:	107, 110, 130
ODYERNE, Joan:	143
Oldcastell, Henry:	140
Oxynden, John:	65, 140

<u>Name</u>	<u>Number</u>
Palmer, John:	74, 104
Palmere, William:	101
PARKER, Cecilia:	52, 77
Parker, Giles:	33
PARKER, John:	77
PARKER, William:	63
Pawlyn, Thomas:	114
PAYTEWYN, Stephen:	49, 47
Percyvale, John:	109
Pery, Thomas:	25
Perys, Henry:	126
Petham, Thomas:	122
Petit, Henry:	114
John:	72, 99
atte PETTE, John:	40
Elianore:	40
Philip, Thomas:	123
William:	123
Thomas:	142
Phylp, Thomas:	87
Pilce, William:	137
PLESYNGTON, Agnes:	47
POCOCK, Alice:	4
POLAND, John:	141, 101
Joan:	141
Poldre, Thomas:	40
Pope, Hamond:	115
Portere, Stephen:	134
Potyn, Thomas:	143
Powndherst, John:	135



<u>Name</u>	<u>Number</u>
POWYS, James:	135
Pratte, William:	109
PRESHANEN, John:	126
Alice:	126
John:	126
Promhulle, John:	76
Prowde, Thomas:	100
PYERS, William:	56
Alice:	56
PYKE, William:	103
Rose:	103
de PYMPE, William:	8
Joan:	8
Pyrye, John:	67
Queke, John:	52, 61
RASYL, Robert:	80
Thomas:	80
READE, John:	1
Elizabeth:	1
RECHEMOND, Cecilia:	105
REDE, Nicholas:	45
Joan:	45
Redere, Thomas:	59
REGWEYE, Thomas:	26
Christina:	26
Robyn, John:	79
Rolleston, Robert:	84
Rellyng, John:	53
Romyger, William:	117

<u>Name</u>	<u>Number</u>
Ronnyll, William:	37
Roper, Ralph:	19
ROPERE, Edmund:	67
Alice:	67
Ruddock, Simon:	132
RYDERE, John:	7
Rye, Roger:	48
RYNGLETON, William:	121
Margery:	121
SANDER, Alice:	142
SANDRE, John:	90
Cecilia:	90
Sarlis, John:	111, 129
Schrympenden, Thomas:	135
SEPTVANN, Sir William:	42, 32
Elizabeth:	42
SEPTVANNNS, Edward:	128
Benedicta:	128
Seyntleger, Bartholomew:	49
SEYNTLEGER, Thomas:	44
Juliana:	44
Sheldewich, John:	39, 51
Sherreva, John:	22
Shipway, John:	142
Skynner, Richard:	105
Smith, John:	68
SMITH, Thomas:	54, 59
Smyth, John Bernesole:	27

<u>Name</u>	<u>Number</u>
SOLAYN, Richard:	10
Margaret:	10
Somerfelde, John:	18
Sone, John:	93
atte SONNE, Henry:	15
Dionysia:	15
atte Sonne, Geoffrey:	33
Southells, Henry:	115
Sppat, Andrew:	131
SPYHYLL, John:	130
Agnes:	130
STACE, John:	136
Stepheday, Alexander:	72
Stonakyr, Thomas:	117
STONSTRETE, Robert:	134
STYLE, John:	35
Constances:	35
Surynden, John:	96
Sutton, Richard:	119
Swanton, John:	79
SWETT, John:	48
Matilda:	48
SYMEON, William:	16
Isabella:	16
Symnet, William:	128
Symonet, William:	119
Tannare, John and Adam:	56
Taylor, John:	96
de Thornham, Roger:	8
Thornton, Robert:	114
TOLBACHE, Henry:	84

<u>Name</u>	<u>Number</u>
Toule, John:	70
Tourney, John:	119
Tristram, John:	5
Turhold, John:	20
TURNOR, William:	59
Joan:	59
Vagga, Simon:	102
VAGGE, John:	2
De VALACO, Edmund:	101
Vines, Simon:	70
WALLERE, Petronilla:	5
Simon:	5
William:	5
WALTER, Margery:	89
Thomas:	89
Ware, Thomas:	121
Warmestone, William:	64
Waterman, Peter:	118
Watson, Robert:	105
Watte, John:	24
WEBBE, John:	79
WEBBE, Thomas:	13
Margery:	13
Webbe, John:	37
Webraw, William:	95
Wednysbergh, John:	93
atte Welle, Thomas:	105

<u>Name</u>	<u>Number</u>
WERMYSTON, Thomas:	106
Marion:	106
Weste, Thomas:	48
de WESTGATE, Hamo:	34
Whiched, John:	35
Whitfelde, Andrew	119
Wightesham, Thomas:	120
atte WODE, John:	117
atte Wode, Thomas:	122
WODLANDE, William:	122
Catherine:	122
de WOOTON, John:	91
WYKE, Thomas:	53
Wyllis, William:	81, 82
Wyllington, John:	2
WYNDCHILSE, John:	66
Agnes:	66
Wynder, Stephen:	32
Wyntirborne, William:	1
Wytecherche, William	60
Yerde, John:	122

