



The ALCE/ALSE Wills
of East Sussex
(1552 – 1858)



By Geoffrey Barber

Version 1.03

Will Transcribers: Claire Wickens and Geoffrey Barber

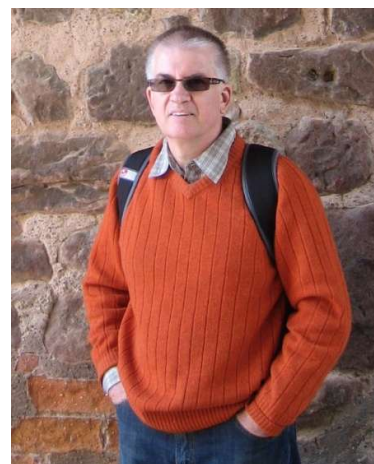
BIOGRAPHY

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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”; “The Latter Wills of East Sussex” both in 2020; “The Breach Wills of East Sussex” and “The Alce Wills of East Sussex” in 2021; and “The Fermor/Farmer Wills of Rotherfield in East Sussex (1529 – 1700)” in 2022.

Geoff is a long-time member of the Sussex Family History Group and a supporter of their Wills Depository project which has over 17,000 Sussex wills transcribed. He is also a collector of 17th century Sussex & Kent merchant tokens and enjoys using his family history research skills to research the issuers of these tokens. He has had a number of articles published in the Token Corresponding Society Bulletin.



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The Alce/Alse Wills of East Sussex (1552-1858)

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Dedicated to

My twin granddaughters Thea and Chloe.
Their happiness, energy and love of life is an inspiration.



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Introduction

Researching the Alce/Else wills and family trees has been a most satisfying task given that the surname is not particularly widespread with all lines going back to the area generally defined by the adjoining parishes of Beddingham, West Firle, Alciston, South Heighton, Tarring Neville, Denton and Bishopstone and East Blatchington. A number of family lines exist c1550, when the earliest parish records begin, suggesting the name goes back at least into the 1400s in that area. In early usage the surname is generally spelt ALSE, ALCE or ALICE and then in the 17th and 18th centuries becomes ALCE.

Occurrences of the surname are rare in archive documents before about 1500, suggesting that it is a local variant of the surname ELSE/ELSEY/ELCYE/ELCE which is much more predominant in West Sussex. The 1881 ELSE/ELSEY surname distribution map provides some support for this as it shows the hotspot at Reigate on the Surrey/West Sussex border with the occurrences extending into Sussex to the same areas where the ALCE/ALSE surname originates (Beddingham, West Firle, etc).

The Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain and Ireland has no entry for ALCE/ALSE but does have ELSEY/ELSIE/ELSY and ELCE/ELSE which is stated as being a relationship name from the Middle English personal name ELSI or ALFSI. In other words, a person's name which became a surname to indicate a relationship to that person. There are occurrences in the Domesday book in 1086 for the names ALFSI (Suffolk) and ALSI (Hampshire).

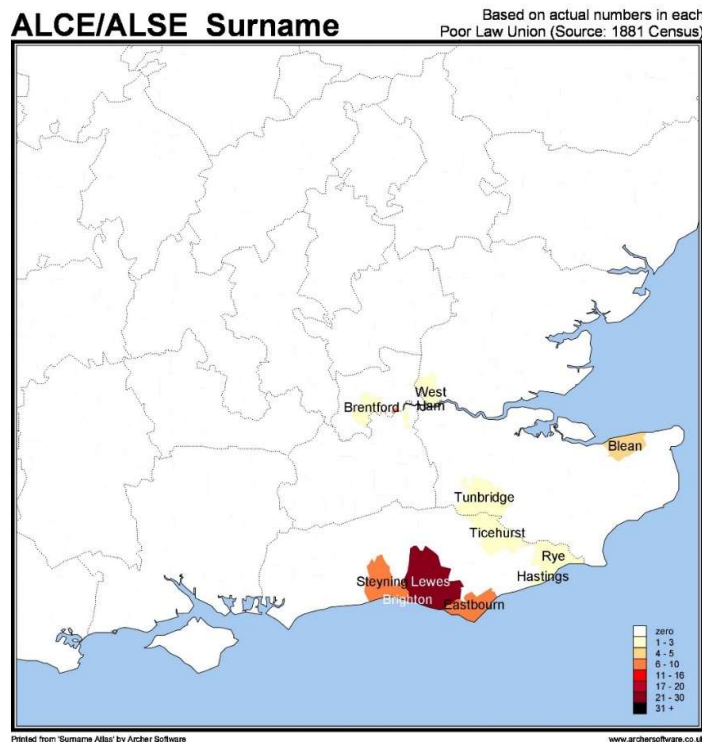


Fig. 1. Distribution of the ALCE/ELSE surname in England in 1881.
(The British 19th Century Surname Atlas ver 1.10, Archer Software)

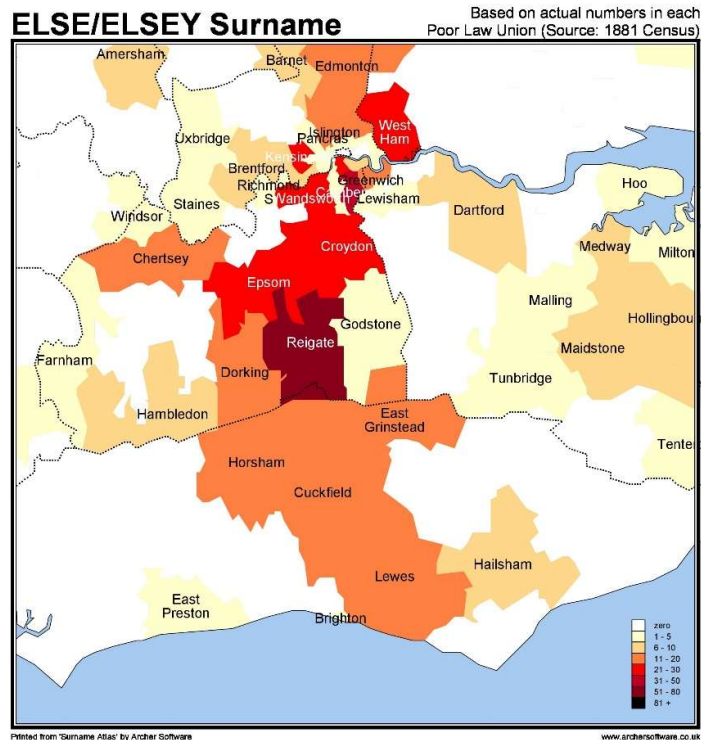


Fig. 2. Distribution of the ELSE/ELSEY surname in southern England in 1881.
(The British 19th Century Surname Atlas ver 1.10, Archer Software)

This book brings together all the known wills and administrations (admons) of the Alce/Alse families of East Sussex before 1858, after which the Church of England probate courts¹ were replaced by the Principal Probate Registry. It cannot be guaranteed that this is the complete set and future revised editions may be needed to incorporate new discoveries, including non-Alce wills that contain relevant information.

These wills & admons have enabled many of the Alce/Alse family trees in Sussex to be verified and further developed. Where possible, each will in this book is referenced to 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 the information gleaned from the Alce/Alse wills. I hope that the wills and family trees published here will provide a basis for moving forward in our understanding of the Alce/Alse families in Sussex.

¹ The pre-1858 probate courts for East Sussex were:

1. **Exempt Deanery of South Malling Peculiar Court**

Parishes of Buxted, The Cliffe or St. Thomas Lewes, Edburton, Framfield, Glynde, Isfield, Lindfield, Mayfield, Ringmer, South Malling, Stanmer, Uckfield and Wadhurst

2. **Exempt Deanery of Battle Peculiar Court**

Parish of Battle

3. **Archdeaconry of Lewes Consistory Court**

The rest of East Sussex.

The book also provides three indexes which offer great value to 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.

The author wishes to acknowledge the work done by Claire Wickens who transcribed the majority of the 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 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 Breach have been standardised to "Breach" to simplify use of the index, except for the surname Breecher which may have separate origins. 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
^...^ Interlined text
[-] Word split between lines in the original

Geoffrey Barber
July 2021

Chapter 1 – The Two Thomas's of East Blatchington

This is the author's fifth "wills book of East Sussex" in which all the wills and admons for a particular surname are collected and analysed. The first chapter has always taken the form of an article, often to be later separately published in the Sussex Family Historian, discussing something of interest that has arisen from the project.

This article addresses the problem faced by ALCE family history researchers is separating the two Thomas and Susanna ALCE families at East Blatchington c1678-1695 and determining the origins of each Thomas. It was impossible to do this using just the parish registers and this article shows how wills were used to resolve the families structures and how one will provided important genealogical information in the Civil War period (where there was a large gap in the parish records) allowing the tree to be extended back to earlier generations.

The two marriages creating these families are:

1. Thomas ALCE and Susanna BURROUGHS married 2.6.1678 at East Blatchington.
2. Thomas ALCE and Susanna GLIDD married 9.2.1687 at East Blatchington.

The fact that they are both having children baptised just a few months apart in both 1688 and 1694 indicates separate families and not just a first and second marriage for the one Thomas ALCE.

Fortunately, one of the Thomas ALCEs left a will proved on 7 March 1718/19 which shows him to be a yeoman farmer and lists his children enabling the two families to be differentiated. Consequently, the baptisms for the children of the two Thomas and Susanna ALCEs at East Blatchington were able to be resolved as given below. Note that the parish clerk used their occupations to differentiate some (but not all) of the entries.

Thomas ALCE and Susanna BURROUGHS (married 2.6.1678 at East Blatchington):

- 13.3.1679 bap. Jane dau. of Thomas and Susanna Alce.
- 27.3.1681 bap. Thomas Alce, son of Thomas Alce.
- 7.6.1685 bap. Susana dau. of Thomas and Susana Alce.
- 9.9.1688 bap. Mary dau. Thomas Alce and Susan.
- 14.4.1691 bap. Abraham and Sarah, the son and daughter of Thomas and Susan Alce.
- 9.9.1694 bap. Margaret, dau. Thomas Alce, **farmer**, and Susan his wife.
- 18.4.1703 bap. John, son of Thomas Alce, **farmer** and Susanna his wife.

Thomas ALCE and Susanna GLIDD (married 9.2.1687 at East Blatchington):

- 14.11.1688 bap. Robert son of Thomas and Susanna Alce.
 - 17.6.1694 bap. Elizabeth dau. Thomas Alce, **smith**, and Susan his wife.
- (I also believe that they may have had a daughter Jane ALCE c1690 but there is no baptism. She does feature in the Blatchington manorial records (1735-1763) as Jane ALCE spinster often with a Robert BEAN).

The second family, Thomas ALCE the smith and Susannah GLIDD, moved to Newhaven circa 1695. However, their attachment to East Blatchington remained strong as this Thomas ALCE was later brought back there for burial on 23 Mar 1714 with the burial register noting that he was "of Newhaven" (he did not leave a will though). The children of this Thomas's son Robert Alce (1688-1725) all moved to Winchelsea after their mother's second marriage in 1728 and started a long line of Alces there.

Having identified and separated the two families, the next problem was identifying the parents of each Thomas ALCE. There is only one Thomas baptised at East Blatchington and there is no sign of the other in surrounding parishes. The only baptism we have is:

Thomas ALCE baptised 19 Aug 1649 son of Robert ALCE and Elizabeth [BEAN] at East Blatchington St Peter..

In identifying whether this Thomas Alce later became the farmer or the smith we find that wills again come to the rescue. The mother, Elizabeth ALCE (nee BEAN) left a will proved in 1685 and in this will she refers to her "*stocke of iron and coale in the shop*". Clearly, she is talking about a blacksmith's shop. This is therefore highly likely to be the mother of Thomas Alce the smith. A further support for this conclusion is that the first two children of Thomas ALCE the smith were named Elizabeth and Robert, presumably after Thomas's parents.

So this just leaves the question of "where did Thomas ALCE, the farmer, come from?". The East Blatchington parish registers are pretty much continuous with no gaps, even during that difficult Civil War period (1641-1661), so we can say that he wasn't baptised there.

In my analysis of all the ALCE/ALSE wills of East Sussex pre-1858 I found that 24 of the 32 wills came from the neighbouring parishes of Beddingham (11 wills), East Blatchington (3), Glynde (3), West Firle (2), Tarring Neville (2), Alciston (1), South Heighton (1) and Bishopstone (1). My thoughts are that Thomas Alce was likely born in the Alce hotspots of West Firle or Beddingham c1645-58. This can't be confirmed as the parish records for Beddingham have a gap for the period 1641-73 and West Firle similarly (this is the Civil War period which affected many parishes). However, the will of Abraham Alce (1620-1683) of West Firle offers a candidate: "*I give and bequeath the same unto My Nephew Thomas Alce sonne of my Brother William Alce and to his heirs for ever*". The testator Abraham Alce was born in 1620 at West Firle and his brother William would have been born sometime around then. If William married at about age 25 years then his son Thomas would have been born at about the right time for our second Thomas (the farmer). A fact which provides some support for this is that following the death of Abraham Alce in 1683, Thomas Alce the farmer named his next male child Abraham, perhaps in gratitude for being a beneficiary under the will. So based on all this I have identified Thomas Alce, the farmer, as the son of William Alce of West Firle, but it comes with a warning: "treat with caution".

I have also recently learned, after reading Rodney Castleden's book "On Blatchington Hill", that there was a strong connection between East Blatchington (on the sea side of the Downs) and West Firle and Alciston (on the other side of the Downs). That connection is because the village of East Blatchington was divided between the manor of Alciston and the manor of Blatchington and there was a track over the Downs called the Greenway which connected the two. In addition, the lord of the manor of Alciston was also the lord of the manor of West Firle.²

² Rodney Castleden writes: There is an interesting connection between Alciston and West Firle. Alciston manor was given, along with about ten other manors scattered across southern England, to Battle Abbey by William the Conqueror, shortly after the abbey's foundation. Battle had other satellite manors, but Alciston was the closest one to Battle. From about 1100, Alciston was run by monks from the abbey, which functioned as lord of the manor. Alciston in its turn acquired satellite parishes (Blatchington and Alfriston) and some separate Wealden 'colonies' to the north. This estate was run very efficiently by the Battle Abbey monks on the sheep and corn system. It was highly productive, hence the enormous size of Alciston's manorial barn.

In 1537 or 38, Sir John Gage and Richard Layton, a priest, were sent by Cromwell as Dissolution Commissioners to seize Battle Abbey for the king. Immediately afterwards the king gave Alciston manor (and others) to Gage as a reward. Gage, who lived at Firle Place in the adjacent manor of West Firle, became Alciston's lord and Alciston remains the property of the Gage family to this day. Sir John Gage was an astute Tudor courtier who not only

The story for both these families can be developed further. Thomas Alce the smith and his descendants moved away from East Blatchington to Newhaven and then on to Winchelsea (see Tree 6). Their property at East Blatchington, and the location of the blacksmith's shop, is one known today as Alces Place, shown as Plot 34 on the tithe map together with Plot 39 referred to as Alces Plot in the tithe schedule (see Fig. 1). Rodney Castleden's book traces the history of ownership of Alces Place and states that the Sussex Weekly Advertiser for 5th September 1774 contained the following advertisement: "To be sold in one lot copyhold, an estate consisting of a messuage, barn, blacksmith's shop, yard and garden all lying in Blatchington Street (near Seaford) in this County in the possession of Mrs Jane Alce and others and 4 acres of valuable arable land lying in three pieces dispersed in the common laynes of Blatchington now occupied by Mr Joseph Goldsmith, the whole of which may be viewed by applying to Mrs Alce at the House."³ A later 1914 conveyance describes the property as: "a dwelling house, barn, outbuildings, forge at Alces Hall".⁴

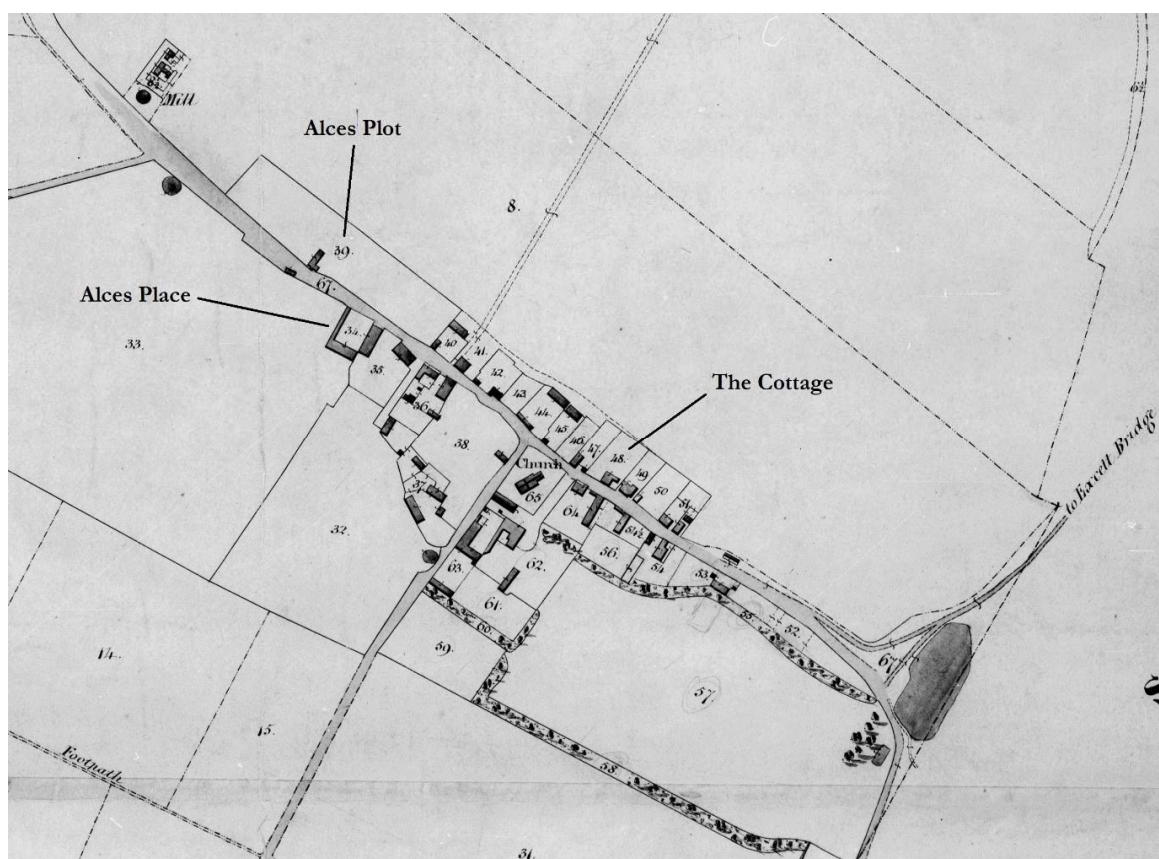


Fig. 1. The 1843 Tithe map showing "The Cottage" (plot 48) which was owned and occupied by James Alce junior, a descendant of Thomas Alce the farmer. Alces Place (plot 34) is the location of Thomas Alce the blacksmith's forge which also included the 2 acres of pasture in Alces Plot across the road.

survived Henry VIII's reign but those of Edward VI and Mary Tudor as well. As Constable of the Tower he oversaw the execution of Catherine Howard and under Queen Mary he was one of Princess Elizabeth's gaolers. She hated him, and he was probably lucky to die of natural causes, at Firlie Place, a couple of years before she came to the throne. I haven't come across a link between Alciston and Beddingham. (Email to G. Barber, 7 Jul 2021).

³ Castleden, Rodney. "On Blatchington Hill – History of a Downland Village", Revised 2013, p.246.

⁴ Ibid

More information on this property is in the court book of Blatchington manor:

Date: 2 Jun 1752

ESRO reference: SAS/DR 56A

Description: *Jane Alce, spinster (by the acceptance of steward Nicholas Gilbert, gent), surrenders to the use of her will, a cottage, barn, smith's shop and four acres in Blatchington*

Witness: *William Cuckow the younger*

Although no baptism (or will) has been found for Jane, she is thought to be the daughter of Thomas Alce the smith, born c1690. The reason for thinking this is that she appears in a number of Blatchington manor court records as Jane Alce, spinster, with Robert Bean. Thomas Alce the smith's mother was Elizabeth Bean which could explain the connection. If so, it would appear that Alces Place was the location of the blacksmith shop and residence for Thomas Alce the smith. It would previously have been the residence of Thomas's parents, Robert Alce (1612-1665) and Elizabeth Bean (1622-1685) as Elizabeth mentioned the blacksmiths shop in her will of 1685.

Thomas Alce the farmer had a large family some of whom lived at East Blatchington at least until the late 1800s, if not later (see Tree 3). In the 1843 tithe survey for East Blatchington we find a property, now called "The Cottage", owned and occupied by William Alce the younger. After a lot of searching in vain for a William Alce in the parish records, census records and elsewhere, the author now considers this is a mistake in the tithe schedule and should be James Alce the younger (who is shown to be the owner in records after the tithe survey – e.g. 1867 Kelly's Directory).⁵ The connection of Thomas Alce the farmer to James Alce junior is shown below:

Thomas Alce [*the Farmer*], b. c1650, bur. 1718/19 at E. Blatchington

+ **Susanna Burroughs**, bap. 1660 at E. Blatchington, m. 1678 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1730 at E. Blatchington

— **Abraham Alce**, 1691 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1753 at E. Blatchington

+ **Ann Ince**, b. 1701 at Chalvington, m. 1731 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1771 at E. Blatchington

— **Abraham Alce**, bap. 1737/38 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1803 at E. Blatchington

+ **Sarah Richardson**, bap. 1742/43 at Alciston, m. 1768 at Alciston, bur. 1803 at E. Blatchington

— **James Alce**, bap. 1776 at Wilmington, bur. 1853 at E. Blatchington

+ **Catherine Coates**, b. c1781, m. 1798 at Alciston, bur. 1829 at E. Blatchington

— **James Alce [*junior*]**, bap. 1802 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1875 at E. Blatchington

The tithe survey map shows this property as Plot 48 (see Fig. 1). It is likely that James Alce junior inherited this property from his father but how far back this goes is not known. It is unlikely that Alce ownership goes back as far as Thomas Alce the farmer as it would appear to have been owned by George Wood (-1709) at that time.⁶ Further information may be found in the Alciston manorial records but these are currently unavailable to the author.

This article is an example of how wills can to be used to verify and further develop family trees once the information in parish records has been exhausted. It has also shown how family history and local history start to merge when we extend our search into property records and village

⁵ The 1841 census for East Blatchington shows only a James Alce senior and James Alce junior residing at East Blatchington.

⁶ See Castleden, Rodney. "On Blatchington Hill – History of a Downland Village", Revised 2013, p.222-224 and also the Will of George Wood, Yeoman of Seaford, made 16 Aug 1709, proved 5 Oct 1709 (ESRO: PBT 1/1/47/233B) which mentions "my Land in blet{c}hington that is holden of the Mannor of alciston".

history, all of which helps to bring our families to life. A study of manorial records would be the next step, however that must be left for a future date.

Chapter 2 - The Alce/Alse Family Trees

This section presents the main family trees associated with the Alce/Alse 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 Alce/Alse wills.

The dates given in the trees are years only. This was done to ensure that the trees remain readable, otherwise the pages become too crowded. However, the trees with full dates are on the author's website at www.nynne.org

It has proven very difficult to piece together some of the early families due to the lack of early baptism, marriage and burial records in some of the key parishes in addition to significant gaps in the registers of those same parishes in the Civil War period (1642-61). The following table shows the earliest parish registers in the Sussex Family History Group's indexes⁷ for each of the parishes where the ALCEs were concentrated, highlighting the lack of early records for Beddingham and West Firle and the gaps in the Civil War period. This has made the task of building the family trees somewhat difficult in the early period and shows why the wills and surviving manorial records are so important in these parishes.

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Baptisms</u>	<u>Marriage</u>	<u>Burials</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Beddingham	1593	1593	1593	Significant gaps 1595-1606, 1641-73
East Blatchington	1563	1563	1563	Continuous - no gaps
Glynde	1589	1559	1558	Some gaps but not in Civil War Period
Tarring Neville	1569	1571	1571	Almost continuous - a minor gap only
West Firle	1606	1607	1606	Significant gap 1638-68
Alciston	1575	1575	1575	Almost continuous - minor gaps only
South Heighton	1542	1557	1542	Significant gaps 1627-64, 1779-1813
Bishopstone	1564	1561	1561	Almost continuous - gap in burials 1698-1726
Eastbourne	1558	1558	1558	Continuous - no gaps
Newhaven	1553	1553	1555	Almost continuous - minor gaps only

However, progress has been made and the trees presented here are probably the most developed ALCE family trees yet published. The author welcomes any comments, new information or disagreements.

⁷ These should be the same as the actual parish register/BT's earliest dates unless there have been inadvertent omissions.

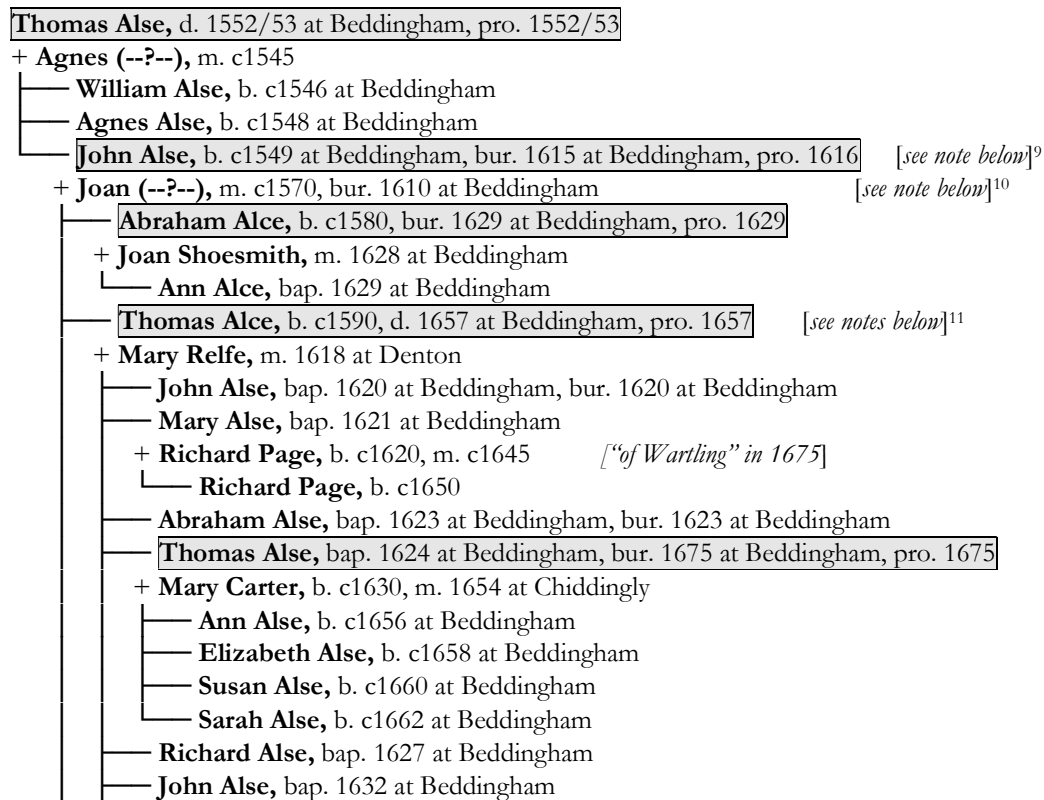
Tree 1. Thomas Alse senior of Beddingham

This tree is one which carries a high level of confidence with a lot of supporting evidence from the wills and manorial records. However, the tree does not extend past the mid-1600s. Whether the ALCE/ALSE surname died out or continued depends on what happened to Richard ALSE (1627-) and John ALSE (1635-). Gaps in the parish records during the Civil War period (1642-61) prevented the tree being developed beyond that period.

The will of Abraham Alce of Beddingham (c1580-1629) provides crucial information for this family tree and clearly identifies Thomas Alse senior as his brother by naming his children (there was also a Thomas Alse junior, both having children baptised at Beddingham at the same time – see Tree 2).

The ability to link this tree back to Thomas Alse of Beddingham who died in 1552/53 and left the earliest will is the result of surviving manorial records which are documented in Chapter 4. These records trace the change of ownership of various properties on Beddingham manor and contain valuable genealogical information.⁸

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

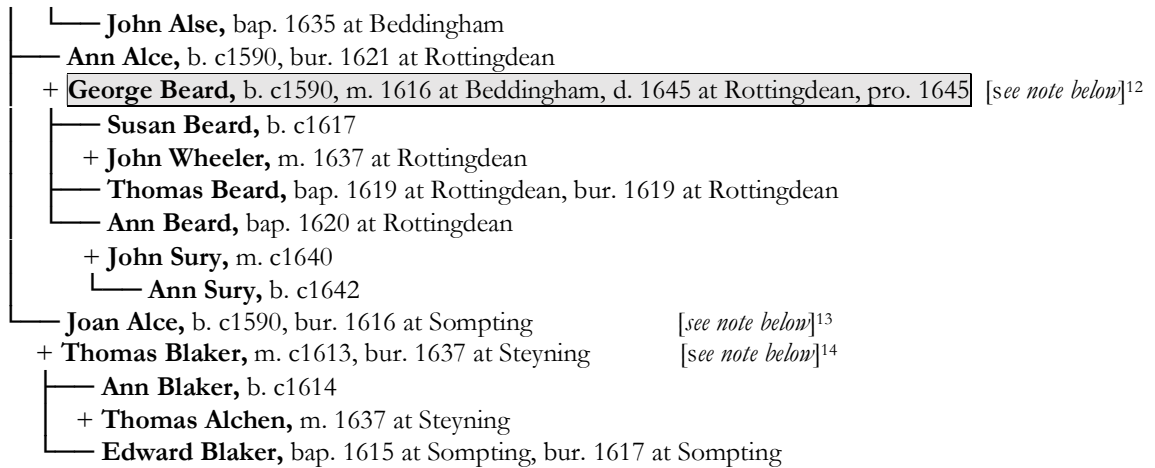


⁸ For an understanding of manorial records see “Manorial Records for Family Historians” by Geoffrey Barber, published by Unlock the Past, 2nd Edition 2018.

⁹ John Alce is identified by the Beddingham manorial court record 9 Apr 1616 which transfers the properties Eightacres and Fries to “Thomas Alse as the youngest son and heir to John Alse deceased”. The manorial records show that these properties were later transferred on Thomas Alce’s death in 1657 to his son Thomas and then sold off when he died in 1675. See “Beddingham Manorial Records” in Chapter 4.

¹⁰ Joan’s burial identifies her as “wife of John senior”.

¹¹ Thomas Alce “the elder” in his will.



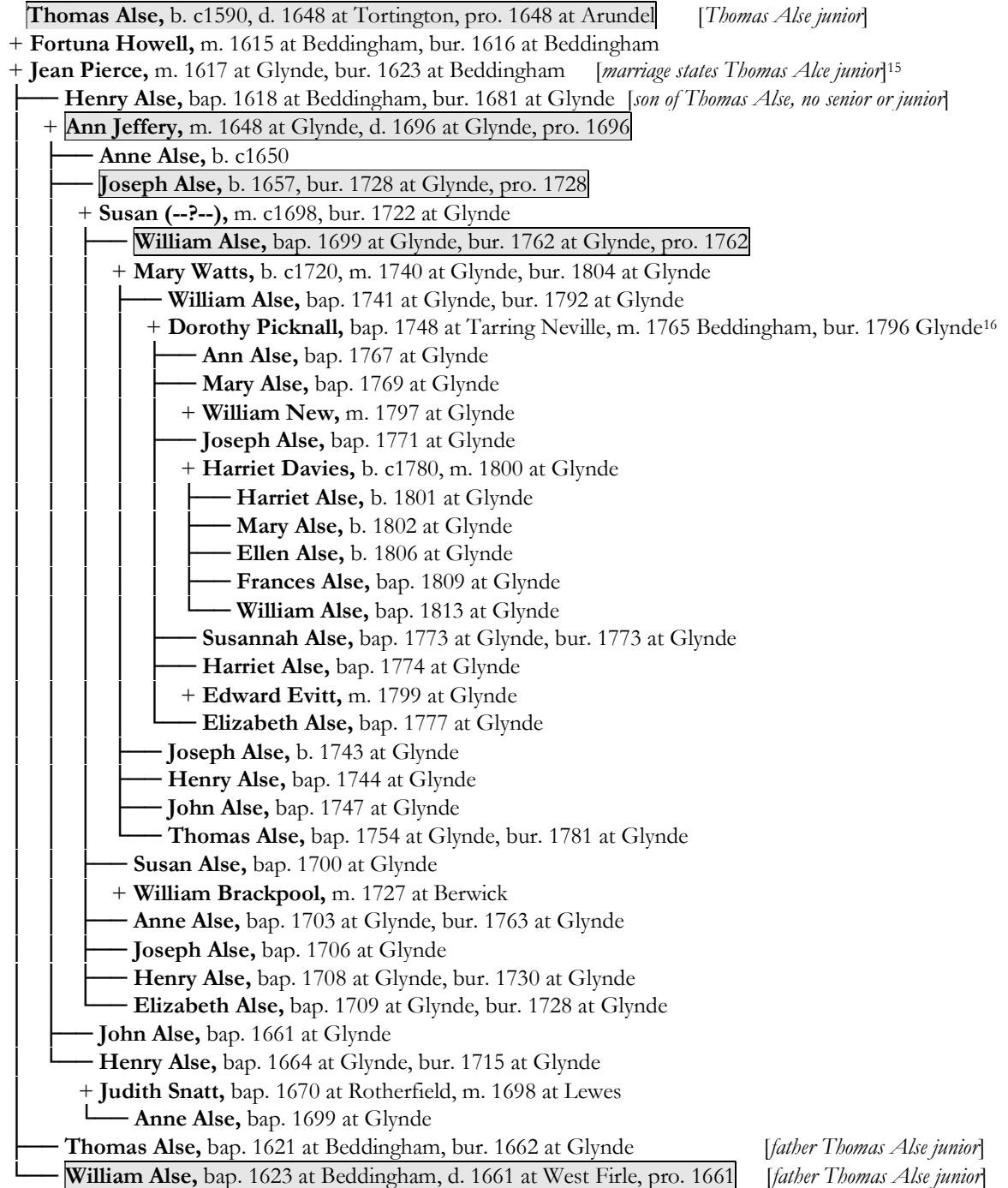
¹² See unregistered will “George Beard of Rottingdean, 1645”, ESRO: PBT 1/5/40. His burial not found due to gap in records during Civil War period.

¹³ Joan Alce is identified as an unnamed sister of Albraham Alce in his will proved 1629. Her christian name “Joan” comes from her burial record at Sompting: “Joene Blaker, buried 14 Apr 1616, wife of Thomas”.

¹⁴ Thomas Blaker is possibly the son mentioned in the will of Edward Blaker of Portslade, proved 3 Dec 1594, “I give and bequeathe to **Thomas Blaker** my sonne three score powndes of lawfull Englishe money to be paide and delivered unto him at the age of twenty and one yeares.”. The executor was Edward’s wife, Anne Blaker.

Tree 2. Thomas Alse junior of Beddingham – Later the Glynde Alces

The following tree originates at Beddingham and started a dynasty of ALCEs at Glynde. It extends into the present day but has not been developed that far. All places are in Sussex except where shown. The people who left wills/admons are highlighted.



¹⁵ Jean Pierce is considered to be the daughter of Henry Pierce of Glynde whose will was proved in 1625 (see transcription in Chapter 4). Thomas Alse junior and his son Henry Alse are beneficiaries in the will.

