

The OWSLEY FAMILIES

of Southwest Somerset and Adjoining Dorset

Volume 2: Source Documents

Six wills, 1558–1681, reproduced from The National Archives
(PROB 11 series) and the Dorset History Centre,
with transcriptions and verification notes

Compiled by Denzel Housley

Contents

Contents	2
Preface	4
Document One — William Owseley of Chillington, 1558	5
Transcription.....	6
What This Document Establishes	7
Document Two — Katheryne Owsley of Crewkerne, 1575/6	9
Transcription.....	9
What This Document Establishes	10
Document Three — Robert Marshall of Ilminster, 1576.....	11
Transcription.....	12
What This Document Establishes	13
Document Four — William Owsley, Gentleman, of Crewkerne, 1620	15
Transcription (opening and key bequests only)	15
What This Document Establishes	16
Update, 26 July 2026 — Sharper Images and a Full Transcription Attempt	16
Document Five — John Owsley, Yeoman, of Wootton Fitzpaine, 1663.....	20
Transcription.....	21
What This Document Establishes	23
Document Six — James Owsley of Wootton Fitzpaine, 1681	24
Transcription.....	25
What This Document Establishes	26
Document Seven — John Slade, Rector of South Perrott, 1574	27
Transcription Attempt (AI-Assisted — Not Yet Verified).....	28
What the Record Shows	29
What This Document Establishes	29
Document Eight — Matthew Slade, Dictionary of National Biography	30
Transcription Attempt (AI-Assisted — Not Yet Verified).....	32
What the Record Shows	33
What This Document Establishes	33
Document Nine — Anthonie Lock, late of Wootton Fitzpaine, 1693.....	33
Transcription Attempt (AI-Assisted — Not Yet Verified).....	35
What the Record Shows	36
What This Document Establishes	36

Document Ten — Elizabeth Owsley, Widow, of Wootton Fitzpaine, 1694/5.....	37
Transcription Attempt (AI-Assisted — Not Yet Verified).....	37
What the Record Shows	38
What This Document Establishes	38
Document Eleven — John Owsley, late of Portland, 1709	38
Transcription Attempt (AI-Assisted — Not Yet Verified).....	39
What the Record Shows	40
What This Document Establishes	40
Document Twelve — William Ously, late of Portland, 1710	41
Transcription Attempt (AI-Assisted — Not Yet Verified).....	42
What the Record Shows	42
What This Document Establishes	43
Document Thirteen — Jane Ousley, Widow, of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, 1714.....	43
Transcription Attempt (AI-Assisted — Not Yet Verified).....	44
What the Record Shows	45
What This Document Establishes	45
Document Fourteen — Elizabeth Owsley, Widow, of Wootton Fitzpaine, 1744	45
Transcription Attempt (AI-Assisted — Not Yet Verified).....	47
What the Record Shows	48
What This Document Establishes	49
Document Fifteen — Roger Owsley of Lyme Regis, 1745/1752.....	49
Transcription Attempt (AI-Assisted — Not Yet Verified).....	52
What the Record Shows	53
What This Document Establishes	53
Document Sixteen — James Ousley, Yeoman, of Wootton Fitzpaine, 1758/1760.....	54
Transcription Attempt (AI-Assisted — Not Yet Verified).....	56
What the Record Shows	57
What This Document Establishes	57
A Note on This Volume's Limits	58

Preface

Volume One tells this family's story and states, chapter by chapter, the confidence this study places in each relationship. This volume exists for a narrower purpose: to put the primary documents themselves on the record, alongside the transcriptions and reasoning that Volume One draws on, so that any reader — including a future researcher who may disagree with a conclusion reached here — can go back to the actual words of the will rather than take this study's paraphrase on faith.

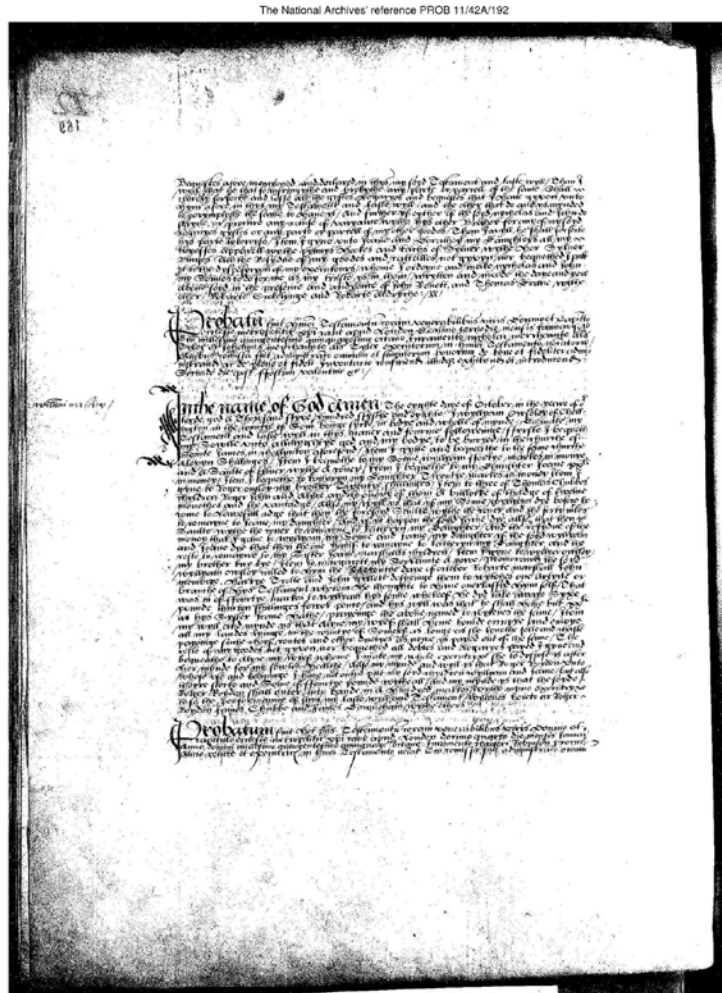
Six wills are reproduced here, spanning 1558 to 1681: five from 'The National Archives' PROB 11 series (registered copy-wills proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury), and one original will, signed and sealed, from the Dorset History Centre's Archdeaconry of Dorset collection. Each entry in this volume gives the document's archival reference, the page images as supplied, a transcription, and a short account of what the document establishes and how it was verified — including, where relevant, the places where an early or automated reading turned out to be wrong, and was corrected against the image itself.

A note on the transcriptions: sixteenth- and seventeenth-century secretary hand does not always yield a single certain reading, particularly where a manuscript is stained, torn, or tightly bound. Where this volume's transcription is confident, the text is given plainly. Where a word or phrase remains uncertain even after comparison with the image, that uncertainty is marked in the transcription itself, in editorial brackets, rather than silently resolved one way or the other. Original spelling, including its inconsistencies, is preserved throughout; only line-break hyphenation has been silently rejoined.

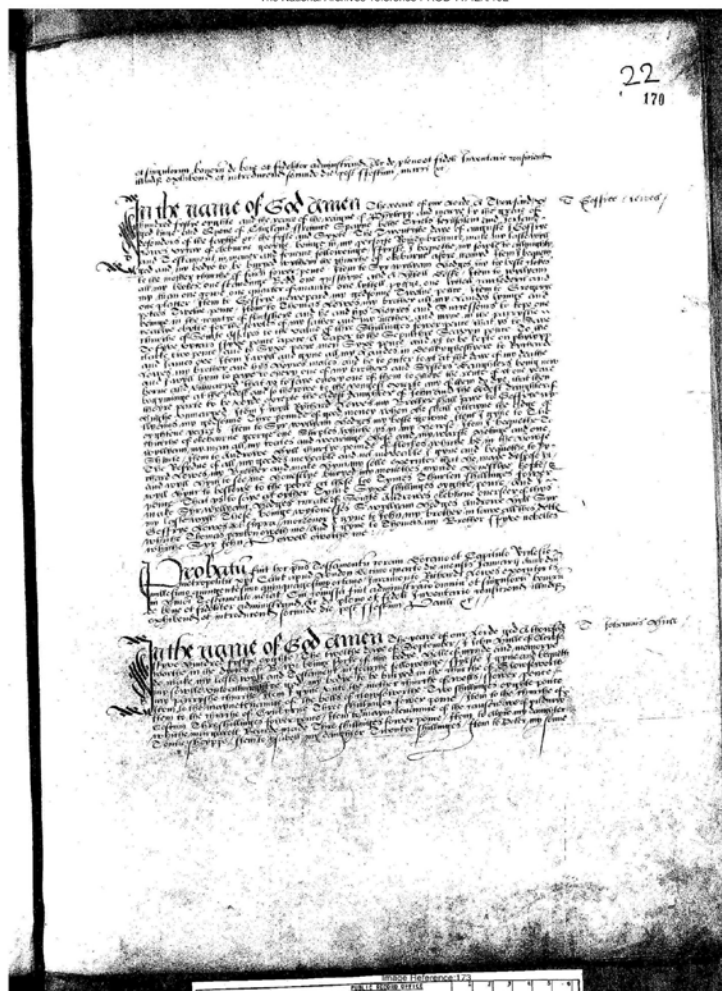
Readers are strongly encouraged to view the document images alongside the transcriptions and form their own judgment — that is, after all, the entire purpose of this volume.

Document One — William Owseley of Chillington, 1558

The National Archives, PROB 11/42A/192. Register Welles, quire 22, folio 170. Will dated 8 October 1558; proved at London 14 January 1558/9 by Alice, relict and executrix.



PROB 11/42A/192, page 1 of 2. The Onsley will begins roughly a third of the way down the page, following the close of an unrelated preceding will.



PROB 11/42A/192, page 2 of 2, showing the register's own folio marks — quire 22, folio 170 — matching the citation given in *The Genealogist* (1880) for this will.

Transcription

In the name of God Amen. The nynte daye of October in the yere of oure lorde god a thowsand fyve hundred fyftie and eyghte I wylliam owseley of Chellington in the countie of Som[erset] beinge sicke in bodye and holle of minde do make my testament and laste will in thys maner and forme folowinge

ffirste I bequeth my Sowle unto almyghty god and my bodye to be buried in the churche of sainte James in Chellynton aforesaid/

Item I gyve and bequethe to the same churche a[lowyn] Shillinges /

Item I bequethe to my Sonne wylliam fortye markes in money and a Salte of sylver w[i]th a cover /

Item I bequethe to my Daughter joane fortye markes in money /

Item I bequethe to katheryn my Daughter Twentye markes in money

Item I gyve to Roger owseley my brother Twentye Shillinges/

Item to three of Thomas Chubbes children Roger john and Agnes to everye of them a bullocke of the age of twelve monethes and the vantage /

Also my wyll ys that if my Sonne wylliam dye before he come to lawfull age that then the foresaid Salte w[i]th the cover and the fortye m[a]rkes to remaine to joane my daughter And yf it happen the said joane dye also, that then the Saide salte w[i]th the cover to remaine to Katheryn my Daughter and the residue of the money that is given to wylliam my Sonne and joane my daughter yf the said wylliam and joane dye that then the one halfe to remaine to Katheryn my daughter and the reste to remaine to my Syster joane marshalls children /

Item I gyve to walter owseley my brother ffyve [pounds] /

Item to margarett my Servante a cove /

Moreover the said wylliam owseley called to hym the witness as forseter Robarte marshall john membrey harrye Trott and john willett desyringe them to wytnes one article or branch of thys Testament wherein he thoughte to have overseen hym self / That was in a fourtye markes to wylliam his sonne whereof he dyt take awaye Syxe ponde thirten Shillinges fowre pence/ and hys wyll was that he shall have but xvij li [£17] as hys Syster joane hathe/ provydinge the above named to wytnes the same/

Item my wyll and mynde is that alyce my wyef shall have houlde occupye and enjoye all my landes lynge in the countie of Som[erset] as longe as she lyvethe sole and chaste payeinge suche above rented and other duties as now is payed out of the same/

The reste of my goodes not gyven nor bequethed all debtes and Legaces payed I gyve and bequethe to alyce my wyef whome I make my whole executryx to dispose it as she her minde for my Sowles healthe/

Also my minde and wyll ys that Roger Borde[n] into whose use and kepinge I have not onlye put my said children wylliam and joane but also th[ei]r stocke and Some of ffourtye ponde w[i]thall and any money ys that the sayde Roger Borde[n] shall enter into bande [bond] in a hundred markes to myne executors to se the p[er]formance of this my laste wyll and testament/

wytnes hereto are Roger London james Chubbe and james Sowneham w[i]th others

[Editorial: 'Cbellington' (parish name) and 'Sainte James' (church dedication) confirmed against the official TNA image; an earlier reading of a lower-resolution copy of this document had misread the parish name as 'Misterton' — the word splits across a line break in the original, and only the second half had been legible in that copy. The bequest amount to the church, and the sum left to Walter, remain the least certain readings in this transcription.]

What This Document Establishes

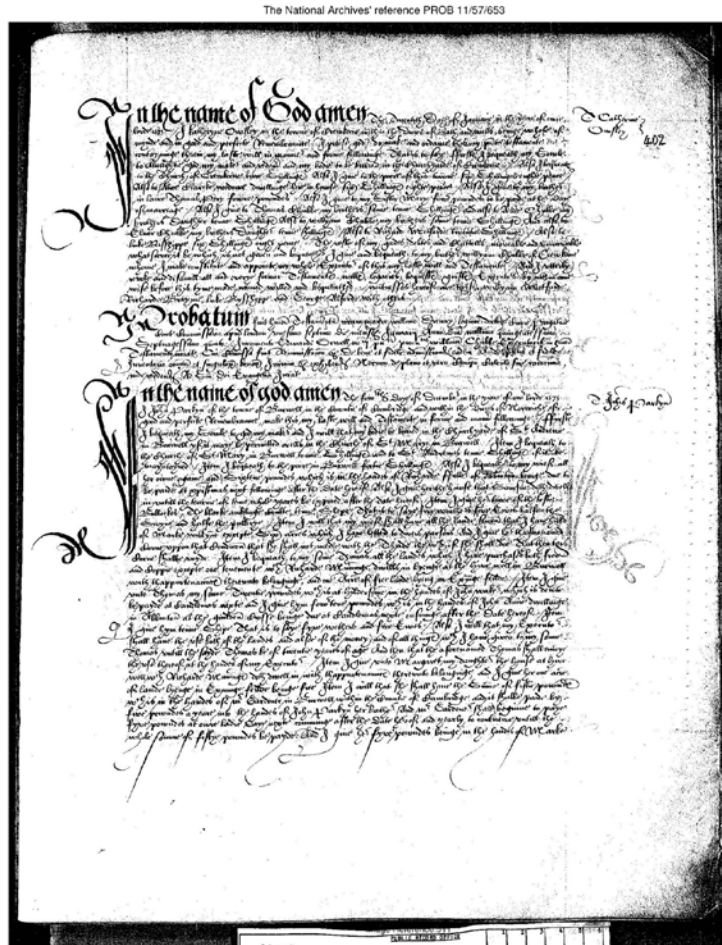
This is the oldest Owsley document located in the course of this study — predating the earliest parish register entry in the entire seventeen-parish collection (Winsham, 1562) by four years. It names, for the first time, an entire prior generation: William's brothers Roger (very likely Volume One's own Roger Owseley of Winsham — see Volume One, Chapter Two and the Appendix) and Walter (otherwise unknown to this study), his sister Joane (married to Robert Marshall — see Document Three), and his own three minor children, William, Joane, and Katheryn — none of

whom has been confidently identified with any other individual in this collection; an earlier edition of this volume proposed a connection between this Katheryn and Document Two's Katheryne Owsley of Crewkerne, since withdrawn (see Document Two).

The step-family bequest to 'three of Thomas Chubbes children' was once read as the detail connecting this will to Document Two, made eighteen years later — a connection a clearer image of Document Two has since shown to rest on a misreading; see that document for the correction.

Document Two — Katheryne Owsley of Crewkerne, 1575/6

The National Archives, PROB 11/57/653, folio 402. Will made September 1575; proved at London 19 November 1575 by Edward Orwell, proctor for William Owsley, brother and executor.



PROB 11/57/653. Katheryne's will occupies the top portion of the page; the second will below it, of John Martyn of Burwell, Cambridgeshire, is a register neighbor with no connection to this family.

Transcription

A clearer image and an independent second transcription, both supplied by the researcher, have superseded the partial extract given in earlier printings of this volume. It is reproduced below on that basis.

In the name of God Amen the [blank] day of September in the yeare of oure
lorde god a thousand fyve hundreth threescore and thirteene, I Katheren
Owsley in the towne of [Crewkerne] beinge whole in mynd and in good and
perfecte remembraunce, praise be to Almyghtie god, doe make, ordayne, and
constitute herein my last will in manner and forme followinge That is to

saye I bequeath my Soule to Almyghtie god my maker and Redemer, and my Bodie to be buried in the parishe Church of [Crewkerne] aforesaid.

Item I geve to my Sister Clarice forty poundes to be paide at her Daie of marriage. Item I geve to Thomas Stubbe my brothers sonne fower poundes. Item I geve to my brothers daughter Joane forty shillinges. Item I geve to Elnor Stubbe my brothers daughter forty shillinges, and also one Cowe. Item I geve to Richard Westacre all my brothers apparell or apparrell cloathes. Item I geve to John Stubbe my brothers sonne forty shillinges. Item I geve to Agnes Stubbe forty shillinges.

All the rest of my goodes, debtes, and chattelles whatsoever it be which is not given and bequeathed, I give and bequeath to my brother William Owsley of Crewkerne, whome I make, constitute, and appoynte my sole Executor of this my last will and Testament.

[Editorial: this reading, and the identifications built on it below, supersede an earlier transcription of the same will that misread this family's surname as 'Chubble' rather than 'Stubbe.' The two names are visually similar in secretary hand, and the error led an earlier edition of this volume to connect Katheryne to an unrelated Owsley family at Chillington. That connection is withdrawn. A further correction: two separate AI-assisted transcription attempts of this will read her own domicile as 'Misterton' — a reading this volume initially accepted, and has since withdrawn. The same tool, applied independently to a different will in this collection (Document Four), was caught defaulting to 'Misterton' against three separate contrary sources, including that testator's own National Archives catalogue entry; that pattern, once recognized, cast real doubt on this instance as well. Katheryne's own domicile is Crewkerne, consistent with her burial there and with her brother's own domicile, and the transcription above has been corrected accordingly.]

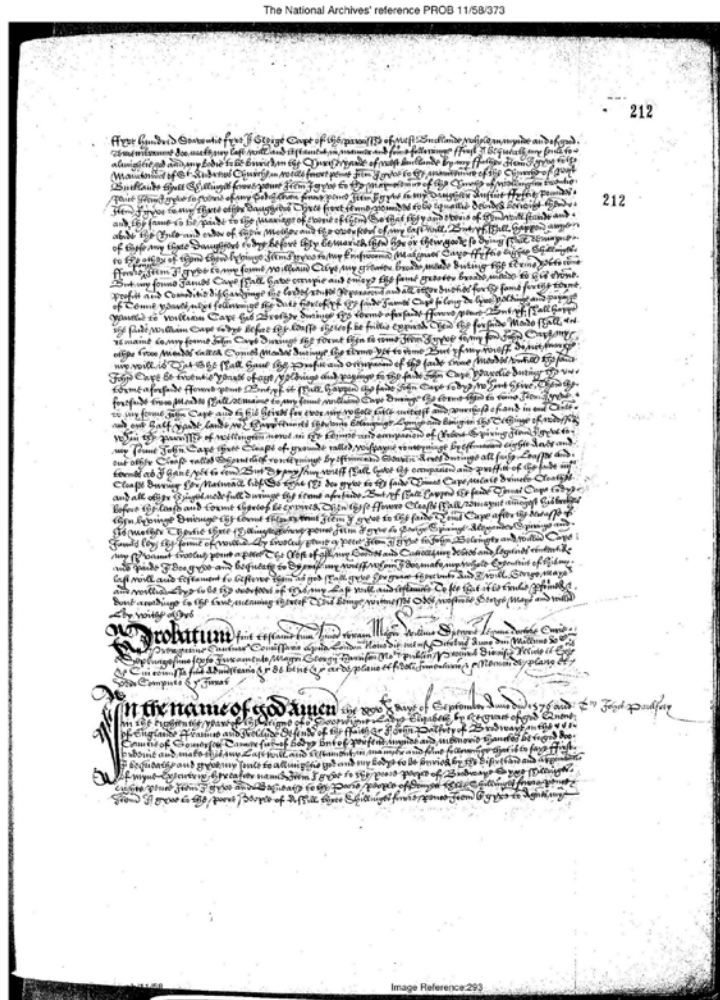
What This Document Establishes

Katheryne's own burial is already recorded in this study's parish extractions (Crewkerne, 21 January 1575/6, naming her father as William Owsley) — a date sitting, as one would expect, within months of this will. Her will confirms her home as Crewkerne, and passes her entire estate to her brother and sole executor, William Owsley of Crewkerne — almost certainly this study's own William, who married Florence Hutchins five years later, in 1580 (Volume One, Chapter Three).

