



The BREACH Wills of East Sussex (1548 – 1858)



By Geoffrey Barber

Version 1.01

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

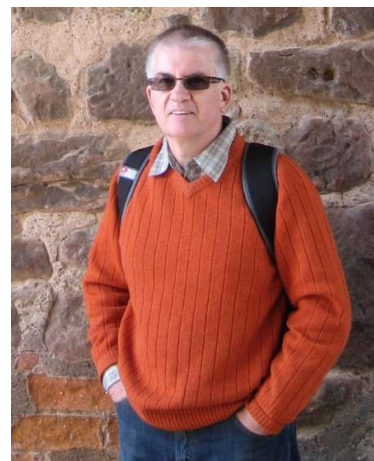
BIOGRAPHY

GEOFFREY BARBER

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 written a number of articles for the Token Corresponding Society Bulletin.



Title:

The Breach Wills of East Sussex (1548-1858)

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Dedicated to

The three siblings John, Thomas and Sarah Breach who, having lost their mother and their grandmother, and deserted by their father, were removed from Burwash to Lewes St Michael in 1738 and who, three years later, were separated and apprenticed out at the ages of 12 years, 13 years and 9 years respectively to East Chilmington, St Sepulchre in London, and Cuckfield.

In grateful memory of John, my 6x great grandfather.

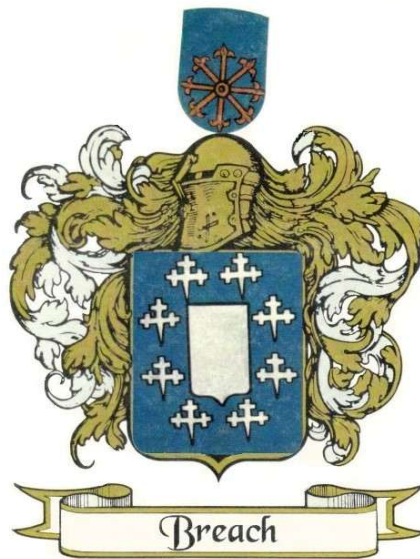


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Introduction

Researching the Breach wills and family trees has been a very satisfying task given that most of the Breachs in East Sussex today go back to one family at Hertsmonceux c1550. The surname itself is concentrated around Eastbourne in East Sussex, as shown in the surname distribution maps from the 1881 census below, suggesting the possibility of a single origin surname.

A search of documents in the East Sussex Record Office catalogue reveals occurrences of the surname going back to the 1200s. Examples are:

- Robert atte Breche and Philip atte Breche in 1301 at Edburton.¹
- Andrew de la Breche in c1235 at Battle.²
- Richard Breche in 1454 at Brede.³

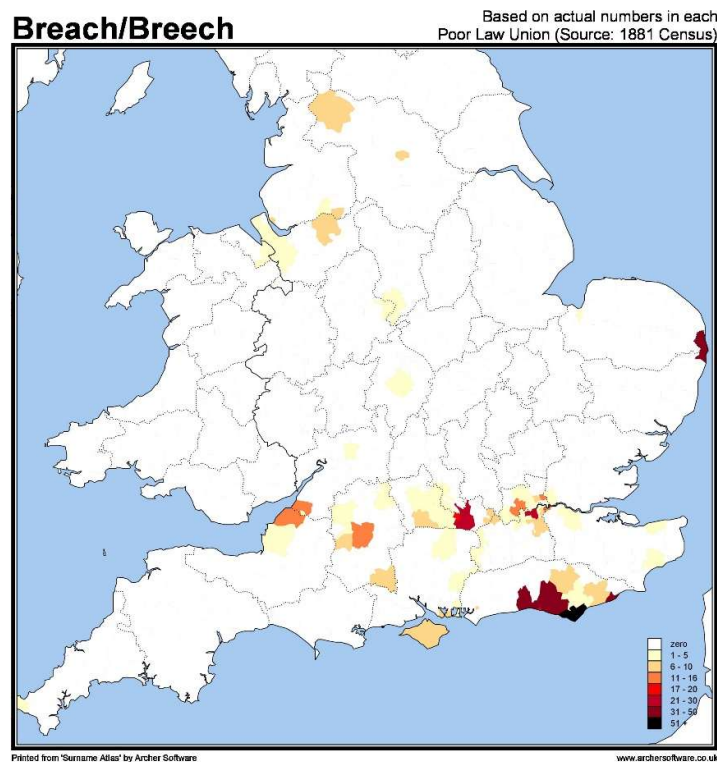


Fig. 1. Distribution of the BREACH/BREECH surname in England in 1881.
(The British 19th Century Surname Atlas ver 1.10, Archer Software)

¹ ESRO: BAT 1022

² ESRO: HEH/BA/BOX 13/1149

³ ESRO: RAY 2/7/4

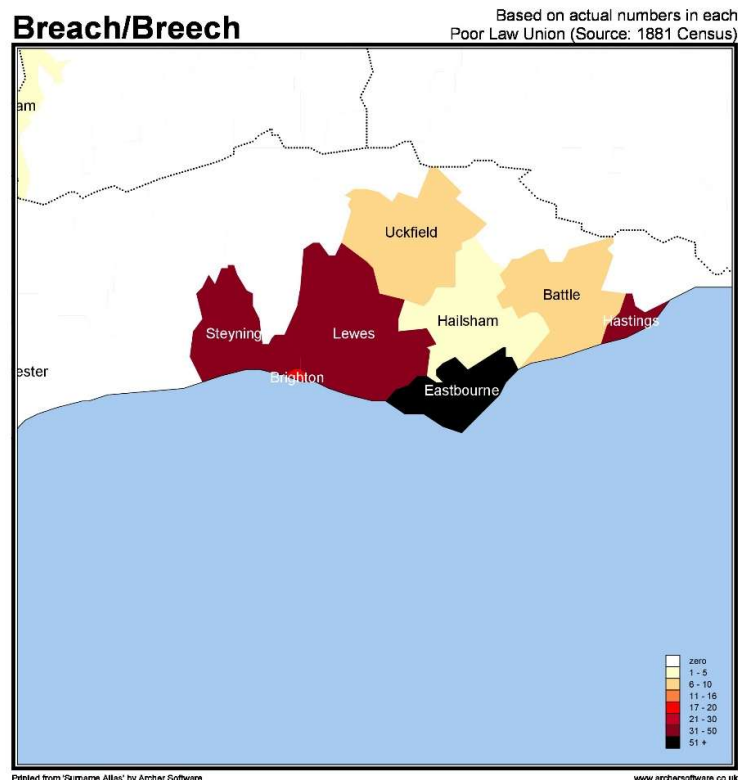


Fig. 2. Distribution of the BREACH/BREECH surname in Sussex, England in 1881.
(The British 19th Century Surname Atlas ver 1.10, Archer Software)

The most common spelling for the surname is Breach with a common, early variant being Brech/Breche. According to the "A Dictionary of English Surnames" (1991) by Reaney and Wilson, the surname meant "someone whose residence was near a piece of newly cultivated land". That is, a dweller at the "breach" or opening into the forest. However, there could also be a French origin (Brèche) given the early spelling Breche and the very close proximity of Eastbourne to France and the location of the Norman invasion.

The variant Brecher and Breecher seems to have evolved in the eastern parishes of Westfield, Ninfield, Brede and Rye, perhaps reflecting a different pronunciation there for the early variant Breche. It is not a surname that lasts and may have simply died out, or it may have become "Breach", although there is no evidence for this as yet. The Internet Surname Database states:

The modern surname can be found as Brake, Brach, Bratch, Breache, Breche , Britch etc, and these spellings are also recorded with the added suffix 'er' which describes a dweller 'at' as against one 'from' a particular place.⁴

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

⁴ <https://www.surnamedb.com/Surname/Breche#ixzz6f8iqYJf9>

These wills have enabled many of the Breach 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 Breach wills. I hope that the wills and family trees published here will at least provide a basis for moving forward in our understanding of the Breach families in Sussex.

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

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

The family trees are an important part of the book and it is hoped that they will make it easier for family trees to be debated and verified and prevent the propagation of errors. Despite a number of Breach "brick walls" there is reason to remain positive as information does come along from time to time which provides clarity. Sources such as poor law records or other people's wills which mention Breach's as beneficiaries can provide vital information. Chapter 1, "Three Breach Siblings", is a great example of how a Breach brick wall in the author's own tree was overcome using these other sources.

The author wishes to acknowledge the work done by Claire Wickens whose expertise enabled the transcription of the most of the early Breach 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 Breach 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

Geoffrey Barber
July 2021

Chapter 1 –Three Breach Siblings

The dedication at the front of this book reads:

Dedicated to: The three siblings John, Thomas and Sarah Breach who, having lost their mother and their grandmother, and deserted by their father, were removed from Burwash to Lewes St Michael in 1738 and who, three years later, were separated and apprenticed out at the ages of 12 years, 13 years and 9 years respectively to East Chiltington, St Sepulchre in London, and Cuckfield.

This is their story.

Their father John Breach was born at Burwash in 1698 and at some stage, perhaps to serve his apprenticeship as a shoemaker, moved to the parish of Lewes St Michael where he gained settlement. He moved back to Burwash, probably in the 1720s, carrying a certificate of settlement from Lewes St Michael stating that they were responsible for him should he fall on hard times and need parish relief. With this he was permitted to reside and work at Burwash. There he met Sarah Skinner and they married at the neighbouring town of Dallington on 6 January 1728/29. Three children followed:

John Breach: baptised 4 July 1729 at Burwash
Thomas Breach: baptised 20 April 1731 at Burwash
Sarah Breach: baptised 15 May 1733 at Burwash

Tragedy followed the birth of the fourth child in December 1735, when the mother Sarah died together with her newborn daughter, Mary. At this point the records hint at the grandmother, Elizabeth Breach, stepping in to keep the family together, but this was not to last with her death in December 1737. This created a problem for the Overseers of the Poor at Burwash as the father had left town, for whatever reason, and the children now required support from the parish.

On 27 March 1738, the Overseers of the Poor sent the following letter to Lewes St Michael:

Gentlemen
There was one John Breach a shoemaker came to our towne by a [settlement] certificate from you and he having now left his family they come to us and desire relief. We therefore send to you that you may fetch them to you, or we must bring them with an order from your brother officer
J Butler
Burwash
March 27 1738

Subsequently on 11 April 1738 a removal order was issued⁵ (Fig. 3) and two days later the children were taken to Lewes St Michael, where the Overseers of the Poor were presented with the following invoice⁶ (Fig. 4):

⁵ Removal order for John, Thomas and Sarah Breach, from Burwash to Lewes St Michael, 11 Apr 1738. (ESRO: PAR 414/32/3/3)

⁶ Removal invoice for John, Thomas and Sarah Breach, from Burwash to Lewes St Michael, 14 Apr 1738. (ESRO: PAR 414/32/3/5)

The Parish of Saint Michael in Lewes. Indebted to Burwash.	
1738 April 13	
for keeping 3 children of John Breach from 28th of March:	£0-14-0
for the charge of the order to remove them to Lewes:	£0-04-0
for the charge of horses and men in bringing them to Lewes:	<u>£01-0-0</u>
	£01-18-0
April 19: 1738	
Received in full of this bill	
J Butler.	

The Overseers of the Poor at Lewes St Michael continued to support the children over the next few years until 1741 when they began to find apprenticeships for them. This was a common approach taken for orphaned children as it provided a family for the child and they learnt a trade. It also removed the child as a financial burden on the parish – a win/win you might say – however in this case it meant that the three siblings were widely separated which must have been very hard on them. The children were apprenticed as follows:

22 Aug 1741: John Breach (12 years) apprenticed to John Hemsley of East Chiltington in Westmeston, yeoman, for 12 years to learn “the art and mystery of husbandry” (Fig. 5).⁷

6 Feb 1741: Sarah Breach (9 years of age) apprenticed to John Edwards of Cuckfield, husbandman for 12 years to learn “the art of housewifery”.⁸

17 Sep 1743: Thomas Breach (13 years of age) apprenticed to George Gibson, St Sepulchre, Middlesex, cook, for 11 years to learn “the art and mystery of a cook”.⁹

One wonders “where was the father?” during all this. Did he truly desert his children, never to see them again? Did he provide some support to them through the Overseers of the Poor at Lewes St Michael? Why didn’t he marry a second time and keep his family together, as many men did? So many questions for which there are no answers.

The records do give a hint that the brothers John and Thomas Breach were later able to make contact as both were married at Fleet Prison¹⁰ in London:

31 May 1750 Thomas BREECH batchelor of St Andrews Holborn cook and Eliz. McGINNIS of the same parish.

24 April 1753 John BRICH taylor of Westminster [Westmeston] Sussex; Ann HILDROP spinster of Ditchling.

Was this coincidence or had they managed to find each other? I suspect the latter.

⁷ Apprenticeship between John Breach and John Hemsley of East Chiltington, 22 Aug 1741, Lewes St Michael, Sussex (ESRO: PAR 414/33/38)

⁸ Apprenticeship between Sarah Breach and John Edwards of Cuckfield, 6 February 1741, Lewes St Michael, Sussex (ESRO: PAR 414/33/36)

⁹ Apprenticeship between Thomas Breach and George Gibson of St Sepulchre, Middlesex, 17 Sep 1743, Lewes St Michael, Sussex (ESRO: PAR 414/33/41)

¹⁰ Prisons like the Fleet and the King’s Bench Prison became popular destinations for couples interested in quick, no-questions-asked nuptials because of the number of clerics imprisoned for debt who had nothing to lose and welcomed the income. Many of them lived in the “Rules” or “Liberties,” which were areas around the prison where prisoners could pay for the privilege of living outside the gates.

The passage of Hardwicke’s Act of 1753, which went into effect March 24, 1754, and required formal ceremonies, put an end to these clandestine marriages.



Suffex, to wit. **W**HEREAS Complaint hath been made unto Us, Two of
His Majesty's Justices of the Peace of the County of *Suffex*,
(whereof One is of the Quorum) by you the Church-wardens and
Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of *Burwash*
in the said County, That *John Breach* is
lately come to Inhabit in the said Parish, endeavour-
ing to settle *him* self there, contrary to Law; and that *John*
Breach, John, Thomas, and Sarah, his
Children

Fuller

now likely to become chargeable to the said Parish: And whereas
upon Examination touching the Premises taken before Us upon
Oath, we the said Justices do adjudge, That the said *John*
Breach, John, Thomas, and Sarah, his Children
are

now likely to become chargeable to the said Parish: and do also
adjudge, that the *Parish of St. Michael in Lewes*
in the County of *Suffex* is the Place where the said
John Breach, John, Thomas, and Sarah, his Children
were last Legally settled

Richard May

THESE are therefore in His Majesty's Name, to command
you the said Church-wardens and Overseers of the Poor of
the said Parish of *Burwash* to remove and convey
the said *John Breach, John, Thomas, and Sarah, his*
Children

from the said Parish of *Burwash*
to the said Parish of *St. Michael in Lewes*
and *them* to deliver to the Church-wardens and
Overseers of the Poor there, who are hereby required to receive
and provide for *them* according to Law. Given under Our
Hands and Seals the *Eleventh* Day of *April* in the Year
of Our Lord, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty *Eighth*

To the Church-wardens and Overseers of the Poor
of the Parish of *Burwash*
in the County of *Suffex*: And to the Church-
wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish
St. Michael in Lewes, in the said County
and to every of them

E.S.R.O.
PAR. 414/32/3/3.

Fig. 3. Removal Order for John Breach and his three children to be removed from the parish of Burwash to the parish of St Michael in Lewes, issued 11 April 1738.

Unfortunately the trail stops there for the siblings Thomas and Sarah Breach. However, there is some more to add for their brother John, my 6x great grandfather. He and Ann Hildrop had two children, John and Joseph, baptised at Ditchling in 1754 and 1755 respectively. At some stage, the family moved to Hamsey where the children John and Joseph both married and had family. John's first child was named Sarah, my 5x great grandmother, and one would like to think that she was named after her orphaned aunt.

Chapter 2 - The Breach Family Trees

This section presents the main family trees associated with the Breach 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 Breach wills. All places are in Sussex except where shown.

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

Tree 1. Thomas & Joan Breach of Warbleton (1500s-1800s)

The following descendant chart is the primary BREACH family tree in Sussex. This tree originates around Herstmonceux in the 1500s where it appears that there were at least four brothers, Thomas, Robert, John and Richard Breache[sic]. Nearly all the Sussex Breachs descend from Thomas (c1550-1619). There are scatterings of other Breach families in Sussex at this early time which have yet to be explored such as in the parish of Woodmancote where four individuals are identified in probates between 1553-1561.

