



The ASHDOWN Wills
of East Sussex
(1578 – 1858)



By Geoffrey Barber

Version 1.03

Will Transcribers: Claire Wickens, Geoffrey Barber, Rosie Ansell,
Ann Dalton, et al.

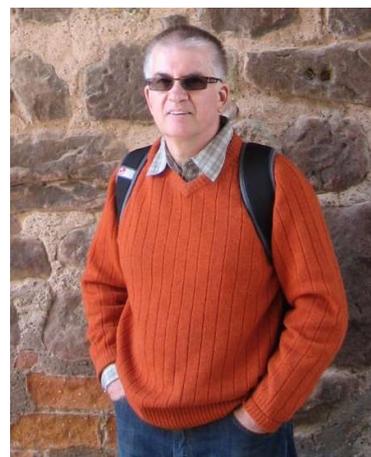
BIOGRAPHY

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Geoffrey Barber has been researching his English family history since about 1983. He maintains his family history web site www.nynne.org as a means of making the results his own research more widely available.

Geoff also enjoys writing articles for journals and has given talks on topics such as manorial records, tithe maps, DNA and self-publishing. He has a passion for quality and accurate research and on publishing to preserve our work for the future. In addition to books related to his own family history, Geoff has published “Manorial Records for Family Historians” (Unlock the Past, 2017); “The Akehurst Wills of East Sussex” in 2018 in association with the Akehurst one-name study group; “The Ashdown Wills of East Sussex” and “The Latter Wills of East Sussex” both in 2020.

Geoff is also a long-time member of the Sussex Family History Group and a supporter of their Wills Depository project which has over 13,000 Sussex wills transcribed.



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The Ashdown Wills of East Sussex (1578-1858)

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Dedicated to the memory of

Ann Ashdowne of Rotherfield and
John Ashdowne of Rotherfield

who were burnt at the stake at Lewes for their protestant beliefs
during the reign of “Bloody Mary”, Mary I (1553-1558).



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Introduction

This book assembles together all the known wills of the Ashdown families of East Sussex before 1858, after which the Church of England probate courts were replaced by the Principal Probate Registry. It cannot be guaranteed that this is the complete set and future revised editions will be needed to incorporate new discoveries, including non-Ashdown wills that contain valuable Ashdown information.

These wills have enabled many of the Ashdown family trees in Sussex to be verified and further developed. Each will in this book includes a family tree which places the will in context and highlights how other wills are connected. The trees are based on many years of research using primarily the Sussex Family History Group baptisms, marriages and burials indexes and are also based on the information gleaned from the Ashdown wills. I hope that the wills and family trees published here will at least provide a basis for moving forward in our understanding of the Ashdown families in Sussex.

The book also provides three indexes which offer great value to Ashdown researchers. The indexes are:

1. Wills by location.
2. Index of names occurring in the wills and in associated documents relevant to that will. These additional documents have generally been found by searching the ESRO on-line catalogue which often provides a detailed summary of the document's contents including names, dates and places.
3. Index of locations, local place names and properties mentioned in the wills and in associated documents.

Many of the Ashdown family trees identified in this document remain "islands" waiting to be connected into a bigger structure. For this to happen, work needs move on from the wills and parish registers to other areas such as the history of Ashdown property ownership, poor law records, and manorial records where they exist. This may enable the gaps between some of the "islands" to be bridged.

There are many problems constructing Ashdown family trees using just the parish registers. East Sussex was rife with non-conformism and one cannot rely just on baptisms, marriages and burials within the Anglican church for a complete picture. Also, some parish registers may have sections missing or damaged and it is important to be aware of these gaps. People movement between Sussex and Kent also complicates the research process.

Many Ashdown researchers have fallen into the trap of accepting an ancestor in their tree simply because "he/she is the only one that fits". The result has been the spread of many erroneous trees and it is hoped that publishing this book will make it easier for family trees to be debated and verified which hopefully will eliminate some of these errors. Despite the many Ashdown "brick walls" there is reason to remain positive as information does come along from time to time which provides clarity. Sources such as poor law records or other people's wills which mention Ashdown's as beneficiaries can provide vital information.

The author wishes to acknowledge the work done by Claire Wickens whose expertise enabled the transcription of the most of the early Ashdown wills, and also Rosie Ansell, long time project coordinator the Sussex Family History Group Wills Depository project, for her direction in

locating many of the wills. All the Ashdown wills in this book have now been contributed to the Wills Depository.

Conventions

The following conventions are used throughout this book:

1. The dates shown in the will titles are the probate dates, not the date the will was made (unless there is no probate date). To remove confusion, the year between 1st January and 25th March is written as, for example, 1592/93 wherever possible. Some historians want to leave it as written in the original document (e.g. 1592) and others (in the ESRO catalogue for example) write it as we would today; 1593.
2. In the indexes, all variants of the name Ashdown have been standardised to “Ashdown” to simplify use of the index. The original spelling of surnames is retained in the will transcriptions.
3. The family trees only show the year of events such as baptisms, marriages and deaths/burials. This has been done to simplify the appearance of the tree so the relationship between the people who left wills/admons is more clearly seen. The author is happy to provide charts with full dates for anyone interested (see contact details inside front page). Information concerning any errors or new evidence affecting family tree structures would be welcomed.
4. Abbreviations:
 - Admons: Letters of Administration
 - ESRO: East Sussex Record Office
 - PCC: Prerogative Court of Canterbury
 - SFHG: Sussex Family History Group
 - TNA: The National Archives
 - CHS: Cheshire
 - DOR: Dorset
 - HAM: Hampshire
 - KEN: Kent
 - LAN: Lancashire
 - LND: London
 - MDX: Middlesex
 - SSX: Sussex
 - SRY: Surrey
 - VIC: Victoria (Australia)
 - NSW: New South Wales (Australia)
 - PA: Pennsylvania
 - USA: United States of America
 - b. born
 - bap. baptised
 - m. married
 - mlic. marriage licence
 - d. died
 - bur. Buried

MI Monumental Inscription
pr. probate

5. Symbols used in the transcriptions:
// Page break in the original
[] Transcriber's note or addition
{ } Unclear or illegible text

Geoffrey Barber
October 2020

Chapter 1 - The Ashdown Martyrs of Rotherfield

I became aware of the Ashdown Sussex martyrs when researching my paternal line in Rotherfield, Sussex. On 22 June 1557 “Ashdon’s wife” of Rotherfield, later said to be Ann Ashdowne, was burnt at the stake at Lewes for heresy, along with nine other people. Shortly after, John Ashdowne of Rotherfield, possibly her husband, suffered the same fate.

My study of the Rotherfield manorial records, in search of my own ancestors, had given me an appreciation for the sense of community within the manor and I began to imagine the impact this traumatic event would have had on the people in the village, many of who would have been neighbours and friends of the Ashdown families. For those of us who take an interest in Rotherfield local history, these events and the Ashdown name are not forgotten.

The story of the Rotherfield martyrs is best told in Catharine Pullein’s book “Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors” published in 1928 (Chapter XXIII – The Marian Persecution in Rotherfield). Pullein’s research into the manorial records for Rotherfield added some clarity to the little information that is known about them. The broader story of the Sussex Martyrs is told in “Sussex Martyrs of the Reformation” by Edward T. Stoneham (fourth edition, 1983).

Unfortunately, constructing family trees for the Ashdowns of Rotherfield in the 16th century is difficult. There are a number of Ashdown family lines and it is not clear how they are related. The wills in this book have enabled some of the families to be assembled for this period, but the picture is still quite confused.

Chapter 2 - The Ashdown Family Trees

This section presents the main family trees associated with the Ashdown wills. The people who left wills/admons are highlighted in each tree which then form a visual index for related wills. These trees are an important part of this book and are the product of many years of research and analysis of parish registers (mostly the SFHG indexes), census records, miscellaneous documents and, of course, the Ashdown wills. All places are in Sussex except where shown.

It is not possible to put together a single, large Ashdown family tree (far from it!) and the trees presented below are just pieces in the overall jigsaw. In addition to these trees there are many smaller family clusters presented in this book which have been left attached to their relevant wills. It is possible that further research will enable some of these to be attached to the larger trees in the future.

Tree 1. Ashdowns of Waldron, Chiddingly and Hellingly (1700s-1800s)

My desire to transcribe all the Ashdown wills of Sussex pre-1858 was driven by the fact that I have Ashdowns in my family tree and this is it!

This tree links many families living today in England, United States, South America and Australia. It is particularly notable because of Alice Hook (nee Ashdown, 1812-1908) and her brother Richard Ashdown (1813-1902) who converted to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints while living in Sussex and emigrated to Utah in the USA in 1860 and 1861 respectively, where there are many, many of their descendants today.

Richard's obituary published in the Davis County Clipper on 3 Oct 1902 reads:

OBITUARY: Davis County Clipper, 3 October 1902

Richard Ashdown, sen. died of old age at his home in East Bountiful, Saturday, Sept. 27th, at 4 p.m., at the ripe old age of 88 years, 9 months and 25 days. Deceased was born at Uckfield, Essuck [sic] Co, England. Dec 2, 1813.

He became acquainted with the elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the fifties and was ready for baptism upon first hearing the gospel and immediately became an active member in spreading the gospel. He presided over the branch where he lived until 1861, when he emigrated to Utah and settled in Salt Lake City; later he moved to Bountiful where he remained until his death. In the year 1870, during the new move of the Godbyites, he became desirous of finding out something about them and, being deaf, he became a subscriber to the Tribune as that paper advocated their doctrine and the same year he was excommunicated from the church for refusing to give up the paper but he never became identified with the Godbyites.

Funeral services were held in the East ward tabernacle, Tuesday, Sept. 30th at 10 a.m. Consoling remarks were made by James Burningham, Alfred Burningham, C.R. Jones, John Fisher, Judson Tolman, E.L. Hook. All testified to his good character. His testimony to the last was that the gospel is true and that through this church is the only gateway into the kingdom of God.

Richard's brother William emigrated to New South Wales, Australia in 1838 with his wife Jemima and three children, living in the country town of Tumut.

Also of interest is the emigration of Jane Burt to Brazil in 1850. Jane's mother was Alice Ashdown (1792-1854), an aunt to the above Richard, Alice and William. Known as Eugenia in Brazil, she she married James Chaplin in 1851, who she likely met on the ship, and founded a large family of descendants living there today. One of those, Angelo Figurelli, is responsible for the good work in putting together that part of the family tree.

The family appears to have a history of religious non-conformity in East Sussex. For example, baptisms have been recorded at the Heathfield Independent Chapel which was Independent Congregational (built 1769) and the Hellingly Burlow chapel which was Independent Calvinist.

For those researching this family tree I have made the following discussion notes:

Firstly, there is confusion in identifying the parents of the William Ashdown who married Ann Smith in 1774 at Chiddingly. There are two possible candidates for William's baptism:

1. 28 February 1746/47 at Hellingly, son of William Ashdown and Elizabeth (maiden name unknown).
2. 2 March 1746/47 at Mayfield, son of William Ashdown and Mary Pratt (this William had a twin sister Mary).

I believe the Hellingly baptism is probably the correct one as he married at Chiddingly and later lived at Hellingly (refer his will made 1825 and proved 1830). His children were baptised at Heathfield Independent Church but they mostly give their place of birth as Chiddingly in the 1851 census. I believe this might be because where they lived in the parish of Hellingly was a small hamlet called Burlow which is almost equidistant to the villages of Chiddingly and Hellingly. Their connection to Chiddingly was probably stronger because that is where William married in 1774.

So their closeness to Hellingly (which is much closer to where William married and had his family than is Mayfield) leads me to favour William's parents being William Ashdown and Elizabeth of Hellingly and not William Ashdown and Mary Pratt of Mayfield.

Secondly, focussing now on the parents, William Ashdown and Elizabeth:

The Sussex Marriage Index only has one marriage for a William Ashdown between 1714 and 1776, and that is William Ashdown & Mary Pratt at Mayfield in 1746. However, we know there must have been other married couples:

1. William Ashdown & Elizabeth had a son William baptised at Hellingly in 1746/47 but no others found.
2. William Ashdown & Ann had a daughter Ann baptised at Waldron in 1749 but no others found.

These marriages may have occurred outside the county or may simply be missing from the parish registers. Could the above two couples be for the same William? Did Elizabeth die and he then remarried Ann? Some thirty years later there is a burial of an Ann Ashdown, "wife of William" at Chiddingly on 5 Aug 1781 and a burial for a William Ashdown at Chiddingly in 1782. This is believed to be the couple that had the child Ann baptised at Waldron in 1749. (There is a marriage of a William Ashdown and Ann Smith at Chiddingly on 18 May 1774, "both of this parish", but they were having children baptised well after 1781 so the burials are not for them).

In the tree below it has been assumed that the Elizabeth above did die (although no burial has been found) and that William remarried Ann. I realise there is very little proof for this, but it is a possibility and it keeps the information in the tree.

Thirdly, the tree below begins with William Ashdown, born c1686 who married Elizabeth Dickson in 1714 at East Hoathly. The only possibility from the SFHG Baptisms Index is: William Ashdown bap. 1696 at Rotherfield son of William Ashdown and Jane Moone, who married in 1692 at Wadhurst, but we don't have any proof (yet) that this is the one. Having just one candidate in an index is not sufficient proof given we know from tracking the family members identified in wills that the parish records can be missing many people. Also, to accept this 1696 baptism would mean the age on his burial record is out by 8 years. Although ages on burials are known to be inaccurate it does create some doubt.

[There is another candidate William Ashdown baptism on 17 Apr 1687 at Rotherfield, son of John and Anne Ashdowne, but there is also a burial in Rotherfield on 19 Apr 1692 of William Ashdown, "son of John senior" which would appear to discount this.] So in summary, I do not feel there is sufficient information to take the tree back further at this stage.

I would appreciate hearing from other researchers regarding the above analysis. We should be on the lookout for DNA matches between people where the most recent common ancestors (MRCA) are William Ashdown and Elizabeth Dickson, although this will be a rare occurrence given that their marriage was in 1714. I personally have many [surprisingly strong] DNA matches where the MRCA are William Ashdown and Ann Smith, married 1774, so there is hope. We will only find this out though if everyone who has tested in Ancestry.com creates a public family tree and links it to their DNA results!

All places are in Sussex except where shown. The people who left wills/admons are highlighted.

William Ashdown, b. c1686, bur. 1768 at Waldron

+ **Elizabeth Dickson**, b. c1693, m. 1714 at East Hoathly, bur. 1744 at Waldron

— **John Ashdown**, bap. 1718 at Arlington, bur. 1747 at Waldron

+ **Sarah Clarke**, m. 1739 at Laughton, bur. 1792 at Waldron

— **William Ashdown**, bap. 1740 at Waldron

— **Joan Ashdown**, bap. 1741 at Waldron

— **James Ashdown**, bap. 1743 at Waldron

— **Thomas Ashdown**, bap. 1745 at Waldron

— **Sarah Ashdown**, bap. 1748 at Waldron

— **William Ashdown**, bap. 1720 at Hellingly, bur. 1782 at Chiddingly

+ **Elizabeth (--?--)**, b. c1725, m. c1746

— **William Ashdown**, bap. 1747 at Hellingly, bur. 1830 at Heathfield, pro. 1830

+ **Ann Smith**, bap. 1750 at Hellingly, m. 1774 at Chiddingly, bur. 1831 at Heathfield

— **Alice Ashdown**, b. 1792 at Chiddingly, bur. 1854 at Hellingly

+ **Isaac Burt**, bap. 1787 at Mayfield, m. 1815 at Hellingly, bur. 1867 at Hellingly

— **Lucy Burt**, b. 1815 at Hellingly, bur. 1816 at Hellingly

— **Isaac Alfred Burt**, b. 1818

+ **Harriet Noakes**, b. c1830, m. 1852 at Lewes

— **Sarah Burt**, b. c1819 at Hellingly, bur. 1895 at Alciston

+ **Charles Bedwell**, b. 1812 at Alciston, m. 1843 at Iford, bur. 1879 at Alciston

— **Charles Bedwell**, b. c1843 at Alciston, bur. 1872 at Little Horsted

— **Eli Bedwell**, b. 1845 at Iford

— **Naomi Alice Bedwell**, b. 1851 at Iford

— **Isaac Bedwell**, b. 1854 at Iford

— **Elizabeth Burt**, b. c1821, bur. 1848 at West Firle

+ **Thomas Taylor**, bap. 1814 at West Firle, m. 1841 at Lewes

— **Sarah Taylor**, b. 1841 at West Firle

— **George Taylor**, b. 1843 at West Firle

— **Moses Taylor**, b. 1846 at West Firle, bur. after 1928 at Brighton

— **Harriet Burt**, b. c1823 at Hellingly, bur. 1856 at Hellingly

+ **George Horton**, b. c1826 at Hellingly, m. 1849 at Hellingly

— **William Horton**, b. c1849 at Hellingly

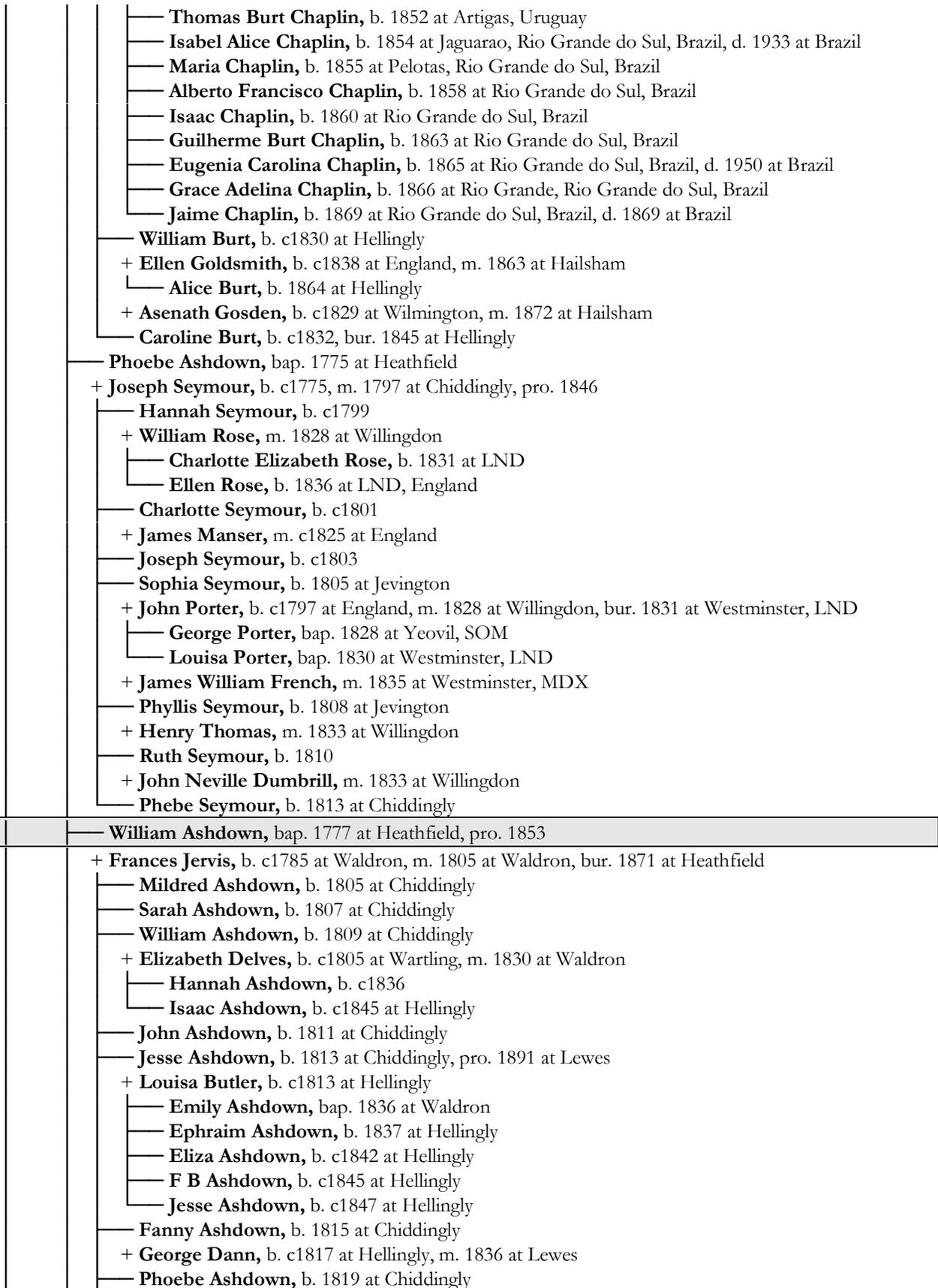
— **George Horton**, b. c1853 at Hellingly

— **Thomas Isaac Horton**, bap. 1856 at Hellingly

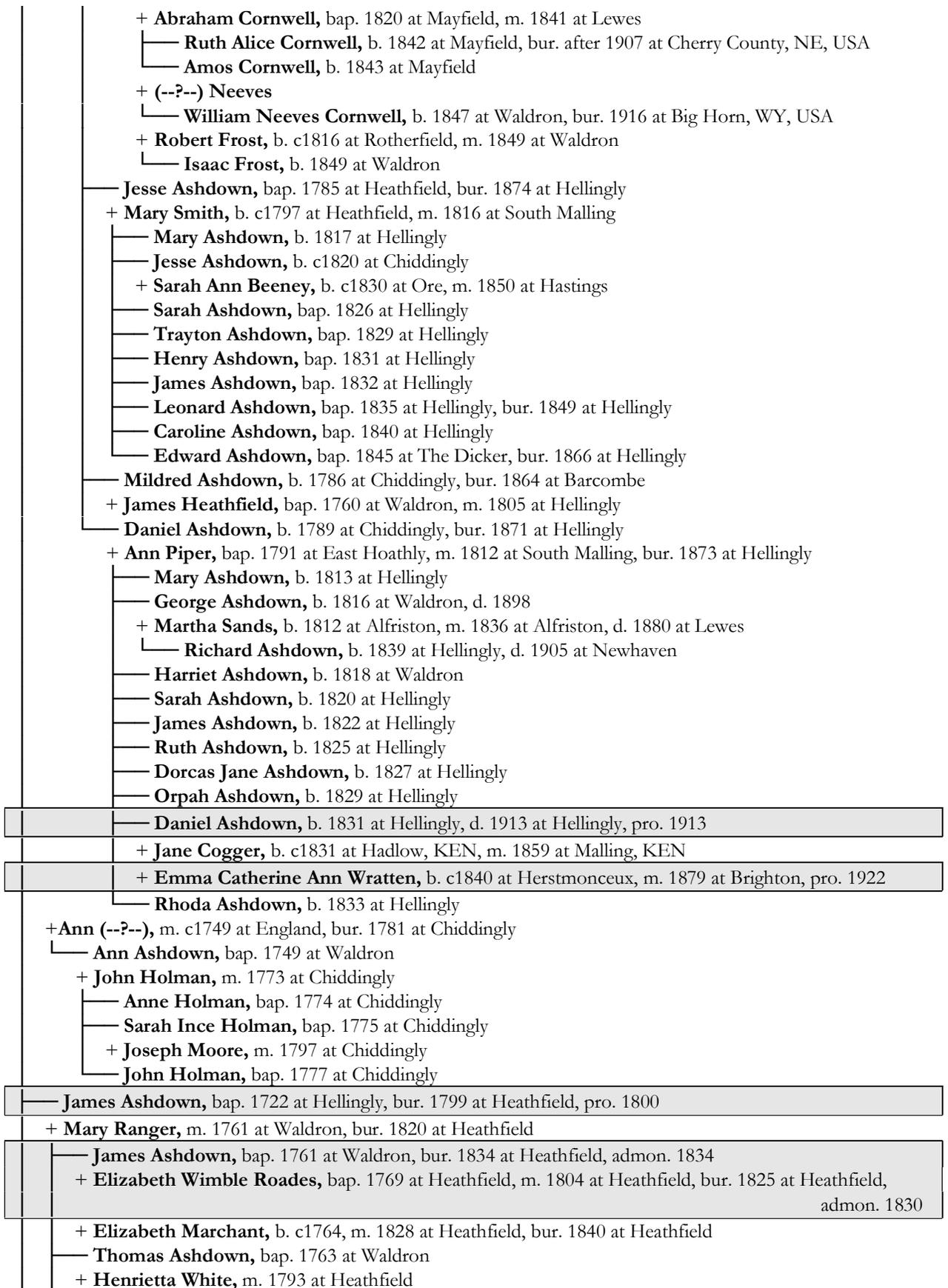
— **Jane Burt**, b. c1827 at Hellingly

+ **James Boyes Brownsmith Chaplin**, b. 1823 at Saussey, Manche, France,

m. 1851 at Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, d. 1900 at Brazil



- + **John Cane**, b. c1820, m. 1846 at Hailsham
- **Martha Ashdown**, b. 1821 at Chiddingly
- + **Luke Bennett**, b. c1809 at Hellingly, m. 1842 at Hailsham
- **David Ashdown**, b. 1827 at Chiddingly
- + **Mary Piper**, b. c1826 at Waldron, m. c1850
 - **Jabez Ashdown**, b. 1851 at Chiddingly
 - **William Ashdown**, b. 1853 at Hellingly
- **Abigail Ashdown**, bap. 1779 at Heathfield, bur. 1816 at Chiddingly
- + **Thomas Barnes**, b. c1775, m. 1799 at Waldron
 - **Thomas Barnes**, bap. 1800 at Waldron
 - **Elizabeth Ann Barnes**, bap. 1801 at Waldron
 - + **Matthew Funnell**, b. c1802 at Chiddingly, m. 1821 at Hellingly
 - **Isaac Barnes**, b. 1803 at Waldron
 - **Hannah Barnes**, b. 1805 at Waldron
 - **Daniel Barnes**, b. 1811 at Chiddingly
 - **Ruth Barnes**, b. 1815 at Chiddingly
- **Emma Ashdown**, bap. 1781 at Heathfield, bur. 1861 at Chiddingly
- + **Richard Haiselden**, b. c1779 at Chiddingly, m. 1800 at Chiddingly, bur. 1858 at Chiddingly
- **James Ashdown**, bap. 1783 at Heathfield, bur. 1851 at Waldron
- + **Mary Briant**, bap. 1787 at Ninfield, m. 1806 at Hollington
 - **William Ashdown**, b. 1808 at Waldron, d. 1884 at Tumut, NSW, Australia
 - + **Jemima Baker**, b. 1808, m. 1833 at Heathfield, d. c1839 at Tumut, NSW, Australia
 - **Isabel Ashdown**, bap. 1834 at Waldron, d. 1906 at Tumut, NSW, Australia
 - + **Abraham Anderson**, b. c1835 at Tonbridge, KEN, m. c1855 at NSW, Australia, d. 1924
 - **Edwin Ashdown**, bap. 1835 at Waldron
 - **Owen Ashdown**, bap. 1838 at Hadlow Down
 - **Mary Ashdown**, bap. 1809 at Waldron
 - **Alice Ashdown**, b. 1812 at Waldron
 - + **George Saunders**, b. 1812 at Waldron
 - **Demus Ashdown**, b. 1834 at Waldron
 - + **Richard Hook**, bap. 1800 at Waldron, m. 1836 at Herstmonceux
 - **Forster Thomas Hook**, bap. 1836 at Waldron
 - **Alice Hook**, bap. 1838 at Waldron
 - **Lillias Hook**, b. 1840 at Waldron
 - **Ellen Hook**, b. 1842 at Waldron, bur. after 1919 at Bountiful, UT, USA
 - **Albert Hook**, bap. 1843 at Waldron, bur. 1843 at Waldron
 - **Louis Hook**, b. 1845 at Waldron
 - **Lois Hook**, b. 1848 at Waldron
 - **Peter Hook**, b. 1850 at Waldron
 - **David Hook**, bap. 1851 at Waldron, bur. 1852 at Waldron
 - **Richard Ashdown**, b. 1813 at Uckfield, bur. 1902 at Bountiful, UT, USA
 - + **Ann Burgess**, b. 1821 at Waldron, m. 1841 at Lewes
 - **Harriet Ashdown**, b. 1842 at Waldron
 - **William Ashdown**, b. 1844 at Waldron
 - **Richard Ashdown**, b. 1846 at Waldron
 - **Fanny Ashdown**, b. 1848 at Waldron
 - **Mary Ann Ashdown**, b. 1852 at Willenhall, WAR
 - **Martha Ashdown**, b. 1855 at Brighton
 - **Benjamin James Ashdown**, b. 1858 at Brighton
 - **Rebecca Ashdown**, b. 1818 at Mayfield
 - + **John Albert Fenner**, m. 1840 at Waldron
 - **Sarah Jane Antoinette Fenner**, b. 1859 at Pluckamin, NJ, USA
 - **Dinah Ashdown**, b. 1821 at Waldron



- **Mary Ashdown**, bap. 1765 at Waldron
- + **William Gilbert**, m. 1789 at Waldron
- **Ann Ashdown**, bap. 1767 at Waldron
- **Sarah Ashdown**, bap. 1769 at Waldron
- + **John Hugget**, m. 1792 at Heathfield
- **Elizabeth Ashdown**, bap. 1772 at Waldron
- + **John Russell**, m. 1796 at Heathfield
- **William Ashdown**, bap. 1774 at Waldron
- **Martha Ashdown**, bap. 1776 at Waldron
- + **James Haffenden**, m. 1798 at Heathfield
- **George Ashdown**, bap. 1778 at Waldron, d. 1853
- + **Sarah Eastwood**, bap. 1782 at Burwash, m. 1803 at Heathfield
- **Frances Ashdown**, b. c1782
- + **Thomas Knight**, m. 1815 at Tonbridge, KEN
- **Thomas Ashdown**, bap. 1727 at Waldron
- + **Sarah Diplock**, m. 1753 at Waldron

Tree 2. Ashdown & Ovendens of Rotherfield c1600/1700s

A feature of this tree is the degree of intermarriage between the Ashdown and Ovenden families at Rotherfield in the early 1700s.

Tree 2 and Tree 3 are connected but have been kept separate for clarity (otherwise it would make a very large tree). It is interesting to note that the property “Jackhodes” is mentioned in the will of William Ashdown, proved 1737, (see Tree 2) and that the Rotherfield manorial records show the previous owner as John Elliott, father-in-law of John Ashdown who married Ann Elliott in 1672 (see Tree 3). William Ashdown (a nephew of John Ashdown and Ann Elliott) purchased it from the estate of John Elliott (who directed all his properties be sold in his will) rather than inherited, and this is another example showing that the sale of property within extended families was very common. For more information about Jackhodes, see the discussion under “Will of William Ashdowne the elder, Yeoman of Rotherfield, 1737” in Chapter 3.

This tree connects to the WAITE family at Leigh, Kent which has been extensively researched and published on website: www.nynne.org (if not accessible for whatever reason, archived copies can be accessed at The Internet Archive www.archive.org using their Wayback machine)

All places in the family tree below are in Sussex except where shown. The people who left wills/admons are highlighted.

John Ashdown, b. c1570

+ **Elizabeth Symons**, m. 1594 at Rotherfield

└─ **John Ashdown**, bap. 1595 at Rotherfield [*John's father is identified as John on baptism but mother Elizabeth is speculated*]

+ **Charity Sawyer**, m. 1618 at Mayfield

└─ **John Ashdown**, bap. 1619 at Mayfield [*Go to Tree 3 for John Ashdown and Millicent Morley*]

+ **Millicent Morley**, m. 1644 at Rotherfield, bur. 1682 at Rotherfield

└─ **Charity Ashdown**, bap. 1621 at Rotherfield

└─ **Agnes Ashdown**, bap. 1623 at Rotherfield, bur. 1623 at Rotherfield

└─ **William Ashdown**, bap. 1624 at Rotherfield, bur. 1706 at Rotherfield

+ **Mary Mercer**, m. 1659 at Tonbridge, KEN

└─ **John Ashdown**, bap. 1664 at Rotherfield, bur. 1665 at Rotherfield

└─ **William Ashdown**, bap. 1666 at Rotherfield, bur. 1737 at Rotherfield, pro. 1737 [*of Jackhodes*]

+ **Jane Moone**, bap. 1672/73 at Frant, m. 1692 at Wadhurst, bur. 1754 at Rotherfield

└─ **Anne Ashdown**, bap. 1693 at Rotherfield

+ **John Everden**, m. 1733 at Glynde

└─ **Mary Ashdown**, bap. 1694 at Rotherfield

+ **Anthony Taylor**, m. 1727 at Ashurst, KEN, bur. 1734 at Frant

└─ **Mary Taylor**, bap. 1728 at Frant

└─ **Elizabeth Taylor**, bap. 1729 at Frant

+ **William Roberts**, m. 1751 at Pembury, KEN

└─ **William Ashdown**, bap. 1696 at Rotherfield

└─ **Jane Ashdown**, bap. 1698 at Rotherfield

+ **George Hutchinson**, m. 1731 at Withyham

└─ **John Ashdown**, bap. 1700 at Rotherfield, bur. 1766 at Rotherfield, pro. 1766

+ **Mary Ovenden**, m. 1729 at Withyham, bur. 1745 at Rotherfield

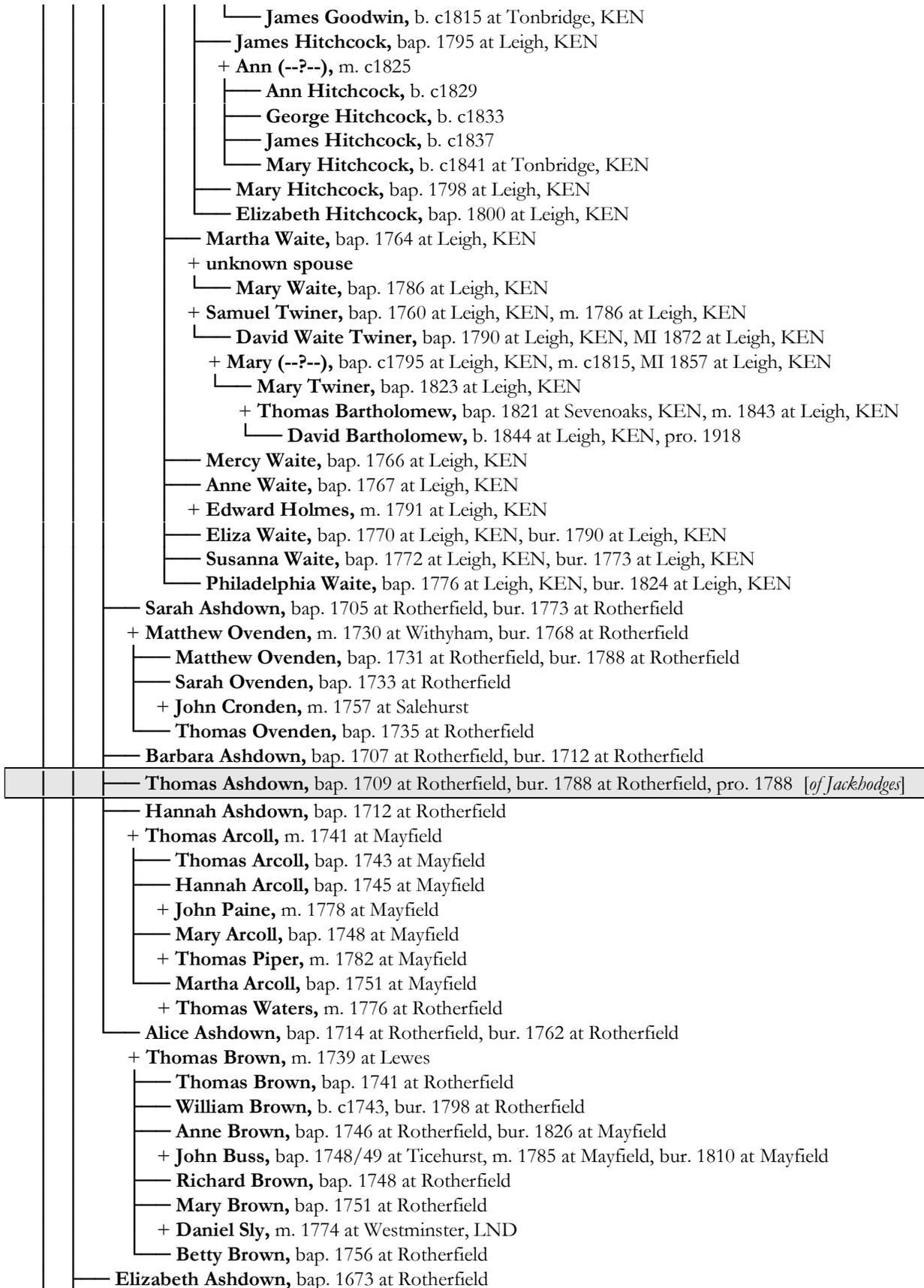
└─ **William Ashdown**, bap. 1731 at Rotherfield, bur. 1749 at Rotherfield

└─ **John Ashdown**, bap. 1734 at Rotherfield, bur. 1809 at Withyham

+ **Elizabeth Richardson**, m. 1758 at Rotherfield

Withyham

- Elizabeth Ashdown, bap. 1759 at Rotherfield
- + Robert Pawley, m. 1785 at Withyham
- Thomas Ashdown, bap. 1761 at Rotherfield, bur. 1761 at Rotherfield
- John Ashdown, bap. 1762 at Rotherfield, bur. 1762 at Rotherfield
- Hannah Ashdown, bap. 1763 at Rotherfield, bur. 1832 at Alfriston
- + unknown spouse
 - Thomas Ashdown, bap. 1786 at Rotherfield [*illegitimate*], bur. 1857 at Withyham
 - + Elizabeth Waters, b. c1789 at Withyham, m. 1809 at Withyham, bur. 1859 at
- John Ashdown, bap. 1809 at Withyham
- Elizabeth Ashdown, bap. 1811 at Withyham
- Sophia Ashdown, bap. 1814 at Withyham
- Thomas Ashdown, bap. 1816 at Withyham, bur. 1893 at Withyham
- Harriet Ashdown, bap. 1818 at Withyham
- George Ashdown, bap. 1819 at Withyham
- + Isabella Balcomb, bap. 1820 at Withyham, m. 1845 at East Grinstead
- Jasper Ashdown, bap. 1821 at Withyham
- + John Coats, m. 1789 at Withyham
- Ann Ashdown, bap. 1766 at Withyham
- + George Holmes, m. 1785 at Hartfield
- Sarah Ashdown, bap. 1768 at Withyham, bur. 1802 at Rotherfield
- + unknown spouse
 - Sarah Ashdown, bap. 1793 at Withyham [*illegitimate*]
- Philadelphia Ashdown, bap. 1770 at Withyham, bur. 1770 at Rotherfield
- Mary Ashdown, bap. 1771 at Withyham
- + James Peerless, m. 1806 at Withyham
- Sophia Ashdown, bap. 1778 at Withyham, bur. 1810 at Withyham
- + Emmeline Taylor, m. 1745 at Withyham, bur. 1768 at Rotherfield
- Elizabeth Ashdown, bap. 1702 at Rotherfield
- + Thomas Ovenden, b. c1705, m. 1731 at Frant
 - Mary Ovenden, bap. 1733 at Rotherfield, bur. 1815 at Leigh, KEN, MI at Leigh, KEN
- + Edward Waite, bap. 1733 at Leigh, KEN, m. 1760 at Wadhurst, bur. 1795 at Leigh, KEN
- Thomas Waite, bap. 1761 at Wadhurst, bur. 1784 at Leigh, KEN
- Mary Waite, bap. 1762 at Leigh, KEN
- + William Hitchcock, bap. 1764 at Tonbridge, KEN, m. 1786 at Leigh, KEN
 - Thomas Hitchcock, bap. 1786 at Leigh, KEN
 - + Susanna (--?--), b. c1785 at Leigh, KEN, m. c1807
 - Thomas Hitchcock, bap. 1808 at Leigh, KEN
 - Ann Hitchcock, bap. 1809 at Tonbridge, KEN
 - William Hitchcock, bap. 1811 at Tonbridge, KEN
 - Mary Hitchcock, bap. 1815 at Leigh, KEN
 - Elizabeth Hitchcock, bap. 1817 at Leigh, KEN
 - William Hitchcock, bap. 1790 at Tonbridge, KEN
 - + Elizabeth Rosar, b. c1800 at East Grinstead, m. 1821 at Tonbridge, KEN
 - Edward Hitchcock, bap. 1822 at Leigh, KEN
 - William Hitchcock, bap. 1825 at Leigh, KEN
 - Mary Hitchcock, bap. 1828 at Leigh, KEN
 - Jane Hitchcock, bap. 1832 at Leigh, KEN
 - Sarah Hitchcock, bap. 1834 at Leigh, KEN
 - Stephen Hitchcock, bap. 1837 at Leigh, KEN
 - Esther Hitchcock, bap. 1842 at Leigh, KEN
 - Ann Hitchcock, bap. 1793 at Tonbridge, KEN
 - + Richard Goodwin, b. c1792 at Tonbridge, KEN, m. c1814



- + **William Farrant**, m. 1696 at Lewes
- **John Ashdown**, bap. 1676 at Rotherfield
- **Alice Ashdown**, bap. 1627 at Rotherfield
- + **Nicholas Wickenden**, m. 1652 at Rotherfield [*Nicholas of Leigh, KEN*]
- **Dorothy Ashdown**, bap. 1632 at Rotherfield
- **Joan Ashdown**, bap. 1638 at Rotherfield
- + **Henry Dennes**, m. 1670 at Rotherfield [*Henry of Hadlow, KEN*]

Tree 3. Ashdown, Morley & Elliotts of Rotherfield (c1620-)

This is a branch of the Ashdown family in Tree 2 which has been separated for clarity. This tree has an interesting connection to high status families in Sussex through the marriage of John Ashdown and Ann Elliott in 1672. The Elliott's have connections through marriage to the Fermor family of Walshes Manor at Rotherfield and the Newington's, a gentry family in the Ticehurst/Burwash area. It may be an indication that this Ashdown family (and the earlier generations in Tree 2.) were considered to be reasonably prosperous.

All places are in Sussex except where shown. The people who left wills/admons are highlighted.