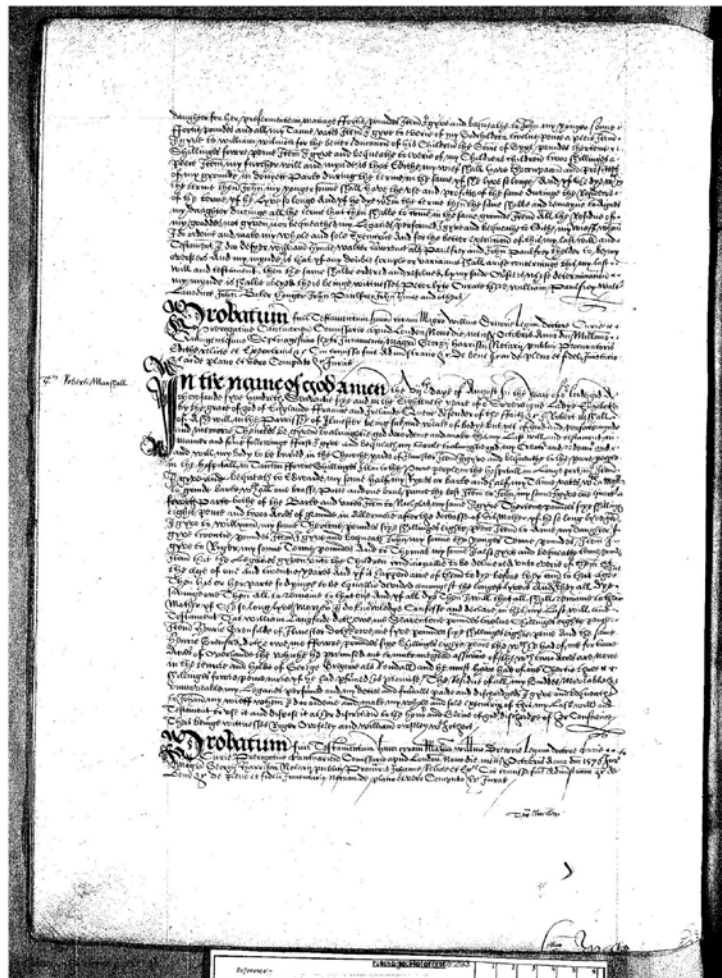
Read together with her burial record, the most natural conclusion is that Katheryne's father was an earlier, untraced William Owsley of Crewkerne, and that the William named as her brother is that father's son, carrying his name forward — the same William who would go on to marry Florence Hutchins. Katheryne, on this reading, is his sister, not (as an earlier edition of this volume proposed, based on the Chubble misreading above) the daughter of William Omseley of Chillington. Her other legatees — a sister Clarice, and several Stubbe nephews and nieces attached to a reference to 'my brothers apparell,' implying a second, deceased brother — are not otherwise connected to anything else in this collection.

Document Three — Robert Marshall of Iminster, 1576

The National Archives, PROB 11/58/373. Register Carew, folio 212. Will dated 7/8 August 1576; proved at London 9 October 1576 by Johane, relict and executrix.



PROB 11/58/373, page 1 of 2. The upper portion completes an unrelated will of George Cape of West Buckland; the will of John Paulfrey of Broadway, tanner, begins in the lower third of the page.



PROB 11/58/373, page 2 of 2. The Paulfrey will concludes at the top of the page, followed by the will of Robert Marshall of Ilminster — the document long known in Owsley family research as 'the Chillington will,' in fact never an Owsley will at all.

Transcription

In the name of God Amen the viiiijth daye of August in the yeare of oure lord god a thowsande fyve hundredth threescore and sixteen and in the Eighteneth yeare of oure Soveraigne Ladye Elizabeth by the grace of god of Englande Fraunce and Irelande Quene defendor of the faith &c I Robert Marshall of Ilmester in the Countie of Som[erset] being sick and weake of bodye but yet of good and perfecte mynde and memorye thanckes be geven to almightie god doowe make and ordeyne this my Last will and testament in mannor and forme followinge ffirst I gyve and bequeath my Soule to almightie god my Creator and Redemer and my bodye to be buried in the Church yarde of Ilmester

Item I gyve and bequeath to the poore people in the hospitall in Taunton ffourie Shillinges

Item to the poore people in the hospitall in Langport iiij s

Item I gyve and bequeath to Edwarde my sonne half my tynne or
barke and each my Canne vates mo[re] a Mylle to grinde barke
w[i]thall one brasse Potte and one bras panne the best
Item to John my sonne three hundred quarters forwithe barke bothe
of the Barke and vates
Item to Nicholas my sonne ffourtye poundes fyve shillinges eight
pence and three Acres of ground in allermore [Aller Moor] after the
deceasse of his Mother yf he so long lyve
I gyve to Willm my sonne ffortene poundes five Shillinges eighte
pence
Item to Anne my daughter I gyve twontie poundes
Item I gyve and bequeath John my sonne ffourtye [pounds]
Item I gyve to Roger my sonne twentie [pounds]
And to Thomas my sonne Halfe score and [ten] pounce
Item all the Legaces geven unto the Children condiconallie to be
delivered unto everie of them at the age of one and twontie yeares
And yf it happen anie of them to dye before they com to that age
then his or their parte so dyinge to be equallie divided amongst the
longest lyvers And they all dye savege one then all to remaine to
that one And if all dye then I will that all shall remaine to their
Mother if she so long lyve
Moreover I do acknowledge Confesse and declare in this my Last will
and testament that william Langford doth owe me Seaventeene
poundes twelve Shillinges eighte pence
Item Henrie Grenfeild of Ilmester dothe owe me fyve poundes ffive
Shillinges eighte pence And the same Henrie Grenfeild doth owe me
ffourtye poundes fyve Shillinges eighte pence the w[hi]ch I had of him
for twoo Acres of Overlande the which he promised me to make me
good assurance of the sd twoo Acres and now in the tenure and Holds
of George Gregorie als Kendall and he must have had of me ffortie
foure Shillinges fowre pence more yf he had p[er]formed his promise/
The residue of all my Goodes Moveable & Immoveable my Legaces
p[er]formed and my dettes and funeralls paide and discharged I gyve
and bequeath to Johane my wieff whom I doo ordeyne and make my
whole and sole Executrix of this my Last will and Testament to use it
and dispose it at her discretion to the honor and Glorie of god
discharge of hr Conscience
This beinge witnesses Roger Owseley and William Owseley w[i]th
others/

[Editorial: this transcription was checked word-by-word against the official TNA image. Several readings supplied in an earlier, machine-assisted transcription of a lower-resolution copy proved incorrect and are corrected here: 'Sfaventone' corrected to 'Seaventeene,' 'Trenfielde/ Cronfild' corrected to 'Henrie Grenfeild,' 'Operlande' corrected to 'Overlande,' and 'Connye poundes' corrected to 'twentie poundes.' The testator's own style, 'of Assbewill in the Parisbe of Ilmestor' — confirming the hamlet of Ashwell, within Ilminster parish — was dropped by that same earlier transcription and has been restored here.]

What This Document Establishes

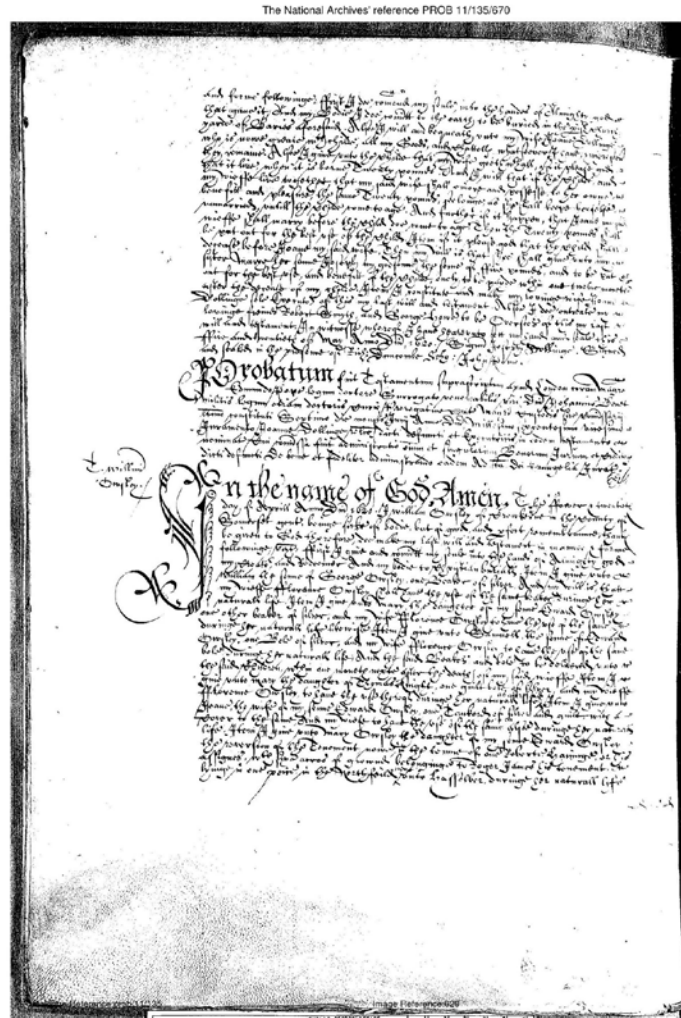
This will has been known to Owsley family researchers since at least 1880, when it was cited in a genealogical article on the Marshall family (The Genealogist, vol. IV) as evidence of a marriage between Robert Marshall and 'Joan, daughter of — Owsley, of Chillington, County Somerset,' with

the will itself — correctly, in that 1880 article — identified as Marshall's own. A later, influential 1890 genealogy of the Owsley family, working from that citation at second hand, mistakenly attributed the will to 'said Owsley' rather than to Marshall, and that error has been repeated in Owsley family research for over a century. Checked directly against the original source and now against the document itself, the will is unambiguously Robert Marshall's own — a tanner of Ashwell in Ilminster parish, married to an Owsley woman of Chillington, but not an Owsley himself.

Its value to this study lies elsewhere: the witness line names 'Roger Owseley and William Owseley' together, matching precisely the sibling pair named in Document One's will eighteen years earlier — and Robert Marshall himself is recorded, in that same 1558 will, as one of the witnesses called to confirm a correction to William's own bequests. The two documents, made eighteen years apart, corroborate one another.

Document Four — William Owsley, Gentleman, of Crewkerne, 1620

The National Archives, PROB 11/135/670. Will dated 24 April 1620; proved at London later that year by Florence, relict and executrix.



PROB 11/135/670. William's will begins roughly halfway down the page, following the close of an unrelated will of John Fuller, and continues into provisions for his household and tenement (not further transcribed here — see note below) before the will of Robert Suter begins near the foot of the page.

Transcription (opening and key bequests only)

In the name of God Amen, The four & twentieth Day of Aprill Anno Dm 1620. I William Owsley of Crewkerne in the Countye of Som[erset] gent, beinge sicke of bodie, but of goode and p[er]fect remembraunce, doe give and bequeath as followeth ffirst I give and remitt my soule into the handes of Allmightie god and my bodie to Christian buriall.

Item I give unto [my sonne] William the sonne of George Owsley, one Beaker of silver. And I give unto my wiefte Florence Owsley

[the] use of the same beaker duringe her naturall lief.

Item I give unto Mary the daughter of my sonne Edward Owsley, duringe her naturall lief the whole use of one other beaker of silver.

Item I give unto Samuell the sonne of Edward Owsley, one silver boale duringe his naturall life. [...]

[Editorial: this volume presents only the opening clauses and the four bequests directly relevant to this study — the testator's identity, his wife Florence, and his son Edward's children Mary and Samuel. The remainder of the will, covering provisions for a dwelling house, tenants, and household goods described in general terms in Volume One, has NOT been fully transcribed for this volume: on review, an earlier draft of this transcription supplied invented text for that portion rather than a verified reading, and it has been withdrawn rather than published in error. A trustworthy transcription of the full will awaits a further, careful reading against the original at The National Archives, ideally at higher resolution than was available for this study. The image above is provided in full so readers may attempt their own reading in the meantime.]

What This Document Establishes

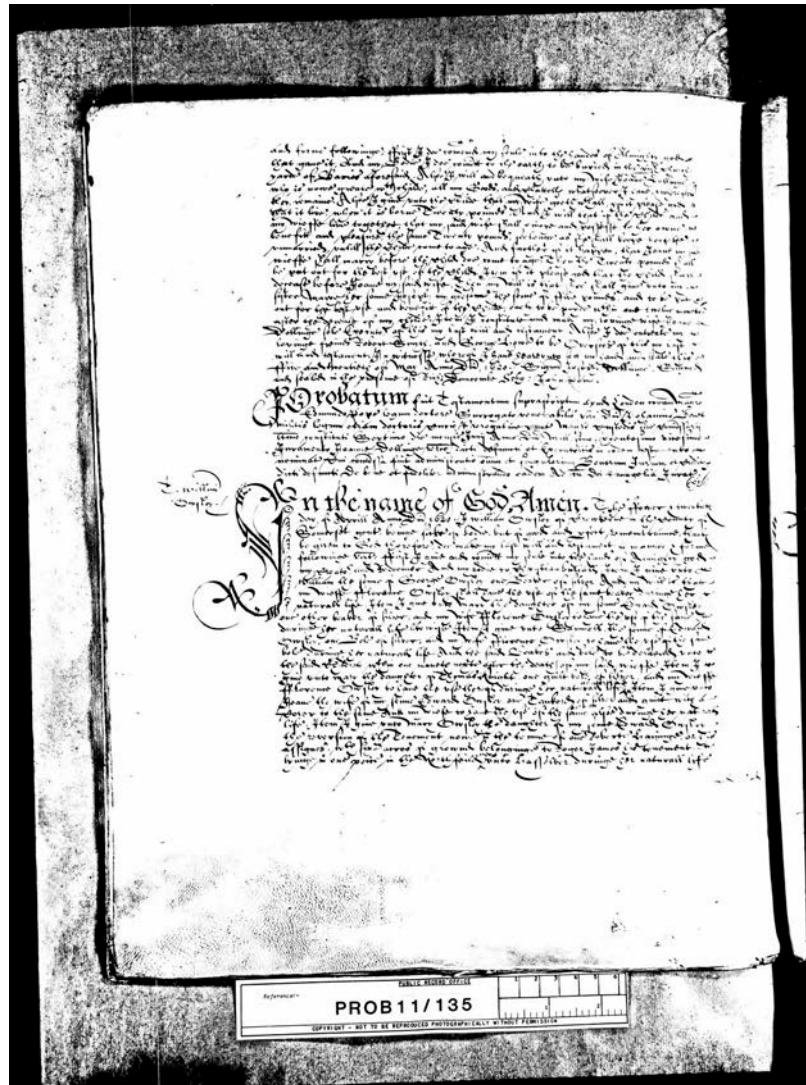
This is William Owsley, who married Florence Hutchins at Crewkerne in 1580 (Volume One, Chapter Three). He was buried at Crewkerne on 4 May 1620, ten days after making this will — a burial already present in this study's own parish extractions, previously guessed, incorrectly, to belong to an infant son grown to adulthood. The will's secure opening clauses confirm his wife Florence, his son Edward, and Edward's children Mary and Samuel, exactly as recorded independently in the Crewkerne parish registers.

Its opening bequest — a silver beaker to 'William, the son of George Owsley' — is the first document found in this study to connect this Crewkerne household to Thorncombe, where a William Owsley was baptized in 1618, son of George Owsley and Elizabeth Crabbe. The will's own wording, 'the sonne of George Owsley' rather than 'my sonne George,' leaves open whether George was William's own son or a nephew.

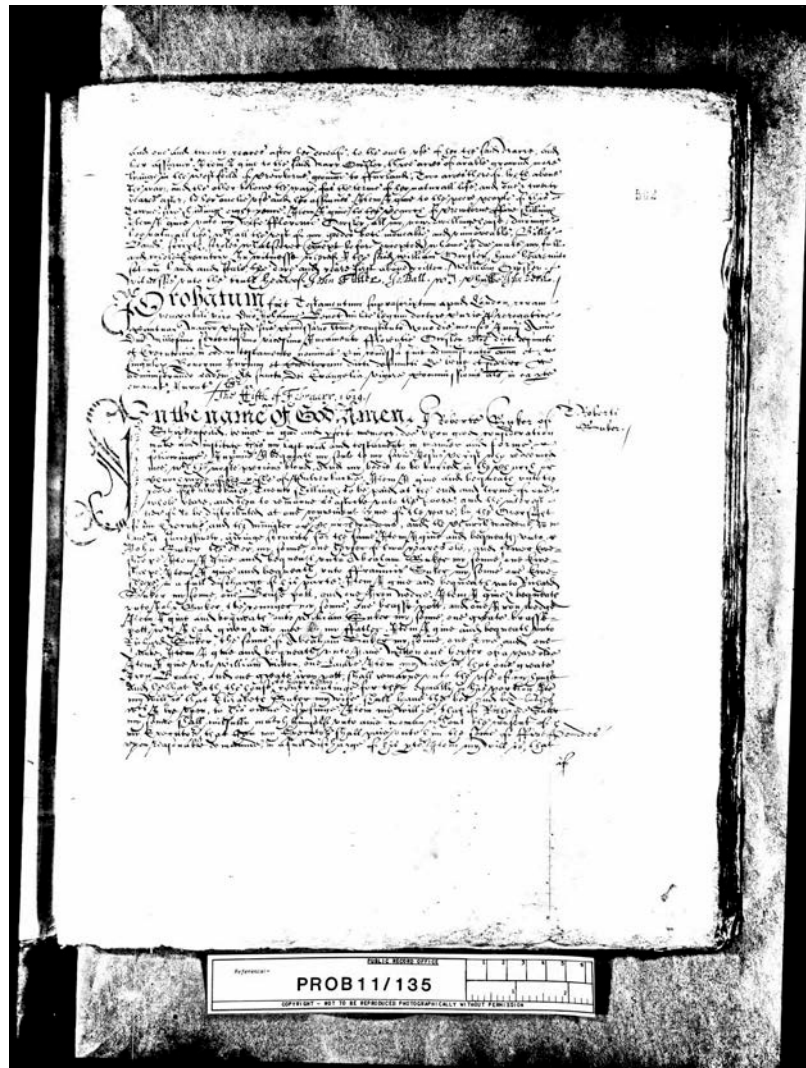
A separate attempt to transcribe this will's middle passage, once thought to describe William's own household provisions, turned out on closer inspection to belong to a different testator entirely, whose will begins mid-page with a burial at Misterton — a common feature of PROB register pages, which often carry several unrelated wills back to back. That attempt did, however, yield trustworthy new detail from the later part of William's own will: a previously unknown daughter, Mary; confirmation that his granddaughter Mary, Edward's daughter, inherited a tenement and three acres of arable land in Crewkerne's West Field; his son William named as sole executor; and an exact probate date, 9 February 1620/21.