The origin at Herstmonceux suggests a connection to the wealden iron industry in the 15th-16th century which brought much prosperity to the inland wealden towns and villages. For example, Sarah Skinner, who married John Breach in 1729 at Dallington, had a grandfather Richard Skinner who was the iron founder at the furnace at Ashburnham 1676-88 (see the Wealden Iron Research Group website ¹¹). This has not been explored in any depth though.

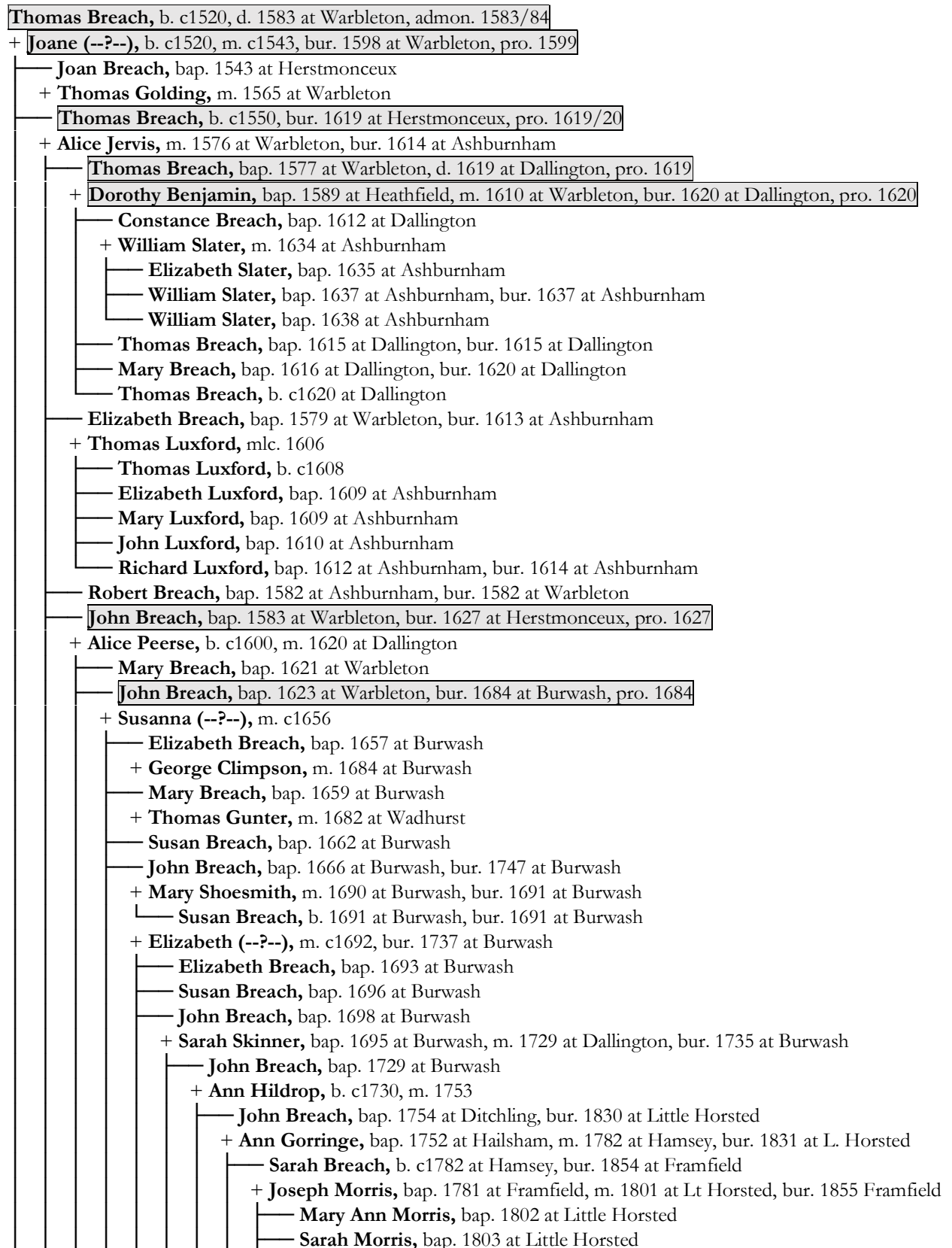
From Herstmonceux there are two main branches:

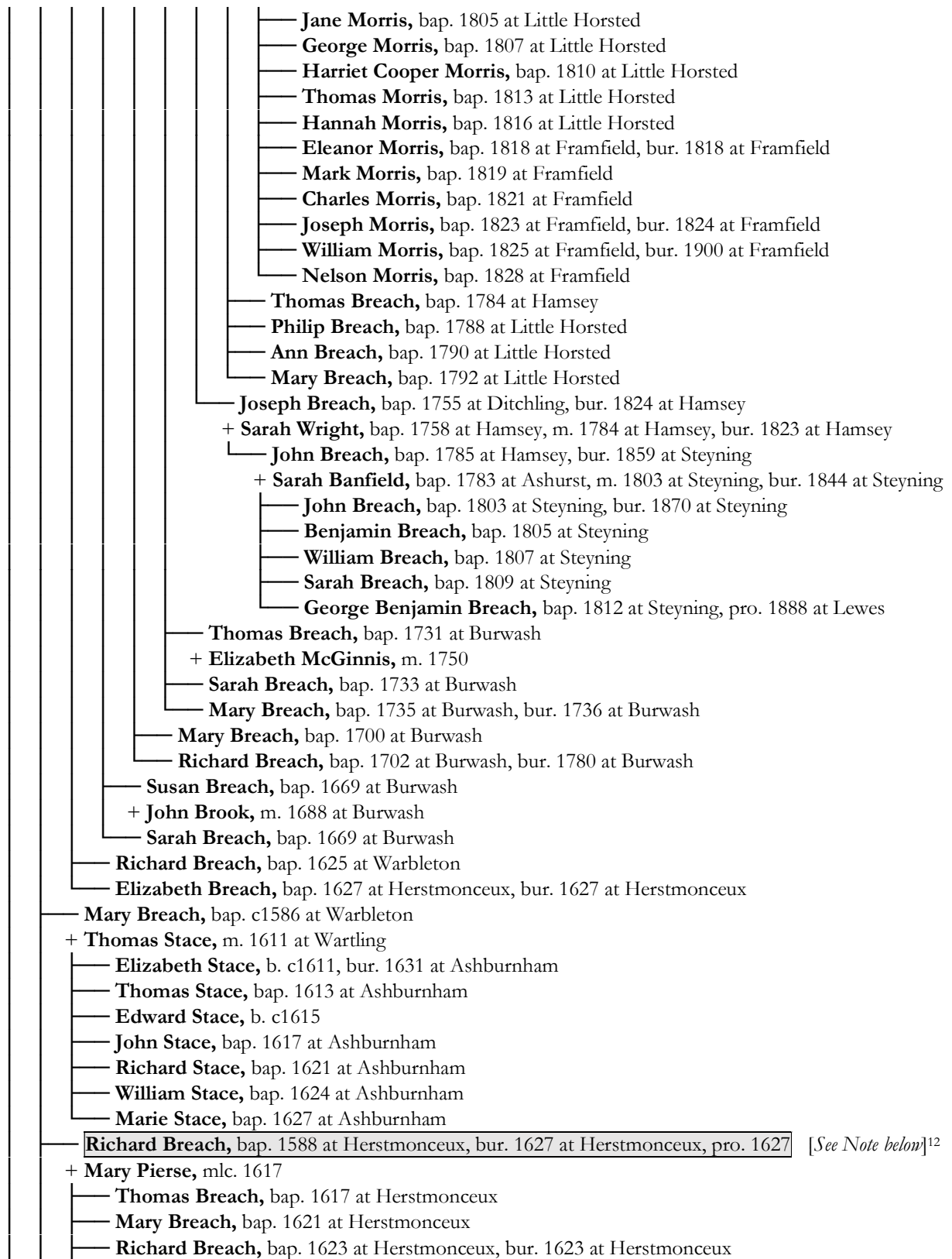
1. One branch of the family moved to the seaside towns of Bexhill, Hastings and Eastbourne and became fishermen and fishmongers. These families ultimately spread out along the coast between Hastings and Seaford with some venturing inland to Lewes and as far as Steyning.
2. Another branch moved further inland to Dallington and Burwash before making their way to Lewes, Hamsey and also Steyning.

More detailed notes and observations are given at the end of this tree.

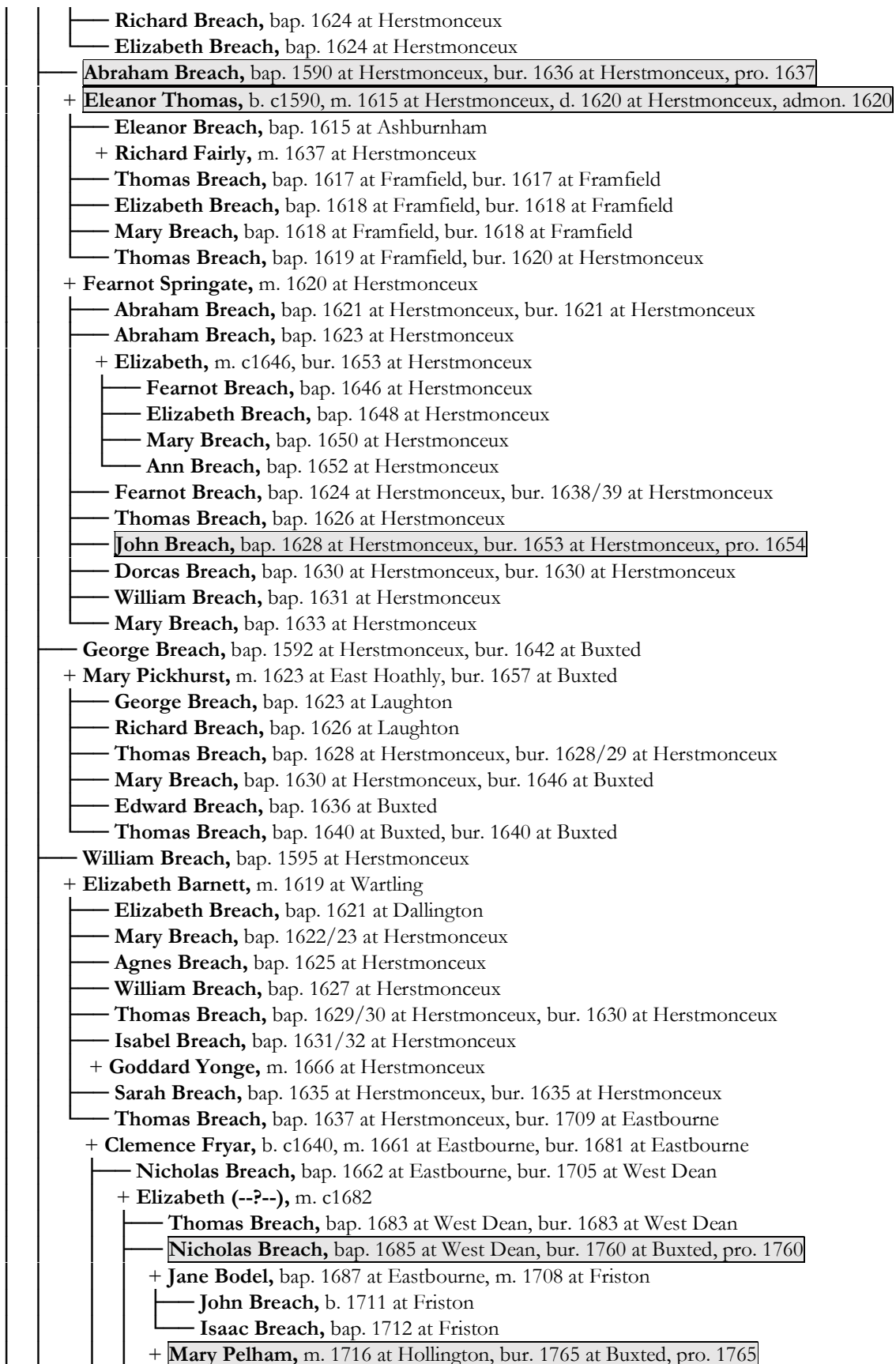
¹¹ www.wirgdata.org

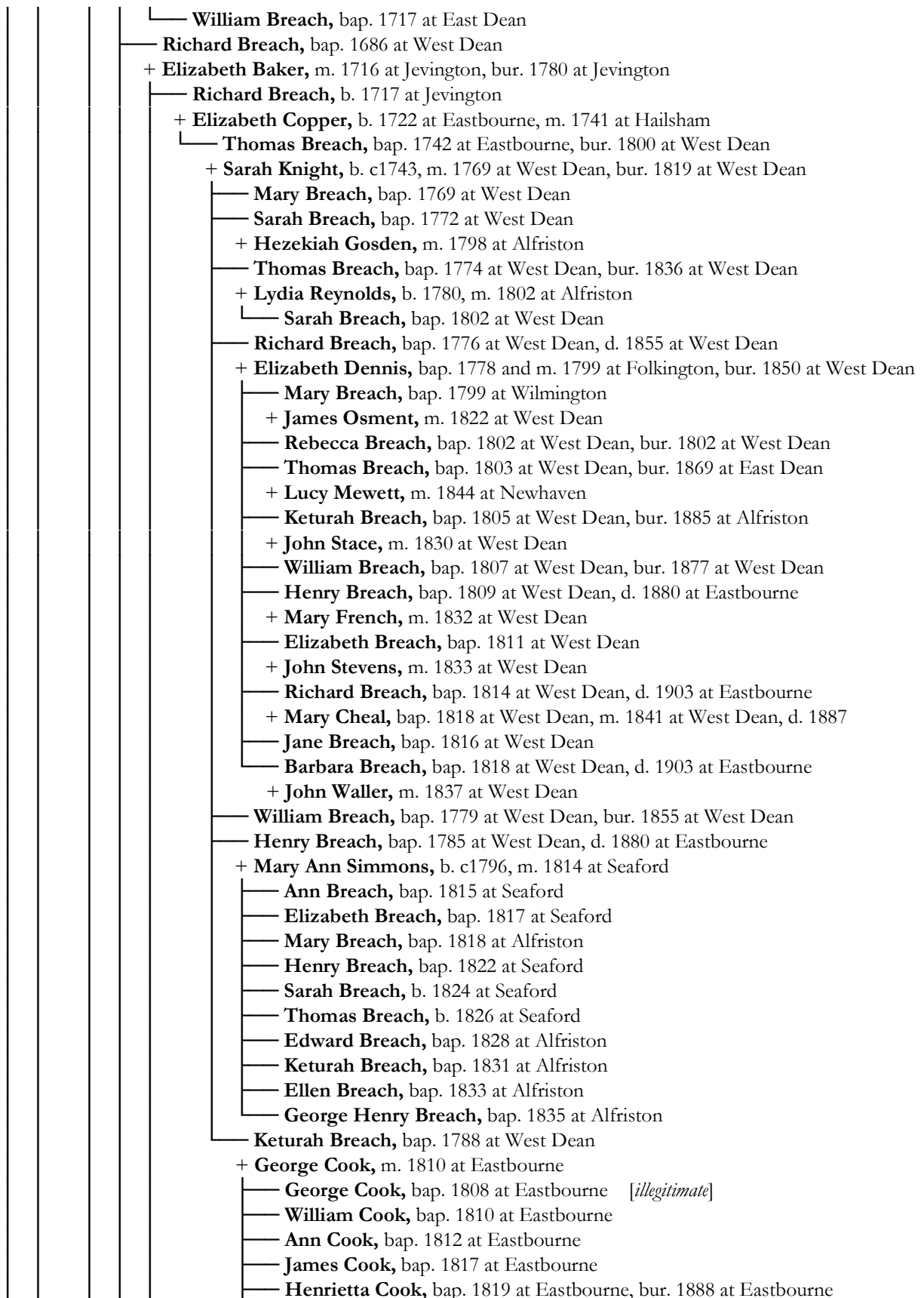
All places are in Sussex except where shown. The people who left wills/admons are highlighted.