B I B L I O G R A P H YMANUSCRIPT

The Register begun by Thomas of Chillenden, Commissary-General  
appointed by Archbishop Arundel. (Maidstone PRC 32/1)

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Harleian Charters	}	Listed under the Topographical Catalogue for the County of Kent.
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Lambeth Palace

Lambeth Manuscript	1212
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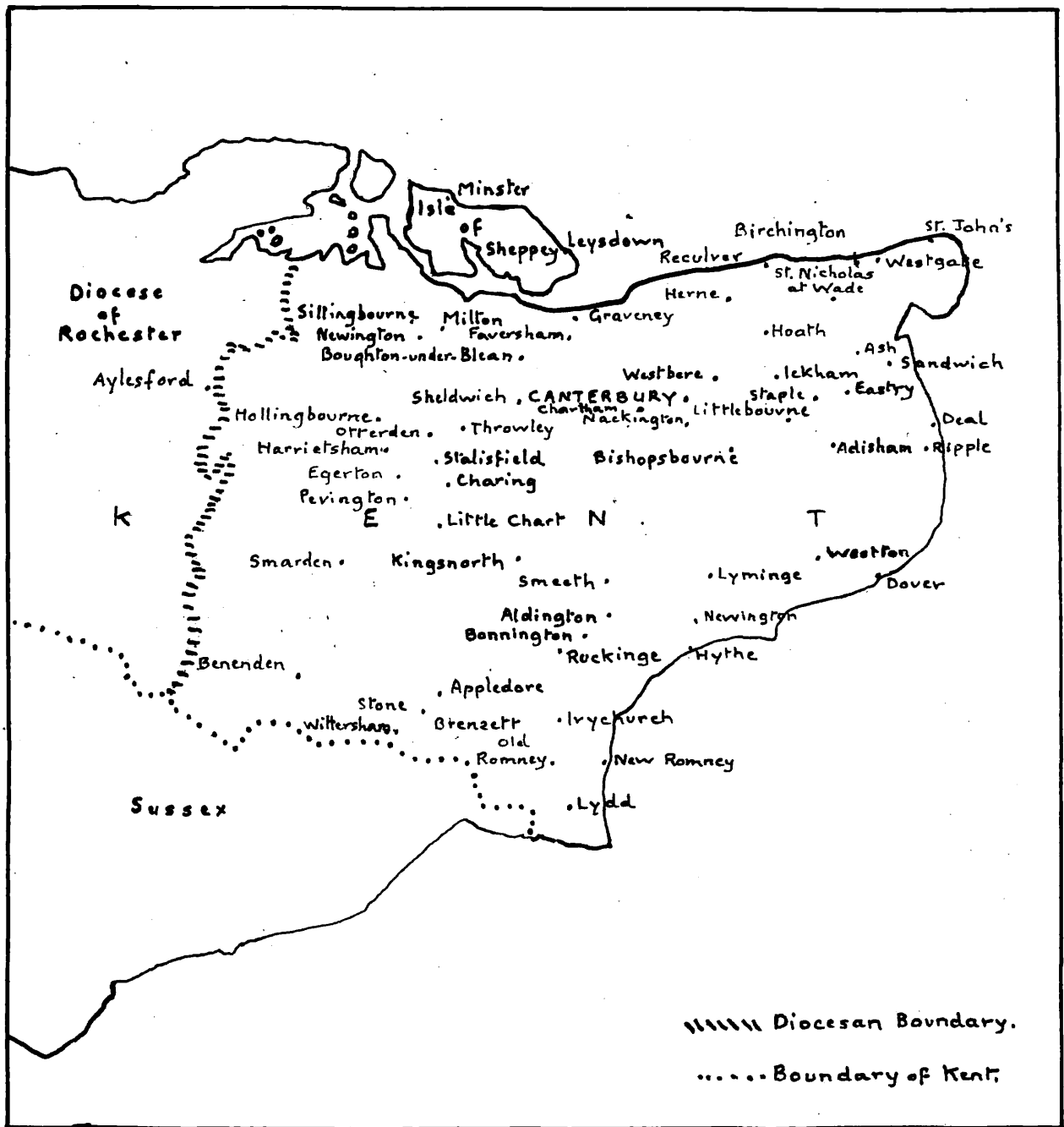
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The Diocese of Canterbury showing the parishes of the testators.



- 10. Go with the old... (unclear)
- 20. Report... (unclear)
- 60. (unclear) value... (unclear) value... (unclear)
- 70. (unclear) (unclear)
- 80. (unclear) (unclear)
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- 130. (unclear) (unclear)
- 140. (unclear) (unclear)
- 150. (unclear) (unclear)
- 160. (unclear) (unclear)
- 170. (unclear) (unclear)
- 180. (unclear) (unclear)