¹⁶ Dorothy Als was a beneficiary in the will of her sister Ann Major, widow of Chalvington, made 7 Jan 1796 and proved 25 Apr 1812. Her children Ann, Mary, Joseph, Harriet and Elizabeth were also beneficiaries.

+ **Elizabeth Thomas**, b. c1610, m. 1637 at Beddingham

Postscript

At this stage there has been no information which would enable the parents of Thomas Alse junior to be identified. However, it is a reasonable assumption that the father of his second wife, Jean Peirce, was Henry Peirce (see Chapter 4, “Will of Henry Peirce of Glynde, 1625”) and that their first son Henry was named after his father-in-law. The second son was named Thomas, after himself. His third son was named William – possibly after his own father??

Tree 3. Thomas Alce, Yeoman Farmer of East Blatchington

Thomas Alce (c1650-1718/19) was a yeoman farmer and is the focus for this family tree. He is thought to have been born at West Firle or Beddingham c1645-58 but this is difficult to confirm as the parish records for Beddingham are missing for the period 1641-73 and West Firle similar. The most likely candidate for him is the Thomas Alce mentioned as a beneficiary in the will of Abraham Alce of West Firle proved 1684 as “*my Nephew Thomas Alce sonne of my Brother William Alce*”. He would have been born about the right time and after Abraham Alce's death in 1684 he named his next male child Abraham (bap. 1691). This is not strong proof so needs to be treated with caution. However, it has been assumed for now that William Alce, born c1615 at West Firle is the father of Thomas Alce who married Susanna Burroughs in 1678 at East Blatchington. There is also a logical connection between the parishes of West Firle and East Blatchington with the manor of Alciston owning property in both villages.

The parish baptism registers show the father of Abraham Alice [Alce] (1620-1684) and his sister Mary (1617-) to be William Alice [Alce] (c1575-) so he is the starting point for this tree.

This particular branch is the author's family tree.

William Alce, b. c1575

+ **Alice Brooke**, m. 1598 at Eastbourne, bur. 1613 at Beddingham [possible earlier marriage]

+ **Joanna Slutter**, b. c1580, m. 1614 at West Firle

— **William Alce**, b. c1615 at West Firle

+ **unknown spouse**

— **Thomas Alce**, b. c1650, bur. 1718/19 at East Blatchington, pro. 1718/19 [see note below]¹⁷

+ **Susanna Burroughs**, bap. 1660 at E. Blatchington, m. 1678 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1730 at E.B.

— **Jane Alce**, bap. 1679 at E. Blatchington

+ **William Milton**, b. c1680, m. c1705

— **Thomas Alce**, bap. 1681 at E. Blatchington

— **Susanna Alce**, bap. 1685 at E. Blatchington

+ **John Hide**, b. c1685, m. c1710

— **Mary Alce**, bap. 1688 at E. Blatchington

+ **David Older**, b. c1700, m. 1722 at Little Horsted [surname Holder in Susanna's will of 1730]

— **Sarah Alce**, bap. 1691 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1706 at E. Blatchington

— **Abraham Alce**, bap. 1691 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1753 at E. Blatchington

+ **Ann Ince**, b. 1701 at Chalvington, m. 1731 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1771 at E. Blatchington

— **Susannah Alce**, bap. 1734 at E. Blatchington

— **Thomas Alce**, bap. 1735 at E. Blatchington

— **Abraham Alce**, bap. 1738 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1803 at E. Blatchington

+ **Sarah Richardson**, bap. 1743 at Alciston, m. 1768 at Alciston, bur. 1803 at E.B.

— **Ann Alce**, b. c1769

+ **William Coombs**, bap. 1751 at E. B., m. 1791 at E. Bl., bur. 1830 at Seaford

— **Ann Coombs**, bap. 1791 at E. Blatchington, d. 1865 at Willingdon

¹⁷ There is no baptism for Thomas but he is identified in the will of his uncle, Abraham Alce (1620-1683) as the son of William. He is considered to be one of the Thomas Alces who lived at East Blatchington. There were two Thomas and Susanna ALCE families in East Blatchington at this time and it is impossible to differentiate them using just the parish register. The fact that two baptisms occur just a few months apart in both 1688 and 1694 indicates separate families rather than a remarriage. However, Thomas ALCE's will proved on 7 March 1718 lists his children enabling the two families to be differentiated. It would appear that the other family (Thomas ALCE and Susannah GLIDD) left East Blatchington about 1694 to 1700 although Thomas was returned for burial in 1714 (noted as “of Newhaven”).

			+ Charles Tobitt , bap. 1788 at Steyning, m. 1810 at Seaford
		└─	William Tobitt , bap. 1820 at Willingdon, d. 1878 at Willingdon
			+ Henrietta Cook , bap. 1819 at Eastbourne, m. 1841 at Brighton, d. 1888 at Eastbourne ¹⁸
		└─	William Coombs , bap. 1795 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1796 at E. Blatchington
		└─	Philip Coombs , bap. 1799 at E. Blatchington
		└─	William Coombs , bap. 1801 at E. Blatchington
		└─	David Coombs , bap. 1802 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1803 at E. Blatchington
		└─	Charles Coombs , bap. 1805 at E. Blatchington
		└─	Sarah Coombs , bap. 1807 at E. Blatchington
		└─	Joseph Coombs , bap. 1808 at Seaford
		└─	John Alce , bap. 1771 at Wilmington
		└─	James Alce , bap. 1776 at Wilmington, bur. 1853 at E. Blatchington
		+	Catherine Coates , b. c1781, m. 1798 at Alciston, bur. 1829 at E. Blatchington
		└─	Charlotte Alce , bap. 1798 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1810 at E. Blatchington
		└─	Sarah Alce , bap. 1799 at E. Blatchington
		+	unknown spouse
		└─	George Alce , bap. 1821 at E. Blatchington, pro. 1892 at Lewes ¹⁹
		+	Maria Towner , bap. 1825 at E. Blatchington, m. 1846 at Lewes, d. 1886 at E.B.
		└─	Elizabeth Alce , b. c1846
		└─	Sarah Alce , b. c1847
		└─	George Alce , bap. 1849 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1873 at E. Blatchington
		└─	James Alce , bap. 1851 at E. Blatchington
		└─	Lyde Alce , bap. 1854 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1884 at E. Blatchington
		+	William Towner , b. c1855 at E. Blatchington, m. 1882 at Brighton
		└─	Rhoda Alce , bap. 1856 at E. Blatchington
		+	Charles William Edwards , b. c1860 at Kennington, m. 1881 at Brighton
		└─	Herbert Charles Edwards , b. 1882 at Brighton
		└─	Lucy Alce , bap. 1858 at E. Blatchington, d. 1878 at E. Blatchington
		+	Charles Francis Rosser , b. 1853 at Westbury on Trym, m. 1877 Hampstead
		└─	Dorcas Alce , bap. 1861 at E. Blatchington
		+	Frank Woodgate Edwards , m. 1887 at Brighton
		└─	Thomas William Alce , bap. 1866 at E. Blatchington
		+	Henry Coates , bap. 1796 at E. Blatchington, m. 1822 at E. Blatchington, d. 1880
		└─	James Alce , bap. 1802 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1875 at E. Blatchington, pro. 1875 ²⁰
		+	Lydia Pelham [nee Moore] , bap. 1797 at Cowfold, d. 1884 E.B. <i>[never married]</i> ²¹
		└─	Elizabeth Alce , bap. 1812 at E. Blatchington
		└─	John Alce , bap. 1815 at E. Blatchington
		└─	Rhoda Alce , bap. 1818 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1827 at E. Blatchington
		└─	Elizabeth Alce , bap. 1779 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1864 at Newhaven <i>[see note below]</i> ²²
		+	Peter Terry , bap. 1777 at Newhaven, m. 1798 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1825
		└─	Richard Terry , bap. 1798 at Newhaven, bur. 1857 at Newhaven
		+	Sarah Andrews , b. c1807 at Seaford, m. 1833 at Seaford, d. 1878 at Newhaven
		└─	Mary Ann Terry , bap. 1800 at Newhaven
		└─	Elizabeth Terry , b. c1802, bur. 1802 at Newhaven
		└─	Kezia Terry , bap. 1803 at Newhaven

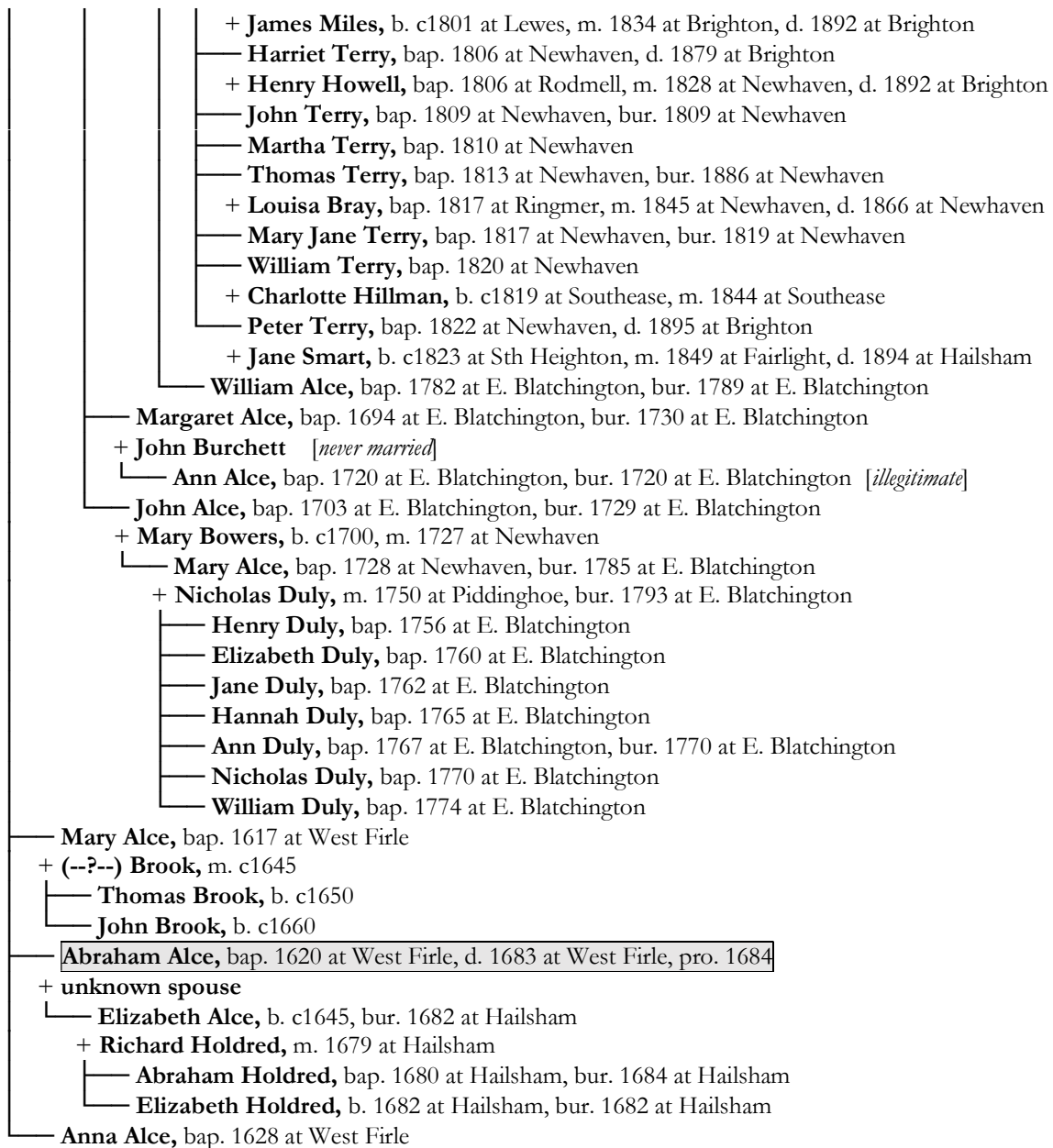
¹⁸ Henrietta Cook's mother was Keturah Breach. See Tree 1 in "The BREACH Wills of East Sussex (1548-1858)" by Geoffrey Barber.

¹⁹ Will not included in book as it is post-1858.

²⁰ Will not included in book as it is post-1858.

²¹ Lydia Pelham never married James Alce most likely because she was already married and her husband, James Pelham, still alive. James Alce left a will proved 1875. His estate was valued at £200 and the executor was William Banks of Seaford, Baker and Postmaster.

²² Elizabeth Alce (1779-1864) is the author's 4x great grandmother.



Tree 4. George & Margaret Alce of Le Sounde, Beddingham

The will of Abraham Alce (c1580-1629 - see Tree 1), appoints George Alce of Le Sounde at Beddingham to the role of overseer. This is either George Alce (c1605-1638) who married Ann Gower in 1631 (Tree 5) and if so, would probably be a young nephew, or George Alce b. c1585 who married Margaret Page in 1612. It is more likely to be the older George Alce b. c1585 who would then almost certainly be a kinsman, although he is not a brother according to Abraham's father's will (John Alce, proved in 1615) as he is not named.

George Alce is also believed to be the person mention in the will of John Alce of Alciston (1642) and if so, it states that he has a brother William.

George's tree is presented here and it is (so far) impossible to trace his line back further into the 1500s due to missing parish records. Some more information may come to hand in the future though.

George Alce, b. c1585
+ **Margaret Page**, m. 1612 at Beddingham
├── **John Alce**, bap. 1619 at Beddingham
├── **George Alce**, bap. 1621 at Beddingham
├── **Thomas Alce**, bap. 1622 at Beddingham
├── **Thomas Alce**, bap. 1624 at Beddingham
├── **Joan Alce**, bap. 1627 at Beddingham
└── **Elizabeth Alce**, bap. 1632 at Beddingham

It is possible that the son George Alce (bap. 1621) is the person mentioned as a kinsman in the Will of William Alse, Husbandman of West Firle, 1661 (see Tree 2). The will mentions George and Mary Alce, in which case the following marriage may be relevant:

George ALCE of Heighton married Mary AVERD (of this parish, at Seaford) on 9 May 1654 at Denton.

However, there may be more than one George Alce around at this time, as there is also a possible marriage of George ALCE to Elizabeth LOVER/LOWER/LOUER of Alciston, daughter of Thomas LOVER and Ann ADAMES (Thomas & Ann married 13 Jun 1614 at Alciston). Thomas LOVER left a will which mentions his daughter Elizabeth, wife of George ALSE of West Firle (Will of Thomas Lover weaver of Alciston, made 13 April 1663, proved 20 May 1673). A witness to the will was Richard ALCHORNE, a kinsman of the ALSE family (see Tree 7).

Tree 5. George & Mary Alce of Beddingham

Clues to the origins of George Alce (c1580-1624) are:

1. He mentions a godson, George Alce in his will. This is possibly the George Alce who married Margaret Page in 1612 at Beddingham, or George and Margaret's second son George born in 1621.
2. He mentions a goddaughter Margaret Herriot. She appears to have had an illegitimate daughter Margaret HEAREAT baptised 28 Oct 1629 at Beddingham and later married Richard INGERFIELD of Glynde as a spinster in 1640, suggesting a birth date circa 1610.
3. His children's names: George, Elizabeth, Robert.

With regard to Margaret Herriot, there are two earlier marriages of interest:

7 Oct 1579, John HERIOT married Martha ZEALE [SEALE] at Bishopstone.

15 Aug 1580 John HERIOT married Joan BAUCKOMBE at Bishopstone.

Both the surnames SEALE and BAULCOMBE appear in connection with John ALCE of Alciston (see "Will of John Alce of Alciston, 1642" and also Tree 7. "John Alce of Alciston") and an Andrew BAUCOMBE appears as a witness on the will of George ALCE, 1624.

George cannot be a brother of John Alce of Alciston as he is not mentioned in John's father William Alce's will proved in 1618, but it would appear that he is a kinsman, perhaps a cousin. A possibility is that George is an undocumented son of William Alce (c1530-1593) of Bishopstone (see Tree 6. "Alces of Bishopstone, East Blatchington, Eastbourne & Winchelsea"). His birth c1580 would be after the death of William's mother Joan and explain why George was not mentioned in her will. This would explain the connections to Bishopstone in relation to Margaret Herriot above.

There would appear to be no surviving male issue from this tree, at least based on the surviving parish records. However, the tree does end in the Civil War period so it is very possible that people are missing.

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

George Alce, b. c1580, bur. 1624 at Beddingham, pro. 1624
+ **Mary Wenham**, b. c1560, m. c1600, bur. 1636 at Beddingham, pro. 1636
├── **George Alce**, b. c1605, bur. 1638 at Beddingham, pro. 1638
│ ├── + **Ann Gower**, m. 1631 at Beddingham, bur. 1633 at Beddingham
│ │ └── **Elizabeth Alce**, bap. 1632 at Beddingham
│ └── **Elizabeth Alce**, bap. 1606 at Beddingham
└── **Robert Alce**, b. c1610
 ├── + **Joan Howell**, m. 1631 at Beddingham, bur. 1638 at Beddingham
 │ └── **Thomas Alce**, bap. 1638 at Beddingham, bur. 1638 at Beddingham
 ├── + **Elizabeth Hudson**, mlc. 1639, bur. 1640 at Beddingham
 ├── + **Mary Lindfield**, m. 1640 at Ringmer
 └── **George Alce**, bap. 1642 at Ringmer

Tree 6. Alces of Bishopstone, East Blatchington, Eastbourne & Winchelsea

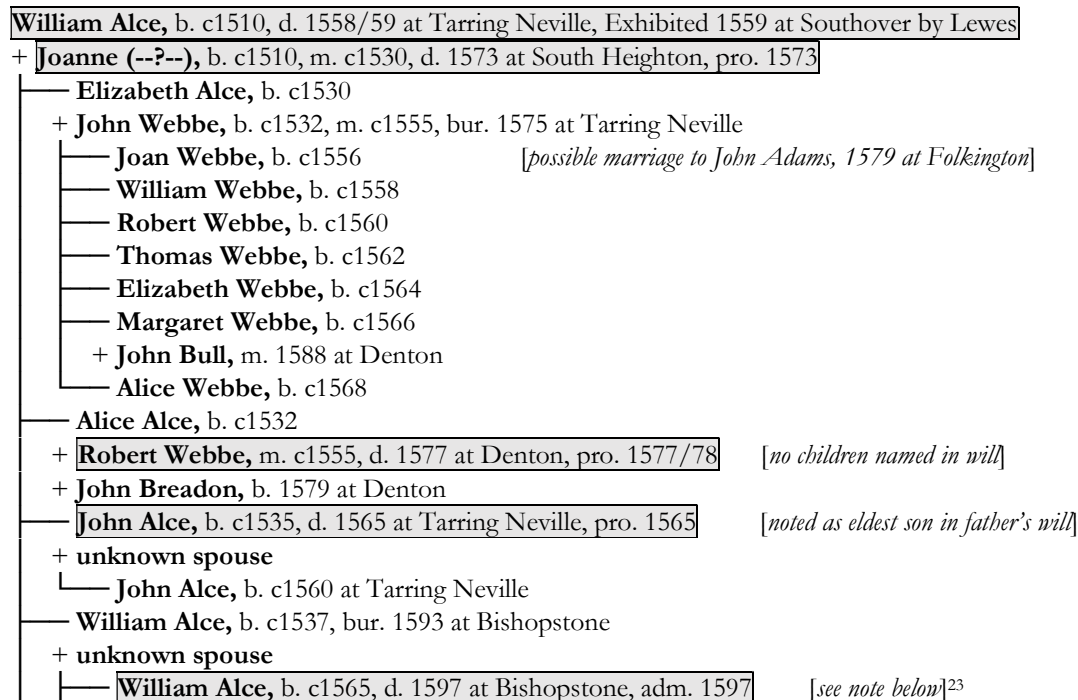
These families have strong connections to Bishopstone and East Blatchington, eventually moving to Eastbourne, East Dean and Winchelsea. The identification of William and Joane Alce of Tarring Neville as the originators of this tree does require some speculation which is explained in the footnotes.

An important family is that of Robert Alce and Elizabeth Bean who married in 1640 and lived at East Blatchington. It is their descendants who spread to Winchelsea, Eastbourne and East Dean.

Their son Thomas (1649-1714) was a blacksmith at East Blatchington who moved to Newhaven in about 1695 where his son Robert was a boatman. After Robert's death the family moved to Winchelsea and started the Alce line there. Robert's widow Elizabeth had remarried Thomas Collins of Winchelsea at Hastings in 1728. The family seems to have prospered at Winchelsea becoming important members of the community. Elizabeth would have been very satisfied with the marriage of her daughter Elizabeth Collins (1731-) to Zebulon Newington, one of the highly respected Newington family.

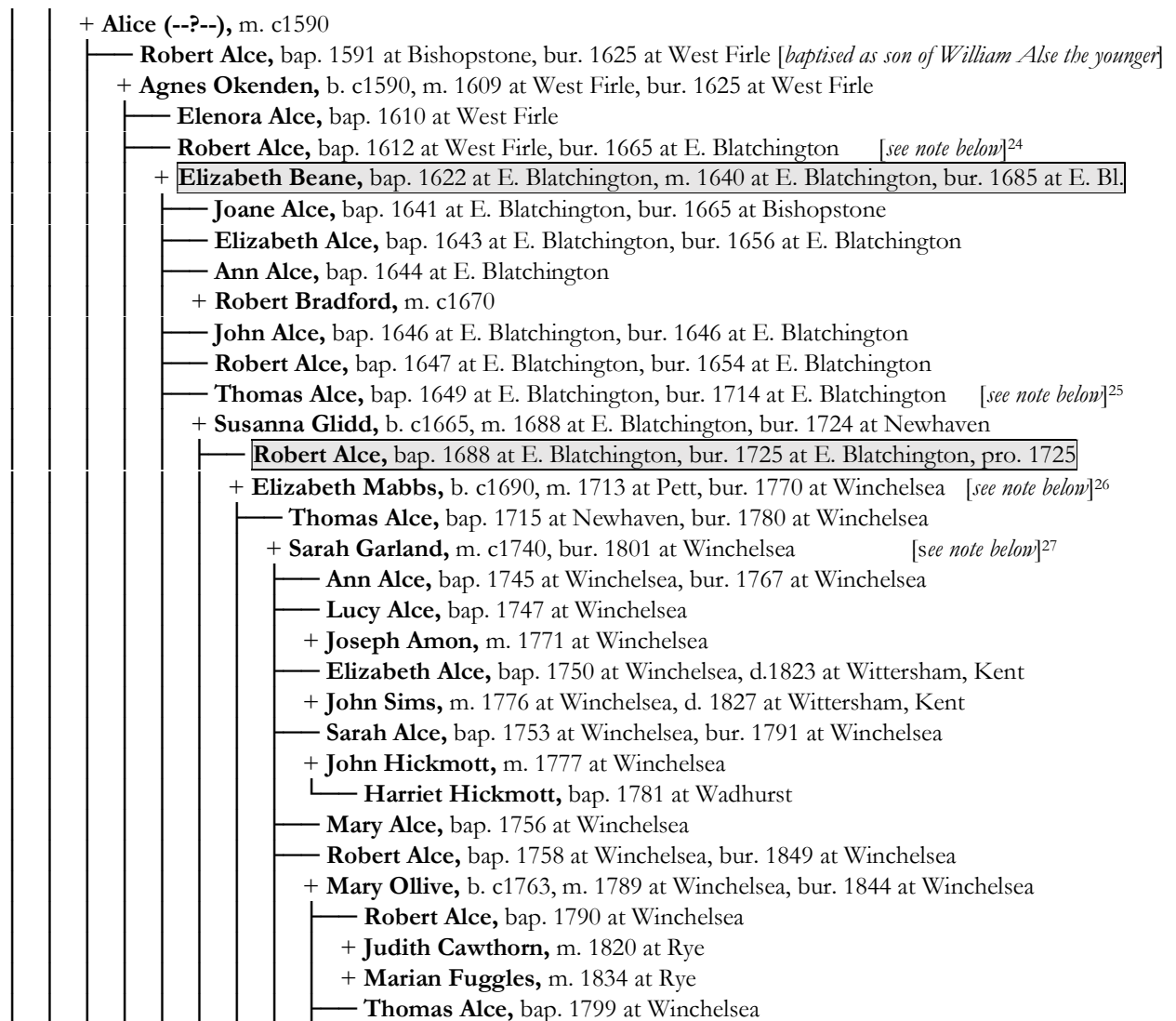
Their other son Henry (1662-1707) was a carpenter who moved to Eastbourne and it is through his only surviving son Henry (1699-1765) that the Alce families grew at Eastbourne and East Dean.

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



²³ The identification of William Alce (c1537-1593) as the father of William Alce (c1565-1597) is speculative given that no baptism has been found, nor any reference to William having a son William. The parish records in this period are extremely sparse and it is likely that many children are missing from the records, so treat with caution. The connection is based on the following:

1. If the connection is true, then William (c1565-1597) would have had a brother Robert and so it makes sense that he would name a son Robert in 1591.



2. The baptisms of this William's two (identified) children, Robert (1591-1625) and Eleanor (1595-), occurred at Bishopstone. His speculated father was buried there in 1593.

3. When William's son Robert was baptised in 1591, the father was referred to as "William Alse the younger". This does not necessarily mean that William the younger had William the elder as a father, but it is possible.

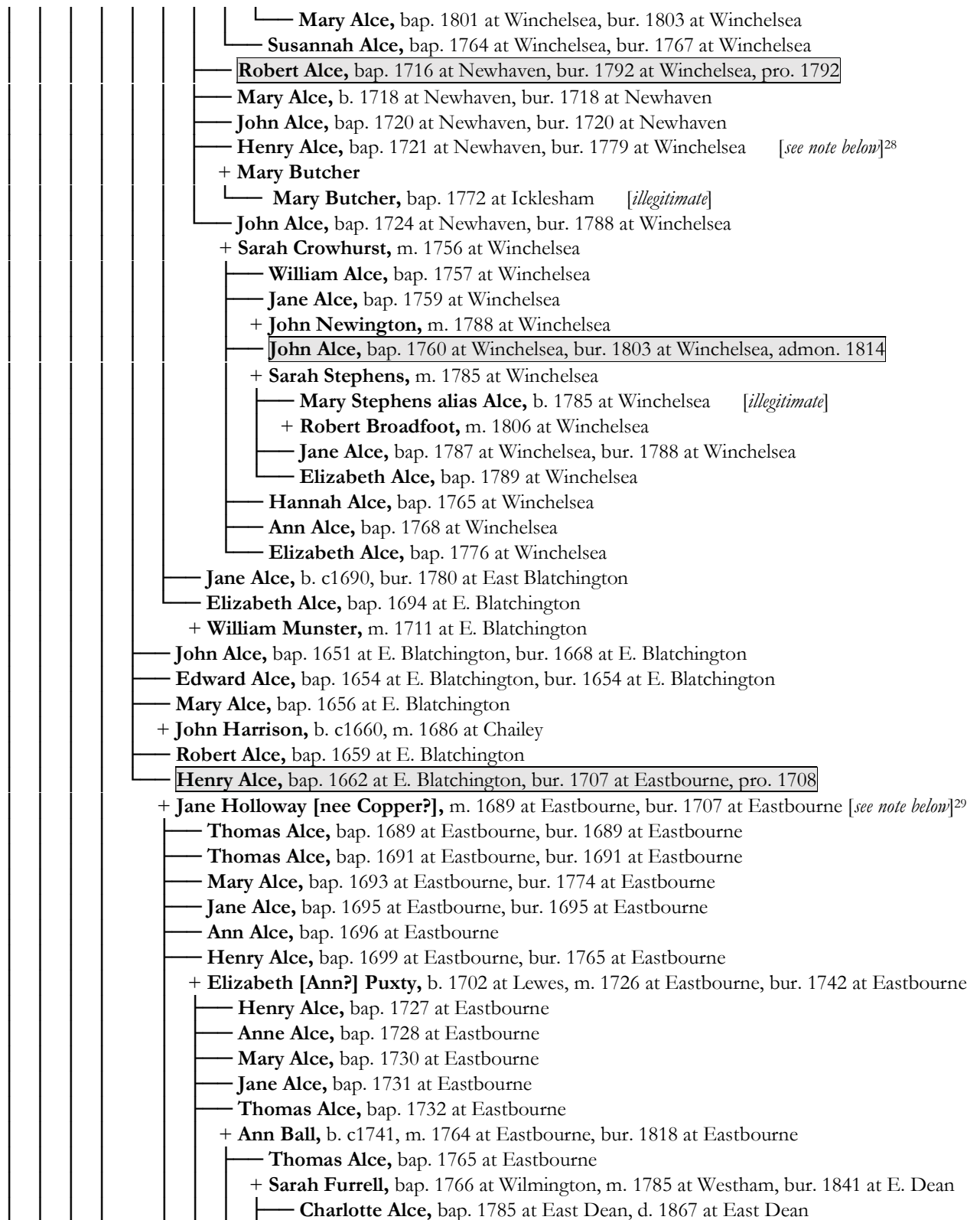
²⁴ There are no Alce's recorded in the East Blatchington parish register before the marriage of Robert Alce and Elizabeth Beane in 1640.

²⁵ The evidence that Robert Alce and Elizabeth Beane are the parents of the Thomas ALCE who married Susanna GLIDD in 1687 is as follows:

1. Thomas ALCE who married Susanna GLIDD was a smith (recorded on their children's baptisms).
2. His mother Elizabeth ALCE's will refers to her "stocke of iron and coale in the shop" - probably a blacksmiths workshop.
3. The first two children of Thomas ALCE and Susanna GLIDD were named Elizabeth and Robert. This is noted here as there is another couple, Thomas ALCE and Susanna BURROUGHS, who married at East Blatchington in 1678, and baptisms from the East Blatchington parish register indicate that this was a separate couple and not an earlier marriage of the same Thomas ALCE.

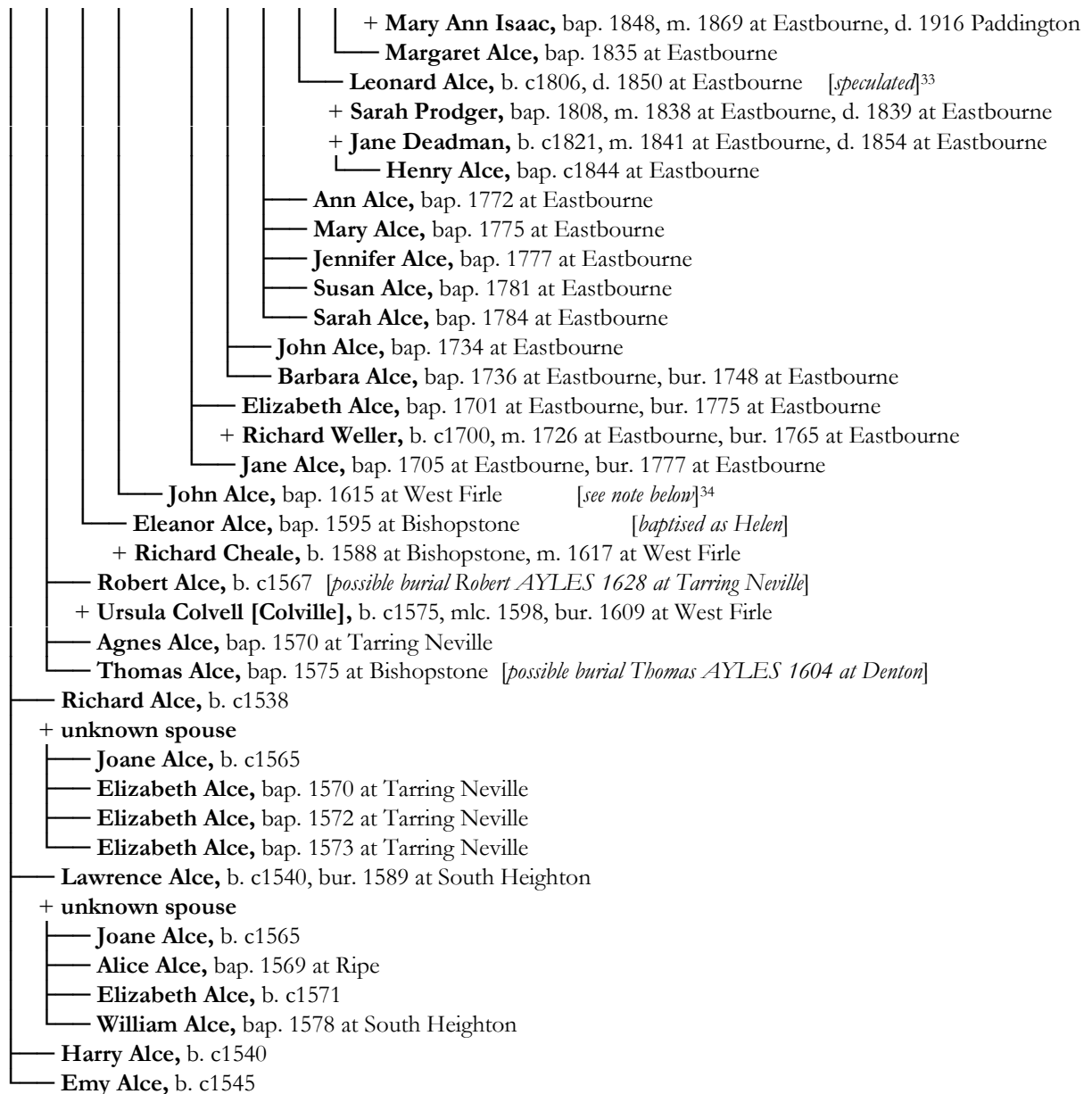
²⁶ After Robert Alce's death in 1725, his widow Elizabeth married Thomas COLLINS, a husbandman of Winchelsea. The whole family moved there with her. See her family tree under "Will of Robert Alce, Gentleman of Winchelsea, 1792".

²⁷ By his will of 5 May 1746, William Garland, weaver, left property in Winchelsea to his wife Mary Garland for life with remainder to his four daughters: Elizabeth wife of Edward Catt, farmer, Sarah wife of Thomas Alce, carpenter, Mary Garland and Lucy Garland



²⁸ Henry Alce committed suicide “hanged himself in the garret of the house of Thomas Alce”.

²⁹ See "Will of Thomas Copper, Sadler of Eastbourne, 1705" in Chapter 4.



³³ Baptism not found, parents a guess. Alternatively, he could be a son of John Alce's brother, Thomas Alce of East Dean who had a number of children who do not appear to have been baptised. There is a burial of another Leonard Alce at Eastbourne on 25 Jan 1807 which may support this (if each brother had a child named Leonard it would indicate that John's had died as John lived in Eastbourne and Thomas lived in East Dean).

³⁴ John may be the John ALSE who married Mary COLLINGHAM on 6 Sep 1636 at Alciston. Alternatively, it may have been the John AYLES baptised 21 Jan 1609/10 at Alciston in Tree 7. The surname AYLES (perhaps pronounced EYE-LES) turns up later at Willingdon after the marriage of John AYLES, yeoman of Hailsham, and Ann BANCCKES, widow of Alfriston, on 29 Mar 1638 at Lewes St John sub Castro, so perhaps this is the John AYLES baptised at Alciston. But there is an earlier marriage at Eastbourne which could be for the same person: John EYELES and Ann WOODMAN married on 25 Sep 1614 at Eastbourne. If so, then this John would be a different person altogether.

Tree 7. John Alce of Alciston

This tree originates at Beddingham and then moves to Alciston.