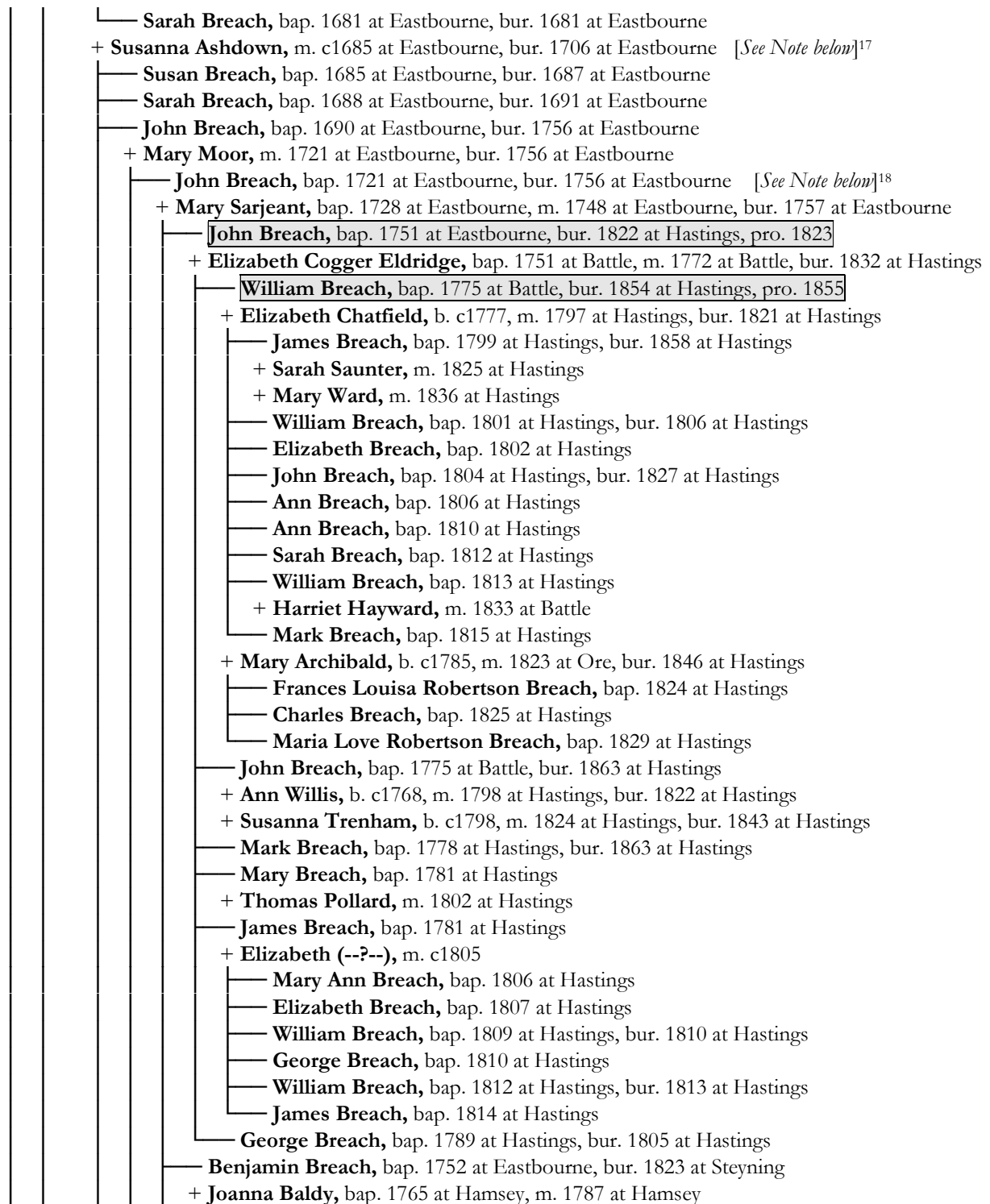




¹² Male Breach child baptised at Herstmonceux All Saints on 8 Apr 1588, father Thomas Breach. Considered to be the son Richard named in Thomas Breach's will.







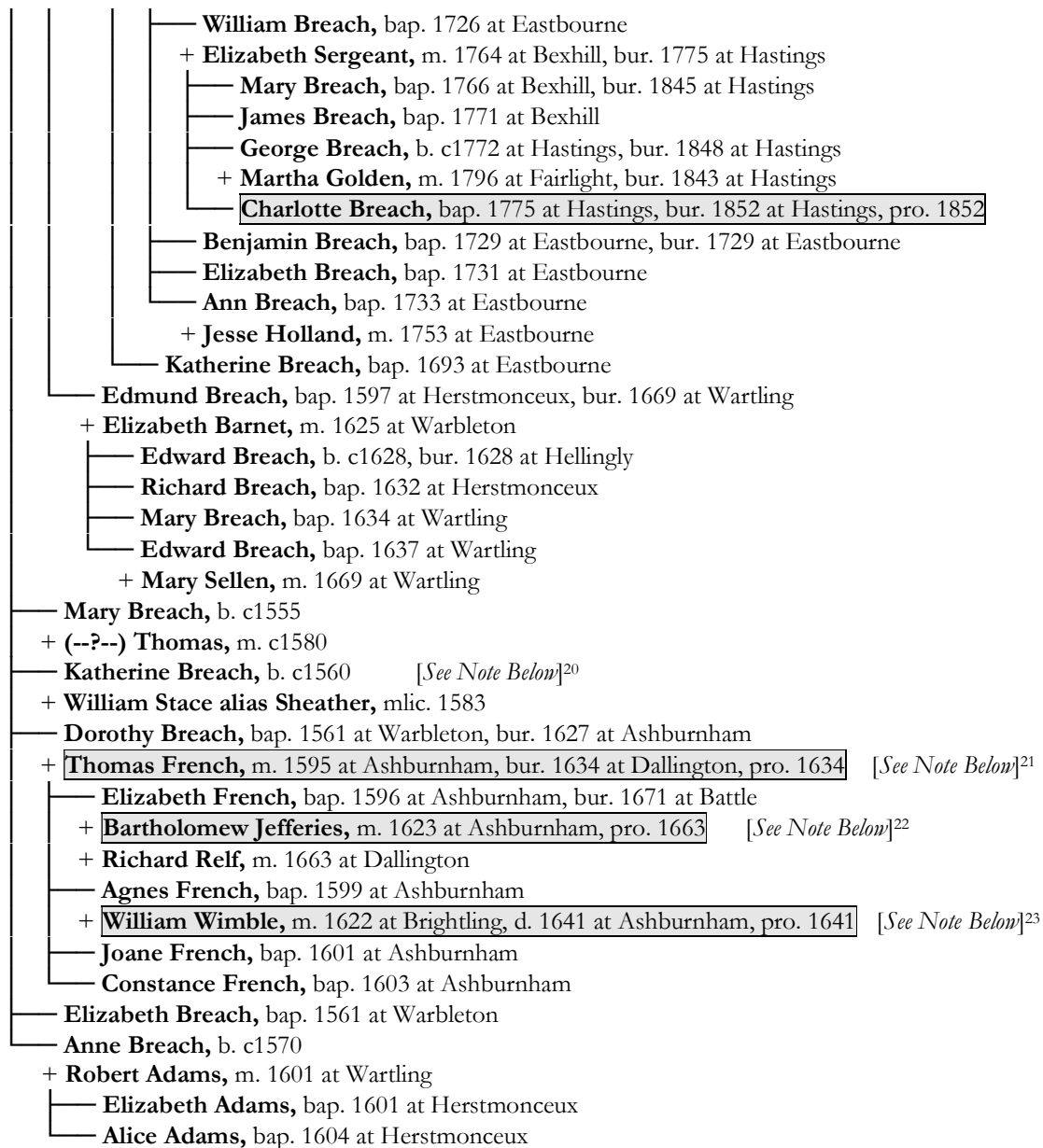
¹⁷ The date of marriage in the parish register transcript is 1 Jul 1681 but Thomas's first wife Clemence was buried 6 days later 7 Jul 1681. The marriage date needs to be verified in the original records. Until this is resolved, this second marriage needs to be treated with caution.

¹⁸ It is difficult to decide whether this John Breach married Elizabeth Petit in 1745 or Mary Sarjeant in 1748, both at Eastbourne. Mary Sargeant is favoured for two reasons:

1. John and Mary named one of their sons Benjamin which was a name used by the parents John Breach and Mary Moor.
 2. John's brother William married an Elizabeth Sargeant, probably a sister of Mary Sargeant.
- The family of John Breach and Elizabeth Petit are in Tree 4.

				— Elizabeth Breach, bap. 1787 at Hamsey, bur. 1787 at Hamsey
				— Richard Breach, b. 1788, bur. 1860 at Steyning
				+ Harriet Thorpe, bap. 1792 at Findon, m. 1815 at Findon, bur. 1851 at Steyning
				— Jane Breach, bap. 1816 at Steyning
				— William Breach, b. c1817 at Steyning
				+ Barbara Town, b. c1817 at Steyning, m. 1835 at Steyning, bur. 1887 at Steyning
				— Harriet Breach, bap. 1836 at Steyning
				— William Breach, b. c1838 at Steyning
				— Barbara Breach, b. c1839 at Steyning
				— Elizabeth Breach, b. c1840 at Steyning
				— Elizabeth Breach, bap. 1791 at Steyning
				+ George Compton, m. 1818 at Steyning
				— Philadelphia Breach, bap. 1792 at Steyning
				+ unknown spouse
				— Mary Ann Breach, bap. 1813 at Steyning
				— Sarah Breach, bap. 1794 at Steyning
				— Benjamin Breach, bap. 1797 at Steyning, bur. 1846 at Steyning
				+ Charlotte Herbert, b. c1796, m. 1821 at Findon, bur. 1824 at Steyning
				— Eliza Breach, bap. 1822 at Steyning
				— Jane Breach, bap. 1824 at Steyning, bur. 1829 at Steyning
				+ Elizabeth Emery, m. 1830 at Steyning, bur. 1831 at Steyning
				— Benjamin Breach, bap. 1830 at Steyning
				+ Charlotte Feast, m. 1853 at Steyning
				+ Martha Turner, m. 1833 at Steyning
				— George Thomas Breach, bap. 1799 at Steyning, bur. 1867 at Steyning
				+ Mary Mitchell, bap. 1801 at Wiston, m. 1820 at Wiston, bur. 1853 at Steyning
				— George Breach, bap. 1821 at Steyning, bur. 1831 at Steyning
				— Robert Breach, bap. 1824 at Steyning, bur. 1880 at Steyning
				— Edwin Breach, bap. 1828 at Steyning, bur. 1877 at Steyning
				— Mary Ann Breach, bap. 1831 at Steyning
				— George Thomas Breach, bap. 1833 at Steyning, bur. 1881 at Steyning
				— John Breach, bap. 1801 at Steyning, bur. 1803 at Steyning
				— Jane Breach, bap. 1804 at Steyning, bur. 1814 at Steyning
				— Esther Breach, b. c1808 at Steyning, bur. 1824 at Steyning
				— William Breach, bap. 1753 at Eastbourne
				— Mark Breach, bap. 1756 at Eastbourne, bur. 1757 at Eastbourne
				— Thomas Breach, bap. 1723 at Eastbourne, d. c1793 at Eastbourne, pro. 1793
				+ Mary Denham, bap. 1735 at Willingdon, m. 1756 at Bexhill
				— William Breach, bap. 1757 at Eastbourne
				— John Breach, bap. 1758 at Eastbourne
				— Thomas Breach, bap. 1760 at Eastbourne
				— Charlotte Breach, bap. 1761 at Eastbourne
				— Mary Breach, bap. 1764 at Eastbourne
				— George Breach, bap. 1766 at Eastbourne
				— Charles Breach, bap. 1769 at Eastbourne
				+ Elizabeth Thomas
				— Jane Thomas, bap. 1765 at Uckfield [illegitimate] ¹⁹
				+ Thomas Marchant, m. 1800 at East Dean [possible marriage]
				— Mary Breach, bap. 1725 at Eastbourne

¹⁹ 23 Aug 1765: Bastardy bond binding Thomas Breach of Eastbourne, shopkeeper. Description: Bound in £100 for the support of the daughter (born around 11 Aug in Uckfield) to Elizabeth Thomas, singlewoman (ESRO: PAR 496/34/3/12)



²⁰ Katherine has only been identified by her marriage licence which states “spinster of Warbleton, daughter of Thomas”.

²¹ Left a will PCC: PROB 11/166, proved 14 Nov 1634. Not documented in this book.

²² Left a will PCC: PROB 11/312, proved 2 Aug 1663. Not documented in this book

²³ Left a will PCC: PROB 11/187, proved 30 Oct 1641. Not documented in this book

General Observations and Notes

1. The village of **Herstmonceux** was one of the earliest centres (c1550) for the Breachs and led to a clan developing in the **Dallington, Ashburnham and Burwash** area. The wills of Thomas Breach of Herstmonceux (1620), his son and daughter-in-law Thomas (1619) and Dorothy Breach (1620) of Dallington, and grandson John Breach, cordwainer of Burwash (1684) greatly assisted in putting these families together. There would also appear to be further documents at the ESRO to be investigated here. The earliest parish register entry is the baptism of Joan Brech[sic] in 1543 at Herstmonceux and the earliest wills are 1580 (John Breache of Ashburnham) and 1599 (Joane Breache of Warbleton).
2. One of the children from Herstmonceux, Thomas Breach (1637-1709), married Clemence Fryar at Eastbourne in 1661 and started a large family there. Many of the East Sussex Breachs trace their roots back to this **Eastbourne** family. Their descendants spread in both directions along the coast to Hastings and towards Seaford where they populated places such as Piddinghoe, Litlington, West Dean, etc. Some also moved inland to Lewes and Hamsey.
3. A strong Breach presence in the **Piddinghoe, Litlington, Alfriston, West Dean and East Dean parishes** existed from the late 1600s through the 1700s and later. This group has a clear connection to the earliest Eastbourne family. Wills exist for Nicholas Breche of East Dean (1760) and his wife Mary Breach of Buxted (1765). The will of Elizabeth BEAN (1772) reveals an interesting connection to Ann BREACH (1737-1770) and her three illegitimate children.
4. The Breach families at **Hastings** are dominated by the descendants of John Breach (1751-1822) and Elizabeth Cogger Eldridge (c1846-1832). John left a will as did his son William (1775-1855).
5. The neighbouring parishes of **Lewes, Hamsey and Little Horsted** became a melting pot for Breachs from all areas in East Sussex. A removal order for the three children of widower John Breach (1698-?) to relocate from Burwash to Lewes St Michael documents the move there in 1738 followed by apprenticeships arranged for the children. Other Breach families at Hamsey in the later 1700s clearly come from the Eastbourne families but there remain some problems in proving some of the connections (see Tree 2.)
6. The Breach families at **Steyning** first appear in the baptism register in 1791, so relatively late arrivals. The first family there is Benjamin and Joanna Breach and they came from Hamsey, near Lewes. Most of their children stayed at Steyning and one in particular, Benjamin (1797-1846), seems to have had a hard life being married three times and being issued with removal orders from Steyning back to Lewes (St John sub Castro) in 1826 and 1831.
A second Breach family settled at Steyning when John Breach (also of Hamsey) married Sarah Banfield of Steyning in 1803. They seem to have had a better life with one of their sons becoming Superintendent of Police at Hove.

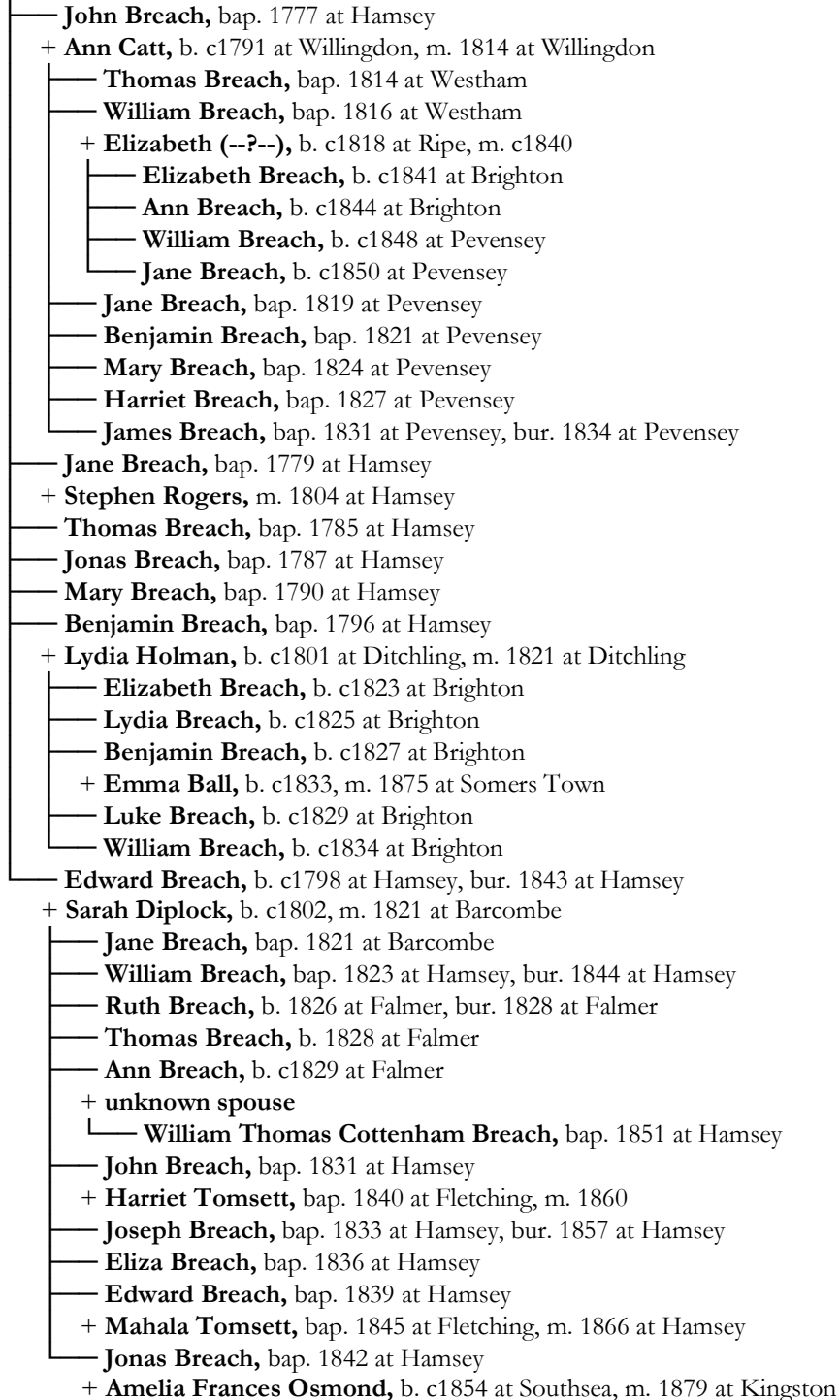
Another major resource for Breach/Breach researchers is Alison Vainlo's blog, particularly for those associated with the above family tree.²⁴

²⁴ <http://breachfamhist.blogspot.com/>

Tree 2. William Breach (c1747-1834) and Jane Corner of Hamsey

The origins of William Breach (c1747-1834) are unknown although he very likely connects to Tree 1 at some point. No one in this tree appears to have left a will or admon. All places are in Sussex except where shown. The people who left wills/admons are highlighted.