[*this is a continuation from Tree 2.*]

John Ashdown, bap. 1619 at Mayfield

+ **Millicent Morley**, m. 1644 at Rotherfield, bur. 1682 at Rotherfield

— **John Ashdown**, bap. 1645 at Rotherfield, bur. 1645 at Rotherfield

— **John Ashdown**, bap. 1646 at Rotherfield

+ **Ann Elliott**, bap. 1650 at Rotherfield, m. 1672 at Withyham [*Anne's mother left a will, pro. 1700*]¹

— **John Ashdown**, bap. 1674 at Rotherfield

+ **Mary Parkes**, b. c1678 at Rotherfield, m. 1707 at Framfield

— **Christopher Ashdown**, bap. 1708 at Rotherfield

+ **Mary Gilbert**, b. c1710, m. 1732 at Little Horsted, bur. 1778 at East Grinstead

— **Mary Ashdown**, bap. 1732 at East Grinstead

— **Edward Ashdown**, bap. 1734 at East Grinstead

— **John Ashdown**, bap. 1736 at East Grinstead

— **Hannah Ashdown**, bap. 1743 at East Grinstead

— **Arthur Ashdown**, bap. 1711 at Rotherfield

— **Mary Ashdown**, bap. 1714 at Rotherfield

— **Alexander Ashdown**, bap. 1718 at Rotherfield

— **Hannah Ashdown**, bap. 1718 at Rotherfield, bur. 1721 at Rotherfield

— **Jane Ashdown**, bap. 1723 at Rotherfield

— **Alexander Ashdown**, bap. 1676 at Rotherfield, bur. 1754 at Mayfield

+ **Elizabeth Piper**, m. 1701 at Brede, bur. 1713 at Burwash

— **John Ashdown**, b. 1702 at Brede

— **Ann Ashdown**, bap. 1706 at Mayfield

— **Elizabeth Ashdown**, bap. 1708 at Mayfield, bur. 1786 at Mayfield

+ **Thomas Eastwood**, bap. 1706 at Mayfield, m. 1738 at Mayfield, bur. 1782 at Mayfield

+ **Ann Forster**, m. 1715 at Mountfield

— **Alexander Ashdown**, bap. 1716 at Burwash

+ **Katherine Eldridge**, m. 1743 at Mayfield

— **Alexander Ashdown**, bap. 1744 at Mayfield, bur. 1744 at Mayfield

— **Mary Ashdown**, bap. 1745 at Mayfield

— **William Ashdown**, bap. 1719 at Burwash, bur. 1799 at Waldron, pro. 1799

+ **Mary Pratt**, m. 1746 at Mayfield

— **Mary Ashdown**, b. 1747 at Mayfield

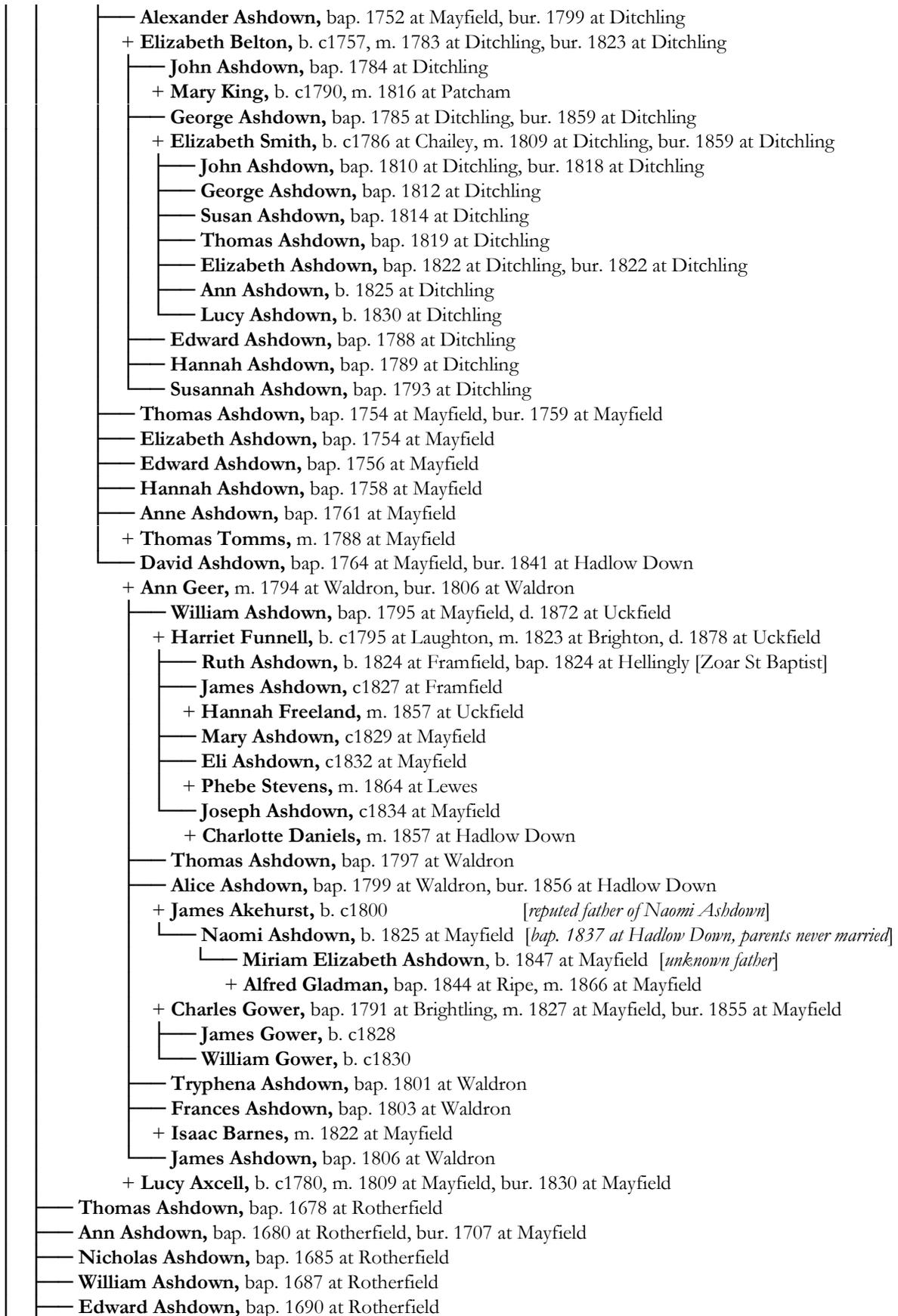
+ **John Jenner**, m. 1782 at Ditchling

— **William Ashdown**, b. 1747 at Mayfield

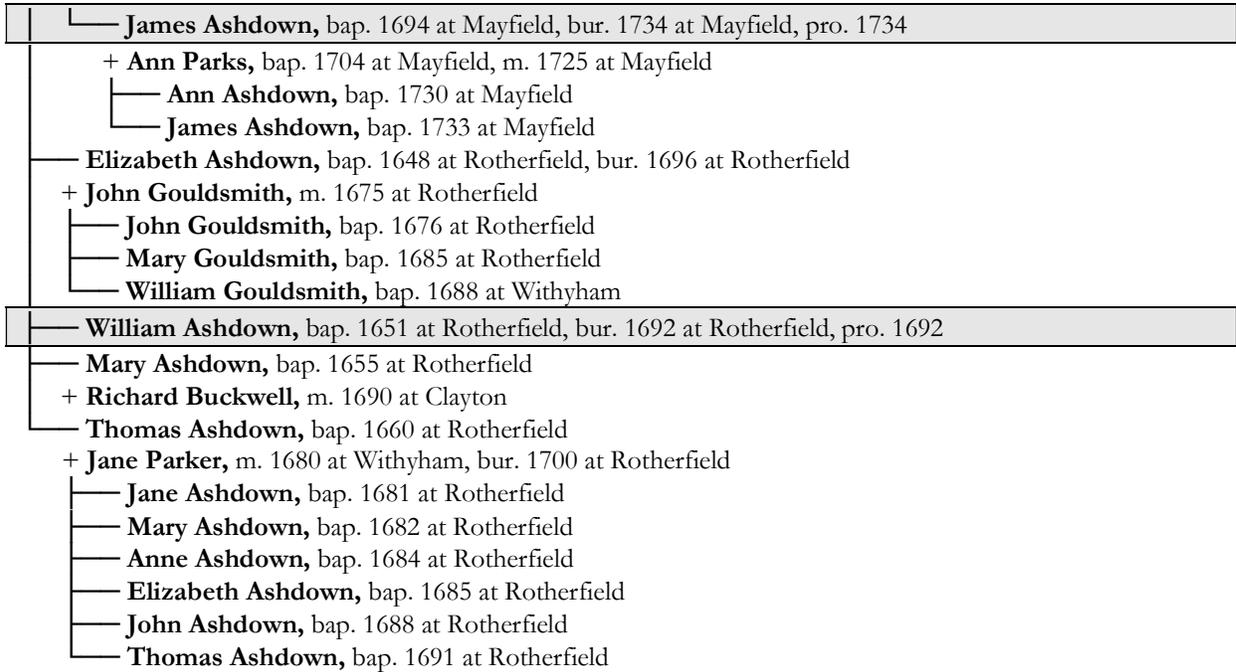
— **John Ashdown**, bap. 1749 at Mayfield, bur. 1752 at Mayfield

— **James Ashdown**, bap. 1750 at Mayfield

¹ See Will of Anne Elliott, Widow of Mayfield, 1699/1700 in Chapter 4.



- Thomas Ashdown, bap. 1678 at Rotherfield
- Ann Ashdown, bap. 1680 at Rotherfield, bur. 1707 at Mayfield
- Nicholas Ashdown, bap. 1685 at Rotherfield
- William Ashdown, bap. 1687 at Rotherfield
- Edward Ashdown, bap. 1690 at Rotherfield



Tree 4. Descendants of John Ashdown of Rotherfield, c1500s

This is the family tree associated with the Will of John Ashedowne, Yeoman of Rotherfield, 1578 (see Chapter 3, Will 1.) which cannot be connected to any others at this stage. It is hoped that further information about this tree will be found in the future.

John Ashdown's 1578 will indicates that his children Nicholas and Henry are under the age of 21 years, and Alice and Joan are under the age of 24 years. Baptisms have been found at Rotherfield for Henry (1569) and Joan (1567). Alice married Robert Alchorne in 1578 which indicates she was probably 18-20 years old, so she is assumed to have been born c1558. There is nothing to indicate when Nicholas was born, but the order in which he is mentioned in the will suggests he was older than Henry, so c1565 has been assumed.

The problem in this tree comes in identifying the sons George and John, who are of adult age in 1578 as indicated by the will. There is a gap in the Rotherfield baptisms 1555-1562 and experience also shows that many baptisms and burials are simply missing. There is a baptism for a George in 1544 however, but that is about 14 years before Alice was born. The question is whether he belongs to an earlier generation and our George's baptism is missing? Another possibility is that George and John resulted from an earlier marriage for the father John Ashdown. The tree has been left as shown, but needs to be treated with caution.

All places are in Sussex except where shown. The people who left wills/admons are highlighted.

John Ashdown, b. c1515, bur. 1578 at Rotherfield, pro. 1578

+ **Joan** (---?), b. c1520, m. c1543 at Rotherfield

— **George Ashdown**, bap. c1544/45 at Rotherfield

— **John Ashdown**, b. c1550

— **Alice Ashdown**, c1558

+ **Robert Alchorne**, bap. 1545 at Rotherfield, m. 1578 at Rotherfield, bur. 1615 at Rotherfield

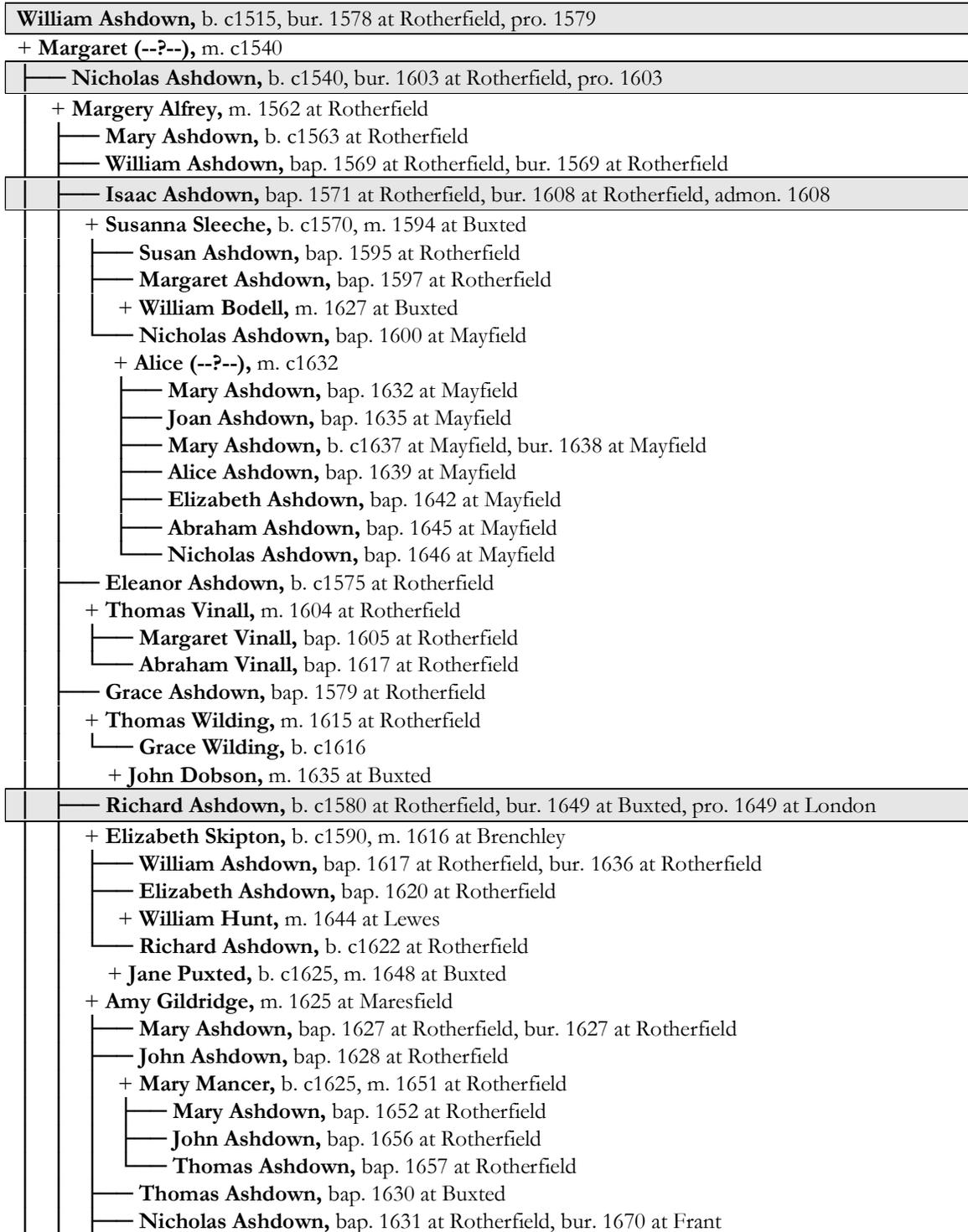
— **Nicholas Ashdown**, b. c1565

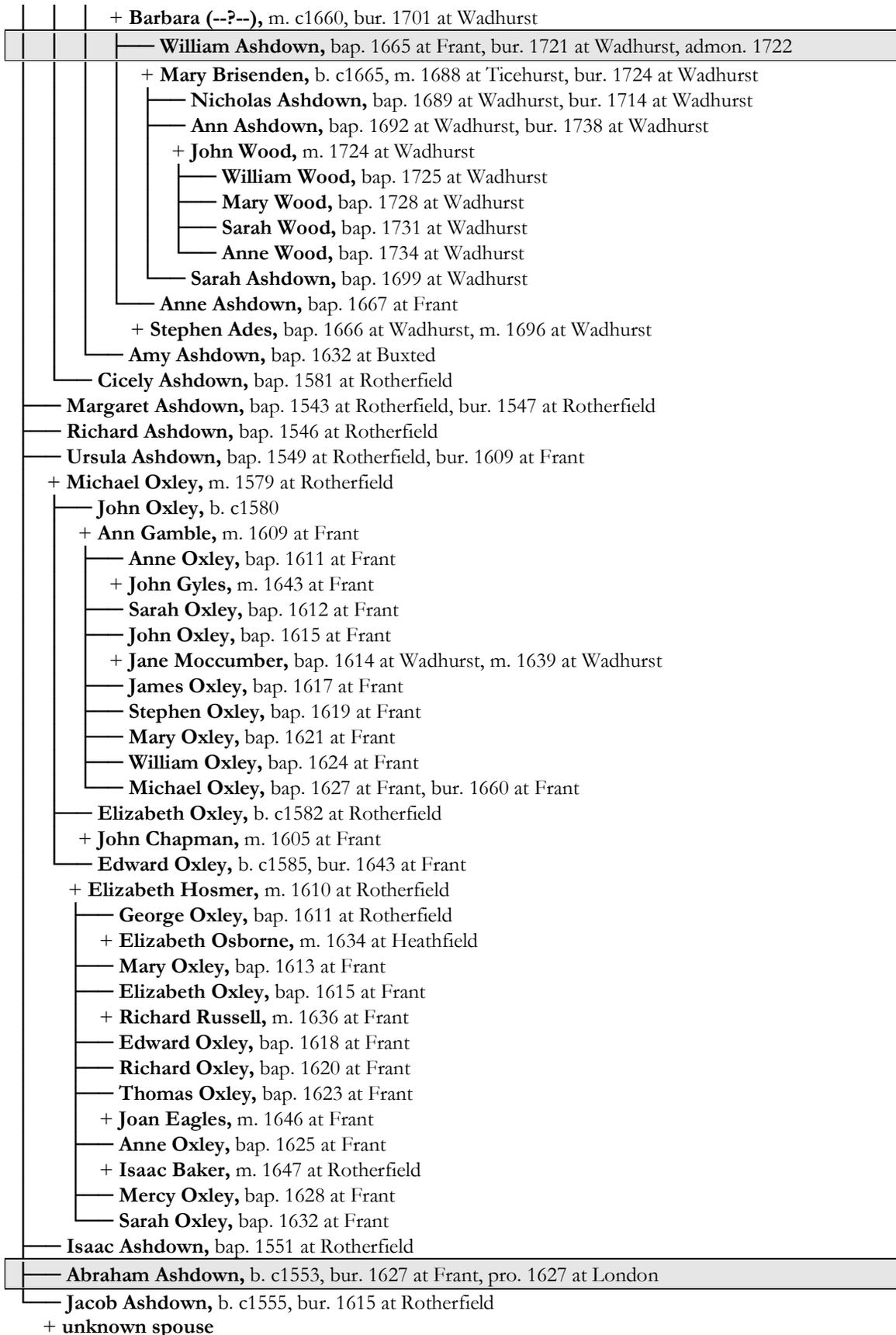
— **Joan Ashdown**, bap 1567 at Rotherfield

— **Henry Ashdown**, bap 1569 at Rotherfield

Tree 5. Descendants of William Ashdown of Rotherfield (c1520-1578)

This is one of a number of Ashdown family lines that appears in Rotherfield in the 1500s and early 1600s. All places are in Sussex except where shown. The people who left wills/admons are highlighted.





└ James Ashdown, b. c1590
+ Mercy Wood, b. c1600, m. 1627 at Frant

Tree 6. Descendants of Nicholas Ashdown of Eastbourne (-1638)

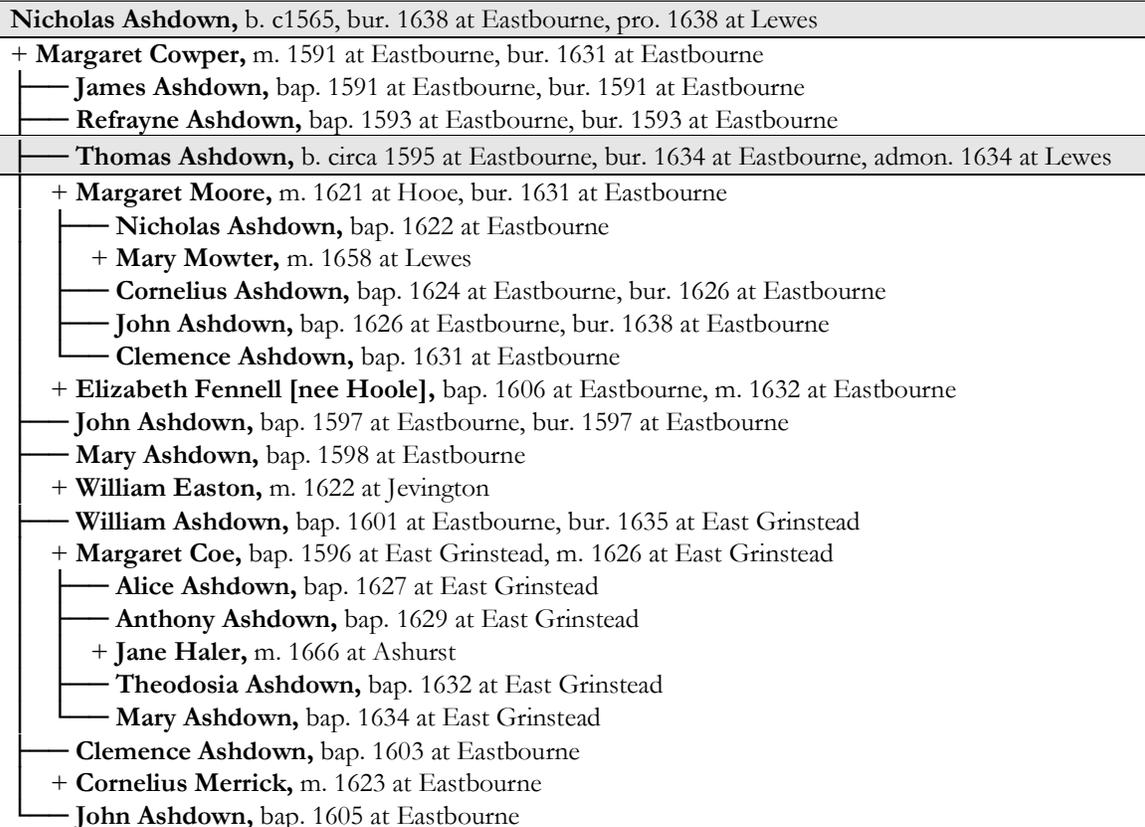
The best candidate that I have found for Nicholas Ashdown (-1638) is:

Nicholas Ashdown, born c1565 at Rotherfield, son of John Ashdown (c1515-1578).

If this was the case he would connect to Tree 4. “Descendants of John Ashdown of Rotherfield, c1500s”.

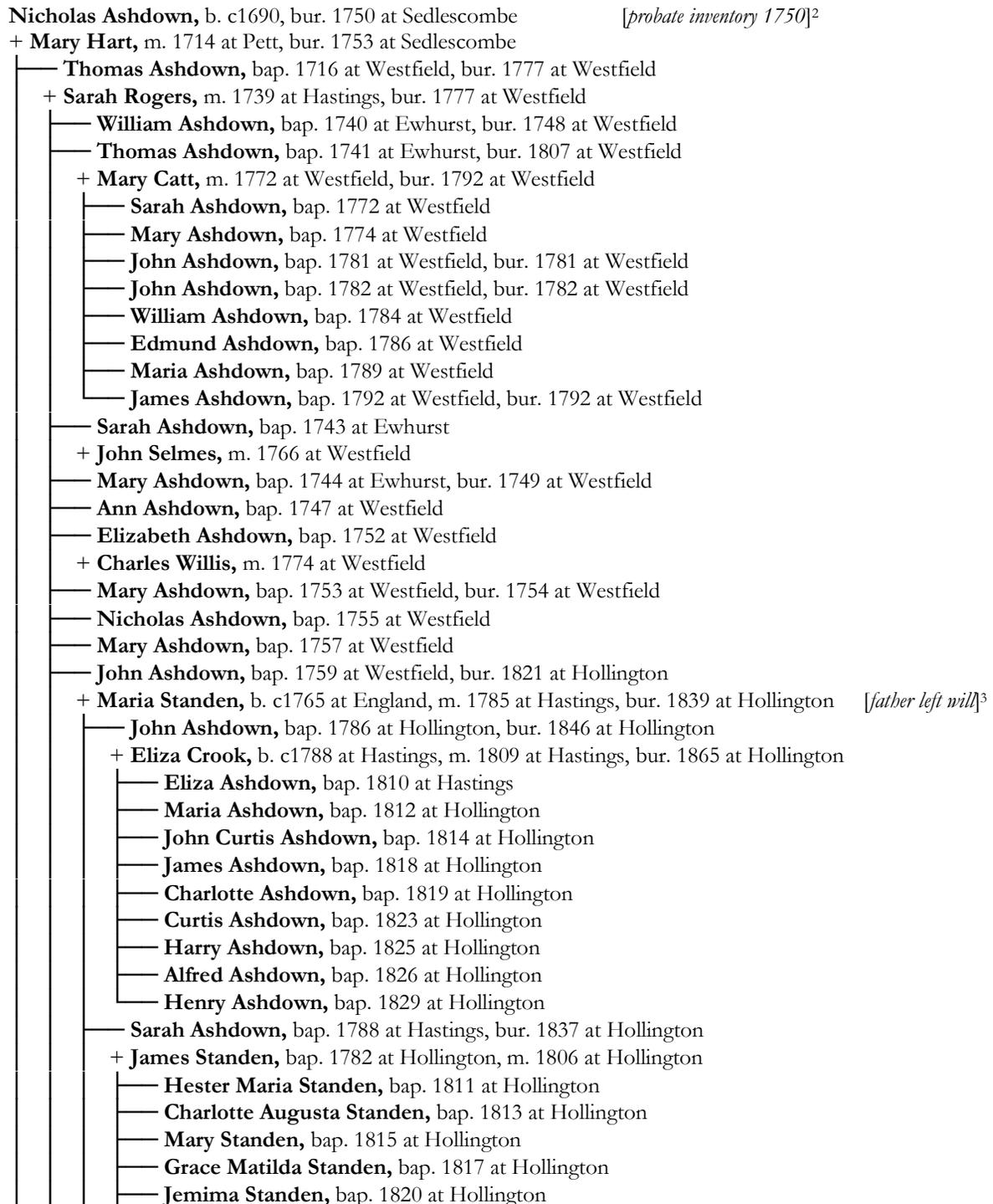
There is no baptism for him but he is identified in his father John Ashdown's will (1578) as being under 21 years. However, there is no proof or evidence linking the Nicholas Ashdown of Eastbourne to Rotherfield, so I am reluctant to make the link. The marriage of his son William Ashdown to Margaret Coe in 1626 at East Grinstead is interesting however, as East Grinstead is the other side of Rotherfield (when travelling from Eastbourne), and Coe is a common surname in Rotherfield.

All places are in Sussex except where shown. The people who left wills/admons are highlighted.



Tree 7. Descendants of Nicholas Ashdown of Sedlescombe (-1750)

All places are in Sussex except where shown. The people who left wills/admons are highlighted.



² Probate inventory dated 27 Oct 1750 value £118 17s 9d, for Nicholas Ashdown of Sedlescombe, mentions Mary Ashdown as relict and administratrix. Familysearch: film no: 1067101, image no: 693. (ESRO: PBT/1/10/3019).

³ See Will of John Standen, Yeoman of Hastings, 1796 in Chapter 4.

- Elizabeth Ann Standen, bap. 1823 at Hollington
- Thomas Ashdown, bap. 1789 at Hollington, bur. 1842 at Hollington
- + Jane Taylor, b. c1793, m. 1812 at Hollington, bur. 1822 at Hollington
 - Ann Maria Ashdown, bap. 1813 at Hollington
 - Charlotte Augusta Ashdown, bap. 1815 at Hollington
 - Jane Ashdown, bap. 1818 at Hollington
 - Thomas Ashdown, bap. 1820 at Hollington, bur. 1834 at Hollington
- + Martha Barnes, m. 1839 at Fairlight
- Mary Ashdown, bap. 1791 at Hollington
- + Henry Cheale, m. 1811 at Hollington
- James Ashdown, bap. 1793 at Hollington
- + Elizabeth Terry, m. 1823 at Hollington
 - Sarah Ann Ashdown, bap. 1824 at Hollington
 - James Ashdown, bap. 1826 at Hollington
- William Ashdown, bap. 1796 at Hollington, bur. 1818 at Hollington
- James Ashdown, bap. 1761 at Westfield

— Nicholas Ashdown, bap. 1717 at Dallington, bur. 1796 at Sedlescombe, admon. 1806

- + Mary Henley, m. 1745 at Sedlescombe, bur. 1782 at Sedlescombe
 - Jenny Ashdown, bap. 1746 at Mayfield
 - Edward Ashdown, bap. 1748 at Mayfield, bur. 1825 at Sedlescombe
 - Mary Ashdown, bap. 1750 at Mayfield
 - Elizabeth Ashdown, bap. 1753 at Mayfield
 - Ann Ashdown, bap. 1756 at Westfield, bur. 1839 at Westfield
- + James Catt, bap. 1755 at Westfield, m. 1773 at Westfield, bur. 1819 at Westfield
 - James Ashdown, bap. 1773 at Westfield *[illegitimate]*
- Nicholas Ashdown, bap. 1759 at Westfield, bur. 1836 at Sedlescombe
- William Ashdown, bap. 1761 at Westfield, bur. 1839 at Sedlescombe
- + Mary, m. c1787
 - Frances Ashdown, bap. 1787 at Westfield
 - William Ashdown, bap. 1789 at Westfield
 - Abigail Ashdown, bap. 1791 at Westfield
 - Ambrose Ashdown, bap. 1799 at Fairlight
- Mary Ashdown, bap. 1721 at Dallington

Tree 8. Ashdowns of Ditchling (1700s-1800s)

Despite many years of research by Patricia Ashdown Shepherd, this family tree has so far proven difficult to extend earlier than c1750s due to religious non-conformity in the early families. This family tree was compiled by Patricia Ashdown Shepherd and is published with her permission.

All places are in Sussex except where shown. The people who left wills/admons are highlighted.

William Ashdown, b. c1746 at SSX

+ **Jane Bax**, b. c1756 at Ditchling, m. 1778 at Ditchling, d. 1838 at Lewes

— **Hannah Ashdown**, b. c1780 at Ditchling, d. 1854 at Lewes

+ **John Pannett**, b. c1782 at Chailey, m. 1808 at Chailey, d. 1864 at Lewes

— **Sarah Pannett**, b. 1811 at Lewes, d. 1884 at Hastings

+ **Stephen Mitchell**, m. 1849 at Lewes

— **William Pannett**, b. 1813 at Lewes, d. 1897 at Brighton

— **Joseph Pannett**, b. 1814

— **Hannah Pannett**, b. 1816 at Lewes

— **Stephen Pannett**, b. 1819 at Lewes, d. 1886 at Southwark, LND

— **Jane Ashdown**, b. c1782 at Ditchling, d. 1856 at Lewes

+ **Henry Fuller**, b. c1781 at SSX, m. 1803 at Ditchling, d. 1846 at Lewes

— **(--?--) Fuller**, b. 1804 at Ditchling

— **James Ashdown**, b. 1785 at Ditchling, d. 1864 at Westmeston

+ **Philadelphia Fuller**, b. 1789 at Westmeston, m. 1809 at Westmeston, d. 1863

— **John Ashdown**, b. 1811 at Ditchling, d. 1896 at Burgess Hill

+ **Frances Ewens**, b. 1811 at Barcombe, m. 1834 at Lewes, d. 1849 at Burgess Hill

— **James aka 'Gaius' Ashdown**, b. 1834 at Keymer, d. 1906 at Brighton

— **Ezra Ashdown**, b. 1838 at Keymer, d. 1907 at Uckfield

+ **Anne Swan**, b. 1840 at Brighton, m. 1863 at Brighton, d. 1864 at Lewes

+ **Martha Westgate**, b. 1839 at Barcombe, m. 1865 at Lewes, d. 1920 at Uckfield

— **Herbert Ezra Ashdown**, b. 1866 at Chailey, d. 1951 at Lewes

+ **Florence Henrietta Frost**, b. 1870 at Waldron, m. 1897 at Lewes, d. 1938 at Lewes

— **Stanley Herbert Ashdown**, b. 1898 at Lewes, d. 1953 at Brighton

+ **Annie Elizabeth Booth**, b. 1900 at Barcombe, m. 1926 at Lewes, d. 1979 at Lewes

— **Gordon H Ashdown**, b. 1929 at Lewes

+ **Angela D Hall**, b. 1929 at Ticehurst, m. 1955 at Lewes

— **Vera Kate Ashdown**, b. 1899 at Lewes, d. 1991 at Indian Head, SK, Canada

— **Grace Evelyn Ashdown**, b. 1901 at Lewes, d. 1983 at Lewes

— **Annie Jemima Ashdown**, b. 1868 at Chailey, d. 1936 at Lewes

— **Minnie Ruth Ashdown**, b. 1870 at Chailey, d. 1939 at Brighton

— **William Westgate Ashdown**, b. 1872 at Fletching, d. 1939 at Hull, ERY

— **Luther John Ashdown**, b. 1875 at Danehill, d. 1930 at Uckfield, pro. 1930 at Lewes

— **Thomas Arthur Ashdown**, b. 1877 at Fletching, d. 1877 at Fletching

— **Reuben Ashdown**, b. c1883 at Fletching, d. 1898 at Danehill

— **Amos Ashdown**, b. 1840 at Keymer, d. 1924 at Brighton

+ **Elizabeth Mitchell**, b. c1845 at SSX, m. 1864 at Brighton, d. 1885 at Brighton

— **Annie Elizabeth Ashdown**, b. 1866 at Brighton, d. 1943 at Brighton

+ **Ellen Blaker**, b. c1855 at Brighton, m. 1887 at Brighton, d. 1933 at Brighton

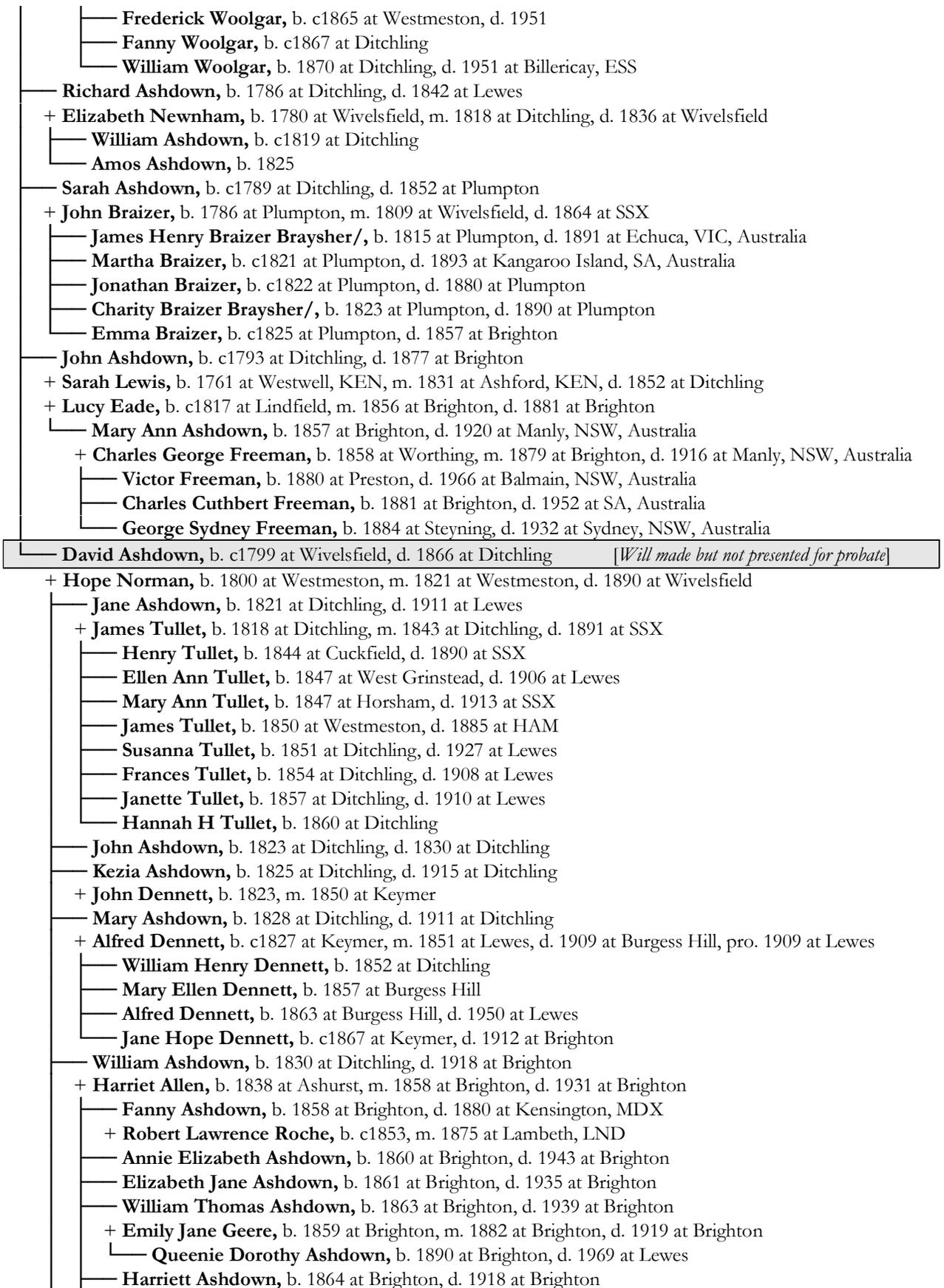
— **Minnie Kate Ashdown**, b. 1890 at Brighton

— **Edith Laurie Ashdown**, b. 1892 at Brighton

— **Nellie M Ashdown**, b. c1896 at Keymer, d. 1971 at Brighton

— **Harold Amos Ashdown**, b. 1897 at Cuckfield, d. 1953 at NTH

- + **Alice E Jackson**, m. 1926 at Northampton, NTH, d. 1944 at NTH, pro. 1945 at Llandudno
- **George B Ashdown**, b. 1899 at Keymer
- + **Margaret Lily Langley**, b. 1905 at Brighton, m. 1932 at Brighton, d. 1967 at Brighton
 - **Ruth M Ashdown**, b. 1937 at Brighton
- **Albert Ashdown**, b. 1843 at Keymer, d. 1895 at Lewes
- + **Ellen Cornford**, b. 1848 at Barcombe, m. 1869 at Lewes, d. 1921 at Walton on the Hill, SRY
 - **Kate Ashdown**, b. 1869 at Hamsey, d. 1957 at Winnipeg, MB, Canada
 - **Samuel Ashdown**, b. 1871 at Hamsey, d. 1871 at Chailey
 - **Gains Ashdown**, b. 1871 at Hamsey, d. 1871 at Chailey
 - **Frances Betsy Ashdown**, b. 1872 at Chailey, d. 1933 at Lewes
 - **Amelia Ashdown**, b. 1874 at Chailey, d. 1962 at Hailsham
 - **Jesse Ashdown**, b. c1877 at Chailey, d. 1952 at Chailey
 - + **Elizabeth Anne Wheatley**, m. 1914
 - **Kathleen Mabel Ashdown**, b. 1914 at Chailey
 - **Amos Robert Ashdown**, b. 1878 at Barcombe, d. 1967 at Lewes, pro. 1967 at Lewes
 - + **Annie Avery**, b. 1880 at Chailey, m. 1906 at Chailey, d. 1947 at SSX, pro. 1947 at Lewes
 - **Minnie Ashdown**, b. 1881 at Barcombe, d. 1947 at Lewes
 - **Lloyd Ashdown**, b. 1884 at Barcombe, d. 1966 at Godalming, SRY
 - + **Emma Pratt**, b. 1883 at Sydenham, KEN, m. 1908 at Reigate, SRY, d. 1920 at Epsom, SRY
 - **Reginald Lloyd Ashdown**, b. 1911 at Reigate, SRY, d. 1991 at East Ham, ESS, pro. 1991
 - **Albert George Ashdown**, b. 1914 at Reigate, SRY, d. 2005 at Colchester, ESS
 - + **Amy Lanaway**, b. 1894 at Sevenoaks, KEN, m. 1924 at Horsham
 - **Doren H Ashdown**, b. 1886 at Barcombe, d. 1970 at Redhill, SRY
 - **Ellen Ashdown**, b. 1889 at Hamsey, d. 1982 at Lewes
 - **Ethel Winifred Ashdown**, b. 1891 at Chailey, d. 1976 at Brighton
- **Frances Ashdown**, b. 1846 at Keymer, d. 1934 at Cuckfield
- + unknown
 - **Arthur John Ashdown**, b. c1867 at Burgess Hill, d. 1915 at Lewes
 - + **Harriett Giddings**, b. 1869 at Bethnal Green, LND, m. 1894 at Cuckfield, d. 1932 at Cuckfield
 - **Albert John Ashdown**, b. 1895 at Burgess Hill, d. 1971 at Lewes
 - + **Margaret Nolan**, b. 1897, m. 1922 at Cuckfield, d. 1974 at Cuckfield
 - **John A Ashdown**
 - **Annie Harriet Ashdown**, b. 1896 at Burgess Hill, d. 1988 at Haywards Heath
 - **Arthur Gordon Ashdown**, b. 1898 at Cuckfield, d. 1901 at Cuckfield
 - **Maggie Ashdown**, b. c1902 at Burgess Hill
 - **Dorothy Ella Ashdown**, b. 1904 at Burgess Hill, d. 2003 at Kent, KEN
 - **Gwendoline Mary Beatrix Ashdown**, b. 1908 at Burgess Hill
- **Esther Ashdown**, b. 1848 at Keymer, d. 1915 at Brighton
- + **Susannah Miller**, b. c1822 at Deal, KEN, m. 1862 at Keymer
- **Emily Ashdown**, b. 1817 at Westmeston, d. 1898 at Cuckfield
- + **Robert Steer**, b. c1812, m. 1838 at Clayton
 - **George Steer**, b. c1839 at Westmeston
 - **Emily Steer**, b. c1844 at Ditchling
- **Charlotte Ashdown**, b. 1822 at Ditchling, d. 1901 at Cuckfield
- + **John Woolgar**, b. 1816 at West Grinstead, m. 1841 at Clayton, d. 1887 at West Grinstead
 - **Emily Woolgar**, b. 1841 at Clayton, d. 1918 at Eastbourne
 - **Stephen Woolgar**, b. 1842 at Burgess Hill, d. 1921 at Cuckfield
 - **George Woolgar**, b. c1846 at Clayton
 - **Estha Woolgar**, b. c1853 at Clayton, d. 1918 at Cuckfield
 - **James Woolgar**, b. 1854 at Clayton, d. 1932 at Steyning
 - **Eliza Woolgar**, b. c1857 at Clayton, d. 1891 at Eastbourne
 - **John Woolgar**, b. 1858 at Westmeston, d. 1912 at Burgess Hill
 - **Ellen Woolgar**, b. 1861 at Westmeston



- Frances Hope Ashdown, b. 1866 at Brighton, d. 1957 at Aled, DEN, Wales
- Edith Ashdown, b. 1869 at Brighton, d. 1936 at Eastbourne
- John Ashdown, b. 1871 at Brighton, d. 1939 at Brighton
- + Emily Eliza Perry, b. c1871 at Leeds, YKS, m. 1892 at Eastbourne, d. 1961 at Brighton
 - May Ashdown, b. 1893 at Steyning, d. 1973 at Brent, LND
- Ellen Rhoda Blencone Ashdown, b. 1878 at Brighton, d. 1966 at Cuckfield
- Frances Ashdown, b. 1833 at Ditchling
- Hannah Ashdown, b. 1834 at Ditchling, d. 1889 at SRY
- + Richard Goldsmith Moorey, b. 1845 at Brighton, m. 1869 at SSX, d. 1912 at Guildford, SRY
 - Frederick Goldsmith Moorey, b. 1871 at Burgess Hill, d. 1957 at Willesden, MDX
 - Eleanor Hope Moorey, b. 1874 at Burgess Hill
- Caroline Ashdown, b. 1837 at Ditchling, d. 1925 at Newhaven
- + James Phillips, b. 1820 at Barcombe, m. 1860 at Ditchling, d. 1890 at Lewes
 - Anna Julia Phillips, b. 1861 at Lewes, d. 1891 at Bromley, KEN
 - Jesse Phillips, b. 1863 at Lewes, d. 1934 at Steyning
 - David Phillips, b. 1866 at Falmer, d. 1903 at Steyning
 - Susan Alice Phillips, b. 1868 at Falmer, d. 1929 at Newhaven
- Jesse Ashdown, b. 1839 at Ditchling, d. 1881 at West Ham, ESS
- + Mary Ann Broomfield, b. c1833 at Uckfield, m. 1863 at Keymer, d. 1917 at Greenwich, LND
 - Fanny Ellen Ashdown, b. c1864 at Ditchling, d. 1937 at East Ham, ESS
 - + Henry Mitchell, b. c1859, m. 1883 at Canning Town, ESS
- Susan Ashdown, b. 1843 at Ditchling, d. 1905 at Lewes
- + William Edward Spink, b. c1836 at Bury St Edmunds, SFK, m. 1868 at Brighton, d. 1878 at ESS
- + Henry Ottaway, b. 1843 at Chobham, SRY, m. 1879 at Greenwich, LND
 - William H Ottaway, b. 1880 at Plaistow, ESS, d. 1952 at Upminster, ESS
 - Florence A Ottaway, b. 1882 at Plaistow, ESS, d. 1967 at Brighton
 - Frederick Ottaway, b. 1886 at Plaistow, ESS, d. 1962 at Brighton
- Richard Ashdown, b. 1846 at Ditchling, d. 1909 at SSX
- + Susanna Ann Bellhouse, b. 1843 at St Neots, HUN, m. 1867 at Brighton, d. 1873 at HUN
 - Alice Ann Ashdown, bap. 1868 at Brighton, d. 1952 at Brighton
 - + William George Burns, b. 1871 at Brighton, m. 1904 at Brighton
 - Edward John Wickham Burns, b. 1908 at Eastbourne, d. 1994 at Truro, CON
 - James David John Ashdown, b. 1870 at Great Staughton, HUN, d. 1946 at Brighton
 - + Jeseme Rushman, b. 1869 at Brighton, m. 1894 at Brighton, d. 1959 at Brighton
 - John Ashdown Rushman, b. 1890 at Brighton, d. 1890 at Brighton
 - Grace Anna Ashdown, b. 1899 at Brighton
 - + Arthur A Sherman, b. 1892 at Redhill, SRY, m. 1922 at Brighton, d. 1961 at Hamilton, Canada
 - Derek David Sherman, b. 1923 at Brighton, d. 1982 at Hamilton, ON, Canada
 - Peggy Pauline Sherman, b. 1924 at Brighton, d. 1974 at Hamilton, ON, Canada
 - John Richard Ashdown, b. 1901 at Brighton, d. 1944 at At Sea
 - Herbert James Ashdown, b. 1903 at Brighton, d. 1965 at Brighton
 - + Dorothy R Cooper, m. 1930 at Brighton
 - Frank Arthur Ashdown, b. 1904 at Brighton, d. 1983 at Brighton
 - + Ena Mary Loxton, b. 1910 at Brighton, m. 1930 at Brighton, d. 1993 at Brighton
 - Sidney Norman Ashdown, b. 1907 at Brighton, d. 1907 at Brighton
 - William Lawrence Ashdown, b. 1908 at Brighton, d. 1977 at Brighton
- + Rhoda Ann Juden, b. 1844 at Dover, KEN, m. 1875 at Brighton, d. 1889 at Brighton
 - Cicely Eliza Norman Ashdown, b. 1876 at Brighton, d. 1891 at SSX
 - William Edmund Richard Ashdown, b. 1879 at Brighton, d. 1956 at Edmonton, MDX
 - + Eliza Brewer, b. 1872 at Chippenham, WIL, m. 1903 at Brighton
 - Jessie Jenetta Ashdown, b. 1882 at Brighton, d. 1968 at Brighton
 - + William Want, b. 1882 at Brigend, GLA, Wales, m. 1915 at Bridgend, GLA, Wales
- + Sarah Elizabeth Maplestone, b. 1858 at Melton, SFK, m. 1891

- **Daisy Norman Ashdown**, b. 1891 at Brighton, d. 1891 at SSX
- **Kate Maplestone Norman Ashdown**, b. 1893 at Brighton, d. 1980 at Chifley, NSW, Australia
- + **Wesley Barrow McKenzie**, b. 1895 at Windsor, NSW, Australia, m. 1915 at Southwark, SRY, d. 1965
- **Ivy Agatha Ashdown**, b. 1894 at Brighton, d. 1985 at Lewes
- + **Robert Bushby**, b. 1895 at Brighton, m. 1918 at Brighton, d. 1954 at Brighton

Tree 9. Ashdowns of East Grinstead and Chiddingstone (Kent) (1600s-1700s)

The people in this tree lived in parishes near the border of Sussex and Kent. Further research in Kent is required to develop it further..