Update, 26 July 2026 — Sharper Images and a Full Transcription Attempt

The researcher has since supplied two higher-resolution images covering both pages of this will (PROB 11/135/670, folios preceding and including folio 603), superseding the single lower-resolution crop above for legibility. Given this document's own history, recorded below in 'A Note on This Volume's Limits,' of AI-transcription tools inventing plausible-sounding text for exactly this passage, this attempt was made with particular care: every word transcribed with confidence was actually read on the image; everything else is bracketed rather than guessed. The domicile reads 'Crewkerne' throughout — never 'Misterton' — and no list of daughters resembling the one flagged below as borrowed from an unrelated will was found anywhere in this document.



PROB 11/135/670, first of two folios: the close of an unrelated will (Joseph Dollinge, proved 6 June 1620) and the opening of William Owsley's own will, through the bequest of a tenement reversion to his granddaughter Mary.



PROB 11/135/670, folio 603: the remainder of Wilkam Owsley's will — further bequests, the residue and dwelling house to his wife Florence, the witnesses, and the Latin probate clause — followed by the opening of Robert Suter's will.

The will (in full, continuing from the opening already given above): ‘...Item I give unto Mary the daughter of Thomas [Knight — reading uncertain], one guilt bowl of silver, and my wiewfe [Florence Owsley] to have the use of the same also duringe her naturall life. Item I give unto Edward Owsley [my son] one Tankard of silver, and my wiewfe to have the use of the same also duringe her naturall life. Item I give unto Mary [Owsley] the daughter of my sonne Edward Owsley the reversion of the tenement now in the tenure of one Robert [Hannings? — reading uncertain], as it doth now stand assured, the ground belonginge to Roger James his tenement, lyinge in one peece in the North feild, unto Haslebeer [field-name, reading uncertain], duringe her naturall life, and one and twenty yeares after her decease, to the use also of her the said Mary, and her assignes. Item I give to the said Mary Owsley three acres of arable ground, more or less, lyinge in the west feild of Crewkerne, adjoyninge to Hunsands, two acres thereof lyinge above the waye, and the other beyond the waye, for the terme of her naturall life, and one and twenty yeares after, to her owne use and her assignes. Item I give to the poore of Crewkerne five shillinges yearlie. Item I give unto my wiewfe Florence Owsley all my now dwelling house[,] with all the use thereof duringe her naturall life, with all the rest of my goodes, both moveable and immoveable, Billes, Specialties, Debtes not before bequeathed (except

before excepted), and [her I doe make my] full and sole Executrix. In witnesse whereof I the said William Owsley have hereunto sett my hand and seale, the day and yeare first above written. William Owsley [signed by mark]. Witnesses unto the truth thereof: John Fuller, Jo[hn] Ball, [a third name, not legible].’

The probate clause (Latin, in full, with a working translation): ‘*Probatum fuit Testamentum suprascriptum apud London, coram venerabili viro Domino Johanne [Bennet — reading uncertain], milite, legum doctore, [...] Magistro custode sive commissario tunc constituto, Nono die mensis Februarii, Anno Domini Millesimo sescentesimo vicesimo, Juramento Florentie Owsley, relicte dicti defuncti et Executricis in eodem testamento nominate, cui commissa fuit administratio omnium et singulorum bonorum, jurium et creditorum dicti defuncti, de bene et fideliter administrando eadem ad sancta Dei Evangelia, vigore commissionis emanate, jurata.*’ — ‘The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Sir John [Bennet], knight, doctor of laws, ... then appointed keeper or commissary, on the ninth day of the month of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and twenty, on the oath of Florence Owsley, relict of the said deceased and executrix named in the same testament, to whom was committed the administration of all and singular the goods, rights, and credits of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to administer the same well and faithfully, by virtue of the commission issued.’ A marginal note beneath reads ‘The Fifth of Februarie 1619’ — Old Style dating, consistent with the existing probate date of 9 February 1620/21 already given below.

A discrepancy worth checking closely

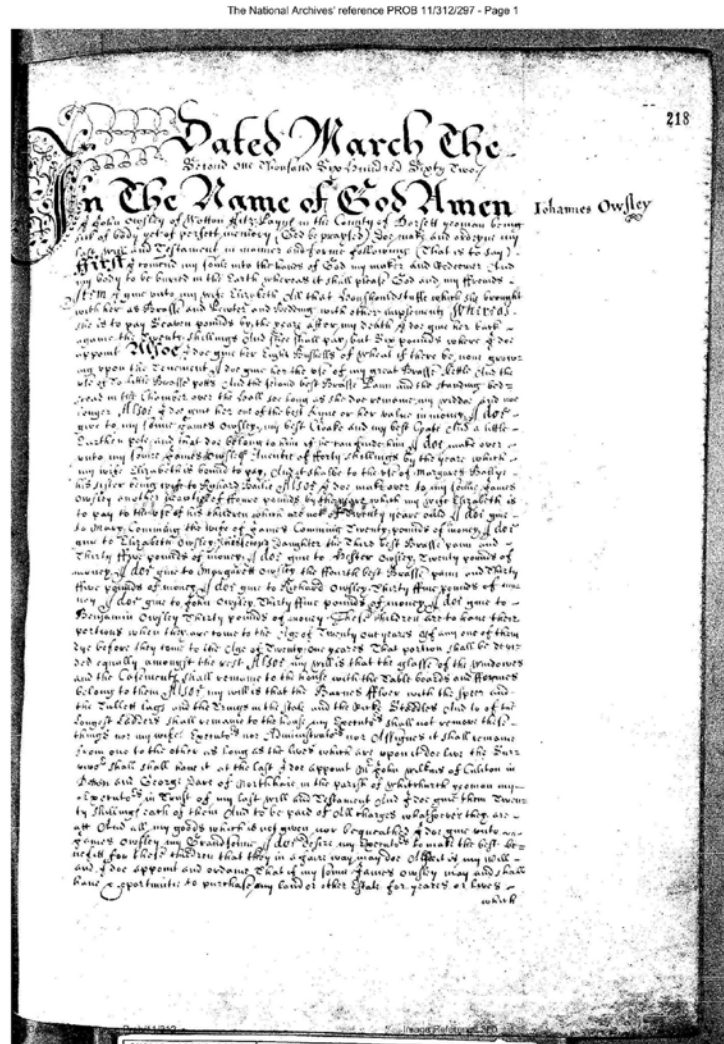
The paragraph above states that William's will names ‘his son William... as sole executor.’ This transcription finds the opposite, and by three independent routes at once: the residuary clause reads ‘...and [her I doe make my] full and sole Executrix’ — the feminine form alone rules out a son — immediately after bequeathing the dwelling house and residue to ‘my wiefte Florence Owsley’; this document's own citation, above, already states the will was ‘proved at London later that year by Florence, relict and executrix’; and the Latin probate clause itself names ‘Florentie Owsley, relicte dicti defuncti et Executricis in eodem testamento nominate’ — Florence Owsley, relict of the deceased and executrix named in the will. All three agree with each other and none support the son-William claim. Given this document's own documented history of AI-transcription tools substituting a plausible answer for one that could not be read with confidence (see ‘A Note on This Volume's Limits,’ below), that seems the likeliest source of the error here too, though this cannot be said with certainty. Neither this paragraph nor the one above it has been edited to resolve the conflict — it is left for the researcher to weigh.

Two smaller clarifications

First, the tenement reversion to granddaughter Mary and her three acres of arable land are two separate bequests in two different fields — the tenement ‘in the North feild,’ the three acres ‘in the west feild of Crewkerne, adjoyninge to Hunsands’ — rather than the single ‘tenement and three acres... in West Field’ described two paragraphs above. Second, the citation at the top of this entry describes William's will as following ‘the close of an unrelated will of John Fuller.’ In these images, the will immediately preceding William's is Joseph Dollinge's (proved 6 June 1620, witnessed by Thomas Ammescombe and John [Poune or Poole]); ‘John Fuller’ instead appears as the first-listed witness to William's own will, at its close. The two may simply have been transposed in an earlier pass; the citation has not been altered here.

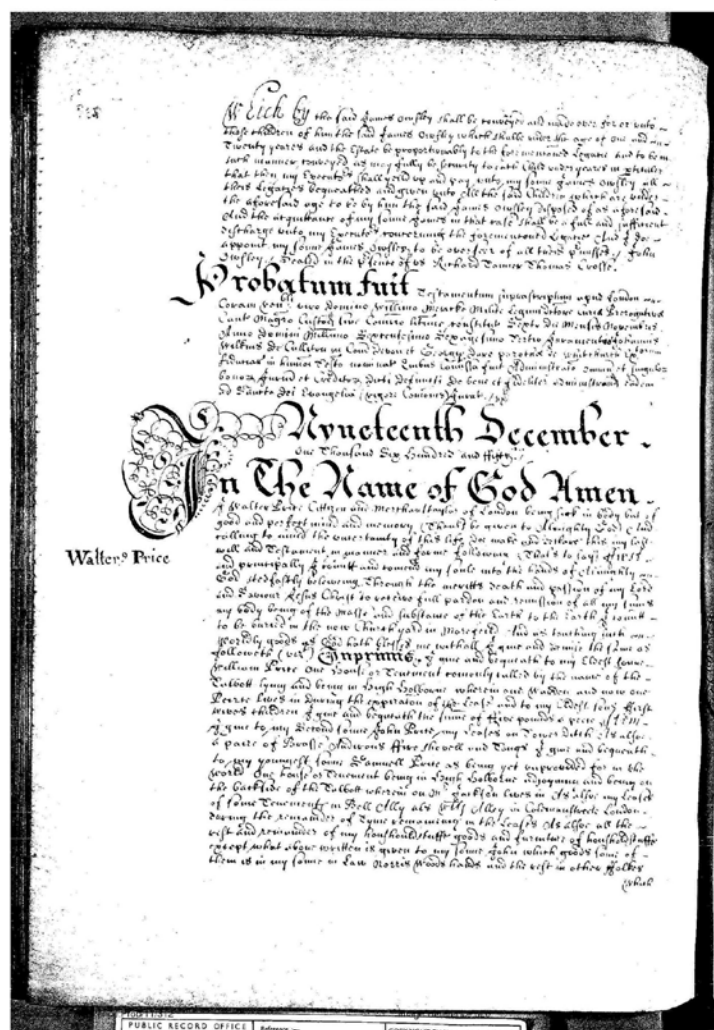
Document Five — John Owsley, Yeoman, of Wootton Fitzpaine, 1663

The National Archives, PROB 11/312/297. Will dated 2 March 1662/3; proved at London, per this collection's own record, in November 1663.



PROB 11/312/297, page 1 of 2. The will begins with the date and the testator's own style, 'John Owsley of Wootton Fitz-Payne in the countie of Dorsett yeoman.'

The National Archives reference PROB 11/312/297 - Page 2



PROB 11/312/297, page 2 of 2, concluding the will and its probate clause.

Transcription

A fuller transcription of this will, with the researcher's own uncertain readings marked in brackets, has since superseded the partial extract given in earlier printings of this volume. It is reproduced below on that basis, with this volume's own editorial notes added where something in it required checking against other records in this collection.

In the Name of God Amen I John Owsley of Wotton fitz payne in the County of Dorsett yeoman being [sick?] of body yet of perfect memory (God be praised) do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament, in manner and form following (That is to say) First I commend my soul into the hands of God my maker and Redeemer ... my body to be buried in the Earth where it shall please God and my friends ...

... unto Elizabeth my wife that household stuff which she brought with her as Kettle and Pewter and Bedding with other implements whereas ... is to pay Sixteen pounds [...] years after my death I do

give her ... give her twenty shillings and she shall have ... appoint
I do give her Eight Bushels of wheat if there be ... upon the
Tenement ... the use of my great [and] little chest ... the iron pots
... second best barrel ... and the standing bedstead in the Chamber
over the Hall so long as she ... she do remain a widow.

... do give to my son James Owsley, my best Cloak and my best coat
and a little fustian doublet ... into my ... of forty shillings by the
year which my wife Elizabeth is bound to pay ... of Margaret Baillie
his sister ... I do make over to my son James another [sum] of four
pounds ... which my wife Elizabeth is to pay to [...] of his children
which [are] not of twenty years old.

I do give to Mary Comming the wife of James Comming Twenty pounds
of money. I do give to Elizabeth [Owsley] daughter ... the Third best
brass pan and Thirty five pounds of money. I do give to Hester
Owsley Twenty pounds of money. I do give to Margaret [Owsley] the
fourth best Brass pan and thirty five pounds of money. I do give to
Richard Owsley Thirty pounds of money. I do give to John [Owsley]
Thirty five pounds of money. I do give to Benjamin Owsley Thirty
pounds of money. The children are to have their portions when they
come to the age of Twenty one years. If any one of them [die] before
they come to the age of Twenty one years, that portion shall be
divided equally amongst the rest.

Also my will is that the glass of the windows and the wainscot shall
remain to the house with the Table boards and forms belonging to
... and the malt mill ... and the ladder ... shall remain to the house.
My Executors shall not remove these things nor my wife [or]
Administrators nor Assigns.

... at the last I doe appoint Mr John Wilkins of Culiton in Devon and George Dart
of Northhaie in the parish of Whitchurch yeoman my Executors in trust of my last will and
Testament, and I doe give them twenty shillings each of them, to be paid of all charges whatsoever
they are at.

And all my goods which is not given nor bequeathed I doe give unto James Owsley my Grandsonne.
I doe desire my Executors to make the best benefit for these children that they in a faire way may
doe.

And it is my will, that if my sonne James may and shall have opportunity to purchase any land or
other estate for years or lives, which by the said James Owsley shall be conveyed and made over for
or unto those children of him the said James Owsley which shalbe under the age of one and twenty
years, and the Estate be proportionably to the fore mentioned Legacies and to be in such manner
conveyed as may fully be security to each child under years in particular,
that then my Executors shall yield up and pay unto my sonne James Owsley all these Legacies
bequeathed and given unto all the said Children which are under the aforesaid age, to be by him the
said James Owsley disposed of as aforesaid. And the acquittance of my sonne James in that case
shall be a full and sufficient discharge unto my Executors touching the forementioned Legacies.

And I doe appoint my sonne James Owsley to be overseer of all these premisses.

John Owsley [signed]

Sealed in the presence of us Richard Damer, Thomas Crosse.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascriptum apud London coram venerabili viro Domino Willielmo Meircke Milite, Legum Doctore, Curie Prerogative Cantuariensis Magistro Custode, sexto die Mensis Novembris, Anno Domini Millesimo Sexcentesimo Sexagesimo Tertio, juramento Johannis Wilkins de Culliton in Comitatu Devon et Georgii Dart de Northhaie parochie de Whitchurch, fiduciariis in dicto testamento nominatis, quibus commissa fuit administratio omnium et singulorum bonorum jurium et creditorum dicti defuncti, De bene et fideliter administrando eadem, Ad Sancta Dei Evangelia (vigore commissionis) jurat.

[Editorial: the testator's identity, the household provisions for Elizabeth, the seven cash portions and their exact amounts, the fixtures clause, the closing bequest to a grandson James, and the conditional land-purchase mechanism are all securely read. A closer pass against the original image also newly resolves the will's closing lines, previously left partly bracketed in this study: the two executors are Mr John Wilkins of Colyton, Devon, and George Dart of Northay, in the parish of Whitchurch Canonicorum -- not 'John Faulkner' and an illegible second name, nor the parish's 'Marshwood,' as earlier transcription attempts had it -- and the will separately names John's own son James as overseer of the estate, distinct from the two executors, a clause missed entirely in earlier passes. The probate clause is likewise now read with confidence: probate was granted 6 November 1663, at London, before Sir William Merrick, on the oath of the two executors named above. One correction to the source this transcription was originally drawn from: it was titled 'the will of John Owsley of Whitchurch Canonicorum' in what appears to be an error — the will's own opening line plainly reads 'John Owsley of Wotton fitz payne,' matching every other record of this man in this collection. The confusion very likely arose from executor George Dart's own home, Northay, lying within the parish of Whitchurch Canonicorum — which names an executor's parish, not the testator's.]

What This Document Establishes

This is the will that establishes Wootton Fitzpaine as a documented family seat rather than, as an earlier edition of Volume One described it, a mere satellite parish. John Owsley names his son James and seven of James's own children — Mary (married to James Comming), Elizabeth, Hester, Margaret, Richard, John, and Benjamin — each with a specific cash portion payable at the age of twenty-one (from twenty to thirty-five pounds, varying by child), and closes with a grandson James taking the residue. James himself is named overseer, responsible for managing his own children's portions until they came of age.

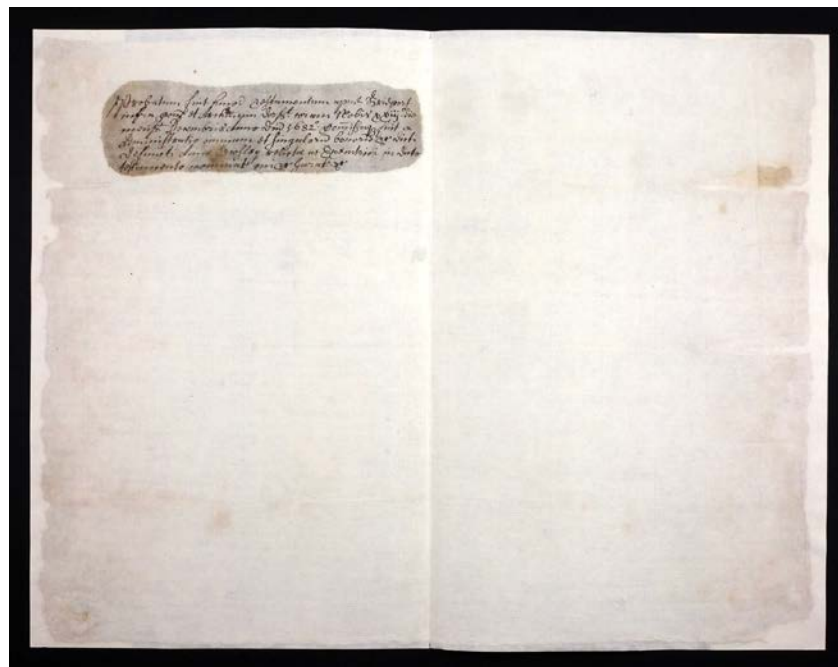
Of these, Richard is the leading candidate identified in this study for the previously unidentified father of this project's own confirmed ancestor — see Document Six, Volume One's Chapter Nine, and the separate direct-line study.

Document Six — James Owsley of Wootton Fitzpaine, 1681

Original will, Dorset History Centre, Archdeaconry of Dorset collection. Dated 7 November 1681; proved at Bridport 14 December 1682 by Anne, relict and executrix.



The original will of James Owsley, signed and sealed. His own signature, and the red wax seal, are visible at the foot of the text; John Owsley (very likely his son) appears among the witnesses signing below.



The reverse of the will, bearing the archdeaconry's probate memorandum: proved at Bridport, 14 December 1682, by Anne Owsley, relict and executrix.

Transcription

The seaventh day of November Ao Dm 1681

I James Owsley of Wootton fitzpayne in the countie of Dorsett being weake in body but of good understanding and memory doe ordeyne & make this my last will and Testament in manner and forme as followeth ffirst I comend into the handes of God allmighty hoping for a saving mercy in and thorow my only Redeemer & Lord Christ. And my body I comitt to be decently buried when my friends shall thinke fitt

And for my goods & chattells I give & bequeath as followeth Unto my wife Anne I give my bed & bedstead (whereon we of late lye) furnished. Also all other good which were her before our marriage

Unto my sonn James I give one shilling. And to my daughter Mary Cominge I give one shilling: And to my sonn Rich[ard] I give my stufe coate & five shillings. And to my sonn [John] my cloath coat and five shillings. And to my sonn [Benjamin] my warme cloathe and five shillings. And to my daughter Hester Smith five shillings. And to my daughter Margret five shillings. And unto all my grandchildren a shilling apiece.