William Breach, bap. c1747, bur. 1834 at Hamsey
+ **Jane Corner**, bap. 1758 at Hamsey, m. 1776 at Hamsey, bur. 1841 at Hamsey



Tree 3. John Breach (c1620-1702) of Arlington

The origins of John Breach (c1620-1702) are unknown.

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

John Breach, b. c1620, bur. 1702 at Arlington
+ **Elizabeth (--?--)**, m. c1640, bur. 1694 at Arlington

- **John Breach**, bap. 1642 at Hellingly
 - + **Joan Fox**, bap. 1648 at Hailsham, m. 1682 at Arlington, bur. 1711 at Arlington
 - **Elizabeth Breach**, bap. 1686 at Arlington
 - + **Richard Chele**, m. 1723 at Arlington
 - **Thomas Breach**, bap. 1688 at Arlington
- **Anne Breach**, bap. 1645 at Arlington
 - + **William Evernden**, b. c1645, m. 1670 at Arlington, bur. 1695 at Mountfield
 - **Walter Evernden**, b. 1671 at Mountfield, bur. 1701 at Mountfield. pro. 1701²⁵
 - **William Evernden**, b. 1672 at Mountfield
 - **Anne Evernden**, b. 1674 at Mountfield
 - **Elizabeth Evernden**, b. 1676 at Mountfield
- **Elizabeth Breach**, bap. 1647 at Arlington
- **Bridget Breach**, bap. 1650 at Arlington
- **Sarah Breach**, bap. 1653 at Arlington, bur. 1677 at Arlington
- **Thomas Breach**, bap. 1655 at Arlington, bur. 1723 at Arlington, pro. 1723²⁶
- + **Mary Foster**, m. 1694 at Arlington, bur. 1729 at Arlington

²⁵ Will of Walter Everenden [Evernden] of Mountfield, made 14 Mar 1698, proved 31 May 1701 (ESRO: PBT 1/1/44/100). FamilySearch: Film: 1885908; Image 558.

²⁶ . Thomas Breach's will made in 1711/12 suggests that he and Mary had no [surviving?] children.

Tree 4. John Breach (c1720-) and Elizabeth Petit of Eastbourne

The origins of John Breach (c1720-) are unknown. No one in this tree appears to have left a will or admon.

All places are in Sussex except where shown.

John Breach, b. c1720

+ **Elizabeth Petit**, b. 1725 at Jevington, m. 1745 at Eastbourne

— **John Breach**, bap. 1745 at Eastbourne, bur. 1750 at Eastbourne

— **William Breach**, bap. 1747 at Eastbourne

— **Thomas Breach**, bap. 1749 at Eastbourne

— **Elizabeth Breach**, bap. 1750 at Eastbourne

— **Edward Breach**, bap. 1755 at Eastbourne, bur. 1828 at Lewes

[*See Note below*]²⁷

+ **Tabitha Holford**, b. c1764, m. 1788 at Barcombe, bur. 1836 at Lewes

— **Elizabeth Breach**, bap. 1790 at Barcombe

+ **George Langridge**, b. c1795 at Chailey, m. 1817 at Lewes

— **Philadelphia Breach**, b. 1792 at Barcombe, bur. 1872 at Lewes

+ **Richard Carter**, bap. 1789 at Lewes, m. 1811 at Lewes, bur. 1842 at Lewes

— **James Carter**, bap. 1812 at Lewes

— **Richard Carter**, bap. 1814 at Ringmer

— **Edward Carter**, b. c1826

— **Elizabeth Carter**, b. c1833

+ **Richard Blaber**, b. c1791, m. 1849 at Brighton, bur. 1869 at Lewes

— **William Breach**, bap. 1797 at Barcombe, bur. 1878 at Lewes

+ **Barbara Marchant**, bap. 1807 at Barcombe, m. 1826 at Lewes, bur. 1865 at Lewes

— **William Breach**, bap. 1827 at Lewes

— **Thomas Breach**, bap. 1829 at Lewes

+ **Martha Channon**, b. c1836 at Brighton, m. 1851 at Brighton

— **William Breach**, b. c1853 at Lewes

— **Raymond Breach**, b. c1857 at Lewes

— **Alfred F Breach**, b. 1861 at Liverpool, LAN

— **Emily Mercy Breach**, bap. 1831 at Lewes, bur. 1832 at Lewes

— **George Breach**, bap. 1833 at Lewes

— **Sarah Ann Breach**, bap. 1835 at Lewes

— **Rhoda Breach**, bap. 1838 at Lewes

— **Eliza Maria Breach**, b. c1840 at Lewes

— **Alfred Middleton Breach**, bap. 1841 at Lewes

+ **Elizabeth Shelley**, b. 1845 at Lewes, m. 1868 at Pentonville, LND

— **Miriam Breach**, b. 1847 at Lewes, d. 1913 at Lewes

+ **Seth Mew**, b. c1847 at Maresfield, m. c1867 at Brighton

— **Caroline R Breach**, bap. 1851 at Lewes

— **Sarah Breach**, bap. 1799 at Barcombe

— **Ann Breach**, bap. 1803 at Barcombe

— **Thomas Breach**, bap. 1806 at Barcombe, bur. 1806 at Barcombe

— **Ruth Breach**, bap. 1808 at Barcombe

²⁷ Edward's age at burial is given as 73 years, a perfect match for the Eastbourne baptism. However, that is all the evidence for now.

Tree 5. Thomas Breach (c1793-1848) and Mary French of Litlington

The origins of Thomas Breach (c1793-1848) are unknown. No one in this tree appears to have left a will or admon.

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

Thomas Breach, b. c1793, bur. 1848 at Westdean

+ **Elizabeth French**, b. c1794 at Litlington, m. 1820 at Litlington, bur. 1880 at Alfriston

├── **William Breach**, bap. 1820 at Westdean

├── **Mary Anne Breach**, bap. 1823 at Litlington

│ + **Frederick Woolgar**, b. 1824 at Seaford, m. 1847 at Alfriston

├── **Thomas Breach**, bap. 1827 at Litlington

└── **George Breach**, b. circa 1835

Tree 6. The Breecher Families of Westfield and Ninfield

In the 1500s and 1600s there are a number of families in East Sussex with the surname BREECHER (or BREACHER/BRECHER/BRITCHER). It is not a surname that lasts and in the Sussex Marriage Index there are only two marriages involving this surname after 1700. The surname may have simply died out, or it may have gradually become "BREACH", although I haven't seen any evidence for this yet. There were a group of wills for these BREECHERS allowing a small tree to be put together.

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

George Breecher, d. 1584, pro. 1584

+ **Mudwina**

— **Thomas Breecher, b. c1550, bur. 1609 at Westfield, pro. 1609**

+ unknown spouse

— **George Brecher, b. c1570, d. 1613, pro. 1613**

+ **Margerie (--?--), m. c1599, bur. 1618 at Winchelsea**

— **Thomas Brecher, bap. 1600 at Bexhill**

— **Elizabeth Brecher, b. c1605**

— **Mary Brecher, bap. 1608 at Westfield, bur. 1609 at Westfield**

— **Jeremy Brecher, bap. 1611 at Westfield**

— **Mary Breecher, b. c1575**

+ **James Hunt, m. c1598**

— **Thomas Hunt, bap. 1599 at Westfield**

— **Mary Hunt, bap. 1600 at Hastings**

— **Margaret Hunt, bap. 1603 at Hastings**

— **James Hunt, bap. 1605 at Hastings**

— **Elizabeth Hunt, bap. 1609 at Hastings**

— **Thomas Breecher, b. c1580, d. 1642 at Ninfield, pro. 1642**

+ **Alice Olyvar**

— **Alice Olyvar, bap. 1604 at Rye**

+ **Marie (--?--), m. c1611, bur. 1611 at Ninfield**

— **infant Breecher, b. 1611 at Ninfield, bur. 1611 at Ninfield**

+ **Elizabeth (--?--), m. c1615, bur. 1627 at Ninfield**

— **Elizabeth Breecher, bap. 1616 at Ninfield, bur. 1618 at Ninfield**

— **Henry Breecher, b. c1618 at Ninfield**

+ **Elizabeth Randall, m. 1639 at Ninfield**

— **Mary Breecher, bap. 1641 at Hooe**

— **Agnes Breecher, bap. 1643 at Hooe**

— **John Breecher, bap. 1644 at Hooe**

— **Thomas Breecher, b. c1620 at Ninfield**

— **Jeremy Breecher, bap. 1622 at Ninfield**

— **George Breecher, bap. 1625 at Ninfield**

+ **Elizabeth Weekes, m. 1629 at Ninfield, bur. 1639 at Ninfield**

— **Richard Breecher, b. c1630 at Ninfield**

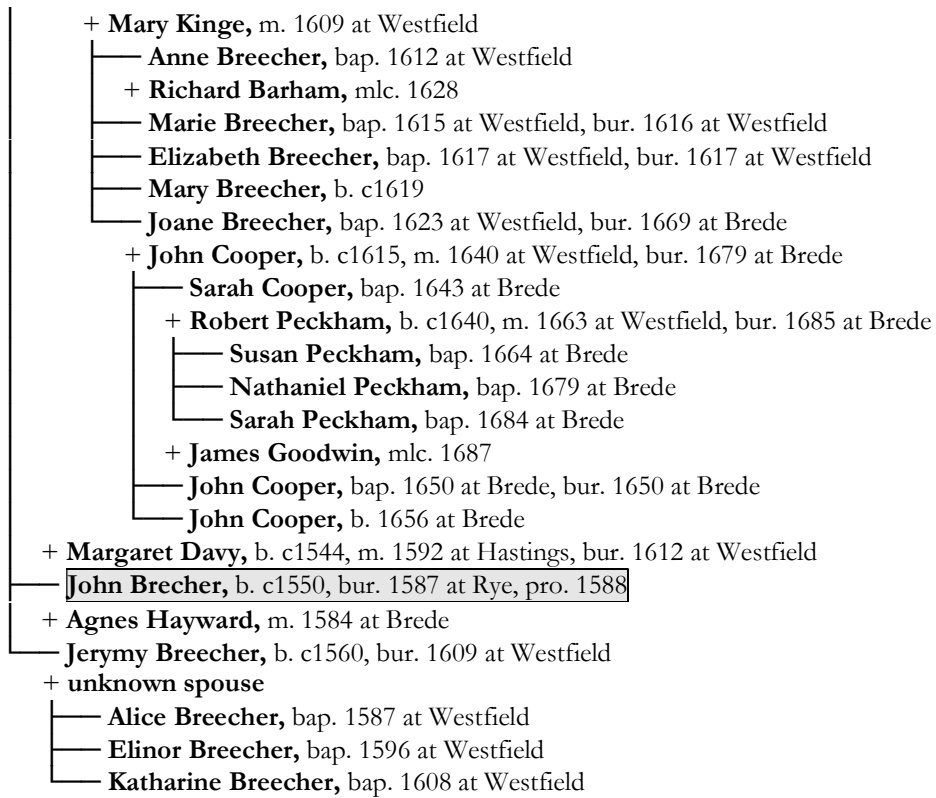
— **Elizabeth Breecher, bap. 1631 at Ninfield**

— **Mercy Breecher, b. c1584**

+ **Richard Hayward, m. 1604 at Westfield**

— **Richard Hayward, b. c1605**

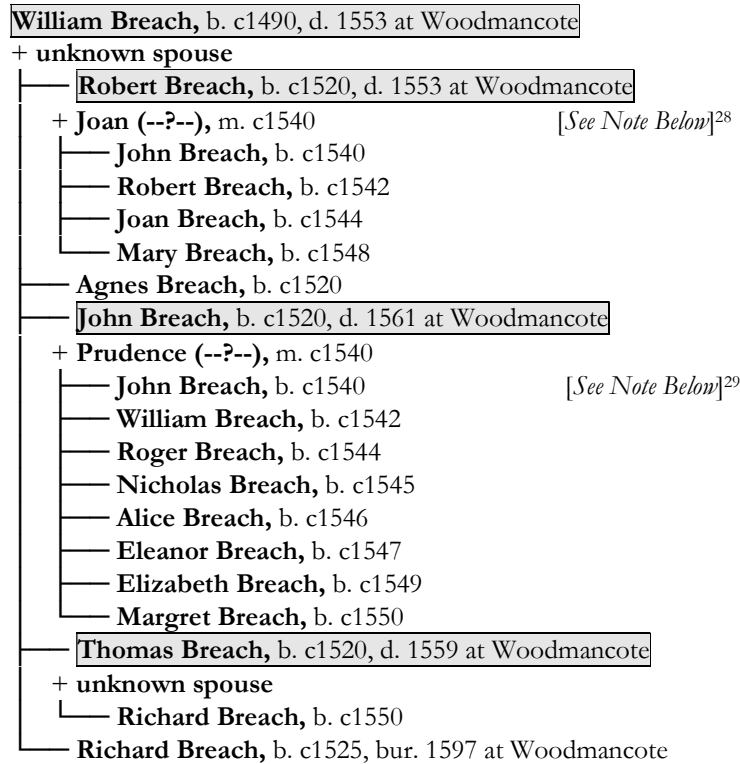
— **Jeremy Breecher, bap. 1586 at Westfield, bur. 1640 at Westfield, pro. 1640**



Tree 7. The Early Breach Families of Woodmancote

The surviving parish records for Woodmancote start at 1582 and are quite sparse until the 1600s, making it difficult to extend the tree below.

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



²⁸ It is possible that this Joan is the Joane Breche of Pulborough who left a nuncupative will proved in 1580, but I think it is unlikely as no children or close relatives were mentioned in the will and there is nothing to prove the connection.

²⁹ It is possible that John Breach married and had children baptised at Horsham St Mary. There are baptisms of a Mary (24 Aug 1553 to John & Alys Breache), Bridget (4 May 1555 to John & Joan Breache), William (7 Nov 1555 to Richard & Joan Byrche) and Nicholas (5 Jul 1556 to John & Joan Breache).

Chapter 3 – The Breach Wills

1. Admon of William Breche of Hamsey, 1548

ESRO: PBT 1/1/1/84

Granted: c1548 (date from ESRO catalogue)

Familysearch: N/A

[In LH margin] {??}ms{a}y

ad[ministraci]o bo[norum] Will[iel]mi breche {commissa} Isabelle ei{us} relict / Su[mma]

In[ventor]ij 3li 14s {??}

{*Hamsay*}

Administration of the goods of William Breche was committed to Isabella his wife / Inventory total £3 14s ??