All places are in Sussex except where shown. The people who left wills/admons are highlighted.

Richard Ashdown, b. c1650 at KEN

+ **Ann Osburne**, b. c1650, m. 1676 at Speldhurst, KEN

— **Anne Ashdown**, b. c1678

+ **Herbert Wickersham**, m. c1698

— **Anne Wickersham**, b. 1698 at East Grinstead

— **Elizabeth Wickersham**, bap. 1700 at East Grinstead

— **Mary Wickersham**, bap. 1704 at East Grinstead

— **Sarah Wickersham**, bap. 1705 at East Grinstead

— **Thomas Wickersham**, bap. 1707 at East Grinstead, bur. 1709 at East Grinstead

— **Thomas Wickersham**, bap. 1709 at East Grinstead

+ **Susanna Stegning**, m. 1731 at Cuckfield, bur. 1754 at East Grinstead

— **Herbert Wickersham**, bap. 1732 at East Grinstead, bur. 1753 at East Grinstead

— **Thomas Wickersham**, bap. 1734 at East Grinstead

— **Joseph Wickersham**, bap. 1737 at East Grinstead

— **Mary Wickersham**, bap. 1711 at East Grinstead, bur. 1711 at East Grinstead

— **Mary Wickersham**, bap. 1714 at East Grinstead

+ **Anthony Ellis**, m. 1716 at East Grinstead

— **John Ashdown**, b. c1680, bur. 1747 at Chiddingstone, KEN

+ **Jane Finch**, b. c1700, m. 1722 at Chiddingstone, KEN

— **Richard Ashdown**, b. c1683 at KEN, bur. 1714 at Bermondsey, SRY, pro. 1714 at London

+ **Susannah Maynard**, bap. 1689 at Fletching, m. 1709 at Fletching

— **Richard Ashdown**, bap. 1711 at Chiddingstone, KEN

— **Robert Ashdown**, bap. 1685 at Chiddingstone, KEN, bur. 1714 at East Grinstead, pro. 1714 at London

— **Sarah Ashdown**, b. c1687

— **Alexander Ashdown**, b. c1690

+ **Ann Mercer**, m. 1731 at Bidborough, KEN, bur. 1742 at Speldhurst, KEN

— **Ann Ashdown**, bap. 1732 at Tunbridge Wells, KEN

— **Alexander Ashdown**, bap. 1734 at Tunbridge Wells, KEN, bur. 1815 at Speldhurst, KEN

+ **Hannah Killick**, b. c1740, m. 1763 at Speldhurst, KEN

— **Robert Ashdown**, bap. 1739 at Tunbridge Wells, KEN

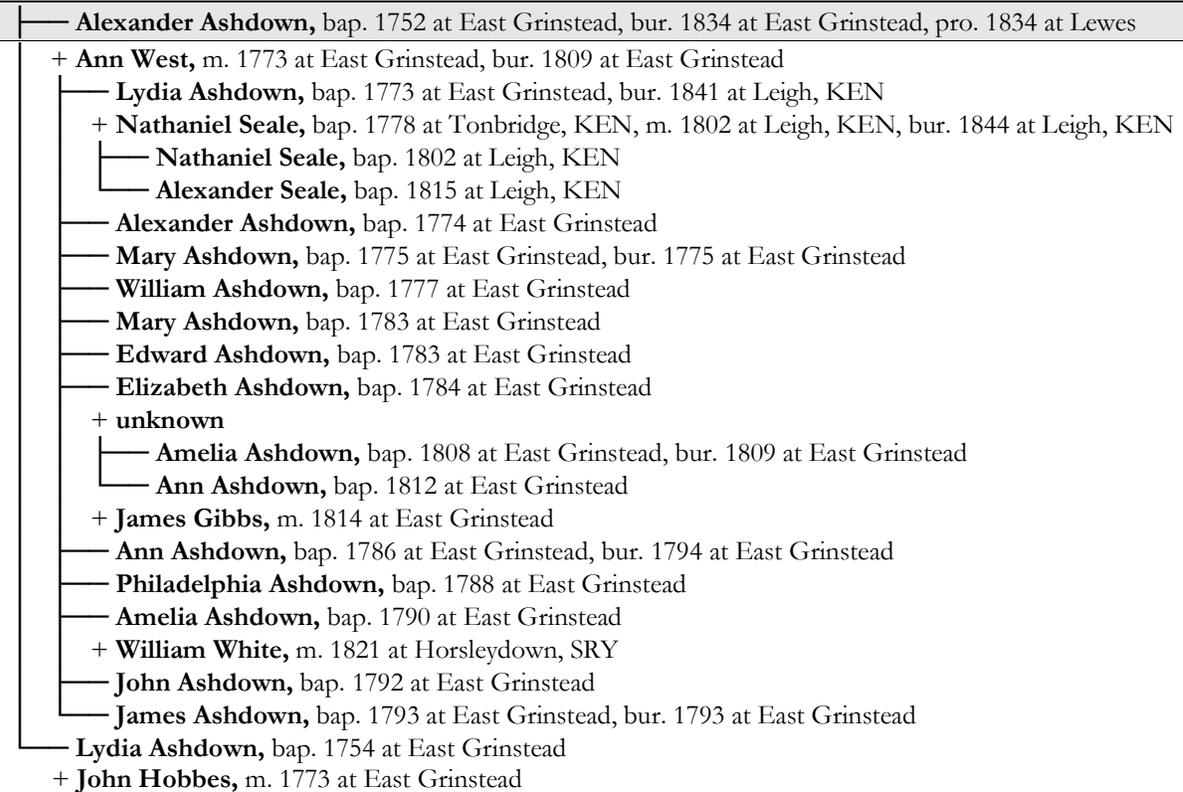
— **Elizabeth Ashdown**, bap. 1742 at Tunbridge Wells, KEN

Tree 10. Ashdowns of East Grinstead (c1725-1834)

This Alexander Ashdowne appears at East Grinstead and there is no obvious birth or baptism to be found for him. It is possible that he is linked to earlier occurrences of Ashdown's at East Grinstead (see Tree 9), in particular to the family of Robert Ashdown who was buried at East Grinstead in 1714 and left a will. There is an Alexander in that family but he moved to Tonbridge and then to Speldhurst and a connection has yet to be made.

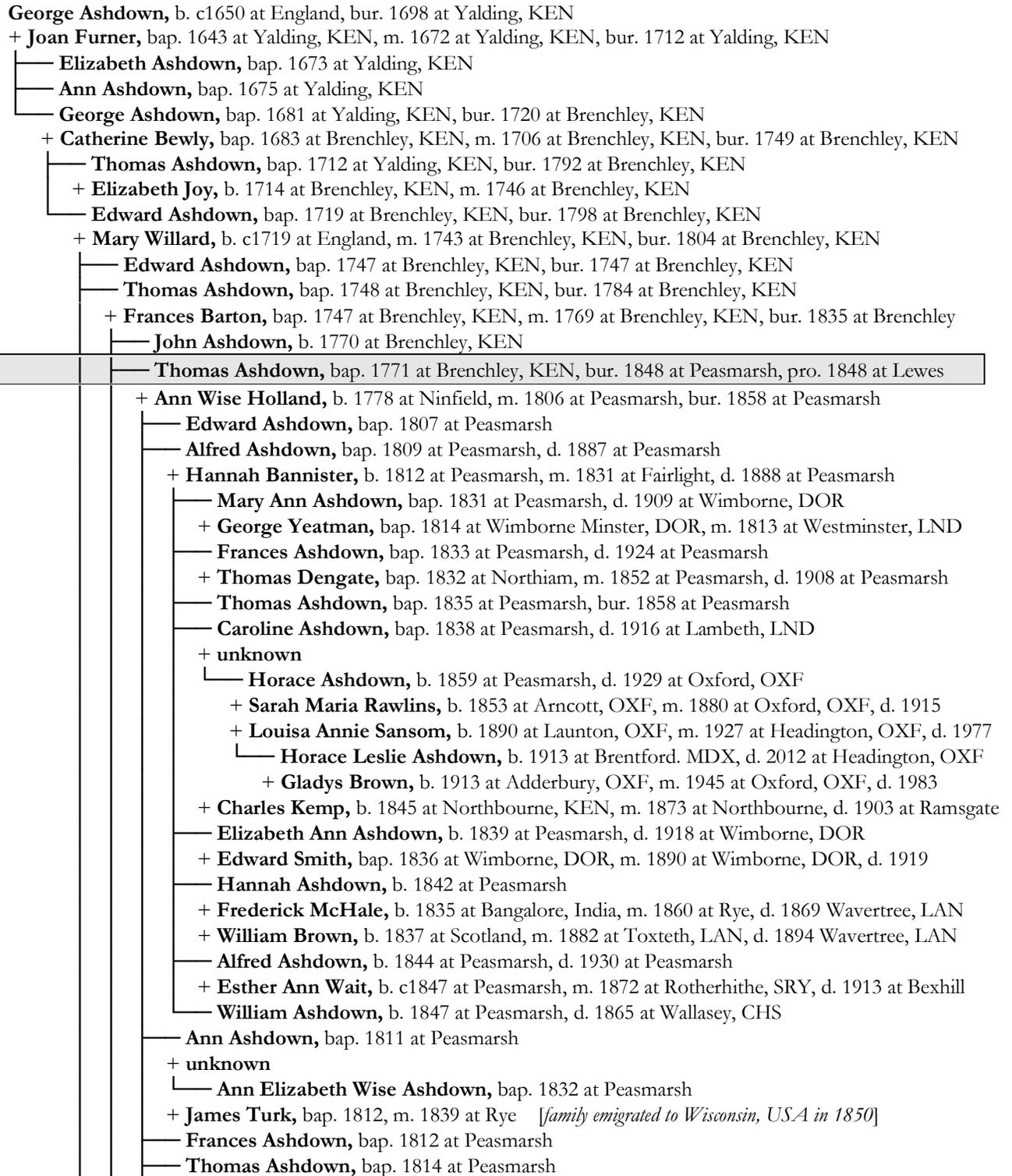
All places are in Sussex except where shown. The people who left wills/admons are highlighted.

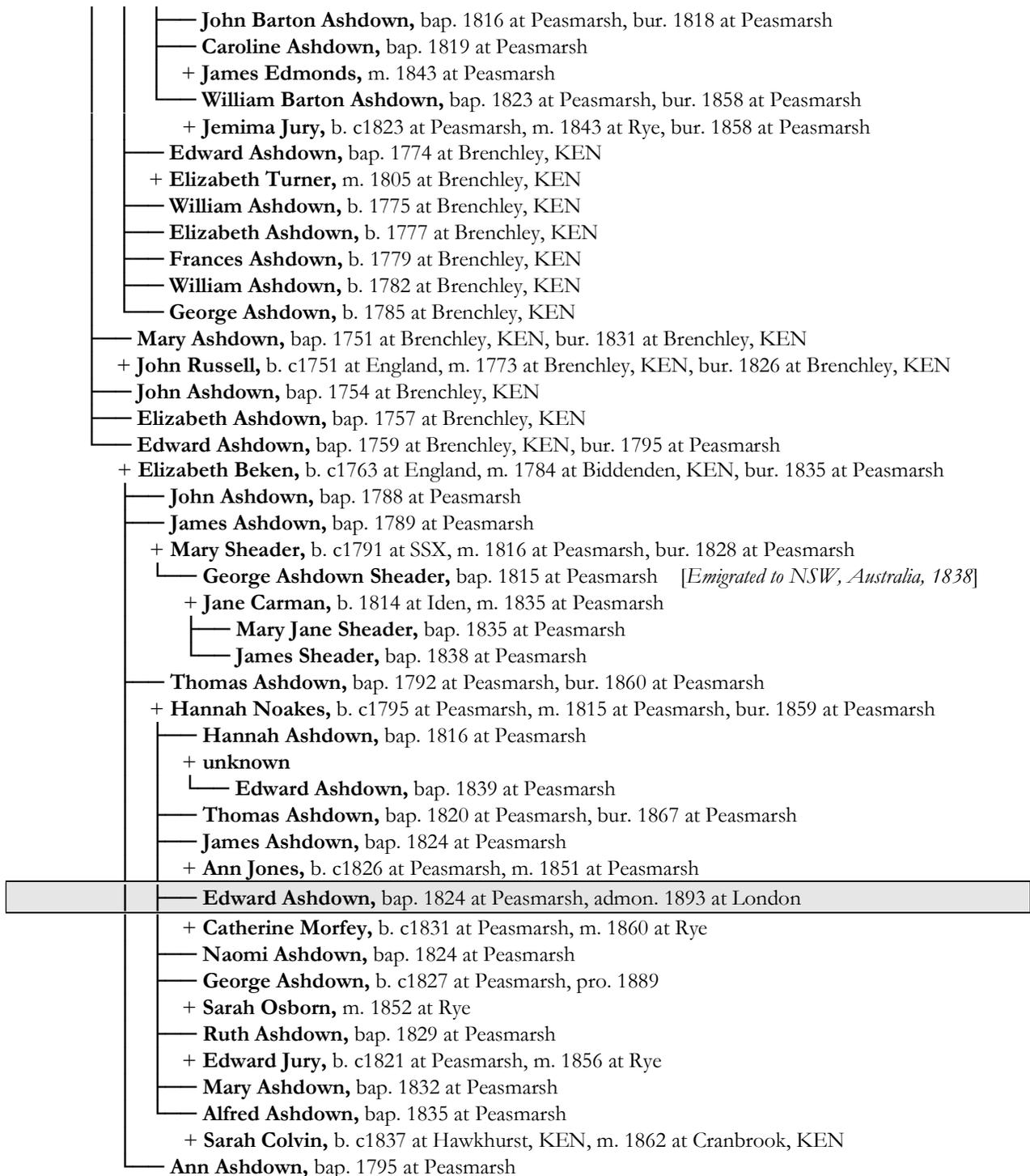
Alexander Ashdown, b. c1725 at England, bur. 1773 at East Grinstead
+ **Elizabeth Hams**, m. 1750 at Maresfield, bur. 1804 at East Grinstead



Tree 11. Ashdowns of Peasmarsh and Brenchly (Kent) (1700s-1800s)

This tree has strong links to the Ashdowns in Kent. All places are in Sussex except where shown.
The people who left wills/admons are highlighted.



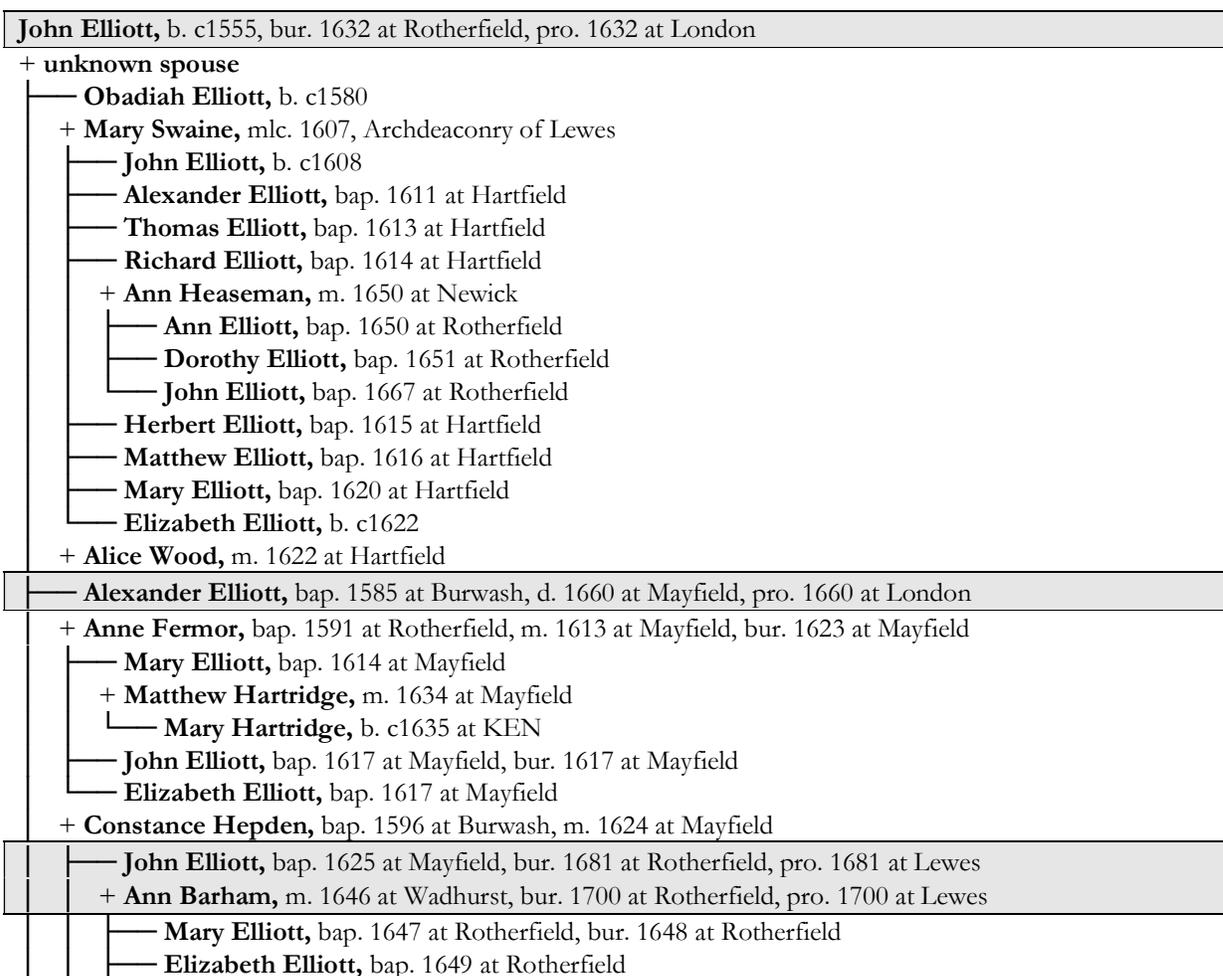


Tree 12. Elliotts of Rotherfield (1600s-1700s)

The tree has been included here because of the marriage of Anne Elliott to John Ashdown in 1672 and the interesting connections to high status families in Sussex at that time. In particular the marriages of Alexander Elliott to Anne Fermor in 1613 at Mayfield (Anne is a descendant of the Fermor family of Walshes Manor at Rotherfield) and then Constance Hepden in 1624 at Mayfield (three of Constance's sisters married into the Newington's, a gentry family at that time). This gives some indication to the status of the Elliott family and possibly to the branch of the Ashdown family they later married into.

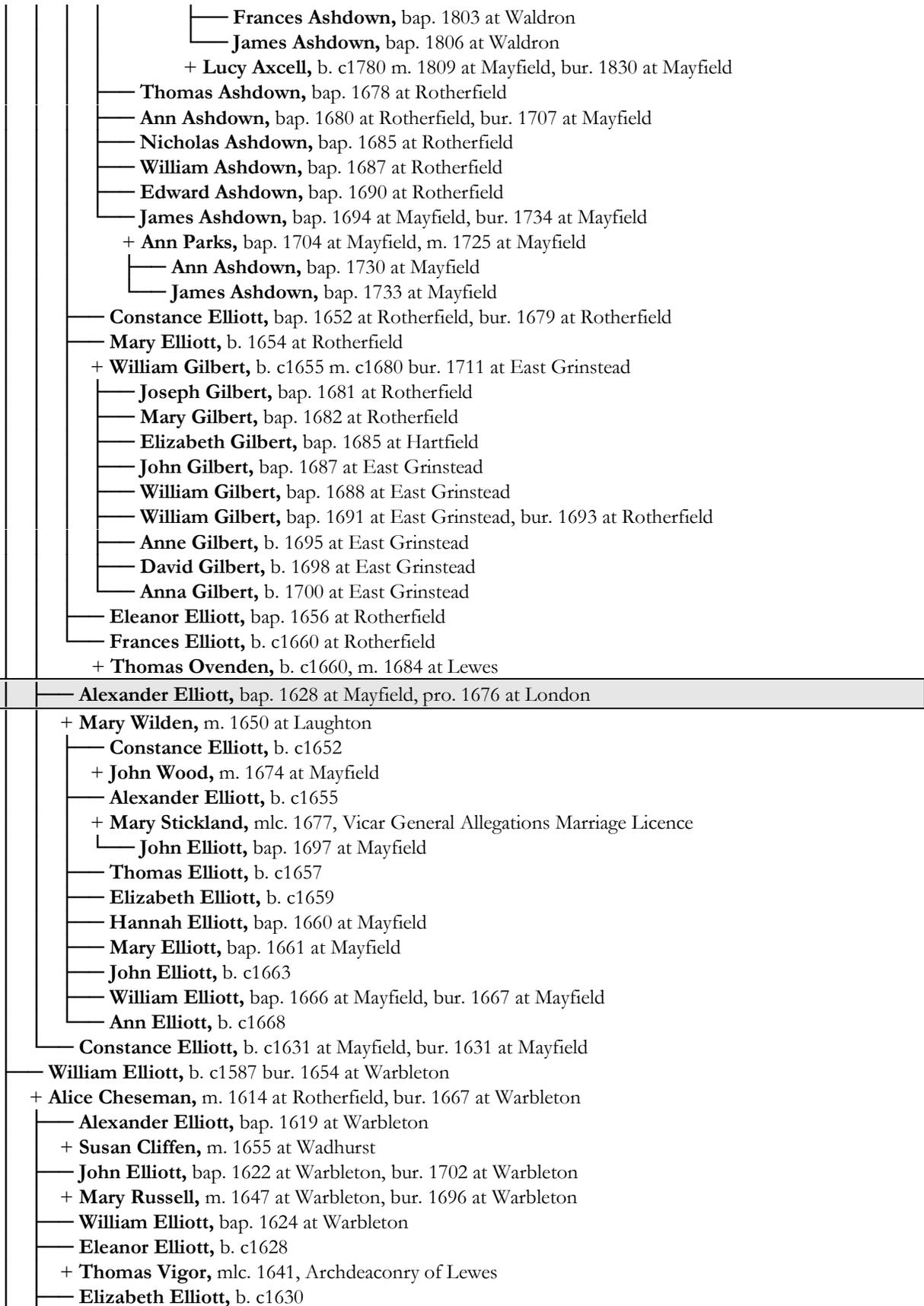
A key marriage in this tree is that of John Elliott and Ann Barham in 1646 at Wadhurst. Ann's father, Nicholas Barham of Wadhurst, left a will proved in 1653 which confirms her marriage to John Elliott as it names their first three surviving children⁴. It was their daughter Ann who married into the Ashdown family in 1672. The Barham's themselves were people of status, and an earlier Nicholas Barham was noted as under-Steward on a Rotherfield manorial court roll in the mid-1500s.

All places are in Sussex except where shown. The people who left wills/admons are highlighted.



⁴ Will of Nicholas Barham, Gentleman of Wadhurst, made 14 Nov 1652, proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury 21 May 1653, TNA: PROB 11/230/148

- + **Edward Dadswell**, m. 1677 at Rotherfield
- **Ann Elliott**, bap. 1650 at Rotherfield
- + **John Ashdown**, bap. 1646 at Rotherfield, m. 1672 at Withyham
 - **John Ashdown**, bap. 1674 at Rotherfield
 - + **Mary Parkes**, b. c1678 at Rotherfield, m. 1707 at Framfield
 - **Christopher Ashdown**, bap. 1708 at Rotherfield
 - + **Mary Gilbert**, b. c1710 m. 1732 at Little Horsted, bur. 1778 at East Grinstead
 - **Mary Ashdown**, bap. 1732 at East Grinstead
 - **Edward Ashdown**, bap. 1734 at East Grinstead
 - **John Ashdown**, bap. 1736 at East Grinstead
 - **Hannah Ashdown**, bap. 1743 at East Grinstead
 - **Arthur Ashdown**, bap. 1711 at Rotherfield
 - **Mary Ashdown**, bap. 1714 at Rotherfield
 - **Alexander Ashdown**, bap. 1718 at Rotherfield
 - **Hannah Ashdown**, bap. 1718 at Rotherfield, bur. 1721 at Rotherfield
 - **Jane Ashdown**, bap. 1723 at Rotherfield
 - **Alexander Ashdown**, bap. 1676 at Rotherfield, bur. 1754 at Mayfield
- + **Elizabeth Piper**, m. 1701 at Brede, bur. 1713 at Burwash
 - **John Ashdown**, b. 1702 at Brede
 - **Ann Ashdown**, bap. 1706 at Mayfield
 - **Elizabeth Ashdown**, bap. 1708 at Mayfield, bur. 1786 at Mayfield
 - + **Thomas Eastwood**, bap. 1706 at Mayfield, m. 1738 at Mayfield, bur. 1782 at Mayfield
- + **Ann Forster**, m. 1715 at Mountfield
 - **Alexander Ashdown**, bap. 1716 at Burwash
 - + **Katherine Eldridge**, m. 1743 at Mayfield
 - **Alexander Ashdown**, bap. 1744 at Mayfield, bur. 1744 at Mayfield
 - **Mary Ashdown**, bap. 1745 at Mayfield
 - **William Ashdown**, bap. 1719 at Burwash, bur. 1799 at Waldron
 - + **Mary Pratt**, m. 1746 at Mayfield
 - **Mary Ashdown**, b. 1747 at Mayfield
 - + **John Jenner**, m. 1782 at Ditchling
 - **William Ashdown**, b. 1747 at Mayfield
 - **John Ashdown**, bap. 1749 at Mayfield, bur. 1752 at Mayfield
 - **James Ashdown**, bap. 1750 at Mayfield
 - **Alexander Ashdown**, bap. 1752 at Mayfield, bur. 1799 at Ditchling
 - + **Elizabeth Belton**, b. c1757 m. 1783 at Ditchling, bur. 1823 at Ditchling
 - **John Ashdown**, bap. 1784 at Ditchling
 - **George Ashdown**, bap. 1785 at Ditchling, bur. 1859 at Ditchling
 - **Edward Ashdown**, bap. 1788 at Ditchling
 - **Hannah Ashdown**, bap. 1789 at Ditchling
 - **Susannah Ashdown**, bap. 1793 at Ditchling
 - **Thomas Ashdown**, bap. 1754 at Mayfield, bur. 1759 at Mayfield
 - **Elizabeth Ashdown**, bap. 1754 at Mayfield
 - **Edward Ashdown**, bap. 1756 at Mayfield
 - **Hannah Ashdown**, bap. 1758 at Mayfield
 - **Anne Ashdown**, bap. 1761 at Mayfield
 - + **Thomas Tomms**, m. 1788 at Mayfield
 - **David Ashdown**, bap. 1764 at Mayfield, bur. 1841 at Hadlow Down
 - + **Ann Geer**, m. 1794 at Waldron, bur. 1806 at Waldron
 - **William Ashdown**, bap. 1795 at Mayfield
 - **Thomas Ashdown**, bap. 1797 at Waldron
 - **Alice Ashdown**, bap. 1799 at Waldron, bur. 1856 at Hadlow Down
 - **Tryphena Ashdown**, bap. 1801 at Waldron



└─ **William Elliott**, bap. 1637 at Warbleton
└─ **Joane Elliott**, b. c1590
+ **George Rose**, m. c1615
└─ **John Elliott**, b. c1590, d. Oct 1639, admon. 1640 at Lewes [excerpts of Will in Rotherfield manorial records]
+ **unknown spouse**
└─ **John Elliott**, b. c1615
└─ **Mary Elliott**, b. c1592
+ **Richard Marchant**, m. 1616 at Rotherfield

Chapter 3 – The Ashdown Wills

1. Will of John Ashedowne of Rotherfield, 1578

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/7/113B)

Made: 5 June 1578

Probate: 12 June 1578

Familysearch: Film 1885593, image 667-669

In the name of god amen the vth daye of June in the xxth yeare of the ~~Reigne of~~ Queenes Maiestys reigne that now ys Anno Dni 1578 I **John Ashedowne** of the p[ar]ishe of Retherffielde & Countie of Sussex beinge Sycke of bodye but of good & p[er]fect Remembrannce Thankes be to gode make & ordayne this my pr[e]sente testament cons[er]ninge herein my laste will in mann[er] & Forme followinge that is to saie first I bequeth my soule to allmightie gode my maker & redemer in whome and by whome I hope to have salvacon and my bodye to be buried in the p[ar]ishe Churche yearde of Retherffielde aforesaide Itm I geve unto the poore mans boxe iiiij^d Itm I geve and bequethe unto **John** my sone vi^h xiiij^s iiiij^d to be payde oute of my lannds by the handes of **George** my sonne twoo yeares nexte & Immediatelye after my decease Itm I geve and bequethe unto **Nycholas** my sonne fyve poundes to be payde out of my lanndes by my sonne **George** when **nycholas** my sonne shalle come to the age of one and twentye yeares Itm I geve & bequethe unto **Henrye** my sonne v^h to be payde out of my landes by my sonne **George** when harye my sonne shall come to t[h]eage of xxj yeares Itm my will is [tha]t & yf any of my towe sonnes **Nycholas & Harye** for[t]une to dye before they come to the age ^of^ xxj yeares I will that one of them shall be the others heire of the said v^h & yf theye dye bothe of them before they shalbe come to the age of xxj yeares [tha]t then my will is [tha]t there twoo p[ar]tes shall be laste in the handes of my sonne **George** Whome I appoint to be my heyre Itm I geve and bequethe unto **Alyce** my daughter fyve poundes to be payed oute of my landes by **George** my sonne to be payed at the daye of her mariage or at the age of xxiiij^{ti} w[hi]ch shall happen firste to come Itm I will & bequethe unto **Joane** my daughter fyve poundes to be payed oute of my landes by **George** my sonne to be payede at the daye of her mariage or at the age of xxiiij^{ti} w[hi]ch shall firste happen to come Itm I geve & bequethe unto **George** my sonne my greate brasse pott my greate cheste a towell & the table in the hale Itm my will ys that **George** my sonne shall paye all my debtes The Resydue of all my goodes & Cattell movable & unmovable not gyven nor bequethed my debtes & legacies pformed I gyve & bequethe unto **Joane** my wyfe & **George** my sonne whome I doo make & ordeyne myne executors of this my laste wyll & Testame[n]t & I doo ordeyne **Wylly[a]m Cheeseman** my sup[er]visor & he to have xij^d

Probate: 12th June 1578 at New Shoreham. Inventory totalled £19 15s.

Thys ys the laste will of me **John Ashedowne** concerninge my house & landes I will that **George** my sonne shall have my house & all my landes lyinge w[ith]in the p[ar]ishe of Retherfildes aforesayd to hym & to his heiers for ever my will ys That **Joane** my wyfe shall have a chamber w[ith]in **George** my sonne with fyer & fleete to come & goe free at all tymes for the space of fower yeares and also she shall have the keepinge of ij kyne for the space of iiiij yeares and after the ende and tearme of iiiij yeares she shall have a chameber there w[ith]in fyer & fleete to come & goe free during her naturall lyefe yf she marry not and that {t} my sonne **George** & shee canne agree Yf they cannot agree then my sonne **George** shall gyve her the some of x^s a yeare toward a chamber dureing her naturall lyefe & yf she marry not Wyttnesse at the making herof **Nicholas Payne** Curate **Willyam Cheeseman** the younger **Wm Cheeseman** thelder **Thomas Lockyer** & **Edward Hotheligh** thelder

(Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 30th March 2020)

Notes:

People

John Ashedowne, testator
Joane Ashedowne, wife, joint executor
John Ashedowne, son
George Ashedowne, son, heir, joint executor
Nicholas Ashedowne, son (under 21 years)
Henry Ashedowne, son (under 21 years)
Alyce Ashedowne, daughter (under 24 years)
Joan Ashedowne, daughter (under 24 years)
William Cheesman the elder, supervisor, witness
Nicholas Payne, curate, witness
William Cheesman the younger, witness
Thomas Lockyer, witness
Edward Hotheligh [Hothley] the elder, witness

Places

Rotherfield

Relevant Events

John ASHEDOWNE “senior” was buried 6 Jun 1578 at Rotherfield St Denys. (SFHG Indexes)

The Rotherfield manorial records contain the following entries concerning George Ashdown mentioned in the above will:

Court held 16 Oct 1588:

George Ashedowne after the last court, 6 Oct 30 Eliz. [1588] by John Bassett & Thomas Lockier surrendered one parcel called Brokefeld containing six acres of assart of [blank] with one parcel called le pyke containing ½ acre at Brokesherne in Rotherfield. To the use of **Thomas Hothlee** son of **Edward Hothlee** & his heirs.

Also George Ashedowne in the presence of William Maynard & Thomas Lockier surrendered one tenement built[?] with garden & half those parcels called Marlynge Hothfeld Hothrede Bramblecroft & several parts of a croft containing 34 acres of assart in Rotherfield To use of **Xpr [Christopher] Crypps** & his heirs, paying for heriot one horse worth 26s.

[George Ashdown is disposing/ selling some of his property. Edward Hothlee was a witness to the above will also, suggesting he may be kin. Note that there is no burial for George at Rotherfield.]

Family Tree

See Tree 4. “Descendants of John Ashdown of Rotherfield, c1500s” in Chapter 2.

2. Will of William Ashedowne of Rotherfield, 1579

(ESRO: PBT 1/1/7/118B)

Made: 4 Feb 1577/78

Probate: 12 Jun 1579

In the name of god amen the iiiijth daye of Februarye in the xx i[e]th yere of the raigne of our sov[er]aigne ladye Elizabeth by the grace of god of England Franncce and Ireland Quene defender of the fayth &c I **William Ashedowne** of the p[ar]ishe of Retherfeld & county of Sussex beinge sicke in bodie but whole of mind & of good & p[er]fect remembrance laud and praise be to almighty god, make and ordaine this my p[re]sent testament in mann[er] & forme followinge, that is to saye, First I com[m]end my sowle unto almighty god my maker and redem[er] and my bodie to be buried in the p[ar]ishe churchyard of Retherfeld aforesaid Item I will and bequeth unto the poore mans boxe of Retherfeld aforesaid xijd Item I give to the cathedrall Church of Chichester ijd Item I geve to my sonnes ij children iiijd apece Item I geve and bequeth unto **Margret** my wif all my goodes and cattell whatsoev[er] they be, And if my wif doe fortune to marry after my decease that then my will is that half of my goodes and cattell to be equally devided betwixt iij of my children that is to saye **Abraham Jacob & Ursala**, & after the decease of **Margret** my wif the said goodes and cattell to remaine wholly to my foresaid iij children Also my will is that **Margret** my wif shall have all my howses and landes w[hi]ch I nowe dwell in duringe the naturall life except shee fortune to marry And if shee doe marry then my will is that shee shall have out of my said howses and landes w[hi]ch I nowe dwell in xiijs iiijd yerely and ev[er]y yere duringe her naturall lif and xiijs iiijd also yerely and ev[er]y yere duringe her naturall lif out of my land called Akers and the said monie to be paid half yerely that is to saye at the feastes of St Michaell tharekangell & the feast of the Annu[nci]a[c]i[on] of our blessed Lady the Virgen by even porc[i]ons to be paid Also I doe ordaine **Margret** my wif to be myne executrix of this my last will and Testam[en]t and shee to paye and p[er]forme my debtes and legaces And I doe appointe and ordaine **Ric Kent** thelder my trusty sup[er]visor and he to have his charges borne about thes p[re]misses witnes at the makinge hereof **Nicholas Paine** Curate **John Mainerd & Robt Riverse**

Probate: 12 June 1579

(Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 18th September 2020)

Notes:

People

William Ashdown, testator

Margret Ashdown, wife

Abraham Ashdown, son

Jacob Ashdown, son

Ursala [Ursula] Ashdown, daughter

Richard Kent the elder, overseer

Nicholas Paine, curate, witness

John Mainerd [Maynard], witness

Robert Riverse [Rivers], witness

Places

Rotherfield

Akers, Rotherfield

Relevant Events

William ASHDOWNE was buried 24 Dec 1578 at Rotherfield St Denys.

William's son, Abraham ASHEDOWNE left a will proved in 1627 (TNA: Prob 11/151/590).

Ursula ASHEDOWNE married Michael OXLEY on 13 Dec 1579 at Rotherfield St Denys.

William's son, Nicholas ASHEDOWNE left a will proved in 1603 ((ESRO: PBT/1/1/11/197A). Nicholas is not mentioned in his father's will above, presumably because he had been provided for, but Nicholas's will of 1603 states that Abraham ASHDOWN is his brother.

Family Tree

See Tree 5. "Descendants of William Ashdown of Rotherfield (c1520-1578)" in Chapter 2.

2. Will of Nicholas Ashedowne, Yeoman of Rotherfield, 1603

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/11/197A)

Made: 20 January 1602

Probate: 14 May 1603

Familysearch: Film 1885745, image 674.