All the standing goode which I have in my howse (only such as may be comprehended under aformer bequest) I give unto my daughters Elizabeth, Martha, Anne & Mary Owsley to the use of my wife (upon the yearlie) so long as she continue my widowe and afterwards to the sole use of the said Elizabeth, Martha, Anne & Mary by equal portion to be divided betweene them

All the rest of my goods not already given I give unto my wife & to my daughters Elizabeth Owsley, Martha Owsley, Anne & Mary Owsley by equal share & portion my wife

I doe appoint constitute and ordeine my wife Anne sole Executrix of this my last will and testament and desire the yeoman [name illegible] to be overseer, wittness my hand & seale the day & yeare aforesaid Signed sealed and published in the presence of us

John Hester John Owsley

not for James Comings

[James Owsley, signed]

[Editorial: this is a transcription of an original paper will, not a register copy, and the hand is somewhat less formal than the PCC clerks' copies reproduced elsewhere in this volume; the manuscript is also damaged along its right edge in several places. Bracketed names in the bequests to sons Richard, John, and Benjamin are supplied from context — the will lists three coat-bequests in sequence to unnamed 'my sonn[s]' following the named bequest to Richard, most plausibly John and Benjamin based on Document Five's naming of these sons — and should be treated as a reasoned inference rather than a directly legible reading in every instance. The overseer's own name, given as 'the yeoman [name illegible]' in the transcription above, could not be read with confidence against the image; earlier attempts have proposed several different readings, none of which is asserted here.]

What This Document Establishes

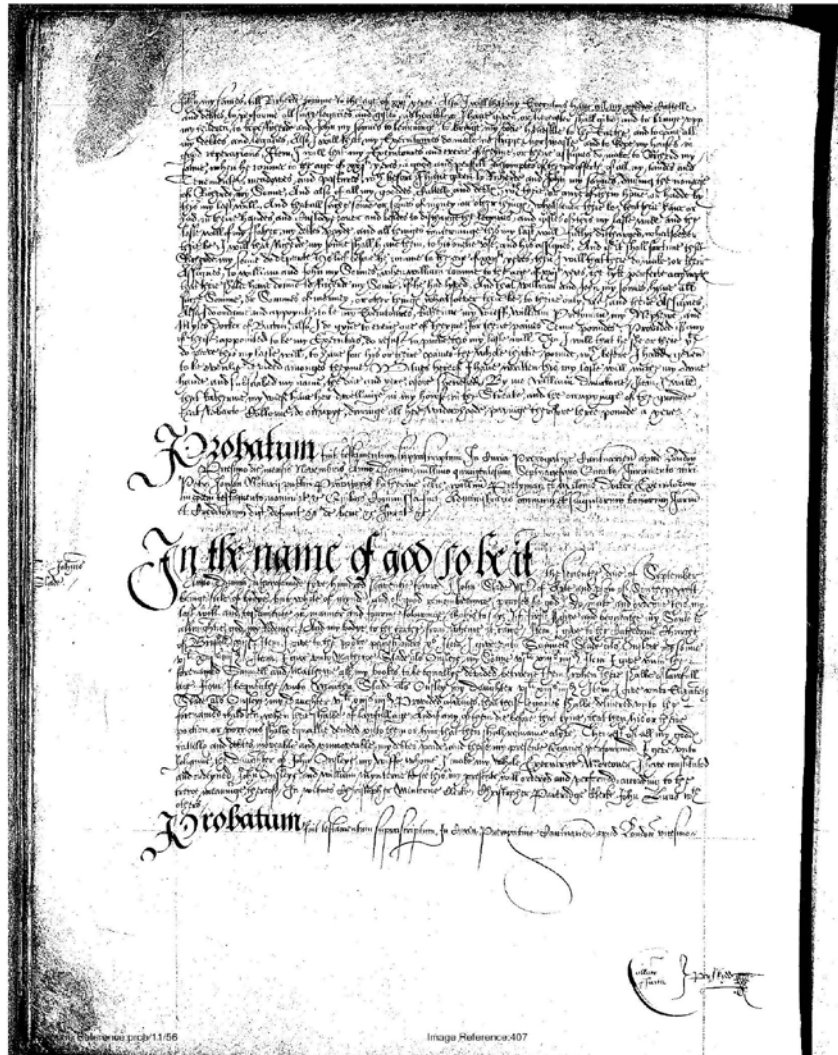
James, son of John Owsley (Document Five), made this will six weeks before his burial at Wootton Fitzpaine on 20 December 1681 — a burial already present in this study's own parish extractions. It confirms every child named as a minor in his father's 1663 will as still living in November 1681: sons James, Richard, John, and (by inference) Benjamin, and daughters Mary Cominge and Hester Smith, married, and Margret, not yet. A second family, by his wife Anne, appears for the first time: daughters Elizabeth, Martha, Anne, and Mary.

Richard's documented survival to November 1681 places him precisely in the window during which this study's own direct-line ancestor was born at Thorncombe (1678) to parents married at Wootton Fitzpaine (1679) — see Volume One's Chapter Nine, and the separate direct-line study, for the full case that this Richard, rather than the previously assumed Richard of Winsham, fathered that child. No son named Samuel appears in either this will or his father's, which corrects an earlier working guess in this study that a Samuel Owsley active at Thorncombe from 1676 might belong to this family; that identification is withdrawn, and Samuel's origin remains an open question.

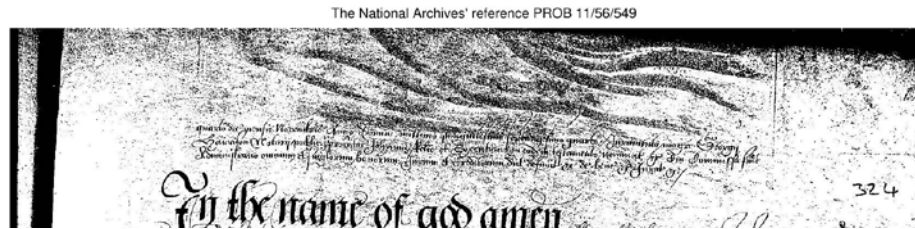
Document Seven — John Slade, Rector of South Perrott, 1574

The National Archives, PROB 11/56/549. Will made September 1574 (day not given); the rector was buried 22 November 1574, per Bodine's published account, so the will was very likely made in his final illness.

The National Archives' reference PROB 11/56/549



PROB 11/56/549, the will of John Slade, rector of South Perrott, made 7 September 1574, with the probate clause beginning below it on the same membrane.



The probate clause continues onto the head of the following membrane (dated 4 November 1574 in the clause itself). The remainder of this membrane records an unrelated will (William Moyle's) and is not reproduced here.

Transcription Attempt (AI-Assisted — Not Yet Verified)

At the researcher's request, this compilation attempted a fresh, line-by-line reading of the image above, rather than relying only on the extracts in the next section. This is a careful best-effort reading of secretary hand by an AI system, not a professional paleographer's transcription, and it has not been checked by the researcher. Original spelling is kept; modern punctuation has been added for readability. Square brackets mark a word, letter, or amount that could not be read with confidence -- nothing has been guessed or filled in where the hand was genuinely illegible.

In the name of God so be it. The seventeenth day of September, Anno Domini, according to the [computation of the Church of England], a thousand five hundred seventy-fowre, I John Slade, clerke, and person of South Perrott, being sicke of bodye but whole of mynde, and of good remembraunce (prayed be God), do make and ordeyne this my last will and testamente, in manner and fourme followinge, that is to saye: First, I geve and bequeath my Soule to allmightie God my Redeemer, and my bodye to the earthe from whence it came. Item, I geve to the Cathedrall Church of Bristoll xij[d, uncertain]. Item, I geve to the poore parishioners [amount not confidently read]. Item, I geve unto Samuell Slade alias Owsley my sonne [amount not confidently read]. Item, I geve unto Minterne Slade alias Onsley my sonne [amount not confidently read]. Item, I geve unto the aforenamed Samuell and Minterne all my bookes, to be equallye devided betwene them when theye shalbe of lawfull age. Item, I bequeathe unto [name uncertain -- reads like 'Amantea' or 'Amancea,' not clearly 'Agnes'; see note below] Slade alias Onsley my daughter [amount not confidently read]. Item, I geve unto Elizabeth Slade alias Onsley my daughter [amount not confidently read]. Provided allwaies that eache legatee shalbe delivered unto the fornamed children when theye shalbe of lawfull age; and if any of them die before that time, that then his or her portion or portions shalbe equallie devided unto them or him that then shall remaine alyve.

Then the rest of all my goodes, cattells and debts, moveable and unmoveable, my debts payed, and this my present legacies performed, I geve unto Johanne, the daughter of John Owsley, my wiffe, whome I make my whole Executrix. Whereof I have constituted and ordeyned John Owsley and William Mynterne to be [overseers], to see this my present will ordered and performed according to the true meaninge thereof. In witnes hereof: Christofer Mynterne, clerke; Christofer Partridge; [and] John Lucas.

[Probate clause, mostly formulaic Latin -- paraphrased here rather than transcribed verbatim: proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury at London, on the oath of Johanna (the executrix named above), with administration of all the goods of the deceased granted to her; the clause continues onto the head of the following membrane, where it gives the date as the fourth day of November 1574.]

Discrepancies worth verifying against the original

This fresh reading raises two points that don't square with the extracts already established for this record (immediately below), and neither has been resolved here -- both deserve a second, expert look at the original image rather than a guess:

1. The third child's name. The existing extracts name her 'Agnes.' The word in the image does not look like 'Agnes' to this reading -- no clear g, n, or s shapes -- and reads more like 'Amantea' or 'Amancea.' It's possible 'Agnes' comes from Bodine's published account rather than from this will itself, in which case both could be correct without conflicting; it's also possible this reading is simply wrong. Secretary-hand names like this are exactly the kind of word worth a second opinion.
2. Joan Slade as a fourth child. The existing extracts list a daughter named Joan Slade among the four children. In this reading, 'Johanne, the daughter of John Owsley' appears only once in the will, as the wife and sole executrix -- not as a daughter receiving a bequest alongside Samuel, Minterne, and the two others. It's possible the wife's own name was conflated with a daughter's in the earlier summary, or that a daughter Joan is documented elsewhere (Bodine's book, not this will) and was folded in here. Worth checking against Bodine's own sourcing for that name before treating it as resolved either way.

What the Record Shows

The original will is reproduced above. What follows are the verified extracts and findings already established for this record, in the manner of Document Four above. A fresh, AI-assisted line-by-line transcription attempt now precedes this section as well -- see "Transcription Attempt" above, including two discrepancies it raised against the summary below that have not yet been resolved.

Rev. John Slade, Master of Arts and Rector of South Perrott, married Joan Owsley there on 6 July 1567 — she was the daughter of John Owsley of Misterton (see Document Five's own family, and Volume One's Chapter Four). Slade's will, made in September 1574 shortly before his death, names his wife Joan as sole executrix and leaves the residue to her. It names four children, each styled 'alias Owsley,' 'alias Onsley,' or 'alias Onley' after their mother's family: Samuel, Minterne, Agnes, and Joan Slade — all previously unknown to this collection before this document. Each receives a book-legacy jointly with the others, and a cash portion payable at lawful age.

The will names two overseers, 'John Ousley' and 'William Minterne,' neither directly identified as kin in the document itself. This study's own working inference — reasoned from timing and family proximity, not stated on the document — is that John Ousley is very likely Joan's own brother, John Owsley (b.1547), about twenty-seven at this date; and that William Minterne connects to the Minterne family Joan's sister Agnes had married into that same year (1574). Both identifications remain inferential.

[Editorial: this entry rests on a transcription supplied by the researcher, with the researcher's own uncertain readings already bracketed in the source material. A separate, independent AI-assisted transcription attempt of the original image is given above; it agrees with this summary on most points but reads the third child's name differently and does not find Joan Slade named as a fourth child (see "Discrepancies worth verifying" above). Neither reading has been checked by the researcher against the original -- both should be treated as provisional until someone does.]

What This Document Establishes

This will gives Joan Owsley of Misterton four previously undocumented children, extending the Misterton family's own reach into the neighboring parish of South Perrott through her marriage to its rector. See Document Eight below for a fifth child, discovered independently, whose own

descent carries this family's documented line four further generations into European scholarly history.

Document Eight — Matthew Slade, Dictionary of National Biography

Dictionary of National Biography, entry 'Slade, Matthew (1569–1628?).' A published scholarly secondary source, not an original manuscript.

Slade

365

Sladen

Slade (1801–1803), Q.C. and benchet of the Middle Temple. Admiral Sir Adolphus Slade [q. v.] was his fifth son.

[Gent. Mag. 1859, ii. 307; R. M. Calendar, ii. 343; De Ainslie's Historical Record of the 1st Dragoons; Wellington Despatches, Suppl. vii. 348, ix. 472, xi. 307; Tomkinson's Diary of a Cavalry Officer in the Peninsula.] E. M. L.

SLADE, MATTHEW (1569–1628?), divine, born at South Perrot, Dorset, in 1569, was second son of John Slade (*d.* 1574), rector of South Perrot, who married in 1567 Joan, daughter of John Owsley of Misterton, Somerset. The elder son, Samuel (1568–1612?), graduated B.A. at Oxford 1586, M.A. 1594, became vicar of Embleton, Northumberland, but resigned the living to travel in Europe and the east in search of manuscripts, and died in Zante before 1613 (BRODRICK, *Mem. of Merton Coll.*, Oxford Hist. Soc., p. 274).

Matthew matriculated at St. Alban Hall on 29 Oct. 1585, and graduated B.A. on 13 Jan. 1589 (FOSTER, *Alumni Oxon.* 1500–1714, iii. 1363). He taught a school in Devonshire, and married, on 20 Sept. 1593, Alethea (*d.* 1614), daughter of Richard Kirford, near Honiton. But about 1597 he went to Amsterdam, and became one of the first elders of the Brownist congregation there (DEXTER, *Congregationalism*, p. 278). He seems to have given offence to the separatists [see under SMYTH, JOHN, *d.* 1610] by attending the Dutch church (JOHNSON, *Discourse of some Troubles*, Amsterdam, 1603, 4to, passim). About 1614 he was appointed rector of the academy or gymnasium there. He threw himself into the Arminian and Socinian controversy, and when, upon the death of Arminius in 1611, Conrad Vorstius was appointed his successor as theological professor at Leyden, Slade wrote 'Cum Conrado Vorstio de Blasphemiis Hæresibus & Atheismis a rege Jacobo I in ejusdem Vorstii de Deo Tractatu & Exegesi apologeticâ nigro theta notatis, Scholasticæ Disceptationis Pars Prima,' Amsterdam, 1612, 4to (Bodleian Library); Pars Altera, Amsterdam, 1614 (Brit. Mus. and Bodl.) Vorstius was compelled by the States, at James I's instigation, to quit Leyden in 1612.

Slade was a good scholar; Wood calls him 'a walking library.' He was on intimate terms with Isaac Casaubon [q. v.], Gerard Vossius, Scaliger, and the savants of the time. He corresponded with Sibrand Lubbertus, the professor of Franeker University from 1611 to 20 Aug. 1620, and with Sir Dudley Carleton [q. v.], ambassador at the Hague. He wrote on 20 Jan. 1618 that he sent to Carleton a work on the Arminian controversy which he had completed in fourteen days and nights. He died about 1628.

His son Cornelius, born at Amsterdam on 14 Oct. 1599, was professor of Hebrew and other languages there, and became rector of the academy on 9 May 1628, perhaps following his father. He married Gertrude, daughter of Luke Ambrose, an English preacher there, and was father of

MATTHEW SLADE (1628–1689), born 9 June 1628 in England, who became a doctor of physic. Under the anagram of Theodorus 'Aldes,' Matthew wrote 'Dissertatio epistolica de Generatione Animalium contra Harveium' (Amsterdam, 1666, 12mo; reprinted twice at Frankfurt in 1668, 4to), and was author of several learned medical treatises. Matthew died, while travelling in a stage-coach, on Shotover Hill, near Oxford, on 20 Dec. 1689, and was buried at St. Peter's-in-the-East, Oxford, on the 22nd.

[Wood's *Athenæ Oxon.* ed. Bliss, ii. 154; Wood's *Life and Times* (Oxford Hist. Soc.), iii. 318, 320; Van der Aa's *Biogr. Woordenboek*, xvii. 715; *Notes and Queries*, 3rd ser. iii. 320; Hutchins's *Hist. of Dorset*, ii. 168; Arber's *Hist. of the Pilgrim Fathers*, 1897, pp. 3, 126, 129, 210; *State Papers*, Holland, at Public Record Office, bundles 123, 133 (four letters); Addit. MSS. 22961–2, where more than seventy letters in Latin from Slade to Sibrand Lubbertus are preserved; a copy of Johnson's *Discourse* is at Sion College Library, the only other known being that at Trinity College, Cambridge.]

C. F. S.

SLADE, WILLIAM (*d.* 1380), philosopher, was a Cistercian monk of Buckfastleigh, Devonshire. One of his works on Aristotle's 'De Anima' was seen by Leland at Buckfastleigh, another on the 'Sentences' at Fountains. His 'Questiones Ethicorum' were formerly at Magdalen College, Oxford. Leland also attributes to him 'Universalis super libros physicorum' and 'Flosculi moralium.'

[Tanner, p. 677; Visch's *Bibl. Cisterc.* 1649, pp. 124–5; Leland's *Collectanea*, iii. 41, 258; Bale's *Scriptores*, vi. 74.]

M. B.

SLADEN, SIR CHARLES (1816–1884), Australian statesman, born at Ripple Park, Kent, in 1816, was second son of John Baker Sladen of Ripple Park, Kent, a deputy-lieutenant for the Cinque ports, by Ethelred, eldest daughter of Kingsman Baskett St. Barbe of London. He was educated at Shrewsbury school and Trinity Hall, Cambridge, where he entered as a scholar in 1834 and graduated B.A. in 1837. He served his articles with a proctor in Doctors' Commons, and proceeded LL.B. in 1840 and LL.D. in December 1867.

In 1841 Sladen emigrated to Victoria, landing on 14 Feb. 1842, and in May com-

The printed page itself: Dictionary of National Biography, 'Slade' / 'Sladen,' p. 365, giving both Matthew Slade entries (1569–1628? and 1628–1689) in full. The rest of the page — the closing lines of an unrelated Slade entry above, and the separate Slade, William and Sladen, Sir Charles entries below and at right — belongs to other families and is not transcribed here.

Transcription Attempt (AI-Assisted — Not Yet Verified)

At the researcher's request, this compilation attempted a fresh reading of the image above. Unlike the manuscript images elsewhere in this volume, this is printed type, so confidence is very high throughout; nothing here required the bracketed guesswork used for the secretary and court hands. Only the two Slade, Matthew entries are transcribed; the unrelated Slade and Sladen entries sharing the page are omitted.