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 29th May 2021

NOTES

People

William Breche, testator

Isabella Breche, wife

Places

Hamsey

Family Tree

None

2. Will of Robert Breache of Woodmancote, 1553

ESRO: PBT 1/1/3/83A

Made: 23 February 1552/53

Exhibited: 30 May 1553

Familysearch: N/A

In the name of god Amen In the xxiiijth day off Februarij in the yere of o[u]r lorde god m^o vc^o lij^o I **Roberte breache** of the p[ar]yshe of Woodmancotte sycke in my bodye yet nev[er] the lesse beinge in p[er]fyt & good remembrannce dothe make my my last wyll and Testam[en]t in man[er] & Forme hereafter Folowyng Fyrst I bequeth my soulle unto almyghtie god my creator & unto Jesu chryst his Sonne my onely redem[er] & savyour It[e]m I gyve unto the poore mens boxe xij^d It[e]m I gyve unto my ij s[er]vantes eyther of theym xij^d It[e]m I gyve unto my iiij^{or} Chyldren that ys to whitt **John** my sonne **Roberte** my Sonne **Jone** my dowghter & **Marye** my dowghter the one halffe of All my moveable Cattell As well bullockes as horses And eche of theym one payer of shetes equally to be devyded emonge theym And yf yt Fortune that Any of theym {die} before he be of lawffull age then I wyll that that parte shalbe equally devyded Amonge the Longest lyvers of theym It[e]m the other halffe of my Cattell & horses & the Rest of all my goodes not bequethed & gyven I gyve to **Jone** my wyffe whome I make the onely executryx of this my last wyll & Testm[en]t for to helpe her to brynge upp my chyldren & hyrs Also I make **Robert arnald** & my brother **Richard breache** ov[er]seers that this my wyll may be Fulfilled Accordyng to my mynde & they to have for theyre paynes taken ev[er]y of theym iiij^s iiij^d Theysse wytnesses **John Cattall** p[ar]son of Woodma[n]cote **Wyllm {a}breache** my father & **Robert Arnalde** S[um]ma In[vento]rijij __ xxxix^{li} {i} x^s

Exhibited in the parish church of Flechyng 30th May 1553 by the executrix. Sworn as to the value of the inventory.

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 22nd April 2021

NOTES:

People

Robert Breache, testator

Jone [Joan] Breache, wife, executrix

John Breache, son

Robert Breache, son

Jone [Joan] Breache, daughter

Mary Breache, daughter,

Robert Arnald [Arnold], overseer

Richard Breache, brother, overseer

William Breache, father, witness

John Cattall, parson of Woodmancote, witness

Places

Woodmancote

Fletching

Relevant Events

Burial not in SFHG index.

Family Tree

None

3. Will of William Breache of Woodmancote, 1553

ESRO: PBT 1/1/3/83B

Made: 28 Mar 1552

Exhibited: 29 May 1553

Familysearch: N/A

In the name of god Amen the xxviiijth daye of marche in the yere of our lorde god m^o v^{co} lij I **Wyllyam Breache** of Blackston in the p[ar]lyshe of Woodma[n]cote doth make this my last Wyll & Testame[n]te in man[er] & Forme Folowyng Fyrst I bequeth my soulle unto god Allmyghtie And my bodye unto Chrysten buryall It[e]m I bequeth & gyve to my wyffe xx markes And suche stuffe in hyr Chamber as was hyrs at the day of our maryage & halfe of the Rest It[e]m I gyve to **John breache** the sonne of **John Breache** thelder one Cowe beyng in the kepyng of the sayd **John Breache** his Father And the monye whiche the sayd **John breache** ow[e]th unto **wyllm Breache** hys father the one hallfe to remayne to hym the sayd **John Breache** And the other halffe to the Rest of hys Chyldren It[e]m to **Richard breache** the Sonne of **Thomas breache** one Cowe the Colour pyed It[e]m to **Thomas beache**³⁰ my Sonne iiij^{or} ewe shepe j Lambe & my best gowne It[e]m to **Richard Anstye** the yonger sonne of **Richard Anstye** thelder one lambe It[e]m to the Chyldren of **Roberte Breache** one Bushell of wheate the p[ri]ce ij^s & xviiij^d of money for plowyng of the same grounde It[e]m to **Agnes** my dowghter vj^{li} xiiij^s iiij^d It[e]m the Rest of all my goodes I gyve to **Richard Breache** my Sonne whome I make my hole executor to pay my dettes & to fulfyll thys my Last wyll It[e]m I desyre **John Bonyface** off Weke & **Robert brea{ch}e**³¹ my sonne to become sup[er]visors of this my last wyll & to se yt well & truly p[er]formyd & they to have for theyr paynes takynge eche off theym iiij^s iiij^d Wytnes herof **Wyllm payge** p[ar]son of Woodma[n]cote **Thomas bonyface** **Robert Denet** **Robert breache** **Willm goobbert** w[i]th other
S[umma]m In[vento]rij __ xlvij^{li} xvj^s iiij^d

Exhibited in the parish church of Flechyng 29th May 1553 by the executor etc.

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 22nd April 2021

NOTES:

People

William Breache, testator

John Breache, son of John Breache the elder

John Breache the elder, son of William

Thomas Breache, son

Richard Breache, son of Thomas

Richard Anstye [Anstey] the elder

Richard Anstye [Anstey], son of Richard Anstye

Agnes Breache, daughter

Richard Breache, son, executor

Robert Breache, son, overseer

John Bonyface, overseer

William Page, parson of Woodmancote, witness

Thomas Bonyface, witness

Robert Denet, witness

³⁰ *Sic*

³¹ Looks like 'breange'.

William Goobbert, witness

Places

Woodmancote

Blackston in Woodmancote

Weke

Fletching

Relevant Events

Burial not in SFHG index.

Family Tree

None

4. Will of Thomas Breche of Woodmancote, 1559

ESRO: PBT/1/1/4/179B

Granted: 1559

ESRO Reference is incorrect. Will/Admon yet to be found.

NOTES:

People

Thomas Breche, testator

Places

Woodmancote

Relevant Events

Burial not in SFHG index.

Family Tree

None

5. Will of John Breche of Woodmancote, 1561

ESRO: PBT 1/1/4/345D

Made: 29 Jun 1551

Exhibited: 16 Dec 1561

Familysearch: N/A

In the name of god Amen the xxixth daye of June in the yere of o[u]r Lord god 1551 I **John Breche** of the p[ar]lysshe of wodma[n]cote beyng in good & p[er]{fect} Remembrannce thanks be gyven to Allmyghti {e} god make & ordey {n} this my last wyll & Test{ament} [in] man[er] and f{u}rme as followyth fyrst I bequethe my Sou{le} to Almy[ghtie] god my bodye to be buryed w[ith]in the churche yeard off woodma[n]cote This ys the Last wyll of me **John breche** before namyd It[e]m I wyll [tha]t my exec[utor] shall Receyve my dettes & pay my dettes & fulfyll my Legaces And the Rest of all my goodes I wyll ^the one haulfe³² to be devyded amonge my viith children that ys to say **John Wyllm {?ger}**³³ **Nycholas alys {?ly?n}**³⁴ **elizabeth{e}** & **{m??gre?}**³⁵ yf yt fortune any of my children beforesyd dye // before they com to yeres of dyscresyon I wyll ther part to be devyded amonge [th]e Rest The Resydewe of all my goodes unbequeathed I geve them to **prudens** my wyf whom I make my sole exec[utor] & **Thom[a]s breche** my brother & **John Anstey** to be my Ov[er]sears to se this my Last wyll fullfyllled & they [to] have for theyr paynes v^s Ther beryth wytnesse to [thi]s wyll & Testam[ent] **wyllm Jamys** of Dallington **Henrye Cly{n}** w[ith] other S[um]ma In[vento]rij __ xxx^{li} iiiij^s

Exhibited in the parish church of Cuckfield 16th December 1561 etc.

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 23rd April 2021

NOTES:

People

John Breche, testator

Prudence Breche, wife, executrix

John Breche, son

William Breche, son

Roger Breche, son

Nicholas Breche, son

Alice Breche, son

Eleanor Breche, daughter

Elizabeth Breche, daughter

Margret Breche, daughter

John Anstey, overseer

Thomas Breche, brother, overseer

William Jamys of Dallington, witness

Henry Clyn, witness

Places

Woodmancote

Fletching

³² There is no caret mark visible, so the placing of the interlining is assumed from the context.

³³ Possibly Roger

³⁴ Possibly Ely(e)nor

³⁵ Possibly margret

Dallington

Relevant Events

Burial not in SFHG index.

Family Tree

None

6. Admon of Alice Brecher of Westfield, 1574

ESRO: PBT/1/3/1/1E

Date Granted: 9 Aug 1574

Die et Anno sup[ra]dict[i]

Bonorum Alicie Brecher nup[er] de West

fielde defunct[e] quorum emanavit Ad[ministraci]o

The day and year above said [9th August 1574]

*Administration was granted of the goods of **Alice Brecher** late of Westfield deceased*

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 9th May 2021

NOTES:

People

Alice Brecher, deceased

Places

Westfield

Relevant Events

Burial not in SFHG index.

Family Tree

Likely connected to Tree 6. “The Breecher Families of Westfield and Ninfield” in Chapter 2.

7. Will (nuncupative) of Joane Breche of Pulborough, 1580

(WSRO: STC I volume 12; page 134b)

Made: 20 Mar 1579

Proved: 7 Apr 1580

FamilySearch: Film: 1068592; Image: 602

In the name of God Amen the xxth day of Marche Anno domini 1579 **Joane Breche** of the paryshe of Pulboroughe in the Countey of Sussex beinge in pfecte minde and reme[m]beraunce but sicke in bodey made her last will and testamente nuncupative in manner and forme followinge: That ys to say Fyrste she gave and bequeathed hir soule to almightie god her maker and redemer and her bodye to be buryed in the Churche yard of Pulborouge [*sic*] aforesayde: Item she gave unto **henrye Stringer** of Pulboroughe aforesayde all her goodes and chattells whatsoever ^moveable & unmoveable^ Witnesse to this will [blank] **Coope** the wyfe of **Richard Coope** of the same pyshe and others

Probate: 7th April 1580 at the court of Mr William Ca{ll??} MA Surrogate etc. to **Henry Stringer** legatee named in the will. Sworn etc.

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 1st June 2020

NOTES:

People

Joan Breche, testatrix

Henry Stringer of Pulborough

..... Coope, wife of Richard Coope, witness

Richard Coope, executor

Places

Pulborough

Relevant Events

Burial not in SFHG index (gap between 1546 and 1583).

Family Tree

None

8. Will (nuncupative) of John Breache, Labourer of Ashburnham, 1580

(ESRO: PBT 1/1/7/192C) - Will

(ESRO: PAR 233/11/1) - Probate

Made: 23 July 1580

Proved: 10 September 1580

FamilySearch: Film 1885742; Image 173

In the name of god amen the xxiiiith of July 1580 **John Breache** alia {n} of the pishe of Ashbornham in the countie of Sussex laborer beinge in pfecte remembrannce made his last will nuncupative in man[nr] and forme followinge ferste he comended his s[o]wle into the handes of almyghtie god &c and his bodye to the earthe Itm he willed all and singular his goodes cattelles and debtes whatsoever they were after his debtes payd and his fun[er]all expences {???} charges dyscharged to be indiffrently shif{ted} and devided amongste the poore of the said pishe of Ashbornham by the discretion of the churchwardens for the time beinge In witnes wherof that thes{e} were the wordes of the testator at the tyme of his decease {Mr} **John Philcoxe Mster Thomas Apleby** wth others

Probate

*[Writing difficult to make out but it looks as though someone called **Thomas Welden or Wilden** was granted administration on 10th September 1580.]*

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 3rd February 2018

NOTES:

People

John Breache, testator

John Philcox, witness

Thomas Apleby, witness

Thomas Welden, administrator

Places

Ashburnham

Relevant Events

Burial not in SFHG index (starts at 1606).

Family Tree

None, but very likely connected to Tree 1 in Chapter 2 because of the Ashburnham connection.

9. Inventory of Thomas Breach of Warbleton, 1583/84

(ESRO: PBT 1/3/1/125K)

Date: 22 January 1583/84

Testa^m Tho Breach de Warbleton exec Joha eius relicta

xxii^o Januarii 1583 comso dicta exor {dr df} testa^m pd qd dns M^r Johes Motley subs{?} &c
appba{n}t &c mra^{to} dicta execr &c {ex?} Inven^m ad Sumam xxxiii^{li} vi^s {8}^d

Will **Thomas Breach** of Warbleton executor **Joan** his relict

22nd January 1583 commission [to the] said executor [??] the aforesaid will that the [reverend?] Mr John Motley [??] etc. [approved] etc. [noted?] the said executor etc. exhibited an inventory to the total of £33 6s 8d

[NB The iii in the number of pounds is blurred, so it might be £32.]

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 4th February 2018

NOTES:

People

Thomas Breach, testator

Joan Breach, wife, executor

Places

Warbleton

Relevant Events

Thomas Breach was buried 15 Aug 1583 at Warbleton St Mary.

Thomas Breach's widow, Joane Breache of Warbleton, left a will proved in 1599.

(SFHG Indexes)

Family Tree

See Tree 1. "Thomas & Joan Breach of Warbleton (1500s-1800s)" in Chapter 2.

10. Probate of George Brecher of Westfield, 1584

(ESRO: PBT/1/3/1/149A)

Date: 12 Nov 1584

Testa[men]tum Georgij Brecher
nup[er] dum vixit de Westfild
ext{?n}t Mudwina eius relict
[written to the right of the above]
Probatum fuit
xj^o die mensis
Novembris 1584
[written below the above]
{Magistro} Thome Marshall
Notarij pu[bli]ci procuratoris dict_
Executric{es} {&c} Invent[arium] ___ xxv^{li} ij^s ij^d

The will of **George Brecher** formerly of Westfield {was exhibited by} **Mudwina** his relict
Proved the 12th day of November 1584

[By?] **Mr Thomas Marshall** Notary Public proctor of the executrix Inventory_ £25 2s 2d

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 20th April 2021

NOTES:

People

George Brecher, testator

Mudwina Brecher, wife, executor

Places

Westfield

Relevant Events

Burial not in SFHG index.

Mudwyn BREECHER, widow, married Arthur LANDS on 18 Jan 1584/85 at Westfield.
(SFHG Marriage Index)

Family Tree

See Tree 6. "The Breecher Families of Westfield and Ninfield" in Chapter 2.

11. Admon of John Brecher of Westfield, 1585

ESRO: PBT/1/3/1/149D

Granted: 14 Oct 1585

Ad[ministraci]o bonorum Johis Brecher }
nup[er] de Westfild def[unctus] }
Commissa fuit xiiij^o die mens[is] Octobris Anno
1585 Mercie Brecher
relicte &c debita iuris forma
mic {?t} In[ventori]j vij^{li} v^s j^d
[In LH margin]
r{??} ij^s in p[ar]te

*Administration of the goods of **John Brecher** late of Westfield deceased }
was committed on the 14th day of October 1585 in due form of law to **Mercy Brecher** [his] relict
{???} Inventory £.7 5s 1d
[marginal note] {??} 2s {in part}*

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 24th April 2021

NOTES:

People

John Brecher, deceased

Mercy Brecher, wife, administrator

Places

Westfield

Relevant Events

Burial not in SFHG index.

John BREECHER married Mercy TURNER on 24 Jul 1580 at Westfield.
(SFHG Marriage Index)

Family Tree

Likely connected to Tree 6. “The Breecher Families of Westfield and Ninfield” in Chapter 2. He is possibly a brother of George Brecher of Westfield, whose will was probated 13 Nov 1585.

12. Will of John Brecher of Rye, 1587/88

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/8/147)

Made: 10 Dec 1587

Proved: 20 Jan 1587/88, Archdeaconry of Lewes

FamilySearch: Film: 1885742; Image 617

In the name of god amen The xth daye of Decemb[er] A[nn]o Dni 1587 And in the xxxth yere of the raigne of o[u]r moste gracous Sov[er]aigne Ladye Elizabeth by the grace of god of England France & Ireland Quene Defender of the Faith &c I **John Brecher** of the p[ar]ishe of Rie in the cownty of Sussex & in the Dioc[ese] of Chichester beinge sicke in bodye but of good & pfect remembr[a]unce thanks be unto god For the same Doe ordeine & make this my laste wille & testam[en]t in man[er] & Forme Followinge Firste I bequeth my Sowle into the hands of almighty my creator & mak[e]r assuredly hopinge to obtaine & have Fulle & p[er]fect remission & p[ar]don of all my sinns by his Free mercie & {??o}dnes³⁶ through A stedfaste & lively Faith in his Dere sonne Jesus christe my only redemer & Savio[u]r And my body to be buried in the churche yerde of Rie &c It I wille & bequeth to **Thom[a]s Foxe** my pore neighb[ou]r {?} iij^s iij^d It I geve & bequeth to **Jeremy Breecher** my Brothers Sonne Tenne shillings of good lawfull mony of England All the residue of my goods, cattells & implem[en]tes of howsholde stuffe whatsoev[er], my debts pd, my legaces Discharged, my body modestly buried, & this my laste Wille & testam[en]t proved, I geve & bequeth to **Agnes** my Wief Whome I Do ordeine & make the sole & onely Executor of this my laste Wille & testam[en]t And I do appoint & make **Willm Davie** of Udimer³⁷ the overseer of & to this my said Wille, to see it to be well & truely accompli[-]shed accordinge to my very wille & meaninge abovesaid, And I Do geve unto him For his pains therin to be taken tenne shillings
Witnesses p[re]sent at the speakinge makinge & writ[-]tinge {h} of this p[rese]nte Wille & testam[en]t of the abovesaid Testator **John Davie Jnr Willm Younge & Robte Burnette &c**

Probate: 20th January 1587/8

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 4th June 2020

NOTES:

People

John Brecher, testator

Thomas Foxe, poor neighbour

Jeremy Breecher, brother's son

Agnes Brecher, wife, executrix

William Davie of Udimore, overseer

John Davie jnr, witness

William Younge, witness

Robert Burnette, witness

Places

Rye

Udimore

³⁶ Goodnes? The first part of the word is obscured by an ink blot.