The originator of this tree, William Alce buried 1618 at Beddingham, could be the eldest son of Thomas Alse of Beddingham who left a will proved 1552/53 and so this tree may connect to Tree 1. However, the admon for William Alse of Beddingham in 1591 needs to be considered, and further work is required to also discount other William's who were at Bishopstone.

The surname ALCE may have died out in this tree but it depends on what happened to John Alce baptised 1610 at Alciston, as there is some uncertainty as to whether he died before 1642 or not. This is getting into the Civil War period (1642-61) where there are significant gaps in the West Firle, Beddingham and South Heighton parish records, so we may never know.

This tree is well defined due to the information in the two wills but with one exception: the marriage to Ann SEALE and also the son John ALCE baptised in 1610 at Alciston. See the footnotes below.

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

William Alce, b. c1545, bur. 1618 at Beddingham, pro. 1618

+ unknown spouse

— **John Alce**, b. c 1570, d. c1642 at Alciston, pro. 1642 [see note below]^{35, 36}

+ **Alice Cooke**, m. 1592 at Denton

— **Mary Alce**, b. c 1595, bur. 1631 at Denton

+ **Richard Chambers**, m. 1622 at East Blatchington

— **John Chambers**, b. c 1625

— **Elizabeth Alce**, b. c 1600, bur. 1631 at Denton

+ **Josiah Colvill**, m. 1625 at Alciston

— **William Colvill**, bap. 1628 at Denton

+ **Margaret Godhelpe**, m. 1650 at Chalvington

+ **Richard Elphick**, b. c 1608, m. 1630 at Denton

— **Richard Elphick**, bap. 1631 at Denton

+ **Mary Swane**, m. 1656 at Denton

+ **Ann Seale**, m. 1609 at Beddingham, bur. 1634 at Alciston [buried as *Agnes Alse*, wife of John]³⁷

— **John Alce**, bap. 1610 at Alciston [baptised *AYLES*, died before 1642?]³⁸

³⁵ Known as John Alce of Beddingham, yeoman, on Alciston manor and farm lease documents in 1621 (with Richard Alchorne of Rodmell) (ESRO: SAS/G16/24).

³⁶ John Alce is probably the person who witnessed the will of Edward COOKE of Laughton, made 21 Mar 1609, proved 29 Apr 1609. John Alce's first wife, Alice COOKE is likely to be Edward Cook's kin, possibly a sister. (ESRO: PBT/1/1/12/344B, FamilySearch Film: 1885785, image: 381)

³⁷ Ann SEALE may be Ann HEALE who married William SEALE on 20 Nov 1608 at Beddingham. William SEALE was buried 22 Dec 1608 at South Heighton St Martin leaving Ann a widow. A George HEALES is mentioned on the will of John ALCE proved 1642 and he was probably the one bap. 3 Sep 1593 at Beddingham and buried there on 29 Mar 1640, a possible brother/kinsman to Ann although this cannot be verified as baptism records for Beddingham are only available from 1593.

³⁸ John AYLES was baptised 21 Jan 1609/10 (son of John, mother not named) and is not mentioned in the will of his father, suggesting that he died (although burial not found) or is not connected to the family. However, he may be the John ALSE who married Mary COLLINGHAM on 6 Sep 1636 at Alciston (although there is another candidate – see Tree 6.). If he survived it raises the question: was it a different John Alce who married Ann Seale in 1609 or if not, why was he left out of the will?

- + **Ann Miller**, m. 1637 at Alciston [*married as Ann Carpenter, widow of Uckfield*]
- **Joan Alce**, b. c 1573
- + (**--?--**) **Selme**, m. c 1595
 - **Mary Selme**, b. c 1600
 - + **Richard Alchorne**, m. 1620 at Rodmell, bur. 1668 at Alciston
- **Elizabeth Alce**, b. c 1576
- + **Francis Cooke**, m. 1599 at Southease
- **Mary Alce**, b. c 1580, bur. 1638 at Lewes
- + **John Smith**, m. 1606 at Lewes, bur. 1633 at Lewes
 - **Elizabeth Smith**, bap. 1607 at Lewes
 - + **Ralph Richardson**, m. 1640
 - **Ann Smith**, bap. 1612 at Lewes
 - + **Richard Grasbrook**, m. 1635 at Lewes
 - **John Smith**, b. c 1615

Notes:

John Alce's will proved 1642 mentions a William Alce and his brother George Alce of the Sounde. They are not siblings of John Alce and are not mentioned in the will of John's father William Alce (-1618) but they are probably kin. Perhaps they are cousins – i.e. children of his father's brother?

Tree 8. William Alce of Piddinghoe

This tree is an island which may get connected to a larger tree as more information comes to hand.

All places in the family tree below are in Sussex except where shown. The people who left wills/admons are highlighted (there are none so far).

William Alce, b. c 1630, bur. 1678 at Piddinghoe
+ **Joan Crane**, m. 1658 at Piddinghoe
├── **John Alce**, b. c 1665, bur. 1666 at Piddinghoe
├── **Anne Alce**, bap. 1668 at Piddinghoe
│ + **William Carter**, m. 1700 at Piddinghoe
├── **Margaret Alce**, bap. 1670 at Piddinghoe, bur. 1670 at Piddinghoe
├── **Richard Alce**, bap. 1672 at Piddinghoe, bur. 1675 at Piddinghoe
├── **Samuel Alce**, bap. 1675 at Piddinghoe, bur. 1730 at Newhaven
│ + **Joane (--?--)**, m. c 1705
│ ├── **Samuel Alce**, bap. 1708 at Newhaven, bur. 1795 at Newhaven
│ └── **Mary Alce**, bap. 1712 at Newhaven
└── **William Alce**, bap. 1677 at Piddinghoe

Chapter 3 – The Alce/Alse Wills

A summary of the distribution of the wills by parish is given below:

Parish	No of Wills/Admons	Years
Beddingham	11	1552, 1553, 1591, 1615, 1618, 1624, 1629, 1636, 1638, 1657, 1675
East Blatchington	3	1685, 1718, 1730
Glynde	3	1696, 1728, 1762
Tarring Neville	2	1559, 1565
West Firle	2	1661, 1683
Alciston	1	1642
South Heighton	1	1573
Bishopstone	1	1597
Eastbourne	1	1708
Newhaven	1	1725
Laughton	1	1559
Peasmarsh	1	1591
Pett	1	1626
Salehurst	1	1592
Tortington	1	1648
Winchelsea	1	1792
TOTAL	32	

1. Will of Thomas Als of Beddingham, 1552/53

(ESRO: PBT 1/1/3/61C)

Made: 10 Jan 1552/53

Exhibited: 27 Feb 1552/53

In the name of god Amen The x day of the monyth of Januarij & in the yere of the Reigne of o[u]r Sov[er]aigne lorde Edwarde the Sexte by the grace of god Kynge off England Franncce & Ireland defender of the fayth And of the church of England & also of Ireland in earthe the sup[re]me hedd the vjth I **Thomas als** of the p[ar]yshe of Bedyngham in the Countie of Sussex of good & p[er]fect reme[m]brannce but onely seke in my bodye thanks be to Almyghtie god make & ordeyne this my last will & Testame[n]te in man[ner] & forme as here after dothe folowe Fyrst I gyve & bequeth my sowlle to Allmyghtie god my onely creator & redemer & my bodye to be buried in the churche yarde of Bedinghame Aforesayd Also I bequeth to the poore mens boxe of the same p[ar]yshe xij^d Also I bequethe to my dowghter **Agnes** iiij markes of monye to be payd to her at the tyme of her maryage Also I bequeth to the child that my wyffe goyth w[i]th yf yt be A woma[n] chylde iiij markes of monye to be payde to here at the tyme of her maryage And yf one of my dowghters dye before she be maryed I will the other survivinge to be her heire The Resydewe of all my goodes moveable & unmoveable my dettes payd & my Legaces fulfyllyd I gyve & bequeth to **Agnes** my wyffe whom I make & ordeyne one of myn executors And yf yt be A woma[n] child that my wyffe goyth w[i]th Then I make ordeyn & ioyne **Will[ia]m** my Sonne to be the other of my executors w[i]th my wyffe And yf yt be A man child that my wyffe goyth w[i]th Then I make ordeyn & ioyne **John** my sonne to be the other of my executors w[i]th my wyffe they to have & dyspose the same as to theym shalbe thought most best to the pleasure of Allmyghtie god Also I desire **Hugh ockenden & Richard mathew** to be ov[er]seers of this my last wyll & Testame[n]te And they to have For their Labor & paynes iijs iiij^d Apece Theise beinge wytnesses **Sir John R{e}de{?}** vi{c} ther³⁹ **John Als & John Howell**

S[u]ma In[vento]rij ____ li^{li} vijs vj^d

Exhibited in the parish church, Lewes, 27th February 1552

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 17th April 2021

NOTES:

People

Thomas Als, testator

Agnes Als, wife

William Als, son

John Als, son

Hugh Okenden, overseer

Richard Mathew, overseer

Sir John R{e}de, vicar, witness

John Als, witness

John Howell, witness

Places

Beddingham

³⁹ The spelling of the surname is unclear. The CCED database has references to John Reder/ Rider/ Ryder, vicar of Bedingham from 1551 to 1554. <https://theclergydatabase.org.uk>

Relevant Events

Burial not found as surviving Beddingham parish registers start at 1593.

See Beddingham manorial records in Chapter 4.

Family Tree

See Tree 1. “Thomas Alse senior of Beddingham” in Chapter 2.

2. Admon of William Aylys of Beddingham, 1552

(ESRO: PBT 1/1/4/369F)

Granted: 1552

Wyll{ius} aylys Decedens intestatus

Joh[ann]es aylys eius frater admininstr_ qui{a} quo dividit {??}

inter sorores h[uius]mo[d]i def_ et ipm ordi{num}

Joh[ann]es goodwyn yoman fide in {jf}

S[u]m[am] Inv[entor]ij ____ xiiij[£] x^s

William Aylys dying intestate, **John Aylys** [was?] the administrator [therefore?] he divided [the ??] between the sisters of the deceased and [???]⁴⁰

John Goodwyn yeoman [bound in ??]

Inventory totalled £14 10s

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 16th April 2021

NOTES

People

William Aylys

John Aylys, administrator

John Goodwyn, yeoman, surety

Places

Beddingham

Relevant Events

Burial not found as surviving Beddingham parish registers start at 1593.

It would appear that he died without issue.

Family Tree

None.

⁴⁰ Possibly something equating to 'arranged matters'.

3. Will of William Allyse of Tarring Neville, 1559

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/4/281)

Made: 16 Dec 1558

Exhibited: 20 Apr 1559

Familysearch: N/A

In the name of god Amen in the yere of oure Lord god 1558 & the xvjth daye of the monthe of december I **Wylliam allyse** of the p[ar]lyshe of Tarring nevell in the Countye of Sussex & in the diocese of Chichester thanks be unto al[-]myt{i}e⁴¹ god of p[er]fyte mynd & memorye do ordeyne & mak{e} this my last will & testament in w{or}d & forme as followeth Fyrst I bequethe my Soule unto almitie god the ma[-]ker & Redemer therof & my bodye to the earthe It[e]m I gyve & begethe to **Joanne** my wyfe the lease of my Cottage & landes whiche I latelie to{k} to farme of **Joh{n} adams** of // Bedynggham provyded always & yf it fortune my said wyfe to deceasse before the yeres be expyred & ended That then I will that **Lawrence** my sonne Shall have the Resydewe of the said yeres So Remaynyng after Her deceasse It[e]m I gyve & bequethe to my said wyfe the moyte or one halfe of all my howsehold stuffe It[e]m I gyve and bequethe unto my said wyfe xl^{ij} wethers & ten ewes & iij kyne which kyne wethers & ewes I will shalbe delyve[-]red unto her Imediatlie after my deceasse And I wyll that my executores shall deyver Suche of my wetheres ewes & kyne as shalbe thought mete & convenient for her by myne ov[er]seers It[e]m I wyll th[at] my said wyfe shall have one chamber w[i]thin my howse whiche She shall nominat & appoynt to her use & h{e??}er During her naturall Lyfe & also to have fre ingre{dyense} & Regredyense to the same Also I will that she shall have Lybertye quyetlye to bayke & brewe & do all other her sayd necessyties w[ith]in the said howse & ev[er]y p[ar]te or pa[ar]cell therof where I nowe dwell During her naturall Lyfe for here & her famylie It[e]m I gyve & bequethe unto **harry** my sonne xxx^{ij} Li of usuall mo[-]ney of England to be payd unto him w[i]t[h]in one yere after my Deceasse It[e]m I will unto **Lawrence** my sonne other xxx Li of usuall money of england to be payd unto him when he shall accomplyshe and come to the age of xxj yeres And yf it fortune any of my said Sonnes **harry** or **Lawrence** to deceasse before they shall accomplyshe or come to the age to receyve his said p[ar]te that then I will my sonne So lyving to have his p[ar]te or portion So deceased as according by this my said Last wyll it is truelye ment It[e]m I gyve and bequethe unto **elizabeth the vebe**⁴² my daughter xxtj poundes of usu[-]all money of england to be payede unto here w[i]t[h]in one yere after my deceasse It[e]m I gyve unto **Else {vebe}** my dawghter vjli xiijs iiijd of usuall money of Englund to be payde unto her w[i]t[h]in ij yeres after my deceasse The Resydue of all my goodes & Catteltes my Dettes payd my legacyes dyscharged I gyve & bequethe to **Wyllia[m] & Rychard** my Sonnes whome I ordeyne & mak y executores of this my last will & testament It[e]m I will th[at] my said executores shall yerelie at there p[ro]per costes & charges plowe vall{ew}e S{owe} & h{arowe} w[i]t[h] other ne[-]cessyties of husbondry Suffytientlie & will all suche ara[-]bull londe as my said wyfe shalle have by virtue of this my said Last will & testament from yere to yere & ev[er]y yere yerelye during her naturall lyfe or foloyng // as here Lease Shall endure at suche tyme & tym{e}s as She shall appoynt or think mete It[e]m I will that **John Vebe** my sonne in Lawe Shall have his r{e}[-]sidence or Dwelling w[ith]in my howse wher I now Dwell by the space of iiij yeres after my deceasse to asm{u}che & as ample libertie for him & his famylie as at any tyme he

⁴¹ The word almighty has what looks like an abbreviation mark above it, both here and again below.

⁴² The surname **Vebe** is unusual as is the fact that two daughters have that surname, however the later will of William's wife, Joanne, in 1573 indicates this surname is actually **Webbe**. Elizabeth Webbe and Else Webbe are both clearly described as 'daughter'. Else is given a smaller bequest, to be paid within two years rather than the one year for Elizabeth, which might indicate that she is the younger of the two. Neither is described as the wife of John Webbe although John is described as son-in-law and is probably the husband of Elizabeth as Joanne's 1573 will states that Alyce [Else] Webbe's husband is Robert Webbe. It would appear that Elizabeth and Else [Alyce] may have married brothers John and Robert Webbe.

hathe had duryng my lyfe In considderation that he the said **John V{e}be** & his famylie Shall do & beare them selfs towards my wyfe & my executores as at all tymes towards me they have done It[e]m I ordeyne & mak to be my ov[er]seres **Whetlye** {o}f {Lew}es to whome I gyve xls **John adams** of b{ed}ingh[am]⁴³ & **John Alse** my sonne & I gyve to eche of them x{s} In witnes of this my said will I have callyd **Ric⁴⁴ younge John godwyn John Whetelye & John adams** This is the last wyll & testament of me **Wylliam Alse** made & declared the day and yere above wrytten as consernyng the disposition of all my landes & tena[-]mentes Sette lying and being w[ith]in the p[ar]yshe of Robertes[-] brydge w[ith]in the Countie of Sussex Fyrst I gyve & bequethe all my said landes & tenamentes Rentes Re[-]v[er]syons w[ith] all & singular theapp[ur]tenances Sette lying & being w[ith]in the said p[ar]yshe of Robertesbrydge or elles where unto **Joane** my wyfe for terme of her naturall lyfe In Considderation [tha]t my said wyfe Shall sus[-]teyne kepe & maynteyne at her p[ro]per Costes & charges w[ith] meate drynk Suffitient & necessarye apparell {on} **emy Alse** my Dawghter During her naturall lyfe And when it Shall fortune my said wyfe to deceasse this transitory world then I gyve & bequethe all my landes and tenementes Rentes revers[i]ons w[ith] all & sing[-]ular thatpp[ur]tenances to **John Alse** my eldest sonne & to his heyres for ev[er] In Considderation that he the said **John** & his heyres Shall susteyne kepe & mayn[-]teyne at his or ther p[ro]per Costes & charges w[ith] meat & Drynk sufficient & necessary apparenll the said **Emy** yf She Shall so longe lyve In wytnes wherof **Richard Yonge John goodwyn John whetlye & John adams** {above} rehearsed Suma Inv[entor]ijj ____ Clxv Li xs ij d

Exhibited in the parish church of Sowth{ove}r by Lewes 20th April 1559 by the executor{s}

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 19th April 2021

NOTES:

People

William Allyse, testator
 Joanne Allyse, wife
 Lawrence Allyse, son
 Harry Allyse, son
 Elizabeth Vebe [Webbe], daughter
 Alse Vebe [Webbe], daughter
 Emy Alse, daughter
 William Allyse, son, joint executor
 Richard Allyse, son, joint executor
 John Allyse, eldest son
 John Vebe [Webbe], son-in-law
 Richard Younge, witness
 John Goodwyn, witness
 John Whetelye of Lewes, witness
 John Adams of Beddingham, witness

⁴³ Assumed. The end of the word is not visible in the image.

⁴⁴ Remainder of name invisible or absent. (At the RH margin.)

Places

Beddingham
Tarring Neville
Lewes
Robertsbridge

Relevant Events

Burial not found (only available from 1571).

An Elizabeth ALSE was buried at Tarring Neville St Mary on 14 May 1571 and John ALSE buried there on 18 Jun 1573. No other ALCE/ALSE burials.

William's wife, Joanne, left a will proved in 1573 (see "Will of Joane Alse, widow of South Heighton, 1573"). This will provides greater clarification about the family:

1. Their daughter Alice was the wife of Robert Webb. Robert left a will proved 9 Jan 1577/78 (see Chapter 4.).
2. Their daughter Elizabeth must therefore be the wife of John Webb (noted as deceased in his brother Robert's will in 1577, buried 3 Mar 1575 at Tarring Neville).

Family Tree

See Tree 6. "Alces of Bishopstone, East Blatchington, Eastbourne & Winchelsea" in Chapter 2.

4. Will of Margery Alys of Laughton, 1559

(ESRO: PBT 1/1/4/199B)

Made: 8 March 1558/59

Exhibited: 13 April 1559

In The name of god Amen The eyghte Daye of Marche In the yere of oure Lorde god m^v lviij That I **Margerye Alys** of the p[ar]yshe of Laughton w[ith]in the Diocese of Chichester being sycke in bodye but of goode and p[er]fecte Remembrance thanks be unto god do ordeyne and mak this my last Will & testament in man[er] & forme followyng Fyrst I begethe my Soule to almyghtie god my creat[or] & Jesus chryst my Redemer & to oure blessed ladye Saynt marye & to all the holye Company of heaven And my bodye to the earthe to be buried w[ith]in the Churche yarde of Laughton aforesayde It[e]m I gyve to the hyghe altayre for my tythes omytted ij {?} s⁴⁵ It[e]m I gyve to the Churche of Laughton on altayre clothe a Coverlette & a vayle clothe & ij towyls It[e]m I geve to the poore mennys boxe iiijd It[e]m I w{yll} have at my buryall on masse & the preyst to have for his [deletion] paynes at the discretion of my execut[or] It[e]m I wyll have at my moneth daye iij masses & the preyst to have for his paynes as is aforesayde It[e]m I will have at my yeares daye ij masses and the preyst to have lykewyse It[e]m I wyll have bestowed amongst {e} the poore people at my burynge daye the breade of one busshell of wheate & on barrell of bere It[e]m I wyll have bestowed amongst the people the floure of ij busshels of wheate one fatt Shepe & one b[ar]jell of bere at my moneth {s} daye It[e]m I wyll have to be bestowed at my yeares daye the breade of one busshell of wheate halfe a barrell of bere & one chese It[e]m I wyll unto **Ellyn Salman** a mattres one shete It[e]m I wyll to **margery {wa}lshe** a posnett a selynge of a bed w[ith] thre paynted clothes Roundabout the bed a Cheyst w[ith] a spring locke A pewther pott a Candlesty{ck} of Lattyn & my best petycott ij Carchers It[e]m I wyll to **John Allys** the sonne of **John allys** my husbandes sonne a Cupborde a table a forme a quarne a fetherbed a bolster a blanket {e} a whyttell a payre of Shetes A Spyttte a Andyrone a bedhangyng A brasse pott It[e]m I gyve to **Audry cobden** my best kertyll It[e]m I geve to **Kathren {C}oll{ar}y** my ould kertyll a smoke a Rayle⁴⁶ It[e]m I geve to **margerye pecham** a sheate It[e]m I geve to **Alys {C}aye** my god doughter a sheate It[e]m I wyll to **william assherst** vjd It[e]m I wyll to **Rychard howeke** my god sonne vjd It[e]m I geve to **John fawkner** & to **margerye howeke**⁴⁷ eyther of them a Sheate It[e]m I geve to **Annys allys** & to **maude tast** eyther of them a pewther pla[-]ter It[e]m I geve to **margaret brycke** a brasse ketyll a spyttte a Can[-]vas shete It[e]m I wyll to **Johanne warden** a smocke a karcher It[e]m I geve to **kethren myl{i}sant** a smocke a Carcher a bedhangyng w[ith] paynted clothes round aboute the bed in the lowe chambre It[e]m I geve to **elizabeth topsell** a Canvas shete It[e]m I wyll the Resyd{w}e of all my goodes my debtes payed & legacyes fulfilled unto **John acton** whome I ordeyne & make my whole executor to sell my sayde goodes & household st{u}ffe to do for me and my frendes & pay my legacyes These beyng wytnes **Robert lacy william topsell** w[ith] {others}
S[um]ma In[vento]rij __ ixli xix {s} jd //
Ex[hibitum] in eccl[es]ia pa[ro]chiali de Rype xiiijo die aprilis Ann D[omini] 1559o p[er] exec[utor] ad valorem eiusdem iur[at]um

Inventory to the sum of £9 19s 1d

Exhibited in the parish church of Ripe the 13th day of April 1559 by the executor, sworn to the value of the same.

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 10th July 2021

⁴⁵ There is a scribble between ij and s – not clear if it's meant to mean something or is just a mistake.

⁴⁶ i.e. a cloak or similar.

⁴⁷ Could be howeke rather than howeke, both times.

// Page break in the original
[] Transcriber's note or addition
{ } Unclear or illegible text
[-] Word split between lines in the original

NOTES:

People

Margery Alys
Ellyn Salman
Margery Walshe
John Allys, husband
John Allys, son of husband
Audrey Cobden
Kathren Collary
Margery Pecham
Alys Caye, goddaughter
William Assherst
Rychard Howeke, godson
John Fawkner
Margery Howeke
Annys Allys
Maude Tast
Margaret Brycke
Johanne Warden
Kethren Mylisant
Elizabeth Topsell
John Acton
Robert Lacy, witness
William Topsell, witness

Places

Laughton

Relevant Events

There is no burial for Margery ALYS/ALCE at Laughton.

There is a burial for a John ALCE on 30 Apr 1618 at Laughton All Saints.

There is also a burial of a Denis [Denise] ALLSE, wife of John, on 20 May 1592.

There is a marriage for a John ALLSE and Eve AVERIE on 28 Oct 1593 at Laughton.

A baptism of an Allse ALLSE on 25 Jul 1596 at Laughton All Saints, daughter of John ALLSE.

And that is it, just snippets of the family that lived at Laughton.

Family Tree

None

5. Will of John Alse of Tarring Neville, 1565

(ESRO: PBT 1/6/3 (unregistered will) and PBT 1/1/5/238C (grant of probate or administration))

Made: 17 November 1564

Proved: 2 May 1565 [no year given but ESRO catalogue gives 1565]

FamilySearch: Film: 1885592; Image: 484

An[no] Domi[ni] 1564 the vj yere of the raigne of our Soferaig[n]e ladye Quene Elesabeth
In the name of god amen the xxvij daye of novembe[r] in the vj yere of the raigne of our
soferaigne ladye quene elesabeth by the grase of god quene of england franncce and I[re]land
Quene Defendur of the fayethe &c wytnesses that I **John Alse** in the p[ar]{h}es of toringe nevell
sicke in my boddye but good of rememberances make this my last will & testement in forme
foloinge first I be queye my soule to alle myghtye god my bodye to be burede in the churche yerde
of torinnge {&c} Imp[rimis] first I be queye to my sonne **John** a seime of whete It[e]m more I wil
and be queye to my sonne **John** ij seimes of barleye It[e]m more I wilbe queye to my sonne **John**
ij kyne more I will and be queye to my sonne **John** xxx shepp more If the saied wyfe of **John Als**
be w[i]th childe that saied childe m{u}st have on ~~ewe~~ cowe
{??} I the saied **John alse** do make my wyfe my full exsecutur of alle my goodes unbequethed &
the saied **John alse** will that his wyfe to paye alle Detes and Dutes that the saied **John alse** oweth
more I the saied John alse Do make my ov[er]seers **John thecher** **John webbe** in wytnes this will
be mye maide and beringe Date the xxvij⁴⁸ of novemb[r]
p[re]sent wytnes {h}es

John webbe

John thech[e]r

John alse of chilweke

willame woodde⁴⁹

p[er] me {Ant} garrawey

Probate: 2nd May [no year given but ESRO catalogue gives 1565]

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 25th January 2021

NOTES

People

John Alse, testator

John Alse, son

John Webbe, witness

John Thecher [Thatcher], witness

John Alse of Chilweke, witness

William Woodde [Wood], witness

Places

Tarring Neville

Relevant Events

Burial not found (only available from 1571).

⁴⁸ Definitely 27th at the top and 28th at the foot of the will.

⁴⁹ William Wood{e} is listed as the Rector of Tarring Neville c. 1554. No sign of a Garrawey.

<https://theclergydatabase.org.uk/jsp/locations/index.jsp>

John ALSE is likely the son of the William ALLYSE who died in 1559 and left a will (see “Will of William Allyse of Tarring Neville, 1559”), in which case, the witness John WEBBE would be his brother-in-law.

There is a John ALSE was buried 18 Jun 1573 at Tarring Neville St Mary [perhaps the son?]. Also, an Elizabeth ALSE was buried 14 May 1571 at Tarring Neville St Mary. There are no other ALCE/ALSE burials there until Catherine ALCE in 1885.

Regarding baptisms at Tarring Neville St Mary, there are four females baptised 1570-1573 with fathers William AUSE and Richard AUSE mentioned. This is probably another variant of the spelling ALSE/ALCE and indicates that there were a number of families at Tarring Neville at that time. The will of William ALLYSE, proved 1559, shows that William and Richard are younger brothers of John.

The presence of William WOODE as a witness is interesting in that a William WOODE married Mary PEERSE in 1606 at Beddingham, and Mary’s sister Jean PEIRCE married Thomas ALCE the younger in 1617 at Glynde (see “Will of Henry Peirce of Glynde, 1625” in Chapter 4).

The following may be relevant:

Title: Bond in £40

Date: 8 Oct 1586

ESRO: SAS/G 22/5

Description: John Heves of Beddingham, husbandman, to Thomas Walker of Beddingham, yeoman for good title, free from incumbrances and for further assurance of 4 acres of land in Beddingham and Tarring Neville (2 acres in Beddingham Mershe to lands of William Reynolds, E, **John Alce**, S, the common sewer, W and lands of John Roots, gent, N; the other 2 acres lying at the Horways to **John Alce**, E and N, Christopher Howell, S and the Norways, W), conveyed by JH to TW by deed of even date

Witnesses: Peter Towner, John Barunden, Thomas Carew, scrivener, William Foster

Family Tree

See Tree 6. “Alces of Bishopstone, East Blatchington, Eastbourne & Winchelsea” in Chapter 2.

6. Will of Joane Alse, widow of South Heighton, 1573

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/6/243B)

Made: 13 Jun 1573

Proved: 8 Dec 1573

Familysearch: N/A

In dei nomine amen The xiiijth daye of June Anno domini 1573 I **Joane Alse** of the parrishe of southe Hayton in the Countye of Sussex wydowe sycke of bodye but of good and perfyte remembrannce I prayse god for yt doo ordeyne and make thys my last will and present testame[n]t in manner and forme followinge That ys to saye Firste I com[m]end my Soule to Almightye god the mercy of Jhesus Chryste my only redemer and savyour and my bodye to be buried in the parrishe Church of Tarring for the {bury}inge⁵⁰ Whereof I gyve iij^s iij^d Item I gyve to the reparac[i]ons of the Church there xx^d Item I gyve to **Rychard Alyce** my sonne three Ewes and three Wethers Item I gyve to **Lawrence Alse** three Ewes and three Wethers Item I gyve to **Joane Adams** a lyttle brasse pottle and a sheete Item I gyve to **Alyce Luckas** a sheete and a blanket Item I gyve to **Joane Alse** the daughter of the forsaid **Richard** my best pettcoate Item I gyve to **Joane Alse** the daught[er] of the aforsaid **Lawrence** my r{u}sset frocke Item I gyve to the three children of **Wyllyam Adams** of Chalvington eche of them a Lambe Item I gyve to the wyfe of **Rychard Alse** my gowne Item I gyve to **Alyce** and **Elyzabeth** the two children of **Lawrence Alyce** to eche of them an Ewe Item I gyve to **Elizabeth Webb** a platter Item I gyve to **Robert Webbe** the youngar an Ewe Item I gyve {to} to **Robert Alyce** the sonne of **Wyllyam Alse** tenne shillinges which the sayd **Wyllyam** hathe of myne in hys kepinge The rest of all my goodes and Catteltes not before gyven and beqethed my debtes and Legacys firste satisfyed contended and p[ai]d I gyve and bequethe to **Roberte Webbe** of Denton my sonne in Lawe and to **Joane Webbe** my mayden equally to be devyded betw[e]ne them The whiche **Robert** and **Joane** I ordeyne and make my full Executors of thys my laste will and Testament and I appoynte **Wyllyam Walcot** of thys parrishe to be the trustys Overseer of this my laste will to whome for hys paynes in this behalfe I gyve ij^s Provided alwayes that whensoever the said **Robert** one of myne Executors shall departe this woulde // That then my {will}⁵¹ ys that th{e} {h???}syt⁵² which he hathe {by} thys will shall goe and remayne to **Alyce** hys wyfe And after the decease of the sayd **Alyce Webb** shall goe and remayne fully and Wholy to **Alyce Webbe** the daughter of **Elizabeth Webb** Wytnes herof **Thomas Goddall** writter herof and **Thomas Pycombe** {cum alios}⁵³

Probate: 8th December 1573 to Robert and Joan Webb executors. Inventory exhibited to the sum of £21 17s 7d.

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 24th April 2021

NOTES

People

Joane Alse, widow, testator

Richard Alse, son

Laurence Alse, son

Joane Adams

Alyce Luckas

Joane Alse, daughter of Richard Alse

⁵⁰ First part of the word obscured by bleed-through.

⁵¹ Bleed through affects the last part of the will, this word being illegible.

⁵² Last letter could be a c. The scribe's c and t are very similar.

⁵³ 'with others'

Joane Alse, daughter of Lawrence Alse
William Adams of Chalvington
Alyce Alse, daughter of Lawrence Alse
Elizabeth Alse, daughter of Lawrence Alse
Elizabeth Webbe
Robert Webbe the younger
William Alse
Robert Alse, son of William Alse
Robert Webbe of Denton, son-in-law, joint executor
Joane Webbe, her maiden, joint executor
Alyce Webb, wife of Robert Webbe
Alyce Webb, daughter of Elizabeth Webbe
William Walcot of South Heighton, overseer
Thomas Goddall, witness
Thomas Pycombe, witness

Places

South Heighton
Chalvington
Denton

Relevant Events

Burial not found (South Heighton burials gap 1546-1579).

John ALIS [ALICE/ALCE] buried 10 Jun 1602 at South Heighton St Martin (“at Bishopstone”).
Laurence AUCE [ALCE] buried 11 Feb 1589 at South Heighton St Martin.

Joane’s husband, William, left a will proved in 1559 (see “Will of William ALLYSE of Tarring Neville, 1559”).

Joane’s son-in-law, Robert WEBB, left a will proved 1577 (see Chapter 4). Robert’s will names none of his children, suggesting none may have survived, but does name all the children of his deceased brother, John Webb.

The maiden Joan WEBB named in the above will may be the daughter of John WEBB, and hence Joane ALSE’s granddaughter. A possible marriage for her is to John ADAMS on 12 Jul 1579 at Folkington. There is a burial of a Joan ADAMES on 17 Mar 1610 at South Heighton St Martin which may be her.

Alice WEBB, widow, married John BREADONE on 28 Nov 1579 at Denton. Alice is considered to be the widow of Robert WEBB.

Elizabeth WEBB married Edmund HUDSON on 15 Feb 1580/81 at Denton. Elizabeth is either the widow or daughter of John WEBB.

William ADAMS married Elizabeth PARKER on 20 Feb 1564/65 at Chalvington. He may have later married Elizabeth WOODE on 18 Jul 1578 at Tarring Neville. William ADAMES had two children baptised at Tarring Neville: Alexander 1569 and Abraham 1571/72.

Robert LUCAS married Alice ADAMES on 1 Jun 1571 at Tarring Neville.

Joan WEB buried 10 Jul 1611 at South Heighton St Martin (“wife of Robert”).
Thomas WEBB buried 7 Nov 1608 at South Heighton St Martin (“son of Robert”).
A few children baptised to father Robert Webb at South Heighton from 1594.
William WACOTT was buried 29 Sep 1593 at South Heighton St Martin (“at Bishopstone”).

Family Tree

See Tree 6. “Alces of Bishopstone, East Blatchington, Eastbourne & Winchelsea” in Chapter 2.

7. Admon of William Alse of Beddingham, 1591

(ESRO: PBT 1/3/2/122C)

Granted: 19 Jun 1591

[Eodem die]⁵⁴

Em[anavi]t Ad[ministraci]o bonor[um] Willm Alse dum
vixit de Bedingham def[unctus] Jane eius
Rel[i]c[t]a salvo &c Jurat {obligantur eod}
Jana Rel[i]c[t]a et Rogerus Chesh{e}re
de Brithelmston Bricklayer _____ l^h
et Launcelot {E}yldridge de Bedingham gen[er]osus [illegible]
In[ventariu]m est exhibitu[m] ad sum{am} ____ xxvj^{li} vj^s j^d

The same day

Adminstration of the goods of **William Alse** formerly of Bedingham, deceased, was granted to **Jane** his relict saving etc. sworn, the said **Jane** the relict and **Roger Chesh{e}re** of Brighthelmstone Bricklayer being bound in the sum of £50 and **Lancelot {E}yldryge** of Bedingham gentleman [illegible] Inventory exhibited to the sum of £26 6s 1d

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 15th April 2021

NOTES

People

William Alse

Jane Alse, wife, administrator

Roger Cheshire, bricklayer of Brighthelmstone, surety

Lancelot Eldryge of Beddingham, surety

Places

Beddingham

Brighthelmstone [Brighton]

Relevant Events

Burial not found as surviving Beddingham parish registers start at 1593.