The first entry (in full): 'SLADE, MATTHEW (1569–1628?), divine, born at South Perrot, Dorset, in 1569, was second son of John Slade (d. 1574), rector of South Perrot, who married in 1567 Joan, daughter of John Owsley of Misterton, Somerset. The elder son, Samuel (1568–1612?), graduated B.A. at Oxford 1586, M.A. 1594, became vicar of Embleton, Northumberland, but resigned the living to travel in Europe and the east in search of manuscripts, and died in Zante before 1613 (Brodrick, *Mem. of Merton Coll.*, Oxford Hist. Soc., p. 274). Matthew matriculated at St Alban Hall on 29 Oct. 1585, and graduated B.A. on 13 Jan. 1589 (Foster, *Alumni Oxon. 1500–1714*, iii. 1363). He taught a school in Devonshire, and married, on 20 Sept. 1593, Alethea, daughter of Richard Kirford, near Honiton. But about 1597 he went to Amsterdam, and became one of the first elders of the Brownist congregation there (Dexter, *Congregationalism*, p. 278). He seems to have given offence to the separatists [see under Smyth, John, d. 1610] by attending the Dutch church (Johnson, *Discourse of some Troubles*, Amsterdam, 1603, 4to, passim). About 1614 he was appointed rector of the academy or gymnasium there. He threw himself into the Arminian and Socinian controversy, and when, upon the death of Arminius in 1611, Conrad Vorstius was appointed his successor as theological professor at Leyden, Slade wrote "Cum Conrado Vorstio de Blasphemiis Hæresibus & Atheismis a rege Jacobo I in ejusdem Vorstii de Deo Tractatu & Exegesi apologeticâ nigro theta notatis, Scholasticæ Disceptationis Pars Prima," Amsterdam, 1612, 4to (Bodleian Library); *Pars Altera*, Amsterdam, 1614 (Brit. Mus. and Bodl.) Vorstius was compelled by the States, at James I's instigation, to quit Leyden in 1612. Slade was a good scholar; Wood calls him "a walking library." He was on intimate terms with Isaac Casaubon [q.v.], Gerard Vossius, Scaliger, and the savants of the time. He corresponded with Sibbrand Lubbertus, the professor of Franeker University from 1611 to 20 Aug. 1620, and with Sir Dudley Carleton [q.v.], ambassador at the Hague. He wrote on 20 Jan. 1618 that he sent to Carleton a work on the Arminian controversy which he had completed in fourteen days and nights. He died about 1628.'

The second entry (in full): 'His son Cornelius, born at Amsterdam on 14 Oct. 1599, was professor of Hebrew and other languages there, and became rector of the academy on 9 May 1628, perhaps following his father. He married Gertrude, daughter of Luke Ambrose, an English preacher there, and was father of MATTHEW SLADE (1628–1689), born 9 June 1628 in England, who became a doctor of physic. Under the anagram of Theodorus "Aldes," Matthew wrote "Dissertatio epistolica de Generatione Animalium contra Harveium" (Amsterdam, 1666, 12mo; reprinted twice at Frankfurt in 1668, 4to), and was author of several learned medical treatises. Matthew died, while travelling in a stage-coach, on Shotover Hill, near Oxford, on 20 Dec. 1689, and was buried at St. Peter's-in-the-East, Oxford, on the 22nd.'

The shared bibliography note (in full): '[Wood's *Athenæ Oxon.* ed. Bliss, ii. 154; Wood's *Life and Times* (Oxford Hist. Soc.), iii. 318, 320; Van der Aa's *Biogr. Woordenboek*, xvii. 715; Notes and Queries, 3rd ser. iii. 320; Hutchins's *Hist. of Dorset*, ii. 168; Arber's *Hist. of the Pilgrim Fathers*, 1897, pp. 3, 126, 129, 210; State Papers, Holland, at Public Record Office, bundles 123, 133 (four letters); Addit. MSS. 22961–2, where more than seventy letters in Latin from Slade to Sibbrand Lubbertus are preserved; a copy of Johnson's *Discourse* is at Sion College Library, the only other known being that at Trinity College, Cambridge.] C. F. S.'

Two things worth adding to the summary below

First, Samuel Slade — Matthew's elder brother, and the first-named child in their father's 1574 will (Document Seven) — gets a fuller life here than this collection previously had for him: an Oxford B.A. (1586) and M.A. (1594), the living of Embleton, Northumberland, then resignation to travel Europe and the Levant collecting manuscripts, and death at Zante (a Greek island) before 1613. Second, the existing summary below says Matthew ‘corresponded with’ Casaubon, Vossius, and Scaliger; the entry actually distinguishes being ‘on intimate terms with’ those three from corresponding specifically with Sibrand Lubbertus and Sir Dudley Carleton — and notes that more than seventy of Slade's Latin letters to Lubbertus survive in the British Library (Add. MSS 22961–2), a substantial primary-source archive for anyone who wanted to pursue this collateral line further. Neither point contradicts the summary below, which has been left as written.

What the Record Shows

The printed page itself is reproduced above. What follows summarizes the researcher-supplied transcription already on file; a fresh transcription attempt (unverified, though high-confidence given the printed type) now precedes this section as well, adding a fuller account of Samuel Slade and a note on the surviving Lubbertus letters.

The DNB entry independently confirms, in its own words, that ‘John Slade... rector of South Perrott... married in 1567 Joan, daughter of John Owsley of Misterton, Somerset’ — matching this collection's own record (Document Seven) exactly, including Rev. Slade's 1574 death. The entry then reveals a fifth child of that marriage, previously unknown to this collection: Matthew Slade, born 1569, not named in his father's own 1574 will — very likely because he had already left home by then.

Matthew Slade matriculated at St Alban Hall, Oxford, on 29 October 1585, and took his B.A. on 13 January 1589. After a period teaching school in Devonshire, he married Alethea, daughter of Richard Kirford, on 20 September 1593, and emigrated to Amsterdam around 1597, where he became one of the founding elders of the Brownist (early Separatist) congregation. He later served as rector of the Amsterdam academy from 1614, engaged in the Arminian/Socinian theological controversies of his day, and corresponded with major scholars of the period including Isaac Casaubon, Gerard Vossius, and Joseph Scaliger. He died around 1628.

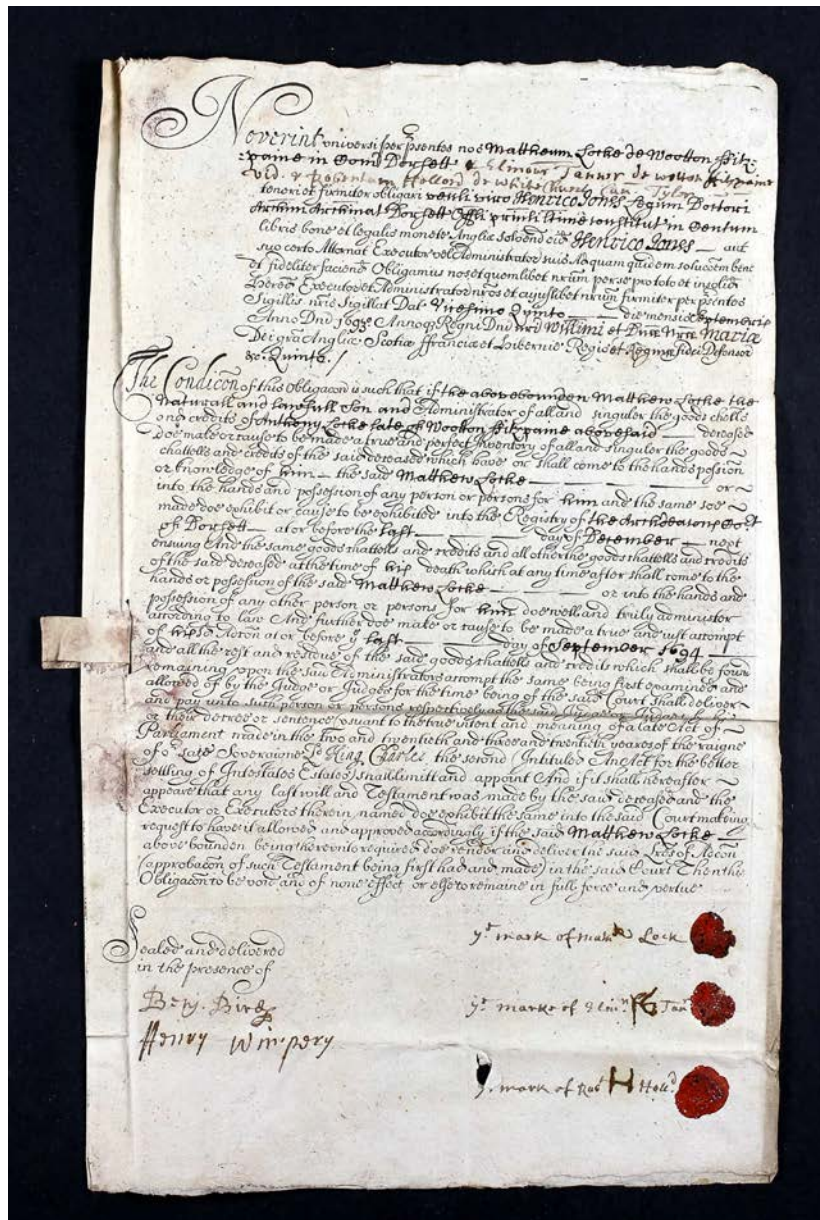
His own son, Cornelius Slade (born Amsterdam, 14 October 1599), became a professor of Hebrew there; Cornelius's own son, a second Matthew Slade (1628–1689), was born in England, became a physician, published medical treatises under the pen name ‘Theodorus Aldes,’ and is buried at St Peter's-in-the-East, Oxford.

What This Document Establishes

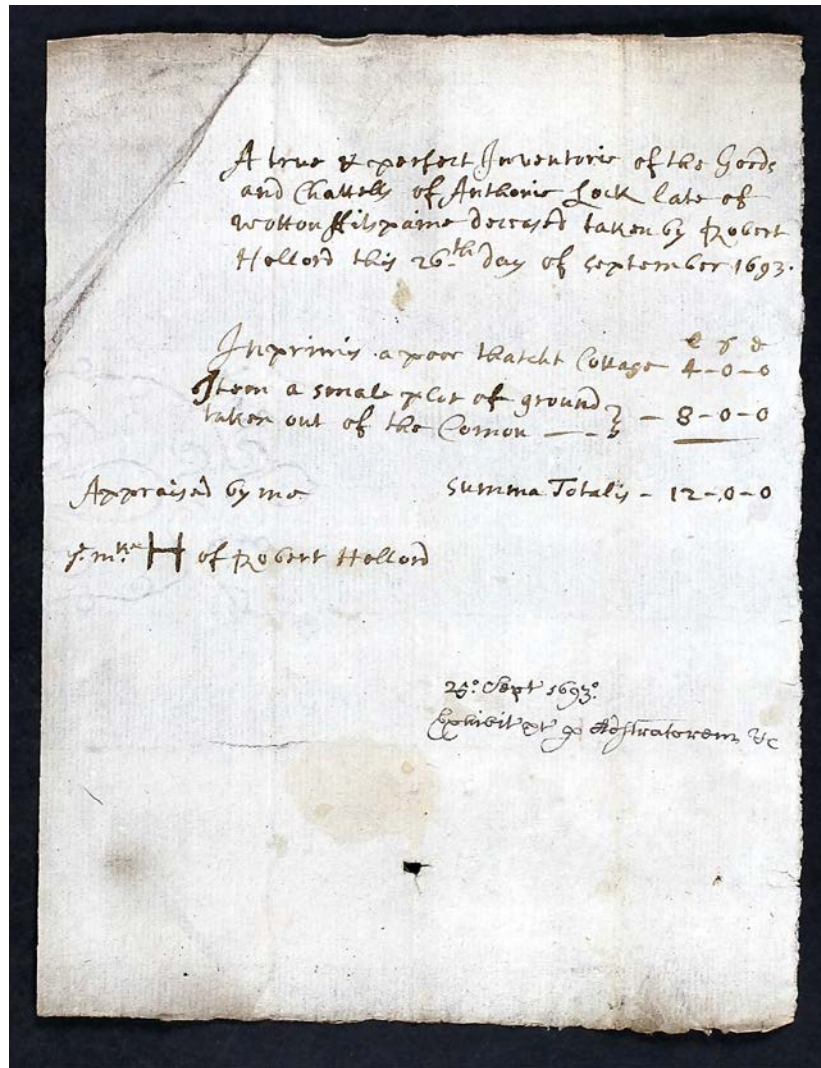
This entry traces Joan Owsley's documented descent four further generations beyond South Perrott, into European religious and scholarly history — collateral to this study's own direct line to William Housley, but a notable, independently-sourced thread from the Misterton family, and a rare case in this collection where a published, peer-reviewed reference work corroborates a parish-register identification exactly.

Document Nine — Anthonie Lock, late of Wootton Fitzpaine, 1693

Administration bond and probate inventory, Archdeaonry of Dorset. Bond dated 25 September 1693, naming Matthew Locke as son and administrator; inventory dated 26 September 1693, appraised by Robert Holland, who signed by his mark.



Administration bond, Archdeaonry of Dorset, dated 25 September 1693, binding Matthew Locke, Elinor Tanner, and Robert Holland to see a true inventory and account made of Anthony Locke's estate.



The probate inventory itself, taken 26 September 1693 by Robert Hollard, valuing Anthony Locke's entire estate at twelve pounds.

Transcription Attempt (AI-Assisted — Not Yet Verified)

At the researcher's request, this compilation attempted a fresh reading of both images above. As with Document Seven, this is a careful best-effort reading, not a professional paleographer's transcription, and it has not been checked by the researcher. Square brackets mark anything not read with confidence.

The bond (Latin, opening and closing formulas only; the condition clause in the middle is in English and given in full): 'Noverint universi per praesentes nos Mattheum Locke de Wootton Fitzpaine in Com[itatu] Dorset[t], [Elinor] Tanner of [uncertain place], and Robertum Hollard de Whitchurch Can[onicorum], Tylor, teneri et firmiter obligari domino nostro Henrico Jones, legum Doctori, Archidiaconatus Dorsett Officiali, in [amount not confidently read] libris bonae et legalis monetae Angliae... Dat[um] vicesimo quinto die mensis Septembris, Anno Domini 1693, Annoque Regni Domini nostri Willelmi et Dominae nostrae Mariae... quinto.' ['Know all men by these presents that we, Matthew Locke of Wootton Fitzpaine in the County of Dorset, Elinor Tanner of [place uncertain], and Robert Hollard of Whitchurch Canonicorum, tylor, are held and firmly bound to our lord Henry Jones, Doctor of Laws, Official of the Archdeaconry of Dorset, in [an amount not

confidently read] pounds of good and lawful money of England... Given the twenty-fifth day of the month of September, in the year of our Lord 1693, and in the fifth year of the reign of our lord William and our lady Mary...']

The condition (English): 'The Condicon of this obligacon is such that if the abovebounden Matthew Locke, the naturall and lawfull Son and Administrator of all and singuler the goods chattells and creditts of Anthony Locke late of Wootton Fitzpaine aforesaid deceased, doe make or cause to be made a true and perfect Inventory of all and singuler the goods chattells and creditts of the said deceased which have or shall come to the hands possession or knowledge of him the said Matthew Locke... and the same soe made doe exhibit or cause to be exhibited into the Registry of the Archdeaconry Court of Dorsett at or before the last [day not confidently read] day of December next ensuing... And further doe make or cause to be made a true and just accompt of his said Administracon at or before the last [day not confidently read] day of September 1694... Then this Obligacon to be void and of none effect, or els to remaine in full force and vertue.' Signed with marks: 'the mark of Math[e]w Lock,' 'the marks of Elin[or] Tanner,' 'the mark of Rob[er]t Holl[ar]d,' witnessed by Benj[amin] Bird and Henry Wimpe[r]y.

The inventory (English, in full): 'A true & perfect Inventorie of the Goods and Chattells of Anthonie Lock late of Wootton Fitzpaine deceased, taken by Robert Hollard this 26th day of September 1693. Inprimis a poor thatched Cottage — £4-0-0. Item a small parcell of ground taken out of the Comon — £8-0-0. Summa Totalis — £12-0-0. Appraised by me, the mark of Robert Hollard.' This matches the existing summary below exactly.

A new finding worth flagging

The administration bond names a son not previously in this collection: Matthew Locke, described plainly as 'the naturall and lawfull Son and Administrator' of Anthony Locke. This reading is consistent across the several places his name appears in the bond (the opening, the condition clause, and the signature mark), so it carries more confidence than a single hard-to-read word would. If correct, this makes Matthew Locke a previously undocumented brother of Rebecca Locke (who married Richard Owsly at Wootton Fitzpaine in 1679 — see below). This has not been added to the Master Workbook; that's a decision for the researcher to make, not something this compilation should do on its own.

What the Record Shows

The original bond and inventory are reproduced above. What follows summarizes the researcher-supplied transcription already on file; a fresh, AI-assisted transcription attempt (including the newly found Matthew Locke detail) now precedes this section as well.

The inventory describes Anthonie Lock as 'late of Wootton Fitzpaine,' a poor cottager. His entire estate was valued at twelve pounds: a thatched cottage worth four pounds, and a small plot of ground enclosed from the parish common, worth eight pounds. Nothing else of value is recorded.

What This Document Establishes

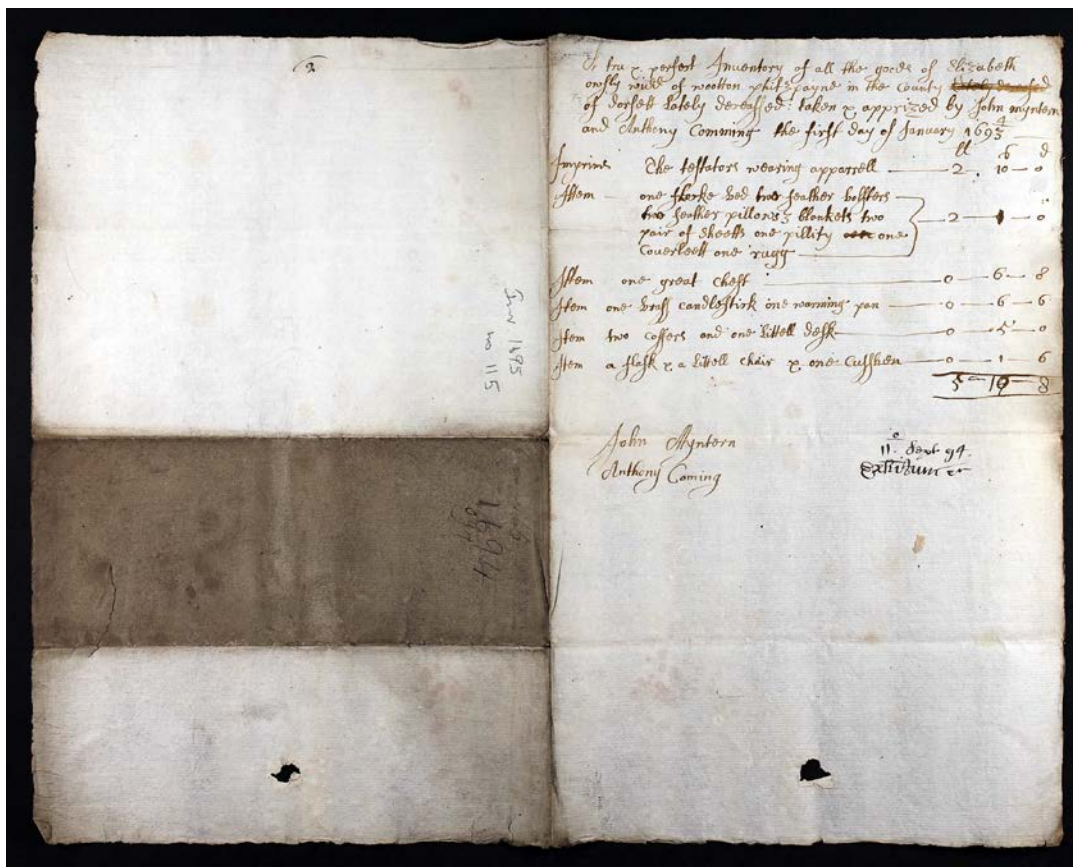
This is the same Anthonie Locke named as father on Rebecca Locke's 1655 baptism at Whitchurch Canonicorum — Rebecca who married Richard Owsly at Wootton Fitzpaine in 1679 (see Volume One's Chapter Nine and the separate direct-line study). This inventory confirms Anthonie himself was, by 1693, a resident of the same parish as his daughter's married family, anchoring both families in Wootton Fitzpaine at the time of the 1679 marriage rather than only the groom's side. It is one of the humblest estates recorded anywhere in this collection. The administration bond filed alongside it

(see the transcription attempt above) additionally names a son, Matthew Locke, as administrator — a previously undocumented sibling for Rebecca, not yet reflected in the Master Workbook pending the researcher's own review.

Document Ten — Elizabeth Owsley, Widow, of Wootton Fitzpaine, 1694/5

Probate inventory (not a will). Dated 1 January 1694 (Old Style; 1695 by modern reckoning); taken and appraised by John Mynterne and Anthony Comming; exhibited later that year.