³⁷ Udimore

Relevant Events

John Brecher was buried 11 December 1587 at Rye St Mary, “a householder”. (FamilySearch film no: 1067288, image 642)

John Breecher married Agnes Hayward on 2 Mar 1583/84 at Brede, Sussex.

After John’s death, Agnes Brecheer, widow, married William Apryc [Apryse] on 19 Feb 1587/88 at Rye, Sussex.

The Jeremy Breecher mentioned in the above will is thought to be the son of Thomas Breecher who left a will proved 3 May 1609 (ESRO: PBT/1/1/12/350C). Jeremy Breecher was baptised 24 Nov 1586 at Westfield and he also left a will proved 23 Apr 1640 (ESRO: PBT/1/1/27/16). (SFHG Indexes)

Family Tree

See Tree 6. “The Breecher Families of Westfield and Ninfield” in Chapter 2.

13. Will (nuncupative) of Joane Breache, Widow of Warbleton, 1599

(ESRO Reference: PBT 1/1/7/192C)

Made: 1597

Probate: 9 July 1599

FamilySearch: Film: 1885745; Image: 216

In the name of god amen &c.

This is the last will and testament nuncupative of **Joane Breache** widow while she lived of Warbleton in the diocese of Chichester and made in the year of our lord god 1597

Being of perfect memory and understanding who disposeth of her goods by words of mouth as followeth:

First her will was that **Thomas Breache** her son should have one pair of her best sheets and one great spit.

Item she did will and bequeath to **Thomas Frenche's** wife one petticoat and one covering and she gave also to **Elizabeth Breache** one old red petticoat and one platter.

Item she did further will and bequeath to **Mary Thomas** one cupboard and those things that the rest of her children have that they should keep it if she herself do not like to spend it saving that **Thomas Frenche** should pay out of own count twenty shillings and all the rest of her goods she gave and bequeathed by this her last will and testament to her daughter **Anne** whom she made her sole executrix of this her last and testament.

These being witness **Thomas Golding Edmund Stace Richard Bread**

Probate 9 July 1599.

From a transcription in the SFHG library.

NOTES:

People

Joane Breache, widow, testatrix

Thomas Breache, son

Thomas Frenche

Elizabeth Breache

Mary Thomas

Anne Breache, daughter, executrix

Thomas Golding, witness

Edmund Stace, witness

Richard Bread, witness

Places

Warbleton

Relevant Events

Joane Breache was buried 11 June 1598 at Warbleton St Mary ("widow Breache").

Joan's husband, Thomas Breach, died in 1583 and there is a record of a probate inventory

(ESRO Reference: PBT 1/3/1/125K).

Thomas GOLDING married Jone BREACHE on 1 Jul 1565 at Warbleton St Mary.

Thomas French married Dorothy Breach on 12 Oct 1595 at Ashburnham. Dorothy Breach was a daughter of Joane Breach the testatrix.

Family Tree

See Tree 1. “Thomas & Joan Breach of Warbleton (1500s-1800s)” in Chapter 2.

14. Will (nuncupative) of Nicholas Breche of Bexhill, 1600

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/11/60B)

Made: nuncupative

Proved: 6 Dec 1600

FamilySearch: Film 1885745; Image 469

Me[morandum] that **Nicholas Breche** late of Bexhill in the dioces of Chichester did nuncupativelie and by worde of mouthe not longe before he decesse beinge of pfecte memorie dispose of suche goods god had {lent} him in maner followinge vz All that I have my minde ys my wife **Ellenor** shall have my debtes first p{ai}de & deducted Exepte ii sheepe wch I geve to my sister **Joane** and my {russett} Cloake wch I geve to my brother **Willm** In p[rese]nce of **Michael Wyles {Edward} Bourner** & others

Probate: Administration granted 6th December 1600 to **Ellinore Breche**, relict.

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 3rd February 2018

NOTES:

People

Nicholas Breche

Ellinor Breche, wife, administartor

William Breche, brother

Joan [Breche?], sister

Places

Bexhill

Relevant Events

Burial not in SFHG index.

Family Tree

None

15. Will of Richard Brech, Husbandman of Wivelsfield, 1602

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/11/152B)

Made: 11 March 1602

Proved: 7 August 1602

FamilySearch: not available

[page 1]

In the name of God amen: the eleventh of marche and in the foure and fourtithe yeare of the rayne of our most gracious Soveraiyne Ladye Elizabeth bythe grace of God of England France and Ireland Queene defender of the Faythe etc I **Richard Brech** of Wevelsfield in the Countye of Sussex husbandman beinge sicke in bodye but in good and perfecte remembrance prayse be unto god doe make and ordayne this my last will and testament in manner and forme following that ys to say First and principally I bequeath my soule unto Almighty god my onely saviour and redeemer And my bodye to bee buried in the churchyard of Wevelsfield Inprimis I give and bequeathe unto the poore of Wevelsfield twentye shillings to bee distributed at the day of my burial Item I give and bequeath unto the children of **Thomas Brech** of Watlinge five pounds of currant money of England to bee payd unto them as they shall come unto the age of one and twentye years, And yf any of them shall fortune to departe this mortal lyfe before they shall come unto the age of one and twentye years then my will ys that the portion soe given shalbee equally divided amonge the residue of them remayninge alive Item I give unto the children of **William Brech** five pounds of like currant money of England to bee payd unto them as they shall accomlishe the age of one and twentye years And if any of them shall depart this lyfe before they shall come unto the age above said /

[page 2]

.... abovesayd then my will ys the portions soe given shall equally bee devided amonge them soe remayninge alive Item I give unto **John Chalchinge** my Brother in lawe twelve pence Item I give unto **Thomas Chalchinge** and **Elizabeth Chalchinge** sonne and daughter unto **John Chalchinge** Twentye shillings equally to be devided betwene them and yf any of them shall fortune to departe this lyfe before they shall come unto the age abovesayd then my will ys that the portion soe give shall remayne unto the other then alive Item [I] give unto **Anne Shoulder** the younger and **Frauncis Shoulder** four pounds equally to bee deveided betwene them to bee payd unto them as they shall come unto the age of one and Twentye yeares And yf any of them shall fortune to departe this lyfe before they come unto the age of one and twentye yeares then my will ys that the portion soe given shall remayne unto the longer liver of them Item [I] give unto **John Shoulder** twelve pence Item [I] give **Nicholas Tredcrofte** five shillings Alsoe I give **John Tredcrofte** five shillings Item I give unto **Anne Shoulder** the elder twelve pence Item [I] give unto **Roger Shoulder** four pounds Item [I] give unto **Dorothye Nelle** six pence The residue of all my goods not given nor bequeathed my debts paid and my legacyes fulfilled I will and bequeath unto **Roger Shoulder** whome I make and ordayne my whole executor of this my last will & Testament and I doe desire **Frauncis Moore** gent and **Thomas Lucas** to be my overseers These beinge witnesses **John Daw** his marke and **Thomas Kippinge** his marke

Probatum coram magistro Johanne Motlay Clerico Artium magistro Surrogato etc septimo die Augustii Anno Domini millesimo sexcentesimo secundo commissaque administracio bonorum etc **Rogero Shoulder** Executori etc de bene etc ad sancta dei Evangelia Jurato

(Page 1 transcribed by Geoffrey Barber 5 May 2020)

(Page 2 transcribed by Rosie Ansell March 2010 from a copy in the SFHG library)

NOTES:

People

Richard Brech [Breach], husbandman, testator

Thomas Brech of Watling [Wartling?]

William Brech

John Chalchinge

Thomas Chalchinge

Elizabeth Chalchinge

Anne Shoulder the younger

Anne Shoulder the elder

Roger Shoulder, executor

Frauncis [Francis] Shoulder

John Shoulder

Nicholas Tredcroft

John Tredcroft

Dorothy Nelle [Knell?]

Francis Moore, gent, overseer

Thomas Lucas, overseer

John Daw, witness

Thomas Kippinge, witness

Places

Wivelsfield

Wartling

Related Events

Richard Breache was buried 15 Mar 1602 at Wivelsfield St Peter & St John.

The surname Chalchinge does not appear in any of the SFHG indexes. It could be Shelling or Shilling. There is an Archdeaconry of Lewes marriage licence dated 2 Aug 1606 between [no Christian name] Shelling and Agnes Fancie of Wartling.

There are two baptisms at Wartling to Edward Breache in 1634 and 1637. Edward [Edmund] was bap. 1597 at Herstmonceux, the son of Thomas Breach (c1550-1619) and Alice Jervis. Another clue is that Mary Breach of Herstmonceux, married Thomas Stace alias Sheather at Wartling in 1611. Mary is the daughter of Thomas Breach (c1550-1619) and Alice Jervis. Richard is therefore likely to be a kinsman of Thomas Breach (c1550-1619), but there is nothing (yet) to identify the actual relationship.

(SFHG Indexes)

Family Tree

Richard Breach is probably connected to Tree 1. "Thomas & Joan Breach of Warbleton (1500s-1800s)", possibly a brother or uncle of Thomas Breach (c1550-1619).

16. Will of Thomas Breecher the elder of Westfield, 1609

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/12/350C)

Made: 23 Feb 1609

Proved: 3 May 1609

FamilySearch: Film: 1885785, Images: 367-368

The xxiiij {o} day of February : 1609.

The last will & testament of me **Thomas Breecher** the elder of Westfeild in Sussex being of perfect remembrance God be thanked therfore In the name of God Amen First I bequeath my soule to God Almighty my Creator, wich I trust shall be saved at last day by the merits of my only saviour Jesus Christ & I also bequeath my body to be buried in the Churchyard of Westfeild w[h]ch I hope shall rise at the last day to be pertaker w[i]th my soule of eternall happines. Item I do give & bequeath to the poore of the parish of Westfeild ten shillings to be paid after my decease Item I do give unto my **Margaret** my wife forty shillings Item I do give & bequeath to my Eldest sonne **George** ten pounds to be paid to him by his [*sic*] Executor within halfe a yeare after my decease : Item I do give to my sonne **Thomas** my second sonne ten pounds to be paid unto him w[i]thin six moneths after my my decease Item I do give to Thomas Hunt sonne of my eldest daughter Mary five pounds to be paid likewise by my executor Item I do give to **James Hunt** sonne of my eldest daughter **Mary** forty shillings to be paid by my Executor ~~w[i]thin six moneths after my decease~~ Item I do give unto **Mary Hunt & Margaret** the two daug[h]t[er]s of my said **Mary** forty shillings apeece ~~within [illegible] after [illegible] decease~~ Item my very will & meaning {is} that the eleven p[ou]nd[s] afore g[i]ve[n] u[n]to my daughters children afore said shall be paid w[i]thin on {e} [illegible] yeere at one intire payment to my very good Freind **Thomas Avery** o {f} {W}estfeild to be put out by him for the benefit of my children till they come to one & twenty yeeres of age & then he the said **Thomas Avery** shall pay to either of them by himselfe executor or assigns their severall portions as before bequeathed w[i]th the profitt arising from the same ; & if any of them shall dye before they come to age then the severall portion before bequeathed shall be equally devided amongst the rest of my said daugh[-]ters children Item I do give to my eldest daughter **Mary** the wife of **James Hunt** twenty shillings a yeere to be paid at every halfe yeere end her naturall life by by executor or his assigns the first payment to begin at ~~the next~~ ~~[illegible] day the next {??} feast of saint Michaell next after my decease~~ Item I do give to **Richard Haiward** the eldest sonne of my daughter **Mercy** five pounds to be paid unto him by my executor when he come to one & twenty yeeres of age Item I do give my youngest daughter **Mercy** the wife of **Richard Haiward** twenty shillings to be paid unto her by my executor w[i]thin halfe a yeer after my decease Item I do give to **Thomas & Elsabeth** the children of my eldest sonne **George** five pounds a yeere to be paid to **George** ther father w[i]thin one yeere after my decease by my Executor [several words deleted] Item I do give to ~~my~~ **Thomas Breecher** my second sonne my Lease of a house & tenement w[i]th the land therunto belonging standing uppon the wast of Mr **Thomas Pellam** Esquire w[i]thin the parish of Gesling Item I do give to **George** my eldest sonne one Tennament w[i]th house & backside as it lyeth in the parish of Sedelscombe as it i {s} now in the occupation of **Widdow Shawe** or her assigns Item my mind & will is that my youngest sonne **Jeremy Breecher** shall be my sole executor of this my last [will] & testament unto whome I do give & bequeath all my goods & chattells unbequeathed my depts & legacies being first fully paid & dischargd In witnes wherof I have made this my last will & Testament and have herunto sett my hand [word deleted] X the {mke} of **Thomas Breecher** the elder Witnesses to this ^my^ last will : **John Bartin Richard Relfe** [and in margin] **William Wenam, Thomas Averye**

Probate (on verso): *Proved at the court of Mr William Innians priest Surrogate etc 3rd May 1609 by the oath of Jeremy Breecher son and executor etc.*

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 7th June 2020

NOTES:

People

Thomas Breecher the elder, testator
Margaret Breecher, wife
George Breecher, eldest son
Thomas Breecher, second son
Jeremy Breecher, youngest son, executor
Mary Hunt, eldest daughter
Thomas Hunt, grandson, son of Mary Hunt
James Hunt, grandson, son of Mary Hunt
Mary Hunt, granddaughter, daughter of Mary Hunt
Margaret Hunt, granddaughter, daughter of Mary Hunt
Thomas Avery of Westfield, friend, trustee
Mercy Haiward [Hayward], youngest daughter, wife of Richard Haiward
Richard Haiward, son-in-law
Richard Haiward, grandson, eldest son of Mercy Haiward
Thomas Breecher, grandson, son of George Breecher
Elizabeth Breecher, granddaughter, daughter of George Breecher
Thomas Pellam Esq., landlord of property in Guestling
Widow Shawe, tenant of property in Sedlescombe
John Bartin [Barton], witness
Richard Relfe, witness
William Wenam [Wenham], witness
Thomas Avery, witness

Places

Westfield
Guestling
Sedlescombe

Relevant Events

Thomas Breecher was buried 25 Feb 1609 at Westfield St John the Baptist.
His wife Margaret Breecher was buried 18 Jan 1612 at Westfield St John the Baptist.

Thomas Breecher married Margaret Hunt on 26 Apr 1592 at Hastings St Clement. This is likely to be a second or third marriage, and Margaret is unlikely to be the mother of Thomas's children mentioned in the will (Thomas's youngest son Jeremy was baptised 1586). Margaret Hunt is thought to have been a widow when she married Thomas Breecher and her maiden name was Davy. Her husband Ralph Hunt was buried 24 Jul 1585 at Brede.

Mercy Breecher married Richard Hayward on 13 Aug 1604 at Westfield.
The Mary Breecher marriage to James Hunt has not been found, but their children were baptised at Westfield (1599) then Hastings St Clement.

Possible father of Thomas Breecher:
George Breecher [Breacher] of Westfield; grant of probate
Date: 12 Nov 1585
(ESRO: PBT 1/3/1/149A)

Thomas Breecher son, Thomas Breecher of Ninfield, left a will proved 12 Mar 1642 (ESRO: PBT/1/5/352).

Thomas Breecher's son, Jeremy Breecher of Westfield, left a will proved 23 Apr 1640 (ESRO: PBT/1/1/27/16)

Thomas Breecher's brother, John Brecher of Rye, left a will proved 20 Jan 1588 (ESRO: PBT/1/1/8/147)

Thomas Breecher's brother, George Breecher of Westfield, left a will proved 1 Dec 1613 (ESRO: Vol A14 page 157b)

OTHER RELATED EVENTS (from ESRO Catalogue):

Assignment of lease for £35

Date: 8 Nov 1619

ESRO reference: AOB 1/81

Description: John Cooper of Guestling, yeoman, to Laurence Ashburnham of Broomham in Guestling, esq.

one acre of highway waste in Guestling, with a house built by Thomas Breecher
recites: lease by Thomas Pelham of Laughton, kt and bt, to Thomas Breecher of Westfield (now deceased), 6 May 1600 [AOB 1/59]; erection of a dwelling house, which he bequeathed to his son Thomas Breecher; assignment by Thomas Breecher to JC, 15 Apr 1618. Witnesses: Thomas Streat, John Wren [?]