There are some intriguing possible connections based on:

Roger CHESHIRE married Jane BEEFE on either 21 Oct 1560 or 20 Aug 1564 at Brighton (SFHG marriage index has both dates), and later, Eleanor BEEFE married Francis COOKE on 21 Nov 1638 at Brighton. Then in Tree 7, there is a Francis COOKE married Elizabeth ALCE at Southease on 18 Jun 1599, so it is possible that this William is an earlier generation of Tree 7.

Eleanor BEEFE was bap. 19 Apr 1612 at Brighton St Nicholas, daughter of John BEEFE.

Family Tree

William is possibly an earlier generation in Tree 7 or he could be William Alse (c1545-) in Tree 1 (or both!).

⁵⁴ Words partly obscured by what looks like a fault in the document scan, as with 'obligantur eod' below.

8. Admon of John Alse of Peasmarsh, 1591

(ESRO: PBT/1/3/2/114B)

Granted: 15 Apr 1591

Eod[e] die
Ema[navi]t Ad[ministraci]o bonor[um] Joh[ann]is Alse dum
vixit de Peasmershe def[unctus] Will[iel]mo
{C}o{l}er p[ro]x[imo] Consang_ salvo &c Jurat[us]
Oligantur idem Will[iel]mus Coler et
Georgius Burchett de ead[e]m yeoman ____ iii^{li}
In[ventariu]m est exhibitum ad ____ li^s

The same day⁵⁵

Adminstration of the goods of **John Alse** formerly of Peasmarsh deceased was granted to
William Coler next of kin saving etc. Sworn

The said **William Coler** and **George Burchett** of the same yeoman bound [in the sum of] £4
Inventory exhibited to [the value of] 52s

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 15th April 2021

NOTES

People

John Alse

William Coler, next of kin, administrator

George Burchett, yeoman, surety

Places

Peasmarsh

Relevant Events

John ALES was buried 1 Apr 1591 at Peasmarsh St Peter & St Paul.

Other

The following marriage may be relevent:

John ALYE of Burwash married Martha COAL at Mountfield, East Sussex on 18 Jul 1590.

This could be a second or third marriage for John ALYE because child "John ALYE, son of John",
was buried at Burwash on 8 Oct 1583 (no other burials there).

There is a William COLE bap. 18 Sep 1586 at Rottingdean St Margaret, baseborn daughter of Jane
COLE.

There is also a William COELL bap. 29 Aug 1576 at Alfriston St Andrew, no parents given.

Family Tree

None.

⁵⁵ Date not shown in this image. The following admon is dated 24th April 1591.

9. Admon of John Alse of Salehurst, 1592

(ESRO: PBT/1/3/2/141E)

Granted: 27 Jun 1592

xxvij Junii {1592}

Ema[navi]t Ad[ministraci]o bonor[um] Joh[ann]is Alse

dum vixit de Saleherste def[unctus]

Rutha eius Rel[i]c[t]e salvo &c Jurat[a]

obligantur eadem Relicta et Rich[ard]us

Bl{a}cke de Idem yeoman ____ xl^{li}

In[ventariu]m est exhibitum ad ____ xxix^{li} ij^s iij^d

27th June 1592⁵⁶

Adminstration of the goods of **John Alse** formerly of Salehurst deceased was granted to **Ruth** his relict saving etc. Sworn

The said relict and **Richard Blacke**⁵⁷ of the same yeoman bound [in the sum of] £40

Inventory exhibited to [the value of] £29 2s 3d

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 15th April 2021

NOTES

People

John Alse

Ruth Alse, wife, administrator

Richard Blacke, yeoman, surety

Places

Salehurst

Relevant Events

John ALS was buried 20 Jul 1592 at Salehurst St Mary.

Ruth ALS baptised 9 Jun 1583, daughter of John ALS, at Salehurst St Mary (probably a daughter of John & Ruth). Also Joan (17 May 1579), Abraham (6 Mar 1585/86).

The surname may have been later corrupted to ALY, ALYE or ALYS.

Family Tree

None.

⁵⁶ 1592 assumed – the year is partly obscured by a mark in the image.

⁵⁷ The a is atypical but this seems the most likely surname.

10. Admon of William Alse of Bishopstone, 1597

(ESRO: PBT/1/3/2/241C)

Granted: 18 Jun 1597

Decimo octavo Junij 1597

Emat ad[ministracionem] Bonorum Will[iel]mi Alse

dum vixit de Bishopstone def[unctus]

Alicie suis Rel[i]c[t]e salvo &c Jurat[a]

obligantur ead[em] Rel[i]c[t]a et Thomas Ellys

de Uckfeld {e} [illegible] ____ xl^{li}

In[ventariu]m ex[hibitu]m est ad sum[am] ____ xxix^{li} vijs^s iiij^d

Eodem die {dictus} [remainder of line illegible]⁵⁸

{Robert?} et Ellinore Alse liberis {def} vli apeece solvend fili{o}

aetatis xxj aut die {nuptiarem} {fili?} aetatis xvij [illegible]

vel die nuptiarem primo ad {venire} obligantur {??} supra

18th June 1597

Adminstration of the goods of **William Alse** formerly of Bishopstone deceased was granted to **Alice** his relict saving etc. Sworn

The said relict and **Thomas Ellys** of Uckfield ??? bound [in the sum of] £40

Inventory exhibited to the total of £29 7s 4d

The same day ???????

To **Robert** and **Eleanor Alse** children [of the deceased?] £5 a piece paying the son at the age of 21 or day of marriage, the daughter at the age of 18 ??? or day of marriage which shall first happen, bond [as?] above

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 16th April 2021

NOTES

People

William Alse

Alice Alse, wife, administrator

Robert Alse, son

Eleanor Alse, daughter

Thomas Ellys of Uckfield, surety

Places

Bishopstone

Uckfield

Relevant Events

There is a burial for a William ALSE at Bishopstone on 7 Feb 1593/94, but if correct, would mean there had been about a 3 year delay in getting the grant of administration. This burial is therefore thought to be for William ALSE the elder, whose existence is shown by Robert ALSE's baptism in 1591 at Bishopstone where his father is referred to as William ALSE the younger. It is likely that the 1597 burial was not recorded as there is only one entry in 1597 (in the SFHG burial index at least).

⁵⁸ Streaks across the image.

Although a baptism has never been found, it is highly likely that William ALSE the younger is the son of William ALSE the elder who is a beneficiary of the wills of Joane ALSE of South Heighton, 1573 and her husband William ALLYSE of Tarring Neville, 1559.

Robert ALCE was baptised 8 Aug 1591 at Bishopstone St Andrew, son of William ALCE the younger.

Helen ALCE was baptised 8 Feb 1594/95 at Bishopstone St Andrew, daughter of William ALCE. [Helen is probably meant to be Ellen, short for Eleanor]

There is a baptism of a Thomas ALCE on 7 Aug 1575 at Bishopstone, son of William ALCE, the father probably being William ALCE the elder.

Robert ALCE married Agnes OKENDINE on 20 May 1609 at West Firle.

Eleanor ALCE married Richard CHEALE on 10 Feb 1616/17 at West Firle.
(SFHG indexes)

Family Tree

See Tree 6. “Alces of Bishopstone, East Blatchington, Eastbourne & Winchelsea” in Chapter 2.

11. Will of John Alice the elder of Beddingham, 1615/16

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/15/75A)

Made: 22 November 1615

Proved: 2 January 1615/16

FamilySearch: Film: 1885787; Image: 398, 399

In the name of god: Amen: the xxijth of November Anno Do[mini] 1615 I **John Alice** thelder of Beddingh[a]m in the Countie of Sussex beinge sick and weake of Bodie, but of good & p[er]fect remembrance (thankes be unto almightie god, Doe ordaine and make this my last will & Testam[en]t in manner and forme followinge: followinge:⁵⁹ First I bequeith my soule into the handes of almightie god, and my bodie to the earth to be Christianlike buried in the Church of Beddingham aforesaid It[e]m I give & bequeith unto the poore of the same p[ar]ishe vs to [be]⁶⁰ paid unto them w[i]thin one q[uar]ter of a yeare next after my decease It[e]m I give & bequeith unto **Agnes Blaker** my daughters daughter fortie shillings to be paid unto her w[i]thin one whole yeare next after my decease: It[e]m I give & bequeith unto **Agnes Alice** my daughter fiftie poundes to be paid unto her w[i]thin one q[uar]ter of a yeare next after my decease: It[e]m I give & bequeith to my sonne **Thomas Alice** tenn poundes to be paid unto him w[i]thin one q[uar]ter of a yeare next after my decease, It[e]m All the rest of my goodes and Chattells not given nor bequeithed I give unto **Abraham Alice** my sonn whome I make my whole executor of this my last will and Testament, and I doe herby revoke all former wills & Testamentes: And doe make ov[er]seers to this my last will and Testament **Robert Alice** of Westfirse and **Andrew Baulcombe** of Glinde and give unto ech of them for their paines bestowed in and ^about^ the p[er]formance of this my will six pence a peece

John Alice his m[ar]k

Wittnesses unto the deliv[er]ry hereof

Richard Duntons m[ar]k

Andrew Baulcombe snr:

*Probate: 2nd January 1615/6 to **Abraham Alice** natural and legitimate son and executor.*

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 29th June 2021

NOTES

People

John Alice, testator

Agnes Blaker, granddaughter

Agnes Alice, daughter

Thomas Alice, son

Abraham Alice, son

Robert Alice of West Firle, overseer

Andrew Baulcombe of Glynde, overseer

Places

Beddingham

West Firle

⁵⁹ *Sic*

⁶⁰ Word not in the original.

Glynde

Relevant Events

John ALSE was buried 14 Dec 1615 at Beddingham St Andrew, "senior".

Family Tree

See Tree 1. "Thomas Alse senior of Beddingham" in Chapter 2.

12. Will of William Alse, Yeoman of Beddingham, 1618

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/16/162B)

Made: 1 February 1618

Proved: 23 May 1618

FamilySearch: Film: 1885788; Image: 354

In the name of God Amen I **Will[ia]m Alse** of the p[ar]ish of Beddingham in the Countie of Sussex within the Dioces of Chichester yoman beinge sick in body but of good and perfect remembrance (thankes be given to god) doe make and ordeyne this my last will and Testament in manner and forme followinge First I will and bequeath my Soule to Al[-]mightee God my maker and Redeemer and my bodye to be bu[-]ried in the Churchyard of Beddingham It[e]m I give to the poore of the parish of Beddingham afores[ai]d iij s iiij d It[e]m I give and bequeath unto **Joan Selme** my daughter vjs viij d It[e]m I will and bequeath to **Mary** the wife of **John Smith** and **Elizabeth** the ~~daught~~ wife of **Francis Cooke** my daughters to ech of them ten pounds to be paid within one year after my decease It[e]m I will and bequeath to the three Children of **John Alse** my sonn xxs to be equallie to be devided between them It[e]m I give unto the thre Children of **Francis Cooke** my sonn in law xxs to be equallie divided between them It[e]m I give and bequeath unto the three Children of **John Smith** my sonn in lawe xxs equallie to be divided between them It[e]m I give and bequeath unto **mary Selme** ~~my~~ daughter of **Joane Selme** my daughter vjs viij d The Residue of my goods and Chattels not given nor bequeathed I give and bequeath unto my sonn **John Alse** whom I make my sole executor of this my last will and Testament In witnes wherof I have set to my hand and seale the first of Februarie In the yeare of the Raigne of o[u]r Soueraigne Lord James by the grace of God Kinge of England Franncce and Ireland Kinge the Fiftenth and of Scotland the one and fifteth

Sign[u]m **Willmi Alse**

Sealed and signed in the presence of us

John Pettet⁶¹

Thomas Gurr

George Heal

Tho: [mark] {Dine}

*Probate: 23rd May 1618 to **John Alse**, son and executor.*

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 22nd January 2021

NOTES

People

William Alse, yeoman, testator

Joan Selme, daughter

Mary Selme, daughter of Joane Selme

Mary, wife of John Smith, daughter

Elizabeth, wife of Francis Cooke, daughter

John Alse, son, executor

John Pettett, witness

Thomas Gurr, witness

George Heal, witness

Thomas Dine, witness

⁶¹ Probably the writer of the will, going by the handwriting.

Places

Beddingham

Relevant Events

William ALSE was buried 4 May 1618 at Beddingham St Andrew.

Mary ALICE married John SMITH on 15 Jun 1606 at Lewes St Thomas at Cliffe.

Francis COOKE married Elizabeth ALICE on 18 Jun 1599 at Southease.

Granddaughter Mary SELME married Richard ALCHORNE on 24 Jul 1620 at Rodmell. Richard ALCHORNE is mentioned as a kinsman in the will of John ALCE of Alciston, proved 1642. John ALCE is the son and executor mentioned in the above will.

The following may be relevant:

Baydon v Alyce

Plaintiffs: William Baydon. Defendants: William Alyce alias William Alse and another.

Date: **1587-1591**

Reference: C 3/223/43

Short title: Baydon v Alyce.

Subject: property in Beddingham, Sussex.

Document type: [pleadings].

Held by: The National Archives, Kew

Family Tree

See Tree 7. "John Alce of Alciston" in Chapter 2.

13. Will of George Alice the elder, Yeoman of Beddingham, 1624

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/18/167B)

Made: 30 May 1624

Proved: 26 Jun 1624

FamilySearch: Film: 1885789; Image: 449

In the name of god Amen the thirteenth⁶² daie of Maye 1624 I **George Alice** of Beddingham thelder in the Countie of Sussex yeoma[n] beinge sick and weake in bodie But of good and p[er]fect remembran[n]ce (thankes be unto almightie god) doe constitute make and ordaine this my last will and testament in manner and forme followinge First I bequeith my soule unto almightie god and my bodie to the earth to be Christianlike buried in the Churchyard of Beddingham aforesaid Item I give unto the poore of the p[ar]ish of Beddingham five shillings to be paid unto them within one moneth next after my decease by my Executor It[e]m I give and bequeith unto **George Alice** my kinsman & godson two shillings six and to **Margaret Heriott** my goddaughter twelve pence It[e]m I give and bequeith unto **Marie Alice** *[word deleted]* my wif Tenn poundes to be paid unto her within one yeare next after my decease It[e]m I give more unto my wif one feather bedd furnished and the ioyned beddstedle and the greatest brasse kettle and one boorded Chest and two payer of the best sort of sheetes It[e]m I give and bequeith unto **Elizabeth Alice** my daughter fortie poundes to be paid unto her at the daie of her mariage or whenas she shall accomlishe the full age of one and twentie yeares which shall first happen It[e]m I give more unto her j flockbedd the best coverlett two blanckettes j feather boulster ij feather pillowes ij payer of sheetes to be delivered her at the daie of mariage or full age as abovesaid It[e]m I give and bequeith unto my sonn **Robert Alice** the Cubboord in the Haule the table and the forme in the same roome the Mault qu{a}rne It[e]m all the rest of my goodes and Chattells not given nor bequeithed nor bequeithed⁶³ I give unto my sonn **George Alice** *[deletion]* whome I make my sole executor of this my last Will and Testament and I ordaine and make Overseers of this my last Will **George Wenham** of Laughton my brother and **John Arcoll** of Beddingham and give unto either of them for their paines for to see th{is} my Will dulia p[er]formed six pence a peece

George Alice his m[ar]k

Read published and deliv[er]ed in the presence of **John ar{c}owl** and **Andr: Ba{u}lcomb{e}**

*Probate: 26th June 1624 to **George Alice**, son and executor.*

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 21st April 2021

NOTES

People

George Alice, yeoman, testator

Mary Alce, wife

Robert Alce, son

George Alce, son

George Alce, kinsman and godson

Margaret Herriot, goddaughter

Elizabeth Alce, daughter

George Wenham, brother[in-law?], overseer

John Arcoll, overseer

⁶² *Sic*

⁶³ *Sic*

John Arcoll, witness
Andrew Baulcombe, witness

Places
Beddingham

Relevant Events
George ALSE was buried on 5 Jun 1624 at Beddingham St Andrew (“sen.”).

The daughter Elizabeth ALCE is:
bap. 6 Apr 1606 at Beddingham St Andrew, daughter of George ALCE

Margaret HERRIOTT, spinster of Beddingham and Richard INGERFEILD, husbandman of Glynde, obtained a marriage licence on 1 Oct 1640 (South Malling Peculiar). She appears to have had an illegitimate daughter Margaret HEAREAT baptised 28 Oct 1629 at Beddingham suggesting a birth date circa 1610.

George Alce’s widow Mary Alce left a will proved 1636:
(ESRO: PBT/1/1/24/82B)
Made: 12 January 1635/36
Proved: 16 April 1636
Familysearch: Film: 1885822, Images: 877-8

Andrew BAULCOMBE was also a witness in 1621 to a transaction involving John Alce who left a will proved in 1642 (see “Will of John Alce of Alciston, 1642”):

Counterpart lease for 21 years at £120

Date: **14 Aug 1621**

ESRO: SAS/G 16/24

Description: John Gage, esq to **John Alce** of Beddingham, yeoman, and **Richard Alchorne** of Rodmell, yeoman

Alciston house and farm (described as before)

Additional rent of 240 bushels of wheat at the mansion house of Firle between 1 Nov and 25 Dec, and 240 bushels of barley between 1 Nov and 2 Feb, 8 gallons to the bushel

Witnesses: Simon Maxfeild, **Andrew Baulcombe**, Robert Lorkin

Creator(s): Gage family of Firle, East Sussex

See also the “Will of Henry Peirce of Glynde, 1625” for more references to Andrew BAULCOMBE.

Family Tree

See Tree 5. “George & Mary Alce of Beddingham” in Chapter 2.

14. Caveat of Martin Alse of Pett, 1626

(ESRO: PBT/1/3/5/249A)

Date: 17 Apr 1626

[in LH margin] Caveat Alse

Decimo septimo Die Aprilis Anno D[omi]ni 1626

Caveat ne quid fiat in Bonis &c Martini Alse nup[er] de

Pett defuncti nisi prius {fca_}⁶⁴ Intimac[i]o[nem] Johanni Arnold genero dicti defuncti Interesse
&c haben{te}

Caveat⁶⁵ Alse

17th April AD 1626

Be aware that in the matter of the goods etc. of **Martin Alse** late of Pett deceased unless
{elsewhere recorded} **John Arnold** gentleman has expressed an interest in the said deceased

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 16th April 2021

NOTES

People

Martin Alse

John Arnold, gentleman

Places

Pett

Relevant Events

Martin ALCE was buried on 29 Sep 1625 at Pett St Mary & St Peter.

Martin ALSE married Avis VENABLES, widow, on 21 Sep 1607 at Pett.

Avice ALCE was buried 6 May 1623 at Pett St Mary & St Peter (“wife of Martin”).

There are no ALCE/ALSE baptisms at Pett and no other burials.

Family Tree

None.

⁶⁴ I'm assuming *facta* (made)

⁶⁵ Formal warning

15. Will of Abraham Alce of Beddingham, 1629

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/20/167B)

Made: 16 May 1629

Proved: 14 July 1629

FamilySearch: Film: 1885821; Image: 395-396

The will of **Abram Alce** of beddingham May the xvjth day 1629

In the name of god amen first I bequeafe my soule to all mythy god and m{y} body to the earth whereof it was made and to bee beryed in the churchard of beddingham

my will and mening is that my exsaketer shall pay unto **an blaker** my sisters dafter f{iv}e ponne to be paid when she comes to the age of one and twenty yeares

I bequafe unto **Susan Beard** dafter of **an beard** my other sister five ponne to be paid when shee comes to the age of one an twenty yeares Itm I give unto **an beard** the dafter of **George beard** five ponne to be paid at her age of ane an twenty yeares

Itim I give ^unto^ **Thomas alce** the sune of **Thomas alce** my brother five ponne to be paid when hee comes to the age of one an twenty yeares Itim I give unto the poure of the parich of bedingham 3s 4d It[e]m I ordayne and make **Jone** my wife my sol exsaceter of all the rest of my goodes and chatteles shee paying all my detes ^and^ my finorale discharged and my lagyses paid It[e]m my will and mening is that my wife shall enioy my yard land called gyes so long as she lyveth but if ~~her~~ **an my dafter** doe happen to die without an ayre of har ^{wone}^ body lafully begotten then my will and mening is that my ^overseers or^ ther asines heare after named shall make sale of the same land called gi{u}es in the be half of **an blaker & susana beard & an beard & Thomas ealce & mary ealce & Richard alce** to be equally devided between those six childeren [word deleted] liwise my will and meaneing is that where as I have lent unto **georg heale** of bedingham the some of Fifty [words deleted] pound which is to be pay at three yares and ackording to the sarender or elce a parcel of land called the mor landes lying in furle [word deleted] shall bee to the yous of **J{o}ne** my wife as long as shee li{v}eeth but If **an my dafter** happen to dy without an ayre of her owne body [word deleted] lafully beegotten then my oversears shall make sale therof in the behalfe of **an blaker** dafter of **Thomas bleaker** of stening and **susana beard** and **an beard** dafter of **George Beard** of Rottingdene and **mary alce & Thomas ealce & richard alce** childeren of Thomas ealce {mi}⁶⁶ brother to bee equally devidded among the{s} six childeren and I apoynt **George Beard** of Rottingdene and **George ealce** of bedingham to be the overseares of my will and I give unto them for ther paines six shilinges 8d and if thay demand it

George Beard

John {W?}l{l}er⁶⁷

Georg {c}opper his marke

George ealce [mark]

Thomas ealce his mark

Probate: [image 396] 14th July 1629 to Joane Alce, relict and executrix.

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 22nd January 2021

NOTES

People

Abraham Alce, testator

Joane Alce, wife

⁶⁶ Word partially obscured by a fold in the paper.

⁶⁷ There's a tear in the paper – could be Weller/Waller or Walker [other records indicate probably Walker].

Ann Blaker, sister's daughter, daughter of Thomas Blaker/Bleaker of Stenning [Steyning]
Ann Beard, other sister
Susan Beard, daughter of Ann Beard and George Beard of Rottingdean
Ann Beard, daughter of George Beard of Rottingdean
Ann Alce, daughter
Thomas Alce, brother
Thomas Alce, son of Thomas Alce, brother
Mary Alce, daughter of Thomas Alce, brother
Richard Alce, son of Thomas Alce, brother
George Heale of Beddingham, mortgagee
George Beard of Rottingdean, witness, overseer
John Walker, witness
George Copper, witness
George Alce of Beddingham, witness, overseer
Thomas Alce, witness

Places

Beddingham
Stenning [Steyning]
Rottingdean

Relevant Events

Abraham ALSE was buried 23 May 1629 at Beddingham St Andrew.
Abraham ALSE married Joan SHOESMITH, widow, on 1 Dec 1628 at Beddingham.
Ann ALSE bap. 19 Apr 1629 at Beddingham St Andrew, daughter of Abraham ALSE,
Joan ALLICE, widow, married John STEDDALL on 10 Apr 1634 at South Heighton.

No baptism for Ann Blaker found, but there is the marriage of Thomas BLAKER and Mary GODSMARKE on 19 Nov 1618 at Steyning with baptisms for Edward, Mary & Mary following suggesting it might be a second marriage after his previous wife (Abraham's sister?) died.

George BEARD married Agnes ALSE on 25 Nov 1616 at Beddingham.
Ann BEARD bap. 5 Nov 1620 at Rottingdean St Margaret daughter of George BEARD.
Ann BEARD was buried 24 Sep 1621 (at Rottingdean St Margaret ("wife of George")).
Ann BEARD was buried 29 Jan 1627 (at Rottingdean St Margaret ("wife of George")).
George Beard of Rottingdean left an unregistered will in 1645 (ESRO: PBT 1/5/40). His burial has not been found due to gap in records during Civil War period at Rottingdean.

Abraham's brother Thomas ALSE is referred to as "Thomas Alse senior" in the parish records. He married Mary RELFE on 14 Jan 1618 at Denton, and they had three surviving children at the time Abraham wrote his will:

Mary ALSE bap. 26 Aug 1621 at Beddingham.
Thomas ALSE bap. 27 Jan 1624 at Beddingham.
Richard ALSE bap. 12 Aug 1627 at Beddingham.
Thomas Alse senior, yeoman of Beddingham, left a will proved on 5 Nov 1657.

Family Tree

See Tree 1. "Thomas Alse senior of Beddingham" in Chapter 2.

16. Will of Mary Alce, widow of Beddingham, 1636

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/24/82B)

Made: 12 January 1635/36

Proved: 16 April 1636

Familysearch: Film: 1885822, Images: 877-8

In the name of God Amen I **Mary Alce** of Beddingham in the Countie of Sussex within the diocesse of Chichester being sicke in body but of good and perfect remember[-]ance (thankes be given to God) doe make and ordaine this my last will and Testament in maner and forme following first I will and bequeath my soule to Almighty God my maker and redeemer by whose bloodshedding I hope to be saved And my body to be buried in the Churchyard of Beddingham aforesaide Item I will and bequeath and my mind is to bestowe unto my son **Georges daughter Elizabeth Alce** twentie poundes to be at her only use and benifit within on yeare after my disese and on Chest and to peyer of fine sheetes in that Chest standing in my Chamber at my soon **Robertes** house Item I will and bequeath unto my soon **Robert Alce** on Joynd bestedle and a featherbed in him with mat and Cord and to feather boulsters and to pillowes and three peyer of sheetes and too blankettes and on Coverlet and on great kete and on litle kete and on bellpostnet and all other my goodes that ar in my soon **Robertes** house Item I give unto my soon **George Alce** my ringe in my Chest at sowne⁶⁸ Item I will and bequeath unto the poore of the parish of Beddingham five shillings and I apoint my soon **George Alce** to be executor of this my last will and Testament in witnes whereof I have hereunto sett my hand the xijth day of Januarie 1635 in the eleventh yeare of the Reigne of our Sovereigne Lor[d] Charles Kinge of England Scotland France and Ireland defen[-]der of the faith &c the mark of **Mary Alce** sined in the p[re]sence of us

Tho: Younge

The marke of **Mary Fowle**

*Probate: 16th April 1636 to **George Alce** son and executor*

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 16th January 2021

NOTES

People

Mary Alce, widow, testatrix

Robert Alce, son

George Alce, son

Elizabeth Alce, daughter of son George Alce

Thomas Younge, witness

Mary Fowle, witness

Places

Beddingham

Relevant Events

Mary ALSE was buried on 5 Apr 1636 at Beddingham St Andrew (“widow ALSE”). Her maiden name was probably WENHAM as her husband’s will proved in 1624 mentions George WENHAM as his brother [presumably brother-in-law].

⁶⁸ *Sic.*

The granddaughter Elizabeth ALCE was bap. 30 Sep 1632 at Beddingham St Andrew, daughter of George ALSE

Family Tree

See Tree 5. "George & Mary Alce of Beddingham" in Chapter 2.

17. Will of George Alce of Beddingham, 1638

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/25/187(2))

Made: 17 November 1638

Proved: 1 December 1638

FamilySearch: Film: 1885823; Image: 480

Novem[ber] the xvijth 1638

In the name of God Amen I **George Alce** of Beddingham in the Countie of Sussex within the Dioces of Chichester doe make and ordaine this my last will and Testament in manor and forme following

Item I will and bequeath my soule into the handes of Almightye God my maker and redeemer and my bodie to be buried in the Churchyard of Beddingham

Item I make my daughter **Elizabeth Alce** my sole executor and doe will and bequeath my estate unto her

Item I give unto my Godsoon **George Alce** ~~vj~~ six shillings 8d

Item I give my servant **Joane Gimer** six shillings

Item I give unto the poore of Beddingham Twentie shillings

Item I give unto my Brother **Robert Alce** five pound to be peid him within twentie weekes after my desese

my will and meaneing is that if my daughter shall dye before she shall come to the age of one and twentie yeares or to the estat of marriage that then my Brother **Robert** shall have my estate and I would intreat my Ouncle **George Wenham** and my Brother **James Piper** to be my Overseeres to see this my will performed and I would intreat my Ouncle **wenham** to bring up my daughter untill she shall come to the Age of sixtene yeares and I doe allowe him foorteene pound ayeare to bring her up

and I doe give unto my to overseeres xx shillings apiece

Item I give unto my Coosen **George Alce** fower bushells of wheat

This is my will and meaning whereunto I have set my hand

The mark of **George Alce**

witnes

The mark of **Thomas Alce Jun[ior]**

The mark of **Amandus Dolton**

The mark of **John Shusmith**

*Probate: [image 481] 1st December 1638 before Mr Thomas Russell MA Surrogate etc. **Elizabeth Alce**, only daughter and executrix named in the will of the said deceased, is a minor and cannot lawfully be granted administration etc. Administration is therefore granted to **George Wenham** and **James Piper**, overseers named in the will, during her minority.*

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 22nd January 2021

Notes

People

George Alce, testator
Elizabeth Alce, daughter
George Alce, godson
Joane Gimer, servant
Robert Alce, brother
George Wenham, uncle
James Piper, brother [in-law?]
George Alce, cousin
Thomas Alce junior, witness
Amandus Dolton, witness
John Shusmith [Shoesmith], witness

Places

Beddingham

Relevant Events

George ALCE was buried 20 Nov 1638 at Beddingham St Andrew, (“junior”).
George ALSE married Ann GOWER on 19 Oct 1631 at Beddingham.
Elizabeth ALCE was baptised 30 Sep 1632 at Beddingham St Andrew.

George ALCE and his daughter Elizabeth ALCE are mentioned in the will of Mary ALCE, widow of Beddingham, proved 16 Apr 1636. Mary is George’s mother.

Mary GOWER [Ann’s sister?] married John BREADON on 12 Sep 1621 at Denton.
James PIPER married Mary BREADON [widow?] on 31 Oct 1624 at Denton.

James PIPER is probably: James Piper bap. 20 Feb 1596/97 at Bishopstone St Andrew, son of Judah Piper. Judah PIPER married Alice STERTE [START/STURT] on 8 Jun 1596 at Bishopstone.

Note: The marriage of George WENHAM and Joan BEANE on 14 Apr 1645 at Denton could be useful. The surnames BEANE and START are strongly connected to the East Blatchington area.

The cousin George ALCE may be the son of George ALCE and Margaret PAGE who was baptised in 1621 at Beddingham.

Family Tree

See Tree 5. “George & Mary Alce of Beddingham” in Chapter 2.

18. Will of John Alce of Alciston, 1642

(ESRO: PBT/1/5/366)

Made: 20 November 1641

Proved: 31 May 1642

FamilySearch: Film: 1885592; Image: 340

In the Name of God Amen The Twentyeth day of November In the yeare of o[u]r Lord God one thousand sixe hundred fortye an one I **John Alce** beinge of good and p[er]fect memorye thanks bee gyven to God Doe make and ordeine this my last will and Testament in writinge in manner and Forme followinge First I Com[m]end my Soule into the Hands of almighty God my Creator relynge onely on the merittes of my sole Savyour Jesus Christ [words deleted] for the remission of my Sinns and my body to the earthe to be buried accordinge to the Discrecion of my Executors hereafter named Item I gyve and bequeath unto the Poore of the p[ar]ish of Alciston the Som[m]e of twentye shillings and to the Poore of the p[ar]ishe of Beddingham the Som[m]e of twentye shillings to be distributed amongst them in and upon the day of my buryall It[e]m wheiras I am Gardian{n} to **Willyam Colvyll** my Grandchilde and have had and receyved divers Rentes and Som[m]es of Moneyes since the Death of his parentes belonginge to him and For that he is not capable asyet of accompt from me beinge under age and the said Rentes and Som[m]es of moneyes by me receyved may be lost or hee Defrauded theirow I have purchased the Copyhold landes late **George Heales** in Beddingham w[i]th the said Rentes and Som[m]es of moneyes had & Receyved by me of the said **Willyam Colvyll{e}** as his Gardian and beinge the said Rentes & Som[m]es of Moneyes by me receyved D{id} not amount and come to soe much as the Purchase cost and⁶⁹ came unto I have added the rest out of my owne Estate to make up the so[m]me of Fyve hundred and Fyfte poundes {so the} said Copyhold Landes w[i]th thapp[ur]tenances I have in open Cost Surrendered to the use & behoofe of **John Meere the younger** gentl[eman] and **Richard Alchorne** and to their Heirs for ever Nevertheles this Surrender was and is for this intent end and purpose that they the said **John Meere** and **Richard Alchorne** their Heirs or assignes or some of them shall Surrender the said Copyhold Landes w[i]th thapp[ur]tenances to **Willyam Colvyll** my Grandchilde and his heirs w[i]thin one Monenth⁷⁰ after he shall accomplish his full age of one and twenty yeares for the satisfactio[n] and payment of such Rentes Som[m]es of moneyes and other things had and receyved by Mee duringe my naturall life as his Gardian and due to be payed to the said **Willyam Colvyll** Soe as hee the said **Willyam Colvyll** doe agree w[i]th the Lord of the Mannor for the Heriott w[hi]ch shalbe due upon the said Surrender and save the said **John Meere** and **Richard Alchorne** and their & either of their Heirs harmeles from the same {?} And alsoe shall release unto my Executors or administrators all Debtes accomptes Recknings acc[i]ons and demandes whatsoever as in and by the said Sur[-]render it will and may appeare It[e]m wheiras I stand bounde unto **Willyam Hawes** of Uckfeild in a Bond obliga{tion} of C li for payment of Eight poundes p[er] annu[m] out of my Estate unto **Ann** my lovinge wife duringe her naturall life my will is that my Executors hereafter named shall quarterly pay the said Som[m]e of Eight poundes att thee Fower usuall Feastes or termes of the yeare unto the said **Ann** duringe her naturall life That is to say in and upon the Feasts of the Nativity of o[u]r Lord God thannunciac[i]on of the blessed virgin Marye Sct John Baptist and Sct Michaell Tharchangell by even and equall porc[i]ons The First payment to bein att w[hi]ch of the said Festes as shall first happen after my decease It[e]m I gyve and bequeath unto my said wyves thre Children **Richard Willyam and Margaret Carpenter** the Som[m]e of three poundes a peice to be payed to them w[i]thin Sixe moneths after my decease Item I gyve ^and bequeath^ to my Grandchilde **Richard Elphick** thee Som[m]e of tenn shillings It[e]m I gyve and bequeath to **John Chambers** my Grandchilde Fiftye poundes of currant money to be payed to **Richard Chambers** his Father w[i]thin Sixe Monethes

⁶⁹ *Sic*

⁷⁰ *Sic*

after my decease upon this hope and Confidence that the said **Richard Chambers** shall and Doe putt in such good securitye to my Executors hereafter named as they or the most part of them will accept of aswell to pay unto the said **John Chambers** the said Som[m]e of Fyfty poundes hereby bequeathed when he shall accomplish the age of one & twenty yeares as also to gyve & leave him the som[m]e of one hundred poundes more at the tyme of is death if he the said **John chambers** shall survyve his said Father It[e]m I gyve and bequeath to **John Smythe** and to his Heirs my my sisters sonne the Som[m]e of one hundred poundes of currant money to be payed to him by my Executors hereafter named w[i]thin a yeaere after y decease It[e]m I gyve and bequeath to **Elizabeth** the now wife of **Raphe Richardson** the som[m]e of Fyfty poundes of currant money to be payed w[i]thin sixe Monethes after my deceas It[e]m I gyve and bequeath to **Ann** there⁷¹ wife of **Richard Graybroke** and to her heyres the som[m]e of Fyfty poundes of currant money to be payed w[i]thin sixe Moneth{s} after my decease It[e]m I gyve to thee three Children of **Francis Cooke** and to the three Children of **Joane Frankwell** the now wife of **Hugh Frankewell** the som[m]e of Fyve poundes a peece to be payed into the handes of their severall parentes w[i]thin sixe monethes after my decease soe as the parentes doe gyve good security severally to my Executors hereafter named for the payment of the said severall legacies to the said severall Children at their several ages of one & twenty yeares or {day} [remainder of line obscured by a fold in the paper] as aforesaid Then his or her [word obscured] to remane and be to the Survvyvor or Survivors of the same lyvinge equally to be devyded It[e]m I gyve and bequeath to the Seaven Children of ^my^ kinsman **Richard Alchorne** now lyvinge the Som[m]e of Fyve poundes a peece to be payed into the handes of there Father w[i]thin sixe moneths after my decease by my Executors hereafter named and if any of them dye before they atteyne the age of one and twenty yeares then the legasye or legasyes to be equally devided amongst the Survvyvors It[e]m I gyve to thee Children of **George Alce** of the S{oun}de and the Children of **Willyam Alce** his Brother the Som[m]e of Fyve poundes a peece to be payed into the hands of their Fathers or Guardian w[i]thin sixe moneths after my decease by my Executors their parentes or Gardians gyveinge security severally to my Executors to pay unto their said Children their severall legasyes att their severall ages of one and twenty yeares or day of Marriage w[i]ch shall first happen and if any of the said **Georg Alce** [word deleted] Children dy before the tyme p[re]scribed then the legasye or legasyes to be equally divided amonge the Survvyvors and the said **Willyam Alce** his Children to be dealt with in the same manner It[e]m I gyve and bequeath to the thre Sonnes of **Thom[as] Hudson** of Mee{ch}inge borne unto him by **Susan Patchinge** the som[m]e of tenn poundes to bee equally devided amonge them and to be payed to the said **Thomas Hudso[n]** w[i]thin sixe Moneths after my decease hee gyveinge security to my // Executors for the payment of their severall legasyes to his said three Sonnes or Survvyvors of them at thee age of one and twenty yeares It[e]m I gyve and bequeath unto my lovinge Freind Mr **Henry Coby** twenty shillings It[e]m I gyve and bequeath to every one of my houshold Servantes three shillings fower pence and likewise to my Sheeheard⁷² **John Smyth John Bennett Willyam Gurr** and **John Weller thelder** to every of them three shillings and Fower pence And I doe nominate and make my lovinge Freindes **John Meere the younger** gent **Richard Alchorne** and **Richard Elphick** of Denton Executors in trust of this my last Will and Testament and I doe gyve to each of them Forty shillinges for their paines Desiringe them and every of them to take noe other benefitt of this my last will and Testament Their reasonable Costes and Chardges about the same deducted and onely allowed Lastly the rest of all my Good and Chattles my Debts Legacies and Funerall expences dischargd and First payed I give and bequeath to **Ann** my now wife **Willyam Colvyll Richard Elphick John Chambers** my grandchildren and **John Smyth** my Neph{u}e to be devyded by my Forenamed Executors equally amonge them In witnes wheir of I have hereunto sett my hand and seale the day and yeaere abovewritten
John Alce his merke

⁷¹ *Sic*

⁷² Not plural, but I would guess it applies to all of them.