In the name of god Amen the ~~Third day of December~~ eight and Twentieth day of January in the yere of our lord god after the Computacon of the Church of Englan[d] one Thousand Six hundre[d] and Twoe I **Nicholas Ashedowne** of the p[ar]yshe of Retherfeild in the county of Sussex yeoman being sicke of body but of good & p[er]fecte Remembrance thankes be geven to god therefore doe make & declare this my last will & testament in manner & forme followinge First & principally I geve & bequeth my soule unto allmighty god my maker savyour & redeemer by whome & through whome I hope to have forgevenes of all my synnes & my body to the earth from whence it Came & decently to be buri[ed] when it shall please god Itm I will & bequeth unto **Mary Gyllett** ^{^als} **Russell** my daughter Six pounds of lawfull money of England to be paid unto her, her heires or assignes by my executor hereafter named within one yere nexte after my decease Itm I will & bequeth unto **Ellnor** my daughter Tenne poundes of lawfull money of England to be paid unto her, her heires or assignes by my executor within Twoe yeres nexte after my decease Itm I will & bequeth unto **Grace** my daughter Tenne poundes of lawfull money of England to be paid unto her, her heires or assignes by my executor within Twoe yeres nexte after my decease Itm I will & bequeth unto **Sysely** my daughter Tenne poundes of lawfull money // of England to be paid unto her ^her^ heires or assignes within Fower yeres nexte after my decease by my executor Itm I will & my meaneinge is that if any of my said three daughters **Ellnor Grace & Sisely** doe dye before her or there porcon shalbe dew to be paid beinge unmaryed that then I will her porcon soe deceasinge shall remayne to the other then lyveinge to be equally devided betweene them Itm I will & bequeth unto **Gerrett Ashedowne** one lambe Itm I will & bequeth & my very meaneinge is that **Margery** ^my^ wife shall have Fower poundes of lawfull money of England a yere eve[r]ly yere duringe her naturall life quarterly to be paid by my sonne **Richard** his heires or assignes out of my mesuages lands & ten[emen]tes lately to him by me geven And also the said **Margery** shall have the Chamber and the ^Parlor^ with free lib[er]tie to goe & come at her will And pleasure & to have fyre & flett⁵ during ther⁶ said naturall life & if the said **Margery** do fortune to mary agayne that then she shall not have the said chamber roome nor fyer nor fleete Or els if the said **Margery** doe like better of it at her choice in steade of the said iiiijⁱⁱ a yere I will the said **Richard** my sonne shall fynde & p[ro]vide for the said **Margery** my said wife duringe her life sufficiente meate & drinke ^fitt^ for her & her estate or els shall pay her iiiijⁱⁱ a yere at her choyce to be payd in forme aforesaid by my said ^sonne^ **Richard** his heires or // assignes Itm I will & bequeth unto the said **Margery** my wife halfe my houshold stufte in my now dwellinge house Itm whereas I have geven xxx^{li} unto three of my sonne **Isackes** Children that is to say **Susan Margarett & Nicholas** x^{li} a peece & for the paymente & for the payment whereof my sonne **Richard** standeth bound by three severall bounds to them for the paymente thereof at there seve[r]all ages of xxjⁱⁱ yeres as in the said bounds it doth playnely appeere now my will & trew meane[-]inge is that if any of the said Three children of the said **Isacke** doe happen to dye before his or her said porcon of xli is dew to be paid That then I will and my trew meaneinge is that her or his said porcon so deceasinge shall remayne to the children of the said **Isacke** then lyveinge to be equally devided betweene them Itm I geve unto **Isacke** my sonne xxs a yere & ev[er]ly yere ^during his naturall life^ to be paid by my sonne **Richard** his heires or assignes halfe yerely the first payment thereof to begin within the first yere nexte after my decease All the rest of my

⁵ The OED has: flet, n.1 3. fire and flet (corruptly fleet): 'fire and house-room'; an expression often occurring in wills, etc.

⁶ *Sic.*

mooveable goods not before geven & bequethed my debtes first paid my legaces pformed & my funerall expenses pformed I geve full & wholly unto **Richard Ashedowne** my sonne whome I make my whole executor of this my psente will And I utterly revoke all former wills heretofore made And I make & ordayne **Will[ia]m Allfray** thelder of Lygreene & **Abraham Ashdowne** my brother my faithfull overseers of this my will And for the better ratifyinge hereof I have hereunto sett{e} my hand & seale even the day & yere above written these being witnesses **Ellatt** sen[ior] **John Catt** ^ [*then added below the name*] ^ his marke
Nicholas Hilder his marke
& **John Holmes** scr
[*bottom right of the page, next to the probate*] the mark of **Nicholas Ashedowne**

Probate: 14th May 1603 to **Richard Ashedowne**, son and executor.
(*Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 30th March 2020*)

Notes:

People

Nicholas Ashedowne, testator
Margery Ashedowne, wife
Mary Gyllett alias Russell, daughter
Ellnor Ashedowne, daughter
Grace Ashedowne, daughter
Sysely [Cicely] Ashedowne, daughter
Gerrett [Gerrard] Ashedowne
Richard Ashedowne, son, executor
Isaac Ashedowne, son
Susan, daughter of Isaac Ashedowne
Margaret, daughter of Isaac Ashedowne
Nicholas, son of Isaac Ashedowne
Abraham Ashdowne, brother, overseer
William Allfray [Alfrey] the elder, overseer
Ellat [Elliott?], witness
John Catt, witness
Nicholas Hilder, witness
John Holmes scr [scrivener?]

Places

Rotherfield

Relevant Events

Nicholas ASHEDONNE was buried 11 Apr 1603 at Rotherfield St Denys.
Nicholas ASHEDOWN married Margery ALLFRAY on 18 Feb 1562 at Rotherfield.
Isaac ASHEDOWNE married Susanna SLEECH on 2 Sep 1594 at Buxted.
Eleanor ASHEDOWNE married Thomas VINALL on 31 Jan 1604 at Rotherfield.
(SFHG Indexes)

Family Tree

See Tree 5. "Descendants of William Ashdown of Rotherfield (c1520-1578)" in Chapter 2.

3. Admon of Isaac Ashdowne of Rotherfield, 1608

(ESRO: PBT 1/3/3/128F)

Granted: 23 June 1608

Ashdowne Retherfield
{V}icesimo tertio die Junii pred[icto]
Quo die Mr Will[el]mus Inians Presbiter Artiu[m] M[agiste]r Surrogatus &c Com[m]isit
Administrac[i]o[n]em Bonor[um] &c Isaci Ashdowne nup[er] de Retherfield ab intestato (uti
dicitur) defuncti Susanne Ashdowne eius rel[i]c[t]e de bene et fidei[ter] Adminstrando &c ad
sancta &c in Debita Juris forma iurate obligantur eadem rel[i]c[t]a et Robertus Petet de Buxted
yeoman in __ xxx li
Inventar[ium] exhibitu[m] extendit ad sumam __ xiiijli vs

*Ashdowne Retherfield
23rd June as aforesaid
Which day Mr William Inians Priest Master of Arts Surrogate etc. committed the administration of the goods etc.
of **Isaac Ashdowne** formerly of Retherfield deceased intestate (as it is said) to **Susan{na} Ashdowne** his
relict well and faithfully to administer etc on the holy &c sworn in due form of law the said relict and **Robert
Petet** of Buxted yeoman bound [in the sum of] £.30
The inventory exhibited extended to the sum of £.13 5s*

(Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 9th October 2020)

Notes:

People

Isaac Ashdown
Susanna Ashdown, wife
Robert Petet [Pettit], yeoman of Buxted

Places

Rotherfield
Buxted

Relevant Events

Isaac ASHDOWN was buried 3 Apr 1608 at Rotherfield St Denys.

Isaac Ashdowne was baptised 22 Apr 1571 at Rotherfield St Denys son of Nicholas Ashdowne.

Isaac ASHDOWN married Susanna SLEECH on 2 Sep 1594 at Buxted.

Robert PETTITE married Joan DELVE, widow, on 27 Nov 1592 at Buxted [Nicholas DELVE
married Joan TREAPE on 4 Oct 1572 at Uckfield. Nicholas DELVE was buried 13 Jun 1592 at
Buxted].

(SFHG indexes)

Family Tree

See Tree 5. “Descendants of William Ashdown of Rotherfield (c1520-1578)” in Chapter 2.

4. Admon of Thomas Ashdowne of Rotherfield, 1608

(ESRO: PBT 1/3/3/121B)

Granted: 16 April 1608

Ashdowne Retherfelde

Eod[em] die

Quo die Mr Will[el]mus Inians Cl[er]icus Artiu[m] M[agiste]r Surrogatus &c Com[m]isit Administrac[i]o[n]em Bonor[um] &c Thome Ashdowne nup[er] de Retherfield defuncti Abrahamo Ashdowne Patruo ^n[atu]rali^ et ^l[eg]itime^ ac prox[imo] Consanguin{e}o dic[t]i defuncti de bene et fidei[ter] Adminstrand &c Jurato Obligantur id[em] Abrahamus de Frant Glover et Rich[ard]us Ashdowne de Retherfield pred[ictus] in __ xl li In[vent]ariu[m] exhibitum extendit ad sumam __ xxjli xiiij s jd {ob}

Ashdowne Retherfelde

The same day

*Which day Mr William Inians Clerk Master of Arts Surrogate etc. committed the administration of the goods etc. of **Thomas Ashdowne** formerly of Retherfield deceased to **Abraham Ashdowne** natural and legitimate uncle and closest relative of the said deceased well and faithfully to administer etc to the sum etc Sworn The said **Abraham** of Frant Glover and **Richard Ashdowne** of Retherfield aforesaid Glover bound [in the sum of] £.15 The inventory exhibited extended to the sum of £.21 19s 1d {??}*

Note: *Ob* probably stands for *obulus* (halfpenny), though no number is given.

(Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 9th October 2020)

Notes:

People

Thomas Ashdown

Abraham Ashdown of Frant, uncle, Glover

Richard Ashdowne of Rotherfield, Glover

Places

Rotherfield

Frant

Relevant Events

Thomas ASHDOWN was buried 21 Apr 1608 at Heathfield All Saints (“of Rotherfield”).

Abraham ASHDOWN was buried 27 Apr 1627 at Frant. He left a will proved 30 Apr 1627 (TNA: Prob 11/151/590).

Richard ASHDOWN is thought to be the son of Abraham’s brother, Nicholas ASHDOWN who married Margaret ALFREY in 1562 at Rotherfield, although his baptism has not been found.

Family Tree

It has not been possible to place Thomas Ashdown in a family tree as yet. All that is known for now is that Abraham Ashdown is his uncle, as stated in the admon above.

5. Admon of William Ashdowne of Wivelsfield, 1609

(ESRO: PBT 1/3/3/180B)

Granted: 14 October 1609

Ashdowne Wivelsffielde

Decimo quarto die Octobris 1609

Quo die Mr Will[el]mus Inians Presb[yte]r Artium Mag[iste]r Surrogatus etc Comisit Administrac[i]o[n]em Bonor[um] etc Will[el]mi Ashdowne nup[er] de Wivelsffielde ab intestato (uti dicitur) defunct[i] [blank] Ashdowne eius rel[i]c[t]e bene et fide[i]t[er] adminstrando etc ad sum{m}a etc Jurate obligantur

In[vent]ariu[m] exhibitum extendens ad sumam __ viij – js – ijd

Ashdowne Wivelsfield

14th October 1609

*Which day Mr William Inians Priest Master of Arts Surrogate etc. committed the administration of the goods etc. of **William Ashdowne** formerly of Wivelsfield who (as it is said) died intestate to **[blank] Ashdowne** his relict well and faithfully to administer etc to the sum etc {sworn} bound*

The inventory exhibited extending to the sum of £8 1s 2d

(Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 9th October 2020)

Notes:

People

William Ashdown

Places

Wivelsfield

Relevant Events

William ASHDOWN was buried on 2 Oct 1609 at Wivelsfield St Peter & St John.
(SFHG indexes)

Family Tree

All places are in Sussex except where shown. The people who left wills/admons are highlighted.

William Ashdown , bur. 2 Oct 1609 at Wivelsfield, admon. 1609
--

+ **unknown spouse** [possibly Joan, bur. 1612 at Wivelsfield]

├── **Richard Ashdown**, bap. 17 Nov 1595 at Wivelsfield

└── **Elizabeth Ashdown**, bap. 13 May 1599 at Wivelsfield

Not much is known about this family. They appear in the parish registers with Richard's baptism in 1595 and then there are no more Ashdown's after Joan's burial in 1612 until later in the 1700s.

6. Will of Abraham Ashdowne, Yeoman of Frant, 1627

(TNA: Prob 11/151/590)

Made: 19 April 1627

Probate: 30 April 1627

(Copy of original will available for download at The National Archives (TNA) and Ancestry)

In the name of God Amen in the third year of the Raigne of our Sovereigne Lord Charles by the grace of god Kinge of England Scotland France and Ireland Defender of the Faith & I **Abraham Ashdowne** of Frant in the Countie of Sussex yeoman being sick in bodie but of good and perfect remembrance thanks be to Allmightie god doe make and ordaine this my last will and testament in manner and forme following Inprimis and above all I bequeath my soule into the hands of Allmightie god my onlie saviour and Redeemer and my bodie to the earth from whence it was taken Item I give unto the poore of the parish of Frant Twentie shillings to be distributed within one weeke next after my decease at the discrecon of **Mr William Dike** Clerke and the Collectors for the poore Item I give more unto them sixe dozen of Bread at sixe shillings the dozen which guift my mynde is shall beginn at Christmas next after my decease and soe to Contynue everie Christmas untill the full end of tenne yeares Item I give unto **Peter Harrwood** weaver dwelling in Frant Three shillings and Fower pence to be paid unto him within one weeke next after my decease Item I give unto the poore of the parish of Retherfield Twentie shillings of lawfull english money to be distributed amongst them by the Overseers of the said parish within one moneth next after my decease Item I give unto the poore of the parish of Speldhurst in Kent Twentie shillings to be paid unto them within one moneth next after my decease to be distributed amongst them at the discrecon of the Overseers of the said p[ar]ish Item I give unto **Nicholas Russell** of the parish of Gowdhurst in Kent Tenne poundes of lawfull english money to be paid unto him within one yeare next after my decease Item I give unto **Walter Thomas Richard John** and **William** the sonnes of **Robert Russell** late of Lamberhurst deceased the some of Five poundes a peece to be paid unto them with two yeares next after my decease Item I give unto **Robert Russell** sonne of the aforesaid **Robert Russell** the some of Sixe poundes Thirteene shillings and Fower pence of lawfull english money to be paid unto him within Three yeares after my decease Item I give to **Alice** the daughter of the above named **Robert Russell** the some of Five poundes to be paid unto her within three yeares after my decease Nowe if anie of the aforesaid parties happen to depart this life before the said severall somes shall be due unto them Then my will and mynde is that the porcon or porcons of the deceased shalbe equallie devided amongst the Survivors Item I give unto **Gerrard Ashdowne** sonne of **Jacob Ashdowne** my brother the some of Tenne poundes of lawfull english money to be paid unto him within three yeares next after my decease Item I give unto **Marye Ashdowne** the wief of **Daniell Richmond** Five poundes to be paid likewise within three yeares next after my decease and my will and mynde is that if anie of the aforesaid parties happen // To depart this lief before their severall porcons be due Then the same to be devided amongst the survivors Item I give unto the two youngest daughters of **William Cackett** late of Tunbridge deceased the some of Five pounds a peece to be paid unto them within three yeares next after my decease And if anie of them happen to depart this lief before the said porcon then my will and mynde is that the survivor shall be the others heire Item I give unto **Grace** the daughter of **Thomas Wilding** Tenne poundes of lawfull english money to be paid unto her within fower yeares next after my decease if she soe long happen to live Item I give unto **Cisley Ashdowne** the daughter of **Nicholas Ashdowne** Five poundes to be paid unto her within three yeares next after my decease Item I give unto the daughter of **John Randoll** nowe lyving the some of Five poundes to be paid unto her at her age of one and twentie yeares Item I give unto **Mary** the widdowe of **Robert Russell** one greate joyned Cheste and all that is therein and one great brasse Kettle Item I give unto **John** the sonne of **Robert Russell** all that is in the shopp and the chamber over it exceptinge one paire of scales and the waightes belonging to them the Shopboard and the Glovers stake Item I give unto **Abraham Vinnall** the sonne of **Thomas Vinnall**

of Retherfield my mansion house in Frant where nowe **Edward Oxley** dwelleth and all my freehold land within the said parish with all the Edifices and buildings and other appurtenances thereunto belonging and to his heires forever Provided allwaies and my mynde is that the said **Abraham Vinall** shall have noe benefitt proffitt or Com[m]oditie out of the said land ^until^ he shall attaine ^to^ the full age of Fowerteene yeares but the rent of the said Land untill the time aforesaid shall remayne as due unto my executor (whome I shall anonne name) towards the payment of the afore bequeathed legacies Item I give unto **Richard** the sonne of **Richard Ashdowne** and to his heires for ever all my Asart and Copyhould-land within the parish of Bucksteed with the appurtenances thereunto belonging when he shall accomplish the age of One and twentie yeares Item I give unto **William Oxley** of Retherfield all my Freehold land in Bucksted being a Copps or parcell of Wood land contayning by estimacon Twelve acres and to his heires forever And my will and mynde is that he shall paie out of the same unto my executor toward the payment of the legacies before given within three yeares after my decease The some of tenne poundes otherwise to have noe benefitt by this my will Item I give and bequeath unto **Edward Oxley** of Frant **James Ashdowne** the sonne of **Jacob Ashdowne** **Nicholas Ashdowne** the sonne of **Isacke Ashdowne** And **Abraham Ashdowne** the sonne of **Nicholas Ashdowne** of Brenchley One howse and Barne and other Edifices thereunto belonging and all my Coppihould land within the parish of Tiseherst in the Countie of Sussex equallie to be devided amongst them and to their heires forever And my will and mynde is that the aforementioned parsons shall paie out of the same to my executor toward the payment of the legacies the some of Fortie poundes of lawfull english money to be paid within two yeares next after my decease Item I give unto **Richard Ashdowne** sonne of **Nicholas Ashdowne** the some of Fortie shillings to be paid unto him by my Executor within one yeare next after my decease Item I give unto the Children of **John Chapman** late of Bucksted deceased the full some of Five poundes equallie to be devided amongst them within one yeare next after my decease Item I give unto **John** the sonne of **John Oxley** the some Sixe poundes Thirteene shillings and Fower pence of lawfull English money to be paid unto him by my executor within three yeares next after my decease Item I give unto **John Oxley** sonne of **Michaell Oxley** the some of Fiftie shillings to be paid unto him within one moneth next after my decease Item I give unto the Children of **Edward Oxley** Three shillings and Fower pence a peece to be paid within one moneth next after my decease Item I give unto **Thomas Durrant** of Bucksted my Tenant Fiftie shillings Item I give unto **Elizabeth** the wief of **Edward Oxley** tenne shillings to be paid within one moneth next after my decease Item my will and mynde is that my executor (whom I shall anonnn name) shall Receive the Rent and Revenue of my Coppihould and Asart land att Bucksted given unto **Richard Ashdowne** and his heires forever untill the said **Richard** shall attaine unto the full // Age of One and Twentie yeares allowinge for the same unto **William** the brother of the said **Richard** towards his maintenance at the rate of Eight pence in the pound And to pay the whole some received (excepting the use which shall remayne as aforesaid ^unto^ **William Ashdowne**) unto **Elizabeth Ashdowne** sister unto the above named **Richard and William** when she shall attaine unto the full age of one and Twentie yeares And I doe constitute and appointe **Edward Oxley** of Frant my sisters sonne executor of this my last will and Testament unto whome I give all the rest of my goodes and Chattells not given nor bequeathed my debts and legacies aforesaid and funerall expences being discharged And I entreate my webeloved freindes **Thomas Wilding** of Tiseherst and **John Weller** of Retherfield yeoman to be Overseers of this my last will and Testament And I give them for their paines to be taken herein Tenne shillings a peece And that this is the last will and Testament of me **Abraham Ashdowne** and all other wills hereby utterlie revoked I have hereunto sett my hand and Seale the Nyneteenth of Aprill in the yeare above written. **Abraham Ashdowne** his marke Read published and declared to be the last will and Testament of **Abraham Ashdowne** in the presence of **William Osborne**
John Latter

Probate: London, 30th April 1627 on the oath of Edward Oxley, executor.

(Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 30th March 2020)

Notes:

People

Abraham Ashdowne, yeoman, testator
Mr William Dike, clerk
Peter Harrwood, weaver of Frant
Nicholas Russell, of Gouldhurst, Kent
Robert Russell deceased, of Lamberhurst
Walter Russell, son of Robert Russell deceased
Thomas Russell, son of Robert Russell deceased
Richard Russell, son of Robert Russell deceased
John Russell, son of Robert Russell deceased
William Russell, son of Robert Russell deceased
Robert Russell, son of Robert Russell deceased
Alice Russell, the daughter of Robert Russell deceased
Jacob Ashdowne, brother
Gerrard Ashdowne, son of Jacob Ashdowne
Mary Ashdowne, wife of Daniel Richmond
William Cackett deceased, of Tonbridge
Two youngest daughters of William Cackett deceased
Grace Wilding, daughter of Thomas Wilding
Cisley [Cicely] Ashdowne, daughter of Nicholas Ashdowne
Daughter of John Randall
Mary Russell, widow of Robert Russell
Abraham Vinall, son of Thomas Vinall of Rotherfield
Edward Oxley, tenant
Richard Ashdowne, son of Richard Ashdowne
William Oxley of Rotherfield
Edward Oxley of Frant
James Ashdowne, son of Jacob Ashdowne
Nicholas Ashdowne, son of Isaac Ashdowne
Abraham Ashdowne, son of Nicholas Ashdowne of Brenchley
Richard Ashdowne, son of Nicholas Ashdowne
John Chapman deceased, of Buxted
John Oxley, son of John Oxley
John Oxley, son of Michael Oxley
Children of Edward Oxley
Thomas Durrant, tenant, of Buxted
Elizabeth Oxley, wife of Edward Oxley
Richard Ashdowne, son of Richard Ashdowne
William Ashdowne, son of Richard Ashdowne
Elizabeth Ashdowne, daughter of Richard Ashdowne
Edward Oxley, sisters son, of Frant, executor
Thomas Wilding of Ticehurst, overseer
John Weller of Rotherfield, overseer
William Osborne, witness
John Latter, witness

Places

Frant
Rotherfield
Speldhurst, Kent
Goudhurst, Kent
Lamberhurst
Tunbridge [Tonbridge], Kent
Bucksted/Bucksteed [Buxted]
Brenchley, Kent
Ticehurst

Relevant Events

Abraham ASHDOWN was buried 27 Apr 1627 at Frant St Alban.

Edward OXLIE married Elizabeth HOSMER on 5 Aug 1610 at Rotherfield.

Edward OXLEY buried 5 Feb 1643 at Frant St Alban (“of Durndall”).

Eleanor ASHEDOWNE [daughter of Nicholas ASHEDOWNE] married Thomas VINALL on 31 Jan 1604 at Rotherfield.

Grace ASHEDOWNE [daughter of Nicholas ASHEDOWNE] married Thomas WILDING on 1 Jun 1615 at Rotherfield.

John CHAPMAN of Rotherfield married Elizabeth OXLY on 9 Sep 1605 at Frant.

(SFHG Indexes)

Abraham’s brother, Nicholas ASHEDOWNE left a will proved in 1603 (ESRO: PBT/1/1/11/197A).

Family Tree

See Tree 5. “Descendants of William Ashdown of Rotherfield (c1520-1578)” in Chapter 2.

7. Admon of Thomas Ashdowne of Eastbourne, 1634

(ESRO: PBT 1/3/6/182E)

Granted: 29 March 1634

Ashdowne Eastborne

Eodem die

Quo die mag[iste]r Antonius Hugget Cl[er]icus Artiu[m] mag[iste]r Sur[rogat]us &c Comisit Administrac[i]o[n]em Bonor[um] &c Thome Ashdowne nup[er] de Eastborne ab intestate defuncti Nicho[las] Ashdowne P[at]ri n[at]urali et l[eg]itimo eiusdem defuncti de bene et fidel[ite]r administrando &c Ad s[an]cta &c iurato Obligantur ib[ide]m Nich[ol]as de Eastborne predict_ Carpenter et Thomas Worrall de Lewes Taylor in __ xxli

Elizabeth Asdowne rel[i]c[t]e eiusdem defuncti prius Administrac[i]o[n]em Bonor[um] &c renunciante p[er] ut ex Cleri[c]o Mag[ist]r[o] Rich[ard]i Vernon Cl[er]ici Vicarii ib[ide]m in ea parte exhibit penesque Regr_ Dimiss[us] liquet Inventariu[m] exhibitu[m] extendit ad sumam ___ vijli xvs

The same day

*Which day Master Anthony Hugget clerk Master of Arts Surrogate etc Committed the administration of the goods etc. of **Thomas Ashdowne** formerly of Eastbourne deceased intestate to **Nicholas Ashdowne** natural and legitimate father of the said deceased well and faithfully to administer etc. Sworn on the holy etc. The said **Nicholas** of Eastbourne aforesaid carpenter and **Thomas Worrall** of Lewes tailor bound in [the sum of] £20.00*

***Elizabeth Ashdowne** relict of the said deceased having previously renounced the administration of the goods etc. whereby {as Clerk?} Master Richard Vernon clerk Vicar of the same presents in this part {????} it is clear that the inventory exhibited extends to the sum of £7 15s*

Notes:

I'm not at all sure of the role played by Richard Vernon. Where I have put {???} it may have something to do with penalties due to the court/registry in relation to Elizabeth's renunciation.

(Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 8th October 2020)

Notes:

People

Thomas Ashdown

Elizabeth Ashdown, wife of Thomas

Nicholas Ashdown, father, carpenter

Thomas Worrall, tailor of Lewes

Places

Eastbourne

Lewes

Relevant Events

Thomas ASHDOWN was buried 19 Mar 1634 at Eastbourne St Mary.

(SFHG indexes)

Family Tree

See Tree 6. “Descendants of Nicholas Ashdown (-1638) of Eastbourne” in Chapter 2.

8. Will of Nicholas Ashdowne, Carpenter of Eastbourne, 1638

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/25/167(1))

Made: 24 August 1638

Probate: 20 September 1638

Familysearch: Film no 1885823; Image no 253.

In the Name of God Amen the Fower and Twentith day of August Anno Dni 1638 Annoq[ue] {??} D[o]m[ini] N[ost]ri Caroli &c xiiij^{to} I **Nicholas Ashedowne** of Eastbourne in the County of Sussex Carpenter beinge sike in Body but of good and pfect minde and remembrance Laud and praise be give[n] to Allmightie God therfore, doe make and Ordayne this my last Will and Testament in manner & forme following Viz^t First I bequeathe my Soule unto A[[i]mi[-]ghtie God my maker and redeemer and my Body to the Earth from whence it came to be buried in decent manner at the discretion of my Executor hereafter named in the Pa[rish]e Churchyard of Eastbourne aforesaid Item I give unto my Sonne **John Ashedowne** [word hidden by crease?] he be at the making heerof a L{in}e Twelve Pence to bee paide him by my Executor, It[em I] give and Bequeath unto my Sonne in Lawe **Cornelius Merrick{es}**[^] the Some of Twentie Shillinges Item [I give] unto **Clemence** my Daughter the wife of the saide **Cornelius Merricke** all my Linen belon[ging] unto Bedding and likewise all hir Beddinge Excepte Tw{a} Pillowbers wth I doe {hee} by give and Bequeath unto **Clemence Ashdowne** daughter unto my Sonne **Thomas Ashdowne deceased** Item I give and Bequeath unto my daughter **Mary** the wife of **William Easton** of Eastbourne aforesaide husbandman the Some of Twentie Shillinges to be paide her by ^{^my^} Executor wthin Three Monthes next after my decease Item I give and Bequeath unto everie one of the Children of My ^{^late^} sonne **William Ashedow[ne]** late of Eastgrinsted in the said Countie Brickelayer (deceased) to each of them the Some of Tenn Shillinges to be paide them by my saide when they and ev[er]ye of them shall Accomplishe their sev[er]all Ages of one and Twentie yeeres wth all use bene[-]fitt Advantage and increase therof from the time of my decease Item I give unto **Margarett Ashedowne** of Eastgrinsted aforesaide widow late wife of the saide **William Ashedowne** my Sonne of Ten Shillinges to be paide her by my said Exeutor wthin Three Monthes next after my decease Item I give and Bequeath unto **Will[ia]m Easton** my Sonne in Law the Some of Twentie Shillinges to be paid him in like mann[er] wthin Three Monthes next after my decease Item I give and Bequeath unto ev[er]y one of the Children of the said **William Easton** the Some of Tenn Shillinges a peece to be paide u[nto] the saide **William Easton** to their use wthin Three Monthes next after my decease the said **Will[ia]m** givinge my Executor an Acquittance and sufficient dischargd for the same Item I give and Bequeath unto everie one of the Children of the saide **Cornelius Merrickes** my Sonne in Law Twentie Shillinges a peece to be paide them by my saide Executor when they shall Accomplishe their sev[er]all Ages of One and Twentie yeeres Item I give and Bequeath unto **John Ashedowne** youngest sonne of **Thomas Ashedowne** (deceased) my sonne aforemen[-]coned my Brasse Pott to be deliv[er]ed him by my Executor at his Age of one and Twentie yeeres Item I give and Bequeath unto **Nicholas Ashedowne** ^{^my {??}}⁷ &[^] eldest sonne of the saide **Thomas Ashedowne** Soe manie of my Woorckinge Toolles as my Executor in his owne discretion shall thinke necessarie and fitt And all the residue of my goodes and Chattells readie monie Credittes and debtes Corne Woorckinge Toolles Howsholdstuff and Implementes of Howsholde stuffe whatsoever ungive[n] and Bequeathed my debtes beinge paide and Funerall Expences being discharged I heerby give and Bequeath unto the saide **Cornelius Merrickes** my sonne in Lawe whome I make sole Executor ^{^of this my {??}}⁸ will[^] towards the keepinge Mainetenance and bringinge up of the aforemenconed **Clemence Ashdowne** Daughter of my saide Son[n]e **Thomas Ashdowne (deceased)** beinge a Childe of the Age of Seven yeeres And I doe intreate my Lovinge neight

⁷ servant?

⁸ present?

bours **John Sharpe** of Eastbourne aforesaide yeoma[n] and **John Russell** of the same Bricklayer to be ov[er]seers of this my p[re]sent will And I doe heerby renounce all other former Wills Legacies and Bequeaths whatsoever p[ro]nouncinge only this to be my last Will and Testament In Witnesse wherof I have heerunto sett my hand and seale the day and yeere first above written

The marke of **Nicholas Ashdowne**

Witnesses heerunto

John Sharpe John Russell his Marke Richard Lasey Nicholas Worgar

(Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 29 March 2020)

Probate in Latin, proved 22 Sep 1638 according to ESRO catalogue.

Notes:

People

Nicholas Ashdowne, carpenter, testator

John Ashdowne, son

Cornelius Merrickes, son-in-law

Clemence Merrickes, daughter, wife of Cornelius Merrickes

Thomas Ashdowne deceased, son

Clemence Ashdowne, seven years old, daughter of Thomas Ashdowne deceased.

Mary Easton, daughter, wife of William Easton, husbandman of Eastbourne

William Easton, son-in-law

William Ashdowne deceased, son, bricklayer of East Grinstead

Margaret Ashdowne, widow of William Ashdowne deceased

John Ashdowne, youngest son of Thomas Ashdowne deceased

Nicholas Ashdowne, eldest son of Thomas Ashdowne deceased

John Sharpe, neighbour, yeoman of Eastbourne, overseer and witness

John Russell his Marke, neighbour, bricklayer of Eastbourne, overseer and witness

Richard Lasey, witness

Nicholas Worgar, witness

Places

Eastbourne

East Grinstead

Relevant Events

Nicholas ASHDOWN was buried 27 Aug 1638 at Eastbourne St Mary.

Nicholas ASHDOWNE married Margaret COWPER on 10 Jan 1590/91 at Eastbourne.

Mary ASHDOWNE married William ESON [EASTON] on 22 Nov 1622 at Jevington.

William ASHDOWNE married Margaret COE on 4 Jun 1626 at East Grinstead.

William was buried at on 18 Apr 1635 at East Grinstead St Swithun.

Thomas ASHDOWNE married Margaret MOORE on 2 Feb 1620/21 at Hooe.

Thomas was buried on 19 Mar 1634 at Eastbourne St Mary.

Clemence ASHDOWNE married Cornelius MERIKE on 5 Jun 1623 at Eastbourne.

(SFHG Indexes)

Family Tree

See Tree 6. "Descendants of Nicholas Ashdown (-1638) of Eastbourne" in Chapter 2.

9. Will of Richard Ashdowne, Husbandman of Buxted, 1649

(TNA: PROB 11/209/468)

Made: 11 April 1649

Probate: 22 October 1649

(Copy of original will available for download at The National Archives (TNA) and Ancestry)

In the Name of God Amen the eleventh day of Aprill Anno Dni One thousand six hundred forty nyne I **Richard Ashdowne** of Buxted in the County of Sussex husbandman sick and weake in body but of good and perfect remembrance All praise and thanks be given unto Almighty God therefore doe make and ordaine this my last will and testament in manner and forme following, First I give and bequeath my soule into the hands of Almighty God my most merciful creator trusting and relying only for my salvation upon the blessed merritts of Jesus Christ my only Saviour and Redeemer, and my body unto the earth from whence it was taken. Item I give and bequeath unto **Amy** my loving wife All that my messuage or tenement, and five acres of landthereunto belonging with all and singular their appurtenances situate lying and being in Goudhurst in the County of Kent, and now or later in the possession or occupation of **Thomas Roades** and **Richard Roades** for and during the term of her natural life And after the death of her the said **Amy** I give and bequeath the said messuage or tenement lands and premises with their and every of their appurtenances unto **John Ashdowne** my sonne and his heirs for ever. Item I give unto my foure sonnes **Richard Ashdowne, John Ashdowne, Thomas and Nicholas Ashdowne** twelve pence a peece. And unto my daughters **Elizabeth** wife of **William Hunt** and **Amy Ashdowne** twelve pence a peece to be paid unto them and every of them at the day of my funeral by my executrix hereafter named. The residue of all and singular my goods and chattels not hereby given or bequeathed in debt and funeral expences being first paid and discharged I give and bequeath unto the said **Amy** my wife, whom I make and ordain sole and whole Executrix of this my said last will and testament Given under my hand and seale the day & year first above written. The marke of **Richard Ashdowne**. Read published written and declared in the presence of The marke of **Edward Hudson** The marke of **Edward Durrant Geo. Stringer**
Probatum [Latin] to Amia Ashdowne, relict

(Transcribed by Geoffrey Barber, 26 Mar 2020)

Notes:

People

Richard Ashdowne, husbandman, testator

Amy Ashdowne, wife

John Ashdowne, son

Richard Ashdowne, son

Thomas Ashdowne, son

Nicholas Ashdowne, son

Elizabeth Hunt, daughter, wife of William Hunt

Amy Ashdowne, daughter

Thomas Roades, tenant

Richard Roades, tenant

Edward Hudson, witness

Edward Durrant, witness

George Stringer, witness

Places

Buxted

Goudhurst, Kent

Relevant Events

Richard ASHDOWN was buried on 14 Apr 1649 at Buxted St Margaret.

Richard ASHDOWNE and Amy GILDRIDGE obtained a marriage licence on 8 Dec 1625. Richard a yeoman of Rotherfield, Amy of the same parish. Sponsors: Richard ASHDOWNE and John GILDRIDGE father of Amy, yeoman of the same parish.

Richard ASHDOWNE married Emma [Amy] GILDRIDGE on 12 Dec 1625 at Maresfield (Richard of Rotherfield, Emma of the same parish).

William HUNT of Ticehurst married Elizabeth ASHDOWNE of Lamberhurst, Kent on 28 May 1644 at Lewes St John sub Castro.

Richard ASHDOWNE may have had an earlier marriage to Elizabeth SKIPTON on 10 Jun 1616 at Brenchley, Kent (Richard of Rotherfield) (Sussex People Index, not in SMI) (SFHG Indexes)

Family Tree

See Tree 5. "Descendants of William Ashdown of Rotherfield (c1520-1578)" in Chapter 2.

10. Will of William Ashdowne, Pail Maker of Battle, 1653

(TNA: PROB 11/230/147)

Made: 20 Oct 1652

Probate: 20 May 1653

(Copy of original will available for download at The National Archives (TNA) and Ancestry)

In the name of God Amen The Twenthith day of October in the yeare of our Lord God one Thousand Six Hundred Fiftie and Two I **William Ashdowne** of Battell in the Countie of Sussex Payle Maker beinge sicke in body but of good and perfect memorie prayed be God therefore doe ordeine and make this my last will and Testam[en]t in manner and forme followinge First I bequeath my Soule to God that gave it hoping as[s]uredlie That by his Mercie and the merritts of Jesus Christ my alone Saviour and Redeemer to bee eternallie saved And my bodie to be decentlie buried by my Executor hereafter named Item I give unto the poor Aged people of the parrish of Battell Tenn shillinges to bee distributed amonge them att my funerall or the nexte Lordes day after itt Item I give unto **Joyce** my daughter the wife of **Jacob Suggestt** one Joyned Bedsteede my oldest feather Bedd one Coverlet one Blanket one Boulster and all other things there to belonginge to be delivered unto her im[m]ediatelie after my decease Item I give and bequeath unto my Two Grandchildren **Elizabeth and Anne** the daughters of **Andrew Moone** and **Elizabeth** my daughter now deceased the house wherin [illeg.] Leedinge latelie dwelt and the garden then therew[i]th used and occupied w[hi]ch C{??} waye and pas{?u}age to goe and come Carie and alsoe free libertie for them and their heires and assignes to come and goe to the Well for to Draw water att all tymes {the} and their heires and Assignes beareinge part of the reparacons of the said {well} when and as often as neede shall requier To have and to hold the said house and garden w[i]th th'app[ur]tenances thereunto belonginge unto them the said **Elizabeth {and} Anne** and to their heires forever from and after the [illeg.] that the said **{Anne} Moone** hath accomplished her full Age of one and Twentie yeares And if itt {doe} happen That either of them doe die before the said **Anne** hath accomplished her full Age of one and Twentie yeares w[i]thout heires of their Bodie lawfullie begotten That then the Survivor shall have the whole to her and to the // heires forever And if it doe happen That they should depart this life before the said **Anne** is come to the Age of one and Twentie yeares w[i]thout heires of their Bodies lawfullie begotten that then the said house and garden w[i]th th'app[ur]tenances shall returne and remayne {u}nto ^unto^ **Alice** my daughter the wife of **John Chesman** and to her heires forever Provided alwayes and uppon Conditon that they the said **Elizabeth and Anne** and their or either of their heires and Assignes shall and doe from tyme to tyme and att all tymes after my decease suffer and permitt **Jacob Suggestt** and **Joice** his wife and her heires and assignes and **John Chesman** and **Alice** his wife and her heires and Assignes for to goe and come Carie and recarrie freely w[i]th horses Oxen and Cartes or otherwise (throug that part of the Close belonging unto the said **Andrew Moone** and to **Elizabeth and Anne** and their heires) unto all the howses Tenam[en]ts and gardens of mee the above named **William Ashdowne** as itt now is and hath byne used since the tyme that I have had the the said Howses and gardens in my pos[s]es[s]ion and use And yf the said **Andrew Moone or Elizabeth and Anne** his daughters or their heires or Assignes shall and doe refuse and deny or otherwyse trouble and molest the said **Jacob Sagett and Joice** his wife or her heires and Assignes or the said **John Chesman and Alice** his wife or her heires and Assignes for to goe come Carie and recarrie freely through that parte of the said Close as aforesaid That then this my present Syfte⁹ of the said howse and garden w[i]th their app[ur]tenances before given shalbe utterlie void and of none effect To all intents and purposes aforesaid as yf itt had never beene aine thing in this my present will and Testam[en]t Conteyned in aine wise notw[i]thstandinge And then I do give and bequeath the said house and garden with all and everie their app[ur]tenances unto **William Sagitt** (the sonne of **Jacob Sagett and Joice** my daughter) and to his heires forever Item I will and

⁹ Probably = shift (share or portion).

bequeath unto **Alice** my daughter the wife of **John Chesman** The house wherein **John Manser** now dwelleth and that part of the house that is now Emty and the Stable and all other buildings thereto belonging w[i]th all Closes gardens and land (not before given) w[i]th all wayes passages easem[en]ts proffittes and Comodities w[i] their and every of their app[ur]tenances belonging or apperteyning unto that tenem[en]t Comonly Called or knowne by the name of Fyshes duringe the Terme of her naturall life and after her decease to **William the Sonne of John Chesman and Alice** my Daughter and to his heires forever And [^]further[^] my will intent and true meaninge is That my executor hereafter named shall have receive and take up all the Rents proffitts and Comodities of the said howses Stable and gardens (before given) for and towards the payinge of my debtes and the Legacies in this my present will given and bequeathed untill the said yearely Rentes and proffittes shall come and amount unto the full Some of Twentie and Seaven poundes of lawfull Money of England w[hi]ch is due unto mee from the said **John Chesman** for Fower Oxen one Heifer and Thirtie shillings lent in Money The Charges of repayeringe of the said Howses Stable and gardens beinge taken out of the rentes as neede shall requier untill the money is fullie Satisfied and paid and also the rentes and Services due unto the Cheife Lord or Lordes of the fee or fees thereof shalbe sett out in the Rentes duringe the tyme the said Money is unpaid Item I give unto the said **Alice** my daughter five peeces of puter marked w[i]th a W under the brime and one Mare now in her husbandes keepinge Item I give unto the said **John Chesman and Alice** his wife all the Clowes that hee hath of myne and all the Moneyes that hee {doth} owe unto mee either upon Bond or Reckoning The said Seaven and Twentie poundes before referred to be paid out of the Rentes of the Howses aforesaid onlie excepted foreprised and reserved accordinge to my intent and true meaninge in this my present will expressed All w[hi]ch Clowes Money and reckonings (except before execepted) shalbe free and their owne imediately after my decease Item I give and bequeath unto **Jacob Sagett and Joyce** his wife my daughter the one halfe of all my household stuffe not before given and bequeathed except my best Joyned Bedsteed and my best Feather Bed my best Coverlet one Blankett Two Boulsters one Pillow and all other thinges thereunto belonginge w[hi]ch said Bed I give and bequeath unto my executor hereunder named Item I give unto the said **Jacob Sagett** the one halfe of all my wearinge apparrell both Wollen and Linnen all w[hi]ch said household stuffe and apparrell my will is shalbe equally // Devided betweene the said **Jacob Saggett** and his and his¹⁰ wife and my Executor by my overseers and two other men whome they shall Chose Item I give unto **Elizabeth** my wife the Twentie poundes that was hers and is in the handes of **Edward Hoathly** her Sonne All the rest residue and remaynder of my Goodes Chattles and Debts due unto me both reall and personall I give and bequeath unto **William Saggett** the Sonne of **Jacob Saggett and Joice** my daughter for to pay my debtes and legacies in this my last will and Testam[en]t given and bequeathed and to discharge my funerall expences Item I give and bequeath unto **William the Sonne of John Chesman and Alice** my daughter Sixteene poundes of good and Lawfull money of England to be paid unto him when he is come unto the full Age of one and Twentie yeares by my Executor hereunder named And I doe ordeyne the said **William Saggett** my Grandsonne sole Executor of this my last will and Testam[en]t requiering him to performe and fullfill the same accordinge to my true intent and meaninge herein expressed And I doe hereby revoake and disannull All former wills and Testam[en]tes heretofore by me made And I doe declare my verie good kinsman **Andrew Ashdowne** and my loveinge frend **John Taylor** of Breadsell to be overseers to see this my last will performed And I doe give unto them for their paynes tenn shillings [^]a peece[^] In witnes whereof to this my present will and Testamnt I have sett my hand and Seale the day and yeare first above written These whose names are here under Subscribed beinge witnesses **William Ashdowne** his marke **Gyles Wates Richard Hull John Taylor**

¹⁰ *Sic.*

Memorand[um] that the rassed and blurred lynes in this present will were rassed by the will and Comannd of the s[ai] Testat[o]r before his hand and Seale were putt hereunto in the p[resen]tes of the witnesses above named

A noate what **John Chesman and Alice** his wife have received all reddie w[hi]ch is menconed in this p[rese]nte will Imprimis five Cowes more eight poundes received out for Oates more in Barley received at Two poundes tenn shillinges more in money upon a Bedd Three poundes and the bed more {a} {o}uld Debt of Eight pound more one Mare and a Heifer and the five peeces of pewter

Probate: Westminster, 20th May 1653 by the oath of **William Saggett** grandchild and sole executor.

(Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 2nd April 2020)

Notes:

People

William Ashdowne, testator
Elizabeth Ashdowne, wife
Edward Hoathly, Elizabeth Ashdowne's son [from previous marriage?]
Joyce Saggett, daughter, wife of Jacob Saggett
Elizabeth Moone, daughter, wife of Andrew Moone
Elizabeth Moone, granddaughter
Anne Moone, granddaughter
Alice Chesman, wife of John Chesman
William Saggett, grandson, executor
John Manser, tenant
William Chesman, grandson
Andrew Ashdowne, kinsman
John Taylor of Breadsell [Bexhill, Brede?], friend
Gyles Wates, witness
Richard Hull, witness
John Taylor, witness

Places

Battle
Breadsell [Bexhill, Brede?]
Fyshes [a tenement in Battle?]

Relevant Events

William ASHDOWNE was buried 23 Oct 1652 at Battle St Mary.

William ASHDOWNE married Jane SENOCK on 25 Nov 1639 at Battle.

Jean[sic] ASHDOWN was buried 6 Dec 1643 at Battle ("wife of William").

William ASSHDOWNE married Elizabeth HOODLEY, widow, on 14 Aug 1645 at Hastings All Saints. [In the above will, her son Edward HOATHLY is mentioned].

Rejoice ASHDONNE married Thomas[sic] SAGGET on 26 Oct 1624 at Battle.

Alice ASHDOWN married John CHESEMAN on 9 May 1637 at Bodiam.

(SFHG Indexes)

Family Tree

All places are in Sussex except where shown. The people who left wills/admons are highlighted.

William Ashdown, b. c1590, bur. 1652 at Battle

+ **unknown spouse**

— **Joyce Ashdown**, b. c1605

+ **Jacob Sagget**, m. c1625

— **William Sagget**, b. c1625

— **Elizabeth Ashdown**, b. c1610

+ **Andrew Moone**, m. c1630

— **Elizabeth Moone**, b. c1635

— **Alice Ashdown**, bap. 1619 at Battle

+ **John Cheseman**, m. 1637 at Bodiam, bur. 1655 at Bodiam

— **Elizabeth Cheseman**, bap. 1638 at Bodiam

— **William Cheseman**, b. c1640 at Bodiam

— **Elizabeth Cheseman**, bap. 1647 at Bodiam

+ **Jane Senock**, b. c1615 at England, m. 1639 at Battle, bur. 1643 at Battle

+ **Elizabeth Hoodley**, m. 1645 at Hastings

11. Will of William Ashdown, Yeoman of Rotherfield, 1692

(ESRO: PBT 1/1/41/13A)

Made: 30 Jan 1691/2

Proved: 21 May 1692

Familysearch: Film: 1885906; image: 693

In the name of God Amen I William Ashdown of

[interlined] being of sound mind & memory

Rotherfield in the County of Sussex yeoman doo make publish & declare this to bee my last will & testament under my hand a seale in writeing as followeth~~ Imprim I comend my soule into the hand of God ~~ my body to decent buriall Itm I give & bequeath unto **Jane Mary Anne Elizabeth & Thomas Ashdowne** the five children of my brother **Thomas Ashdowne** fifteen pounds equally to bee divided among them that is to say to each of them three pounds to bee paid to them severally as they shall severally attaine & to accomplish their severall ages of one & twenty yeers Itm I give unto **Mary & William Goldsmith** the two youngest of my sisters children tenn pounds a peece to bee paid at their full ages of one & twenty yeers~ I give to my brother **John Ashdowne** my brother ~ **Thomas Ashdowne** & to my sister **Mary Buckwell** ~~ fifteen shillings that is to say to each of them five ~~~ shillings a peece to bee severally paid unto them ~~ within one yeer after my decease Itm all the rest of my money goods chattles & psonall estate whatsoever I doo give unto my sisters sonne **John Goldsmith** ~~ whom I doo constitute ordaine & make sole executor of this my last will & testament. Witnes my hand & seale hereunto sett the thirtieth day of January in the yeer of or Lord one thousand six hundred ninety & one **William Ashdowne** his X marke

[End of page reached – the following written to the left of Will & perpendicular to the page]

Sealed signed published & declared to bee his last will & testament these words (being of sound mind & memory) first interlined in the psence of John Acococke, John Relfe, John Smith

Probate: 21 May 1692

Eo quod Johoas Goldsmith Erd hyiua Testamenta in minoritate fuaita Eaislil quod. etc.....

[gives administration to **John Goldsmith** the father as **John Goldsmith** the son, the executor, is a minor.]

Transcribed by Ann Dalton, 1 Dec 2019

Notes:

People

William Ashdowne, Yeoman, testator

Thomas Ashdowne, brother

Jane Ashdowne, daughter of Thomas Ashdowne

Mary Ashdowne, daughter of Thomas Ashdowne

Anne Ashdowne, daughter of Thomas Ashdowne

Elizabeth Ashdowne, daughter of Thomas Ashdowne

Thomas Ashdowne, son of Thomas Ashdowne

John Ashdowne, brother

Mary Buckwell, sister

[Elizabeth] Goldsmith, sister [Elizabeth Ashdowne m. John Gouldsmyth 17 Sep 1675 at Rotherfield]

Mary Goldsmith, sister's daughter

William Goldsmith, sister's son
John Goldsmith, sister's son (her eldest child), executor

Places

Rotherfield

Relevant Events

William Ashdown buried 19 Apr 1692 at Rotherfield, son of John senior.

Thomas Ashdowne and Jane Parker married 24 Jun 1680 at Withyham, East Sussex, both of Rotherfield.

Mary Ashdowne married Richard Buckwell 20 May 1690 at Clayton, West Sussex

Elizabeth Ashdowne and John Gouldsmyth married 17 Sep 1675 at Rotherfield, East Sussex (SFHG Indexes)

Family Tree

See Tree 3. "Ashdown, Morley & Elliotts of Rotherfield (c1620-)" in Chapter 2.

12. Will of Richard Ashdowne, Jurat of Winchelsea, 1713

(ESRO: PBT 1/1/48/302)

Made: 22 March 1711

Proved: 27 June 1713

Familysearch: Film: 1885993; image: 449

In the Name of God Amen I **Richard Ashdowne** of the antient Towne and Porte of Winchelsea in the County of Sussex Juratt being sick and weake of body but of sound and disposing mind and memory (praise be given to Almighty God for the same) do constitute and appoint this my Last will and Testament in manner and forme following (that is to say) Imprimis I commend my soul into the Hands of Almighty God my creator hoping for remission of my sins and eternal Salvation in and through the alone merits and mediation of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and my body I commit to the Earth to be decently buried according to the discretion of my Executrix herein after named and as to such worldly estate and goods which God of his mercy hath been pleased to bestow upon me I give and dispose there of as followeth Item I give and bequeath unto **Mary Padiham** wife of **James Padiham** of Winchelsea aforesaid the summe of Two pounds of good and Lawful money of Great Brittain to be paid her by my Executrix herein after named within six months next after my decease Item I give and bequeath unto **Elizabeth Hooke** Sister to the said **Mary Padiham** the like summe of Two pounds to be paid to her by my Executrix herein after named within six months next after my decease Item I give and bequeath unto **Dorothy Goodgroom** of Tenterden in the County of Kent the like summe of Two pounds to be paid unto her by my Executrix herein after named within six months next after my decease Item All the rest and residue of my Estate I give and bequeath unto my loving wife **Elizabeth Ashdowne** and to her heirs forever Lastly I do constitute and appoint my Loving wife **Elizabeth Ashdowne** to be Sole Executrix of this my Last will and Testament hereby revoking all other wills by me formerly made In witness whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and Seale this Twenty Second day of March in the eleventh Year of the Reigne of our sovereign Lady Anne by the Grace of God of great Brittain France and Ireland Queen Defender of the faith yr: Annoe Domini 1711

The marke of **Richard X Ashdowne**

Signed Sealed Published and declared to be my Last will and Testament in the presence of

Thos. Thomson

Thomas Seer

John Prosper

27th day June 1713

Elizabeth Ashdowne etc. [in Latin]

Ja: Cranston, Sur.

(Transcribed by Geoffrey Barber, 25 March 2020)

Notes:

People

Richard Ashdowne, jurat, testator

Elizabeth Ashdowne, wife

Mary Padiham, wife of James Padiham

Elizabeth Hooke, sister of Mary Padiham

Dorothy Goodgroome of Tenterden, Kent
Thomas Thomson, witness
Thomas Seer, witness
John Prosper, witness

Places

Winchelsea
Tenterden, Kent

Relevant Events

Richard ASHDOWN was buried at Winchelsea St Thomas on 26 May 1713 (“Jurat”).
Marriage of Richard & Elizabeth (mentioned in will) not found.
Richard’s widow, Elizabeth ASHDOWN appears to have married Robert SATTEN on 6 May 1714 at Winchelsea.

A possible first marriage for Richard: Martha ASHDOWN buried 20 Apr 1685 at Winchelsea (“wife of Richard”). Marriage of Richard and Martha not found.

Data coverage for Winchelsea in SFHG marriage index is very patchy: 1582, 1606-40, 1655-57, 1671, 1678-79, 1682-85, 1696-1701, 1704-21, 1724-1837.

15 July 1708 Sarah PADIHAM apprenticed to Richard Ashdown and wife Elizabeth of Winchelsea, housewifery (ESRO: PAR 511/33/16).

Probate Inventory (ESRO: PBT 1/10/435) Richard ASHDOWNE of Winchelsea, weaver.
Value of inventory: £112 17s 4d
Names of appraisers: John Parnell, Thomas Thomson
Type of act (from Act Book): probate
Date of act: 27 Jun 1713

(SFHG Indexes)

Family Tree

Insufficient data to fit this Richard Ashdown into a family tree.

13. Will of Robert Ashdowne, Shoe-maker of East Grinstead, 1714

(TNA: PROB 11/540/138)

Made: 4 May 1714

Codicill: 6 May 1714

Probate: 22 May 1714

(Copy of original will available for download at The National Archives (TNA) and Ancestry)

In the Name of God Amen I **Robert Ashdowne** of East Grinstead in the County of Sussex Shoe-maker being sick and weak in body but of sound and disposing mind and understanding thanks be given to Almighty God for the same do make and ordaine this my last Will and Testament in manner following that is to say I first give my Soul into the hands of Almighty God hoping for mercy in and through the merits of Jesus Christ my Saviour and my body I recommend to the Earth

To be decently buried and for my worldly Estate I give and dispose of the same as followeth Imprimis I give and bequeath unto my God daughter **Susan Austen** the daughter of **Thomas Austen** of Forrestrow All and singular my Goods Stock Wares book debts ready money household stuff and implements whatsoever that I die possessed of but upon this condition that in the first place she or my Executors hereinafter named do out of the same pay all my just debts funeral expences and probate of this my Will Item I give devise and bequeath unto my loving father **Richard Ashdowne** all those my Lands Tenements and hereditaments lying and being in Chiddingston in the County of Kent containing by estimation ten acres more or less To hold to him and his assigns for the terme and time of his natural life and from and after his decease Then I give and devise the aforesaid Lands Tenements and premises to **Thomas Bodle the elder** of East Grinstead aforesaid hatter and the said **Thomas Austen** and their heirs forever In Trust that they sell and dispose of the same as soon as conveniently they can from and after the death of my said father for the best price they can get and the moneys thereof arising by such sale of the same after their reasonable charges and expenses are taken out I give and dispose of as followeth that is to say To my sister Sarah the sum of five pounds To the said **Thomas Bodle** and **Thomas Austen** the summes of five pounds a peece and the rest and residue of the said money that shall arise by sale of the premises aforesaid after the deductions aforesaid I order and appoint shall be equally divided amongst my brother **John Ashdowne Alexander Ashdowne** and the children of my sister **Anne Wickersham** that is to say to be divided in three equal parts and no more also I give unto **Mary the wife of John Luxford** of Fletching Mason and to her sister each of them a gold ring Whereas my Brother **Richard Ashdowne** lately deceased by his last Will and Testament did give devise and bequeath unto his son **Richard** all those his Messuages Lands Tenements hereditaments and premises in Plumpton in the aforesaid County of Sussex and did thereby give likewise to his said son **Richard** All and singular his personal estate and effects whatsoever but did thereby order and devise all and singular the said Messuages Lands and Tenements and his personal Estate and effects whatsoever to descend and come to me in case his said son should dye before he attained his age of one and twenty years I do therefore hereby give devise and bequeath unto my said father **Richard Ashdowne** for the time and terme of his natural life and no longer All and singular my Estate Right Title Reversion Inheritance property claime and demand whatsoever which I may might could should or shall have of in to or out of all those Messuages Tenements lands and premises att Plumpton aforesaid and from and after his decease then I give and devise the same unto my said Brothers **John and Alexander Ashdowne** and sister **Anne Wickersham** share and share alike I also give and bequeath unto my said Brothers **John and Alexander Ashdowne** and Sister **Anne Wickersham** All my right title property claime and demand whatsoever of in to or out of all and singular the personal Estate of my said Brother **Richard Ashdowne** deceased only I give order and bequeath out of the same Twenty pounds to be by them paid to my said sister **Sarah Ashdowne** And I do hereby as much as

in [?] nominate and appoint the said **Thomas Bodle** and **Thomas Austen** Guartdians and Trustees in my stead and place to and for my said cousin **Richard Ashdowne** and do make them the said **Thomas Bodle** and **Thomas Austen** Executors of this my Will in trust to and for the uses aforesaid and I do hereby order and declare that if any person or persons herein concerned shall raise any trouble or suite about this my Will (otherwise than to recover his her or their Legacy or Legacies) that then and in such case such person or persons shall have or receive no benefit or advantage by these presents In witness whereof I the said **Robert Ashdowne** have to this my last Will and Testament contained in two sheets of paper sett my hand and seale to each sheet this fourth day of May in the Thirteenth year of Queen Anne Anno Dom. 1714. /. The marke and seale of **Robert Ashdowne**./.

Signed Sealed published and declared in the presence of us who subscribed as Witnesses hereunto in the Testator's presence and att his request. The marke of **Mary Tooth** the marke of **Mary Bevis Fran Green**

I the within named **Robert Ashdowne** do hereby order declare and appoint this paper or Codicill annexed to this my Will to be part of my said Will and is as followeth that is to say I give unto the wife of my Brother **Alexander Ashdowne** one Gold Ring and also I give unto my Loving father **Richard Ashdowne** all my cloths now at **John Tooths** and also one pair of new shoes one pair of stockings two shirts three neck cloths And appoint and order the within named **Thomas Bodle** to receive the rents of the Land by me given to my said father during his life Quarterly as it becomes due he the said **Thomas Bodle** paying the same as he receives itt for and towards my said fathers maintainment and not otherwise deducting what reasonable charges he shall expend about the same and in case the rents of the Land aforesaid be not enough to maintain my said father that then I order and appoint the said **Thomas Bodle** to deduct and keep in his hands what moneys he shall expend in and about the maintaining and burial of my said father out of the moneys that shall arise by sale of the said Lands. Witness my hand and seale the sixth day of May Anno Dom. 1714. /.The marke and seal of **Robert Ashdowne**./ . Sealed and delivered in the presence of /The marke of **Mary Tooth**, the marke of **Mary Bevis Thomas Bodle Junior**./.

Probatum 22 May 1714, **Thomas Bodle** and **Thomas Austen** executors

(Transcribed by Geoffrey Barber, 26 Mar 2020)

Notes:

People

Robert Ashdowne, shoe-maker, testator

Richard Ashdowne, father

Susan Austen, goddaughter, daughter of Thomas Austen

Thomas Austen of Forest Row, executor

Thomas Bodle the elder, hatter of East Grinstead, executor

John Ashdowne, brother

Alexander Ashdowne, brother

Richard Ashdowne deceased, brother

Richard Ashdowne, cousin, son of Richard Ashdowne deceased

Sarah Ashdowne, sister

Anne Wickersham, sister

Mary Luxford, wife of John Luxford mason, of Fletching

John Tooth

Mary Tooth, witness

Mary Bevis, witness

Fran Green, witness

Thomas Bodle Jnr, witness

Places

East Grinstead
Forest Row
Chiddingstone, Kent
Fletching
Plumpton

Relevant Events

Robert ASHDOWN was buried 12 May 1714 at East Grinstead St Swithun.
Herbert and Anne WICKERSHAM had children baptised at East Grinstead 1698-1714.
(SFHG Indexes)

A document at the East Sussex Record Office titled "Deeds of Heaths Farm Plumpton" (ESRO: AMS5797) provides an understanding of the family and in particular, Robert's brother Richard: *Wood assigned the lease on 24 June 1698 to Abraham Maynard of Fletching yeoman; a house and barn had lately been built on the land. Maynard's will of 1 Jan 1700 bequeathed the property to his daughter Susannah; she married Richard Ashdown of St Mary Magdalen Bermondsey Surrey tanner who after her death by his will of 6 Apr 1714 bequeathed it to his brother Robert Ashdown*
Robert Ashdown's will of 6 May 1714 gave a life interest to his father Richard with remainders to his brothers John and Alexander Ashdown & sister Ann Wickersham as tenants in common
On 1 Apr 1735 John (of Chiddingstone Kent husbandman) assigned the third share in the lease to his brother Alexander senior of Tonbridge Kent tiler for £40 (1). On 26 Mar 1736 Alexander Ashdown assigned his two-thirds share to Edmund Hobbs of Fletching yeoman; Ann, who had meanwhile married Anthony Ellis, joined with him to assign the remaining third to Hobbs on 30 Apr 1737. On 8 Oct 1737 Hobbs assigned to John Bradford of Falmer gent for £256; the farm was occupied by Edmund Chapman (2)

Possibilities:

Robert's parents may be:
Richard ASHDOWNE married Ann OSBURNE 26 Feb 1676 at Speldhurst, Kent (both of Chiddingstone).
(West Kent Marriage Index).

Family Tree

See Tree 9. "Ashdowns of East Grinstead and Chiddingstone (Kent) (1600s-1700s)" in Chapter 2.

14. Will of John Ashdowne, Yeoman of Buxted, 1714

(ESRO: PBT/2/1/5/219)

Made: 6 July 1714

Proved: 18 August 1714

Familysearch: Film: 1067010; image: 127, 128

In the Name of God Amen I **John Ashdowne** of the parish of Buxted in the County of Sussex Yeoman being of sound and disposing mind and memory thanks be given to Almighty God for the same and calling to remembrance the uncertainty of this life doe make constitute ordaine and declare this my last will and testament in manner and form following revoakeing and annulling by these presents all and every will and wills by me att any time heretofore made and declared and desiring and appointing that this only be taken for my last will and testament And first being heartily sorry for my sins past most humbly desiring forgiveness af the same I commit my soule to Allmighty God trusting to be saved through the merritts of Jesus Christ and my body to be decently buried by my Executrix hereafter named, Andas to the settling and disposing of the temporal estate which it hath pleased God to bestow upon me I doe order give and dispose of the same in manner and forme following (that is to say) first I will that my debts be paid and discharged Item I give unto my brother **Robert Asdown** one shilling Item I give unto my Cozons **Mary Ashdown** the sum of fifty pounds of lawful money of Great Britain, and to **Anne Ashdowne** ten pounds and to **Mary Truss** ten pounds, and to **Sarah Jupp** ten pounds, and to **Elizabeth Jupp** ten pounds And to **Lusha Jupp** ten pounds and to **William Truss** one shilling Item I give unto **Thomas Ticehurst** the sume of Twenty pounds And to **Mary Ticehurst John Ticehurst Anne Ticehurst and William Ticehurst** each of them twenty shillings apiece Item I give unto **William Brackpoole** the sume of twenty pounds and to **James Brackpoole John Brackpoole Thomas Brackpoole Mary Brackpoole and to Anne Brackpoole** each of them twenty shillings apiece Item I give unto **John Smith** five pounds and to **John Harris** twenty shillings all which said Legacies as aforesaid I will to bee paid within six months after the death of my loving wife **Mary** whom I make full and Sole Executrix of this my last will on condition she give security to my trustees for the payments of my debts and Legacies as aforesaid and continue a widow but in case she shall marry I will her to have only forty shillings a yeare to be paid her by my trustees hereinafter named and appointed to see this my last will duely executed as is abovesaid Lastly I nominate and appoint **John Norman** of Maresfield and **John Kidder** of Glynd my trustees and overseers of this my last will and testament In Witness whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and seale the sixth day of July Anno Dom One thousand Seaven hundred and fourteen 1714 **John Ashdown** Signed Sealed published and declared to be his last will and testament in the presence of **Robert Roots Richard Devonish**

Probatum [Latin] 18 August 1714 **Maria Ashdowne** Relict

Deanery of South Malling

Value £257 8s 6d

(Transcribed by Geoffrey Barber, 27 January 2020)

Notes:

People

John Ashdown, yeoman, testator

Mary Ashdown, wife, sole executrix

Robert Ashdown, brother

Mary Ashdown, cousin

Anne Ashdown, cousin

Mary Truss, cousin
 Sarah Jupp, cousin
 Elizabeth Jupp, cousin
 Lusha [Alicia] Jupp, cousin
 William Truss
 Thomas Ticehurst
 Mary Ticehurst
 John Ticehurst
 Anne Ticehurst
 William Ticehurst
 William Brackpoole
 James Brackpoole
 John Brackpoole
 Thomas Brackpoole
 Mary Brackpoole
 Anne Brackpoole
 John Smith
 John Harris
 John Norman of Maresfield, trustee and overseer
 John Kidder of Glynde, trustee and overseer
 Robert Roots, witness
 Richard Devonish, witness

Places

Buxted
 Maresfield
 Glynde

Relevant Events

John ASHDOWN buried 4 Aug 1713 [sic] at Maresfield St Bartholomew according the SFHG burial index [probably an error, should be 1714].

John ASHDOWN bap. 15 Oct 1665 at Buxted, son of Robert and Elizabeth is the best candidate for his baptism, but it does mean that he would be some 25 years younger than the widow Mary Kidder he married in 1699. [*There is another John Ashdown bap. 1652 at Buxted but he is buried there in 1653 "son of Robert"*]

Mary ASHDOWN, widow, buried 21 Jun 1719 at Maresfield St Bartholomew.

Marriage licence 12 Oct 1699 for John ASHDOWN of Maresfield and Mary KIDDER, widow of Maresfield (Archdeaconry of Lewes).

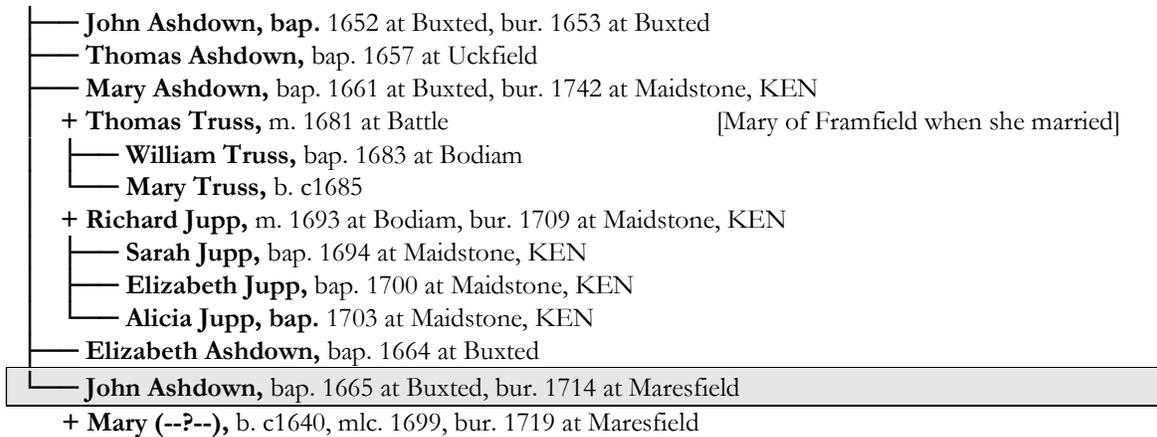
See family trees below for connections to the various people mentioned in the will.

Of interest: Thomas NORMAN married Margaret KYDDER on 17 Sep 1627 at Maresfield.
(SFHG Indexes)

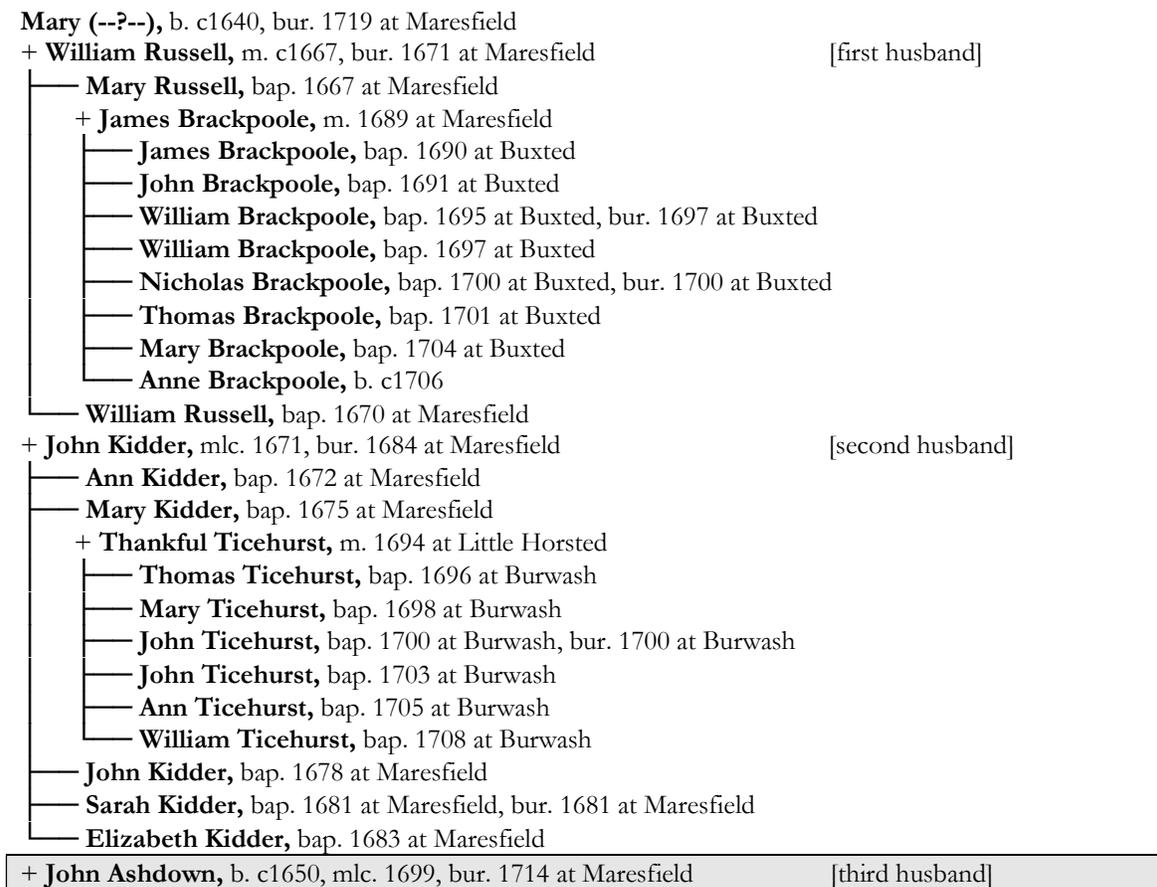
Family Tree

All places are in Sussex except where shown. The people who left wills/admons are highlighted.

Robert Ashdown, bur. 1667 at Buxted
 + **Elizabeth (--?--)**, b. c1625, m. c1647 [remarried 1668, Thomas Beard of Framfield]
 └─ **Robert Ashdown**, bap. 1649 at Buxted
 └─ **Elizabeth Ashdown**, bap. 1650 at Buxted, bur. 1652 at Buxted



Most of the names mentioned in the will are connected to John Ashdown through his wife, the widow Mary Kidder, (maiden name unknown). John Ashdown was her third husband:



15. Admon of William Ashdowne of Wadhurst, 1722

(ESRO: PBT 2/1/6/124G)

Granted: 6 June 1722

Ashdown

Wadhurst

Sexto die mensis Junii Anno D[omi]ni 1722

Thomas Peirce Artiu[m] Mag[iste]r Surr[oga]tus &c Commisit Adm[inistr]c[i]o[n]em
Omniu[m] et Singulor[um] Bonor[um] &c Cujusd[am] Gulielmi Ashdowne nup[er] de Wadhurst
in Decanat[um] de Southmallng ab Intestat{e} ut dicetur Defunct{e} Maria Ashdowne Vid[ua]
et Relict[e] Def[unc]ti p[re]d[ic]ti de Bene &c ad Sancta &c Jurat &c
Obligantur in hac parte ^eadem^ Maria Ashdowne de Wadhurst Vid[ua] Jacobus Gilbert de
ead[em] Agricola Et Caleb Fuller de Fletching Yeom[an] in 550 £ Inventariu[m] —
272£, 9s 11d

6th June AD 1722

*Thomas Peirce Master of Arts Surrogate etc. Committed the administration of all and singular the goods etc of a certain **William Ashdowne** formerly of Wadhurst in the Deaconry of Southmallng who as it is said died intestate to **Mary Ashdowne** widow and relict of the said deceased well etc on the Holy etc Sworn etc.*

***Mary Ashdowne** of Wadhurst widow **James Gilbert** of the same farmer and **Caleb Fuller** of Fletching yeoman bound in this matter in [the sum of] £,550*

Inventory — £,272 9s 11d

(Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 14th October 2020)

Notes:

People

William Ashdown

Mary Ashdown, wife

James Gilbert [Gilbert], farmer of Wadhurst

Caleb Fuller, yeoman of Fletching

Places

Wadhurst

Fletching

Relevant Events

William ASHDOWN was buried 11 Sep 1721 at Wadhurst St Peter & St Paul (“yeoman”).
(SFHG indexes)

Family Tree

See Tree 5. “Descendants of William Ashdown of Rotherfield (c1520-1578)” in Chapter 2.

16. Admon of James Ashdown of Mayfield, 1734

(ESRO: PBT/2/1/6/179A)

Granted: 5 June 1734

Familysearch: Film no: 1067010; Image no: 394

The fifth day of June in the year of our Lord 1734. Edward Lund Clerk Surrogate committed administration of all and singular the goods chattels and credits of **James Ashdown** late of Mayfield within the Deanary of Southmalling deced who dyed intestate as is alleged To **Ann Ashdown** widow and relict of the deced Being first of all sworn upon the holy Evangelists well and faithfully to administer the same and so forth. **Ann Ashdown** of Mayfield widow and **Thomas West** of the same Husbandman are bound on this behalf in the penal sum of £70. No Inventory.

(Transcribed by Geoffrey Barber, 11 Dec 2019)

Notes:

People

James Ashdown, wife

Ann Ashdown, wife

Thomas West, surety

Places

Mayfield

Relevant Events

James ASHDOWN buried 22 May 1734 at Mayfield.

James is likely to be: James ASHDOWN bap. 21 Dec 1694 at Mayfield, son of John and Ann ASHDOWN.

James ASHTON [sic] married Ann PARKS on 25 Dec 1725 at Mayfield.

(SFHG indexes)

Family Tree

See Tree 3. "Ashdown, Morley & Elliotts of Rotherfield (c1620-)" in Chapter 2

17. Will of William Ashdowne the elder, Yeoman of Rotherfield, 1737

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/55/197B)

Made: 27 Dec 1735

Proved: 16 Sep 1737

Familysearch: Film: 1885998; image: 742

In the name of God Amen. I **William Ashdowne the elder** of Rotherfield in the County of Sussex yeoman being of a sound and disposing mind and memory praised be God for the same and considering the certainty of Death and the Uncertainty of the time thereof and being desirous to settle that Estate that God in mercy hath... bestowed on me doe make my Last Will and Testament in manner and forme following (that is to say) First and principally I comend my soul to God who gave it me and my body I comit to the Earth from whence it was taken to be decently buried in such Christian manner as my Executors hereafter named shall think fit ~~~
First of all I give and devise All that my messuage farme and Lands called Jackhodes containing by ... estimation forty Acres be the same more or Less situate lying and being in Rotherfield aforesaid with the ~~~ appurteners. Unto **Jane my Loveing wife** for and During the terme of her natural Life and from and after her decease. I give Will and Devise the said messuage farme Lands and premises called Jackhodes with the appurteners Unto **William Ashdowne John Ashdown and Thomas Ashdown** my sons equally between them and their heirs for ever. Under this condition that the said **William, John or Thomas Ashdowne** my sons or either of them their or either of their heirs doe and shall pay or cause to be paid unto my daughter **Ann** now wife of ~~~ **John Evernden** and to my Daughter **Elizabeth** now wife of **Thomas Ovenden** and to my Daughter **Sarah** now wife of **Matthew Ovenden** and to **Hannah** and **Alice Ashdowne** my daughters and to each and every one of them my said five Daughters the sume of forty pounds a peice of Lawfull money of Great Britaine and the same to be paid unto ~~~ them within one year next after the Death of Jane my said wife and if any or either of my said five Daughters shall happen to die before the time Limited for payment of their said Legacy and Legacies that then the said Legacy and Legacies of her or them so dying shall be paid to the child or children of she or them so dying and by default of such Issue then the said legacy or legacies of her or them so dying Shall be equally divided ~~~ bewteen the survivors of my said five Daughters **and also** the said **William Ashdowne John Ashdowne and Thomas Ashdowne** my sons shall pay or cause to be paid Unto my Daughter **Jane** now wife of **George Hutchinson** the sume of forty shillings a year; yearly and every year During the term of her natural Life and the same to be paid in manner and forme following (that is to say) on the feast of the Annuntiacon of the blessed virgen Mary and the feast day of Saint Michael the Archangel by even and Equall portions and the first payment to ~~~ begin and to be made on such of the said feast days as shall first happen after the Death of **Jane** my said wife and if the said **William Ashdowne John Ashdowne and Thomas Ashdowne** my sons or either of them their or either of their heirs doe or shall refuse or neglect to pay the said legacy or legacies to their aforesaid sister or either children at the Respective time or times Limited for payment thereof that then my ~~~ will and mind is that it shall and may be Lawfull to and for such of them as shall be unpaid her or their legacy or legacies to Enter into and upon the aforesaid messuage Land and premises which is Given to the said **William Ashdowne John Ashdowne and Thomas Ashdowne** my sons and their heirs and to Receive the Rents and profits thereof Untill she or they shall be fully satisfied and paid therefull Legacy and Legacies and all charges thereupon accrewing **and also** I give and bequeath unto my said Loveing wife **Jane** one feather bed with the curtains coverlett Blanketts Stooles and all their unto belonging as it now stands in the Kitchen chamber where I dwell **and also** I give and bequeath unto my son **William Ashdowne** the sume of fifty pounds of Lawfull money of Great Britain and the same to be paid unto him within six months after my decease by my Executor hereafter ~~~ named and also I give and bequeath unto my daughter **Mary Taylor** widow the sume of one shilling of Lawfull

money of Great Britain and the same to be paid unto her within one year next after my Decease by my Executors ~~~ herafter named if it be Demanded **and also** All the Rest and Residue of my goods cattell and chattells ~~~ stock Household stuffe implements and all other my personall Estate whatsoever and wheresoever after my Debts funerall charges probation of this will and the Legacyes to my son **William** and my Daughter ~~ **Mary** first paid and satisfied. I Give and bequeath the same unto **John Ashdowne and Thomas Ashdowne** my sons Equally between them share and share alike. And I do hereby make ordain constitute and appoint the said **John Ashdowne and Thomas Ashdowne** my sons Joynt Executors of this my Last Will and Testament and I do hereby Revoke Disanull and make void all former wills and Testaments by me heretofore made and Declare this to be my Last will and Testament. In Witness whereof I the said William Ashdowne the~~ Testator to this my Last will and Testament being written on one sheet of paper have sett my hand ~~ and seal on this Twenty seventh day of December in the ninth year of the Reigne of our Sovereigne Lord George the second by the Grace of God of Great Britaine France and Ireland. King Defender of the faith and so forth and in the year of our Lord One Thousand and seven hundred Thirty and five. ~~~~~

Signed Sealed published and Declared by the said William |
Ashdowne the Testator as his Last Will and Testament in the }
presents of us who subscribed our names as witnesses } Signed **William Ashdowne**
in the presence of the said Testator————— |

Witnesses: **John Ovenden**
William Brooks
Thomas Goodsell

Probate: 16 Sep 1737

Then were sworn **John Ashdowne** and **Thomas Ashdowne** sons of the Deceased only
Executors of this Will to whom was committed the Burthen of the Execution of the same by us
E. Lund Sur

(Transcribed by Ann Dalton, 1 Dec 2019)

Notes:

People

William Ashdowne the elder, Yeoman, testator
Jane Ashdowne, wife
William Ashdowne, son
John Ashdowne, son, joint executor
Thomas Ashdowne, son, joint executor
Ann Ashdowne, daughter, now wife of John Evernden [Ovenden?]
Elizabeth Ashdowne, daughter, now wife of Thomas Ovenden
Sarah Ashdowne, daughter, now wife of Matthew Ovenden
Hannah Ashdowne, daughter
Alice Ashdowne, daughter
Jane Ashdowne, daughter, now wife of George Hutchinson
Mary Taylor, daughter, widow
John Ovenden, witness
William Brooks, witness
Thomas Goodsell, witness

Places

Rotherfield

Jackhodes, at Rotherfield

Relevant Events

William ASHDOWN buried 13 Sep 1737 at Rotherfield St Denys, “at Walches” [Walshes presumably as there was a Walshes manor in the past].

William ASHDOWNE married Jane MOONE on 29 Mar 1692 at Wadhurst. Jane is considered to be: Jean (Jane) MOONE bap. 13 Feb 1672/73 at Frant, daughter of John MOONE and Anne HYLAND. Although baptised Jean she is referred to as Jane in her father John’s PCC will of 1678 and her brother Thomas’s PCC will of 1688.¹¹

Ann ASHDOWN married John EVENDEN[sic] on 26 Mar 1733 at Glynde, Sussex, both of Ringmer.

Mary ASHDUNN[sic] married Anthony TAILLOUR[sic] of Fant [Frant] on 10 Jan 1726/27 at Ashurst, Kent.

John ASHDOWN of Rotherfield married Mary OVENDEN of Rotherfield on 8 Sep 1729 at Withyham, Sussex.

Sarah ASHDOWN of Rotherfield married Matthew OVENDEN on 21 Apr 1730 at Withyham, Sussex.

Elizabeth ASHDOWN of Rotherfield married Thomas OVENDEN on 27 May 1731 at Frant, Sussex.

Jane ASHDOWN of Rotherfield married George HUTCHINSON on 13 Jul 1731 at Withyham, Sussex.

(SFHG Indexes)

Other

The property Jackhodes is mentioned in the above will (William Ashdown, proved 1737) and that of his son (Thomas Ashdown, proved 1788). It is possible to trace some of the earlier history of the property “Jackhodes” in the Rotherfield manorial records and the relevant excerpts from these records is given below. This was done to see if there were any clues regarding the early ancestry of William Ashdown, as property is often passed down through the same family for many generations. The findings in this case were not clear cut, but allow for speculation that Tree 2 and Tree 3 are connected, as William Ashdown appears to have purchased the property from the Elliott family who are in-laws of the John Ashdown (1646-) in Tree 3.

The ownership history of Jackhodes

The relevant extracts from the manorial records are given below and conclusion is that that William Ashdown purchased it rather than inherited it through a family connection. The chain of ownership is:

1. **John Elliott**, b. c1615 *inherited Jackhodes at the manorial court 27 Oct 1639. Granted admin. of the estate. Disposes of various properties but Jackhodes not mentioned. However, Jackhodes next appears under ownership of his uncle Alexander Elliott.*

¹¹ Will of John Moone, Yeoman of Frant, Sussex, TNA: PROB 11/358/208; Will of Thomas Moone, Yeoman of Frant, Sussex, TNA: PROB 11/393/272

2. **Alexander Elliott**, bap. 1585 at Burwash, d. 1660 at Mayfield, pro. 1660 at London *has ownership of Jackhodes at the time of his death, 1660 which then passes to his son, John Elliott (1625-1681).*
3. **John Elliott**, bap. 1625 at Mayfield, bur. 1681 at Rotherfield, pro. 1681 at Lewes *inherits Jackhodes on the death of his father and ownership is given to him at the manorial court held 23 Jan 1665/66. On his death in 1681 his will (see Chapter 4) orders the sale of all his properties. Jackhodes next appears in the will of William Ashdown (1666-1737).*
4. **William Ashdown**, bap. 1666 at Rotherfield, bur. 1737 at Rotherfield, pro. 1737 *leaves Jackhodes to his wife Jane and then his three sons William, John & Thomas.*
5. **Thomas Ashdown**, bap. 1709 at Rotherfield, bur. 1788 at Rotherfield, pro. 1788 *has ownership of Jackhodes at time of his death. It may have been sold after this to pay legacies in his will.*

The question that arises from all this is whether William and Thomas Ashdown (above) are related to John Ashdown (1646-) the son-in-law of John Elliott (1625-1681). If so, then Tree 2 and Tree 3 are connected.

The relevant excerpts from the Rotherfield manorial records are given below:

Rotherfield Manorial Court Baron: 12 Oct 1639

[This is John Elliott (c1590-1639), probably near death, surrendering his properties to the manorial court for him to have use of the properties while he lives and then, upon his death, for the court to transfer them according to his last will and testament. This was the way properties held of a lord/lady of the manor, could be transferred by will]

They present that **John Elliott** out of court since last court viz June 11 last past & by acceptance of Walter Lusted, bedell & in presence of **Wm Allen & Thos Weston**, two customary tenants, a messuage with buildings & gardens belonging [... *long list of properties including Jackhodes...*] To use of the said **John Elliott** for the term of his natural life & after his decease to use of the last will & testament of the said **John** ... for such uses & interests & such ways & forms as the said John in his last testament & will shall declare & for default of such will or limitations then to the use of the right heirs of the said **John Elliott** for ever. Comes the said **John Elliott** & prays etc. Fine 40/-.

Rotherfield Manorial Court Baron: 27 Oct 1639

[John Elliott (c1590-1639) has now died and at this court his son John inherits. There is a John Elliott burial at Rotherfield St Denys on 5 March 1640 and 25 Aug 1640 but neither fits. The dates given in the manorial records imply that he died between 12 and 27 Oct 1639. Note at this time Rotherfield has a lady of the manor.]

The homage present that **John Elliott** gent. who held to him & his heirs various lands & tenements of assart afterwards mentioned died so seised after whose death there falls to the lord for heriot an ox worth £6 which is delivered to the lady's store and that **John Elliott** is his eldest son & next heir to the premises & of full age.

Comes **John Elliott the son** & prays admittance to two pieces of land called Newe Reede & Oulde Reede containg by estimation 7 ½ acres held by the rent of 22 ½ d lying next Anthony's Reede & to a cottage & 2 crofts called Anthony's Reede (except two acres there formerly sold to **Nicholas Millington** & to a croft called Shepecotes, land called Rookes Innain [Innam?] alias Hothcroft containing in all by estimation 10 & 9 acres with appurtenances held by rent of 4/9 of which the said **John Elliott senr** died seised which the lady, etc

Comes **John Elliott** & prays admittance to a piece of assart land of Crowburrowe [Crowborough] called Whitefield containing 5 acres in Rotherfield lying with the highway leading from Brookesharne [Thornbrooke] to Crowburrowe on the East & the land of the said John on S.W. & N. of which the said **John Elliott senr** died seised which the lady etc.