Family Tree

See Tree 6. "The Breecher Families of Westfield and Ninfield" in Chapter 2.

17. Will of George Brecher, Husbandman of Westfield, 1613

(ESRO: volume A14 page 157b)

Made: 10 Oct 1613

Proved: 1 Dec 1613, Archdeaconry of Lewes

FamilySearch: Film: 1885786; Image: 405

In the name of god Amen the xth day of octob[er] in the elevent yeare of the raine of our Soferain{e} Lord James of England France and Ireland King [word deleted] and of Scotland the 4{6}³⁸ and in the nowe yeare of our Lord 161{3}³⁹ I **George Brecher** of Westf{ie}l{d} in the countie of Sussex husban man being Sick of bod{ie} But of good rememberan{c} thanks be to god thearfore doo minde to make this my last will and testament first I give my sow{l}le to god which gave It me and my bodi to be beried in the Church yarde of wesfelld Itm I doo give to my to Sonns **thomas brecher** and **Jeremy brecher** fiftenn pound apeace & the same thirte pound to be paid to **Roberd {Row}** within one yeare after my deses and **Roberd {Row}** to pay it to eth{er} of them at the age of 18 yeares with the profit he maketh of It and if any of my to sones di before the age of 18 yeares my will is that one shall be anothers ayer and If they di both before the yeares above mentoned then this money to be payd back again to my {accx}tor all the rest and residu of my goodes and choteles I do give and be quaith to **Margerie Brecher** my wif w{a}ome I do o{ar}dain and make my holl {accx}tor paying detes and I do apynte **Roberd {Rowe}** and **Jeremy Brecher** my b{ro}ther to be my over seers of this my last and testement [*sic*] in witnes whear of I have set to my hand and seall

The mark of **George Brecher**

In witnes of **Peter Pook** his mark and **John Snapp**

Probate granted at the court of **William Inians** MA Surrogate etc. 1st December 1613. **Margerie Brecher** relict and executrix sworn etc.

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 5th June 2020

NOTES:

People

George Brecher [Breecher], husbandman, testator

Margerie Brecher, wife, executor

Thomas Brecher, son

Jeremy Brecher, son

Jeremy Brecher, brother, overseer

Robert Rowe, overseer

Peter Pook, witness

John Snapp, witness

Places

Westfield

³⁸ James ascended the throne of Scotland on 24 July 1567. The scribe uses arabic numerals here – a 4 resembling an X and then an indistinct figure, possibly corrected, that I have assumed to be a 6.

³⁹ The 3 is written backwards.

Relevant Events

George's burial yet to be found.

Margery BREECHER, "widow of George", married Nathaniel HEAD on 20 Sep 1614 at Westfield.

George's brother, Jeremy BRECHER, is thought to be:

Jerymy[sic] BREACHER bap. 24 Nov 1586 at Westfield (parents names not given but the father would be Thomas BREECHER). Jeremy left a will proved 23 Apr 1640 (ESRO: ESRO: PBT/1/1/27/16).

George BREECHER was a beneficiary in his father's will "Thomas Breecher the elder of Westfield, 1609". (ESRO: PBT/1/1/12/350C)

Family Tree

See Tree 6. "The Breecher Families of Westfield and Ninfield" in Chapter 2.

18. Will of Thomas Breach, Yeoman of Dallington, 1619,

(ESRO: PBT 1/1/17/18A)

Made: 7 May 1619

Proved: 17 June 1619, Archdeaconry of Lewes

FamilySearch: Film: 1885788; Image: 589

In the name of god Amen I **Thomas Breach** of Dallington in the County of Sussex yeo[man] doe make and ordeine this my Last Will and Testam^t in manner & forme following First I geive and bequeth my soule to Almighty god my Maker & Redemer and my Body to be Buryed in the Parrish Church or Church Yard of Dallington Itm I geive to the Pore of the Parrish as afforesayd vj^s viij^d to be payd by my wife **Dorothy Breach** Within one Month after my desease to be distributed at her discreacon More I geive To **Constance Breach** my Eldest Daught^r xxv[℥] to be payd within hal[f] a yeaere after my Deceace More I geive to **Marry** my Youngest Daughter xxv[℥] to be payd Within half a yeaere as afforesayd Further my will ys That my Fathe[r] **Tho: Breach** & my Brother **Richard Breach** Whome I make Overseers to this my Will full power and Authority to Put out the foresayd somes to be implied to the best benefit or most Advantage at their discreacon & the use to be payd to my Wife towards the Bringe up of my Children untill they accomplish the Ages of xv yeaeres or at there Dayes of Marriag wch First shall happen Furth [*sic*] I geive iij^s iij^d a pece to my ov[er]seers for there paines soe to be taken Concerninge this my Will All the Rest of my goods unbequeath[ed] I geive to my wife whome I make {I} my sole executrix of this my Last will and Testam^t as afforesayd Further my will is that yf my Daughter **Constance** shall happen to dye befor[e] {?} she shall accomplish the Age as afforesayd [tha]t then her portion to goe to my second Daughter and yf it happen that my youngest Daught^r doe dy that then her porcon Remaine to the use of the eldest and yf they happen both to dye before there Ages be accomplished that then there portions to goe to my Executrix and to her use forev[er] In witnes whereof I have set my hand & seale this vij of August ^Ma{i}e^ 1619

Tho: X Breach

[Witnesses]

Thomas Luxford

Thomas {m}yles

Probate: 17th June 1619 to **Dorothy Breach**, relict and executrix.

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 18th May 2020

NOTES:

People

Thomas Breach, yeoman, testator

Dorothy Breach, wife

Constance Breach, daughter

Mary Breach, daughter

Thomas Breach, father

Richard Breach, brother

Thomas Luxford, witness

Thomas Myles, witness

Places

Dallington

Relevant Events

Thomas Breach married Dorothy Benjamin on 6 Aug 1610 at Warbleton.

Constance Breach bap. 27 Sep 1612 at St Giles Dallington.

Mary Breach bap. 6 Oct 1616 at st Giles Dallington.

Thomas Breach burial not in SFHG burial index.

Dorothy Breach was buried 24 Apr 1620 at St Giles Dallington (“widow of Thomas”). She also left a will proved 6 Jun 1620 (ESRO: PBT 1/1/17/106A).

Thomas Breach’s parents were Thomas Breach and Alice Jervis married 11 Nov 1576 at Warbleton. His father Thomas Breach, yeoman of Herstmonceux, also left a will proved 17 Jan 1619/20 (ESRO: PBT 1/1/17/48A).

The witness Thomas Luxford was the husband of Thomas’s sister, Elizabeth Breach. There is a marriage licence for them dated 23 Jun 1606.

(SFHG Indexes)

Family Tree

See Tree 1. “Thomas & Joan Breach of Warbleton (1500s-1800s)” in Chapter 2.

19. Will of Thomas Breach, Yeoman of Herstmonceux, 1619/20,

(ESRO: PBT 1/1/17/48A)

Made: 20 Oct 1619

Proved: 17 Jan 1619/20, Archdeaconry of Lewes

FamilySearch: Film: 1885788; Image: 533

In the name of God amen the three and twentieth day of October Anno domini one Thousand six hundred and nynteene I **Thomas Breache** of Horsmounsex in the County of Sussex yeoman being weake in body and in good and perfect Remembrance thanks bee [to] god doe ordayne and make this my last will and Testament in manner and forme following Vizt First I commit my soule into the hands of Almighty God my Creator and redeemer and my body to the earth in Christian buriall Imprimis I will and give unto the poore people of the parishe wherein I am buried tenn shillings to bee distributed unto them at the day of my buriall Item I will and bequeath unto **Abraham Breach** my sonne the somme of forty pounds lawfull money to bee paid him within fowre monethes next after my decease Item I will and give unto **John Breache** my sonne the somme of forty pounds like lawfull money of England to bee paid him within six monethes next after my decease and one pewter platter of the best Item I give unto **George Breache** my sonne forty pounds like Currant money of England to bee paid him within eight monethes next after my decease and one little ioyned Chest standing in my bedchamber and one brasse Candlesticke of the best Item I will and bequeath unto **William Breache** my sonne the somme of forty pounds like money of England to bee paid him within one yeare next after my decease and one brasse Candlesticke and one pewter platter next the best Item I will and bequeath unto **Edward Breache** my sonne forty pounds like lawfull money one yeare and A quarter after my decease and one pewter platter next to thother and A brasse Candlesticke Item I give and bequeath unto **Thomas Luxford** my sonne in Lawe twelve pence Item I give and bequeath unto **Thomas Luxford** his eldest sonne fifty shillings to bee put out within one yeare after my decease to his best profit by my Executor Item I give and bequeath unto **John Luxford** his second sonne fifty shillings to bee put out within one yeare after my decease to his best profit untill the said **Thomas and John** doe atteyne to their full age of one and twenty yeares and yf either of them dye before their said age of one and twenty yeares my will is that the survivor shalbe heire to thother deceased Provided that this my will and meaning is that yf my sonne in lawe aforesaid **Thomas Luxford** their father doe sue or trouble my Executor that then the said **Thomas and John** his sonnes shall not have any of their legacies before given them Item I will and give unto **Constance** the daughter of my sonne **Thomas Breach** a sheepe of a yeare old Item I give unto **Mary Stace** my daughter xiid Item I give unto **Elizabeth Stace** her daughter one sheepe of a yeare old Item I will and give unto **Thomas Stace** the sonne of my said daughter **Mary Stace** one sheepe of a yeare old Item I give unto **Edward Stace** her sonne one sheepe of a yeare old Item I will and give unto **John Stace** her sonne one sheepe of a yeare old All the rest of my goods and chattells unbequeathed I will and give unto **Richard Breach** my sonne whom I make my sole executor of this my last will and testament and doe ordayne and desire my beloved friends **Thomas Ardles Thomas Longlie and Richard Woodhall** my overseers and my will is my executor shall beare and paie such chardges as they shalbe at about this my will and Testament In witnesse whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seale the daie and yeere abovewritten [the mark of the testator] Witness hereof **Robert Barnet Edward Avary John Barnet**

Proved 17 January 1619/20 by **Richard Breache** the son and executor.

Transcribed by Rosie Ansell January 2018

NOTES:

People

Thomas Breach, yeoman, testator
Abraham Breach, son
John Breach, son
George Breach, son
William Breach, son
Edward Breach, son
Thomas Luxford, son-in-law
Thomas Luxford, grandson
John Luxford, grandson
Thomas Breach, son
Constance Breach, daughter of his son Thomas
Mary Stace, daughter
Elizabeth Stace, granddaughter
Thomas Stace, grandson
Edward Stace, grandson
John Stace, grandson
Richard Breach, son, sole executor
Thomas Ardles, overseer
Thomas Longlie, overseer
Richard Woodhall, overseer
Robert Barnet, witness
Edward Avary, witness
John Barnet, witness

Places

Herstmonceux

Relevant Events

Thomas Breach was buried on 26 Oct 1619 at Herstmonceux All Saints.
He married Alice Jervis on 11 Nov 1576 at Warbleton. Alice was buried on 14 May 1614 at Ashburnham St Peter.

(SFHG Indexes)

Family Tree

See Tree 1. "Thomas & Joan Breach of Warbleton (1500s-1800s)" in Chapter 2.

20. Admon of Eleanor Breach of Herstmonceux, 1620

(ESRO: PBT 1/3/5/62D)

Granted: 8 July 1620

Octavo die Julii 1620

Quo die m[a]gistr[o] Will[iel]mus Inyans presb[ite]r Surr[ogatus] &c com[mi]sit Administrac[i]o[n]em bonoru[m] &c Ellenore Breach nup[er] de hersemonse[u]x ^ab intestat[e]^ defunct{e} Abraham{e} Breach marito eiusdem defunct{i} De bene et fidel[ite]r Administrando &c Duran{te} minor{?} etate Ellenore Breach filie n[atu]ral{is} et l[egi]tim{e} eiusdem defuncte ad S[anc]ta &c iurato Obligantur {e}dem Abraham{us} et Ed[wa]r[d]us Durrant de horsmonse[u]x s[uss]ex Butcher in xxli Inven[torium] ex[hibi]tum extendit ad xli

8th July 1620

Which day Mr William Inians priest surrogate etc. committed administration of the goods etc. of **Eleanor Breach** formerly of Hurstmonceux deceased intestate to **Abraham Breach** husband of the said deceased Well and faithfully to administer etc. During the minority of **Eleanor Breach** natural and legitimate daughter of the said deceased on the Holy etc. sworn The said **Abraham** and **Edward Durrant** of Hurstmonceux Sussex butcher bound in [the sum of] £20 Inventory exhibited extending to [the sum of] £10

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 18th November 2020

NOTES:

People

Eleanor Breach, wife of Abraham Breach

Abraham Breach, husband

Eleanor Breach, daughter, minor

Edward Durrant, butcher, surety

Places

Herstmonceux

Relevant Events

Eleanor Thomas married Abraham Breach on 21 May 1615 at Herstmonceux, All Saints.

Abraham Breach was buried 7 Nov 1636 at Herstmonceux, All Saints. He left a will proved 23 January 1636/37 (TNA: PROB 11/173/84).
(SFHG Indexes)

Family Tree

See Tree 1. "Thomas & Joan Breach of Warbleton (1500s-1800s)" in Chapter 2.

21. Will of Dorothy Brech, Widow of Dallington, 1620

(ESRO: PBT 1/1/17/106A)

Made: 9 April 1620

Proved: 6 June 1620, Archdeaconry of Lewes

FamilySearch: Film: 1885788; Images: 793-794

In the name of god amen the ninth of Aprill Annoq[ue] D[omini] 1620 I **Doritie Brech** of Dalington in the county of Sussex widow being sicke in bodie but of good and pfect remembrance thanks be g{i}ven unto god Doe make and ordeine this my last will and testament in maner and forme folowing that is to say first {I} and principally I will and bequeth my soule unto allmightie god my mercifull maker saviour and redemer by whome and thorough whome I hope to have forgiveness of all my sines and my bodie to the earth Decently to be buried when It shall please god Item I will and bequeth unto the poor of the pish of Dallington iij^s iiii^d Item I will and bequeth unto **Thomas Brech** my sonne xxv^l of curant eenglish monie when he shall acomplish the age of xx^y yeres Item I will and bequeth unto **Constance** my Dather one chest one pillow coate ij Diaper napkines one paier of shetes one haland chercher⁴⁰ of the best Item I will and bequeth unto **Marie** my Dather one chest one pillow coate one paier of shetes ij Diaper napkines one haland chercher of the next Item I will unto **Thomas** my sonne one chest one pilow coate j paier of sheetes ij Diaper napkines of the next and my best silver spone Item I will unto **elisabeth stace** my goddather j sil{ver} spone of the next Item my will Is that all the rest of my goodes and chatelles unbequethed to {be} sould by mine executor hereafter mencioned and the monie equalli to be devided betwene my three children and my will Is that my to Dathers **constance and marie** shall have ther sev[er]all stores when they shall accomplish the age of sixtene yeres and my sonne when he shall accomplish the age above said and If It shall hapen that {anie} of said children shall decease this mortall lif before they accomplish ther sev[er]al ages the one to be ech others heire and my will Is that **Stevene Beniamine** my brother shall have my best stocke and I Doe make and ordeine **John brech** my sole executore and I ales{o} ordeine and apoint **Thomas Argles** senior and **Thomas stether ^stace^ otherwise called steth[er]** to be mine ov[er]serses and for the beter confirmacione of this my last will and testament I have here u{n}to put my hand and seale the Day and yere above writen

These being witnesses **Thomas Argles** Junior

and **William [mark] Brech** his marke

Doritie X Brech her marke

//

[The left-hand edge of this page is hidden where it is attached to the will.]

{M}d that **Dorothie Breache** of Dallington w[i]thin the Archdeaconrie [of] Lewes widow after the makinge of her last will & testament [b]eing sicke in bodie but of pfit mynde & memorie in the [p]resence of **Edward {H}ested** of Framfeld & **Thomas Stace** of Ashburnham Did by waye of Codicill add unto and further declare her said last will and testament in manner and forme in effect as followith Imprimis v[i]z wheareas shee had bequeathed unto **Thomas Breache** **Constance Breache** and **Marie Breache** her children certen legacies by her said last will & testament as thearbie plainlie appearith and had not taken sufficient order by her said will for the tr{ew}e pformance & payment of the said legacies unto her said children therfore will{e}d that **John Breache** executor of her said last will and testament before the approbacon of the said testament and takinge upon ^him^ the execucon therof should enter into bond ^w[i]th sufficient securities^ unto the Sup[er]visors of her said last will & testament for the true payment of the said legacies unto her said children at the times li{mi}ted & appointed in her said will

⁴⁰ The OED gives charcher as a spelling variant of kercher (kerchief). The initial c is atypical but like that in 'constance' a few lines below.