Sealed Signed Read and publishes in the p[re]sence of
Thom Harison
Alexander Alchorne

*Probate: 31st May 1642 to **Richard Alchorne** and **Richard Elphicke**, executors, **John Meere** having renounced the burden of execution. [Probate describes the deceased as 'of Alciston'.]*

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 23rd January 2021

NOTES

People

John Alce, testator
Ann Alce, wife
William Colvill, grandson
George Heales of Beddingham
John Meere the younger, gent, joint executor
Richard Alchorne, kinsman, joint executor (and his seven children)
William Hawes of Uckfield
Richard Carpenter, son of Ann Alce
William Carpenter, son of Ann Alce
Margaret Carpenter, daughter of Ann Alce
Richard Elphick, grandson
Richard Elphick of Denton, joint executor
John Chambers, grandson
Richard Chambers, father of John Chambers
John Smythe, nephew, sister's son
Elizabeth Richardson, wife of Ralph Richardson
Ann Graybroke, wife of Richard Graybroke
Francis Cooke, his three children
Joan Frankewell, wife of Hugh Frankewell, her three children
George Alce of the Sounde and his children
William Alce, brother of George Alce, and his children
Thomas Hudson of Meeching and his three sons
Susan Patchinge, mother of Thomas Hudson's three sons
Henry Coby, friend
John Smyth, shepherd
John Bennett, shepherd
William Gurr, shepherd
John Weller the elder, shepherd

Places

Alciston
Beddingham
Uckfield
Meeching (Newhaven)
Denton
Sounde [in Beddingham]

Relevant Events

John ALCE's burial has not been found.

John ALCE married Ann CARPENTER on 20 Aug 1637 at Alciston. A marriage licence was issued 19 Aug 1637 and John ALCE is a yeoman of Alciston, and Ann CARPENTER is a widow of Uckfield (Archdeacons of Lewes). Sponsors were Richard Alchorne, yeoman of Alciston, and John Smith, tailor of Lewes.

Elizabeth ALCE married Josiah COLVEL on 10 May 1625 at Alciston.

Mary ALCE married Richard CHAMBER on 3 Mar 1621/22 at East Blatchington.

Richard ELFICKE married Elizabeth COLVILL, widow, on 27 May 1630 at Denton. A marriage licence was issued to them on 22 May 1630 in which Richard ELFICKE is described as a yeoman of Alciston and Elizabeth COLVILL a widow of Denton. Elizabeth would be the daughter of John ALCE the testator

William CARPENTER married Ann MILLER on 26 Apr 1620 at Uckfield. They had children Richard (1621/22), Margaret (1622) and William (1625/26). The husband William CARPENTER was buried 1 Apr 1626 at Uckfield Holy Cross.

Mary ALICE married John SMITH on 15 Jun 1606 at Lewes St Thomas at Cliffe. Mary ALICE would be the sister of John ALCE the testator.

Elizabeth SMITH and Ralph RICHARDSON received a marriage licence on 7 Feb 1639/40 (Archdeacons of Lewes). Ralph a shoemaker of Lewes and Elizabeth a spinster of the same parish. Elizabeth would be a niece of John ALCE the testator.

Ann SMITH married Richard GRASBROOKE on 19 Oct 1635 at Lewes St Michael. Ann would be a niece of John ALCE the testator.

Francis COOKE married Elizabeth ALICE on 18 Jun 1599 at Southease.

Joan COOCK married Hugh FRANKWELL on 6 Oct 1625 at Ringmer, both of this parish. Joan would be a niece of John ALCE the testator.

William ALCE is likely to be the person who married Joanna SLUTTER on 1 Nov 1614 at West Firle (the will says he has children). His brother George ALCE is therefore likely to be the person who married Margaret PAGE on 20 Sep 1612 at Beddingham (the will also says he has children).

The father of John ALCE the testator is William ALCE, yeoman of Beddingham, who left a will proved 23 May 1618. He mentions a granddaughter Mary SELME. Richard ALCHORNE Married Mary SELME on 24 Jul 1620 at Rodmell.

Counterpart lease for 20 years at 125

Date: 2 Jan 1623

ESRO: SAS/G 16/27

Description: John Gage, bt to **John Alce** and **Richard Alchorne** of Alciston, yeoman
Alciston Farm (dovehouse not excepted)

And 220 bushels of wheat and 220 bushels of barley

Creator(s): Gage family of Firle, East Sussex

Counterpart lease for 21 years at £120

Date: 14 Aug 1621

ESRO: SAS/G 16/24

Description: John Gage, esq to John Alce of Beddingham, yeoman, and Richard Alchorne of Rodmell, yeoman

Alciston house and farm (described as before)

Additional rent of 240 bushels of wheat at the mansion house of Firle between 1 Nov and 25 Dec, and 240 bushels of barley between 1 Nov and 2 Feb, 8 gallons to the bushel

Witnesses: Simon Maxfeild, Andrew Baulcombe, Robert Lorkin

Creator(s): Gage family of Firle, East Sussex

Copy or draft defeasance of lease

Date: 1 Feb 1613

ESRO: SAS/G 35/43

Description: John Gage of Firle, esq, and Robert Brooke of Frog Firle [in Alfriston], gent, Richard Elphicke of Alciston, yeoman, and Robert Alce of West Firle, yeoman

Lands, tenements, woods and woodground called Sternash, Lyngnash, Abbotts Woods and Deanland Coppice and the Plashett or Plashett Park in Alciston, Arlington, Selmeston, Ripe and Ringmer and lands, tenements and woodground called Sholvestrode Wood in East Grinstead, with all the wood on the premises, felled and unfelled or being coaled (except timber trees), and excepting the house called The Lodge in Plashett Park and a part of the park, not exceeding one third, for keeping 12 horses, to be set out by Richard Hoskyns, gent and John Gildridge, gent; also reserving wood for firewood and coal for JG's house in Firle, leased by JG to RB, RE and RA for 21 years at 19, 1 Feb 1613

To be void if JG should exonerate RB, RE and RA from all bonds in which they might be bound for any of his debts, or give sufficient security to save them harmless and should pay them 20s

Creator(s): Gage family of Firle, East Sussex

Conveyance (Feoffment) and bond in £90 from (a) Lancelot Fawkenor of Westmeston, yeo. (s. of Nicholas Fawkenor of Beddingham, dec'd.) to (b) Harbert Morley of Glynde, esq.

Date: 2 February 1608

ESRO: GLY 1446-1447

Description: Messuage lying in le Sound in Sounde

Beddingham; 1a. land adjoining; 3a. land in **le Sound** in a field called Hardikebanke, abutting S. on the lord's land, N.W. on the land of James Barber; 1a. land in the same field, abutting W. on the land of John Hyves, and E. on the land of James Barber.

Witnesses: **John [Alce]**, John Savage, Roger Pilkington.

Creator(s): Waleys family of Glynde Place, East Sussex; Morley family of Glynde Place, East Sussex; Trevor family of Glynde Place, East Sussex; Brand family of Glynde Place, East Sussex

Family Tree

See Tree 7. "John Alce of Alciston" in Chapter 2.

19. Will (nuncupative) of Thomas Alse, Yeoman of Tortington, 1648

(WSRO: STC I volume 21 page 263b)

Made: 3 November 1648

Proved: 30 November 1648 (Archdeaconry Court of Chichester)

FamilySearch: Film: 1068604; Image: 488

Memorandum That uppon the Third day of November Anno Domini 1648 & divers other times before **Thomas Alse** of the parrish of Tortington in the County of Sussex Yeoman being sicke & infirme in bodie but in good & p[er]fect remembrannce Did make & declare his last will & Testament nuncupative in the p[re]sence & hearing of **John Shelley** of the p[ar]ish of Tortington aforesayd in manner & forme in effect as followeth That is to say First he gave unto **Elizabeth** his wife Fiftie poundes of lawfull money of England Also hee gave unto his sonne **Thomas Alse** one hundred poundes of like lawfull money Also hee declared his will & meaning to bee that wheras hee had already settled his eldest sonne **henry Alse** in a living & had stocked it for him That that should bee his porc[i]on saying that hee thought it was ^as^ much as would rise to his share All the rest of his goodes & chattells unbequeathed hee gave unto **Will[ia]m Alse** his youngest sonne whome hee made his sole & whole Executor in Considerac[i]on that hee had lately s{o}ld away his Coppyhold land to the valew of Two hundred poundes [word deleted] w[hi]ch should have descended unto him the sayd **William Alse** [tha]t the same land had not been solde In witnes whereof the sayd **John Shelley** hath hereunto sett his hand [signature] **John Shelley**

*Probate: at Arundell, 30th November 1648 to **William Alse**, son and executor*

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 22nd January 2021

NOTES

People

Thomas Alse, yeoman, testator

Elizabeth Alse, wife

Thomas Alse, son

Henry Alse, eldest son

William Alse, youngest son, executor

John Shelley, witness

Places

Tortington [near Arundel]

Relevant Events

No burial found. There is a gap in the burials at Tortington 1641-1667.

The wife and children's names of Thomas Alse the testator fit perfectly with Thomas Alse of Beddingham (referred to as Thomas Alse junior in the Beddingham parish records). He was married three times and the last was:

Thomas ALSE and Elizabeth STOWELL (nee THOMAS), widow of Lewes, married at Beddingham on 24 Aug 1637.

Thomas had a previous marriage to Jean PIERCE in 1617 at Glynde with whom he had three children: Henry (1618), Thomas (1621) and William (1623). Henry was married in April 1648, just before this will was written, which fits with the statement in the will "*hee had already settled his eldest*

sonne **henry Alse** in a living & had stocked it for him That that should bee his portion saying that hee thought it was as much as would rise to his share”.

Lastly, there are documents in the ESRO catalogue which link a THOMAS family to property in Seaford, East Blatchington and Tortington (e.g. ESRO: AMS 7241/1/2 *Grant (Court for Probate) of administration with the will (5 February 1650) annexed of William Thomas of Westdean, esq, to his widow Katherine Thomas on the renunciation of the executors*). Thomas Alse’s third marriage to Elizabeth STOWELL (nee THOMAS) may explain the link to Tortington.

It is therefore proposed that this Thomas Alse, the testaor, was the Thomas Alse junior of Beddingham.

The son Henry Alse started a long line of Alces at Glynde.

Family Tree

See Tree 2. “Thomas Alse junior of Beddingham – Later the Glynde Alces” in Chapter 2.

20. Will of Thomas Alse the elder, Yeoman of Beddingham, 1657

(TNA: PROB 11/269/190)

Made: 30 April 1656

Proved: 5 November 1657

In the Name of God Amen, the thirtieth day of Aprill in the yeare of our Lord God one thousand sixe hundred fifty and sixe I **Thomas Alse the elder** of Bedingham in the Countye of Sussex yeoman being weake in bodye but of good and perfect memorie (God be praised) doe make and ordaine this my last will and Testament in manner and forme following First I willinglie and with a free heart render and give againe into the handes of my Lord God and Creator my spiritt which he of his Fatherlie goodness gave unto me when he first fashioned me in my mother's womb hoping most assuredlye through the onelie meritt of Jesus Christ my Saviour to be made partaker of life everlasting And my bodie to the earth from whence it was taken to be decently buryed at the discretion of my Executor hereafter named Item I give and bequeath unto **Richard Alse** my youngest sonne three shillings and fower pence of lawfull money of England To be paid by my Executor hereafter named within sixe monthes next after my decease Item I give and bequeath unto **Mary** my daughter nowe wife of **Richard Page of Hellingly** in the Countie aforesaid yeoman three shillings and fower pence of lawful money of England To be paid by my Executor hereafter named within sixe monthes next after my decease Item I give and bequeath unto **Richard** sonne of the said **Richard Page** one pewter platter marked with T. and A. To be delivered by my Executor hereafter named immediately after my decease Item All other my goodes chattells and cattell whatsoever not given & bequeathed my debts legacies and funnerall expences being paid and discharged I give and bequeath unto my eldest sonne **Thomas Alse** of Bedingham aforesaid whome I make sole Executor of this my last Will and Testament And doe ack. this to be my last Will and Testament in the presence of those whose name are hereunder written In witness whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and seale the day and yeare first above written **Thomas Alse** his marke Read sealed signed and acknowledged to be his last will and testament in the presence of **Richard Payne** his marke **Eadeth Payne John Hilder Scr**

This will was proved at London the fifth day of November in the yeare of our Lord God One thousand sixe hundred fiftye seven before the Judges for probate of wills and granting administartions lawfully authorised by the oath of **Thomas Alse** the sonne and Executor & To whom was grantted administration & he beinge first sworne by commission well and truly to administer

Transcribed by Geoffrey Barber, 16 January 2021

NOTES:

People

Thomas Alse the elder, yeoman, testator

Thomas Alse, eldest son, executor

Richard Alse, youngest son

Mary Page, daughter, wife of Richard Page of Hellingly

Richard Page of Hellingly

Richard Page, grandson

Richard Payne, witness

Eadeth Payne, witness

John Hilder, scrivener

Places

Beddingham

Hellingly

Relevant Events

There is a gap in the burial records for Beddingham between 1641 and 1673 and the burial has not been found.

Daughter Mary Alse was baptised 26 Aug 1621 at Beddingham.

Son Thomas Alse was baptised 27 Jun 1624 at Beddingham.

Son Richard Alse was baptised 12 Aug 1627 at Beddingham.

His son Thomas Alse/Alce married Mary Carter on 25 Jul 1654 at Chiddingly (Thomas of Beddingham). He was buried 6 Mar 1674/75 at Beddingham St Andrew and left a will (see “Will of Thomas Alse of Beddingham, 1675” in Chapter 2).

Conveyance for £11

Date: 23 Jul 1650

ESRO: SAS/G 22/9

Description: Thomas Oliver of Lewes, gent, to **Thomas Alce** of Beddingham, yeoman

One acre of land in Beddingham occupied by **Thomas Alce**, late the inheritance of Robert [Bertie], Earl of Lyndsey late deceased

Witnesses to livery of seisin: William Esen, **Richard Alse**

Creator(s): Gage family of Firle, East Sussex

Family Tree

See Tree 1. “Thomas Alse senior of Beddingham” in Chapter 2.

21. Will of William Alse, Husbandman of West Firle, 1661

(TNA: PROB 11/306/379)

Made: 21 October 1661

Proved: 30 November 1661

The last will and Testament of **William Alse** Batchelor late of West firle in the County of Essex Hus[-]bandman deceased by him made and declared on the one and twentieth day of Oct{o}b[e]r in the yeare of our Lord one thousand six hundred sixtie one he being then of good and perfect memorie and understanding [illegible] Hee did will and give to his brother **Thomas Alse** the sum[m]e of thirty poundes and a feather bed which hee himself then lay uppon and two pairs of sheetes a Be{a}dsteadle and what else belonged to it with this Provisoe that whereas hee had one acre of Land lying in Denton which hee thought // by Law would fall to his brother Thomas Alse his will and desire was and hee did then declare that hee did give the said acre of Land to his nephew **Joseph Alse** sonne to his brother **Henry Alse** of Glinde and in case that his brother **Thomas** should not agree it that his nephew **Joseph** should quietly enioy the acre of Land that then his brother **Thomas** should have only twenty poundes of the aforesaid thirtie and that his nephew **Joseph Alse** should have that other tenne poundes as a legacie which hee gave him in stead of that acre of Land Item hee did give and bequeath unto **George Alse** of West F{yr}le Husbandman being his kinsman twenty shillings and to **Mary Alse** with⁷³ to the said **George Alse** twenty shillings Alsoe hee did give and bequeath to the poore of West Firle five shillings and to the poore of Bedingham three shillings Alsoe hee did make Constitute ordaine and appointe his brother **Henry Alse** of Glynd in the County aforesaid husbandman sole and whole Executor of this his last Will and Testament to whome he gave and bequeathed all his goods and Chattells whatsoever together with his monie as due debts there being {wh}ent at the Declareing and acknowledginge of this his last Will and Testament diverse Credible wittnesses vizt **George Colvill** **George Alse** **Abraham Alse** of West Firle aforesaid who have hereunto set their handes **George Colvill** his marke **George Al{ic}** his marke **Abraham Alse** his marke

*Probate: London, 30th November 1661 to **Henry Alse** brother and executor*

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 16th January 2021

NOTES:

People

William Alse, bachelor, husbandman, testator

Thomas Alse, brother

Henry Alse, brother

Joseph Alse, nephew, son of Henry Alse

George Alse of West Firle, kinsman

Mary Alse, wife of George Alse

George Colvill, witness

Abraham Alse of West Firle, witness

Places

West Firle

Denton

Glynde

Beddingham

⁷³ *Sic.* Presumably 'wife'.

Relevant Events

Burial not found as parish records and bishop's transcripts are missing for this year.

A George and Mary Alce are mentioned as kinsmen in above will and they are possibly:
George ALCE of Heighton who married Mary AVERD (of this parish, at Seaford) on 9 May 1654 at Denton.

There may be more than one George Alce around at this time, as there is also a possible marriage of George ALCE to Elizabeth LOVER/LOWER/LOUER of Alciston, daughter of Thomas LOVER and Ann ADAMES (Thomas & Ann married 13 Jun 1614 at Alciston). Thomas LOVER left a will which mentions his daughter Elizabeth, wife of George ALSE of West Firle (Will of Thomas Lover weaver of Alciston, made 13 April 1663, proved 20 May 1673). A witness to the will was Richard ALCHORNE, a kinsman of the ALSE family (see Tree 7).

The date (1661) is too late for it to be the George & Mary Alce in Tree 5 (they died much earlier). However, George Alce bap. 1621 son of George Alce and Margaret Page (see Tree 4) is a candidate.

Family Tree

See Tree 2. "Thomas Alse junior of Beddingham – Later the Glynde Alces" in Chapter 2.

22. Will of Thomas Alse of Beddingham, 1675

(ESRO: PBT 1/1/34/50B)

Made: 4 March 1674/75

Proved: 20 Mar 1674/75

FamilySearch: Film: 1885871; Image: 15

In the name of god Amen : I **Thomas Alse** of Bedingham in the County of Sussex doe make my last will and Testament in form as followeth Imprimis I give and bequeath ^my soule^ unto almighty that gave it me⁷⁴ through the redention of my saviour Jesus Christ and my body ^to the earth^ to be buried in Christaian buriall Item I doe give and bequeath unto my brother **Richard Alse** five shillings Item I doe bequeath my lands and Chattells to be sold and my debts to be payd and the remainder of the moneyes to be equally devided between my four daughters **Ann : Elizabeth : Susanna : and Sara :** and my shoushold goods to be equally divided betweene my aforesayd four daughters : Item I doe apaint my afore named four daughters to be joynt Executors of this my last will and Testament Item I doe appoint my two trusty Freinds **Richard Page** and **James Carters** my to brothers in law to be my Overseers of this my last will and Testament and I doe appoint them to sell my ands and Chattels and to devide the moneyes equally betwene my four daughters before named as they sahl accomplish the age of one and twenty years of age and to provide for them till that time dated this fourth day of march one thousand six hundred seventy and four where unto I have set my hand and seale

Thomas Alse his mark

Wittnes here unto

Richard Elphicke

Wi{ll} Winton⁷⁵

Thomas Harrison

Probate: not recorded on the document. [20 March 1674/75 in the ESRO catalogue]

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 21st January 2021

NOTES

People

Thomas Alse, testator

Richard Alse, brother

Ann Alse, daughter

Elizabeth Alse, daughter

Susanna Alse, daughter

Sara Alse, daughter

Richard Page, brother-in-law

James Carters, brother-in-law

Richard Elphicke, witness

William Winton, witness

Thomas Harrison, witness

Places

Beddingham

⁷⁴ 'God' missed out.

⁷⁵ Partly obscured by an ink blot.

Relevant Events

Thomas Alce was buried 6 Mar 1674/75 at Beddingham St Andrew.

Thomas Alce married Mary Carter on 25 Jul 1654 at Chiddingly, "Thomas of Beddingham, Mary of the same parish".

Thomas Alce was baptised 27 Jun 1624 at Beddingham, son of Thomas Alce senior.

Richard Alce was baptised 12 Aug 1627 at Beddingham, son of Thomas Alce senior.

Mary Alce was baptised 26 Aug 1621 at Beddingham, son of Thomas Alce senior (possible wife of Richard Page mentioned in the will, although marriage not found).

See Beddingham manorial records in Chapter 4.

Conveyance for £30

Date: 17 Nov 1675

ESRO: SAS/G 22/18

Description: Richard Page of Wartling, yeoman, and James Carter of Ringmer, yeoman (devisees in trust for sale under the will of Thomas Alce of Beddingham, yeoman deceased) to Elizabeth Hockam otherwise Ansty of Amberly, spinster

1 1a of land in Beddingham late purchased by Thomas Alce of Thomas Oliver, gent [23 Jul 1650: SAS-G/22/9]

2 Two crofts of land in Beddingham called the Beane Garden and Daniells (11/2a)

W to livery of seisin: John Holland, William Upperton, William Page; John Crouch

Creator(s): Gage family of Firle, East Sussex

Conveyance (Feoffment) and bond in £90 from (a) Lancelot Fawkenor of Westmeston, yeo. (s. of Nicholas Fawkenor of Beddingham, dec'd.) to (b) Harbert Morley of Glynde, esq.

Date: 2 February 1608

ESRO: GLY 1446-1447

Description: Messuage lying in le Sound in Sounde

Beddingham; 1a. land adjoining; 3a. land in le Sound in a field called Hardikebanke, abutting S. on the lord's land, N.W. on the land of James Barber; 1a. land in the same field, abutting W. on the land of John Hyves, and E. on the land of James Barber.

Witnesses: **John [Alce]**, John Savage, Roger Pilkington.

Creator(s): Waleys family of Glynde Place, East Sussex; Morley family of Glynde Place, East Sussex; Trevor family of Glynde Place, East Sussex; Brand family of Glynde Place, East Sussex

Copy settlement (deed to lead the use of a fine)

Date: 18 Apr 1706

ESRO: SAS/G 22/23

Description: John Michell of Shipley, yeoman, and his wife Elizabeth, Thomas Holcomb of Cuckfield, yeoman, Thomas Uwins of Cuckfield, yeoman, and Thomas Dendy of Itchingfield, yeoman, in trust

1 a messuage, barns, buildings, lands etc called Perryers and Outlands otherwise Owlands (60a) in Shermanbury and West Grinstead, occupied by Richard Worstfold, (to a lane from Partridge Green to Shermanbury church, N and E, land called Reeds and Great Duskins, also N and land called Bynebrook and other lands called Outlands, S)

2 one acre in Beddingham purchased by Thomas Alce of Thomas Oliver, gent, and two crofts in Beddingham called Beane Garden and Daniels (1 acres), purchased by EM whilst sole as Elizabeth Hockam of Richard Page and James Carter

Witnesses to copy: Edward Virgoe, John Browne, 11 Apr 1720; Thomas Charles Medwin, attorney, Horsham and his clerk William Nelson, 21 Feb 1781
Creator(s): Gage family of Firle, East Sussex

Family Tree

See Tree 1. "Thomas Alse senior of Beddingham" in Chapter 2.

23. Will of Abraham Alce, Labourer of West Firl, 1683/84

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/36/144B)

Made: 16 December 1683

Proved: 5 January 1683/84

FamilySearch: Film: 1885904; Image: 468

In the name of God Amen; I **Abraham Alce** of Westfurll in the County of Sus[s]ex Labourour being sick and weake in body but of sound and perfect memory doo make this my Last Will and testament in manor and forme as followeth Item whereas I have surrendered and did surrender into hands of the Lord of the mannor of preston Poynings all my Coppy-hold Mesuaiges Lands tenaments and heriditaments whatsoever situate Lying and being in the parrish of Westfurll or elsewhere and holdeth of the said mannor to the onely use and behofe and to such p[er]son and p[er]sons as I the said **Abraham Alce** by my Last will and testament in writing should declare; my will therefore is and I doo hereby ~~declare~~ give and bequeath unto my grandchild **Abraham Holdredg** all that my Mesuage or tenament portland barne stable garden orchard backside with all and singulir the appurtinances thereunto belonging wherein I now Live and the same which I purchised to me and heiors of **Richard Whiting** situate Lying and being in Westfurll afors[ai]d and to the heiors of his body Lawfully begotten and for want of such heiors I give and bequeath the same unto My Nephew **Thomas Alce** sonne of my Brother **William Alce** and to his heiors for ever Item I give and bequeath unto my Loveing friend **John Bodle** those two peeces or parsels of Land Called Hawkins or by whatsoever other name the sam is Called or Known with all and singulir the appurtinances thereunto belonging and the same which I purchised to me and my heiors of **Edward Whitting** situate Lying and being in Westfurll afors[ai]d and to his heiors for ever provided nevertheless and upon this Condition notwithstanding that he the said **John Bodle** doo well and truly pay or Cause to be well and truly paid unto my grandchild **Abraham Woldredg** afosaid the full and Just summ of forty pound whensoever and so soone as he the said **Aabra[-]ham Woldredg** shall ataine unto the aige of one and twenty years and not before provided allsoand with this provisio notwithstanding that if it should so Chance that my said grandchild **Abraham Holdredg** afors[ai]d should dye before he ataine to the aige of one and twenty years then the s[ai]d **John Bodle** shall pay or Cause to be paid unto my Nephew **Thomas Alce** afors[ai]d or to his heires or asignes the summ of ten pound within one yeare after the decease of my said grandchild and To my Nephews **Thomas Broock** and **John Broock** the sonns of my sister **Mary Broock** five pound a peece (or to there heiors or asignes in Case thay or ether of them should dye before the Respective Legaices are dew and payable) in all twenty pound and no more and all and every of ^the^ summs afors[ai]d to be paid within one yeare after the decease of my said grandchild **Abraham Holdredg** Item I give more unto my said Nephew **Thomas Broock** all my weareing apparell and ten shillings in mony to be paid within one month after my decease Item I give and bequeath unto **John Bodle** afors[ai]d and to his heiors & asignes for ever all that my mesuage or tenament barne stable garden orchard backside with all and singulir the appurtinances thereunto belonging and the same which I purchised of **Francis Earle** smith situate Lying and being in Westfurll afors[ai]d upon the speciall trust and Confidence that he the said **John Bodle** or his heiors shall sell the same and pay or Cause to be paid so much out of the valew of the said p[re]mises in discharge of my debts and Legacyes as my p[er]sonall esteate will not amount to pay Butt if my p[er]sonall esteate be sufficient to pay my debts then I give the saide Lands and p[re]mises to him and his heiors Abselutely; And as for all the Rest of my goods and Chattels whatsoever I give and bequeath the same unto **John Bodle** aforsaid whome I doo hereby make and ordaine my whole and sole executor of this my will and I doo Likewise hereby make voide and Revoke all former Wills made by me; In witnes whereof to this my Last will and testament I the said **Abraham Alce** have sett my hand and seale the sixteenth day of Decem[ber] in the xxxvth yeare of King Charls the second over England: &c : Anoq[ue] Dom[ini] 1683
The Marke of **Abraham Alce**

Signed Sealed and published in the p[re]sents pf
John Shoobridg
the mark of **John Kew**
the mark of **John Young**

*Probate: 5th January 1683/4 to **John Bodle**, sole executor*

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 20th January 2021

NOTES

People

Abraham Alce, labourer, testator
Abraham Holdreg [Holdred], grandson
Richard Whiting
Thomas Alce, son of William Alce, nephew
William Alce, brother
John Bodle, friend
Edward Whiting
Abraham Holdreg/Wooldredg [Holdred], grandson
Mary Broock, sister
Thomas Broock, nephew
John Broock, nephew
Francis Earle, smith
John Shoobridge, witness
John Kew, witness
John Young, witness

Places

West Firle
Hawkins [at West Firle]

Relevant Events

Abraham ALCE burial not in SFHG burial index.

Elizabeth ALCE married Richard HOLDRED on 21 May 1679 at Hailsham. They had a son Abraham HOLDRED bap. 5 Sep 1680 son of Richard and Elizabeth.
Elizabeth HOLDRED was buried 21 Oct 1682 at Hailsham St Mary, "wife of Richard".
Abraham HOLDRID was buried 29 Aug 1684 at Hailsham St Mary.

From the above we can deduce that Elizabeth ALCE was daughter of Abraham ALCE, the testator. No marriage has been found for Abraham ALCE. It is possible that his wife's surname was WHITING, based on information in the above will.

In the will, Abraham ALCE mentions a brother William, a sister Mary and a nephew Thomas. Based on this it is likely that Abraham was baptised 13 Aug 1620 at West Firle, son of William ALCE. His sister Mary was baptised 12 Oct 1617 at West Firle, daughter of William ALCE. No baptism has been found for his brother William or the nephew Thomas.

The nephew Thomas ALCE would have been born about 1645-1660 during the Civil War period where there are no parish records at West Firle or Beddingham. It is proposed that this Thomas is the person who married Susanna BURROUGHS on 2 June 1678 at East Blatchington. The age would be about right and the naming of his children is consistent, including an Abraham ALCE baptised on 14 Apr 1691, his first male child after the death of the above Abraham ALCE in whose will Thomas was a significant beneficiary. Despite this being a “good fit”, further evidence would be helpful.

Family Tree

See Tree 3. “Thomas Alce, Yeoman Farmer of East Blatchington” in Chapter 2.

24. Will of Elizabeth Alse, widow of East Blatchington, 1685

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/37/9)

Made: 6 June 1684

Proved: 18 April 1685

FamilySearch: Film: 1885904; Image: 774

In the name of God Amen, the sixth day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred eighty and four and in the six and thirtieth year of the reign of our Sovraigne Lord Charles the Second by the grace of God of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, King Defender of the faith, I **Elizabeth Alce** of the parish of Bletchington in the County of Sussex widdow being weak in body but of sound and perfect memory (praise be given to God for the same) and knowing the uncertainty of this life on earth and being desirous to settle things in order do make, constitute, ordain and declare this my last will and testament revoking and making void all wills by me formerly made and declare and appoint this my last will and testament in writeing in manner and form following. First I commit my soul unto Almighty God my creator hoping that I shall receive full pardon for all my sins and be saved by the precious death and merritts of my blessed Saviour and Redeemer Jesus Christ and my body to the Earth from whence it was taken to be buried in such Christian manner as to my executor hereafter named shall be thought moot and convenient. Item I give unto my son **Henry Alce** one great joyned chest, two pieces of pewter one which is marked E.A. and another of the largest, one silver spoone of the largest, two payr of sheets one payr of them of the fine flaxen sheets and the other payr of middling ordinary sheets, one payre of holland pillowcases, two tablecloaths one of them a short fine tablecloth the other a good ordinary middling tablecloth. Item I give unto my daughter **Anne Bradford** and her husband **Robert Bradford** twelve pence a piece and to their daughter **Elizabeth** two shillings and sixpence to be paid within three months next after my decease. Item I give unto my daughter **Mary Alce** ten pounds of money to be paid unto her within five months next after my decease and my largest gold ring, four silver spoons not of the best nor the worst but as they shall arise, one downe bed, two downe pillowes and one downe bolster one flocke bed lying under him and flocke bolster and one feather bolster with one payr of blanketts and one coversett, one payr of the best green curtains, seven payr of sheets which are not in use to be taken according as they will arise, one fine holland tablecloth, one long fine tablecloth, three other ordinary tablecloaths, one long fine tablecloth, three ordinary tablecloaths, one long fine towell and five ordinary towells, two payr of the finest pillowcases, half a dozen of napkins, one of the diaper and one of them damaske the othe four of the new ones which are good, ten peices of pewter as large as they will arise out of my house one with the other and four cacers[?] two of the biggest sort and two of the smallest sort and halfe the iron things in the house to be equally divided between my said daughter **Mary** and my executor hereafter named. I also give my daughter **Mary** my biggest brass kettle and one little brass kettle, two brass skilletts, one warming pan, one iron dripping pan, four chests one of them a great joyned chest standing in the inward chamber under the window the other three as they shall arise, three joyned stooles two lowe square ones and one long one, one great press and the table and forme in the chamber, ten milke bowles, one charne, one dozen of white trenchers, two porringers and the newest pewter chamber pott, all my wearing apparel both linen and woollen and the box which it lyeth in. Item I give unto my sonn **Thomas Alce** all the rest of my goods cattell chattells and all my stocke of iron and coales in the shop and else where whatsoever whom I doe make and ordain fully whole and sole executor of this my last will and testament in witness where of I have here unto sett my hand and seale the day and year first above written. **Elizabeth Alce** her marke.

Memorandum, I also give unto my daughter **Mary** three peices of new cloath which I appointed for mysele, six pounds of flax tier(?) & a brass chafeing dish, one trundle bedstedle and a feather pillow with a new white tick(?) & one blankett

Sealed signed published and declared to be the last will and testament of **Elizabeth Alce** in the presence of **George Wood** his marke, **Joan Marten, John Marten**.