Comes **John Elliott** & prays admittance to all those parcels of land called **Jackhodes** containing by estimation 30 acres. Also to two similar parcels called le nyne acres & le tenne acres containing by estimation 20 acres in Rotherfield of which **John Elliott senr** died seised which the lady, etc.

[..... *and there is more, a long list of properties*]

Subsequently, John Elliott, the son, applies for administration of the estate:

Admon: John Ellyott [Elliott] of Rotherfield, 1640

Grant of administration 17 Jun 1640 (ESRO: PBT 1/3/7/218A).

Rotherfield Manorial Court Baron: 7 July 1640

[This would appear to be the son John Elliott selling a property he inherited. No mention of Jackhodes.]

Comes **John Elliott** & surrenders 2 pieces of land called Newereede & Ouldreede containing by estimation 7 acres & a half, held by the rent of 22 ½ d & other services lying near Anthonies Reede, & a cottage & 2 crofts called Anthonies Reede (except 2 acres sold to **Nicholas Millington**) & a croft called Sheppecotts, & another called Rookes Innain als Hothcroft containing in all 19 acres with appurtenances hed by rent 4/9 & other services To use of John **John Ovenden**, his heirs. Comes the said **John Ovenden** & prays [admittance] etc. Fine £8 10 no heriot because **John Elliott** but remains tenant.

Rotherfield Manorial Court Baron: 5 October 1640

[This would appear to be the court dispensing properties according to John Elliott's will. It includes an excerpt from the will. No mention of Jackhodes, however, the manorial court held on 23 Jan 1665/66 (see below) would indicate that it ended up in the hands of his uncle, Alexander Elliott.]

They present that **John Elliott** who held to him & his heirs a messuage, barn with garden & 6 parcels of land of assart of Frant containing 16 acres formerly in occupation of **John Pococke** by the yearly rent of 4/4 ½ (except a cottage & garden & one little parcel adjoining containing ½ acre formerly in occupation of **John Gorringe**) since last court died siesed and that **Obadiah Elliott** is eldest brother & next heir. And on 1st proclamation comes said **Obadiah Elliott** & prays [admittance], etc. Relief 4/4 ½ etc.

Obadiah Elliott also admitted to another messuage, barn & garden & assart land containing 10 acres at Crowburrowe [Crowborough] by the yearly rent of 21d & other services. Relief 21d.

After the death of said **John Elliott** there falls to the lady a heriot an ox worth £6.10 and the lady has sold the said ox for £6 10 her payment.

They present that the said **John Elliott** in his lifetime surrendered a messuage & divers lands & tenements to the use of his last testament & will as appears by presentation of the homage at the court held 12 Oct last past by which last will by said **John Elliott** inscribed, bearing date June 11 15th year Charles [1639], willed & bequeathed the said messuages & premises with appurtenances as follows in his English words viz: "I doe hereby give & devise & will limit & appoint & declare all the said messuage land tenements whatsoever by me surrendered (as aforesaid) unto my said

loving brother **Alexander Elliott** & to his heirs & assigns for ever” as by the said testament & will here in court shown plainly apparent. And upon this comes the said **Alexander Elliott** & prays admittance etc (as at court Oct 12, 1639). Fine £100

Rotherfield Manorial Court Baron: 7 August 1649 [not pertaining to Jackhodes but of interest]

In summary ... **Obadiah Elliott** surrenders property at Crowburrowe to the use of his younger son **Richard Elliott** and **Agnes Heaseman** [his wife to be, married 19 March 1650] & after their decease to the heirs of **Richard**. [marriage settlement?]

Rotherfield Manorial Court Baron: 23 Jan 1665/66

[John Elliott inherits Jackhodes from his father Alexander Elliott (1585-1660). John Elliott then left a will proved 1681 in which he mentions that he gave £40 to John ASHDOWN when he married John Elliott's daughter Anne. They were married 9 Apr 1672 at Withyham. However, there appears to be no connection between John ASHDOWN and the property Jackhodes.]

In summary ... **John Elliott**, eldest son & heir to **Alexander Elliott**, is admitted to his deceased father's properties, including **Jackhodes**.

John Elliott's will, proved in 1681 (see Chapter 4.) directs his trustees to sell his properties, except those to be held by his wife **Anne** during her natural life, but then to sell those after her decease. Given that the next mention of Jackhodes in the records is in the will of **William Ashdown**, yeoman of Rotherfield, proved 1737 (see transcription above), it is likely **William** purchased the property, probably c1700 when **John Elliott's** wife **Anne** died. So, in conclusion, there is no evidence of an inheritance of the property by William Ashdown and thus no evidence of a family link between **William Ashdown** and the Elliott family. So it does not help in showing a connection between Tree 2 and Tree 3 in Chapter 2.

Family Tree

William Ashdown is in Tree 2. “Ashdown & Owendens of Rotherfield c1600/1700s” in Chapter 2.

The following tree is included to give some clarity to the early ownership of the property “Jackhodes”. It is an excerpt from Tree 12. “Elliotts of Rotherfield (1600s-1700s)”.

John Elliott, b. c1555, bur. 1632 at Rotherfield, pro. 1632 at London

+ unknown spouse

— **Obadiah Elliott**, b. c1580

+ **Mary Swaine**, m.c. 1607, Archdeaconry of Lewes

+ **Alice Wood**, m. 1622 at Hartfield

— **Alexander Elliott**, bap. 1585 at Burwash, d. 1660 at Mayfield, pro. 1660 at London [*has ownership of Jackhodes at the time of his death, 1660 which then passes to his son, John Elliott (1625-1681)*]

+ **Anne Fermor**, bap. 1591 at Rotherfield, m. 1613 at Mayfield, bur. 1623 at Mayfield

— **Mary Elliott**, bap. 1614 at Mayfield

+ **Matthew Hartridge**, m. 1634 at Mayfield

— **John Elliott**, bap. 1617 at Mayfield, bur. 1617 at Mayfield

— **Elizabeth Elliott**, bap. 1617 at Mayfield

+ **Constance Hepden**, bap. 1596 at Burwash, m. 1624 at Mayfield

— **John Elliott**, bap. 1625 at Mayfield, bur. 1681 at Rotherfield, pro. 1681 at Lewes [*Inherits Jackhodes on the death of his father and ownership is given to him at the manorial court held 23 Jan 1665/66. On his death in 1681 his will (see Chapter 4) orders the sale of all his properties. Jackhodes next appears in the will of William Ashdown (1666-1737)*]

	+ Ann Barham , m. 1646 at Wadhurst, bur. 1700 at Rotherfield, pro. 1700 at Lewes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Mary Elliott, bap. 1647 at Rotherfield, bur. 1648 at Rotherfield — Elizabeth Elliott, bap. 1649 at Rotherfield + Edward Dadswell, m. 1677 at Rotherfield — Ann Elliott, bap. 1650 at Rotherfield + John ASHDOWN, bap. 1646 at Rotherfield, m. 1672 at Withyham [<i>The Question: Is this John Ashdown a kinsman of the William Ashdown who owns Jackbodes in 1737? If so, Tree 2 and Tree 3 are connected</i>] — Constance Elliott, bap. 1652 at Rotherfield, bur. 1679 at Rotherfield — Mary Elliott, b. 1654 at Rotherfield + William Gilbert, b. c1655 m. c1680 bur. 1711 at East Grinstead — Eleanor Elliott, bap. 1656 at Rotherfield — Frances Elliott, b. c1660 at Rotherfield + Thomas Ovenden, b. c1660, m. 1684 at Lewes
	— Alexander Elliott , bap. 1628 at Mayfield, pro. 1676 at London
	+ Mary Wilden , m. 1650 at Laughton
	— Constance Elliott , b. c1631 at Mayfield, bur. 1631 at Mayfield
	— William Elliott , b. c1587 bur. 1654 at Warbleton
	+ Alice Cheseman , m. 1614 at Rotherfield, bur. 1667 at Warbleton
	— Joane Elliott , b. c1590
	+ George Rose , m. c1615
	— John Elliott , b. c1590, d. Oct 1639, admon. 1640 at Lewes [<i>excerpts of Will in Rotherfield manorial records</i>]
	+ unknown spouse
	— John Elliott , b. c1615 [<i>inherited Jackbodes at the manorial court 27 Oct 1639. Granted admin. of the estate. Disposes of various properties but Jackbodes not mentioned. However, Jackbodes next appears under ownership of his uncle Alexander Elliott</i>]
	— Mary Elliott , b. c1592
	+ Richard Marchant , m. 1616 at Rotherfield

18. Will of Thomas Ashdown, Flaxman of Bodiam, 1739/40

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/56/79B)

Made: 7 December 1739

Proved: 1 January 1739/40

Familysearch: Film: 1886022; image: 155

In the Name of God Amen I **Thomas Ashdown** of the parish of Bodiham [Bodiam] in the County of Sussex Being sick and infirm but of perfect mind and memory for which I bles God Almighty for mind full both of the certainty and uncertainty of my death do make and ordain this my will and Testament in manor and forme following Imprimis I give & bequeath unto **Ann** my Loving wife all the Rents and profits of all that house gardens orchard out Buildings with all ye premises and appurtenances thereto belonging on mine Lyeing in Bodiham in ye County of Sussex & Likewise I give to her all ye interest[?] of my goods & Chattels money and all of all my personable Estate where and what so ever to have ye said Rents and profits both of my Reale and personable Estate during the terme of her natural Life and after her decease to be both equally divided between my Brother **Stephen Ashdown** of Sandhurst in the County of Kent weaver and **William Hosmar** of Sandhurst aforesaid Bucher [butcher] equally to be divided between them whoome I constitute ordaine and appoint my hole and Sole Executors to this my last will and Testament Revoaking all other Wills by me heretofore made declaring this to be my Last will and Testament In witness whereof I have set my hand and seal this seventh day of December in the thirteenth year of the Reighn of our Sovereigne Lord George the Second of England Scotland France and Ireland King defender of the faith and in the year of our Lord 1739

Thomas Ashdown

Signed Sealed and declared to be the last will and Testament of Thomas Ashdown the Testator at whose request and in whose presence have subscribed our names as witnesses

Eliz Markquick

The X mark of Eliz Marquick

Edwd Collins

Jany 1 1739 **Stephen Ashdown & William Hosmar** were sworn Executors of this Will & to them was committed the Power & Burden of Executing of the Same
By Us Geo. Jordan

(Transcribed by Geoffrey Barber, 24 March 2020)

Notes:

People

Thomas Ashdown, flaxman, testator

Ann Ashdown, wife

Stephen Ashdown, weaver of Sandhurst, brother

William Hosmar, butcher of Sandhurst

Elizabeth Markquick [Markwick], witness

Edward Collins, witness

Places

Bodiam

Sandhurst, Kent

Relevant Events

Thomas ASHDOWN was buried at Bodiam St Giles on 14 Dec 1739.

Ann ASHDOWN was buried 14 Mar 1741 at Bodiam St Giles (“widow”).

(No other ASHDOWN burials at Bodiam 1557-1837).

Thomas ASHDOWN married Ann OSMAR on 3 Jun 1714 at Mountfield, Sussex (both of Bodiam).

(SFHG Indexes)

Family Tree

All places are in Sussex except where shown. The people who left wills/admons are highlighted.

(--?--) Ashdown

+unknown spouse

— **Thomas Ashdown**, b. circa 1680, bur. 1739 at Bodiam, pro. 1740 at Lewes

+ **Ann Osmar**, m. 1714 at Mountfield, bur. 1741 at Bodiam

— **Stephen Ashdown**, b. circa 1680

+ **Elizabeth Freeland**, m. 1707 at Battle

+ **Mary Longley**, m. 1717 at Battle

19. Will of John Ashdown, Yeoman of Rotherfield, 1766

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/61/437)

Made: 16 Oct 1766

Proved: 25 Nov 1766

Familysearch: Film: 1886065; image: 699

In the Name of God Amen I **John Ashdown** of Boarshead in the Parish of Rotherfield in the County of Sussex yeoman Being of sound and disposing mind and memory (praised be God for the same) But calling to mind the uncertainty of this life and the short duration thereof Do this sixteenth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty six, make publish and declare my last will and testament in manner and form following, this is to say First I give and devise unto my son **John Ashdown** of Withyham in the said County Shoemaker and unto **Elizabeth** his now wife All that my messuage or tenement barn buildings farm and lands thereunto belonging now in the occupation of me and one **John Weeks**, called or known by the name or names of Newmans containing by estimation Thirty Acres more or less and situate lying and being at or near Boarshead in the Parish of Rotherfield aforesaid together with the Rights Members and Appurtenances thereunto belonging To hold unto my said son **John Ashdown** and **Elizabeth** his wife and their assigns for and during the term of their natural lives and the life of the longest liver of them and from and after the decease of the said **John Ashdown** and **Elizabeth** his wife and the life of the longest liver of them Then I give and devise the said messuage or tenement barn buildings farm lands and premises with the appurtenances unto my three granddaughters **Bet, Hannah and Ann**, the daughters of my said son **John** and **Elizabeth** his wife To hold to them my said granddaughters **Bet, Hannah and Ann** and to their heirs and assigns for ever as Tenants in Common and not as Joint Tenants, subject as hereinafter mentioned, that is to say, I give to my loving wife **Emlen Ashdown** the living in the said messuage rent free during all the term of her natural life, Also I give and bequeath unto my said wife **Emlen** the use and usage of all such part of my household goods, linen and furniture as she shall choose for and during all the term of her natural life All the rest and residue of my estate whatsoever and wheresoever both real and personal, after payment of my just debts and funeral expences I give devise and bequeath unto my said son **John Ashdowne** his heirs executors administrators and assigns for ever And lastly I constitute and appoint **Thomas Ashdown** my Brother, Overseer of this my said will requesting and desiring him to be aiding and assisting to my said wife in the performance and execution thereof And do revoke all former wills and testaments by me heretofore made and declare this to be my last will and testament In witness whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and seale the day and year above written.

John Ashdown (his mark)

Signed sealed published and declared by the said **John Ashdown** the testator as and for his last will and testament In the presence of us who in his presence and at his request have subscribed our names as witnesses thereto

Richard Burr

Jno. Turner

T Huett Dungate

November 25th, 1766

There was sworn **Emlen Ashdown** the sole Executrix in this will named To whom the burthen of the execution thereof was committed by us

Ed. Lund Sur

(Transcribed by Geoffrey Barber, 5 Dec 2019)

Notes:

People

John Ashdowne, yeoman, testator
Emlen [Emmeline] Ashdown, his wife
John Ashdown, his son, shoemaker
Elizabeth Ashdown, his son's wife
John Weeks, tenant
Bet Ashdown, granddaughter
Hannah Ashdown, granddaughter
Ann Ashdown, granddaughter
Thomas Ashdown, brother
Richard Burr, witness
John Turner, witness
T [Thomas] Huett Dungate, witness

Places

Rotherfield
Boarshead [in Rotherfield]
Newmans [in Rotherfield]
Withyham

Relevant Events

John Ashdown buried 15 Nov 1766 at Rotherfield St Denys, "ancient".
John Ashdown and Emmeline Taylor of Withyham were married 6 Dec 1745 at Withyham, Sussex [John would have been a widower. First marriage considered to be to Mary Ovenden on 8 Sep 1729 at Rotherfield]
His son John Ashdown and Elizabeth Richardson were married 25 Oct 1758 at Rotherfield, Sussex.
Thomas Ashdown, the testator's brother, left a will made 23 Feb 1788 and proved 26 Jun 1788 (ESRO: PBT 1/1/65/575) Familysearch: Film: 1886070; image: 219. [Thomas never married and this will is very informative in naming many nieces and nephews].
(SFHG Indexes)

Family Tree

See Tree 2. "Ashdown & Ovendens of Rotherfield c1600/1700s" in Chapter 2

20. Will of Thomas Ashdown, Yeoman of Rotherfield, 1788

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/65/575)

Made: 23 Feb 1788

Proved: 26 Jun 1788

Familysearch: Film: 1886070; image: 219

In the Name of God Amen I **Thomas Ashdown** of Rotherfield in the County of Sussex Yeoman being of Sound Mind Memory and Understanding (Praised be God for the same) but considering the Certainty of Death and the Uncertainty of the Time thereof do make this my last Will and Testament in Manner following First I commend my Soul to God who gave it me and my Body I commit to the Earth from whence it was taken to be decently buried in such Christianlike Manner as my Executor hereinafter named shall think proper And as to for touching and concerning All such Estate as it hath pleased Almighty God of his Goodness to bestow upon me I give and dispose thereof in Manner and Form following (that is to say) I charge all that my Messuage or Tenement with the Farm Lands and Hereditaments thereunto belonging called or known by the name of Jackhodes containing together in the Whole by Estimation forty acres be the same more or less situate lying and being in the Parish of Rotherfield aforesaid and now in my Occupation And also all other my Messuages or Tenements Lands Hereditaments and Real Estate whatsoever and wheresoever to and with the Payment of the Annuity or yearly Rent Charge And Also to and with the Payment of the several Legacies hereinafter given devised and bequeathed (that is to say) I give devise and bequeath unto my Nephew **John Ashdown** of Wythyham in the said County Cordwainer and his Assigns for and during the term of his natural life One Annuity or clear yearly Rent Charge of six Pounds of lawful money of Great Britain to be yearly issuing and payable to him my said Nephew **John Ashdown** out of my Messuage or Tenement Farm Lands and Real Estate aforesaid by two half yearly Payments in the Year (that is to say) On the Feast Day of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Michael the Archangel by even and equal Portions The first Payment thereof to begin and be made on such of the said Feast Days as shall next happen after my Decease And if it shall happen that the said Annuity or yearly Rent Charge shall be behind and unpaid to him my said Nephew **John Ashdown** over and above the space of twenty days next over or after any or either of the Feast Days aforesaid wheron the same ought to be paid as above mentioned Then and so often as the same shall be so behind and unpaid my Will is and I do hereby order and direct that it shall and may be lawful for him my said Nephew **John Ashdown** and his Assigns to enter into and upon my said Messuage or Tenement Farm Lands Hereditaments and Real Estate aforesaid and every or any Part thereof And there to distrain for the same and the Distress or Distresses by him taken to impound detain and keep or otherwise to sell and

[page 2]

dispose of the same for Satisfaction of his said Annuity+ or yearly Rent Charge so in Arrear as aforesaid And all costs and charges attending such Distress and Sale Also I give and bequeath unto each and every of my thirty six Cousins hereinafter named who are now in Being (that is to say) The three youngest Daughters of my said Nephew **John Ashdown** The six Daughters of my Niece **Mary** now Wife of **Edward Wait** of Leigh near Tonbridge in the County of Kent Farmer (formerly **Mary Ovenden**) The two Sons of my Niece **Hannah** (now Wife of **John Paine** of Mayfield in the said County of Sussex Timber Merchant formerly **Hannah Arkcoll**) The eldest Daughter of my Niece **Mary** (now Wife of **Thomas Piper** of Rotherfield aforesaid Husbandman formerly **Mary Arkcoll**) To the four Daughters of my Cousin **Thomas Waters** of Rotherfield Husbandman The three youngest Sons and two Daughters of my Nephew **Thomas Brown** of Speldhurst in the said County of Kent Husbandman The three Sons and four Daughters of my Nephew **Richard Brown** of Rotherfield aforesaid Husbandman The eldest

Son of my Niece **Ann** (now Wife of **John Buss** of Mayfield aforesaid Farmer formerly **Ann Brown**) The Son and three Daughters of my Niece **Mary** now Wife of **Daniel Sly** of London [blank space] formerly **Mary Brown**) The three youngest Sons of my late Niece **Sarah** (late Wife of **John Cronden** late of Salehurst in the said County of Sussex Labourer formerly **Sarah Ovenden**) the several and respective Sums of six Pounds apiece of lawful money of Great Britain The same to be paid and payable to them my thirty six Cousins and Legatees aforesaid as shall be of the Age of twenty one years out of my aforesaid Messuage or Tenement Farm and Lands and all other my Real Estate within twelve months next after my Decease and to such of them as shall not have attained their Age of twenty one years when and as they shall severally and respectively attain that Age To their respective Use and Uses Provided nevertheless and my Will is that if one or more of them my said thirty and six Cousins and Legatees shall happen to die before his her or their Legacy or Legacies of her him or them so dieing shall be null and void and shall lapse To the Use of the Person to whom I have devised my said Real Estate charged with the Payment thereof And charged and chargeable as aforesaid I give and devise unto my Nephew **William Brown** of Rotherfield aforesaid

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Warrener All that my said Messuage or Tenement with the Barn Buildings Farm Lands Hereditaments Rights Members and Appurtenances thereunto belonging called or known by the Name of Jackhodes aforesaid And also all other Messuages Lands Tenements Hereditaments and Real Estate whatsoever and wheresoever To hold to him my said Nephew **William Brown** his Heirs and Assigns for ever And as to for touching and concerning my Personal Estate I dispose thereof as follows (that is to say) I charge the same to and with the Payment of all my just Debts Funeral Expences The Charges Proving this my Will and the several Legacies hereinafter mentioned And so charged I give and bequeath unto my Niece **Elizabeth** (now Wife of **William Roberts** of Rotherfield aforesaid Yeoman) and to my Niece **Mary** (now Wife of the aforesaid **Edward Wait**) and to my Niece **Hannah** (now Wife of the aforesaid **John Paine**) and to my Niece **Mary** (now Wife of the aforesaid **Thomas Piper**) and to my Niece **Ann** (now Wife of the aforesaid **John Buss**) and to my Niece **Mary** (now Wife of the aforesaid **Daniel Sly**) and to my Niece **Betty Brown** (one of the Daughters of my late Brother in Law **Thomas Brown** deceased) and to my aforesaid Nephew **Thomas Brown** and to my aforesaid Nephew **Richard Brown** and to the aforesaid **Thomas Waters** the several and respective Legacies or Sums of twenty two Pounds apiece of lawful money of Great Britain The same to be paid and payable to them respectively within twelve months next after my Decease by my Executor hereafter named To their several and respective Use and Uses Also I give and bequeath unto the Son and two Daughters of the aforesaid **William Roberts** To the three eldest Daughters of my aforesaid Nephew **John Ashdown** To the three eldest Sons of my aforesaid Nephew **Thomas Brown** The several and respective Legacies or Sums of six pounds apiece of lawful money of Great Britain The same to be paid to them respectively within twelve Months next after my Decease by my Executor hereafter named To their own proper Use and Uses Also I give and bequeath unto my Servant Maid **Ann Gregory** that now lives with me And to my late Servant **William Ovenden** now living with **Mr. Ansell Day** of Mayfield aforesaid the several Sums of ten Pounds apiece of lawful Money of Great Britain The same to be paid and payable to them respectively within twelve Months next after my Decease by my Executor hereafter named To their several and respective Use and Uses All the Rest

[page 4]

Residue and Remainder of my Goods Chattels Ready Money Securities for Money and all other my Personal Estate whatsoever and wheresoever I give and bequeath unto my Kinsman **Thomas Ovenden** (son of my late Nephew **Matthew Ovenden** deceased) now Servant Man unto **William Pack** of Nonsuch Green in the Parish of Tonbridge in the said County of Kent

Farmer his Executors and Administrators To his and their own proper Use and Uses The same to be delivered to him or them within Fourteen Months next after my Decease by my Executor hereafter named He my Executor first deducting thereout all such reasonable Costs Charges and Expences as he shall be put into or sustain in the Execution of this my Will Together with the Sum of five Pounds which I give and bequeath to him for his trouble in the Execution thereof And lastly I make nominate constitute and appoint the said **John Paine** of Mayfield aforesaid Timber Merchant sole Executor of this my last Will and Testament and do revoke all former Wills by me made and declare this to be my last Will and Testament In Witness whereof I the said **Thomas Ashdown** the Testator to this my last Will and Testament contained in four sheets of paper annexed together at the corner have to each sheet thereof set my Hand and Seal this twenty third Day of February in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty eight.

Thomas Ashdown

Signed sealed published and declared by the said **Thomas Ashdown** the Testator as and for his last Will and Testament in the Presence of us who in his Presence at his Request and in the Presence of each other have subscribed our Names as Witnesses thereto

Joseph Wickens

John Farmer

R^d. Oⁿ. Stone

26th June 1788 Then was Sworn John Paine the sole Executor named in this Will To whom was Committed the Burthen of the Execution thereof (Sworn also that the Goods Chattels and Credits of the said Deceased do not amount in Value unto one thousand Pounds)

By Us

E.R. Raynes Sur.

(Transcribed by Geoffrey Barber, 26 Jan 2020)

Notes:

People

Thomas Ashdown, yeoman, testator
John Ashdown of Withyham, nephew
Mary Wait, wife of Edward Wait of Leigh, niece
Mary Ovenden, now Mary Wait wife of Edward Wait of Leigh, niece
Edward Waite of Leigh in Kent, farmer
Hannah Paine, wife of John Paine, niece
Hannah Arkcoll, now Hannah Paine, wife of John Paine, niece
John Paine of Mayfield, timber merchant, executor
Mary Piper, wife of Thomas Piper, niece
Mary Arkcoll, now Mary Piper, wife of Thomas Piper, niece
Thomas Piper of Rotherfield, husbandman
Thomas Waters of Rotherfield, husbandman, cousin
Thomas Brown of Speldhurst in Kent, husbandman, nephew
Richard Brown of Rotherfield, husbandman, nephew
Ann Buss, wife of John Buss, niece
Ann Brown, now Ann Buss, wife of John Buss, niece
John Buss of Mayfield, farmer
Mary Sly, wife of Daniel Sly of London, niece
Mary Brown, now Mary Sly, wife of Daniel Sly of London , niece

Sarah Cronden deceased, late wife of John Cronden of Salehurst, niece
Sarah Ovenden, now Sarah Cronden deceased, late wife of John Cronden of Salehurst, niece
John Cronden of Salehurst, labourer
William Brown of Rotherfield, nephew
Elizabeth Roberts, wife of William Robers of Rotherfield, niece
William Roberts of Rotherfield, yeoman
Thomas Brown, late brother-in-law
Betty Brown, daughter of Thomas Brown, niece
Ann Gregory, servant maid
William Ovenden, late servant now living with Mr. Ansell Day of Mayfield
Ansell Day of Mayfield
Matthew Ovenden deceased, nephew
Thomas Ovenden, son of Matthew Ovensen, kinsman, servant of William Pack of Nonsuch
Green in Tonbridge, Kent
William Pack of Nonsuch Green in Tonbridge, Kent
Joseph Wickens, witness
John Farmer, witness
R^d. Oⁿ. Stone, witness

Places

Rotherfield
Jackhodes [in Rotherfield]
Mayfield
Withyham
Salehurst
London
Leigh, Kent [near Tonbridge]
Speldhurst, Kent
Nonsuch Green, Kent

Relevant Events

Thomas Ashdown buried 17 Jun 1788 at Rotherfield St Denys.
(SFHG Indexes)

Family Tree

See Tree 2. “Ashdown & Ovendens of Rotherfield c1600/1700s” in Chapter 2

21. Will of William Ashdown, Husbandman of Mayfield, 1799

(ESRO: PBT 2/1/10/411)

Made: 9 Jan 1796

Probate: 5 Feb 1799

Familysearch: Film: 1067012; image: 102

In the name of God Amen I **William ASHDOWN** husbandman of the parish of Mayfield in the County of Sussex being of a sound Mind and Memory Praised be Almighty God therefore I do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament touching the Disposition of my Temporal Estate wherewith it has pleased Almighty God to bless me with in Manner and Form following that us to say

I give and bequeath to my Son **William ASHDOWN** the sum of five shillings to be paid six Months after our Decease. Item I give and bequeath to my Daughter **Mary JENNER** the Sum of five shillings to be p^d. paid six Months after our Decease. Item I give and bequeath to my Son **James ASHDOWN** the Sum of five shillings to be paid six months after our Decease. Item I give and bequeath to my Son **Alexander ASHDOWN** the sum of five shillings to be paid six Months after our Decease. Item I give and bequeath to my Daughter **Ann THOMAS** the Sum of five shillings to be paid six Months after our Decease. Item I give and bequeath to my son **David ASHDOWN** All my Goods Cattle Wearing Apparel & every Thing unto me belonging with paying those Legacys above mentioned making my Son **David** my sole Executor of this my last Will and Testament whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal the ninth day of January in the thirty fifth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith to and in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety six. (**William ASHDOWN**)

Signed sealed and declared this to be my last Will and Testament in the presence of us whose Names are subscribed as Witnesses

John RANGER

Stephen CORNWELL Junior

William HOLFORD

the Seal of (Seal) **William ASHDOWN**

Probate: 5 Feb 1799

The Will of **William ASHDOWN** late of Mayfield within the Deanry of Southmalling in the County of Sussex was proved the fifth day of February in the Year of our Lord one Thousand seven hundred and ninety nine before the Reverend **Edward Robert RAYNES** Clerk Surrogate and soforth. Upon the Oath of **David ASHDOWN** the sole Executor in the said Will named to whom was committed the Administration of the Goods to he being first sworn well and faithfully to administer the same and soforth And also that the said Goods to were under the Value of one hundred pounds.

(Transcribed by Ann Dalton, 9 Dec 2019)

Notes:

People

William Ashdown, testator
William Ashdown, son
Mary Jenner, daughter
James Ashdown, son
Alexander Ashdown, son,
Ann Thomas, daughter
David Ashdown, son, sole executor
John Ranger, witness
Stephen Cornwell, Junior, witness
William Holford, witness

Places

Mayfield

Relevant Events

William ASHDOWN was buried 6 Jan 1799 at Waldron All Saints (“80 years, of Mayfield”).
William’s baptism is likely to be: William ASHDOWN bap. 27 Sep 1719 at Burwash St Bartholomew, son of Alexander and Ann ASHDOWN.

William ASHDOWN married Mary PRATT on 15 Apr 1746 at Mayfield, both of Mayfield.
William ASHDOWN (twin) bap. 2 Mar 1747 at Mayfield, son of William & Mary ASHDOWN.
Mary ASHDOWN (twin) bap. 1 Mar 1747 at Mayfield, son of William & Mary ASHDOWN.
James ASHDOWN bap. 2 Sep 1750 at Mayfield, son of William & Mary ASHDOWN.
Alexander ASHDOWN bap. 16 Nov 1752 at Mayfield, son of William & Mary ASHDOWN.
Anne ASHDOWN bap. 1 Mar 1761 at Mayfield, son of William & Mary ASHDOWN.
David ASHDOWN bap. 12 Nov 1764 at Mayfield, son of William & Mary ASHDOWN.

Mary ASHDOWN married John JENNER on 7 May 1782 at Ditchling, Sussex, “both of this parish”.
Ann ASHDOWN of Mayfield married Thomas TOMMS[sic] of Waldron on 11 Nov 1788 at Mayfield, Sussex.
(SFHG Indexes)

Family Tree

See Tree 3. “Ashdown, Morley & Elliotts of Rotherfield (c1620-)” in Chapter 2

22. Will of James Ashdown, Yeoman of Heathfield, 1800

(ESRO: PBT 1/1/68/392)

Made: 7 January 1798

Proved: 25 February 1800

Familysearch: Film: 1886100; image: 201

In the Name of God Amen I **James Ashdown** of the Parish of Heathfield in the County of Sussex, do make and declare this my last Will & Testament in form & manner following, that is to say, my will is that my son **James Ashdown** shall continue to use the land now in my occupation immediately after my decease, for & during the natural life of my dear & loving wife, and that my said wife shall live in the house where I am at this time living, & that my son **James Ashdown** shall supply her with whatever is necessary for her support so long as she chooses to continue to live with him, & that if she chooses to leave my said son **James Ashdown**, my will is that he the said **James Ashdown** shall pay her the sum of ten pounds annually for her maintenance & support for & during the term of her natural life. And my will is that within three months after the decease of my said wife my son **James Ashdown** shall pay unto each of my sons the sum of ten pounds, and unto each of my said daughters the sum of five pounds I do hereby give & bequeath the whole of my property unto my said son **James Ashdown** subject to the payment of forementioned annuity to my wife & legacies to my sons & daughters, & I do desire that my said son **James Ashdown** will pay the expences attending my funerl, and also all my just & lawful debts whether on written[?], or other of what kind soever they may be, & I do here make, constitute, & appoint my son **James Ashdown** whole & sole Executor to this my last Will & Testament witness my hand this seventh day of January in the year of our Lord 1798.

James Ashdown

Feby 25th 1800 Appeared personally **James Ashdown** Executor named in the above Will, who has sworn to the due execution thereof, and has sworn also that the effects of the said deceased do not amount to six hundred pounds.

R Constable Surrogate

[as the above will was not witnessed there is an affidavit attached, dated 10 June 1800, where **Thomas Balcomb**, miller of Heathfield, and **John Adams**, farmer of Waldron, swear to the handwriting and signature of the deceased **James Ashdown**, yeoman of Heathfield]

Transcribed by Geoffrey Barber, 13 January 2020

Notes:

People

James Ashdowne, yeoman, testator

James Ashdown, his son

Thomas Balcomb, miller of Heathfield

John Adams, farmer of Waldron

Places

Heathfield

Waldron

Relevant Events

James ASHDOWN buried 4 Nov 1799 at All Saints Heathfield, “76 years”.

James ASHDOWN married Mary RANGER on 23 Mar 1761 at Waldron, Sussex.

Mary ASHDOWN was buried 24 Feb 1820 at All Saints, Heathfield, “82 years, widow”.
(SFHG Indexes)

Their son James ASHDOWN, the executor named in the above will, left a will proved 13 Jan 1835, in which most of his brothers and sisters are named. (ESRO: PBT 1/1/78/630; FamilySearch.org: film no: 1886184; image no: 340)

Family Tree

See Tree 1. “Ashdowns of Waldron, Chiddingly and Hellingly (1700s-1800s)” in Chapter 2.

23. Admon of Nicholas Ashdown of Westfield, 1806

(TNA: IR 26/319/178)

Granted: 13 Nov 1806

[Abstract]

13th Nov 1806

Sworn under £300

Name and Description of Intestate

Nicholas Ashdown late of Westfield in the said County

Name and Place of Abode and Degree of Kindred of Administrator

Edward Snow Ashdown of Westfield aforesaid his eldest son and next of kin

(Transcribed by Geoffrey Barber, 10 October 2020)

Notes:

People

Nicholas Ashdown of Westfield

Edward Snow Ashdown, his son, of Westfield

Places

Westfield

Relevant Events

Nicholas ASHDOWN was buried 21 Apr 1796 at Sedlescombe.

Edward [Snow] Ashdown bap. 24 Jan 1748 at Mayfield St Dunstan, son of Nicholas and Mary Ashdown. Edward was buried 21 Aug 1825 at Sedlescombe “78 years, Westfield”.

(SFHG indexes)

Family Tree

See Tree 7. “Descendants of Nicholas Ashdown (-1750) of Sedlescombe” in Chapter 2.

24. Will of John Ashdown, Farmer of Hartfield, 1809

(TNA: PROB 11/1491/287)

Made: 5 Feb 1807

Probate: 31 Jan 1809

(Copy of original will available for download at The National Archives (TNA) and Ancestry)

In the Name of God Amen Ashdown I **John Ashdown** of Hartfield in the County of Sussex Farmer being in indifferent health of body and of sound and disposing mind and memory praised be God for the same do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following/ that is to say/ First I give devise and bequeath unto **John Simmons** my son in law **William Carrett** of Withyham in the County of Sussex farmer and **Richard Streatfield** of Hartfield in the said County farmer and their heirs Executors and Administrators All and every my household goods / Except such part of my household goods as my beloved wife Ann Ashdown shall choose to furnish two rooms with for her own use / chattels stock corn hay and all other my personal estate whatsoever and wheresoever of what nature or kind soever it may be In Trust for them the said **John Simmons William Carrett** and **Richard Streatfield** or the survivor of them or their heirs Executors or Administrators of such survivor to make sale of my said personal property within twelve months next after my decease or as soon after my decease the same can be conveniently done for the most money that can be reasonably had or got for the same and the money thereby raised together with all my ready money and securities for money all of which is to form our fund In event to pay and apply as hereinafter as mentioned namely in the first place to pay thereout all my just debts my funeral expences legacies hereinafter mentioned and the charges of proving this my will and other incidental expences attending the Trust and after payment thereof the remainder of the money arising by sale of my personal property In Trust to place out on Government or other good security and the interest proceeds or dividends thereof In Trust to pay and apply half yearly as the same shall become due after my decease unto and to the use of my beloved wife **Ann Ashdown** which I give and bequeath unto her for her maintenance and support And if at any time my said Wife should be in want of any further support I desire my Executors In Trust to call in such sum and sums of money as she shall want and pay her accordingly And from and immediately after my wife's decease I give devise and bequeath the whole of the property out at use (Except five pounds apiece unto my said Executors In Trust and five pounds unto my nephew **Edward Ashdown** which they are to receive and pay within three months after my decease (that is to say) one moiety unto **Ann** the wife of the said **John Simmons** And **Ann** the wife of **Henry Nye** daughter of **Edward Everest** of Hartfield in the County of Sussex yeoman and the other moiety unto my sister **Elizabeth Slater** and **Sarah Peerless** the wife of **Richard Peerless** of Cowden in the County of Kent husbandman to be paid them within twelve months next after my wife's decease by my Executors In Trust and in case my sister **Elizabeth Slater** should not live to receive her share then I give and bequeath her share unto her son **John Slater** And I do hereby make nominate constitute and appoint the said **John Simmons William Carrett** and **Richard Streatfield** Executors In Trust of this my last Will and Testament and to retain and reimburse themselves and himself all and whatsoever sum or sums of money which they or either of them may expend disburse or lay out in or about the execution of this my Will reasonably for their time and trouble In Witness whereof I the said **John Ashdown** have to this my last Will and Testament contained in two sheets of paper to each sheet set my hand and to the last my seal this fifth day of February in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and seven -- **John Ashdown** --

Signed sealed published and declared by the said Testator as and for his last Will and Testament who in his presence and in the presence of each other at his request have hereunto set our names as witnesses -- **Geo. Bankin** att^y East Grinstead -- **J. Palmer Jun^r** East Grinstead -- **Elizabeth Bankin**.

This Will was proved at London on the thirty first day of January in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and nine before Right Honorable Sir John Nicholl Knight, Letter of Laws Master Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury lawfully constituted by the oaths of **John Symonds** (by mistake in the will written Simmons) and **Richard Streatfield** two of the Executors named in the said Will to whom Administration was granted of all and singular the goods chattels and credits of the deceased they having been first sworn duly to administer. Power reserved of making the like grant to **William Carrett** the other Executor when he shall apply for the same.

(Transcribed by Geoffrey Barber, 7 Apr 2020)

Notes:

People

John Ashdown, farmer, testator

Ann Ashdown, wife

John Simmons [written Symonds in the probate] , son-in-law, executor in trust

William Carrett, farmer of Withyham, executor in trust

Richard Streatfield, farmer of Hartfield, executor in trust

Edward Ashdown, nephew

Ann the wife of Henry Nye, daughter of Edward Everest, yeoman of Hartfield

Elizabeth Slater, sister

John Slater, son of Elizabeth Slater

Sarah Peerless, wife of Richard Peerless of Cowden, Kent, husbandman

Geo. Bankin, att^y [attorney?] of East Grinstead, witness

J. Palmer Junr of East Grinstead, witness

Elizabeth Bankin, witness

Places

Hartfield

Withyham

East Grinstead

Cowden, Kent

Relevant Events

Note: There are no ASHDOWN baptisms at Hartfield 1594-1848.

John ASHDOWN was buried on 14 Dec 1808 at Hartfield St Mary (“a farmer”).

John ASHDOWN of Hartfield married Ann EVEREST of Hartfield on 13 Oct 1767 at Hartfield.

Ann EVEREST is thought to be the widow of John EVEREST who was buried 29 Jan 1766 at Hartfield (her maiden name was DANE – see below).

John EVEREST married Ann DANE on 28 Jan 1749 at Hartfield, both of this parish.

Ann EVEREST [daughter of Edward EVEREST and Mary GODLY] married Henry NYE on 17 Oct 1804 at Tonbridge, Kent (Familysearch).

Richard PEARLESS married Sarah ASHDOWN on 9 Dec 1771 at Cowden, Kent. (Ancestry)

John SYMONDS married Ann EVEREST on 9 Oct 1793 at Hartfield, Sussex (“John a widower of St George Middlesex, Ann of this parish”)

(SFHG Indexes)

Richard PEERLESS married Sarah ASHDOWN on 9 Dec 1771 at Cowden, Kent. (Familysearch)

Sarah PEERLESS was buried 1 May 1827 age 88 years at St Mary Magdalene, Cowden, Kent.
(Gravestone Photographic Resource: <https://www.gravestonephotos.com/>)

Family Tree

All places are in Sussex except where shown. The people who left wills/admons are highlighted.

(--?--) Ashdown, b. c1710

+ unknown spouse

├— Sarah Ashdown, b. c1739, bur. 1827 at Cowden, KEN [Sarah's age is 88 years on headstone]

+ Richard Peerless, b. 1750 at Ashurst, KEN, m. 1771 at Cowden, KEN, bur. 1836 at Cowden, KEN

├— John Ashdown, b. c1740, bur. 1808 at Hartfield, pro. 1809 at London

+ Ann Dane, b. 1725 at SSX, m. 1767 at Hartfield, bur. 1812 at Hartfield [married as Ann Everest, widow]

├— Elizabeth Ashdown, b. c1750 at SSX

+ (--?--) Slater, m. c1775

├— John Slater, b. c1780

Some of the names mentioned in the will are connected to John Ashdown through his wife, the widow Ann Everest, (maiden name Dane). John Ashdown was her second husband:

Ann Dane, b. 1725 at SSX, England, bur. 1812 at Hartfield

+ **John Everest**, m. 1749 at Hartfield, bur. 1766 at Hartfield

├— **Ann Everest**, bap. 1750 at Hartfield

+ **John Symonds**, m. 1793 at Hartfield

├— **John Everest**, bap. 1752 at Hartfield

+ **Sarah Snashall**, m. 1780 at Hartfield

├— **Edward Everest**, bap. 1789 at Hartfield

├— **Edward Everest**, bap. 1754 at Hartfield, bur. 1828 at Hartfield

+ **Mary Godly**, m. 1779 at Hartfield

├— **Ann Everest**, bap. 1781 at Hartfield

+ **Henry Nye**, m. 1804 at Tonbridge, KEN

+ **Martha Luck**, m. 1800 at Hartfield, bur. 1826 at Hartfield

├— **Hannah Everest**, bap. 1758 at Hartfield

├— **Thomas Everest**, bap. 1759 at Hartfield

├— **William Everest**, bap. 1761 at Hartfield

+ **John Ashdown**, b. c1740 at England, m. 1767 at Hartfield, bur. 1808 at Hartfield

25. Admon of Elizabeth Wimble Ashdown of Heathfield, 1830

(ESRO: PBT 1/3/22/126B)

Granted: 25 Jan 1830

25 January 1830

The **Reverend John Burrell Hayley** Clerk Surrogate committed administration of the effects of **Elizabeth Wimble Ashdown** deceased intestate to **James Ashdown** of Heathfield Farmer the husband of the said **Elizabeth Wimble Ashdown** He being first sworn well and faithfully to administer the same And that the said effects were under the value of six hundred pounds

The said **James Ashdown** and **James Haffenden** of Heathfield aforesaid Farmer and **Isaac Dann** of Brightling Gardener are respectively bound in this behalf in the penalty of one thousand and two hundred pounds.