Not to be confused with the widow Elizabeth Owsley of Document Fourteen, below, whose 1744 will belongs to a different, later woman of the same name and parish.



Probate inventory of Elizabeth Owsley, widow of Wootton Fitzpaine, taken 1 January 1694/5 by John Mynterne and Anthony Comming; the left half shown is the document's blank dorse (back), carrying only filing endorsements.

Transcription Attempt (AI-Assisted — Not Yet Verified)

At the researcher's request, this compilation attempted a fresh reading of the image above, as with Documents Seven and Nine. This is a careful best-effort reading, not a professional paleographer's transcription, and it has not been checked by the researcher. Square brackets mark anything not read with confidence. The itemized amounts below sum to the document's own stated total exactly, which gives this reading unusual confidence for a document of this age.

‘A true & perfect Inventory of all the goods of Elizabeth Owsley, widow of Wootton Fitzpaine in the County of Dorsett, lately deceased: taken & apprized by John Mynterne and Anthony Comming the first day of January 169[4, Old Style; the year is written with a smaller ‘4’ above the line, i.e. 1694/5]. Imprimis, the testator's wearing apparrell — £2.10.0. Item, one flocke bed, two feather bolsters, two feather pillows & blankets, two pair of sheets, one [pillity — word uncertain, possibly a quilt] and one coverlett, one rugg — £2.1.0. Item, one great chest — £0.6.8. Item, one brass candlestick and warming pan — £0.6.6. Item, two coffers and one little desk — £0.5.0. Item, a flask and a little chair and one cushion — £0.1.6. [Total, in a second hand:] £5.10.8.’ Signed in full (not by mark): John Mynterne, Anthony Comming. Endorsed, in what appears to be a different hand: ‘11 September 9[4 or 5, uncertain] — Exhibitum’ [Latin: ‘exhibited,’ i.e. filed with the court]. The six itemized amounts add up to exactly £5.10s.8d, matching the document's own total precisely — a strong internal check on this reading, even where individual words (like ‘pillity’) remain uncertain.

What the Record Shows

The original inventory is reproduced above. What follows summarizes the researcher-supplied transcription already on file; a fresh, AI-assisted transcription attempt (unverified) now precedes this section as well.

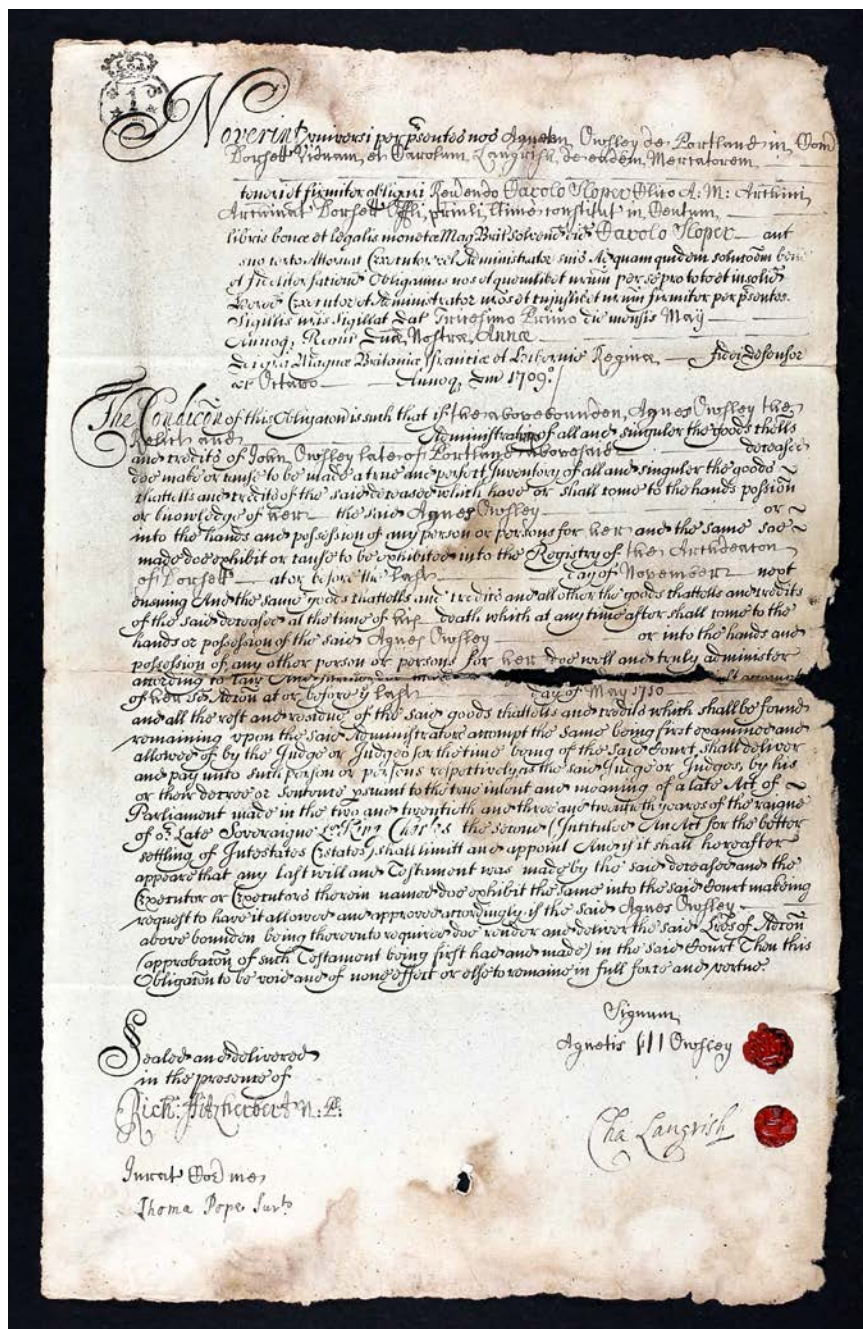
The inventory describes ‘Elizabeth O[w]sly, widow of Wootton Fitzpaine.’ Her estate was modest and entirely personal: clothing, a bed and its furnishings, two coffers, a small desk, and a chair — no household or farm equipment of any kind, consistent with a widow living among family rather than maintaining her own household.

What This Document Establishes

This Elizabeth is very likely the younger of two daughters of that name born to James Owsley of Wootton Fitzpaine (Document Six) — grouped in James's own 1681 will with Martha, Anne, and Mary as still requiring real ongoing provision, distinct from an elder Elizabeth who had already died by 1681 (see Document Five). One of her appraisers, Anthony Comming, was very likely kin to James Comming, husband of her half-sister Mary — a family member serving, as was customary, as an appraiser of his own relative's goods. This is independent corroboration that this Elizabeth belongs to James Owsley's own household.

Document Eleven — John Owsley, late of Portland, 1709

Administration bond, Archdeaonry of Dorset. Dated 31 May 1709. Widow Agnes Owsley, administratrix, bound with Charles Langrish, merchant of Portland, in one hundred pounds.



Administration bond, Archdeaconry of Dorset, dated 31 May 1709, binding Agnes Owsley (widow) and Charles Langrish (merchant, of Portland) in £100 to see a true inventory and account made of John Owsley's estate.

Transcription Attempt (AI-Assisted — Not Yet Verified)

At the researcher's request, this compilation attempted a fresh reading of the image above, as with Documents Seven, Nine, and Ten. This is a careful best-effort reading, not a professional paleographer's transcription, and it has not been checked by the researcher. Square brackets mark anything not read with confidence.

The bond (Latin, opening and closing formulas; the English condition clause given in full below):
 'Noverint universi per praesentes nos Agnetam Owsley de Portland in Com[itat]u Dorsett viduam,

et Carolum Langrish de eadem Mercatorem, teneri et firmiter obligari Reverendo Jacobo Roper Clerico A.M. Archi[diakonatus] Dorsett Officiali, primo eiusdem constituto, in Centum libris bonae et legalis monetae Magnae Britanniae solvendis dicto Jacobo Roper... Dat[um] Tricesimo Primo die mensis Maij, Annoque Regni Dominae nostrae Annae Dei gratia Magnae Britanniae Franciae et Hiberniae Reginae, Fidei Defensor[is] etc., Octavo, Annoque Domini 1709.’ [‘Know all men by these presents that we, Agnes Owsley of Portland in the County of Dorset, widow, and Charles Langrish of the same, merchant, are held and firmly bound to the Reverend James Roper, Clerk, Master of Arts, Official of the Archdeaconry [of Dorset], in one hundred pounds of good and lawful money of Great Britain... Given the thirty-first day of the month of May, in the eighth year of the reign of our lady Anne... and in the year of our Lord 1709.’]

The condition (English): ‘The Condicon of this Obligacon is such that if the abovebounden Agnes Owsley, the Relict and Administratrix of all and singuler the goods chattells and creditts of John Owsley late of Portland aforesaid deceased, doe make or cause to be made a true and perfect Inventory of all and singuler the goods chattells and creditts of the said deceased which have or shall come to the hands possession or knowledge of her the said Agnes Owsley... and the same soe made doe exhibit or cause to be exhibited into the Registry of the Archdeaconry of Dorsett at or before the last [day not confidently read] day of November next ensuing... And further doe make or cause to be made a true and just accompt of her said Administracon at or before the last [day not confidently read] day of May 1710... Then this Obligacon to be void and of none effect, or els to remaine in full force and vertue.’ Signed: ‘Signum Agnetis [her mark] Owsley’ (sealed, not signed in writing) and ‘Cha[rles] Langrish’ (signed in full). ‘Sealed and delivered in the presence of Rich[ard] Fitzherbert, N[otary] P[ublic]. Jurat[us] coram me, Thoma Pope, Surr[ogate].’

This transcription attempt matches the existing summary below closely, and adds a little more texture: the Archdeaconry official is named as Rev. James Roper, and the bond was witnessed and sworn before Richard Fitzherbert (notary public) and Thomas Pope (surrogate). Richard Fitzherbert is the same name already flagged in this collection as a possible lead for a later, unconnected 1754 Portland will -- this document confirms he was active as a notary in the Archdeaconry of Dorset as early as 1709.

What the Record Shows

The original bond is reproduced above. What follows summarizes the researcher-supplied transcription already on file; a fresh, AI-assisted transcription attempt (unverified) now precedes this section as well.

John Owsley of Portland died intestate shortly before 31 May 1709. His widow, Agnes, was granted administration of his estate, signing by her mark rather than in writing. Charles Langrish, a Portland merchant, stood surety for the bond; his relationship to the family, if any, is not stated.

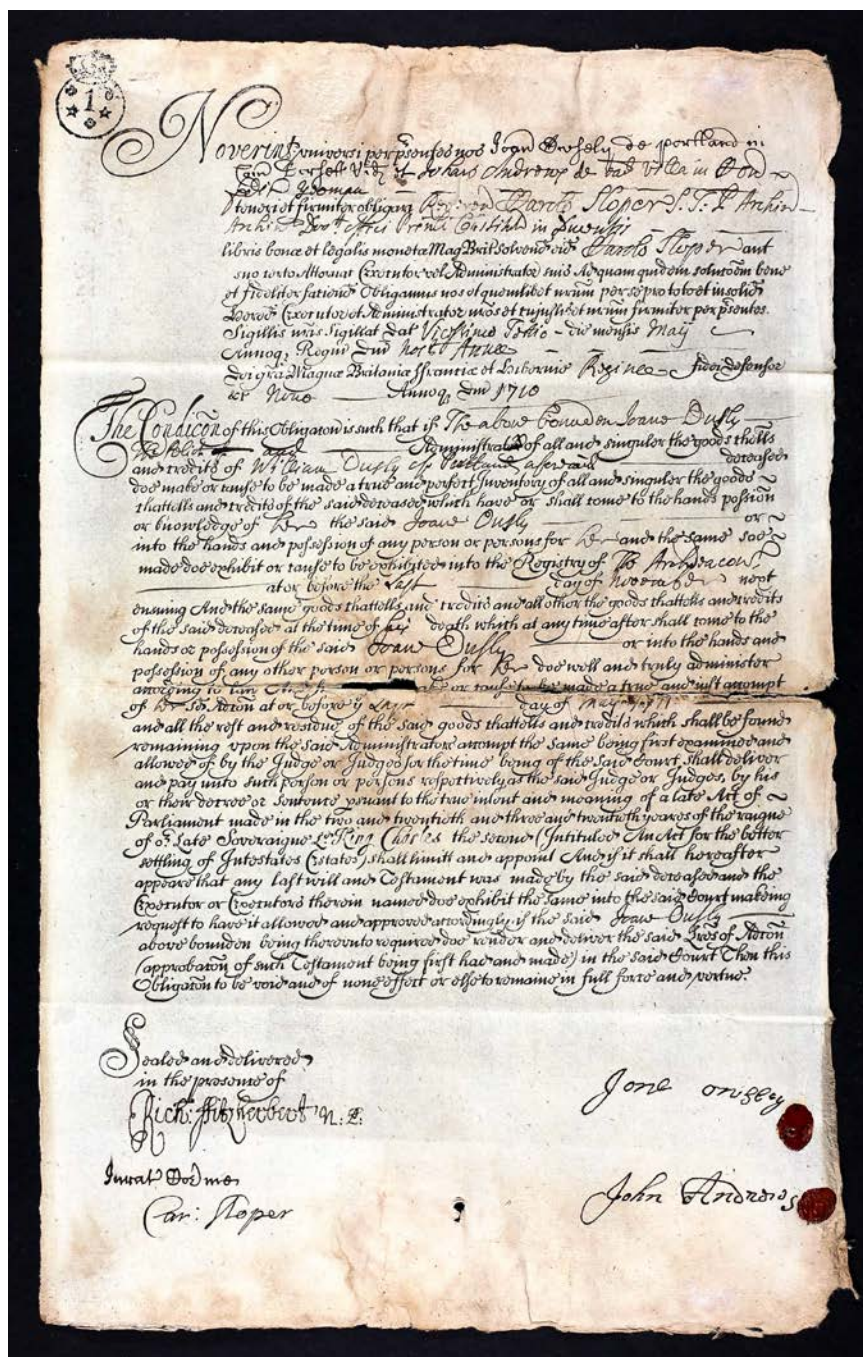
Administration bonds of this kind do not typically name children or other heirs, and none are named here.

What This Document Establishes

This is a distinct individual from the John Owsley buried at Portland in 1715 (six years later) — the two have been checked against each other and against every other record in this collection, with no duplication found. This John is otherwise unconnected to any established line in this study. A reasoned, unconfirmed hypothesis proposes him as a probable son of Richard Owsly, buried at Portland around 1698–1700 — see Document Twelve, below, for the companion bond that supports this hypothesis.

Document Twelve — William Ously, late of Portland, 1710

Administration bond, Archdeaconry of Dorset. Dated 23 May 1710. Widow Joane Oushy, administratrix, bound with John Andrews, yeoman of Portland, in twenty pounds. (The source image's own filename incorrectly reads '1719'; corrected to 1710 here per the document's own regnal-year and account-deadline dating.)



Administration bond, Archdeaonry of Dorset, dated 23 May 1710, binding Joane Ously (widow) and John Andrews (yeoman, of Portland) in £20 to see a true inventory and account made of William Ously's estate.

Transcription Attempt (AI-Assisted — Not Yet Verified)

At the researcher's request, this compilation attempted a fresh reading of the image above, as with Documents Seven, Nine, Ten, and Eleven. This is a careful best-effort reading, not a professional paleographer's transcription, and it has not been checked by the researcher. Square brackets mark anything not read with confidence.

The bond (Latin, opening and closing formulas; the English condition clause given in full below):
'Noverint universi per praesentes nos Joan[am] Owsley de Portland in Com[itu] Dorsett vid[uam], et Joh[ann]em Andrews de eadem Villa in Com[itu] Dorsett, yeoman, teneri et firmiter obligari Reverendo Jacobo Roper S.T.P. Archid[iacono], Archid[iaconatus] Dorsett Officii Principali Constituto, in Viginti libris bonae et legalis monetae Magnae Britanniae solvendis dicto Jacobo Roper... Dat[um] Vicesimo Tertio die mensis Maij, Annoque Regni Dominae nostrae Annae... Nono, Annoque Domini 1710.' ['Know all men by these presents that we, Joan Owsley of Portland in the County of Dorset, widow, and John Andrews of the same town in the County of Dorset, yeoman, are held and firmly bound to the Reverend James Roper, Doctor of Divinity, Archdeacon, Official Principal of the Archdeaonry of Dorset, in twenty pounds of good and lawful money of Great Britain... Given the twenty-third day of the month of May, in the ninth year of the reign of our lady Anne... and in the year of our Lord 1710.'] Note that this bond names James Roper with a different, fuller title ('S.T.P., Archdeacon') than the same man's title in Document Eleven's 1709 bond ('Clerk, Master of Arts, Official') -- almost certainly the same office-holder, styled differently by the scribe.

The condition (English) follows the same form as Document Eleven's: '...if the abovebounden Joane Ously, the Relict and Administratrix of all and singuler the goods chattells and credits of William Ously of Portland aforesaid deceased, doe make or cause to be made a true and perfect Inventory... and exhibit... into the Registry of the Archdeacon[ry] at or before the last [day not confidently read] day of November next ensuing... and make... a true and just accompt of her said Administracon at or before the last [day not confidently read] day of May 171[1, uncertain]... Then this Obligacon to be void...' Signed in full (not by mark): 'Joane Owsley' and 'John Andrews,' both sealed with red wax. 'Sealed and delivered in the presence of Rich[ard]: Fitzherbert, N[otary] P[ublic]. Jurat[us] coram me, Car[olus]: Roper' [sworn before Charles(?) Roper -- possibly a relative of the Archdeaonry official James Roper named above, reading uncertain].

Two points corroborate the existing summary directly: the bond is indeed in twenty pounds, a fifth of John Owsley's £100 bond the year before, matching the existing note that this suggests a more modest estate; and Joan signs in full rather than by mark, as already recorded. Richard Fitzherbert, the same notary who witnessed Document Eleven, witnesses this bond as well, one year later.

What the Record Shows

The original bond is reproduced above. What follows summarizes the researcher-supplied transcription already on file; a fresh, AI-assisted transcription attempt (unverified) now precedes this section as well.