Probate 18 April 1685 **Thomas Alce** executor

Transcribed by Geoffrey Barber

NOTES

People

Elizabeth Alce, widow, testatrix

Henry Alce, son

Ann Bradford, daughter, wife of Robert Bradford

Elizabeth Bradford, daughter of Robert and Ann Bradford

Mary Alce, daughter

Thomas Alce, son

George Wood, witness

Joan Marten, witness

John Marten, witness

Places

East Blatchington

Relevant Events

Elizabeth ALSE the testatrix, was baptised Elizabeth BEANE on 13 Oct 1622 at East Blatchington St Peter, daughter of John BEANE and Joan LOCK. She married Robert ALCE on 26 Oct 1640 at East Blatchington. The BEANE family were very established at East Blatchington and go back well into the 1500s there.

The Will of John Alce of Alciston, 1642 mentions grandchildren John and Richard CHAMBERS. There is a connection between the BEANE and CHAMBERS families. Elizabeth BEANE's brother Thomas BEANE had a daughter Mary BEANE who married James CHAMBERS in 1674 at Denton. James CHAMBERS is the son of Richard CHAMBERS, grandson of John ALCE whose will was proved in 1642. Coincidence?

This might be relevent:

Original surrender, manor of Blatchington

Date: 31 May 1647

ESRO: SAS/DR 7

Description: Edward Honey of Ripe (by the acceptance of Humphrey Seaman and Robert Alse, tenants), to Samuel Brightredge of Eastbourne a windmill and one acre of land on condition that SB pays £80 to Nicholas Gilbert of Blatchington at his dwelling-house in Blatchington

Family Tree

See Tree 6. "Alces of Bishopstone, East Blatchington, Eastbourne & Winchelsea" in Chapter 2.

Elizabeth Bean's family tree:

The Bean family was a long established family in the East Blatchington area so Elizabeth Bean's family tree was explored to look for connections. Her family tree is given below. Although many of the Bean family left wills (as shown) they are not included in this book. At this stage, the tree is a work in progress and needs further work to verify some of the connections.

John Bean, b. c1565, bur. 1619 at E. Blatchington

+ **Eleanor Barrenden/Barnden**, bap. 1565 at Southease, m. 1589 at Southease, bur. 1616 at E. Blatchington

— **John Bean**, bap. 1588 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1626 at E. Blatchington, admon 1626

+ **Joan Lock**, b. c1590, m. 1610 at E. Blatchington

— **John Bean**, bap. 1612 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1659 at E. Blatchington

+ **Martha Seaman**, bap. 1623 at E. Blatchington, m. 1640 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1659 at E. Blatchington

— **Anne Bean**, bap. 1641 at E. Blatchington [see note below]⁷⁶

+ **William Daniel**, m. 1660 at E. Blatchington

— **John Bean**, bap. 1643 at E. Blatchington

— **Joan Bean**, bap. 1644 at E. Blatchington

+ **William Van**, m. 1668 at Herstmonceux

— **Martha Bean**, bap. 1647 at E. Blatchington

— **Thomas Bean**, bap. 1650 at E. Blatchington

— **John Bean**, bap. 1653 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1655 at E. Blatchington

— **Henry Bean**, bap. 1656 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1703 at E. Blatchington

+ **Elizabeth (--?--)**, m. c1680, bur. 1683 at Seaford

+ **Mary Savage**, b. c1660, m. 1684 at Alfriston, bur. 1689 at E. Blatchington

— **John Bean**, bap. 1685 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1720 at Litlington

+ **Susan Prodger**, m. 1716 at E. Dean

— **Elizabeth Bean**, bap. 1716 at E. Dean

— **John Bean**, bap. 1719 at Litlington

— **Henry Bean**, bap. 1687 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1763 at Seaford, pro. 1764

+ **Elizabeth Dunn**, b. c1690, m. 1713, bur. 1772 at Seaford

— **John Bean**, bap. 1715 at Seaford, bur. 1784 at Seaford

— **Elizabeth Bean**, bap. 1718 at Seaford

— **Thomas Bean**, bap. 1723 at Seaford

— **Henry Bean**, bap. 1723 at Seaford, bur. 1805 at Seaford, pro. 1805

— **William Bean**, bap. 1730 at Seaford

— **Ann Bean**, bap. 1735 at Seaford, bur. 1765 at Rye

— **Mary Bean**, b. 1689 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1689 at E. Blatchington

+ **Mary (--?--)**, m. c1690, bur. 1711 at Seaford

— **Thomas Bean**, bap. 1690 at Litlington

— **William Bean**, bap. 1696 at Litlington

— **James Bean**, bap. 1698 at Litlington

— **Robert Bean**, bap. 1703 at Litlington, bur. 1765 at E. Blatchington

+ **Jane Daw**, b. c1730, m. 1754 at Bishopstone

— **Thomas Bean**, bap. 1759 at Alfriston

— **Ann Bean**, bap. 1761 at Alfriston

— **Sarah Bean**, bap. 1762 at Litlington

— **Henry Bean**, bap. 1764 at Litlington

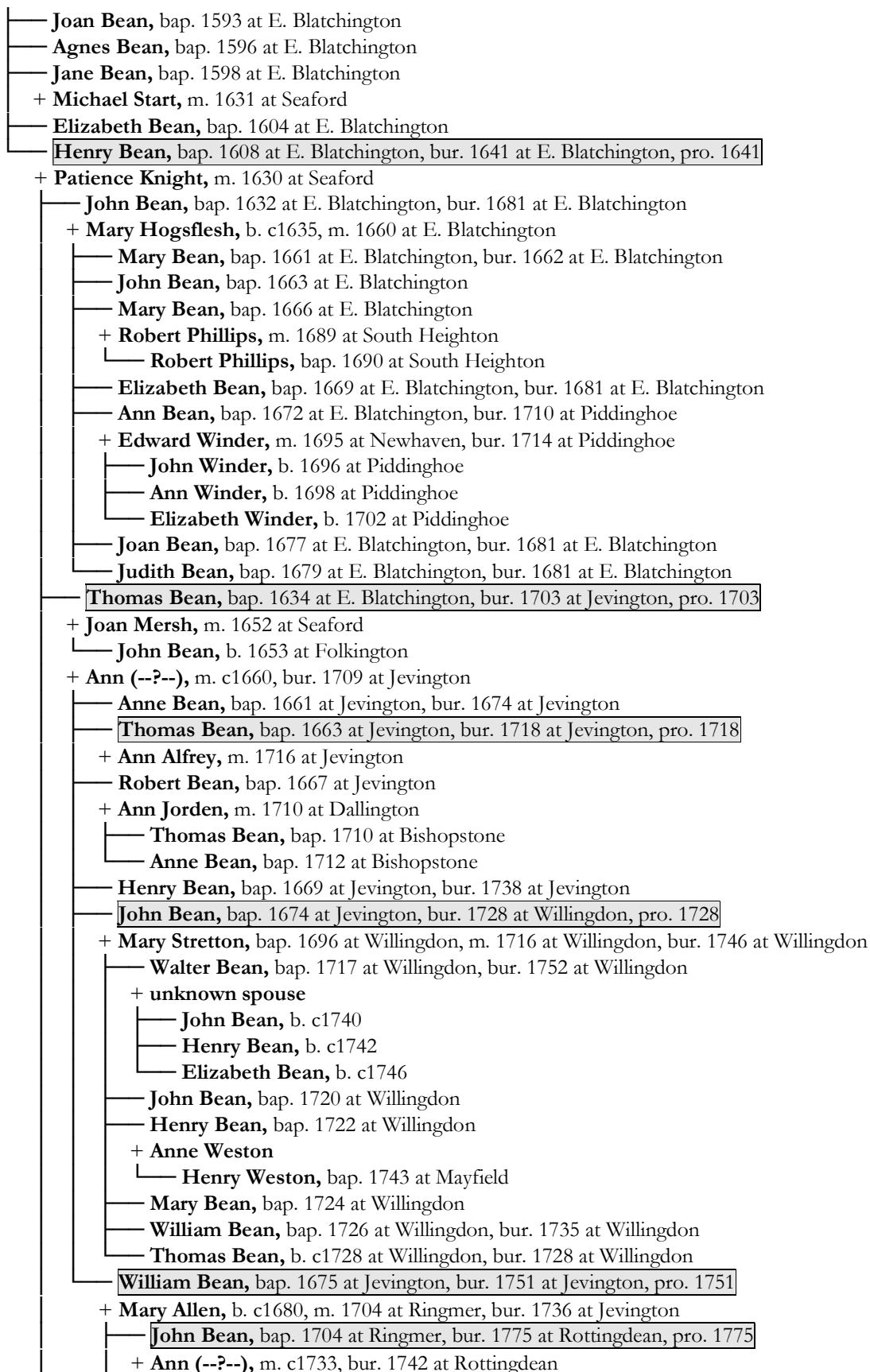
— **John Bean**, bap. 1765 at Litlington

— **Thomas Bean**, bap. 1617 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1679 at Seaford, pro. 1679

+ **Mary Taylor**, b. c1630, m. 1653 at Seaford, bur. 1711 at Seaford, pro. 1711

⁷⁶ Martha Seaman's mother Susan Seaman left a will proved 1677 in which Martha's married children are mentioned. Martha Seaman and her sister Margaret were beneficiaries of her grandfather Thomas Seaman's will proved 1639. Both Susan and Thomas were of East Blatchington.

- Ann Bean, b. c1654, bur. 1702 at Seaford
- + William Swaine, m. 1671, bur. 1685 at Seaford
 - Thomas Swaine, bap. 1673 at Denton
 - Mary Swaine, bap. 1675 at Denton, bur. 1678 at Seaford
 - William Swaine, bap. 1681 at Denton, bur. 1753 at Seaford
 - + Elizabeth Pettit, m. 1707 at Westham, bur. 1744 at Folkington
 - Richard Swaine, b. 1683 at Denton, bur. 1688 at Seaford
- Mary Bean, b. c1656, bur. 1681 at Seaford
- + James Chambers, bap. 1641 at Denton, m. 1674 at Denton, bur. 1682 at Denton
 - James Chambers, b. 1675 at Denton
 - + Sarah Willard, bap. 1678 at Chalvington, m. 1704 at Selmeston
 - Mary Chambers, b. 1677 at Denton
 - + John Young, b. c1665 at Beddingham, m. 1702 at Seaford, bur. 1719 at Seaford, pro. 1719
 - Anne Chambers, bap. 1678 at Denton, bur. 1679 at Denton
- Clement Bean, b. c1660 at Seaford, bur. 1731 at Seaford, pro. 1731
- Anna Bean, bap. 1620 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1620 at E. Blatchington
- Elizabeth Bean, bap. 1622 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1685 at E. Blatchington, pro. 1685
- + Robert Alce, bap. 1612 at West Firl, m. 1640 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1665 at E. Blatchington
 - Joane Alce, bap. 1641 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1665 at Bishopstone
 - Elizabeth Alce, bap. 1643 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1656 at E. Blatchington
 - Ann Alce, bap. 1644 at E. Blatchington
 - + Robert Bradford, m. c1670
 - John Alce, bap. 1646 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1646 at E. Blatchington
 - Robert Alce, bap. 1647 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1654 at E. Blatchington
 - Thomas Alce, bap. 1649 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1714 at E. Blatchington
 - + Susanna Glidd, b. c1665, m. 1688 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1724 at Newhaven
 - Robert Alce, bap. 1688 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1725 at E. Blatchington, pro. 1725
 - + Elizabeth Mabbs, b. c1690, m. 1713 at Pett
 - Elizabeth Alce, bap. 1694 at E. Blatchington
 - + William Munster, m. 1711 at E. Blatchington
 - John Alce, bap. 1651 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1668 at E. Blatchington
 - Edward Alce, bap. 1654 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1654 at E. Blatchington
 - Mary Alce, bap. 1656 at E. Blatchington
 - + John Harrison, b. c1660, m. 1686 at Chailey
 - Robert Alce, bap. 1659 at E. Blatchington
 - Henry Alce, bap. 1662 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1707 at Eastbourne
 - + Jane Holloway, m. 1689 at Eastbourne, bur. 1707 at Eastbourne
 - Thomas Alce, bap. 1689 at Eastbourne, bur. 1689 at Eastbourne
 - Thomas Alce, bap. 1691 at Eastbourne, bur. 1691 at Eastbourne
 - Mary Alce, bap. 1693 at Eastbourne, bur. 1774 at Eastbourne
 - Jane Alce, bap. 1695 at Eastbourne, bur. 1695 at Eastbourne
 - Ann Alce, bap. 1696 at Eastbourne
 - Henry Alce, bap. 1699 at Eastbourne, bur. 1765 at Eastbourne
 - + Elizabeth Puxty, b. 1702 at Lewes, m. 1726 at Eastbourne, bur. 1742 at Eastbourne
 - Elizabeth Alce, bap. 1701 at Eastbourne
 - + Richard Weller, b. c1700, m. 1726 at Eastbourne
 - Jane Alce, bap. 1705 at Eastbourne, bur. 1777 at Eastbourne
- Anna Bean, bap. 1624 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1624 at E. Blatchington
- Henry Bean, bap. 1626 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1629 at E. Blatchington
- Joan Bean, bap. 1590 at E. Blatchington, bur. 1590 at E. Blatchington
- Thomas Bean, bap. 1591 at E. Blatchington
- Alice Bean, bap. 1592 at E. Blatchington



- **Mary Bean**, bap. 1734 at Friston, bur. 1734 at Jevington
 - **Ann Bean**, bap. 1735 at Friston
 - **Mary Bean**, bap. 1737 at Friston
 - **Arabella Bean**, bap. 1739 at Rottingdean
 - **Barbara Bean**, bap. 1740 at Rottingdean
 - + **Martha Mills**, m. 1745 at Falmer, bur. 1776 at Rottingdean
 - **Anne Bean**, bap. 1706 at Ringmer, bur. 1738 at Eastbourne
 - + **James Maynard**, m. 1732 at Bishopstone, bur. 1750 at Eastbourne
 - **Mary Bean**, bap. 1708 at Ringmer
 - + **Nicholas Allen**, m. 1731 at Jevington
 - **William Bean**, bap. 1711 at Ringmer
 - **Thomas Bean**, bap. 1714 at Ringmer
 - **Barbara Bean**, bap. 1716 at Ringmer
 - + **Henry Playsted**, m. 1743 at Jevington
 - **William Playsted**, bap. 1748 at Jevington
- **Winifred Bean**, bap. 1637 at E. Blatchington
- + **Nicholas Austen**, m. 1669 at Framfield
- **Henry Bean**, bap. 1640 at E. Blatchington
- + **Agnes Start**, mlc. 1617

25. Will of Ann Alce, widow of Glynde, 1696

(ESRO: volume SM/D3 page 31)

Made: 26 Apr 1694

Proved: 14 Apr 1696 (Deanery of South Malling)

FamilySearch: N/A

In the Name of God Amen I **Anne Alce** of Glindborne within the parrish of Glind In the County of Sussex widd[ow] being weake and infirme in body but of Sound and perfect mind and memory Almighty God be praised therefore And for all other his blessings bestowed upon me Doe make and declare this my Last Will and Testament In manner and forme following (that is to say) First I give and bequeath my Soule to Almighty God my heavenly father stedfastly beleiveing through the Merritts of Jesus Christ my blessed Saviour to obtaine full pardon and remission of all my sinns and I committ my body to the Earth from whence it came to be decently buried att the discrec[i]on of my Executor⁷⁷ herein after named and touching the Worldly goods which god in his Mercy hath lent me I dispose thereof as followeth Inprimis I give and bequeath unto my sonn **John Alce** the sum[m]e of twelve pence of lawfull English money to be paid unto him by my Executors hereafter named within one month next after my decease (if he demand the same) I give and bequeath to my daughter **Anne Alce** one Feather bedd Two Joyne Stooles two Chestes and one part in three equall parts to bee divided of all my pewter Brass and Linnen, All which goods pewter brass and Linnen my Will and mind is shall be delivered to my Daughter **Anne Alce** by my Executors herein after named within one Months next after my decease Item I give and bequeath to my Daughter **Anne Alce** the full sum[m]e of Twenty five pounds of lawfull English money to be paid unto her by my Executors herein after named within six months next after my decease And in Case my Daughter **Anne** and my Executors herein after named shall not agree in the dividing of her part of houshold goods before named then my mind and Will is that Two Indifferent men one to be named by my daughter **Anne** and the other to be // named by my Executors hereafter named shall be Chosen to divide the same between them, and the other part of all my Stocke of Cattell Horses Hoggs Piggs Corne Husbandry Tackling and all other my goods Chattells Ready money Houshold Sugge and p[er]sonall Estate Wahtsoever (my debts Legacyes and Funerall Expences being first paid and discharged) I give and bequeath unto my Eldest Sonn **Joseph Alce** and to my younges⁷⁸ Sonn **Henry Alce** both **Joseph** and **Henry** whome I make and appoint Joynt Executors of this my last Will and Testament In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seale this Twenty Sixth day of Aprill 1694 (The marke of **Anne Alce**) Signed Sealed published and declared in the p[re]sence of **Hen: Johnson William Roberts**

*Probate: 14th April 1696 before **Mr Thomas Whalley** priest, surrogate, by the oaths of **Joseph Alce** and **Henry Alce**, executors.*

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 17th April 2021

NOTES

People

Ann Alce, widow, testatrix

Ann Alce, daughter

John Alce, son

Joseph Alce, eldest son, joint executor

Henry Alce, youngest son, joint executor

⁷⁷ Singular here but subesequently plural.

⁷⁸ *Sic*

Henry Johnson, witness
William Roberts, witness

Place

Glynde

Relevant Events

Burial not found (gap in SFHG burial index for Glynde).

Family Tree

See Tree 2. “Thomas Alse junior of Beddingham – Later the Glynde Alces” in Chapter 2.

26. Will of Henry Alce, Carpenter of Eastbourne, 1708

(ESRO: PBT 1/1/47/142)

Made: 9 Aug 1707

Proved: 9 Oct 1708

FamilySearch: Film: 1885948; Image: 437

In the Name of God Amen I **Henry Alce** of Eastborne in the County of Sussex Carpenter being Weake and Infirme in Body butt of p[er]fect mind memory and understanding praised be Almighty God for the same and being Desireous to Settle my Worldly affaires doe hereby revoake all former Wills by me made and Declare them void and doe make and Ordaine this my Last Will and Testam[en]t in Manner and forme following First and Principally I Desire God my Heavenly Father to receive my Soul through the Merritts of Jesus Christ my Savio[u]r and Redeemer and my Body to be in decent and Christian Mannor Buried And as for my Worldly Estate I Dispose of the same as follow[-]eth Impr[im]is I have Surrend[e]red All that my Messuage or Tenement with the Barne Close Garden backside and halfe an acre of Land thereto Adjoyning called Franckwells al[ia]s Francklines now in the Tenure and Occupation of **Samuel Gyles** or his Assignes And alsoe all that my new Erected Messuage formerly a Cottage and one rood of Land lying neer the other Tenem[en]t and now in my owne Occupation Holden of the Mannor of Pashley And alsoe all that Cottage or Tenem[en]t with the Barne Smiths Shopp foure Acres of Land and Cowleazes in Bletchington Holden of the Mannor of Bletchington in the said County to the use of my Last will p[ur]suant thereunto and by vertue of the said Surrend[e]r I doe Give and Devise All that Messuage or Tenem[en]t Called Franckwells al[ia]s Francklines with the Garden & Court thereto Belonging as itt now is in the Occupation of the said **Samuel Gyles** or his Assignes And alsoe all that my Cottage or Tenem[en]t with the Barne Smiths Shopp foure acres of Land and Cowleazes in Bletchington aforesaid unto my Loving Freinds **John Harrison** of Seaford in the County of Sussex Gent and **Thomas Willard** of Eastbourne in the said County of Sussex Gent and to the Survivor of them and their Heires in Trust that they Sell all the said pr[e]misses for the Best price and Rate they can gett for the same and Dispose of the money raised by Such Sale thereof in Such Manner as is herein after directed Item my Will is that My Messuage or Tenem[en]t wherein I Now dwell with the Barne Workehouse Closes Garden and Croft thereto belonging And all other my freehold and Coppyhold Lands in Eastborne aforesaid or Elsewhere nott herein before Given away and Disposed of shall Discend unto my Son **Henry Alce** under the Limittac[i]ons aftermenc[i]oned (that is to Say) that my aforesaid Loveing freinds **John Harrison** and **Thomas Willard** and the Surviv[o]r of them and his Heires shall bee Guardians unto my said Son and receive the rents and p[ro]fitts of the said pr[e]misses until hee shall Attaine his Age of one and Twenty years // And out of the said rents and profitts Shall Pay for my Son **Henry's** fine on Admitting him to the Coppyhold Land and the residue of the said Money to bee by them Applied and Disposed of as herein after is Menc[i]oned Item I Give and Bequeath unto **Robert Alce** the sum[m]e of Ten Pounds of Lawfull English money to bee paid him att his Age of four and Twenty yeares or sooner after the expirac[i]on of his Apprenticeshipp in Case hee shall Sett upp and use the Trade of a Carpenter on his owne Accompt Item I give and Bequeath unto my Daughters **Elizabeth** and **Jane Alce** the sum[m]e of one Hundred pounds apeece of Lawfull English money to bee paid them by my Ex[ecu]tors att their Severall Dayes of Marriage of Ages of one and Twenty years w[hi]ch shall first happen over and above what I give their other Sisters they having nothing left them by my Late Brother in Law **Thomas Copper** dec[ease]d Item All the rest and residue of my goods Chattells Cattell and p[er]sonall Estate w[ha]tsoever and wheresoever I give and Bequeath unto my aforesaid Loveing freinds **John Harrison** and **Thomas Willard** Gentlemen who I doe Hereby make nominate Constitute ordaine and Appoint Ex[ecu]tors of this my will upon Speciall Trust and Confidence in them reposed that they Sell and Dispose of the Coppyhold Messuages Lands and Tenem[en]ts herein before Devised to bee Sold and receive the rents and proffits of my said Son **Henry Alces** Estate w[hi]ch discends to him and Collect ^in^ my Debts and Dispose

of my p[er]sonall Estate and with the money raised by Sale thereof in the first place pay my Debts Legacies and funerall expences and the residue of the said money made and raised as well by Sale of my said Lands as p[er]sonall Estate my will is shall bee by them putt out att Interest for the Benefitt of My said Children as aftermenc[i]oned (that is to say) that the rents of my said son Henrys Land and Interests of the money Shall be by them Applied for the Breeding upp and Edducateing of all my children in Such Manner as my said Ex[ecu]tors and my Sister **Mary Harrison** shall ^think^ most propper for my said Childrens benefitt and after they are all bread upp and Educated the money remaineing in my Ex[ecu]tors hands my will is shall bee Equally Divided Between my four Daughters **Mary Alce Ann Alce Elizabeth Alce and Jane Alce** Share and Share alike Item I give unto my said Executors **Thomas Willard and John Harrison** the sum[m]e of five pounds a peece of Lawfull English money over and above their Charges and Expences they shall bee att in Mannageing the Executorship and Trust I repose in them // And Lastly my will and Desire is that if my Eldest Daughter **Mary Alce** shall Desire to p[ur]chase the House in the Occupation of **Samuel Gyles** that my Ex[ecu]tors shall nott Sell the same untill shee Attaine her Age of one and Twenty years or her porc[i]on become Payable and then that Shee shall have itt att a moderate price butt nott to Sell it for much Lesse then the reall value ^thereof^ soe as to prejudice the other Children Item I give unto My Loveing Sister **Mary Harrison** the wife of the s[ai]d **John Harison** the sum[m]e of Twenty shillings to buy her a Gold ring to wear in Remembran[ce] of mee In Wittnesse whereof I have to this my will Conteyned in three Sheets of Paper Sett my hand and Seale to each sheet this Twenty Ninth day of August in the sixth Yeere of the reigne of o[ur] Sovereigne Lady Anne by the grace of God Queen of Great Brittain France and Ireland Defender of the faith &c Annoq[ue] D[omi]ni 1707

Henry Alce

Signed Sealed Published and Declared in the p[re]sence of us who Subscribed o[ur] names as Wittnesses in the Testators p[re]sence

William Marton

George Davis

Thos Rowe Junr

*Probate: 9th October 1708 to **John Harrison** one of the executors; power reserved re **Thomas Willard**.*

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 19th January 2021

NOTES

People

Henry Alce, Carpenter, Testator

Samuel Gyles, tenant

John Harrison of Seaford, gent, joint executor

Thomas Willard of Eastbourne, gent, joint executor

Henry Alce, son

Robert Alce [not mentioned as a son, possibly his nephew born 1688]

Mary Alce, eldest daughter

Ann Alce, daughter

Elizabeth Alce, daughter

Jane Alce, daughter

Thomas Copper, late brother-in-law

Mary Harrison, sister, wife of John Harrison

William Marton, witness

George Davis, witness

Thomas Rowe junior, witness

Places

Eastbourne
Seaford

Relevant Events

Henry ALICE was buried 6 Sep 1707 at Eastbourne St Mary.

Henry ALCE married Jane HOLLOWAY on 22 Jan 1688/89 at Eastbourne.

Jane ALICE was buried 23 Jul 1707 at Eastbourne St Mary ("wife of Henry").

Henry ALCE, the testator, is considered to be the son of Robert ALCE and Elizabeth BEANE, who was baptised 22 Jan 1662 at East Blatchington.

Mary ALEICE married John HARRISON on 11 May 1686 at Chailey.

The Robert ALCE mentioned in the will is not mentioned as Henry's son, and there is no baptism for him at Eastbourne (unlike all the other children). The will mentions that he has not reached the age of 24 years and that he is in an apprenticeship as a carpenter. It is possible that he is the Robert ALCE bap. 14 Nov 1688 at East Blatchington, son of Henry's brother Thomas ALCE and Susannah GLIDD.

The reference to daughters Elizabeth and Jane ALCE having nothing left to them by Thomas COPPER can be explained by the fact that Thomas COPPER was buried 18 Sep 1705 at Eastbourne St Mary and he left a will made on 27 Feb 1700, before Elizabeth and Jane were born (and so they could not have been named in his will). His will was proved on 19 Oct 1705 ("Thomas COPPER of Eastbourne, saddler, ESRO: PBT 1/1/46/87). According to Henry ALCE's will, Thomas COPPER was his brother-in-law, but no information has been found yet to show a connection.

There would appear to be a distant connection to Thomas WILLARD. His daughter Sarah WILLARD married James CHAMBERS in 1704 at Selmeaton. James was the grandson of Thomas BEANE whose sister Elizabeth BEANE married Robert ALCE in 1640 at East Blatchington. Henry ALCE, the testator, is their son..
(SFHG indexes)

Family Tree

See Tree 6. "Alces of Bishopstone, East Blatchington, Eastbourne & Winchelsea" in Chapter 2.

27. Will of Thomas Alce, Yeoman of East Blatchington, 1718/19

(ESRO: PBT 1/1/50/80A)

Made: 31 December 1718

Proved: 7 March 1718/19

FamilySearch: Film: 1885994; Image: 326

In the name of God Amen, I **Thomas Alce** of Blatchington in the County of Sussex, yeoman, being sick and weak but of sound mind and memory, praise be Almighty God, therefore do make and ordayne this my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I commit my soul unto the hand of Almighty God my Savior hoping through the mercy of Jesus Christ to have pardon of all my sins and my body I commit to the earth to be decently buried at the discretion of my executor hereafter named and as for my real estate I give and devise as followeth. Item: I give all that my yard land in Beddingham with the appertenance their unto belonging unto my eldest son **Thomas Alce** and his heirs forever. Item: I give unto my son in law **William Milton** one shilling to be paid him within one year after my decease. Item: I give unto **Susana, wife of John Hide**, one shilling to be paid her at the time above said. Item: I give unto **Mary Alce**, my daughter, three pounds to be paid her within one year after my decease. Item: I give unto my second son, **Abraham Alce**, the sume of three pounds of lawfull money of Great Brittain to be paid him at the above said. Item: I give unto my daughter, **Margaret Alce**, the sum of three pounds of like lawfull money. Item: I give unto **John Alce**, my youngest son, when he comes to the age of one and twenty years, the sum of ten shillings. Item: All the rest of my real estate that came to me by my loving wife **Susana Alce**, that is to say the cottag in Blatchington and the yard land with appertenance their unto belonging and also the free hold cottag in the liberty of Seaford I will and bequeath unto **Susana Alce**, my loving wife, to dispose at her will and pleasure after my decease to such of my children as she shall think fitt by her last will. All the rest of my personal estate I give and bequeath unto my loving wife **Susana Alce** whom I make sole executrix of this my last will and testament in witness here of I have here unto set my hand and seal this one and thirtieth day of December 1718.

The mark of **Thomas Alce**

Witness: **John Cooper, John Farncomb, Sam Younge**

[Latin] 7 Marty 1718 Jurat **Susanna Alce** executrix etc.

Transcribed by Geoffrey Barber

NOTES

People

Thomas Alce, yeoman, testator

Susanna Alce, wife, executrix

William Milton, son-in-law

Susanna Hide, wife of John Hide

Mary Alce, daughter

Abraham Alce, second son

Margaret Alce, daughter

John Alce, youngest son

John Cooper, witness

John Farncomb, witness

Samuel Younge, witness

Places

East Blatchington
Seaford

Relevant Events

Thomas ALCE was buried 5 Feb 1718/19 at East Blatchington St Peter.

Thomas ALCE married Susannah BURROUGHS on 2 Jun 1678 at East Blatchington St Peter.

There were two Thomas and Susanna ALCE families in East Blatchington at this time and it is impossible to differentiate them using just the parish register. The fact that two baptisms occur just a few months apart in both 1688 and 1694 indicates separate families rather than a remarriage. However, it is the Thomas ALCE will above (proved on 7 March 1718/19) listing his children which enables the two families to be differentiated. It would appear that the other family (Thomas ALCE and Susannah GLIDD) left East Blatchington about 1694 to 1700 although Thomas was returned for burial in 1714 (noted as "of Newhaven").

The evidence that Robert ALCE and Elizabeth BEANE are the parents of the Thomas ALCE who married Susanna GLIDD in 1687 is as follows:

1. Thomas ALCE who married Susanna GLIDD was a [black]smith (from children's baptisms).
2. His mother Elizabeth ALCE's will refers to her "stocke of iron and coale in the shop" as would be expected in a blacksmith's workshop.
3. The first two children of Thomas ALCE and Susanna GLIDD were named Elizabeth and Robert.

It is interesting to note the property which came to Thomas Alce via his wife Susanna Burroughs. She appears to have been the only surviving child of Ralph and Margaret Burroughs, who buried three male children in 1659 at East Blatchington.

Family Tree

See Tree 3. "Thomas Alce, Yeoman Farmer of East Blatchington" in Chapter 2.

28. Will of Robert Alce of Newhaven, 1725

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/52/34)

Made: 24 May 1725

Proved: 26 Jun 1725

FamilySearch: Film 1885996; Image: 55

In the name of God Amen I **Robert Alce** of Newhaven being sick and weak in body but of sound and perfect Mind and Memory doe make and ordain this my Last will and Testament in Manor following First I will my soule to Almighty God who gave it me and my body I will to be decently buried att the discretion of my Executrix hereafter Named : and as for my wordly Goods I give and dis[-]pose of in manor following (Viz)

First I Give unto my Loving wife my two small tenements or Cottages Situate Lying and being in the Parish of Newhaven in the County of Sussex which I have lately surrendered into the hands of the Lord of the Manor by the acceptance of two of the Customary tennants of the said Manor to the use of this my Last will and Testament : These my said Tenements or Cottages I Give to my said Loveing wife during her Natural Life or So Long as she shall Remain a widdow and then my mind and will is that after her decease or Marriage that my Chlldren then Living Equally divide the said tenemen[ts] or Cottages as they shall best be sold att : Further more my mind and will is [tha]t **Cornelius Humphrey** of Newhaven Gent would aid and asist my Loving wife in the manageing and bringing up my Chlldren and if it please God she should die before my youngest Child be att the full age of one and twenty years then my mind and will is that the said Mr Humphrey shall take Care of my said Chlldren

Lastly I Nominate and appoint **Elizabeth** my Loving [word(s) blotted out] wife to be sole Executrix of this my Last will and Testament and I doe hereby revoke and disanull all former wills by me made in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this present four and twentieth day of May in the year of our Lord one Thousand seven Hundred and twenty five : sealed and delivered in the presence of us

Jno Cooper

[signature] **Robert Alce**

Mary Harrison her marke

Ann Butler her marke

*Probate: 26th June 1725 to **Elizabeth Alce**, executrix.*

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 19th January 2021

NOTES

People

Robert Alce, testator

Elizabeth Alce, wife, executrix

Cornelius Humphrey, gent

John Cooper, witness

Mary Harrison, witness

Ann Butler, witness

Places

Newhaven

Relevant Events

Robert ALCE was buried 27 May 1725 at East Blatchington St Peter.

Robert ALCE married Elizabeth MABBS on 12 Nov 1713 at Pett.

Robert's baptism is considered to be 14 Nov 1688 at East Blatchington, son of Thomas ALCE and Susanna GLIDD.
(SFHG Indexes)

Family Tree

See Tree 6. "Alces of Bishopstone, East Blatchington, Eastbourne & Winchelsea" in Chapter 2.

29. Will of Joseph Alce, Yeoman of Glynde, 1728

(ESRO: PBT/2/1/6/87B)

Made: 13 Nov 1727

Proved: 17 Feb 1727/28 (Deanery of South Malling)

FamilySearch: Film: 1067010; Image: 301

In the Name of God Amen I **Jos: Alce** of Glynd in the County of Sussex Yeoman being sick in Body but of a Sound Disposeing mind and memory praised be God therefore Doe make and ordaine this my last Will and Testament in Writing in manner and forme following First and principally I Commend my Soul into the hands of Almighty God my Creator and Redeemer hoping and assuredly Trusting for Eternall Salvation thro' the Merits Death and Passion of Jesus Christ my blessed Saviour and Redeemer And my Body I Committ to the Earth to be decently buried and Interred at the Discretion of my Executors hereafter named And do dispose of my personall Estate Goods Chattells Stock and Corn as followeth (that is to say) In the first place I give and bequeath unto my Eldest Daughter **Susanna** now the Wife of **William Brackpool** of the Parish of Glynd in the County aforesaid Yeoman the Sum[m]e of Forty pounds of lawfull money of England to be paid to her by my Executors in Twelve Months after my decease And likewise I Give and bequeath unto my Second Daughter **Anne** the Sum[m]e of Forty pounds of lawfull money of England to be paid to her by my Executors in Twelve Months after my decease And I also Give and bequeath unto my Youngest Daughter **Eliz:** the sum[m]e of Forty pounds of lawfull money of England to be paid to her // by my Executors when she shall come to the age of Twenty Years or otherwise in Twelve Months after my decease And all the Over plus of my personall Estate Vizt Houshold Goods live Stock and Money &c That Shall be left after my Debts and Legacies and funerall Charges be paid and discharged, I Give and bequeath to be Equally Divided between my two Sons **William Alce** and **Henry Alce** whome I do Constitute ordaine and appoint Equally together my Sole Executors of this my last Will and Testament Containing one Side of a Sheet of paper Have hereunto Sett my hand and Seal this Thirteenth Day of November in the Year of our Lord God One Thousand Seven hundred and Twenty Seven (**Joseph Alce** his Mark) Signed Sealed published and declared by the Testator as & for his last Will and Testament Revoking and Renouncing all former Wills by him, In the presence of us whose names are hereunto Subscribed as Witnesses & afterwards attested by us in the presence of the Testator **Willm Watts Senr John Godden Wm Watts Junr**

*Probate: 17th February 1727/8 to **William Alce** one of the executors; power reserved re **Henry Alce** the other executor.*

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 18th January 2021

NOTES

People

Joseph Alce, yeoman, testator

Susanna Brackpool, eldest daughter, wife of William Brackpool

Anne Alce, second daughter

Elizabeth Alce, youngest daughter

William Alce, son

Henry Alce, son

William Watts senior, witness

John Godden, witness

William Watts, junior, witness

Places
Glynde

Relevant Events

Joseph ALS was buried 22 Jan 1727/28 at Glynde St Mary the Virgin.
His wife was buried on 31 Mar 1722 at Glynde St Mary the Virgin (“wife of Goodman Alce”).