(Transcribed by Geoffrey Barber, 8 October 2020)

Notes:

People

Elizabeth Wimble Ashdown

James Ashdown, husband, farmer of Heathfield

James Haffenden, farmer of Heathfield

Isaac Dann, gardener of Brightling

Places

Heathfield

Brightling

Relevant Events

Elizabeth Wimble ASHDOWN buried 18 Apr 1825 at Heathfield (“wife of James”).

A marriage licence was issued on 24 Aug 1804 for Elizabeth Wimble ROADES and James ASHDOWN. James a bachelor, yeoman, 40 years, of Heathfield; Elizabeth a spinster, 30 years, of Heathfield. Sponsors: James Ashdown and John Holman (Archdeaconry of Lewes). Elizabeth Wimble ROADES married James ASHDOWN on 8 Oct 1804 at Heathfield. (SFHG Indexes)

Family Tree

See Tree 1. “Ashdowns of Waldron, Chiddingly and Hellingly (1700s-1800s)” in Chapter 2.

26. Will of William Ashdown, Yeoman of Hellingly, 1830

(ESRO: PBT 1/1/77/165)

Made: 21 Feb 1825

Proved: 9 Aug 1830

Familysearch.org: Film no: 1886182; Image no: 560

This is the Last Will and Testament of me **William Ashdown** of the Parish of Hellingly in the County of Sussex, yeoman, touching the disposal of such temporal Estate and it hath pleased Almighty God of his goodness to bestow upon me. First I order and direct that all such just debts as I shall happen to owe at the time of my decease my funeral expences and the charges and expences of proving this my will shall be paid and discharged by my Executors hereinafter named, from and out of my Personal estate. I Give devise and bequeath unto my son **Daniel Ashdown**, All that my Copyhold Estate consisting of two Messuages or Tenements, buildings, Garden, Orchard, Lands and Hereditaments thereunto belonging containing about two Acres of Land little more or less situate lying and being at Hellingly aforesaid known by the name of Burlow and now in my own occupation To have and to Hold unto him the said **Daniel Ashdown**, His Heirs, Executors, Administrators and assigns for every Chargeable nevertheless and I do hereby charge the said Copy Hold Estate with the sum of Forty Pounds which I do hereby give thereout in Two Legacies namely to my son **James Ashdown** the sum of Twenty Pounds thereof and to my son **Jesse Ashdown** the remaining sum of Twenty Pounds thereof which said legacies I do hereby order and direct to be paid to the said **James Ashdown** and **Jesse Ashdown** within one year next after the decease of my wife **Ann Ashdown** And with respect to my Personal Estate I hereby dispose thereof as follows

I Give unto my Daughter **Phebe** the wife of **Joseph Seymour** the sum of Ten Pounds. To my Daughter **Emme** the wife of **Richard Haiselden** the sum of Ten Pounds. To my Daughter **Mildred** the widow of **James Heathfield** the sum of Ten Pounds. To my Daughter **Alley the wife of Isaac Burt** the sum of Ten Pounds. And to the Six Children (or the survivors of them) of my Daughter **Abigail** late wife of Thomas **Barnes** the sum of Ten Pounds to be equally divided between and amongst the six of the survivors and survivor of them share and share alike.

I Give and bequeath to **William Ashdown** my Eldest son All and singular Remainders and Remainder of my Personal estate of what nature kind or quality soever the same may be found at the time of my decease and all my estate and interest therein to the said **William Ashdown** my son for his sole use and benefit. And if it should so happen that any or either of my said children shall die before his or her or their share or shares shall become payable, Then I order and direct the shares or several shares of him, her or them so dying shall be paid to their respective lawful issue to be equally divided between them if more than one in the same manner as before directed in respect to the children of my Daughter **Abigail**, deceased wife of **Thomas Barnes**. And my will and meaning is that none of the above mentioned Legacies shall be payable until one year after the decease of my wife the said **Ann Ashdown**. And my will is further, and I do hereby Charge my sons the said **William Ashdown** and **Daniel Ashdown** to support and maintain their Mother the said, **Ann Ashdown** at their Joint expence until the time of her decease and decently to bury her between or at their joint expence. And I do hereby nominate, constitute and appoint the said **William Ashdown** and **Daniel Ashdown** my sons Joint Executors of this my last Will and Testament hereby revoking and disallowing all former Will by me made and Declare this and this only to be my Last Will And Testament contained in two sheets of Paper. In Witness thereof I the said **William Ashdown** the Testator have to the first sheet hereof set my hand and to this second and last sheet thereof my hand and seal this twenty first day of February in the Year of our Lord One Thousand eight hundred and twenty five.

[signed] **William Ashdown** [seal]

Signed Sealed Published and Declared by the said **William Ashdown** the Testator as and for his Last Will and Testament in the presence of us who in his presence at his request and in the presence of each the have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses.

James Piper

the mark of **Steph. Piper**

Richard Power

(Transcribed by Leanne Carroll. Copied from a tree in Ancestry.co.uk called "David Alexander Carroll's ancestors" which gave the source as "Wills. Family History Library, Salt Lake City. microfilm #1,866,182").

On the 9th day of August 1830 were sworn **William Ashdown** and **Daniel Ashdown** the Executors on this will named To whom was committed the execution thereof. And the said **William Ashdown** and **Daniel Ashdown** were also sworn that the Goods Chattels and Credits of the said deceased were under the value of Three hundred Pounds. Under Caution by us John Scobril Curr.

(Transcribed by Geoffrey Barber July 2013)

Notes:

People

William Ashdown, yeoman, testator
Ann Ashdown, wife
Daniel Ashdown, son
James Ashdown, son
Jesse Ashdown, son
William Ashdown, eldest son
Phebe Seymour, daughter, wife of Joseph Seymour
Emme Haiselden, daughter, wife of Richard Haiselden
Mildred Heathfield, daughter, widow of James Heathfield
Alley [Alice] Burt, daughter, wife of Isaac Burt
Abigail Barnes deceased, daughter, late wife of Thomas Barnes
James Piper, witness
Stephen Piper, witness
Richard Power, witness

Places

Hellingly

Relevant Events

William ASHDOWN was buried 21 Feb 1830 at Heathfield Chapel (Independent), Sussex (“age 84 years”).

William ASHDOWN married Ann SMITH on 18 May 1774 at Chiddingly, Sussex.

His wife Ann ASHDOWN was buried 16 Feb 1831 at Heathfield Chapel (Independent), Sussex (“age 80 years”).

(SFHG Indexes)

Family Tree

See Tree 1. “Ashdowns of Waldron, Chiddingly and Hellingly (1700s-1800s)” in Chapter 2.

27. Will of Alexander Ashdown, Wheeler of Forest Row in East Grinstead, 1834

(ESRO: PBT 1/1/78/391)

Made: 15 January 1834

Proved: 24 March 1834

Familysearch: Film: 1886183; image: 992-994

This is the last Will and Testament of me **Alexander Ashdown** of Forest Row in the parish of East Grinstead in the County of Sussex _ wheeler.

First I will order and direct that all my just debts funeral and testamentary expences be fully paid and satisfied by my Executor hereafter named

Item I give and bequeath unto my daughter **Elizabeth** the wife of **James Gibb** my bedstead bed bedding and linen of every description for her own absolute use and benefit

Item I give and bequeath unto my son **John Ashdown** my silver watch and apendages thereto

Item I give and bequeath all my wearing apparel of every kind to be equally divided among those of my children as follows – namely – **Alexander Ashdown – John Ashdown – Edward**

Ashdown – Lydia the wife of Nathaniel Seale – Amelia the wife of William White – and

Ann Ashdown – All the before mentioned bequests to be delivered to the respective parties within one month after my decease by my Executor hereinafter named

Item I give and bequeath unto my friend **Ralph Newman** of Forest Row in the parish of East Grinstead aforesaid Shopkeeper the sum of Five pounds

Item I give devise and bequeath all the rest residue and remainder of my property both real and personal ready money securities for money or of what kind or nature soever and wheresoever the same may be and which I may die possessed of or be entitled to unto my friend the said **Ralph Newman** his Executors or Administrators In Trust nevertheless to sell and dispose of all such part and parts thereof as are in their nature saleable and not hereinbefore given and bequeathed and after payment of all my just debts funeral and testamentary expences as before directed and Legacy also hereby given to divide and pay the same to and among all my children share and share alike namely – my Sons – the said **Alexander Ashdown – John Ashdown – Edward Ashdown** – and my said daughters **Elizabeth** the wife of **James Gibb** and **Lydia the wife of Nataniel Seale - Amelia the wife of William White** and **Ann Ashdown** and to be paid them respectively as soon as conveniently may be after my decease and in case of the death of any or either of them my said children before the same becomes payable their share or shares to be paid to their lawful representatives.

And Lastly I hereby nominate constitute and appoint the said **Ralph Newman** Sole Executor of this my Will and I desire authorise and hereby empower him the said **Ralph Newman** his Executors or Administrators to retain and reimburse himself or themselves out of such Trust propmises all and every such reasonable costs and charges which he or they may expend sustain or be put unto in and about the execution of this my will – And also I do hereby revoke and make void all other wills by me at any time heretofore made and declare this only to be my last Will and Testament

In Witness whereof I the said **Alexander Ashdown** have hereunto set my hand and seal the Fifteenth day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty four
Alexander Ashdown

Signed Sealed published and declared by the said **Alexander Ashdown**

The Testator as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who

In his presence at his request and in the presence of each other have hereunto set our names as witnesses

Charles Newman

Susanna Batchelor

On the twenty fourth day of March 1834 was sworn **Ralph Newman** the sole Executor in this Will named To whom was committed the Execution thereof And the said **Ralph Newman** was at the same time sworn that the Goods Chattels and Credits of the said Deceased were under the value of four hundred and fifty pounds

Under Caution

By us

John Scobill, Surr.

Testator died 5th March 1834

(Transcribed by Geoffrey Barber, 19 March 2020)

Notes:

People

Alexander Ashdown, wheeler, testator

Elizabeth Gibb, daughter, wife of James Gibb

Alexander Ashdown, son

John Ashdown, son

Edward Ashdown, son

Lydia Seale, daughter, wife of Nathaniel Seale

Amelia White, daughter, wife of William White

Ann Ashdown, daughter

Ralph Newman, shopkeeper and friend, sole executor

Charles Newman, witness

Susanna Batchelor, witness

Places

Forest Row

East Grinstead

Relevant Events

Alexander ASHDOWN died 5 Mar 1834 (date of death given in probate).

Alexander ASHDOWN was buried 10 Mar 1834 at East Grinstead St Swithun (“83 years, Forest Row”).

Alexander ASHDOWN bap. 22 Jan 1752 at East Grinstead St Swithun, son of Alexander ASHDOWN and Elizabeth HAMS.

Alexander ASHDOWN married Ann WEST 27 Apr 1773 at East Grinstead.

Elizabeth ASHDOWN married James GIBBS on 26 Mar 1814 at East Grinstead

Lydia ASHDOWN married Nathaniel SEALE on 28 Feb 1802 at Leigh, Kent. (West Kent Marriage Index)

Amelia ASHDOWN married Whilliam WHITE on 13 May 1821 at Horsleydown, Surrey (Ancestry).

(SFHG Indexes)

Family Tree

See Tree 10. “Ashdowns of East Grinstead (c1725-1834)” in Chapter 2.

28. Will of James Ashdown, Farmer of Heathfield, 1835

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/78/630)

Made: 26 May 1832

Probate: 13 Jan 1835

This is the last Will and Testament of me **James Ashdown** of Heathfield in the County of Sussex Farmer made this twenty sixth day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty two I direct that my just Debts Funeral Testamentary and incidental expenses be first paid Also I bequeath unto my Wife **Elizabeth Ashdown** for the Term of her natural life the use and reasonable wear and tear of all my Household Goods Implements of Household Printed Books Plate Linen China and Furniture And after the decease of my said Wife **Elizabeth Ashdown** I direct the same or so much thereof as shall not be then worn out or destroyed to be divided into eight equal parts or shares according to value and then delivered to the Persons and in manner following (That is to say) one equal eighth part thereof unto and equally between all the Children of my late Brother **Thomas Ashdown** deceased one other equal eighth part thereof to my Brother **William Ashdown** one other equal eighth part thereof to my Brother **George Ashdown** one other equal eighth part thereof to my Sister **Mary Gilbert** Widow one other equal eighth part thereof to my Sister **Sarah Huggett** the Wife of **John Huggett** one other equal eighth part thereof to my Sister **Elizabeth Russell** the Wife of **John Russell** one other equal eighth part thereof to my Sister **Martha Haffenden** the Wife of **James Haffenden** and the remaining equal eighth part thereof unto my Sister **Fanny Knight** the Wife of **Thomas Knight** and I bequeath the same accordingly Also I bequeath unto my said Wife **Elizabeth Ashdown** All and every of my Cattle Implements of Husbandry Farming Stock and Effects in and about the Buildings and Lands in my own occupation at the time of my decease And also all my stock of Liquors provision and Fuel in and about my Dwelling House and Lands at the time of my decease for her own use and benefit absolutely Also I give and bequeath unto my said Wife **Elizabeth Ashdown** the sum of fifty pounds Sterling to be paid her within three months after my decease Also I give and bequeath unto **John Baker** of Heathfield aforesaid Farmer and my Nephew **John Huggett** the Younger of Heathfield aforesaid Farmer (who I have hereinafter appointed Executors of this my Will) the sum of five pounds Sterling apiece to be paid or retained by them respectively for their own use and benefit within six months after my decease in consideration of their taking upon them the Executorship of this my Will Also I give devise and bequeath unto my said Wife **Elizabeth Ashdown** and her Assigns for and during the Term of her natural life All that my Freehold Messuage or Tenement Stable Buildings and Garden situate in Heathfield aforesaid now in the occupation of myself and Mrs **Elizabeth Oxley** and by me lately purchased of Mr **Samuel Baker** And also all that piece or parcel of Freehold Land containing by estimation one acre and an half more or less situate near the Church in Heathfield aforesaid now in my own occupation and formerly belonging to Mr **Thomas Rhoades** And also all that my Customary Cottage Buildings Garden Orchard Land and Hereditaments situate in Heathfield aforesaid and holden of the Manor of Sapperton now in the occupation of myself and **James Haffenden** And also all other my Real Estate whatsoever and wheresoever To hold the same and every part thereof with their and every of their Rights Members and Appurtenances unto her my said Wife **Elizabeth Ashdown** and her Assigns for and during the Term of her natural life And immediately after the decease of her my said Wife **Elizabeth Ashdown** I give devise and bequeath unto my Niece **Elizabeth Ann Haffenden** (the wife of **Thomas Haffenden** of Waldron in the said County Farmer and daughter of **Thomas Rhoades** of Heathfield aforesaid Farmer) her Heirs and Assigns All that the said piece or parcel of Freehold Land containing by Estimation one acre and an half situate near the Church in Heathfield formerly belonging to Mr **Thomas Rhoades** To hold the same with the Appurtenances unto and to the use of my said Niece **Elizabeth Ann Haffenden** her Heirs and Assigns for ever And from and after the decease of my said Wife **Elizabeth Ashdown** I give

devise and bequeath unto the said **John Baker** and **John Huggett** the Younger their Heirs and Assigns All that the said Freehold Messuage or Tenement Stable Buildings and Garden in the occupation of myself and the said **Elizabeth Oxley** And the said Customary Cottage Buildings Garden Orchard Land and Hereditaments held of the Manor of Sapperton And all other my Real Estate (except the said piece of Freehold Land containing one acre and an half) To hold the same and every part thereof (except as aforesaid) with their and every of their Rights Members and Appurtenances unto the said **John Baker** and **John Huggett** the Younger their Heirs and Assigns for ever But nevertheless upon the Trusts and to and for the intents and purposes hereinafter expressed concerning the same (that is to say) Upon Trust that they the said **John Baker** and **John Huggett** the Younger or the Survivor of them or his Heirs shall and do as soon as conveniently may be after the decease of my said Wife **Elizabeth Ashdown** sell and absolutely dispose of the said Freehold and Customary Hereditaments and Real Estate so devised to them as aforesaid with the Appurtenances either together or in parcels by public Sale or Auction or by private contract or in such other manner and to such person or persons and for such price and prices sum and sums of money as to them or the Survivor of them or his Heirs shall seem reasonable and most beneficial to the Trusts hereinafter mentioned And upon payment of the money for which the said Hereditaments and premises or any part thereof shall be sold to convey surrender and assure the Hereditaments and premises so to be sold to the purchaser or purchasers thereof and his her or their Heirs and Assigns and to give one or more Receipt or Receipts for the money for which the same shall be sold which Receipt or Receipts shall be a good and sufficient discharge or good and sufficient discharges to any purchaser or purchasers for the money for which the same shall be sold or for as much thereof as in such Receipt or Receipts shall be expressed or acknowledged to be received and such Purchaser of Purchasers and his her or their Heirs or Assigns shall not afterwards be obliged to see to the application or be answerable or accountable for any loss misapplication or nonapplication of the said purchase monies or any part thereof And I direct that all the clear monies to arise and be received by and from the *sales* and disposal of the said Hereditaments and Real Estate hereinbefore devised and bequeathed upon Trust for Sale as aforesaid and from the rents and profits thereof in the meantime and until such Sale and Sales (the incidental charges and expences being thereout first deducted) shall fall into and constitute a part of the Residue of my personal Estate and shall be paid and applied accordingly Also I give and bequeath unto the said **John Baker** and **John Huggett** the Younger their Executors Administrators and Assigns All the Rest Residue and Remainder of my ready money and Securities for money Monies in the public stocks or Funds Debts Effects and personal Estate whatsoever and wheresoever (not hereinbefore otherwise disposed of) To hold the same and every part thereof unto them the said **John Baker** and **John Huggett** the Younger their Executors Administrators and Assigns Upon trust that they or the Survivor of them his Executors or Administrators shall and do as soon as the same shall have been collected and received and according as the same shall fall in to their hands by either of the Trusts aforesaid divide the same into eight equal parts or shares and pay one equal eighth part or share thereof unto and equally between all the Children of my said late Brother **Thomas Ashdown** deceased one other equal eighth part or share thereof to my said Brother **William Ashdown** one other equal eighth part or share thereof to my said Brother **George Ashdown** one other equal eighth part or share thereof to my said Sister **Mary Gilbert** one other equal eighth part or share thereof to my said Sister **Sarah Huggett** one other equal eighth part or share thereof to my said Sister **Elizabeth Russell** one other equal eighth part or share thereof to my said Sister **Martha Haffenden** and the remaining equal eighth part or share thereof unto my said Sister **Fanny Knight** and which said several eight parts or shares of the said Residue of my said personal Estate I do hereby bequeath unto the said several parties in manner aforesaid accordingly And my Will and mind further is that my said Trustees and Executors or either of them their or either of their Heirs Executors or Administrators shall not be charged and chargeable with or be answerable or accountable for any more of the aforesaid

Trust estates Monies and premises than they shall respectively actually receive or shall come to their respective hands by virtue of this my Will notwithstanding either or them may sign or give or join or concur in signing or giving any Receipt or Receipts for the sake of conformity nor with or for any loss which shall happen in placing out all or any of the trust monies aforesaid or of any security or securities as aforesaid or by the deficiency or insufficiency arising by depositing all or any of the said Trust monies in any Bank or in any Bankers Hands or elsewhere for safe custody or otherwise or with or for any loss which shall happen of the aforesaid Trust Monies and premises or any part thereof so as such loss happens without their or either of their wilful neglect or default nor the one for the other of them or for the Acts Deeds Receipts Defaults or Disbursements of the other of them And also that it shall and may be lawful for them my said Trustees and Executors respectively by and out of the said Trust estates Monies and premises to deduct retain and reimburse to themselves and himself and to allow to each other all such losses costs charges damages and expences as they shall respectively bear pay sustain or be put unto by reason of this my Will or in performance of the Trusts aforesaid or otherwise relating thereto Together with a reasonable allowance for their Journeys trouble and loss of time in and about the same And I do hereby make nominate constitute and appoint the said **John Baker** and **John Huggett** the Younger joint executors of this my Will and do hereby revoke all former Wills and codicils by me made In Witness whereof I the said **James Ashdown** the Testator have to this my last Will and Testament contained in this and the three preceding sheets of Paper set my Hand and Seal (to wit) my hand to the three preceding sheets and my hand and seal to this last sheet the day and year first above written **James Ashdown** The Writing contained in this and the three preceding sheets of paper was Signed and Sealed by the above named **James Ashdown** the Testator and by him published and declared as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who in his presence at his request and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as Witnesses **Wm Heathfield John Baldock James Philcox**

On the 13th Day of January 1835 were sworn **John Baker** and **John Huggett** the Executors in this will named To whom was committed the Execution thereof And the said **John Baker** and **John Huggett** were at the same time sworn that the Goods Chattels and Credits of the said deceased were under the value of Six hundred Pounds Under Caution by us John Scobell Surrogate

Testator died 27th May 1834

(Transcribed by Rosie Ansell December 2018)

Notes:

People

James Ashdown, farmer, testator

Elizabeth Ashdown, wife

Thomas Ashdown, brother

William Ashdown, brother

George Ashdown, brother

Mary Gilbert, widow, sister

Sarah Huggett, wife of John Huggett, sister

Elizabeth Russell, wife of John Russell, sister

Martha Haffenden, wife of John Haffenden, sister

Fanny Knight, wife of Thomas Knight, sister

John Baker of Heathfield, joint executor

John Huggett the younger, nephew, joint executor

Elizabeth Oxley, tenant
Samuel Baker
Thomas Rhoades [Roades], farmer of Heathfield
James Haffenden
Elizabeth Ann Haffenden, niece, daughter of Thomas Rhoades and wife of Thomas Haffenden
of Waldron, farmer
William Heathfield, witness
John Baldock, witness
James Philcox, witness

Places

Heathfield
Manor of Sapperton
Waldron

Relevant Events

James ASHDOWN was buried on 31 May 1834 at Heathfield All Saints (“74 years”).

A marriage licence was issued on 24 Aug 1804 for Elizabeth Wimble ROADES and James ASHDOWN. James a bachelor, yeoman, 40 years, of Heathfield; Elizabeth a spinster, 30 years of Heathfield. Sponsors: James Ashdown and John Holman (Archdeaconry of Lewes). James ASHDOWN married Elizabeth Wimble ROADES on 8 Oct 1804 at Heathfield. Elizabeth Wimble ASHDOWN was buried 18 Apr 1825 at Heathfield All Saints (“56 years, wife of James”). Admon 25 Jan 1830 (ESRO: PBT 1/3/22/126B)

James ASHDOWN married Elizabeth MARCHANT on 10 Dec 1828 at Heathfield (James a widower)
(SFHG Indexes)

The following is from the ESRO online catalogue and explains some of the family connections:
Title: DEEDS OF THE HEATHFIELD HOUSE ESTATE, HEATHFIELD Deeds of Priors, 4-8 Church Street, Heathfield, purchased in 1902
Date: 1733-1902
ESRO reference: AMS 5624/1

Description: In 1733 the property was described as:
a messuage, barn, stable, orchard, garden and close (1/2a) called Priors in Heathfield (E: road from Heathfield church to Bishops Wood; S: land late Taylor’s, formerly belonging to Priors; W: backside, garden or close of Elizabeth White, widow, late William White, deceased; N: the high street)

On 8 November 1733 John Hassell of Heathfield, mercer, mortgaged Priors, in his own occupation and lately occupied by Henry Cruttenden, deceased, to William Weston the younger of Burwash, yeoman, for £80 at 4½% (1-2).

On 7 February 1740 John Hassell and William Weston, now of Brightling, yeoman, assigned the mortgage to Ann Howell of Heathfield, spinster (3-4), who was in possession in 1746 when she paid the land-tax of 4s 0d for ?late Hassell’s? (28), and in 1751 she paid for repairs, taxes and manorial quitrent (37, 29). The tenant between 1750 and 1760 seems to have been Alan Dawes, who paid taxes and repair-bills in those years (37, 34). Ann Howell’s will of 24 May 1749 was proved by her cousin Thomas Howell at Lewes on 28 December 1776 (7); he had already paid manorial quitrent in 1764 (31) and it is unclear when Ann Howell died.

From before 1776 to after 1788 the tenant seems to have been Samuel Hunt, grocer; his goods were sold by distress in 1780 for three years’ arrears of rent, and accounts submitted to him by

his landlords John and Thomas Howell, for carpenters' work between 1779 and 1788, and by Jonathan and Joseph Harmer for glazing, are also present in the bundle (38-44).

On the death of John Hassell the equity of redemption in the property descended to his son John Hassell. By 1795 considerable arrears of interest had built up and on 28 and 29 July 1795 John Hassell, of Heathfield, hollow turner, sold Priors, occupied by Thomas Cheesman, to the mortgagee Thomas Howell of Heathfield, yeoman, and his trustee John Farmer of Mayfield, gent, for £5 5s 0d; the property to the West was then owned by Heathfield Parish [see AMS 5625] (5-6).

Thomas Howell built a house on part of the property (10), from which [Richard] Igglesden was paying rent by about 1790 (40).

By his will of 28 January 1812, Thomas Howell bequeathed the residue of his estate to his housekeeper Elizabeth Barton. On 29 February 1812 the will was proved at Lewes by his executor Richard Haffenden of Heathfield, farmer, and on 13 May 1812 Elizabeth Barton married James Haffenden (who had been baptised there on 1 January 1790) at Heathfield (8, 35-36).

On 25 and 26 November 1812 they were joined by Richard Haffenden to convey the property to William Baker of Heathfield, tanner, for £235. Priors, now in two dwellings, was occupied by William Baker and Mrs Sarah Roads, and the new house built by Thomas Howell by Richard Igglesden (9-13).

By his will of 12 November 1822, William Baker of Heathfield, leather-cutter, bequeathed Priors, in his own occupation, and two houses near Heathfield churchyard occupied by Richard Baseby, Widow Hunt and John Covell, to his brother Samuel Baker of Heathfield, tanner. William Baker died on 18 June 1830, and his brothers Samuel and John Baker proved the will in PCC on 27 July 1830. Samuel Baker sold Priors, again in one dwelling, to James Ashdown of Heathfield, yeoman, and his trustee John Baker of Heathfield, gent, for £300 on 28 and 29 September 1831 (13-15).

By his will of 26 May 1832, James Ashdown of Heathfield, farmer, left his real estate to his wife Elizabeth for life. He left the remainder of a piece of land (1½a) near the church, formerly belonging to Thomas Rhoades, to his niece Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Haffenden of Waldron, farmer, who was Thomas Rhoades's daughter; the remainder of his property, a house, stable and garden occupied by himself and Elizabeth Oxley [this property] and a cottage, buildings and land, copyhold of the manor of Sapperton and occupied by himself and James Haffenden, to his executors John Baker of Heathfield, farmer, and James's nephew John Huggett the younger of Heathfield, farmer, in trust for sale for the benefit of his eight brothers and sisters or their children. The will was proved at Lewes on 13 January 1835 (16).

The executor John Baker was buried at Heathfield, aged 68, on 25 October 1838, and Elizabeth Ashdown, widow, the tenant for life, on 13 August 1840 aged 76 (17). On 30 September 1844 John Huggett, now of Wartling, farmer, sold Priors, now in four dwellings and occupied by Edward Weeks and Elizabeth Oxley, to Edward Weeks of Heathfield, carpenter, and his trustee William Gosling of Heathfield, shopkeeper, for £200; the land to the south and west was occupied by John Thomas Fuller (18). On 10 October 1844 Weeks mortgaged the property to Thomas Piper of Mayfield, gent, for £200 at 5%; on 5 February 1857 Weeks paid off the mortgage to Piper's executors (Edward Piper of Mayfield, plumber and glazier, Thomas Frederick Piper of Tandridge in Surrey, farmer, George Piper of Mayfield, plumber and glazier, and John Noakes of Mayfield, farmer), who had proved his will in PCC on 26 July 1849 (19). Edward Weeks died on 12 January 1862 and his will of 21 March 1853 was proved at Lewes on 26 August 1864 by his executor and trustee William Gosling of Heathfield, shopkeeper, who sold Priors, in two dwellings, for £220 to Reuben Message of Warbleton, wheelwright, on 5 October 1865 (20). On 28 September 1867 Reuben Message, now of Heathfield, wheelwright, sold Priors, now in several dwellings, to Henry Samuel Message of Heathfield, grocer (who occupied it with Reuben Message and George Covell) for £450, of which £300 was raised by mortgage at 5% to

Sophia Philadelphia Tompsett of Holbeam Wood in Ticehurst, spinster, on 30 September 1867 (21-22).

On 30 September 1872 Henry Samuel Message conveyed his equity of redemption in the property, which he occupied by George Covell and George Collins, to George Piper of Heathfield, mason, for £75. Piper erected other buildings on the property and borrowed a further £200 from Miss Tompsett, now of East Peckham in Kent, on 13 January 1873. On 23 June 1877, when the property was occupied by Ann Barrow, widow, Mary Covell, widow, Stephen Waters, Alfred Russell and George Collins, the mortgage was assigned to William Johnson of Rock Hill in Waldron, farmer, and Walter Sprott of Mayfield, gent (23-25).

George Piper died on 26 November 1884 and his will of 27 June 1867 was proved at Lewes by his surviving executors, his brother Charles Piper and George Sands of Heathfield, miller, on 20 January 1885 (27). On 17 April 1889 his property was auctioned at the Crown Hotel, Hailsham. Priors, lot 10, consisted of a tailor's shop and workshop with an adjoining dwelling-house occupied by Stephen Taylor, a dwelling-house called Priors (the front used as a grocer's and baker's shop) let to Julius Caesar Sands, two cottages (one occupied by Mrs Covell, the other in hand) and a row of three brick-built cottages, occupied by Raymond Pettet, Joseph Barrow and George Haffenden. Also included in the sale were 17 cottages numbered 1-17 Tower Street, a house with a double-fronted grocer's and draper's shop with a warehouse behind, a beer-house called the Gibraltar Arms with 18 Tower Street adjoining, and a house and land behind (3a or 1p) formerly occupied by George Piper (26).

Priors was purchased by William Ash of Fernbank (later Weald House) and sold by him to Arthur C[arthew] Langdale of Heathfield House in 1902. Custodial History: The documents listed as AMS 5624, 5625 a... [More] Related Material: For Heathfield House and the Fuller fami... [More]

Family Tree

See Tree 1. "Ashdowns of Waldron, Chiddingly and Hellingly (1700s-1800s)" in Chapter 2.

29. Admon of Robert Ashdowne, Accountant of Lewes St Thomas at Cliffe, 1839

(ESRO: PBT 2/1/12/508B)

Granted: 20 June 1839

Familysearch: Film no: 1067013; Image no: 89

The twentieth day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty nine the **Reverend John Lupton** Clerk Surrogate and so forth committed administration of all and singular the goods chattels and credits of **Robert Ashdown** late of Cliffe near Lewes within the Deanry of Southmalling in the County of Sussex Accountant deceased intestate to **Jane Ashdown** of the Cliffe near Lewes aforesaid the widow and relict of the said **Robert Ashdowne** She being first sworn well and faithfully to administer the same and so forth. And that the said Goods etc. were under the value of one hundred pounds.

The said **Jane Ashdowne** and **Robert Ashdowne** of Horsham in the County of Sussex schoolmaster and **William Crosskey** of Lewes aforesaid Draper are respectively bound in this Behalf in the penalty of two hundred pounds.

(Transcribed by Geoffrey Barber, 20 Mar 2020)

Notes:

People

Robert Ashdowne, deceased

Jane Ashdowne, wife

Robert Ashdowne of Horsham, schoolmaster, [son?]

William Crosskey, draper

Places

Lewes

Horsham

Relevant Events

Robert ASHDOWN death registered Apr-Jun 1839, Lewes, Vol 7 Page 286.

Robert is probably Robert ASHDOWN bap. 7 June 1761 (born 2 Mar 1761) at Lewes St Thomas at the Cliffe, son of Robert ASHDOWN and Elizabeth.

In the 1841 census, Jane ASHDOWN, 75 years, born Sussex, is living with [son?] Robert ASHDOWN and wife Harriet & family at Horsham. Robert is a dissenting minister.

Jane Ann ASHDOWN death registered Jan-Mar 1845, Horsham, Vol 7 Page 301.

(SFHG indexes)

Family Tree

All places are in Sussex except where shown. The people who left wills/admons are highlighted.

Robert Ashdown, b. c1724, bur. 1799 at Lewes

+ **Elizabeth Bunting**, b. c1717, m. 1747 at Withyham, bur. 1805 at Lewes

— **Sarah Ashdown**, b. 1749 at Lewes

+ **William Paine**, m. 1772 at Lewes

— **Elizabeth Ashdown**, bap. 1755 at Lewes

+ **Alexander Tyler**, m. 1773 at Lewes

— **Mary Ashdown**, b. 1757 at Lewes

+ **James Kemp**, m. 1780 at Lewes

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Robert Ashdown, b. 1761 at Lewes, admon. 1839 + Jane Ann (--?--), b. c1766, m. c1790 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Robert Ashdown, b. c1796 at Lewes + Harriet Hooker, b. 1799 at Fordwich, KEN, m. 1832 at Canterbury, KEN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Jane Ashdown, b. 1833 at Horsham — Harriet Ashdown, b. 1834 at Horsham — Isabelle Ashdown, b. 1836 at Horsham + Humphrey Nash, b. c1832 at Billingshurst, m. 1859 at Horsham, d. 1903 at Horsham — Alexander Ashdown, b. 1765 at Lewes + Mary Parker, m. 1798 at Selmeston

30. Will of Thomas Ashdown Senior, Butcher of Peasmarsh, 1848

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/82/936)

Made: 12 December 1837

Proved: 18 December 1848

Familysearch: Film: 1886198; image: 382-383

1837 December 12

This is my Last will and Testament of me **Thos Ashdown Sen^r** in the parish of Peasmarsh in the County of Sussex Butcher. That is to say that should my wife **Ann Wise Ashdown** out live me that I do give and leave all my property of every description whatsoever shall then have belonged to me to her to be at her disposal as she shall think fit to do with except my four feet gun and my watch which I do give to my son **William Barton Ashdown**, and I do hereby utterly disallow and revoke and disannul all and every other former testament wills legacies bequeaths and executors by me in any way before named willed and bequeathed ratifying and conforming this and no other to be my last will and testament in writing whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year above written and that my wife **Ann Wise Ashdown** be my whole and sole Executer of this my last will and testament

I pronoun[?] this to be my last will and testament

Thos Ashdown

Moses Cleve Ticehurst

Alfred Ashdown

Passed the seal 18 Dec 1848

11 December 1848 then was sworn **Ann Wise Ashdown** the Executrix in this will named. To whom was committed the execution thereof. And the said **Ann Wise Ashdown** was also sworn that the goods, chattels and credits of the said Deceased were under the value of £200

By us

Henry Cooper

Surrogate

Testator died 13th July 1848

(Transcribed by Geoffrey Barber, 20 March 2020)

Notes:

People

Thomas Ashdown, butcher, testator

Ann Wise Ashdown, wife

William Barton Ashdown, son

Moses Cleve Tisehurst, witness

Alfred Ashdown, witness

Places

Peasmarsh

Relevant Events

Thomas ASHDOWN died 13 July 1848 (see probate above).

An inquest determined that he shot himself, age 77 years. (ESRO: SHE/2/7/18)

Thomas ASHDOWN was buried 16 July 1848 at Peasmarsh St Peter & St Paul (“76 years”).

Thomas ASHDOWN married Ann AVERY, widow, on 17 Aug 1806 at Peasmarsh. Thomas AVERY married Ann Wise HOLLAND on 13 Oct 1775 at Ninfield. Ann Wise ASHDOWN was buried 26 Nov 1868 at Peasmarsh St Peter & St Paul (“80 years”).

In the 1841 census, Thomas ASHDOWN states that he was not born in Sussex. His likely baptism is: 27 Oct 1771 at Brenchley, Kent son of Thomas ASHDOWN and Frances BARTON. He used the name BARTON as a middlename for two of his children.

Thomas’s wife, Ann Wise ASHDOWN was a beneficiary in her father’s will proved in 1812 (Will of William HOLLAND of Ninfield, yeoman, proved 1 Jul 1812. TNA: PROB 11/1535/5 – see Chapter 4).

(SFHG Indexes)

Family Tree

See Tree 11. “Ashdowns of Peasmarsh and Brenchly (Kent) (1700s-1800s)” in Chapter 2.

31. Will of William Ashdown, Farmer of Chiddingly, 1853

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/84/449)

Made: 8 February 1848

Died: 16 March 1852

Probate: 22 January 1853

Familysearch.org (Film no: 1886237; Image no: 620-622)

[page 1]

This is the last Will and Testament of me **William Ashdown** of the parish of Chiddingly in the County of sussex Farmer First I order and direct that all such just debts as I shall happen to owe at the time of my decease my funeral and testamentary expences be paid and discharged by my Executors hereinafter named from and out of my estate and touching such worldly estate as it hath pleased Almighty God of his goodness to bestow on me I give and bequeath as follows I give and bequeath unto my son **William Ashdown** one cow I give upon Trust All and Singular the remainder of my estate and effects Unto the said **William Ashdown** unto my son **David Ashdown** and unto my friend **Robert Noakes the younger** of Hellingly I give the same and every part thereof whatsoever and wheresoever To Hold to them the said **William Ashdown David Ashdown** and **Robert Noakes the younger** the survivors or survivor of them and to the administrators of such survivor Upon the following Trusts in them and each of them however reposed that is to say That they my said Trustees do and shall carry on the business of the Farm and Lands now occupied by me for the benefit of my wife **Frances Ashdown** during the term of her natural life or as long as she shall choose to reside on the said farm And in the case that she my said wife think proper to leave her residence on the said farm then I hereby order and direct my Trustees to allow from and out of the profits of my said farming business the sum of twenty pounds a year to my wife the said **Frances Ashdown** the same to be paid Quarterly that is to say Five pounds on every Quarter day namely the 25th March the 24th June the 29th Septr and the 25th Decr in each and every year during the term of her natural life And should it happen that the occupation of the said farm from whatever sause shall be given up by my Trustees Then I order and direct that my Trustees shall sell and convert (not consisting of money) all my estate and effects and the produce of such sale together with all my other monies to be placed or put out at interest on some good and sufficient security and that the aforesaid sum of twenty pounds a year be paid to my wife as before directed for her support and maintenance from and out of the interest arising from such monies provided it shall produce that sum of twenty pounds a year and if not to make it up out of the principal sum so invested to the said amount

William Ashdown [signed]

Thomas Guy [signed]

Richard Lower [signed]

[page 2]

During the term of her natural life And at the decease of my wife the said **Frances Ashdown** or as soon as conveniently may be after that event I do further order and direct that my Trustees do sell and dispose either by public auction or by private contract of all my effects (if not before sold) and the produce of such sale with all my other monies I do hereby give and bequeath unto and equally amongst all my surviving children and the issue of them that may be then dead such issue respectively to receive equally amongst them of more than one the share or several shares to which his her or their parents or respective parents would have been intitled if living And I do hereby constitute and appoint the said **William Ashdown the younger David Ashdown** and **Robert Noakes the younger** as Joint Executors in Trust of this my Will and I do declare that they my said Thrustees and executors nor either of them nor either of their Administrators shall be answerable or accountable for any more of my said estate and monies than they and each of them shall actually receive nor for any loss that may happen by the failure of any securities for money

nor for the acts deeds and defaults of each other nor from any other cause except it shall be from his or their own individual corrupt neglect and default And I do hereby revoke all former Wills and Testaments In Witness whereof I have to this my Will contained in two sheets of paper signed each sheet thereof with my own proper name this eight day of February In the year of our Lord One thousand and eight hundred and forty eight.

William Ashdown [signed]

Signed by the said **William Ashdown** the Testator as his Last will and Testament in the presence of us present at the same time, who in his presence and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as attesting witnesses

Thomas Guy [signed]

Richard Lower [signed]

[page 3]

On the twenty second day of January 1853

Were sworn **Wm Ashdown David Ashdown** and **Robert Noakes the younger** the Executors in this Will named to whom was committed the execution thereof

And the said **Wm Ashdown David Ashdown** and **Robert Noakes** were at the same time sworn that the Goods Chattels and Credits of the Deceased were under the value of Two hundred pounds Under Caution

By Us

A Nott, Surrogate

Testator died 16 March 1852

(Transcribed by Geoffrey Barber, 25 Mar 2020)

Notes:

People

William Ashdown, farmer, testator

Frances Ashdown, wife

William Ashdown, son

David Ashdown, son

Robert Noakes the younger of Hellingly, friend

Thomas Guy, witness

Richard Lower, witness

Places

Chiddingly

Hellingly

Relevant Events

William ASHDOWN died 16 March 1852 (see probate above).

William ASHDOWN married Frances JERVIS on 15 Feb 1805 at Waldron, Sussex (William is "of Chiddingly").

Frances ASHDOWN died in 1871 (Jul-Sep 1871, Hailsham, Vol 2b Page 49. Age 85 years.)

Note: The family were non-conformists. Baptisms for William and Frances's children were at Heathfield Independent Chapel. The baptism records for the Hellingly Burlow Chapel contains the entry for Trayton Dann baptised 30 Oct 1836 with the comment: "Baptised by Saml Sands in the dwelling house of Wm Ashdown...?, Chiddingly". Trayton Dann was their grandson, son of their daughter Frances who married George Dann on 6 Aug 1836.

Family Tree

See Tree 1. “Ashdowns of Waldron, Chiddingly and Hellingly (1700s-1800s)” in Chapter 2.

32. Will of David Ashdown, Labourer of Ditchling, 1866

(ESRO: AMS 4310)

Made: 22 March 1866

Probate: Not presented for probate

This is the last Will and Testament of me **David Ashdown** of Ditchling Parish, in the County of Sussex, Labourer. I give devise and bequeath to my dear Wife **Hope Ashdown** the whole of my Real and Personal Estate whatsoever and wheresoever for her absolute use and benefit and I appoint my said Wife Executrix of this my Will. In witness whereof I have to this my last Will and Testament set my hand this twenty second day of March one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six.

David Ashdown

His mark X

Signed and declared by the said **David Ashdown** the testator as and for his last will and testament in the presence of us who in his presence at his request and in the presence of each other have here with subscribed our names as witnesses being present at the same time.

John Ashdown

Thomas Baldock

(Transcribed by Pat Ashdown Shepherd, 24 April 2020)

The above will was presented at a court for the manor of Ditchling; William Kensett, John Comber and Thomas Feldwick, homage, on 13 June 1867.

It does not appear to have been submitted for probate.

Notes:

People

David Ashdown, labourer of Ditchling, testator

Hope Ashdown, wife

Places

Ditchling

Relevant Events

David Ashdown died 1866 (Apr-Jun 1866, Lewes, Vol 2b Page 95, age 67 years).

David ASHDOWN married Hope NORMAN on 7 Jul 1821 at Westmeston, Sussex.