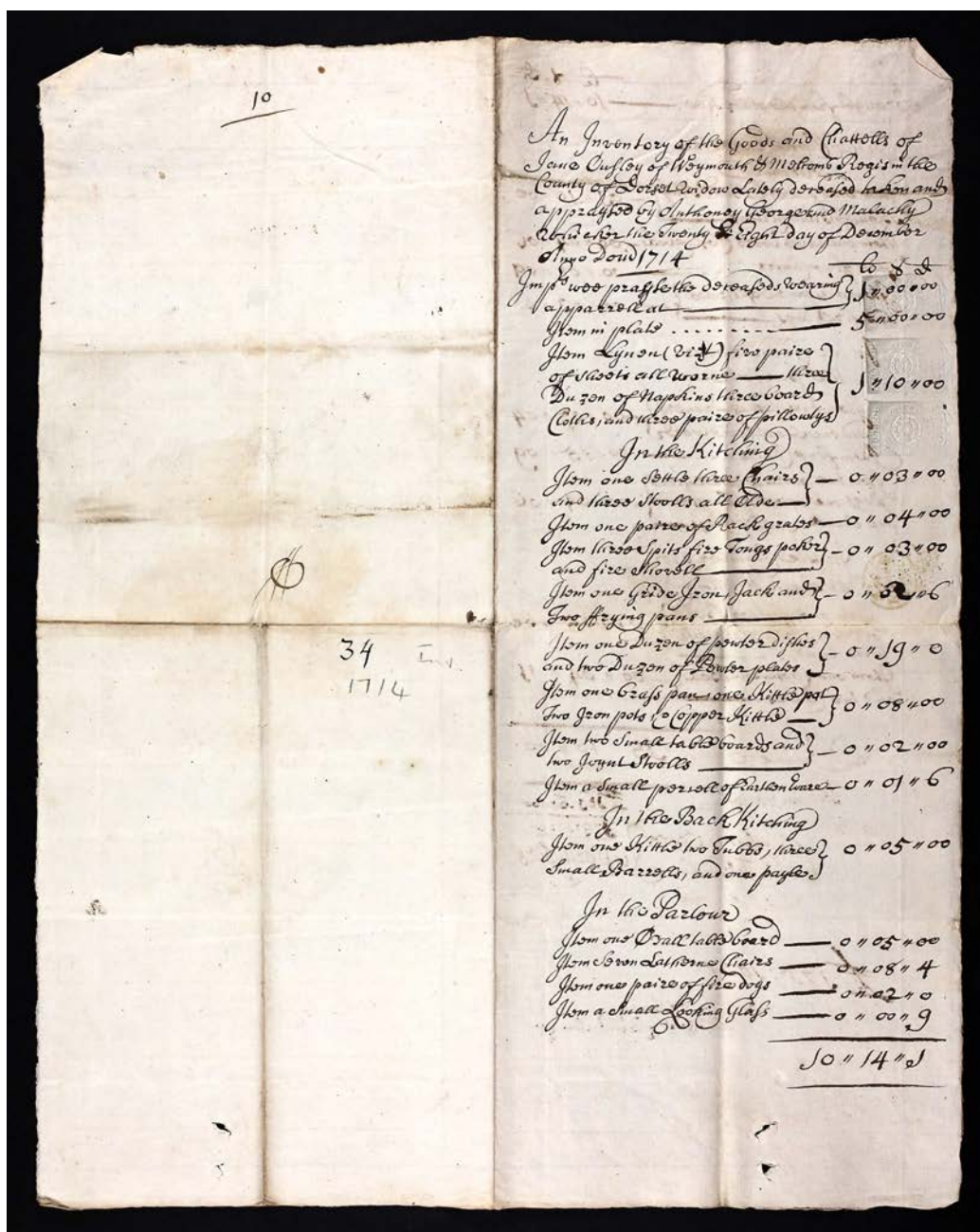
William Ously of Portland died intestate shortly before 23 May 1710. His widow, Joane, was granted administration — signing in her own hand, unpractised but genuine, unlike Agnes Owsley the year before (Document Eleven), who signed by her mark. The bond's penal sum is smaller than John Owsley's 1709 bond, suggesting a more modest estate. John Andrews, yeoman of Portland, stood surety.

What This Document Establishes

John (Document Eleven, d.1709) and William (d.1710) died on Portland within about a year of each other. This study's working hypothesis — reasoned, not established — treats them as probable brothers, both sons or close kin of Richard Owsly, buried at Portland around 1698–1700. The same source further proposes that both men's given names were preserved in the next generation through the 'Ousley Attwood' surname appearing at Wyke Regis in the 1740s, with the Attwood-founding bride a plausible daughter of one of these two households — an appealing but wholly unconfirmed guess. The surety John Andrews recurs in the Wyke Regis Ousley-Attwood marriage network across the following three decades, a durable association this study has not otherwise explained.

Document Thirteen — Jane Ousley, Widow, of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, 1714

Probate inventory, Archdeaconry of Dorset. Inventory dated 28 December 1714; total estate valued at ten pounds, fourteen shillings, and one penny.



Probate inventory of Jane Ously, widow of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, taken 28 December 1714 by Anthony George and Malachy Robert[s]; the left half shown is the document's blank dorse (back), carrying only filing endorsements ('34, Inv., 1714').

Transcription Attempt (AI-Assisted — Not Yet Verified)

At the researcher's request, this compilation attempted a fresh reading of the image above, as with Documents Seven, Nine, Ten, Eleven, and Twelve. This is a careful best-effort reading, not a professional paleographer's transcription, and it has not been checked by the researcher. Square brackets mark anything not read with confidence. As with Document Ten, the itemized amounts below sum to the document's own stated total exactly.

'An Inventory of the Goods and Chattells of Jane Ously of Weymouth & Melcombe Regis in the County of Dorset, Widow, lately deceased, taken and appraised by Anthony George and Malachy

Robert[s, surname uncertain] the Twenty & Eight day of December Anno Domini 1714. Imprimis, woe [what the deceased's wearing apparrell at] — £1.0.0. Item, in plate — £5.0.0. Item, Linen (viz) five paire of sheets all worne, three Dozen of Napkins, three board Cloths, and three paire of pillowbeers — £1.10.0. In the Kitching: Item one Settle, three Chairs, and three Stools all olde — £0.3.0. Item one paire of Rack grates — £0.4.0. Item three Spits, fire Tongs, poker, and fire shovell — £0.3.0. Item one Gride[gridiron] Iron, Jack, and two frying pans — £0.2.6. Item one Dozen of Pewter dishes and two Dozen of Pewter plates — £0.19.0. Item one Brass pan, one Kittle pot, two Iron pots, & Copper Kittle — £0.8.0. Item two small table boards and two joynt Stools — £0.2.0. Item a small parcell of Earthen ware — £0.1.6. In the Back Kitching: Item one Kittle, two Tubbs, three Small Barrells, and one payle — £0.5.0. In the Parlour: Item one Oval table board — £0.5.0. Item seven Lathorne[leather?] Chairs — £0.8.4. Item one paire of fire dogs — £0.2.0. Item a small Looking Glass — £0.0.9. [Total:] £10.14.1.'

The sixteen itemized amounts add up to exactly £10.14s.1d, matching the document's own total precisely.

A discrepancy worth checking

The existing summary below states that clothing and plate together made up roughly 93% of the estate's value. By this reading, wearing apparel (£1) and plate (£5) together come to £6 -- about 56% of the £10.14.1 total, not 93%. Even generously counting the linen (£1.10.0) as part of 'clothing' broadly, the figure only reaches about 70%. Since the itemized amounts in this reading sum exactly to the document's own stated total, the individual figures are probably right; the 93% figure in the existing summary may be worth rechecking against its own source rather than assumed correct.

What the Record Shows

The original inventory is reproduced above. What follows summarizes the researcher-supplied transcription already on file; a fresh, AI-assisted transcription attempt (unverified) now precedes this section as well, including a possible discrepancy in the clothing-and-plate percentage below worth rechecking.

Jane Owsley, a widow of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, left an estate of just under eleven pounds. Clothing and silver plate together made up roughly ninety-three percent of its value; there is no bedding beyond linen and no stock or trade goods — the profile of a genteel widow living in modest town lodgings, not poverty.

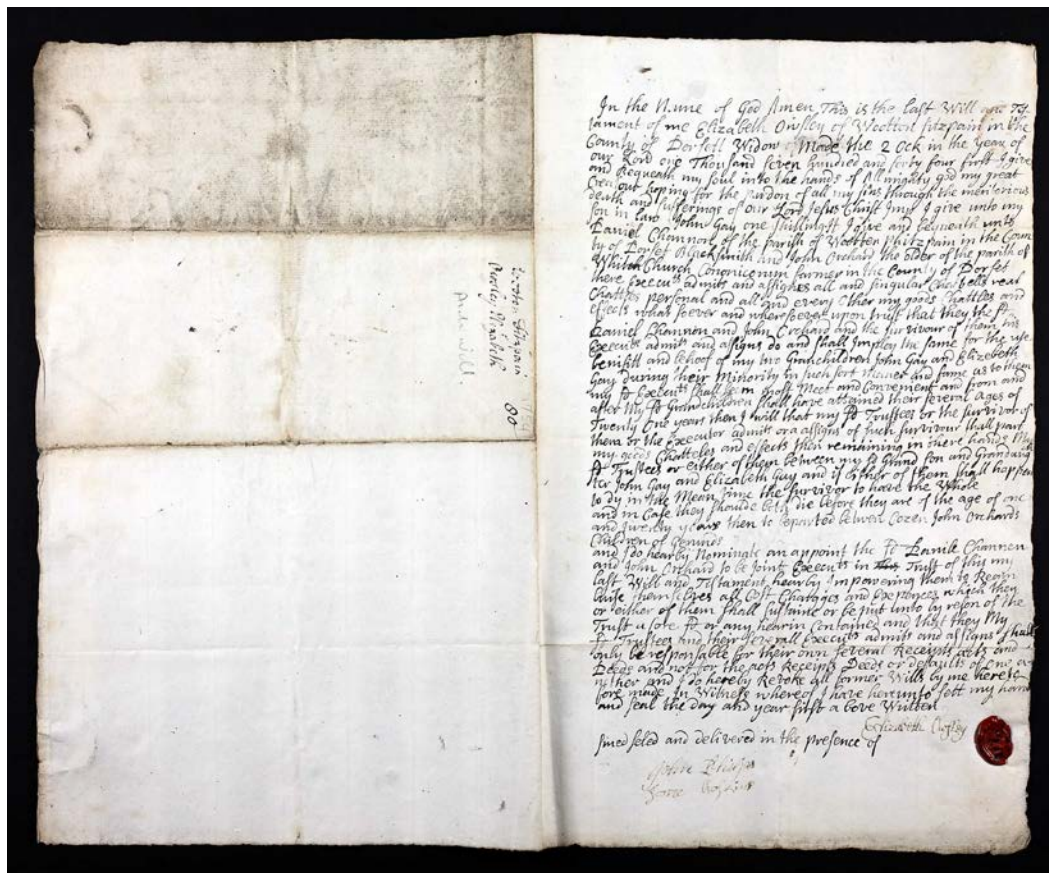
What This Document Establishes

Jane is a plausible, though unconfirmed, widow of Christopher Ously of Melcombe Regis, whose own children were baptized there from 1666 — she would have been elderly by 1714, which fits. No spousal link has been entered in this collection pending the actual grant of administration or a will, which would very likely state the relationship directly if either survives. This inventory shares registry hands with both Portland administration bonds above (Documents Eleven and Twelve), suggesting a connected cluster of contemporaneous Weymouth-Portland Owsley deaths that may reward further investigation together.

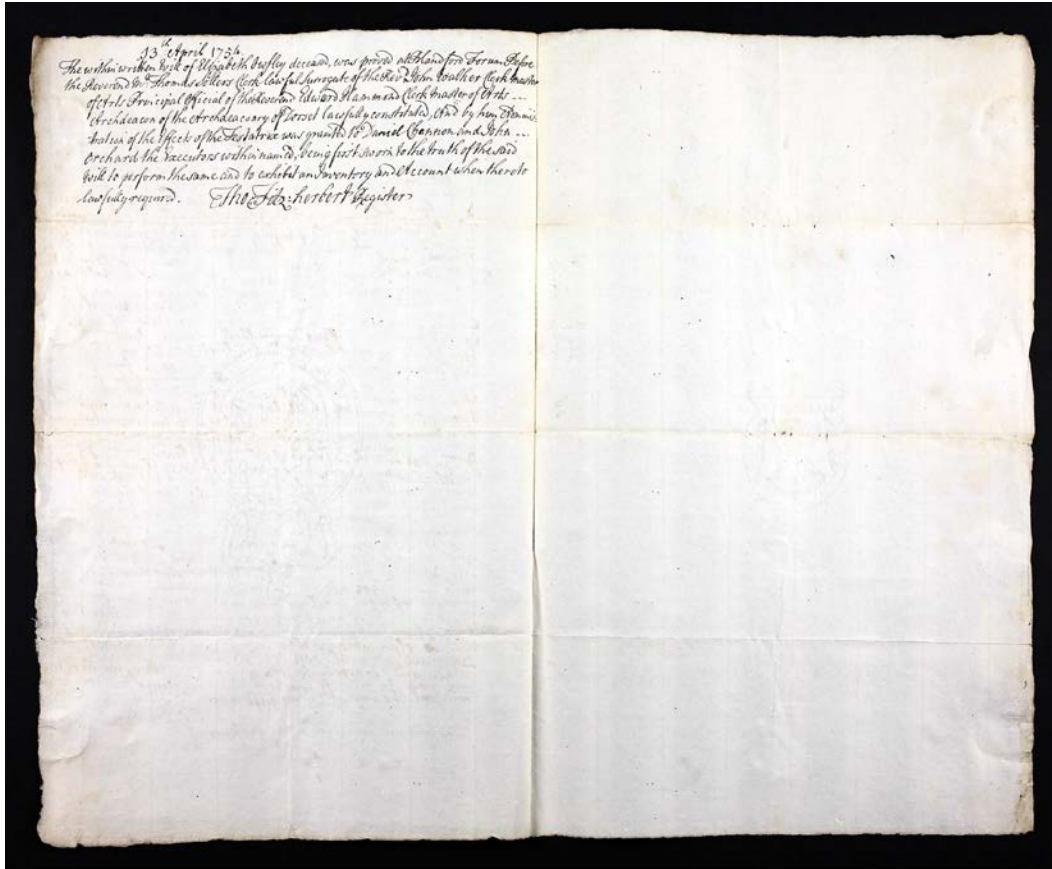
Document Fourteen — Elizabeth Owsley, Widow, of Wootton Fitzpaine, 1744

Original will, Archdeaconry of Dorset. Made 1744 (day and month partly uncertain in the surviving image); proved at Blandford Forum, 13 April 1754.

Not to be confused with the earlier widow Elizabeth Owsley of Document Ten, above, a different woman of the same name and parish, two generations before.



The will itself Elizabeth Owsley's last will and testament, made 2 October(?) 1744, naming her son-in-law John Gay, her grandchildren John and Elizabeth Gay, and her executors and trustees Daniel Channon and 'Cozen' John Orchard the elder. The endorsement on the reverse (visible along the left fold) reads 'Wootton Fitzpain, Owsley Elizabeth, 1754, 80.'



The probate clause, dated 13 April 1754, recording the will's proof at Blandford Forum before the Reverend Thomas Sollers, surrogate, and the grant of administration to Daniel Channon and John Orchard.

Transcription Attempt (AI-Assisted — Not Yet Verified)

At the researcher's request, this compilation attempted a fresh reading of both images above, following the same cautious method used elsewhere in this volume: transcribing what can be read with confidence, and bracketing anything uncertain rather than guessing at it.

The will (in full): 'In the Name of God Amen. This is the last Will and Testament of me Elizabeth Owsley of Wootton Fitzpaine in the County of Dorset, Widow, made the 2 Ock[?], likely October] in the year of our Lord one Thousand seven hundred and forty four. First I give and bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God my great Creator, hoping for the pardon of all my sins through the meritorious death and sufferings of our Lord Jesus Christ. Imprimis I give unto my son in law John Gay one shilling. Item I give and bequeath unto Daniel Channon of the parish of Wootton Fitzpaine in the County of Dorset, Blacksmith, and John Orchard the elder of the parish of Whitchurch Canonorum, farmer, in the County of Dorset, their executors, admits and assigns, all and singular chattels real, chattels personal, and all and every other my goods, chattels and effects whatsoever and wheresoever, upon trust that they the said Daniel Channon and John Orchard, and the survivor of them, his executors, admits and assigns, do and shall imploy the same for the use, benefit and behoof of my two grandchildren John Gay and Elizabeth Gay during their minority, in such sort, manner and forme as to them my said executors shall seem most meet and convenient; and from and after my said grandchildren shall have attained their several ages of twenty one years, then I will that my said trustees, or the survivor of them, or the executor, admits or assigns of such survivor,

shall part [divide] the said goods, chattels and effects then remaining in their hands, my said trustees or either of them, between my said grandson and granddaughter John Gay and Elizabeth Gay; and if either of them shall happen to dy in the mean time, the survivor to have the whole; and in case they should both die before they are of the age of one and twenty years, then [the estate] to be departed [divided] between Cozen John Orchard's children of Gennes [reading uncertain]. And I do hereby nominate and appoint the said Daniel Channon and John Orchard to be joint executors in trust of this my last Will and Testament, hereby empowering them to reimburse themselves all cost, charges and expenses which they or either of them shall sustaine or be put unto by reason of the trust aforesaid or anything herein contained; and that they, my said trustees and their severall executors, admits and assigns, shall only be responsible for their own severall receipts, acts and deeds, and not for the acts, receipts, deeds or defaults of one another. And I do hereby revoke all former wills by me heretofore made. In witness whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and seal the day and year first above written.' Signed 'Elizabeth Owsley' with a red wax seal. 'Signed sealed and delivered in the presence of Johne Phillips, Jone Roskins [surname uncertain].'

The probate clause (in full): '13th April 1754. The within written Will of Elizabeth Owsley deceased was proved at Blandford Forum before the Reverend Mr Thomas Sollers, Clerk, lawful Surrogate of the Reverend John Walker, Clerk, Master of Arts, Principal Official of the Reverend Edward Hammond, Clerk, Master of Arts, Archdeacon of the Archdeaconry of Dorset, lawfully constituted; and by him the administration of the effects of the testatrix was granted to Daniel Channon and John Orchard, the executors within named, being first sworn to the truth of the said will, to perform the same, and to exhibit an inventory and account when thereto lawfully required. Tho. Fitz-herbert, Register.'

A discrepancy worth flagging

The existing summary below credits a witness named Matthew Gay as a signatory to this will, reading it as a further Owsley-Gay connection. The two witness signatures actually on the document read, as best this transcription can make them out, Johne Phillips and Jone Roskins [surname uncertain] — no Matthew Gay appears anywhere on either image. This has not been corrected in the summary below; it is flagged here for the researcher to check against the original or a sharper image. One further detail not previously captured: the will's remainder clause specifies that if both grandchildren die before age twenty-one, the estate is to pass to the children of 'Cozen' John Orchard 'of Gennes' — a word read with some uncertainty; it may denote a place (conceivably a rendering of Guernsey) rather than being part of a name. This adds a little texture to the Orchard kinship called 'Cozen' by Elizabeth, but does not by itself resolve it.

What the Record Shows

The original will and its probate clause are reproduced above. What follows summarizes the researcher-supplied transcription already on file; a fresh, AI-assisted transcription attempt (unverified) now precedes this section as well, including a discrepancy in the witness names worth rechecking.

Elizabeth Owsley's will names no Owsley children of her own. It names instead a deceased daughter, inferred rather than stated outright, who had married John Gay; that daughter's own two children — John Gay the younger and Elizabeth Gay, both minors in 1744 — are named as Elizabeth's grandchildren and principal heirs. John Gay himself, the son-in-law, receives only a token bequest of one shilling, consistent with his wife having predeceased Elizabeth. Daniel Channon, a Wootton Fitzpaine blacksmith, and John Orchard the elder, a Whitchurch Canoncorum farmer explicitly called 'Cozen' (kinsman) by Elizabeth, are named as executors or trustees. A witness to the will,

Matthew Gay, may well be kin to the John Gay family named as heirs — an Owsley-Gay connection appearing twice in this one document.

What This Document Establishes

This will identifies this study's own single highest remaining priority: Elizabeth's late husband, an Owsley man of Wootton Fitzpaine who died before October 1744, is not named anywhere in the document — unsurprising, since widows' wills rarely re-name a deceased husband — and sits directly in the undocumented gap between James Owsley's 1681/2 will (Document Six) and James Owsley's 1758/60 will (Document Sixteen, below). Identifying him would bridge three generations of this study's own core parish.

A specific, unconfirmed candidate has since been proposed: John Owsely, who married an Elizabeth Orchard at Wootton Fitzpaine on 16 June 1709 — the only marriage record in this parish's own sheet pairing an Owsley groom with an Elizabeth, and a match that also explains the 'Cozen' John Orchard named as executor above. If correct, several otherwise-unattached Wootton Fitzpaine individuals from the following decades — George, Anstice, Ann, and Richard Owsley — may be this couple's children. No burial or probate record for this John has been found in the 1709–1744 window, so the identification remains a candidate at Medium confidence, not a confirmed fact. A Wootton Fitzpaine burial register or probate record for an Owsley man dying in this window remains the single most valuable document this study could still find.

Document Fifteen — Roger Owsley of Lyme Regis, 1745/1752

Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre, P5/1752/37, Peculiar of the Dean of Salisbury. Will made 27 April 1745; proved 30 June 1752.