Susan ALCE married William BRACKPOOL on 23 May 1727 at Berwick (“both of Glynde”).
Mr William ALS married Mrs Mary WATTS on 30 Nov 1740 at Glynde.

Lease for 11 years at an annual rent of £25 from John Morley Trevor of Glynde, esq., to Joseph Alce of Glynde-bourne in Glynde, yeo.

Date: 1 January 1703

ESRO: GLY 1903

Description: Glyndebourne Farm (50a.) described much as in GLY 1898.

Creator(s): Waleys family of Glynde Place, East Sussex; Morley family of Glynde Place, East Sussex; Trevor family of Glynde Place, East Sussex; Brand family of Glynde Place, East Sussex

Letter of direction

Date: 16 Jan 1712

ESRO: SAS/G 31/107

Description: Benjamin Wood to Henry Alce and George Read at West Firle, to attorn tenants to William Hamsher for lands held of BW in West Firle and to deliver possession WH

Endorsed: attornments of HA and GR, 19 Jan 1712

Creator(s): Gage family of Firle, East Sussex

Mortgage for £100 with bond

Date: 8 Nov 1704

ESRO: SAS/G 31/89-90

Description: Benjamin Wood of Lewes, bricklayer, to Roger Holmewood of Iford, yeoman

1 Premises in SAS-G/31/88, occupied by Henry Alce

2 A messuage, garden, orchard and a close of 1r at Wick Street in West Firle (E: lane called Cant Lane; S: land of Thomas Medley, gent, and Richard Paine, gent; W: Cobey's Cottage; N: Wick Street), late the possessions of Joseph Yokehurst and before his father William Yokehurst, occupied by George Reede

W: Thomas Isted, Thomas Short

Creator(s): Gage family of Firle, East Sussex

Abstracts of former leases of Glyndebourne Farm

Date: 20 Dec 1762

ESRO: GLY 3045

Description: includes abstract of a lease of Glyndebourne Farm: 9 Mar 1688, Elizabeth Trevor and Joseph Alce [Als], 1 Jan 1703, John Morley Trevor to Joseph Als and 1 May 1731, trustees of John Morley Trevor to William Als; part of GLY 3036-3074

Creator(s): Waleys family of Glynde Place, East Sussex; Morley family of Glynde Place, East Sussex; Trevor family of Glynde Place, East Sussex; Brand family of Glynde Place, East Sussex

Family Tree

See Tree 2. “Thomas Alse junior of Beddingham – Later the Glynde Alces” in Chapter 2.

30. Will of Susanna Alce, widow of East Blatchington, 1730

(ESRO: PBT 1/1/53/180B)

Made: 30 December 1723

Proved: 16 December 1730

Familysearch: Film: 1885997, Image: 398

In the name of God Amen **Susana Alce** of Bletchingto[n] in the County of Sussex widow being of Sound Mind & Memory thanks to God for the Same Do; Make & ordaine this my last will & testament in Man[n]er & forme following Vist; First I com[m]it My soule into the hands of God that gave it; Hoping through the Meritts of Jesus Christ to have pardon of Al my sins My Body I comitt to the E{a}rth to be de[-]cently buried at the discrestion of My Executors hereafter to be Named Item; I give & devise un[n]to my Second Son **Abraham Alce** al that my Mesuage & Tenement of Land with the appurtenances in Seaford to him & his Heires for ever; Item I give & Devise unto my Younger Daughter **Margerett Alce** Al that Mesuage of Copyhold Land that I late Surrendered to the use of my will to her & her Heires forever Item I give unto **Mary wife of David Holder** one shilling to be pa[i]d withing one yeare after my Deceas'd; Item I give unto my Daughter **Susana wife of John Hide** the Sum of one Shilling to be paid within one yeare after my Deceas'd; Item I give unto my Son-in-Law **William Milton** one shilling to be paid within one yeare after my Deceas'd Item I give & devise unto my Younger Son **John Alce** al the rest & residue of My Coppyhold Land in Bletching to him & his Heires for ever All the rest of my personal Estate goods & Chattells what Soever I give unto my two sons **Thomas Alce & Abraham Alce** ^whom^ I make Sole Executors of this my Last will & Testament In witness hereof I have set my hand & Seale this thir{tt}eth day of Dece[m]b[e]r Anno Domini 1723

Susana Alce her marke

Sined Sealed & published to be the last will & Testament of **Susana Alce** In the pre[-]sents of us

James Newman

John D{u}nstal

Edw: Boys

Probate: 16th December 1730 to Thomas Alce one of the executors, power reserved re Abraham Alce the other executor. Goods sworn not exceeding £20.

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 16th January 2021

NOTES

People

Susana Alce, widow, testatrix

Abraham Alce, second son, joint executor

Margaret Alce, youngest daughter

Mary Holder, wife of David Holder

Susana Hide, daughter, wife of John Hide

William Milton, son-in-law

John Alce, youngest son

Thomas Alce, son, joint executor

James Newman, witness

John Dunstal, witness

Edward Boys, witness

Places

East Blatchington
Seaford

Relevant Events

Susanna ALCE was buried on 11 Nov 1730 at East Blatchington St Peter (“widow”).

Susannah BURROUGHS married Thomas ALCE on 2 Jun 1678 at East Blatchington. Thomas ALCE left a will probated on 7 Mar 1719 (ESRO: PBT 1/1/50/80C).

Daughter Margaret ALCE had an illegitimate daughter, Ann ALCE baptised 25 Oct 1720 at East Blatchington and buried there on 1 Nov 1720. The father was identified as John BURCHETT. Margaret died a few months before Susanna but is mentioned in the will because it was made much earlier in 1723.

Family Tree

See Tree 3. “Thomas Alce, Yeoman Farmer of East Blatchington” in Chapter 2.

31. Will of William Als, Yeoman of Glynde, 1762

(ESRO: PBT/2/1/8/213)

Made: 10 Apr 1762

Proved: 12 Nov 1762 (Deanery of South Malling)

FamilySearch: Film 1067011; Image: 114

In the Name of God Amen I **William Als** of Glynd in the County of Sussex Yeoman being of sound mind & memory praised be Almighty God do make & ordain my last Will and Testament in manner & form following resigning my Soul to the hands of God who gave it through the Mediation of my Redeemer and my body to the Earth to be decently interred at the discretion of my Executrix & Executor hereinafter named and as touching my temporal Estate I dispose thereof as followeth First I will & direct that all my just Debts shall be satisfied by my Executors Also I give and bequeath unto my Sons **Joseph Als & Henry Als** the Sum of Forty Pounds a peice of lawfull Money of Great Britain to be paid them respectively at their several Ages of ~~One and~~ twenty ^one^ Years Also I give & bequeath unto my Son **John Als** the Sum of Seventy Pounds of like lawfull Money part of which to be paid him in order to pay as by Agreement ^ **Mr Robert Plumer in the Cliff** for teaching him the Trade of a Grocer as his Apprentice & the remainder to be paid him at the Age of twenty one Years Also I give ^& bequeath^ unto my Son **Thomas Als** the Sum of ninety Pounds of like lawfull Money part of which I will that my Executors apply towards putting him to learn some honest Trade or Occupation & the Remainder to be paid him at the Age of twenty one Years All the rest & residue of my Goods & Chattels Personal Estate & Effects whatsoever (after my just Debts & Legacies aforesaid & the Costs of proving this my Will are fully paid) I give & bequeath unto my wel-beloved Wife **Mary** and my son **William Als** equally between them share & share alike And I constitute & appoint my said Wife & my said Son **William** joint Executrix and Executor of this my last Will & Testament And lastly I hereby revoke all former Wills by me made // In Witness whereof I the said **William Als** the Testator to this my last Will & Testament have set my hand and seal the tenth day of April in the second Year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third ~~by the Grace of God~~ of Great Britain France & Ireland King Defender of the Faith and in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred & sixty two **Wm Als** (S) Signed sealed published & delivered by the said **William Als** the Testator as his last Will & Testament & attested by us whose names are subscribed in the presence of the said Testator & of each other **Ann Easton. Tho. Davies**

*Probate: 12th November 1762 to **Mary Als and William Als**, executors*

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 18th January 2021

NOTES

People

William Als, yeoman, testator

Mary Als, wife, joint executor

William Als, son, joint executor

Joseph Als, son

Henry Als, son

John Als, son

Robert Plummer of Cliffe [Lewes], grocer

Thomas Als, son

Ann Easton, witness

Thomas Davies, witness

Places

Glynde

Cliffe [at Lewes]

Relevant Events

William Als was buried 2 Oct 1762 at Glynde St Mary the Virgin.

William Als married Mary Watts on 30 Nov 1740 at Glynde ("Mr & Mrs").

Mary Als, widow, was buried 3 Jul 1804 at Glynde St Mary the Virgin.

(SFHG indexes)

Family Tree

See Tree 2. "Thomas Also junior of Beddingham – Later the Glynde Alces" in Chapter 2.

32. Will of Robert Alce, Gentleman of Winchelsea, 1792

(TNA: PROB 11/1219/299)

Made: 26 June 1786

Proved: 28 June 1792

FamilySearch: N/A

This is the Last Will and Testament of me **Robert Alce** of the Antient Town of Winchelsea in the County of Sussex Gentleman made the twenty sixth day of June in the year of our Lord One thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty six and in the twenty sixth 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 and so forth first I will and direct that all my just debts Funeral expences and the charges of proving this my Will be fully paid and satisfied and I Give and Devise unto my Brother **John Alce** and his assigns for and during the term of his natural life but no longer all that my Messuage or Tenement in Winchelsea aforesaid wherein I now dwell with the Outhouses Edifices Buildings Gardens Lands and other appurtenances thereunto belonging he my said Brother and his assigns during his life keeping the same Messuage and premisses in good Tenantable repair and from and immediately after the decease of my said Brother **John Alce** I Give and Devise my aforesaid Messuage or Tenement hereditaments and premises unto my Nephew **Robert Alce** of Winchelsea aforesaid Carpenter (Son of my late Brother **Thomas Alce** deceased) and to the heirs and assigns of him my said Nephew **Robert Alce** for ever Also I Give and Bequeath unto my said Brother **John Alce** my silver watch and all my household Goods Implements of household beds Plate and linen whatsoever and wheresoever (except my bed Furniture Plate and Linen of and in my Chamber called ^the Parlour Chamber and I give and bequeath my Bed Furniture plate and Linen^ which at my death shall be in or accounted the Furniture Plate and linen of my said Chamber called the Parlour Chamber unto my Niece **Jane Alce** one of the Daughters of my said Brother **John Alce** to and for her own use and benefit also I Give and Bequeath unto **William Sargent** of Winchelsea aforesaid Miller (one of the sons of **Robert Sargent** of Lydd in the County of Kent Sadler) my cloath{s} and wearing apparel of all and every sort and kind to be delivered to him as soon as conveniently may be after my decease Also I do hereby make Constitute and appoint my said Nephew **Robert Alce** the said **William Sargent** and **Thomas Fuller** the Younger of Winchelsea aforesaid Yeoman Executors of this my last Will and Testament and I Give and Bequeath unto my said Executors **Robert Alce // William Sargent and Thomas Fuller** all the rest and residue of my ready monies and Securities for money Goods Chattels effects and personal Estate whatsoever and wheresoever and of what nature kind or quality soever the same shall be (not hereinbefore already otherwise disposed of) whereof I shall die possessed or which shall be any ways due owing or belonging unto me at the time of my decease and which shall remain after the payment of my just debts Funeral expences and the charges of proving this my Will and other incidental expences and all my Estate and Interest therein To hold the same and every part thereof unto my said Executors and Trustees **Robert Alce William Sargent and Thomas Fuller** their Executors Administrators and assigns upon Trust that they my said Trustees and Executors and the survivors or survivor of them and the Executors or Administrators of such survivor shall and do as soon as soon as conveniently may be after my decease sell and convert into ready money all such part and parts of my said personal Estate as shall not consist of money or Securities for money and shall and do call receive and get in all such part and parts thereof as consist of money or securities for money and shall and do thereupon or with all convenient speed then afterwards invest and put and place out at Interest in their Names or in the Names or Name of the survivors or survivor of them or of the Executors or Administrators of such survivor the monies to arise by and from such sale and sales and so to be called received and got in as aforesaid upon good real securities or in some or one of the Parliamentary Stocks or Funds of this Kingdom and from time to time call get in sell and dispose of such monies so invested lent or placed out and the Securities Stocks or Funds in or upon which the same shall or may be invested and invest lend and place out

the same again upon securities of the like nature and shall and do pay apply and dispose of the Interest Dividends and yearly produce in manner following (that is to say) Upon Trust that they my said Executors and Trustees and the survivors or survivor of them and the Executors and Administrators of such survivor shall and do yearly and every year by and out of such Dividends Interest and yearly produce or proceed pay unto my said Brother **John Alce** and his assigns for and during his life one Annuity or clear yearly sum of Fifty pounds of lawful money of Great Britain and unto the said **Robert Sargent** or his assigns for and // during his life one Annuity or clear yearly Rent of Twenty pounds of like money and unto **Sarah Alce** the Widow of my said late Brother **Thomas Alce** or her assigns for and during her life one Annuity or clear yearly sum of ten pounds of like money and unto **Elizabeth Newington** Wife of **Zebulon Newington** of Etchingham in the said County of Sussex Yeoman or her assigns for and during her life one annuity or clear yearly sum of fourteen pounds of like money and unto my Niece **Lucy Amon** of Winchelsea aforesaid Widow or her assigns for and during so many years of the lives of my said Brother **John Alce** and of **Sarah** his Wife the said **Robert Sargent Sarah Alce and Elizabeth Newington** and the life of the longest liver of them as she the said Lucy shall happen to live one annuity or clear yearly sum of six pounds of like money and my Will is that the said several annuities shall be from time to time paid clear of all parliamentary and other Taxes and deductions whatsoever on the four most usual feasts or days of payment in the year (that is to say) Lady Day Midsummer day Michaelmas Day and Christmass Day in every year by even and equal portions quarterly to be paid and the first payments thereof to begin and be made on such of the said Feast Days as shall next happen after my decease and in case the said **Sarah** the Wife of my said Brother **John Alce** shall survive him then and in such case upon Trust that they my said Executors and Trustees and the survivors or survivor of them and the Executors and Administrators of such survivor shall and do yearly and every year from and immediately after the decease of my said Brother **John Alce** by and out of the Dividends and Interest and yearly proceed of the said Trust monies pay unto her the said **Sarah** the Wife of my said Brother **John Alce** or her assigns for and during the term of her natural life one Annuity or clear yearly sum of twenty pounds of like money free and clear of and from all parliamentary and other Taxes and deductions whatsoever to be paid her quarterly by even and equal portions on the four most usual Feasts or days of payment hereinbefore mentioned and the first payment thereof to begin and be made on such of the said Feast Days as shall first and next happen after the death of my said Brother **John Alce** and upon further Trust that from time to time and when and so often as it shall happen that the surplus of the Dividends Interest and yearly proceed of the said Trust monies shal have accumulated to the sum of Fifty pounds over and besides what shall be sufficient from time to time to pay the aforesaid Annuities or such of them as shall for the time being be existing and payable they my said Trustees and // Executors and the survivors and survivor of them and the Executors or Administrators of such survivor shall make such surplus or excess principal money and shall put and place the same out to Interest in their Names or in the Names or Name of the survivors or survivor of them and of the Executors or Administrators of such survivor upon such Securities ^as aforesaid^ and call in and again put the same out as often as they shall think proper and shall pay apply and dispose of such monies so from time to time to be made principal money and the Dividends Interest and yearly proceed thereof together with and to and for such ends intents and purposes as the monies first hereinbefore directed to be placed out are to be paid applied and disposed of by virtue of this my Will and upon further Trust that they my said Executors and Trustees and the survivors and survivor of them and the Ex[ecut]ors and Aministrators of such survivor shall and do immediately after the decease of the survivor of them my said Brother **John Alce** and **Sarah** his Wife the said **Robert Sargent Sarah Alce Widow and Elizabeth Newington** pay out of the said Trust monies unto each and every of them my Nephews and Nieces **Thomas William John Edward George Bett Mary Ann and Jane Collins** (the Sons and Daughters of **Thomas Collins** late of Pett in the said County of Sussex Gentleman deceased) the sum of Twenty pounds apiece of lawful money of Great Britain and unto **Collins Newington**

(Son of the said **Zebulon Newington and Elizabeth** his Wife) the sum of Fifty pounds of like money and unto each and every of them **Robert Sargant**⁷⁹ **John Sargant and Thomas Sargant** (three of the four Sons of the said **Robert Sargant** of Lydd) the sum of thirty pounds apiece of like money and shall and do pay all the rest and residue of the said Trust money and of the money so to accumulate as aforesaid and all such Dividends Interest and yearly proceed of the said Security or Securities in or upon which the same shall be invested unto my Nephews and Nieces the said **Robert Alce Lucy Amon Elizabeth** the Wife of **John Sims** of Wittersham in the Isle of Oxney in the County of Kent Yeoman **Sarah Ed{m}ett** Widow (the Son and Daughters of my said late Brother **Thomas Alce** deceased) **William Alce John Alce Jane Alce Hannah Alce Ann Alce Elizabeth Alce** (the Sons and Daughters of my said Brother **John Alce** and the said **William Sargent**⁸⁰ equally to be divided between them share and share alike and their several and respective Executors Administrators and assigns to and for his her and their own respective use and benefit and my Will and Mind is that they my said Executors and Trustees or any or either of them their or any or either of their Heirs Executors // or Administrators shall not be charged or chargeable with or accountable for any more of the aforesaid Trust monies and premisses than what they respectively shall actually receive or shall come to their respective hands by virtue of this my Will nor with or for any loss which shall happen of the same monies and premises or any part thereof so as such loss happen without their wilful default nor any one of them for the other or others of them or for the Acts Deeds Receipts defaults and disbursements and also that it shall and may be lawful to and for my said Executors and Trustees and each and every of them their and each and every of their Executors and Administrators in the first place by and out of the aforesaid Trust monies and premisses and the Interest and Dividends thereof to deduct and reimburse him and themselves and pay to each other respectively all such losses Costs charges or damages and expences as they or any of them shall respectively sustain expend pay or be put unto for or by reason or means of the several trusts hereby in them reposed in relation to the same monies and premisses respectively or the management and execution thereof of any other thing in any wise relating thereunto together with a reasonable allowance for their trouble journeys and loss of time in and about the same and I do hereby revoke and make void all former and other Wills and Codicils by me at any time or times heretofore made In Witness whereof I the said **Robert Alce** the Testator have to this my last Will and Testament contained in this and the four preceding sheets of paper set my and Seal (to wit) my hand to the four preceeding sheets and to this last sheet my hand and Seal the day and year first before written – **Robert Alce** – The Writing contained in this and the four preceeding sheets of paper was signed and Sealed by the abovenamed **Robert Alce** the Testator as and for his Last Will and Testament in the presence of us who have hereunto subscribed our names as Witnesses hereto in his presence at his request and in the presence of each other – **Martha Curteis – Thos Hall – H. Waterman**

This is a Codicil to the last Will and Testament of me **Robert Alce** of the ancient Town of Winchelsea in the County of Sussex Gentleman which I duly made and published bearing date the sixth day of June which was in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and eight six Whereas since the making and executing of my said Will my Niece **Jane Alce** hath // intermarried with **John Newington** of Battle in the said County of Sussex Victualler and is since dead by means of her death the legacy and also the share given or directed to be paid to her by me in and by my said last Will and Testament of and in the residuum of my personal Estate will lapse and sin{k} for the benefit of the residuary legatees in my said Will named Now I do hereby Give and Bequeath unto the said **John Newington** the sum of Seventy pounds of lawful money of Great Britain to be paid him out of the residuum of my personal Estate by my Executors in my said Will named at such time as the residuum of my said Estate is to be divided between the surviving residuary

⁷⁹ Sudden change of spelling!

⁸⁰ Back to original spelling.

Legatees in my said Will named and I do hereby declare that all such Legacies in my said Will as are or shall or may lapse shall go to and be equally divided between such of the residuary legatees in my said Will named as shall be living at my decease and in all other respects I do hereby ratify and confirm my said Will In Witness whereof I have I have to this Writing which I declare to be a Codicil to my last Will and Testament and to be accepted and taken as part thereof set my hand and seal the twenty eighth day of April One thousand Seven hundred and Ninety – **Robert Alce** – Signed Sealed published and Declared by the above named Robert Alce the Testator as and for a Codicil to his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who have hereunto subscribed our names as Witnesses thereto in his presence at his request and in the presence of each other – **Jas Shepherd – Jno Woollett**

Probate: 28th June 1792 to Robert Alce, William Sargent and Thomas Fuller.

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 28th June 2021

NOTES

People

Robert Alce, testator
John Alce, brother
Sarah Alce, wife of brother John Alce
Thomas Alce deceased, brother
Robert Alce, nephew, son of brother Thomas Alce, joint executor
Sarah Alce, widow of brother Thomas Alce
Jane Alce, niece, daughter of John Alce
Robert Sargent, saddler of Lydd, Kent
William Sargent of Winchelsea, miller, son of Robert Sargeant, joint executor
Robert Sargent, son of Robert Sargent
John Sargent, son of Robert Sargent
Thomas Sargent, son of Robert Sargent
Thomas Fuller the younger, yeoman of Winchelsea, joint executor
Zebulon Newington, yeoman of Etchingham
Elizabeth Newington, wife of Zebulon Newington
Lucy Amon, widow, niece, daughter of brother Thomas Alce
Thomas Collins deceased, gentleman of Pett
Thomas Collins, nephew
William Collins, nephew
John Collins, nephew
Edward Collins, nephew
George Collins, nephew
Bett [Elizabeth] Collins, niece
Mary Collins, niece
Ann Collins, niece
Jane Collins, niece
Collins Newington, son of Zebulon Newington and Elizabeth his wife
John Sims, yeoman of Wittersham in the Isle of Oxney, Kent
Elizabeth the wife of John Sims, niece, daughter of brother Thomas Alce
Sarah Edmett, widow, niece, daughter of brother Thomas Alce
William Alce, nephew, son of brother John Alce
John Alce, nephew, son of brother John Alce

Jane Alce, niece, daughter of brother John Alce
Hannah Alce, niece, daughter of brother John Alce
Ann Alce, niece, daughter of brother John Alce
Elizabeth Alce, niece, daughter of brother John Alce
Martha Curteis, witness
Thomas Hall, witness
H. Waterman, witness
Codicil
John Newington, victualler of Battle, subsequent husband of Jane Alce (now deceased)
James Shepherd, witness
John Woollett, witness

Places

Winchelsea
Etchingham
Pett
Lydd, Kent
Wittersham, Isle of Oxney, Kent
Battle

Relevant Events

Robert Alce was buried 13 May 1792 at Winchelsea St Thomas.

Thomas Alce was buried 14 May 1780 at Winchelsea St Thomas.

Sarah Alce “relict of Thomas” was buried 12 Apr 1801 at Winchelsea St Thomas.

Sarah Alce “relict of John” was buried 2 Oct 1812 at Winchelsea St Thomas.

The key to understanding this family lies with Robert’s mother, Elizabeth Alce (nee Mabbs) who was probably from the Pett-Winchelsea area originally as she married Robert’s father Robert Alce on 12 Nov 1713 at Pett but the family then lived at Newhaven where the Alces were. It is there that her surviving children Thomas, Robert, Henry and John were born. The father, Robert Alce, who was a boatman according to his son Robert’s baptism in 1716, died in 1725 at Newhaven leaving a brief will which left everything to Elizabeth. Elizabeth then married Thomas Collins (of Winchelsea) in 1728 at Hastings and the children moved with her to Winchelsea where Elizabeth and Thomas Collins had four children of which two survived to adulthood. A family tree for Elizabeth is given below to help identify the many nephews and nieces named in the above will of Robert Alce, 1792.

Elizabeth Mabbs, b. c1690, bur. 1770 at Winchelsea
 + **Robert Alce**, bap. 1688 at East Blatchington, m. 1713 at Pett, bur. 1725 at East Blatchington
 — **Thomas Alce**, bap. 1715 at Newhaven, bur. 1780 at Winchelsea
 + **Sarah (--?--)**, m. c1740, bur. 1801 at Winchelsea
 — **Ann Alce**, bap. 1745 at Winchelsea, bur. 1767 at Winchelsea
 — **Lucy Alce**, bap. 1747 at Winchelsea
 + **Joseph Amon**, m. 1771 at Winchelsea
 — **Elizabeth Alce**, bap. 1750 at Winchelsea
 + **John Sims**, m. 1776 at Winchelsea
 — **Sarah Alce**, bap. 1753 at Winchelsea, bur. 1791 at Winchelsea
 + **John Hickmott**, m. 1777 at Winchelsea
 — **Harriet Hickmott**, bap. 1781 at Wadhurst
 — **Mary Alce**, bap. 1756 at Winchelsea
 — **Robert Alce**, bap. 1758 at Winchelsea, bur. 1849 at Winchelsea
 + **Mary Ollive**, b. c1763, m. 1789 at Winchelsea, bur. 1844 at Winchelsea
 — **Susannah Alce**, bap. 1764 at Winchelsea, bur. 1767 at Winchelsea
 — **Robert Alce**, bap. 1716 at Newhaven, bur. 1792 at Winchelsea, pro. 1792
 — **Mary Alce**, b. 1718 at Newhaven, bur. 1718 at Newhaven
 — **John Alce**, bap. 1720 at Newhaven, bur. 1720 at Newhaven
 — **Henry Alce**, bap. 1721 at Newhaven, bur. 1779 at Winchelsea
 — **John Alce**, bap. 1724 at Newhaven, bur. 1788 at Winchelsea
 + **Sarah Crowhurst**, m. 1756 at Winchelsea
 — **William Alce**, bap. 1757 at Winchelsea
 — **Jane Alce**, bap. 1759 at Winchelsea
 + **John Newington**, m. 1788 at Winchelsea
 — **John Alce**, bap. 1760 at Winchelsea, bur. 1803 at Winchelsea, admon 1814
 + **Sarah Stephens**, m. 1785 at Winchelsea
 — **Mary Stephens**, b. 1785 at Winchelsea
 + **Robert Broadfoot**, m. 1806 at Winchelsea
 — **Jane Alce**, bap. 1787 at Winchelsea, bur. 1788 at Winchelsea
 — **Elizabeth Alce**, bap. 1789 at Winchelsea
 — **Hannah Alce**, bap. 1765 at Winchelsea
 — **Ann Alce**, bap. 1768 at Winchelsea
 — **Elizabeth Alce**, bap. 1776 at Winchelsea
 + **Thomas Collins**, m. 1728 at Hastings, bur. 1758 at Winchelsea ← [2nd marriage for Elizabeth]
 — **Elizabeth Collins**, bap. 1729 at Winchelsea, bur. 1730 at Winchelsea
 — **Elizabeth Collins**, bap. 1731 at Winchelsea
 + **Zebulon Newington**, bap. 1732 at Ticehurst, m. 1772 at Winchelsea, bur. 1802 at Ticehurst
 — **Colin Newington**, bap. 1774 at Etchingham
 — **Thomas Collins**, bap. 1733 at Winchelsea, bur. 1782 at Pett
 + **Elizabeth Jemson**, m. 1760 at Crowhurst
 — **Ann Collins**, bap. 1762 at Pett
 — **Thomas Collins**, bap. 1764 at Pett
 — **Jenny Collins**, bap. 1767 at Pett
 — **William Collins**, bap. 1771 at Pett
 — **John Collins**, bap. 1773 at Pett
 — **Edward Collins**, bap. 1774 at Pett
 — **William Collins**, bap. 1736 at Winchelsea, bur. 1743 at Winchelsea

Family Tree

See Tree 6. “Alces of Bishopstone, East Blatchington, Eastbourne & Winchelsea” in Chapter 2.

33. Admon of John Alce of Winchelsea, 1814

(ESRO: PBT/1/3/21/187B)

Granted: 10 May 1814

FamilySearch: N/A

Grantee: daughter, Elizabeth Alce (yet to be transcribed)

People

John Alce

Elizabeth Alce, daughter

Places

Winchelsea

Relevant Events

John ALCE was buried 25 Nov 1803 at Winchelsea.

John ALCE married Sarah STEPHENS on 9 Nov 1785 at Winchelsea. John noted as a shoemaker.

Other

Bastardy examination

Date: 21 May 1785

ESRO: PAR 511/34/1/47

Description: Sarah Stephens, singlewoman, charges John Alce of Winchelsea, cordwainer

Creator(s): Parish of Winchelsea

Summons to Sarah Stephens, singlewoman

Date: 8 Nov 1785

ESRO: PAR 511/34/2/12

Description: to appear to be further examined concerning John Alce the younger of Winchelsea, cordwainer, father of her bastard daughter, born in Winchelsea on 11 Aug 1785

Creator(s): Parish of Winchelsea

Warrant to arrest John Alce the younger of Winchelsea, cordwainer

Date: 8 Nov 1785

ESRO: PAR 511/34/2/13

Description: father of the daughter of Sarah Stephens, singlewoman, born 11 Aug 1785

Creator(s): Parish of Winchelsea

Family Tree

See Tree 6. "Alces of Bishopstone, East Blatchington, Eastbourne & Winchelsea" in Chapter 2.

Chapter 4 - Other Related Wills and Documents

34. Will of John Page, Yeoman of West Firle, 1617

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/16/38A)

Made 1 May 1617

Proved: 17 June 1617

FamilySearch: Film: 1885788, Image: 75

May the first Anno D[o]m[ini] 1617

In the name of god Amen I **John page** of westfirle in the Countie of Sussex yeoman beeing sicke of bodie but thankes be unto god of good and perfect remembrance do make and ordaine this my last will & testament in manner and forme followinge first I bequeath my soule into the handes of my blessed saviour and my body to be buried in the Churchyard of westfirle aforesaid and for those worldly goodes w[hi]ch god hath lent me I dispose them in this manner following first I bequeath unto my eldest {sis} **ter sara page** my house and all my land{es} lying in the parish of hellingly {Item} I give besides unto this my si{s}ter twentie poundes in money Item I give unto my sister **Annis Page** twentie poundes in money Item I give to the three children of my unckle **Robert Alce** namely to **Robert John and Elinor Alce** tenn poundes a peice all the rest of my goodes unbequeathed I give to my loving unckle **Robert Alce** whom I make sole executor of this my last will and testament desiring him to be carefull to see these Legacyes fulfilled so soone as he cann that money w[hi]ch is due unto me out of the landes of **Richard Elphicke** of chiddingly In witnes wherof I have sett my hand and seale the day and yeare above written

the marke of **John Page**

witnes of this will

Antho: Mattocke

Robert Alce his marke

*Probate: 17th June 1617 to **Robert Alce**, executor etc.*

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 17th January 2021

// Page break in the original
[] Transcriber's note or addition
{ } Unclear or illegible text
^...^ Interlined text
[-] Word split between lines in the original

NOTES

People

John Page, yeoman, testator

Sarah Page, sister

Annis Page, sister

Robert Alce, uncle

Robert Alce, son of Robert Alce

John Alce, son of Robert Alce

Elinor Alce, daughter of Robert Alce

Richard Elphicke

Anthony Mattocke, witness

Places

West Firle

Chiddingly

Hellingly

Relevant Events

Johannes Page was buried 4 May 1617 at West Firle St Peter.

Possibilities:

Eleanor Alce married Richard Cheale on 10 Feb 1616/17 at West Firle.

Robert Alce married Agnes Okendine [Okenden] on 20 May 1609 at West Firle.

John Alce married Ann Seale on 17 Oct 1609 at Beddingham.

Robert Alce and Ursula Colvell, widow of West Firle, received a marriage licence on 17 Apr 1598 (Archdeaconry of Lewes). Perhaps this is Robert Alce the uncle?

Richard Elphick married Elizabeth Colvill, widow (nee Alce) of Denton, on 27 May 1630 at Denton.

Family Tree

See Tree 6. "Alces of Bishopstone, East Blatchington, Eastbourne & Winchelsea" and Tree 7. "John Alce of Alciston" in Chapter 2.

35. Relevant Beddingham Manorial Records

ESRO: SAS-G-22-8

The following entries from the Beddingham manorial court books⁸¹ are presented in date sequence to show the transfer of properties which enabled Tree 1. “Thomas Alce senior of Beddingham” to be constructed with confidence and extended back to Thomas Alce of Beddingham who died 1552/53.

Copy of court roll, manor of Beddingham

Date: **29 Jul 1506**

ESRO: SAS/G 22/1

Description: Acceptance by Edward Eightacres and his wife Joan from the lords A Yard and a half of land called Monkeland, with 5a of land from demesne lands at Southwiche dyke towards the North; and another croft of land called Colgettres lying to the way called the Sarre to the West; Also two half yards of land, one called Northotes and the other John Alys; quitrent, 37s 4d, heriot and performing the office of the bedellship when chosen and common suit of court. Court of David Owen, kt and Andrew Wyndesore, esq.

In 1537, these properties come to Thomas Alse from the widow, Joan Eightacre:

Copy of court roll, manor of Beddingham

Date: **18 Jul 1537**

ESRO: SAS/G 22/2

Description: Admission of **Thomas Alce** on the surrender, in extremis, of **Joan Eightacre**, widow, made in the presence of John Seygar, vicar of Beddingham, Stephen Barbour, **John Alse**, Richard Leney, John Howell, John Walker and John Baydon A yard and a half of land called Monkland with 5a of land from demesne lands at Southwiche dyche towards the N and another croft of land called Colgetires which lies at the way called the Sorre towards the West; two half yards of land, one called Northouses and the other **John Alse**

Thomas Alse named his wife Agnes in his will (see “Will of Thomas Als of Beddingham, 1552/53” in Chapter 3). After his death, she is named a guardian of son John, aged 3 years, who is admitted to properties including Monkeland and Southwythdyche.

Copy of court roll, manor of Beddingham

Date: **29 May 1553**

ESRO: SAS/G 22/3

Description:

Death of **Thomas Alls**; **John Alse**, youngest son and heir aged three years, admitted in the person of his mother **Agnes Alse**, to whom his custody was committed

A yard and a half of land called Monkland and 5a of land at Sowthwythdyche and a croft called Golgatters lying to a way called the Sarre to the W; two half virgates of land one called Northhowse and the other John Als; messuage and half a yard of land late of John Tary Heriots, 3 oxen, price 3 13s 4d

⁸¹ Taken from the ESRO online catalogue, May 2021.