Hope Ashdown died 11 Mar 1890 at Burgess Hill and her will was proved 30 May 1890. Effects: £7.

Manor of Ditchling court roll, 13 June 1867:

Admission of Hope Ashdown on the death of her husband David Ashdown to a cottage and an acre of land in Ditchling, late Herriott, before Cannon and formerly Dumbrell, quitrent 6d

Fine 6d certain. Steward: Inigo Gell. (ESRO: AMS 4311)

Manor of Ditchling court roll, 31 May 1855:

Admission of David Ashdown of Ditchling, labourer, on the out-of-court surrender of Betty Vaughan, 20 November 1854 to a cottage and an acre of land in Ditchling, late Herriott, before Cannon and formerly Dumbrell, quitrent 6d.

Fine 6d certain. Steward: Francis Harding Gell. (ESRO: AMS 4309)

Family Tree

See Tree 8. "Ashdowns of Ditchling (1700s-1800s)" in Chapter 2.

Chapter 4 - Other Related Wills and Documents

33. Will of John Ellyott, Yeoman of Rotherfield, 1681

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/35/368B)

Made: 27 Feb 1680/81

Proved: 20 Apr 1681

In the name of God Amen I **John Ellyott** of Rotherfield in ye County of Sussex yeoman being sick and weake but of a sound and perfect mind and memory prayed be God for ye same and considering the shortness of my life the certaynty of my death and the immortality of the tyme thereof and being desirous to settle that estate that ... God in [his] mercy hath bestowed on me doe make my last will and testament in manner and form as following that is to say First and principally I commend my soule to God whoe gave it me and my body I commit to the earth from whence it was taken to be decently buryed in such Christian manner as my executors hereafter named shall think fit

Item I give unto the poore of the parish of Rotherfield forty shillings to be distributed amongst them as my executors shall direct

Item I doe hereby will order and request that all my debts shall be fully and faithfully satisfied and payed soe soon as my personall and real estate can be sould and I do make nominate and appoynt my loveing cozen **Alexander Elliot** of Mayfield in ye said County yeoman and **John Lockyer** of Rotherfield aforesaid yeoman sonn of **Thomas Lockyer deceased** joint executors of this my last will and testament whom I desire to sell my goods and personall estate soe soon as conveniently may be after my death and herewith and with the money arising by sale of my messuages lands tenements I (**John Ellyott**) will they shall pay all my debts that I shall iustly owe to any person or persons whatsoever and the better to enable my executors to pay my debts and to perform my will and for other uses intents and purposes in this my will lymitted I doe give all those my lands tenements and hereditaments whatsoever in Rotherfield aforesaid which is not already settled on my wife during her life for her joynture unto my said executors **Alexander Ellyott and John Lockyer** and their heirs to hold to them and their heirs to the intent that they and the survivors of them and the heirs of the survivors of them shall soe soon as conveniently may be after my death grant sell and dispose of the same to such person and persons and his and their heires as they shall think fit and for the most and best rate and price they may or can gett for ye same and the money arising by the sale or sales thereof shall (with the money arising by the sale of my goods and personall estate) pay all the debts that I shall owe at the tyme of my death to any person or persons whatsoever and the overplus thereof after payment of my debts I will that the same shall be payed and divided as hereafter I have lymitted in this my will And whereas my father **Alexander Ellyott** did on the conclusion of my marriage with **Anne** my now wife settle my messuage wherein I now dwell and some lande thereunto belonging conteyning (**John Ellyott**) about one hundred and fifteen acres in Rotherfield aforesaid unto my said wife during her life now I doe by this my will corroborate the said Joynture and the Indenture of graunt hereof and I doe by this my will give will and devise the said messuage Lands tenements and premises with the appurtenances unto my said wife for and during her naturall life and from and after her death I give will and dispose the same with the appurtenances unto the said **Alexander Ellyott and John Lockyer** and their heirs to hold to them and their heirs to them in trust that they and the survivors of them and the heires of the survivors of them shall soe soon as conveniently may be after my wifes death sell the said messuage lands tenements and hereditaments with the appurtenances settled on my wife for her jointure of and for the most and best price they may get for the same and the money arising by the same and alsoe the overplus of the money arising by the sale of my other lands (if any shall be) shall be equally divided to and amongst all my daughters **Elizabeth now the wife of Edward Dadswell Anne**

the wife of John Ashdowne Mary the wife of William Gilbert Ellen Ellyott and Frances Ellyott but my will and mind is that my executors shall lay out my daughter **Dadswells** part of the money given to her in the purchase of lands and tenements of a good and cleer tyle and shall settle the same on my said daughter **Elizabeth** for and during her naturall life and after her death (**John Ellyott**) on the yssue of my said daughter in such manner as my executors shall think fitt and I will that my executors shall discount and keep back out of the money given to my daughter **Ashdowne** the forty pounds which I give [gave] him my son in law **Ashdowne** on the conclusion of the marryage with my daughter **Anne** Any thing before in this my will contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding and I doe order and appoint that my executors shall pay and allow themselves all such moneyes as they shall lay out about this my will and shall be payd for their trouble and losse of tyme and I give unto them twenty shillings a peece as a token of my love

Item I give unto my wife one bedd bedstedle and all things as thereunto belonging and as they now stand and allow halfe my lynn

Item I give unto my three daughters **Mary Ellen and Frances** to each of them a bedd and all thinges belonging thereunto and as they now stand and alsoe all the rest of my lynn equally to be divided between them

Item I give unto my wife the use of my silver bowle during her life and after her death I will the same shall be sold and the money equally divided amongst my children

Item I give unto my three daughters **Mary Ellen and Frances** to each of them two silver spoons in testimony whereof I the sayd **John Ellyott** to this my last will and testament being written in fower sheets to each sheet have subscribed my name and to the last sheet thereof have set my seale the seaven and twentieth day of February 1680. Annoqu Regni Regis Caroli Secundo Tricesimo tertio **John Ellyott**

Signed sealed and published in the presence of us **Richard Hutchinson senyor William Ashdowne Tho Hooper**

Proved at Lewes 20 April 1681.

(Transcribed by Rosie Ansell January 2008)

Notes:

People

John Ellyott [Elliott], yeoman, testator
Alexander Ellyott, yeoman of Mayfield, cousin, joint executor
John Lockyer, yeoman, son of Thomas Lockyer deceased, joint executor
Alexander Ellyott, father
Ann Elliott, now wife
Elizabeth Dadswell, daughter, wife of Edward Dadswell
Anne Ashdowne, daughter, wife of John Ashdowne
Mary Gilbert, daughter, wife of William Gilbert
Ellen Ellyott, daughter
Frances Ellyott, daughter
Richard Hutchinson senior, witness
William Ashdowne, witness
Thomas Hooper, witness

Places

Rotherfield
Mayfield

Relevant Events

John ELLIOTT was buried 4 Mar 1680/81 at Rotherfield St Denys.

John ELLIOTT was baptized 6 Mar 1625 at Mayfield St Dunstan, son of Alexander ELLIOTT and Constance HEPDEN.

John ELLIOTT's first marriage was to Mary RUSSELL on 5 Aug 1647 at Warbleton. Mary is the mother to all the children mentioned in the above will.

John ELLIOTT's second marriage to Ann has not been found.

Ann ELLIOTT was buried 27 Mar 1700 at Rotherfield St Denys ("widow"). She left her own will proved 12 Apr 1700 (see Chapter 4).

John ELLIOTT and Mary RUSSELL's daughter, Ann ELLIOTT, married John ASHDOWN on 9 Apr 1672 at Withyham ("Ann of Rotherfield"). Their marriage licence on 6 Apr 1672 says they are both "of Rotherfield".

For more information on the Elliott families see the notes under "Will of William Ashdowne the elder, Yeoman of Rotherfield, 1737" in Chapter 3.

Family Tree

See Tree 12. "Elliotts of Rotherfield (1600s-1700s)" in Chapter 2.

34. Will of Anne Elliott, Widow of Mayfield, 1699/1700

(ESRO: PBT/2/1/3/144)

Made: 7 Jan 1699/1700

Probate: 12 Apr 1700

In the Name of God Amen I **Anne Elliott** of Mayfeild in the County of Sussex widow being aged and infirme but of a sound and disposing mind and memory Thanks be to Almighty God for the same doe make my last Will and Testament in manner and forme following Revoking and absolutely unwilling by these presents all and every Testament and Testaments Will and Wills heretofore by me made or declared either by word or by writing notwithstanding any promise to the contrary or Clause Derogatory in the same and this to be taken only for my last Will and Testament First and principally I commend my soule into the hands of Almighty God and my body I committ to the Earth to be decently buried att the discretion of my Executor hereafter named and as touching the disposicion of such Temporall Estate as it hath pleased God to bestow on me I give and dispose thereof as followeth Imprimis I give and bequeath unto my **Grandaughter Anne Ashdowne** the daughter of **John Ashdowne** my sonn in Law all the money Due to me in and by one obligacion bearing date the Thirteenth day if October in the year of our Lord One Thousand six hundred Eighty and one whereby the aforesaid **John Ashdowne** became bound to me in the penal sume of Two hundred pounds condicioned for the payment of one hundred and five pounds on a day and at a place therein mentioned which said bond I have the day of the date hereof assigned unto the said **Ann Ashdowne** And for the preventing of all trouble which may arise by reason thereof doe hereby bequeath the same unto her the said **Anne Ashdowne** Item I give and bequeath unto **Joseph Mary Elizabeth John Anne and David Gilbert** the six children of my sonn in Law **William Gilbert** of Eastgrinsted in the said County of Sussex Mason equally to be divided between them all the money due and oweing in and by one obligacion bearing date the six and twentieth day of December in the yeare of our Lord one Thousand six hundred Eighty and seaven whereby **Edward Dadswell** of Rotherfield in the said County of Sussex Yeoman became bound to me in the penal sume of fourscore pounds condicioned for the payment of forty Two pounds of lawfull money of England on a certaine day and att a place therein mencioned which said bond I have the day of the date hereof Assigned unto them and for prevention of all troubles which may arise by reason thereof doe hereby bequeath the same unto them Equally to be divided between them And I doe make **John Locker** of Rotherfield aforesaid the Elder Yeoman Executor of this my last Will and Testament desiring him to see this my Will in Everything performed In Testimony whereof I the said **Anne Elliott** to this my last Will and Testament being written in one sheet of paper doe set my hand and seale this Seaventh day of January Anno undecimi Willi tertii ... Regis Anglia etc Annoq Dni 1699 **Ann Ellyott** signed sealed published and declared by the said **Anne Elliott** the Testator as her last will and Testament in the presence of us **Georg Hooper Thomas Callis**

Probatum fuit testamentum **Anne Elliott** nuper de Mayfield decanat de Southmallig defunct duodecimo die Aprilis anno Dni millesimo septingentesimo coram magistro Thoma Whally presbro Surrogato etc Juramento **Johannis Lockyer** Executor in ... Testamento nominat cui commissa fuit administration bonorum etc Ad Sancta etc Jurat

(Transcribed by Tony Parker April 2010)

Notes:

People

Anne Elliott, widow, testatrix
Anne Ashdowne, granddaughter, daughter of John Ashdowne
William Gilbert, son-in-law, mason of East Grinstead
Joseph Gilbert, son of William Gilbert
Mary Gilbert, daughter of William Gilbert
Elizabeth Gilbert, daughter of William Gilbert
John Gilbert, son of William Gilbert
Anne Gilbert, daughter of William Gilbert
David Gilbert, son of William Gilbert
Edward Dadswell, yeoman of Rotherfield
John Locker [Lockyer] the elder, yeoman of Rotherfield
George Hooper, witness
Thomas Callis, witness

Places

Rotherfield
Mayfield
East Grinstead

Relevant Events

Ann ELLIOTT was buried 27 Mar 1700 at Rotherfield St Denys (“widow”).

John ELLIOTT married Ann BARHAM on 30 Apr 1646 at Wadhurst. Ann’s father, Nicholas Barham of Wadhurst, left a will proved in 1653 which confirms her marriage to John Elliott as it names their first three surviving children (Will of Nicholas Barham, Gentleman of Wadhurst, made 14 Nov 1652, proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury 21 May 1653, TNA: PROB 11/230/148).

John and Ann ELLIOT’s daughter, Ann ELLIOT, married John ASHDOWN on 9 Apr 1672 at Withyham (“Ann of Rotherfield”). Their marriage licence on 6 Apr 1672 says they are both “of Rotherfield”.

Family Tree

See Tree 12. “Elliotts of Rotherfield (1600s-1700s)” in Chapter 2.

35. Will of Richard Ashdowne, Tanner of Bermondsey, 1714

(TNA: PROB 11/539/311)

Made: 6 April 1714

Probate: 22 April 1714

(Copy of original will available for download at The National Archives (TNA) and Ancestry)

April the 6, 1714. I **Richard Ashdowne** of the parish of St Mary Magdalen Bermondsey in the County of Surry Tanner being in perfect mind and memory though sick in body and calling to mind my mortality knowing that it is appointed for all men once to dye First I recommend my Soul into the hands of Almighty God that gave it and my body to the ground to be buried after a Christian decent manner at the discretion of my Executors hereafter named And as to my worldly goods which God by his good providence hath blessed me with I dispose of as follows Item I give to my only son **Richard Ashdown** all my lands in the parish of Plumpton in the County of Sussex now in the occupation of **Edward Chapman** all the stock in the yard all the household goods and all ready moneys and debts that are due unto me And I appoint my brother **Robert Ashdown** of East Grinstead in the County of Sussex and **Philip Seal** of the parish of Tunbridge in the County of Kent to be my Executors and Trustees to bring up my son to the age of one and twenty and then they to deliver up their charge to him allowing every reasonable charge they shall be at Item I give unto my brother **Robert Ashdown** five pounds Item I give to my father and mother five pounds betwixt them Item I give to my brother **Alexander Ashdown** and my sister **Sarah Ashdown** five pounds betwixt them to be paid in one year after my decease out of the stock by my Executors But if in case it please God to call my son out of this world without issue I leave all here mentioned to my brother **Robert Ashdown** upon this condition that he shall pay unto my father and mother fifty shillings a year during their natural life and after their decease to his heirs and assigns for ever And I do give all to my son **Richard Ashdown** above mentioned debts legacies and funeral charges paid out of it And I do appoint **Robert Ashdown** and Philip Seal above mentioned to be the Executors of this my last Will and Testament Signed Sealed and delivered in the presence of us. In Witness where of I set my hand and seale ./.
Richard Ashdowne ./.
Tho. Andrews, Henry Fly, The marke of **Tho. Skinner** ./.

Upon after thoughts and consideration it is the desire of this my last Will and Testament that my father and mother should have five pounds more than what is above mentioned. And also I do freely forgive all my brothers and sisters out of good will and affection which I have and do beare towards them all debts duties and demands whatsoever ./.

22th day of April 1714

Which day appeared personally **Thomas Andrews** and **John Hind** of the parish of Saint Mary Magdalen Bermondsey in the County of Surrey Tanners and being sworn on the holy Evangalists to depose the truth do severally depose as follows viz. that they these deponents were well acquainted with **Richard Ashdowne** late of the parish aforesaid Tanner deceased And that on Sunday the Eleventh of this instant April when these deponents were visiting the said deceased he did then declare that he would have the following additions made to his will and the said **Thomas Andrews** within a short time afterwards reduced the same into writing in manner following viz Upon after thoughts and considerations It is the desire of this my last Will and Testament that my father and mother have five pounds more that what is above mentioned And also I do freely forgive all my brothers and sisters out of good will and affection which I have and do beare towards them all debts duties and demands whatsoever. And they these deponents further say that the said deceased was at the time of giving such instructions of sound mind and memory./.
Tho. Andrews,
John Hind ./.

[some Latin]

W. Phipps, Sur.

Probatum 22 April 1714

(Transcribed by Geoffrey Barber, 27 Mar 2020)

Notes:

People

Richard Ashdowne, tanner, testator
Richard Ashdown, son
Robert Ashdown of East Grinstead, brother, joint executor and trustee
Alexander Ashdown, brother
Sarah Ashdown, sister
Philip Seal of Tonbridge, joint executor and trustee
Edward Chapman of Plumpton, tenant
Thomas Andrews, witness
Henry Fly, witness
John Hind, witness

Places

Bermondsey, Surrey
East Grinstead, Sussex
Plumpton, Sussex
Tonbridge [Tonbridge], Kent

Relevant Events

Richard ASHDOWN was buried on 18 April 1714 at St Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey, Surrey ("Richard ASHDON from Long Lane tanner).

Richard ASHDOWN married Susannah MAYNARD in 1709 at Fletching, Sussex. (the SMI entry states that the page in the PR is damaged. Only the year is given and Richard's name is only given as ASHDOWN. The document mentioned below identifies him as Richard).

A document at the East Sussex Record Office titled "Deeds of Heaths Farm Plumpton" (ESRO: AMS5797) provides an understanding of this family. An excerpt follows:

Wood assigned the lease on 24 June 1698 to **Abraham Maynard** of Fletching yeoman; a house and barn had lately been built on the land. Maynard's will of 1 Jan 1700 bequeathed the property to his daughter **Susannah**; she married **Richard Ashdown** of St Mary Magdalen Bermondsey Surrey tanner who after her death by his will of 6 Apr 1714 bequeathed it to his brother **Robert Ashdown**.

Robert Ashdown's will of 6 May 1714 (see Chapter 3) gave a life interest to his father **Richard** with remainders to his brothers **John and Alexander Ashdown & sister Ann Wickersham** as tenants in common

On 1 Apr 1735 **John** (of Chiddingstone Kent husbandman) assigned the third share in the lease to his brother **Alexander senior** of Tonbridge Kent tiler for £40 (1). On 26 Mar 1736 **Alexander Ashdown** assigned his two-thirds share to **Edmund Hobbs** of Fletching yeoman; **Ann**, who had meanwhile married **Anthony Ellis**, joined with him to assign the remaining third to Hobbs on 30 Apr 1737. On 8 Oct 1737 Hobbs assigned to **John Bradford** of Falmer gent for £256; the farm was occupied by **Edmund Chapman**.

Susannah died sometime in the period 1711-1714, before Richard. They had one son:
Richard ASHDOWNE, baptised 26 Dec 1711 at Chiddingstone, Kent. (Ancestry.co.uk)

Family Tree

See Tree 9. “Ashdowns of East Grinstead and Chiddingstone (Kent) (1600s-1700s)” in Chapter 2.

36. Will of John Standen, Yeoman of Hastings, 1796

(ESRO: A67-214)

Made: 17 April 1795

Probate: 7 March 1796

In the name of God Amen I **John Standen** of Silver Hill in the parish of Saint Mary of the Castle in the County of Sussex yeoman being weak in body but of sound mind memory and understanding thanks be given to Almighty God for the same do make publish and declare this to be my last will and testament in manner and form following that is to say First I will and direct that all my just debts funeral expences and the charges of proving this my will be fully paid and discharged by my executors hereinafter named and I do hereby charge my real and personal estate with the payment thereof accordingly and subject thereto I give and devise unto my daughter **Maria** the wife of **John Ashdown** of Hollington in the said county of Sussex [blank] All that my freehold messuage or tenement garden hereditaments and premises situate lying and being in the parish of Saint Mary of the Castle within the Liberty of the town and port of Hastings in the said county of Sussex and now in the tenure or occupations of **Stephen Standen** and [blank] **Apps** To hold the said messuage or tenement garden hereditaments and premises unto my said daughter **Maria Ashdown** her heirs and assigns forever Also I give and bequeath unto my son **William Standen** of Guestling in the said county of Sussex Shopkeeper the sum of forty pounds Also I give and bequeath unto my son **John Standen** of the parish of St Mary of the Castle the sum of forty pounds Also I give and bequeath unto my son **James Standen** of the parish of St Leonards the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds Also I give and bequeath unto my daughter **Hannah the wife of Thomas Smith** of Ore in the said county yeoman the sum of fifty pounds Also I give and bequeath unto my said daughter **Maria the wife of the said John Ashdown** the sum of fifty pounds all of which said legacies I do hereby order and direct shall be paid by my executors hereinafter named within twelve months next after my decease And also I do hereby give and bequeath unto my son **Thomas Standen** of St Mary of the Castle aforesaid yeoman and my friend **Charles Deudney** of Guensing in the parish of Saint Mary Magdalen within the Liberty of the town and port of Hastings aforesaid gentleman their executors and administrators the sum of one hundred and twenty pounds Upon trust nevertheless that they my said trustees and the survivor of them and the executors and administrators of such survivor do and shall place out at interest on Government or some other good & sufficient real security the said sum of one hundred and twenty pounds and to pay and apply the interest proceeds and profit therefrom arising and every part thereof unto and to the use of my daughter **Susanna the wife of Richard Cossum** of Hollington aforesaid yeoman for and during the term of her natural life and whose receipt alone shall be a good and sufficient discharge to my said executors for such payments notwithstanding her coverture and I do hereby direct that the same shall not be subject to the debts control engagements or intermeddling of her present husband but shall be a distinct and separate maintenance for her as if she were a feme sole and from and after the decease of my said daughter **Susanna** Upon trust that my said trustees and the survivor of them and the executors and administrators of such survivor do and shall lay out and expend the interest or dividends of the said monies so to be paid out as aforesaid for and towards the maintenance and education of all and every the children of my said daughter **Susanna** untill they shall severally and respectively attain the age of twenty one years and as soon as any or either of my said Grandchildren shall have attained his her or their said ages of twenty one years Then up on trust that they my said trustees and the survivor of them and the executors and administrators of such survivor do and shall pay or cause to be paid unto my said Grandchildren his her or their part or share of and in the said sum of one hundred and twenty pounds when and as soon as they shall severally and respectively attain the age of twenty one years But in case of the death of the said **Richard Cossum** in the life time of my said daughter then I do direct my said trustees and the survivor of them and the executors and administrators of such survivor do and shall pay unto my said daughter **Susanna**

the said sum of one hundred and twenty pounds for her own use and benefit anything hereinbefore contained to the contrary thereof notwithstanding Also I give and bequeath unto my daughter **Sarah Sallina** the wife of **Thomas Button** of the parish of St Mary of the Castle aforesaid [blank] the sum of one hundred and forty pounds Also I give and bequeath unto my daughter **Ann the wife of Robert Overy** of Hurstgreen in the said county [blank] the sum of fifty pounds which said two legacies I do direct shall be paid by my said executors within twelve months next after my decease And also all the rest residue and remainder of my estate whatsoever and wheresoever and of what nature or kind soever the same may be I give and bequeath unto my said son **Thomas Standen** his executors and administrators absolutely and for ever And I do hereby nominate constitute and appoint my said son **Thomas Standen** and **Charles Deudney** trustees and executors of this my will And I do hereby declare that my said executors shall not be answerable or accountable for any more money than they shall respectively receive nor shall the one of them be answerable or accountable for the acts deed neglects or defaults of the other of them but each for his own acts and deeds only and that it shall and may be lawful to and for my said trustees and executors to reimburse and retain to himself and themselves all such monies costs and charges which they or either of them shall necessarily sustain expend or be put unto in or about the execution of this my will and the trusts hereby in them reposed And I do hereby give and bequeath unto the said **Charles Deudney** the sum of five pounds as a mark of my esteem and for the trouble he may have in carrying this my will into execution And Lastly I do hereby revoke and make null and void all former and other wills by me at any time heretofore made and do declare this to be my only true last will and testament In witness whereof I the said **John Standen** the testator have to this my last will and testament contained in three sheets of paper set my hand only to the first two sheets and my hand and seal to this third and last sheet this seventeenth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety five **John Standen** Signed sealed published and declared by the said John Standen the testator as and for his last will and testament in the presence of us who in his presence and at his request and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names as witnesses thereto the words “Saint Mary of the Castle in the” in the second line form the top of the first sheet being first written on an erasure **Thos Crouch Robt Paliney John Eldridge**

March 7th 1796 then were sworn **Thomas Standen** and **Charles Deudney** the two Executors in this will named to whom was committed the burthen of the execution thereof Sworn also that the goods chattells and credits of the deceased do not amount to three thousand pounds by us W Whitear Surrogate

(Transcribed by Rosie Ansell, August 2018)

Notes

People

John Standen, yeoman, testator

Maria Ashdown, daughter, wife of John Ashdown of Hollington

William Standen, son, shopkeeper of Guestling

Stephen Standen, tenant

John Standen, son, of Hastings St Mary in the Castle

James Standen, son, of Hastings St Leonard

Hannah Smith, wife of Thomas Smith of Ore

Thomas Standen, son, of Hastings St Mary in the Castle, joint executor

Charles Deudney, friend, of Hastings, joint executor

Susanna Cossum, daughter, wife of Richard Cossum of Hollington

Sarah Sallina Button, daughter, wife of Thomas Button of Hastings St Mary in the Castle

Ann Overy, daughter, wife of Robert Overy of Hurstgreen
Thomas Crouch, witness
Robert Paliney, witness
John Eldridge, witness

Places

Hastings
Hollington
Guestling
Ore
Hurstgreen

Relevant Events

John STANDEN was buried .

Mary STANDEN of Hastings St Mary in the Castle married John ASHTON [ASHDOWN] of Ore on 26 May 1785 at Hastings All Saints.

(SFHG Indexes)

37. Will of William Holland, Yeoman of Ninfield, 1812

(TNA: PROB 11/1535/5)

Made: 15 January 1812

Proved: 1 July 1812

This is the last Will and Testament of me **William Holland** of Ninfield in the County of Sussex yeoman. First I will & direct all my just debts funeral and testamentary expences be fully paid and satisfied. I give and bequeath unto my son **William Holland** the sum of five pounds to buy mourning and I direct the same to be paid to him immediately after my decease and I give and bequeath unto my son **Henry Holland** his exors and admors the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds and I direct the same to be paid him immediately after my decease and I give and bequeath unto my son **James Holland** his exors and admors the sum of two hundred pounds and direct the same to be paid to him within six calendar months next after my decease. Also I give and bequeath the sum of nine hundred pounds which I am entitled to and which is secured on the Real Estate of **William Sheather** of Tenterden in the County of Kent yeoman or on some part thereof and interest for the same at and after the rate of five pounds per cent for a year unto my sons **Stephen Holland** of Boxhill in the County of Sussex Gentleman and **Henry Holland** of Ninfield aforesaid yeoman their exors admors and assigns upon the trusts and for the purposes hereinafter mentioned that is to say that they the said **Stephen Holland** and **Henry Holland** or the survivor of them or the exors or admors of such survivor do and shall pay the interest and annual produce arising from the said sum of nine hundred pounds as aforesaid unto my loving wife **Mary** for and during the time and term of her natural life by equal & equal half yearly payments in every year the first payment thereof to begin and be made at the end of six months next after my decease and my mind and will is and I do hereby direct that if the said **William Sheather** should pay off and discharge the said mortgage or if the same shall be called in by my said trustees that then my said trustees or the survivor of them or the exors or admors of such survivor and shall place out the said sum of nine hundred pounds so paid in or to be received as aforesaid upon some other good and real security or securities in their or either of their own name or names and to stand possessed thereof in the first place to pay the interest and annual produce thereof unto her my said wife **Mary** and her assigns for and during the time and term of her natural life as aforesaid and from and immediately after her decease I direct the same to be considered as part of the residue of my estate and effects and I do hereby give and bequeath the same accordingly and I hereby give and bequeath unto my said wife all such part and parcel of the furniture as shall be in and about my dwelling house or belonging to me at the time of my decease as she shall think proper to take for her own use & my mind and will is and I hereby declare that the said annuity or interest arising from the said sum of nine hundred pounds and the bequests as aforesaid and herein after contained in favor of my said wife is bar and satisfaction of all dower free bench and thirds which she can or may claim in all or any of my said real and personal estates or any of them either by Common Law or Custom. And I give and devise unto my son **James Holland** of Ninfield aforesaid tanner and butcher all that my messuage or tenement butchers shop slaughterhouse tanyard sheds stable and buildings since erected thereon and thereto belonging and also a piece of land thereto adjoining containing by estimation about two acres all which said premises were purchased by me of Mr **William Duke** and now in the occupation of my said son **James Holland** to have and to hold all and singular the said messuages or tenements butchers shop slaughter house tan yard buildings land and premises so devised to my said son **James Holland** with their and every of their appurtenances unto and to the use of him my said son **James Holland** his heirs and assigns for ever subject to and charged and chargeable nevertheless with the payment of one annuity or yearly sum of seven pounds & two shillings of lawful money of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland current in Great Britain to be paid unto her my said wife **Mary** and her assigns for and during the time and term of her natural life by even and equal half yearly

payments the first payment thereof to begin and be made within six months next after my decease. And I hereby empower my said wife to distrain on the said premises for the payment thereof if the same shall be behind and unpaid by the space of ten days next over or after the same shall become due and payable in the same manner or as rent reserved by demise or lease. And I hereby give and devise unto **Thomas Ashdown** of Peasmarsh in the County of Sussex butcher and my daughter **Ann Wise Ashdown** (wife of the said **Thomas Ashdown**) all that my leasehold messuage or tenement butchers shop slaughter house stable and garden thereto belonging and appertaining and also all those eight acres more or less of freehold land adjoining to the leasehold premises all which said leasehold and freehold premises are now in the occupation of the said **Thomas Ashdown** to have and to hold all and every the said land and premises as are freehold to them the said **Thomas Ashdown** and **Ann** his wife & their assigns for and during the term of their natural lives and the life of the longest liver of them without impeachment of or for any manner of waste and to hold such of the said premises as are leasehold to them the said **Thomas Ashdown** and **Ann Wise** his wife and their assigns for and during the time and term of their natural lives and the life of the longest liver of them if my estate and interest therein shall so long continue they paying the rent and observing and performing the covenants conditions and agreements in the lease or leases thereof subject nevertheless and charged and chargeable with one annuity or yearly sum of five pounds which I do hereby direct to be paid unto my son **William Holland** for and during the time and term of his natural life free and clear of all deductions and to be paid to him my said son **William Holland** by even and equal quarterly payments the first payment thereof to begin and be made within three calendar months next after my decease if he my said son **William Holland** shall be then living. And I do hereby declare my will and direct that if the said yearly rent or annual sum of five pounds or any part thereof shall be in arrears or unpaid for the space of ten days after any of the said days or times whereby the same ought to be paid as aforesaid then and at any time or times thereafter when and as often as the case shall so happen it may and shall be lawful to and for my said son **William Holland** and his assigns respectively into and upon the said messuage lands hereditaments and premises charged with the said yearly rent or annual sum of five pounds as aforesaid or into or upon any part or parts thereof to enter and to distrain for the said yearly rent or annual sum of five pounds or so much thereof as shall be then so in arrears or unpaid as aforesaid and the distress and distresses then and there found and taken to lead drive carry away and impound and in pound to detain and keep until the said yearly rent or annual sum of five pounds and all arrears thereof and all costs charges and expences relating to or attending the said distress or distresses shall be fully satisfied and paid and in default thereof in due time after such distress or distresses shall be so taken to appraise sell and dispose of the same distress and distresses or otherwise to demean therein according to law in the manner as in distresses taken for rent reserved by lease or common demise to the end and intent that thereby he my said son **William Holland** may be fully satisfied and paid the said yearly rent or annual sum of five pounds and all arrears thereof and all costs charges and expences relating to or attending the recovering or obtaining payment of the same and also subject nevertheless and charged and chargeable with the payment of the sum of thirty three pounds six shillings and eight pence of lawful money of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland current in Great Britain unto my grandson **William Holland** son of my said son **William Holland** and the same to be paid and payable to him as and when he attains his full age of twenty five years and from and immediately after the decease of the survivors of them the said **Thomas Ashdown** and **Ann Wise** his wife I give and devise the said leasehold messuage or tenement butchers shop slaughter house garden and premises and the said freehold land containing about eight acres in Peasmarsh aforesaid unto my said sons **Stephen Holland** and **Henry Holland** to hold to them the said **Stephen Holland** and **Henry Holland** their heirs exors admors and assigns upon trust that they my said trustees or the survivor of them or the heirs exors admors or assigns of such survivor do and shall with all convenient speed after the decease of the survivor of them the said **Thomas Ashdown** and **Ann Wise** his wife sell dispose of convey and assign all and singular the said leasehold

message or tenement butchers shop slaughter house stable and garden and also the said freehold land at Peasmarsh aforesaid with their and every of their appurtenances and the inheritance thereof in Fee Simple or otherwise either entirely and too either or in parcels by public sale or auction or private contract unto any person or persons who shall be willing to become and be the purchaser or purchasers of the same heredit and premises or any part thereof for the most money that can be reasonably had or gotten for the same and do and shall for that purpose make and execute and every such deeds conveyances surrenders & assurances as they the said **Stephen Holland** and **Henry Holland** their heirs or assigns shall think fit. And I do hereby declare my will to be that upon payment of the money to arise by such sale or sales of the said heredit and premises hereby made saleable or any of them or any part or parts thereof respectively it shall and may be lawful to and for the said **Stephen Holland** and **Henry Holland** or the survivor of them or the heirs exors or admors of such survivor to give and sign any receipt or receipts for the money to arise by such sale or sales or any part thereof respectively which receipt or receipts shall be a good & sufficient discharge or discharges to any purchaser or purchasers his her or their respective heirs exors admors and assigns for so much of the said purchase money as shall be therein expressed or acknowledged to be received and such purchaser or purchasers his her or their respective heirs exors admors or assigns shall not afterwards be obliged to see to the application of such purchase money or be answerable or accountable for any loss misapplication or nonapplication thereof or of any part thereof respectively by and my mind and will is that they my said trustees or the survivors of them or the exors or admors of such survivor or shall stand possessed of and interested in the monies to arise by such sale or sales respectively upon the several trusts and to and for the several ends intents and purposes and subject to with and under the several powers provisoes conditions declarations and agreements hereinafter mentioned and contained of and concerning the same that is to say upon trust that they my said trustees or the survivor of them or the exors or admors of such survivor do and shall at his and their own discretion lay out and invest the same in their own name or names in the public stocks or funds or in Government securities of or in Great Britain or in some other good and real securities to be from time to time altered and varied as occasion shall require and upon this further trust that they my said trustees or the survivor of them or the exors or admors of such survivors and shall stand possessed and interested in all such stocks funds and securities and the monies to arise therefrom or thereby and the interests dividends and annual produce thereof and of every part thereof respectively upon the several trusts and to and for the several ends intents and purposes following that is to say upon trust in the first place to set apart the sum of one hundred pounds in case my said son **William Holland** shall be living and pay the interest and annual produce thereof to him my said son **William Holland** for and during the time and term of his natural life as is below directed the interest and annual produce of the said sum of one hundred pounds in lieu of the said annuity or yearly sum of five pounds charged upon the lands at Peasmarsh aforesaid in case the same should be sold and disposed of by my said trustees but not otherwise and also to pay the legacies charged on the said land and premises at Peasmarsh aforesaid provided they are not before discharged and paid by the said **Thomas Ashdown** and **Ann Wise** his wife or either of them and as to the remainder of the said trust monies upon trust to pay and equally divide and distribute the same as also the said sum of one hundred pounds and all interests doe thereon when the trusts hereinbefore comitted? and appointed will unto and amongst all and every the child and children born of the body of my said daughter **Ann Wise** Ashdown lawfully begotten or to be begotten by her present or any future husband or husbands as also all those children which she had by her former husband **Thomas Avery** if more than one share and share alike and if but one then to such only child and to be paid to them respectively upon their attaining their age or ages of twenty one years provided such age does not happen in the lifetime of the said **Thomas Ashdown** and **Ann Wise** his wife or the lifetime of the survivor of them but if such age or ages shall arrive in the lifetime of them the said **Thomas Ashdown** or the said **Ann Wise Ashdown** or either of them then as soon as conveniently may be after the decease of the survivor of them the said **Thomas Ashdown** and

Ann Wise his wife such shares nevertheless notwithstanding the postponement of the payment to be considered as vested and transmissible interest in such of them as shall live to attain the age of twenty one years and upon this further trust that they my said trustees or the survivor of them or the exors or admors of such survivor do and shall after the decease of the survivor of them the said **Thomas Ashdown** and **Ann Wise** his wife as also after the decease of the said **William Holland** pay and apply the interest and annual proceed of every such child's presumptive share of and in the said trust monies whose share shall not then be vested and payable as and when the said interest and annual proceed shall become due and payable for and towards the maintenance education & bringing up such of them the children begotten or hereafter to be lawfully begotten of the body of her my said daughter **Ann Wise Ashdown** until such his or her share shall become due and vested and payable under the trusts aforesaid provided always & I do hereby declare my will and meaning to be that if any or either of them the said children shall depart this life under the age of twenty one years then and in such case the share hereby provided for such of them so dying shall from time to time go accrue and belong to the survivors or survivor of them and shall be equally divided between and amongst them if more than one share and share alike and to become vested and transmissible and paid and payable to him her or them at such age and in such a manner as is or are herein before directed provided and declared of and concerning his her or their original share or shares respectively and I do hereby declare my will to be and direct that the share and shares so directed and limited [share & shares until*] to accrue shall from time to time accrue together with the original [such orig'l **] shares or shares shall become vested. And as to all the rest and residue of my messuages lands tenements hereditaments and real estates whatsoever and wheresoever as well copyhold as freehold I give and devise the same and every part thereof unto them my said sons **Stephen Holland** and **Henry Holland** to hold the same to them my said sons **Stephen Holland** and **Henry Holland** and to their heirs and assigns as tenants in common and not as joint tenants and after and subject to the payment of my debts legacies and funeral expences. I give & bequeath all the rest and residue of my monies goods chattels and personal estate and effects unto them the said **Stephen Holland** and **Henry Holland** and their respective exors and admors subject nevertheless and charged and chargeable with the payment of ten pounds unto my son **William Holland** for and during the time and term of his natural life and the same to be paid to him by even and equal quarterly payments in every year and the first payment thereof to begin and be made within three months next after my decease if my son the said **William Holland** shall be then living and also subject to and charged and chargeable with the payment of the sum of sixty six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence unto my said grandson **William Holland** (son of my said son **William Holland**) and to be paid him by my executors as and when he attains his full age of twenty five years. And I constitute and appoint them the said **Stephen Holland** and **Henry Holland** executors of this my Will and I hereby authorize and empower them the said **Stephen Holland** and **Henry Holland** and the survivor of them and the exors and admors of such survivor in the first place to deduct & retain to himself and themselves out of the said trust premises respectively all such costs charges and expences as they or any or either of them shall pay or be at or put unto in or about the performance and execution of the several trusts hereby in them reposed. And I declare that neither of them my said sons **Stephen Holland** and **Henry Holland** nor the heirs exors or admors of either of them shall be answerable or accountable for the acts deeds or defaults of the other of them nor for any loss that may happen of the said trust premises or any part thereof by the failure of securities or by any other ways or means without his or their respective neglect or default. And lastly I revoke all former and other Wills by me made. in testimony whereof I the said **William Holland** the testator have set my hand and seal to this my last Will and Testament contained in seven sheets of paper that is to say my hand to the first six sheets thereof & my hand and seal to this the seventh and last sheet thereof the fifteenth day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twelve.

Will'm Holland

Signed sealed published and declared by the said **William Holland** the testator as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who in his presence and at his request have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses **Thomas Veness; Elizabeth Witmarsh; P Willard**

Proved at London 1st July 1812 before the Whipful Samuel Pearce Parson, Dr of Laws & Surr by the oath of **Stephen Holland** the son & one of the exors to whom admon was granted being first sworn duly to admir power reserved to **Henry Holland** the son also & other exor

NOTE: The above was transcribed from a poor copy, it appears that the pages have bled from both sides. DW

NOTE: Re the 2 items marked * & **. There has been scratching out on 2 adjacent lines & then with ‘^’ referring to margin notes, but these notes do not seem to fit. DW

(Transcribed by Dave Woolven, 19/20 February 2006, for Ray Tilly)

Notes

People

William Holland, yeoman, testator
Mary Holland, wife
William Holland, son
Henry Holland of Ninfield, son
William Sheather of Tenterden, mortgagee
Stephen Holland of Bexhill, son
James Holland of Ninfield, son
Mr William Duke
Thomas Ashdown of Peasmarsh, son-in-law
Ann Wise Ashdown, daughter, wife of Thomas Ashdown
Thomas Avery deceased, Ann Wise Ashdown’s former husband
Thomas Veness, witness
Elizabeth Witmarsh, witness
P Willard, witness

Places

Ninfield
Peasmarsh
Tenterden, Kent
Bexhill

Relevant Events

William HOLLAND was buried on 5 May 1812 at Ninfield St Mary (“67 years”).

William HOLLAND of Bexhill married Mary NEWMAN on 28 Nov 1769 at Hellingly.

Ann Wise HOLLAND married Thomas AVERY on 13 Oct 1795 at Ninfield (Ann a minor, with consent of parents; Thomas of Hove).

Thomas AVERY was buried 8 Jan 1805 at Peasmarsh.

Ann Wise AVERY married Thomas ASHDOWN on 17 Aug 1806 at Peasmarsh (Ann a widow).

(SFHG Indexes)

Family Tree

(People who left wills/admons highlighted. All places in Sussex except where shown.)

William Holland, b. c1740, bur. 1812 at Ninfield, pro. 1812 at London

+ **Mary Newman**, b. c1750, m. 1769 at Hellingly, bur. 1813 at Ninfield

— **William Holland**, b. c1773, bur. 1846 at Ninfield

+ **Elizabeth Coleman**, b. c1768, m. 1794 at Ninfield, bur. 1845 at Ninfield

— **Ann Wise Holland**, b. 1778 at Ninfield, bur. 1858 at Peasmarsh

+ **Thomas Avery**, m. 1795 at Ninfield, bur. 1805 at Peasmarsh

— **Mary Avery**, bap. 1798 at Peasmarsh

— **George Avery**, bap. 1800 at Peasmarsh

— **Elizabeth Ann Avery**, bap. 1802 at Peasmarsh

+ **Thomas Ashdown**, bap. 1771 at Brenchley, KEN, m. 1806 at Peasmarsh, bur. 1848 at Peasmarsh, pro. 1848

— **Edward Ashdown**, bap. 1807 at Peasmarsh

— **Alfred Ashdown**, bap. 1809 at Peasmarsh

+ **Hannah Bannister**, b. c1813 at Peasmarsh, m. 1831 at Fairlight

— **Frances Ashdown**, bap. 1833 at Peasmarsh

— **Thomas Ashdown**, bap. 1835 at Peasmarsh

— **Ann Ashdown**, bap. 1811 at Peasmarsh

+ unknown

— **Ann Elizabeth Wise Ashdown**, bap. 1832 at Peasmarsh

— **Frances Ashdown**, bap. 1812 at Peasmarsh

— **Thomas Ashdown**, bap. 1814 at Peasmarsh

— **John Barton Ashdown**, bap. 1816 at Peasmarsh

— **Caroline Ashdown**, bap. 1819 at Peasmarsh

— **William Barton Ashdown**, bap. 1823 at Peasmarsh

+ **Jemima Jury**, b. c1823 at Peasmarsh, m. 1843 at Rye

— **James Holland**, b. c1783 at Ninfield, bur. 1870 at Ninfield

+ **Ann Lansdile**, m. 1804 at Bexhill

— **Stephen Holland**, b. c1785

— **Henry Holland**, b. c1785

+ **Elizabeth Wright**, m. 1812 at Ore

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