00037 A1 (GCU)

*The Last Will and Testament of
Roger Owsley of Lyme Regis in the
County of Dorset*
Imprimis I give unto my loving wife Ann Owsley
the House wherein I now live Situated in the
Street called Butler Market, together with all such
Household goods or emplements of household as
were her own before our Marriage and which are
contained and Specified in one Schedule or List
which is Subscribed by M^r. George Keeby myself
and my Son John as shall be so remaining at the
time of my Decease. Item I give unto my said
loving wife five pounds of lawfull money of
Great Britain. Item I give unto my Son
William Owsley my House wherein I lately
dwelt Situated in Church Street, to hold to him
his Heirs and Assignes for ever. Item I give
unto my said Son William my Silver Satchard
and my Clock. Item I give unto my Son John
my dwelling house and Malt house Situated in
Coombe Street which I lately purchased of James
Stoakes so hold to him his Heirs and Assignes
for ever. Item I give unto my said Son John, one
Silver Porringer, one Silver two handle Cup,
and my Silver Watch And I do here by appo-
int my loving Wife Ann Owsley to be my
Sole Executrix by this my last Will and my
will is that my Son John be forthwith with all
convenient Speed that may be put and placed
out as an Apprentice to some such Trade or
Business as shall be Judgs most Requisite by
my said Executrix and my trusty friends and
Kinsmen M^r. William Kuisel and M^r. John
Raynes. whom I desire to be aiding and
assisting to my said Wife in the Execution
of this my said Will.

Copyright Wiltshire and Swindon Record Office

The will itself, page one: Roger Owsley of Lyme Regis bequeaths his wife Ann the Butter Market house, his son William the Church Street house, and his son John the Coombe Street house and malt house bought of James Stoakes, dated 27 April 1745.

00037 A2(CCL8)

And if there should be occasion of raising
any money for placing out my Son John ^{he}
is my Will that my Executrix with the approbat
and assistance of my said trusty friends, to sell
and dispose of such of my household goods Plate
or Rings for that Purpose not herein before given
and then what shall remain my said household goods
Plate Rings and other my Goods and Chattel
whatsoever I give and bequeath unto my said Sons
William and John equally to be divided between
them and I do hereby revoke all former Wills
ratifying and confirming this and no other to
be my last Will and Testament In Witness
whereof I have here unto set my hand and
Seal the twenty seventh day of April, In
the year of our Lord One thousand seven
hundred and forty five

Signed Seald and Published
by the Testator Roger Owsley
as and for his last Will and
Testament, In the presence
of us who have subscribed
our names ^{as witnesses} here unto in his
Presence and in the Presence
of one and other

Jno Puddicombe
James Batten
Mary Hurdington

Rog: Owsley

Copyright Wiltshire and Swindon Record Office

Page two: the residuary and trust clause, revocation of former wills, and the testator's signature and seal, witnessed by Jno Puddicombe, James Batten, and Mary Hurdington.



The dorse: archival endorsement (left) and the probate clause (right), dated 30 June 1752, recording the grant of administration to Ann Owsley, widow, before the Reverend John Talman, surrogate of the Dean of Sarum's official.

Transcription Attempt (AI-Assisted — Not Yet Verified)

At the researcher's request, this compilation attempted a fresh reading of all three images above, following the same cautious method used elsewhere in this volume: transcribing what can be read with confidence, and bracketing anything uncertain rather than guessing at it. This hand is considerably clearer than most in this collection, so confidence throughout is high.

The will (in full): 'The Last Will and Testament of Roger Owsley of Lyme Regis in the County of Dorset. Imprimis I give unto my loving wife Ann Owsley the House wherein I now live scituated in the Street called Butter Market, together with all such household goods or implements of household as were her own before our marriage and which are contained and specified in one schedule or list which is subscribed by Mr George Kerby, myself and my son John, as shall be so remaining at the time of my decease. Item I give unto my said loving wife five pounds of lawfull money of Great Britain. Item I give unto my son William Owsley my House wherein I lately dwelt, scituated in Church Street, to hold to him his heirs and assignes for ever. Item I give unto my said son William my silver tankard and my clock. Item I give unto my son John my dwelling house and malt house scituated in Coomb Street which I lately purchased of James Stoakes, to hold to him his heirs and assignes for ever. Item I give unto my said son John one silver porringer, one silver two-handle cup, and my silver watch. And I do hereby appoint my loving wife Ann Owsley to be my sole executrix of this my last will, and my will is that my son John be forthwith with all convenient speed put and placed out as an apprentice to some such trade or business as shall be judg'd most requisite by my said executrix and my trusty friends and kinsmen Mr William Kuist and Mr John Kaynes, whom I desire to be aiding and assisting to my said wife in the execution of this my said will. And if their should be occasion of raising any money for placing out my son John, it is my will that my

executrix, with the approbation and assistance of my said trusty friends, to sell and dispose of such of my household goods, plate, or rings, for that purpose (not herein before given); and then what shall remain, my said household goods, plate, rings, and other my goods and chattels whatsoever, I give and bequeath unto my said sons William and John equally, to be divided between them. And I do hereby revoke all former wills, ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last Will and Testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, the twenty-seventh day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and forty five.’ Signed, sealed and published by the testator Roger Owsley as and for his last will and testament, in the presence of us who have subscribed our names hereunto as witnesses in his presence and in the presence of one and other: ‘Rog. Owsley’ [signature, with red wax seal], Jno Puddicombe, James Batten, Mary Hurdling.

The probate clause (in full): ‘Lyme Regis, 30th June 1752. The Will of Roger Owsley dated [27 April 1745]. This will was proved at Lyme Regis on the 30th day of June 1752, before the Reverend John Talman, Clerk, M.A., lawful surrogate of the official of the Dean of Sarum; and by him administration of the goods and chattels of the deceased, and any way concerning this will, was granted and committed unto Ann Owsley, widow, the relict of the deceased and sole executrix named in this his will, being first sworn of the truth of the said will, faithfully to perform the same and pay the debts and legacies of the deceased as far forth as his goods and chattels will extend and the law bind, and to exhibit a true inventory and render a just accompt when lawfully required, saving the rights of all persons. Hen. Hearst, Regist[r].’

A clarification worth noting

The existing summary below states that John's share is held in trust, as distinct from William's outright bequest. More precisely: John receives the Coombe Street house and malt house outright, on exactly the same terms as William's Church Street house (‘to hold to him his heirs and assigns for ever’). What is actually held in trust is only the residuary household goods, plate, and rings, which the executrix and two named kinsmen — Mr William Kuist and Mr John Kaynes — were to draw on first to fund John's apprenticeship, dividing whatever remained equally between the two sons afterward. This is a refinement rather than a correction of the summary below, which has been left as written.

What the Record Shows

The original will and its probate clause are reproduced above. What follows summarizes the researcher-supplied transcription already on file; a fresh, AI-assisted transcription attempt (unverified) now precedes this section as well, including a clarification of John's bequest worth noting.

Roger Owsley is confirmed by his own will as a prosperous Lyme Regis tradesman, very likely a maltster. He held three houses in the town by name — one at the Butter Market, one on Church Street, and a dwelling with its own malt house on Coombe Street, bought from a James Stoakes — together with a modest fortune in silver plate. His will names his wife Ann and his sons William and John as beneficiaries: William receives real property outright, and John's share is held in trust.

What This Document Establishes

This will confirms and substantially enriches this study's existing Lyme Regis Owsley cluster rather than introducing an unconnected individual: Roger married twice, first to Sarah Alford in 1712, then, after her 1743 burial, to Ann Carswell in January 1744, and died shortly before this will was proved

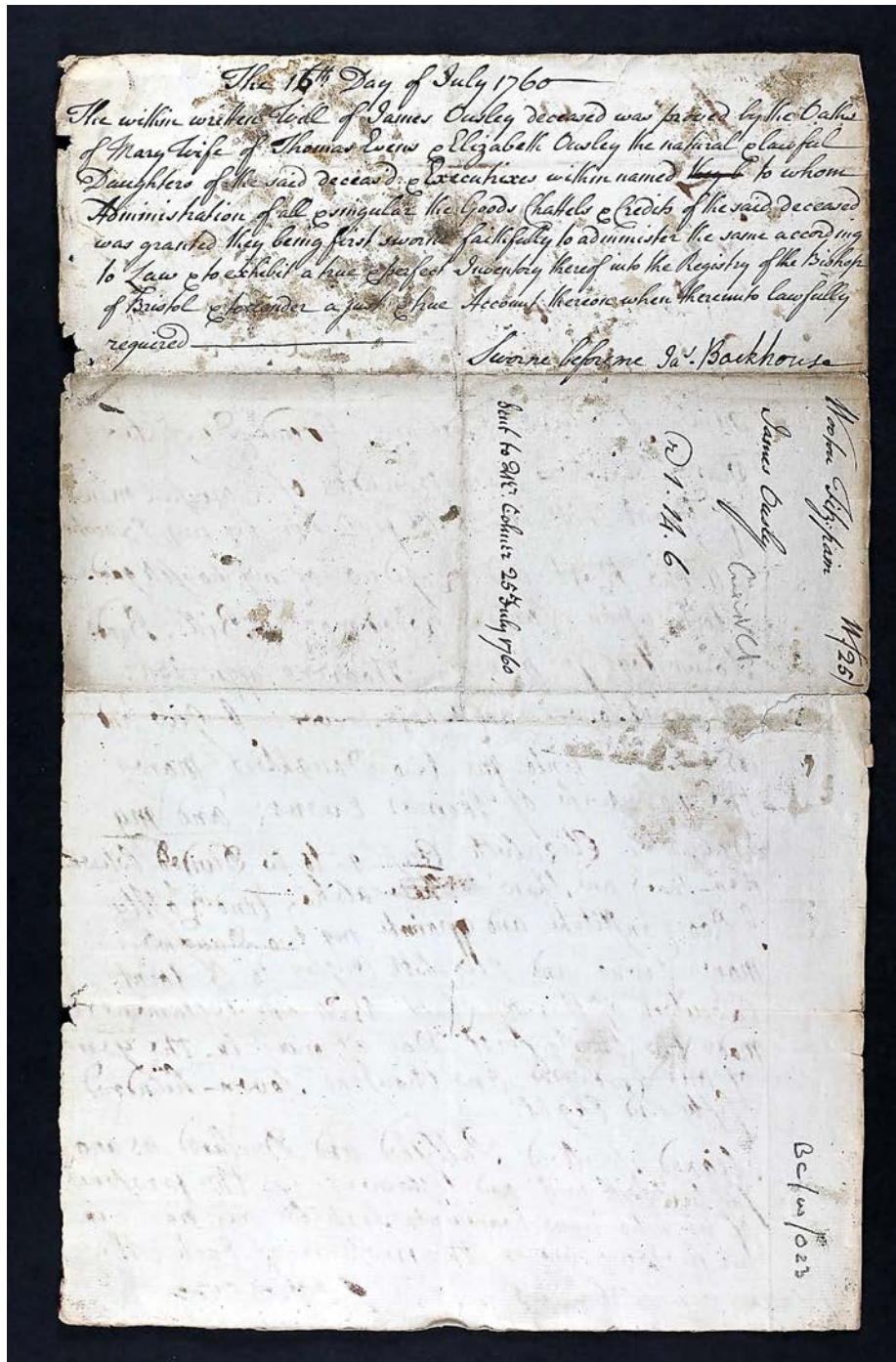
in June 1752. It also establishes, as a point of practical value for any future search of Lyme Regis probate records, that this parish's wills belonged to the Dean of Salisbury's peculiar jurisdiction — held today at the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre — rather than to the Dorset Archdeaconry that holds the probate records for this study's other Dorset parishes.

Document Sixteen — James Ousley, Yeoman, of Wootton Fitzpaine, 1758/1760

Original will and probate act, Bristol diocese peculiar/consistory court, before notary James Backhouse. Will made 31 May 1758; proved 16 July 1760.

In the Name of God Amen
 This is the Last Will and Testament
 of me James Owsley of the parish of
 Wootton Fitzpaine in the County of
 Dorset Yeoman as follows —
 I Give unto my Grand Daughter
 Mary Newton two pounds of Lawfull money
 of Great Brittain to be paid her by my Executors
 all the Rest and Residue of my house hold goods
 Stock upon Lands; Ready money; Bills; Bonds
 Securities for moneys; Wearing apparel;
 All what soever and where soever. I Give and
 Bequeath unto my two Daughters: Mary
 the now wife of Thomas Evens; and my
 Daughter Elizabeth Owsley: to be Divided between
 them Share and Share ~~alike~~ alike; And I do
 I do constitute and appoint my two Daughters
 Mary Evens and Elizabeth Owsley to be Joint
 Executors of this my Last Will and Testament
 Made the thirty first Day of may in the year
 of our Lord 1758 One thousand Seven hundred
 fifty and Eight.
 Signed sealed Published and Declared as and
 for his Last will and Testament in the presence
 of us who have hereunto subscribed our names in
 his presence and in the presence of Each Other
 Matthew Gay Joel Evens James Owsley

The will itself: James Owsley, yeoman of Wootton Fitzpaine, leaves two pounds to his granddaughter Mary Newton and the residue of his estate to his daughters Mary Evens and Elizabeth Owsley, made 31 May 1758.



The dorse: probate clause dated 16 July 1760, recording the grant of administration to Mary Evens and Elizabeth Owsley, sworn before notary James Backhouse; archival endorsement at right reads 'Wootton Fitzpain, James Owsly.'

Transcription Attempt (AI-Assisted — Not Yet Verified)

At the researcher's request, this compilation attempted a fresh reading of both images above, following the same cautious method used elsewhere in this volume: transcribing what can be read with confidence, and bracketing anything uncertain rather than guessing at it.

The will (in full): ‘In the Name of God Amen. This is the Last Will and Testament of me James Ousley of the parrish of Wootton fitzpain in the County of Dorsett, Yeoman, as follows: Item I give unto my Grand Daughter Mary Newton two pounds of lawfull money of Great Brittain to be paid her by my Executrs. All the Rest and Residue of my household goods, Stock upon Lands, Ready money, Bills, Bonds, Securities for moneys, Wearing apparrell, all whatsoever and wheresoever, I give and bequeath unto my two Daughters: Mary the now wife of Thomas Evens; and my Daughter Elizabeth Ousley: to be Divided between them Share and Share alike. And Lastly I do Constitute and appointe my two Daughters Mary Evens and Elizabeth Ousley to be Joint Executrs of this my Last Will and Testament. Made the thirty first Day of May in the year of our Lord God One thousand Seven hundred fifty and Eight.’ ‘Signed Sealed Published and Declared as and for his Last Will and Testament in the presence of us who have hereunto Subscribed our names in his presence and in the presence of Each other’: Matthew Gay, Joel Evers [surname uncertain]. Signed ‘James Owsley’ with a red wax seal.

The probate clause (in full): ‘The 16th Day of July 1760. The within written Will of James Ousley deceased was proved by the Oaths of Mary wife of Thomas Evens & Elizabeth Ousley the natural and lawfull Daughters of the said deceased & Executrixes within named, to whom Administration of all & singular the Goods Chattels & Credits of the said deceased was granted, they being first sworn faithfully to administer the same according to Law & to exhibit a true & perfect Inventory thereof into the Registry of the Bishop of Bristol & to render a just & true Account thereof when thereunto lawfully required. Sworne before me Jas. Backhouse.’ The archival endorsement on the dorse gives the parish and testator's name (‘Wootton fitzpain, James Ously’) alongside later reference marks, including a note that the document was ‘Sent to Mr. Cohutt, 25 July 176[0?]’ — apparently a later archival or conservation annotation, not part of the original 1758/1760 document.

A possible source of an earlier discrepancy

This document's first witness is Matthew Gay — the same name the existing summary for Document Fourteen (Elizabeth Owsley's 1744 will, above) credits as a witness there, where this transcription instead found Johne Phillips and Jone Roskins and flagged Matthew Gay as unaccounted for. It seems plausible the two documents were conflated at some point, given Matthew Gay's genuine presence here rather than there; this is offered as a possible explanation, not a confirmed one, since both wills predate this transcription pass and neither image can simply be reread to settle it.

What the Record Shows

The original will and its probate clause are reproduced above. What follows summarizes the researcher-supplied transcription already on file; a fresh, AI-assisted transcription attempt (unverified) now precedes this section as well, including a note on a possible source for the Document Fourteen witness discrepancy.

James Ousley, styled a yeoman, names two daughters as his joint executrices and sole heirs, dividing his estate between them ‘share and share alike’: Mary, wife of Thomas Evens, and Elizabeth Ousley, unmarried at the time the will was made. A granddaughter, Mary Newton, receives a small legacy — most plausibly Mary Evens's own daughter from an earlier marriage, though the will itself does not say so. No sons are named, suggesting these two daughters were his only surviving children.

What This Document Establishes

This will gives a full identity to this collection's own James Owsley burial of 1760, previously just a bare date. Elizabeth, unmarried when her father made his will, is very likely the same Elizabeth Owsley who married Henry Harbin at Wootton Fitzpaine in November 1761 — about a year after James's death, an entirely ordinary interval for a woman settling her father's estate before marrying. Whether James himself was related to George Owsley, married in this same parish in 1743, or to the unidentified husband of Elizabeth Owsley in Document Fourteen above, is not established by any document found so far. Proved in the Bristol diocese peculiar court rather than the Dorset Archdeaconry that handled this parish's earlier wills, a jurisdictional detail not necessarily significant on its own.

A Note on This Volume's Limits

One document in this volume, Document Four, is presented here as a set of verified extracts rather than a complete transcription: its secretary hand, in the household and property clauses particularly, could not be read with full confidence at the image resolution available for this study, and this volume has chosen to mark that gap openly rather than fill it with plausible-sounding invention. An earlier working draft of this same transcription did, briefly, cross that line — supplying invented text for a passage that had not actually been read — and was caught and withdrawn before publication. It is recorded here, rather than quietly corrected, because a study that asks its reader to trust its confidence ratings elsewhere should be equally transparent about a mistake made and fixed in its own process. Documents Two and Five, originally published in this same partial form, have since been completed: fuller transcriptions, independently prepared and supplying their own bracketed uncertain readings rather than silent guesses, have been checked against this collection's other records and incorporated in full — in Document Two's case, overturning a conclusion the earlier partial reading had led this study to draw.

A related caution, identified late in this study's process and worth recording plainly: two separate attempts to obtain a further, fuller transcription of Document Four, using AI-assisted transcription tools, both confidently reported the testator's domicile as 'Misterton' — against that document's own National Archives catalogue title, against this study's own direct reading, and, eventually, against a plain crop of the relevant line read directly by the researcher, all of which agree on Crewkerne. The same tools also produced, unprompted, a list of four daughters in an order identical to an unrelated will elsewhere in this collection. Neither error looks like a simple misreading of difficult handwriting; both look like a tool filling a gap it could not confidently read with the most statistically expected answer rather than flagging its own uncertainty — a familiar-sounding place name standing in for an illegible one. Recognizing this pattern led this study to revisit an unrelated claim in Document Two that had come from a similarly-produced transcription — Katheryne Owsley's own domicile, likewise first reported as 'Misterton' — and to correct it to Crewkerne once independently checked. Readers using AI transcription tools on documents of this kind should treat a smooth, gap-free transcription with real caution; a transcription that admits what it cannot read is, somewhat counterintuitively, the more trustworthy of the two.

Readers with access to sharper images, or to the original documents themselves, are warmly encouraged to improve on the transcription offered here for Document Four in particular. This volume's purpose is to make the underlying evidence available for exactly that kind of scrutiny — not to stand as a final word on documents that, in places, still have more to say.

Update, 26 July 2026: the researcher has since supplied sharper images of this page, and a full, carefully bracketed transcription attempt now appears in Document Four above, alongside a discrepancy this fresh reading turned up in the existing account of who William named as his executor. The gap this note describes is, at least for Document Four, now closed — though as with every AI-assisted reading in this volume, the transcription itself still awaits a researcher's independent check against the original.