Copy of court roll, manor of Beddingham

Date: **15 Sep 1584**

ESRO: SAS/G 22/4

Description: Surrender by **John Alys the elder** to the lord, William Morley and his heirs, in exchange

A messuage with a yard and a half of land late **Edward Eyghtacres** and another messuage and a yard and a half of land sometime **Fryes otherwise Easterfyeld** in Beddingham

To the intent that WM would re-grant the first messuage and a yard and a half of land and another messuage together with a yard and a half of bondland; in consideration of which surrender WM re-granted the first messuage and a yard and a half of land and another messuage and another yard and a half of land to JA, quitrent 37s 4d and other services as before; no fine this time because the said surrender was for and in consideration of an exchange with the lord
Creator(s): Gage family of Firle, East Sussex

Thomas Alse, youngest son and heir of John Alse, inherits the properties following the burial of of John Alse on 14 Dec 1615 at Beddingham:

Copy of court roll, manor of Beddingham (see Appendix below)

Date: **9 Apr 1616**

Beddingham [SS standing for aforesaid?]

At the court of the same held on the ninth day of April in the year of the reign of our lord James by the grace of god king of England France and Ireland Defender of the Faith etc. the fourteenth and of Scotland the forty-ninth thus to be enrolled To this court {as above} according to proclamation comes **Thomas Alse youngest son and heir of John Alse** deceased following the death of the aforesaid **John** and asks to be admitted to one messuage with one and a half virgates ??? ??? with the appurtenances in Beddingham formerly held by **Edward Eightacre** and to one other messuage with one and a half virgates ??? ??? once **Fryes otherwise Easterfeild** in Beddingham aforesaid Which the lord, through his steward, thereupon grants by the rod to have and to hold the said mesuage and one and a half virgates ??? aforesaid formerly held by **Edward Eightacre** aforesaid and another messuage and one and a half virgates ??? ??? aforesaid formerly **Fryes otherwise Easterfeild** aforesaid to the said **Thomas Alse** and his heirs forever at the will of the lord according to the custom of the aforesaid manor by rent services and custom as formerly paid and of right accustomed and he gives to the lord both two heriots following the death of the aforesaid **John Alse** and the fine as is shown in the court roll and he is admitted

William Newton, steward. (*Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 8th May 2021*)

Thomas Alce dies in 1657 at Beddingham and the properties are transferred to his son, Thomas Alce:

Copy of court roll, manor of Beddingham

Date: **22 Sep 1657**

ESRO: SAS/G 22/10

Description: Admission of **Thomas Alice, eldest son and heir of Thomas Alice** deceased, to customary lands and tenements called **Fryes** and **Eightacres** in Beddingham, surrendered by Thomas Alce the father to the use of himself for life, remainder to Thomas Alce the son, he to pay his father's debts, 1 Aug 1657.

Creator(s): Gage family of Firle, East Sussex

Manor of Beddingham, court roll

Date: 1649-1658

ESRO: GLY 990

Description:

1 29 May 1649, 27 Jun 1650, 17 Feb 1652

2 18 Oct 1652, 27 Jun 1653, 20 Mar 1655

3 4 Sep 1655, 8 Apr 1657

4 22 Sep 1657; 21 Apr 1658, including an enrolment of articles of agreement between **Thomas Alce and Richard Alce** of Beddingham, sons of **Thomas Alce** lately deceased, 7 Nov 1657

Creator(s): Waleys family of Glynde Place, East Sussex; Morley family of Glynde Place, East Sussex; Trevor family of Glynde Place, East Sussex; Brand family of Glynde Place, East Sussex

Thomas Alce dies in 1675 with no male heir, only daughters. His executors sell the properties to Elizabeth Hocombe alias Anstey, and the properties leave the Alce family:

Copy of court roll, manor of Beddingham

Date: **16 Nov 1675**

ESRO: SAS/G 22/17

Description: Admission of **Richard Page** of Wartling and **James Carter** of Ringmer, devisees in trust **under the will of Thomas Alce of 4 Mar 1675**

A messuage, barn, garden and a yard and a half of customary land called Fryes and Eightacres in Beddingham (7a of arable in the Comps; 5a arable lying together called Short Butts; 2a arable at the Ley adjoining land of Anne Stone, widow, N, 3a arable lying together in the Narroway; 4a 1r in Stockmarsh; 1a in Black dick and 2a called Greenecrofts), with common of pasture for cattle and sheep

Surrender to the use of **Elizabeth Hocombe otherwise Anstie**, spinster, who was admitted. John Raynes, steward

Creator(s): Gage family of Firle, East Sussex

Conveyance for £30

Date: **17 Nov 1675**

ESRO: SAS/G 22/18

Description: **Richard Page** of Wartling, yeoman, and **James Carter** of Ringmer, yeoman (devisees in trust for sale **under the will of Thomas Alce of Beddingham**, yeoman deceased) to **Elizabeth Hockam otherwise Ansty** of Amberly, spinster

1. 1a of land in Beddingham late purchased by **Thomas Alce** of Thomas Oliver, gent [23 Jul 1650: SAS-G/22/9]

2. Two crofts of land in Beddingham called the Beane Garden and Daniells (11/2a)

W to livery of seisin: John Holland, William Upperton, William Page; John Crouch

Creator(s): Gage family of Firle, East Sussex

On 9 Sep 1680, John MICHEL married Elizabeth HOCKAM at Lindfield, Sussex.

Consequently:

Copy of court roll, manor of Beddingham

Date: **8 Apr 1681**

ESRO: SAS/G 22/19

Description: Admission of **John Michell** on surrender by **Elizabeth Hocombe otherwise Ansty** a messuage and a yard and a half of land called Fryes and Eightacres in divers parcels and places in Beddingham late **Alce**

John Raynes, steward
Creator(s): Gage family of Firle, East Sussex

Copy settlement (deed to lead the use of a fine)

Date: **18 Apr 1706**

ESRO: SAS/G 22/23

Description: **John Michell** of Shipley, yeoman, and his wife **Elizabeth**, Thomas Holcomb of Cuckfield, yeoman, Thomas Uwins of Cuckfield, yeoman, and Thomas Dendy of Itchingfield, yeoman, in trust

1 a messuage, barns, buildings, lands etc called Perryers and Outlands otherwise Owlands (60a) in Shermanbury and West Grinstead, occupied by Richard Worstfold, (to a lane from Partridge Green to Shermanbury church, N and E, land called Reeds and Great Duskins, also N and land called Bynebrook and other lands called Outlands, S)

2 one acre in Beddingham purchased by **Thomas Alce** of Thomas Oliver, gent, and two crofts in Beddingham called Beane Garden and Daniels (1 acres), purchased by **EM whilst sole as Elizabeth Hockham of Richard Page and James Carter**

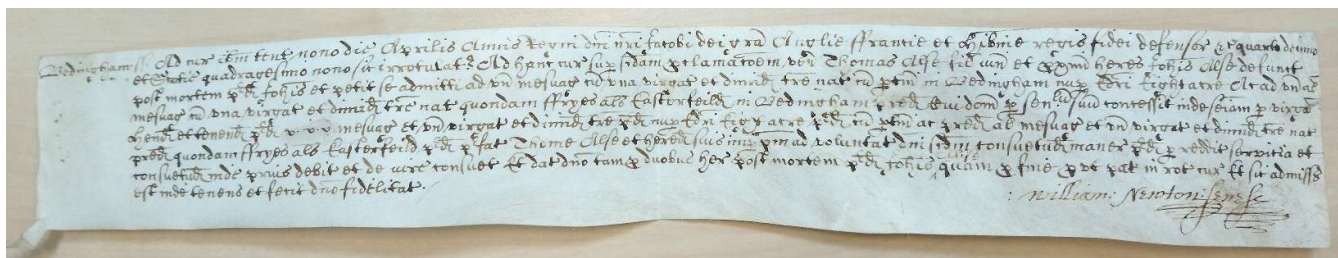
Witnesses to copy: Edward Virgoe, John Browne, 11 Apr 1720; Thomas Charles Medwin, attorney, Horsham and his clerk William Nelson, 21 Feb 1781

Creator(s): Gage family of Firle, East Sussex

There are further manorial records relating to these properties in 1728 (ESRO: SAS/G 22/26) and 1799 (ESRO: SAS/G 22/48) for anyone interested.

Appendix - Translation of Copy of court roll, manor of Beddingham, 9 Apr 1616

The following entry in the Beddingham manorial court book dated 9 April 1616 was sought and translated specifically for this book project as it provided crucial genealogical information by naming Thomas Alce as the youngest son and heir to John Alce deceased⁸². This is the only record where Thomas's father is named.



Latin Transcription

Beddingham {ss}

Ad cur[iam] ib[ide]m tent nono die Aprilis Annis Regni d[omi]ni n[ost]ri Jacobi dei gra[tia] Anglie Francie et Hibnie regis fidei defensor &c quarto decimo

⁸² The translation of the Latin phrase as youngest son and heir to John Alce deceased was confirmed by retired ESRO archivist Christopher Whittick, email 13 May 2021. The ESRO: SAS-G/22/8 incorrectly transcribed it as “only son and heir of John Alce deceased”. The custom of the manor of Beddingham, as in much of Sussex, was that unfree land descended to the youngest son; the custom is called Borough English.

et Scotie quadragesimo nono sic irrotulat[u]r Ad hanc cur sup[ra] s[ecun]dum p[ro]clamac[i]o[n]em
ven[it] Thomas Alse fil[ius] iun et p[ro]im[us] heres Joh[ann]is Alse defunct
post mortem p[re]d[icti] Joh[ann]is et petit se admitti ad un[ium] mesuag[ium] cu[m] una virgat et
dimid[ium] tre_ {n} at cu[m] p[er]ti[encie] in Bedingham nup[er] Ed[ua]r[d]i Eightacre Ac ad
un[ium] al[ium]
mesuag[ium] cu[m] una virgat et dimid[ium] tre_ nat quondam Fryes al[ias] Easterfield in
Bedingham pred[ictum] Cui dom[inus] per[] senescallu[m] suu[m] concessit inde sei[sin]am p[er]
virga[m]
Habend[um] et tenend[um] p[re]d[ictum] *[erasure with line filler]* mesuag[ium] et un[ium] virgat et
dimid[ium] tre_ p[re]d[icti] nup[er] Ed[ua]r[d]i Eightacre cu[m] p[er]ti[encie] et p[re]d[ictum]
al[ium] mesuag[ium] et un[ium] virgat et dimid[ium] tre_ nat
pred[icti] quondam Frues al[ia]s Easterfeild p[re]dicti p[re]fat[e] Thome Alse et heres suis
imp[er]p[etu]m ad voluntat[em] d[omi]ni s[ecundu]m consuetud[inum] maner[iu] p[re]d[icti]
reddit[um] servicia et
consuetud[inum] inde prius debit et de iure consuet[udinum] Et dat d[omi]no tam p[er] duobus
her[iot] post mortem p[re]d[icti] Joh[ann]is ^Alse^ quam p[ro] fine p[ro] ut pat in rot[ul]um cur[ie]
Et sit admissus
[Signature] William Newton : Senesc.

Beddingham [SS standing for aforesaid?]

*At the court of the same held on the ninth day of April in the year of the reign of our lord James by the grace of god
king of England France and Ireland Defender of the Faith etc. the fourteenth and of Scotland the forty-ninth thus
to be enrolled To this court {as above} according to proclamation comes **Thomas Alse** youngest son and heir of
John Alse deceased following the death of the aforesaid **John** and asks to be admitted to one messuage with one
and a half virgates ??? ??? with the appurtenances in Beddingham formerly held by **Edward Eightacre** and to
one other messuage with one and a half virgates ??? ??? once **Fryes otherwise Easterfeild** in Bedingham
aforesaid Which the lord, through his steward, thereupon grants by the rod to have and to hold the said mesuage and
one and a half virgates ??? aforesaid formerly held by **Edward Eightacre** aforesaid and another messuage and
one and a half virgates ??? aforesaid formerly **Fryes otherwise Easterfeild** aforesaid to the said **Thomas
Alse** and his heirs forever at the will of the lord according to the custom of the aforesaid manor by rent services and
custom as formerly paid and of right accustomed and he gives to the lord both two heriots following the death of the
aforesaid **John Alse** and the fine as is shown in the court roll and he is admitted
William Newton, steward*

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 8th May 2021

// Page break in the original
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^...^ Interlined text
[-] Word split between lines in the original

36. Will of Robert Webb, Yeoman of Denton, 1577

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/7/74C)

Made: 3 December 1577

Proved: 9 January 1577/78

FamilySearch: N/A

In the name of god amen the third daye of december in the yere of our lord god one thousand fyve hundreth seventie seaven I **Robert webb** of denton in the Countye of Sussex yeoman doe mak {e} & ordayne this my last will and Testament in man[er] and forme followinge That is to saye First I geve and bequeth my soule unto almighty god my maker and redemer by whose {?} merites death and passion I have suer {h}ope trust and confidence to be saved and my bodie to be buried in the Channcell of the p[ar]lish Church of Denton Item I geve and bequeath unto the poore of the p[ar]lishe of Denton v^s Item I geve unto the poore of the p[ar]lishe of heyghton v^s to be distributed imeadiatelie after my death Item I will my debtes before all other thinges to be thorowlie paid and dischardged And then I geve and bequeth unto **James webb** my brother one seame of wheate and one seame of Barly and I geve unto every one of his children a lambe Item I geve unto **Margret** my sister the wif of **George marckwick** ij bushels of wheate and iij bushels of Barly Item I geve unto **Richard Tu{rer}** my ma {?} x^s Item I geve unto **Rob[er]t marshe** my servant ij Ewes Item I geve unto **Joane halle** nowe servant to **Will[ia]me Jones** of Denton xx^s Item I geve unto every of my godchildren that will demand it a lambe Item I geve unto **Will[ia]me webb Robert webb Thomas webb Jone webb Elizabeth webb Margret webb & alice webb** the sonnes and daughters of **John webb** my brother deceased my debtes and all other my legaces discardged the one half of all my goodes soe remayninge to be equally devided betwene and amonge as followeth That is to saye **Thomas** and **margret webb** I will to have but as much betwene them both as one of the other fyve brothers and systers and the other said fyve brothers and systers // I will to have as much the one of them as the other in equall p[ar]tes & p[or]c[i]ons The rest of my goodes not given & bequethed I geve unto **Alice** my wife whome I ordayne and make my whole executrix Also I will my stock {e} and goodes remayne whole untill the feast of St michaell next ensuinge the Date of this my last will p[ro]vided that my debtes to be discharged as they ar due to be demanded Item I ordayne **Thomas calvile** and **william Jones** of Denton for my overseres for the p[er]formance of this my said last will and Testament and I geve unto them for the pains eache of them ij wheathers All other former willes and bequethes I utterly revoke and disanull and this for ever to stand in fo{rever} as the p{ersons} here p[re]sent can testefie and whose marks and names are here subscribed the daye and yere above wrytten **Thomas moore John {Br}eade{n} and Nicholas calvile**

Probate: 9th January 1577/8

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 28th May 2021 for Geoffrey Barber

NOTES

People

Robert Webb, yeoman, testator

Alice Webb, wife, executrix

James Webb, brother

Margret Marckwick [Markwick], wife of George Marckwick, sister

George Marckwick [Markwick], brother-in-law

John Webb deceased, brother

Richard Tu{rer}

Robert Marshe, servant

Joane Halle, servant of William Jones of Denton
 William Webb, son of John Webb
 Robert Webb, son of John Webb
 Thomas Webb, son of John Webb
 Joan Webb, daughter of John Webb
 Elizabeth Webb, daughter of John Webb
 Margret Webb, daughter of John Webb
 Alice Webb, daughter of John Webb
 Thomas Calvile [Colville], overseer
 William Jones of Denton, overseer
 Thomas Moore, witness
 John Breaden, witness
 Nicholas Calvile [Colville], witness

Places

Denton
 South Heighton

Relevant Events

Burial not found (Denton burials only available from 1593).

Alice WEBB, widow, married John BREADONE on 28 Nov 1579 at Denton.

Robert Webb's wife Alice is the daughter of William and Joane ALSE/ALCE who both left wills:

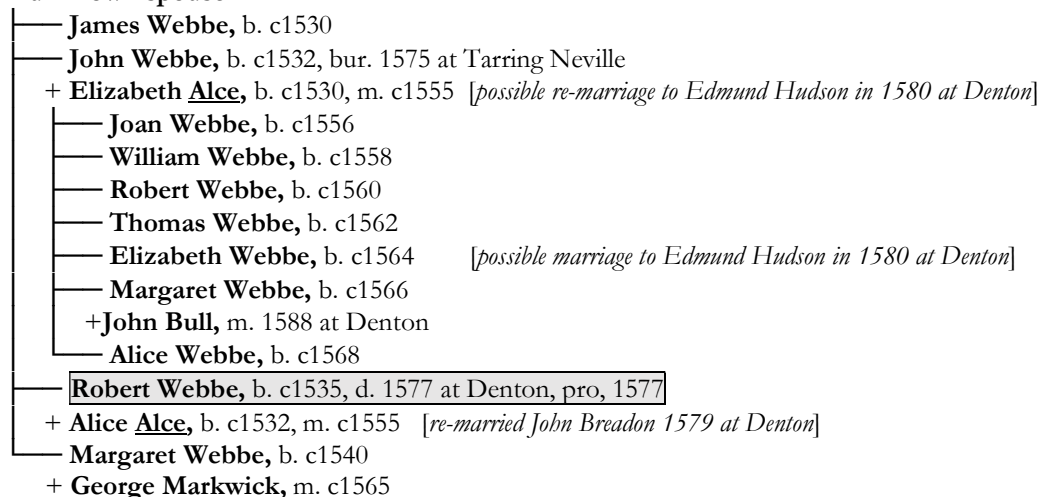
William ALLYSE of Tarring Neville, proved 1559 (ESRO: PBT/1/1/4/281)

Joane ALSE, widow of South Heighton, proved 1573 (ESRO: PBT/1/1/6/243B)

Family Tree

father Webbe

+ unknown spouse



See Tree 6. “Alces of Bishopstone, East Blatchington, Eastbourne & Winchelsea” in Chapter 2.

37. Will of Thomas Copper, Sadler of Eastbourne, 1705

(ESRO: PBT 1/1/46/87)

Made: 27 February 1700

Proved: 19 October 1705

FamilySearch: Film: 1885947; Image: 694, 695

ABSTRACT

To niece **Jane Reeve** and nephew **George Reeve**, children of late sister **Elizabeth Reeve**, £20 each at age 21 years or marriage. If both die, then legacies shared equally amongst children of my sister **Jane Alce**.

To **Anne Cook** and **Leonard Cook**, children of my sister **Anne Cook** deceased, £20 each at 21 years or marriage.

Brother-in-law **Henry Alce** and **Jane** his wife my sister the £100 they owe me by a surrender of their copyhold lands in Eastbourne holden of the manor of Eastbourne Parkes, to descend to their children free from encumbrances.

Rest and residue to brother-in-law **Henry Alce**, carpenter, to pay debts, legacies and funeral expenses, and money let to be equally divided amongst his three children **Mary Alce**, **Anne Alce** and **Henry Alce** at 21 years or marriage.

Henry Alce sole executor

Witnesses: Thomas Willard, George Sheeter, Henry Hpler

Abstract by Geoffrey Barber, 14 June 2021

NOTES:

People

Thomas Copper, sadler, testator

Elizabeth Reeve, sister

Jane Reeve, neice

George Reeve, nephew

Anne Cook, sister

Anne Cook, neice

Leonard Cook, nephew

Jane Alce, sister, wife of Henry Alce

Henry Alce, brother-in-law

Mary Alce, neice

Anne Alce, neice

Henry Alce, nephew

Thomas Willard, witness

George Sheeter [Sheather?], witness

Places

Eastbourne

Relevant Events

Thomas CUPPER was buried on 18 Sep 1705 at Eastbourne St Mary.

No marriages can be found for Thomas's sisters Elizabeth CUPPER and Jane CUPPER in the Sussex Marriage Index. However:

Elizabeth REEVE was buried at Battle St Mary on 11 Apr 1692 "wife of George of Hollington".

Jane REEVES bap. 4 May 1686 at Hollington St Leonard, daughter of George & Elizabeth REEVES.

George REEVES bap. 11 Feb 1687/88 at Hollington St Leonard, son of George & Elizabeth REEVES.

The above will states that his sister Jane married Henry ALCE. There is a marriage for Henry ALCE to Jane HOLLOWAY on 22 Jan 1689 at Eastbourne, suggesting that Jane was a widow. Her earlier marriage has not been found though.

Some information on earlier generations of the COPPER family is included in the following:

Deeds of the Glessing Estate, Bexhill

Date: 1686-1929

ESRO reference: AMS 5627

Extract of Description: Clinchgreen or Beddingham Farm; purchased by Newton Parks in 1861. The property is shown on Ordnance Survey maps as Clinchgreen Farm between 1873 and 1908, but by 1928 had become the clubhouse of the Highwood Golf Course.

Between 1733 and about 1766 the farm was owned by Joseph Grover, master of Westham Charity School 1736-1738 and land-surveyor, for whom see Caffyn, Sussex Record Society 81 (1998) 303. Having intended to leave for Jamaica in 1738 he subsequently emigrated to America and died at Philadelphia before 1769.

The component parts of the Grover estate were as follows:

1 messuage and 30a called Beddingham (formerly Bodinham) in Bexhill

2 etc

On 26 March 1686 **Thomas Copper** of Eastbourne, saddler, son of **John Copper** of Bexhill, yeoman, deceased, and his wife **Jane**, sold Bodinham, occupied by Simon Coleman, to Thomas Grover of Bexhill, yeoman, for £100. **Thomas Copper** gave warranty against the acts of Roger Cooper of Iden, yeoman, deceased, Adrian Spray otherwise Pinion of Bexhill, iron-finer, deceased, John Payne of Bexhill, yeoman, deceased, and his son John Paine, who can be assumed to have been former owners of the estate (2/1).

.... etc.

House and four acres in Westham, inherited by the Revd Henry Thomas Grace in 1859

Date: 1667-1859

ESRO reference:AMS 5583/4/1

Extract of Description:

1 piece of meadow and pasture (4a) called The Gardens in Westham (N: a lane into the Hospital Marsh; W: Hospital Marsh, William Hammond's The Well Marsh; S: road from Westham to Langney; E: road from Westham to Pevensy).

2 messuage, stable, garden, orchard (1/2a) called Blavers in Westham (N: road from Pevensy Castle to Eastbourne; W: the vicarage garden of Eastbourne; S: two acres called Almsland; E: house and garden late Lambrook Thomas, DD)

3 piece of land (2a) where a house lately stood, in Westham (S: Westcots Marsh; E: messuage of Abraham Copper; N, W: road from Pevensy Castle to Eastbourne)

Four Acres called The Gardens, purchased by John Kine in 1711

By her will of 8 April 1667, **Alice Fray**, formerly **Creswell**, wife of **Thomas Fray** of Warbleton, yeoman, bequeathed her house, barn, orchard and piece of land (4a) called The Gardens in

Westham, 1 above, to her daughter **Alice Copper**, wife of **William Copper** of Westham, husbandman, for life, remainder to Alice's daughters **Alice, Mary and Susan Copper**; the will was proved at Lewes on 6 January 1669 (4/1).

Alice Copper married **Thomas Syms** and was dead by 1687, when the property was in dispute between her children **Mary Russell** of Westham, widow of **William Russell**, and **John Copper of Westham, cordwainer**. On 10 January 1688 **Mary Russell**, in return for the interest on £20 deposited with **John Hammond** of Westham, gent, released her interest in the property to her brother **John Copper** (4/2-4).

On 11 December 1710 **William Copper** mortgaged the land, occupied by **Mary Maynard**, widow, for £65 to **John King** of Eastbourne, butcher. On 25 October 1711 **William Copper** of Westham, now a bricklayer, agreed to sell the four-acre field belonging to Gardens to **John Kine** of Westham, butcher, for £120; the conveyance, in which **Copper** was joined by his wife **Mary** and **Kine** by his only [recte elder] son **Thomas**, describes the property as late Castreat's and was executed on 10 and 11 November 1711, the mortgage was assigned to William Plummer of Pevensey, gent, in trust for the purchasers, and a final concord levied in the Pevensey court (4/5-10).

[John Kine died in 1718 WA50.11] and his widow Elizabeth married Stephen Coney of Westham, butcher (4/14).

On 14 December 1731 Thomas Kine, of Clerkenwell in London, mortgaged the field, occupied by his stepfather Stephen Coney, to John Cittizen of Westham, clerk, for £30, increased to £80 (Kine now described as a butcher) on 25 February 1732. On 28 April 1733 Coney released all actions to his stepsons Thomas and John Kine (4/11-13). Thomas Kine was dead by 5 February 1734, when his widow Margaret Kine of Spitalfields released her dower rights to his brother John Kine of Westham, butcher; the consideration of £13 6s 0d was advanced by John Cittizen, who had the same sum paid to him by Kine's mother Mrs Elizabeth Coney the following day (4/14).

... etc.

Family Tree

Jane HOLLOWAY (nee COPPER) can be found on Tree 6. "Alces of Bishopstone, East Blatchington, Eastbourne & Winchelsea" in Chapter 2.

38. Will of Henry Peirce of Glynde, 1625

(ESRO: PBT 2/2/4/181)

Made: 10 November 1625

Proved: 7 December 1625 (South Malling Peculiar Court)

FamilySearch: Film: 1067015; Image: 161

In the name of god Amen: the tenth daie of November Anno Do[mini] 1625 : I **Henry Peirce** of Glinde in the Countie of Sussex &c doe ordaine and make this my last will and Testament in manner and forme followinge : First I bequeith my soule unto almightie god, my maker & Jesus Christ my onlie saviour and redeemer : And my bodie to the earth to be Christianlike buried in the Church yard of Glinde : Item I give and bequeith unto **Henry Peirce** sonn of **George Peirce** my sonn, five poundes to be paid to **Thomas Alice the younger** of Beddingham to the use of the said **Henry Peirce**, and the said five poundes to be paid to the said **Henry Peirce** whenas he shall accomplish the full age of one and twentie yeares : Item I give and bequeith unto **George Peirce** my sonn five shillings to be paid unto him within one q[uar]ter of a yeare next after my decease It[e]m I give and bequeith unto **Marie Wood** my Daughter wif of **Will[ia]m wood** of Beddingham five poundes to be paid her within one whole yeare next after my decease It[e]m I give and bequeith unto **John Awood** sonn of **Will[ia]m Awood** aforesaid fortie shillings to be paid unto him whenas he shall accomlishe the full age of one & twentie yeares It[e]m I give and bequeith unto **Henry Alice** sonn of **Thomas Alice the younger** of Beddingham aforesaid five poundes to be paid unto him within one whole yeare nexte after my decease : It[e]m all the rest of my goodes not given nor bequeithed my dettes and funerall expenses discharged I give and bequeith unto **Elizabeth Peirce** my wif whome I make my sole Executrix of this my last will and Testament, and doe hereby revoke all former wills and Testamentes, and doe nominate and appointe Ov[er]seers of this my last and⁸³ Testament **will[ia]m Hollock** of Southmawlinge, and **Thomas Alice the younger** aforesaid

Henry Peirce his m[ar]k

Read published and deliv[er]ed in the p[re]sence of

John [mark] Cheale

Thomas [mark] Alice &

Andr: Baulcombe

Probate: 7th December 1625

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 28th June 2021

NOTES:

People

Henry Peirce, testator

Elizabeth Peirce, wife, executrix

George Peirce, son of Henry Peirce

Henry Peirce, grandson, son of George Peirce

Thomas Alice [Alice] the younger of Beddingham, overseer

Marie Wood, daughter, wife of William Wood

William Wood of Beddingham, son-in-law

John Awood [Wood], son of William Wood

Henry Alice [Alice], son of Thomas Alice the younger of Beddingham

⁸³ *Sic*

William Hollock of South Malling, overseer
John Cheale, witness
Andrew Baulcombe, witness

Places

Glynde
Beddingham
South Malling

Relevant Events

Henry PEIRCE was buried on 20 November 1625 at Glynde St Mary [the SFHG burial index has 20 Nov 1626 but the probate is definitely 1625].

Henry is presumed to be the father of Jean PEIRCE who married Thomas ALCE the younger on 1 Jun 1617 at Glynde. Their first son was named Henry and he started a dynasty of ALCEs residing at Glynde (See Tree 2. “Thomas Alse junior of Beddingham – Later the Glynde Alces”).

His daughter Mary PEERSE married William WOOD on 5 Oct 1606 at Beddingham and there are baptisms of their children at Beddingham and Alciston.

His son George PEIRCE married Mary PELHAM at Iden on 9 Feb 1618/19. Their son Henry was baptised at Iden All Saints on 17 Nov 1622.

Regarding the witness Andrew BAULCOMBE there are two BAULCOMBE - PEIRCE marriages at Glynde (1617, 1624) suggesting a close relationship between the two families. Andrew BAULCOMBE was also an overseer on the Will of John Alice the elder of Beddingham, 1615/16 and a witness on the Will of George Alice the elder, Yeoman of Beddingham, 1624.

Family Tree

Jean PEIRCE can be found on Tree 2. “Thomas Alse junior of Beddingham – Later the Glynde Alces” in Chapter 2.

39. Will of John Jenner the Elder, Shepherd of Jevington, 1667

(ESRO: PBT 1/1/30/366)

Made: 27 March 1667

Proved: 9 December 1667

In the name of God Amen I **John Jenner** thelder of Jevington in the County of Sussex shepheard being weake in body but of good and perfecte memory (thanks I give to my heavenly Father) doe make and ordaine this my last will & Testament in manner and forme following. First I comend my soule to God who made mee and to Jesus Christ my redeemer through the merrits of whose death and passion I hope assuredly to bee made pertaker of life everlasting. And my body to the earthe from whence it came to be buried att the discrecon of my executor herein after named and appointed. And for what estate it hath pleased God of his goodnesse to bestowe upon mee I doe give and dispose of the same as followeth. Item I give and bequeath to my daughter **Anne Purchin** wife of **Abraham Purchin** of Hanckham in the parishe of Westham in the said County laborer the summe of five poundes & to the said **Abraham Purchin** the summe of tenne shillings to bee paid unto them by my executor herein after named within foure yeares after my decease. Item I give and bequeath to my daughter **Elizabeth Taby** wife of **Thomas Taby** of Jevington aforesaid laborer the summe of sixe poundes and to the said **Thomas Taby** the summe of tenne shillings to bee paid unto them by my extor within foure yeares after my decease. Item I give and bequeath to my sonne **John Jenner** of Jevington aforesaid husbandman the sume of eighte poundes and to **Mary** his wife the sume of tenne shillings to be paid them by my executor within foure yeares after my decease. Item I give and bequeath to my foure grandchildren **Anne Alce**, **Elizabeth Alce**, **William Alce** and **Thomas Alce** as followeth that is to say, to the said **Anne Alce** the sume of three poundes, to the said **Elizabeth Alce** the like sume of three poundes, to the said **William Alce** the sume of foure poundes and to the said **Thomas Alce** the sume of three poundes, to bee paid unto them by my said executor hereafter named within foure yeares my decease. Item I give and bequeath to my grandchild **John Jenner** the sume of five poundes to bee paid unto him by my executor at his age of one & twentie yeares and my will and desire is that my executor shall pay him use for the said five poundes from foure yeares after my decease untill his said age of one & twenty yeares, and if he happen to dye before hee comes to that age, then my will and desire that the same shalbee equally divided among his brothers and sisters that shalbee then living. Item I give and bequeath to my daughter **Mary Peirce** wife of **John Peirce** of Jevington aforesaid mason the sume of tenne shillings. And I doe make and ordaine the said **John Peirce** my sonne in lawe full and sole executor of this my last will and Testament, and my debtes legacyes and funerall charges being paid and discharged I doe give unto him all the rest and residue of my goods chattells debtes and creditts whatsoever unbequeathed. In wittnesse wherof I have hereunto sett my hand and seale this seaven and twentyeth day of March in ye nineteenth yeare of the raigne of our soveraigne Lord King Charles the second of England Scotland Frannce and Ireland defender of the faithe &c Annoq Domini 1667. The marke of **John (X) Jenner**

Sealed signed published and delivered as the last will and testament of the said John Jenner the elder in the psence of us. **Tho Collingam; John Reed; Thos Gilbert**

Transcribed from a photocopy by Dave Woolven, 2 Aspen Way, Malpas Park, Newport, South Wales. NP20 6LB Tel 01633 858359 email woolven440@btinternet.com 17/18 July 2012

NOTES:

People

John Jenner the elder, shepherd, testator
John Jenner, husbandman of Jevington, son
Mary Jenner, wife of son John Jenner
John Jenner, grandson
Anne Purchin, wife of Abraham Purchin, daughter
Abraham Purchin, labourer of Hankham, Westham
Elizabeth Taby, wife of Thomas Taby, daughter
Thomas Taby of Jevington
Anne Alce, granddaughter
Elizabeth Alce, granddaughter
William Alce, grandson
Thomas Alce, grandson
Mary Peirce, wife of John Peirce, daughter
John Peirce of Jevington
Thomas Collingam [Collingham], witness
John Reed, witness
Thomas Gilbert, witness

Places

Jevington
Hankham
Westham

Relevant Events

John JENNER the elder was buried on 24 Jun 1667 at Jevington St Andrew.

Anne JENNER married Abraham PURCHIN on 18 Apr 1654 at Westham.
The other children's marriages cannot be found suggesting that they occurred at Jevington where there is a gap in the baptism, marriage and burial records 1642-62 (Civil War period).

The ALCE grandchildren are possibly the children of Thomas ALCE of Willingdon.
Their burials are recorded at Jevington St Andrew:

27 Jun 1699 buried Mary ALSE, wife of Thomas of Willingdon. This would have to be a second wife as the daughter Mary JENNER married John PEIRCE as stated in the will.

19 Jul 1704 buried Thomas ALICE of Willingdon

This would appear to be their son William:

7 Mar 1683 buried William ALICE "of Mornings Mill in Willingdon – son of Thomas in the BTs".

These are the only ALSE/ALICE burials at Jevington. There are no baptisms.

We do not know the name of John JENNER's daughter who married Thomas ALCE (it can't be Anne, Elizabeth or Mary who are named in the will) and she is possibly deceased given that she is not named in the will. The following is either a second marriage for Thomas ALCE or a marriage for his son Thomas:

Thomas ALICE of Westdean married Mary SHERWINE on 4 Jun 1678 at Jevington.

Possible child of theirs:

William ALCE bap. 3 Oct 1680 at Willingdon, son of Thomas ALCE (mother's name not given)

The gap in the Jevington parish registers 1642-1662 makes it very difficult to reconstruct this family.

The only earlier entries at Willingdon are:

Ann AYLES bap. 21 Nov 1641 at Willingdon, daughter of John AYLES

The marriage is: John AYLES, yeoman of Hailsham, married Ann BANCCKES, widow of Alfriston, on 29 Mar 1638 at Lewes St John sub Castro.

John AYLES, householder, buried 14 Jul 1647 at Willingdon St Mary.

Ann AYLES, widow, married Richard FRITTER at Willingdon on 16 May 1648.

One of the witnesses to John JENNER's will is Thomas COLLINGHAM. Of interest is the following marriage:

John ALSE married Mary COLLINGHAM on 6 Sep 1636 at Alciston (See footnotes in Tree 6 and 7).

The surnames AYLES, PEIRCE and COLLINGHAM all appear in Alciston where a John AYLES was baptised 21 Jan 1609/10, son of John (mother not named), possibly the John AYLES who turns up at Willingdon. There was a marriage of John ALSE and Mary COLLINGHAM on 6 Sep 1636 at Alciston and Thomas ALCE junior of Beddingham married Jean PEIRCE at Glynde on 1 Jun 1617. However, it is very difficult to determine the connections and the reader is referred to the discussion in the footnotes in Tree 7.

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