Probate: *with a codicil, 6th June 1620 by the oath of **John Breach**, executor etc. **William Stace** sworn to administer the goods etc.* [No mention of Thomas Argles.]

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 19th May 2020

NOTES:

People

Dorothy Brech, widow, testatrix
Thomas Brech, son
Constance Brech, daughter
Mary Brech, daughter
Steven Benjamin [Benjamin], brother
Elisabeth Stace, goddaughter
John Brech, executor
William Brech, witness
Thomas Stace otherwise Stether, overseer, witness
Edward Hested, witness
Thomas Argles senior, overseer
Thomas Argles junior, witness
William Stace

Places

Dallington
Ashburnham

Relevant Events

Dorothy Breach was buried 24 Apr 1620 at St Giles Dallington (“widow of Thomas”). Dorothy Benjamin married Thomas Breach on 6 Aug 1610 at Warbleton.
Dorothy Benjamin was baptised 11 May 1589 at All Saints Heathfield, daughter of John Benjamin.

Constance Breach bap. 27 Sep 1612 at St Giles Dallington.

Mary Breach bap. 6 Oct 1616 at St Giles Dallington.

It is thought that the son Thomas Breach was born after the death of Dorothy’s husband, Thomas Breach, who died sometime between 7 May 1619 and 17 June 1619, as he is not mentioned in his father’s will. There was an earlier son called Thomas but he was buried soon after birth in 1615.

Dorothy’s husband Thomas Breach also left a will proved 17 Jun 1619 (ESRO: PBT 1/1/17/18A).

Thomas Stace alias Sheater married Mary Breache on 26 Jan 1610/11 at Wartling (Thomas of Wartling and Mary of Herstmonceux). Mary Breach is a sister to Dorothy’s husband Thomas Breach, and is also mentioned (as Mary Stace) in Thomas’s father’s will proved 17 Jan 1619/20 (ESRO: PBT 1/1/17/48A).
(SFHG Indexes)

Family Tree

See Tree 1. “Thomas & Joan Breach of Warbleton (1500s-1800s)” in Chapter 2.

22. Admon of Richard Breache of Herstmonceux, 1622

(ESRO Reference: PBT 1/3/5/123A)

Granted: 2 December 1622

FamilySearch: not available

Secundo die {mensis?} decembris 1622

Quo die Magr Willmus {Imaus} Presbiter Surrogatus &c Comisit Administracoem Bonoru[m] &ct Richardi Breache nup[er] de Hors{mons???} {ab intestato defuncti} [two words illegible] {???} to Margarethe Read als Breache soror{is} nralis et litime dci defuncti de bene et fideliter administrando &c ad scta &c iurato obligantur idem Johes de Southover Stonehealer et Nichus Shelley de Lewes habberdasher in {?} xxli {??het?} ad exhibend Inventariu{m} Citra primu{m} diem Septembris prox

2nd December 1622

On which day Master William {Imaus} priest surrogate etc. issued a commission for the administration of the goods etc. of **Richard Breache** formerly of Hurstmonceux who died intestate [...] to **Margaret Read otherwise Breache** natural and legitimate sister of the said deceased well and faithfully to administer etc. on the holy etc. sworn likewise binding **John** of Southover stonehealer and **Nicholas Shelley** of Lewes haberdasher in [the sum of] £20 to exhibit an inventory upon the first day of September next

Note – the words before ‘to Margaret Read’ may be another name, initials possibly S and B.

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 4th February 2018

Caveat - Richard Breache of Herstmonceux, 1622

(ESRO Reference: PBT 1/3/5/101A)

Date: 12 January 1622

Duodecimo die Januarii pred

Caveat ut quid f{?}at in Bonis &c Richi Breach de Horsmouns {?} defuncti nisi prius vo{ce}tur Margareta Read {???} ux Johis Read de Southover Interesse in hac parte haben{d}

Twelfth day of January as aforesaid

Be aware [that in the matter of] the goods etc of **Richard Breach** of Hurstmonceux deceased **Margaret Read** wife of **John Read** of Southover was previously named [as?] having an interest in that respect...

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 4th February 2018

NOTES:

People

Richard Breache, deceased

Margaret Read otherwise Breache, sister

John [Read] of Southover, husband of Margaret Read

Places

Herstmonceux

Southover [Lewes]

Relevant Events

Richard Breache was buried on 23 Dec 1621 at Herstmonceux All Saints.

Family Tree

Likely to be connected to Tree 1. in Chapter 2 but no evidence as yet.

(--?--) **Breach**, b. c1550

+ **unknown spouse**

└─ **Richard Breach**, b. c1570, bur. 1621 at Herstmonceux

└─ **Margaret Breach**, b. c1675, bur. 1633 at Lewes

+ **John Read**, m. c1600

└─ **Margaret Read**, bap. 1604 at Lewes, bur. 1607 at Lewes

23. Will of John Breach, Yeoman of Warbleton, 1627

(ESRO: PBT 1/1/20/44)

Made: 10 May 1627

Proved: 5 June 1627

FamilySearch: Film: 1885790; Image: 374

In the name of God Amen I **John Breach** of Warbleton in the county of Sussex Yeoman sick of body but of perfect mind & memory do make this my last will & testament in manner & form following first I bequeath my soule to God & my body to be buried in the Church yard of Herstmonceux. Item I give unto the poor of the said parish 1s – v11jd Item I give unto my brother **George Breach** of Laughton in ye county of Sussex & **Nathaniell Baker** of Watling & county aforesaid husbandman 20s to each of them 20s. & withall I doe make them overseers of this my will & testament. Item I doe give & bequeath to my wife **Alles** one quarter of all my goods & chattels which is to say the fourth part my debts discharged Item I give unto my three children **John Mary & Elizabeth** the other three parts of all my goods & chattels to be equally divided between them by even portions to be paid unto them as soon as they shall accomplish the age of sixteen & in the mean time the use thereof to be allowed for their convenient maintenance. And if it shall happen that either of my children shall depart this mortall life before they accomplish the aforesaid age of 16 then my wish is the portion of the deceased shall be divided between the other two: & he that survives shall have the others portion.

And last of all I constitute & make my wife **Alles** & my son **John** joynt executors of this my last will & testament In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal the 10th day of May in the 3rd year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Charles of England Scotland France & Ireland king, defender of the faith Anno Domini 1627.

The sign X of **John Breach**

Signed & sealed in the presence

of **Jo: Rundell** minister

Abraham Putchin

Tomas Stace

Abraham Breach his marke

Probatum Coram Magistro Willmo Inians Presbitero Surrogato etc quinto die Junii Anno domini Millesimo sexcentesimo vicesimo septimo Juramento Alicie Breach Relicte dicti defuncti ac unius Executores etc Cui Commissa fuit Administracio Bonorum etc de bene et fideliter administrando etc ad sancta etc iurate reservata potestate similen Commissionem faciend Johanni Breach filio naturali et legitime eiusdem defuncti ac alteri Executor etc Cum venerit eandem in debita Juris forma petitur

Proved before Master William Inians priest Surrogate etc the fifth day of June 1627 by **Alice Breach** the relict of the said deceased and one of the Executors etc to whom was committed the administration of the goods etc sworn well and faithfully to administer the same etc Power reserved of making the like Commission to **John Breach** the natural and lawful son of the same deceased and the other executor etc when he shall come in due form of law to request the same

Will Transcribed by Geoffrey Barber, February 2018. Probate transcribed by Rosie Ansell.

NOTES:

People

John Breach, yeoman, testator

Alles [Alice] Breach, wife

George Breach of Laughton, brother
Nathaniel Baker of Wartling
John Breach, son
Mary Breach, daughter
Elizabeth Breach, daughter
Abraham Putchin, witness
Thomas Stace, witness
Abraham Breach, witness

Places

Warbleton
Herstmonceux
Wartling
Laughton

Relevant Events

John Breach was buried 12 May 1627 at Herstmonceux All Saints.

John Breach married Alice Peerse on 3 July 1620 at Dallington.

The witness Thomas Stace is likely to be John Breach's brother-in-law (Thomas Stace married Mary Breach on 26 Jan 1610/11 at Wartling). The witness Abraham Breach is likely to be his brother (bap. 20 Apr 1590 at Herstmonceux, son of Thomas Breach and Alice Jervis). John Breach the testator is therefore likely to be a son of Thomas Breach and Alice Jervis although his baptism has yet to be found.

(SFHG indexes)

John Breach's daughter Elizabeth was buried a few days later on 19 May 1627 at Herstmonceux All Saints.

Family Tree

See Tree 1. "Thomas & Joan Breach of Warbleton (1500s-1800s)" in Chapter 2.

24. Will of Richard Brech, Yeoman of Herstmonceaux, 1627

(TNA: PROB 11/151/734)

Made: 5 May 1626

Proved: 26 May 1627

In the name of God Amen I **Richard Brech** of Hersemonnsex in the Countie of Sussex yeoman Sicke in body but of good and perfect memory thanks bee to god doe make and ordaine this my last will and testament in manner and forme following First and principally I will and bequeath my Soule unto allmightie god my mercifull maker Saviour and Redeemer in and through whome I hope to have forgiveness of all my sinnes And my body to the earth decently to bee buried when it shall please god Item I will and bequeath unto the poore of the parish of Hersmonnsex ten groates Item I will and bequeath unto **Marie** my wife one quarter of my goods and Catteltes which I shall have left when my debts and legacies are discharged and my will is that **Elizabeth** my daughter shall have the like share that her mother hath that is one quarter of my goods and cattelles Item I will unto **Richard** my Sonne one quarter of my goods and Catteltes being the like share yt his fellows hath Item I will unto **Thomas** my Sonne whom I make and ordaine to bee my sole Executor in like manner one quarter of my goods and Cattells And my will is that **Marie** my wife and my three Children above named shall have all my goods and Catells equally divided in equall portions to every of them a like share by my two Foffes in trust hereafter menitoned and if it shall happen that any of my three Children shall decease this naturall life before they accomplish the age of one and twentie yeares which is living to have the others portion And further I constitute ordaine and appoint **Abraham Brech** and **John Wenham** to bee Feoffees in trust of this my last will and testament and doe give them foer pounds apeece for their paines to bee taken herein to see my debts discharged and doe hereby give them full power and authoritie to receive al my due debts and to sell all my goods and Cattells to the best advantag of my wife and Children and my three Childrens portions to remaine in their hands until the said Children shall accomplish their severall ages and to allow them reasonable use for their said portions soe soone as they shall live of themselves without any help of the said feoffes In Witness whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and seale dated the fift daie of Maie in the second yeare of the Raigne of our dread Sovereigne Lord Charles by the grace of god of England Scotland Franncce and Ireland King defender of the faith **Richard Brech his marke Thomas Barnat Edward Badcocke his marke Thomas Aryles Richard Farmer**

Vicesimo sexto die Mensis Maii Anno Domini Millesimo Sexcentesimo vicesimo septimo Emanavit commission **Abrahamo Breach** et **Johanni Wenham** fidei Commissar et Feoffat nominat in testamento dicti defuncti Ad Administrand bona iura et credita dicti defuncti iuxta tenorem et effectum testamenti ipsius defuncti durand minori etate **Thomas Breach** filii dicti defuncti et Executoris in huiusmodi testamento nominat de bene et fideliter administrando eadem ad Sancta Dei Evangelia Jurat

Transcribed by Rosie Ansell November 2015.

NOTES:

People

Richard Brech, yeoman, testator

Marie Brech, wife

Elizabeth Brech, daughter

Richard Brech, son

Thomas Brech, son

Abraham Brech, trustee

John Wenham, trustee
Thomas Barnat, witness
Edward Badcocke, witness
Thomas Aryles, witness
Richard Farmer, witness

Places

Herstmonceux

Relevant Events

Richard Breach was buried 8 May 1627 at Herstmonceux All Saints.

Richard Breache, yeoman of Herstmonceux, and Mary Pierse of the same parish, obtained a marriage licence on 27 Jun 1617 (Archdeaconry of Lewes).
(SFHG Indexes)

Family Tree

See Tree 1. “Thomas & Joan Breach of Warbleton (1500s-1800s)” in Chapter 2.

25. Will of Abraham Breach, Yeoman of Herstmonceux, 1636/37

(TNA: PROB 11/173/84)

Made: 11 Oct 1636

Proved: 23 Jan 1636/37

In the name of God Amen I **Abraham Breach** of Hersemonceux in the County of Sussex yeoman being sick in bodie but of good and perfect mind and memory (prayed be god therefore) doe make and ordayne this my last will and Testament in manner and forme following First I bequeath my soule to Almighty God my maker hoping and assuredlie believing that through the meritte death and passion of my Saviour and Redeemer Jesus Christ to have full and free pardon and remission of all my sinnes offences and negligence and to be made partaker of life everlasting amongst the elect and blessed Saynts in heaven and my body I committ to the earth to be decentlie buried at the discretion of my Executrix hereafter named Item I give unto the poore of the parish of Hersemonceux aforesaid five shillings to be distributed amongst them within one moneth after my decease Item my will and mind is that all such moneys as shalbe found remayning in my handes upon my accompt of the goods of my late brother **Richard Breach** deceased shalbe paid by my executrix hereafter named Item I give and bequeath unto my fower sonnes **Abraham Breach Thomas Breach John Breach and William Breach** the summe of two hundred poundes of currant english money vizt fiftie poundes a peece to be paid into the handes of my Overseers hereafter named within six monethes next after my decease to be putt out by them to and for the use and benefitt of my said foure sonnes and to be paid unto them at such tyme as they shall severally attayne their severall ages of one and twenty yeares then the one to be heire to the other and to receive the part & porcion of him or them so dying Item I give unto my eldest daughter **Elleanor Breach** the summe of fiftie and five poundes to be paid unto her within one yeare next after my decease in full satisfaction of a legacie of fiftie and five poundes due unto her by the will of **John Thomlis?** deceased Item I give unto my two younger daughters **Fearenot Breach** and **Mary Breach** the summe of Tenne poundes a peece to be paid unto them at their severall ages of one and twenty yeares or dayes of marriage which shall first happen and if either of them doe dye then the survivour of them to have the porcion of her so dying All the rest of my goods Chattells mony houshold stufte unbequeathed my debts and legacies paid I give and bequeath unto **Fearenot** my wife whome I make sole executrix of this my last will and Testament And my will and mind is that if my said wife shall happen to marry agayne after my decease that then she shall before any such entermarraige enter bonds unto my Overseers in the penal summe of five hundred poundes with sufficient suretyes to become bound with her for the true performance of this my will otherwise which if she shall refuse or doe not upon request unto her to be made by my Overseers aforesaid then shee to have noe benefitt by this my will And that then and in such case I will and ordeyne my said Overseers to be my whole executors and to have and receive all my goods and estate and to performe this my will in manner and forme aforesaid And also if the said **Fearenot** my wife shall not take upon her the execucion of this my will but shall refuse to prove the same That Then I make my Overseers hereafter named my full and whole executors and they to prove the same and to performe this my will as aforesaid Lastly I doe hereby constitute and appoynt my good frends **William Langham** of Burwash gent and **Symon Beard** of Wartling yeoman Overseers of this my last will and Testament desireing them to see this my will performed in all things according to my trust in them reposed In witnes whereof I the said **Abraham Breach** have to this my last will and Testament sett my hand and seale the Eleventh day of October Anno Domini One thousand six hundred thirty and sixe RR Caroli Anglia etc duodecimo **The marke of Abraham Breach** Read signed sealed and declared by the said **Abraham Breach** for his last will and Testament the day and yeare above written in the presence of **W Langham John Springat** signum **Simonis Beard** signum **Johannis Wenham**

Probatum fuit Testamentum suprascriptum apud London coram venerabili viro Domino Henrico Marten milite legum Doctore Curie Prerogative Cantuariensis Magistro Custode sive Commissario legitime constituti vicesimo tertio die mensis Januarii Anno Domini iuxta cursum et computacionem ecclesie Anglicane Millesimo Sexcentesimo tricesimo sexto Juramento **Fearnot Breach** Relicta dicti defuncti et executricis in huiusmodi Testamento nominat Cui commissa fuit Administratio omnium et singulorum bonorum iurium et Creditorum eiusdem defuncti de bene et fideliter administrando eadem Ad Sancta Dei Evangelia Coram magistro Edwardo Polhill Clerico vigore Commissionis in ea parte als emanat Jurat

(Transcribed by Rosie Ansell, January 2016)

NOTES:

People

Abraham Breach, yeoman, testator
Fearnot Breach, wife
Richard Breach, brother, deceased
Abraham Breach, son
Thomas Breach, son
John Breach, son
William Breach, son
Elleanor [Eleanor] Breach, eldest daughter
Fearnot Breach, daughter
Mary Breach, daughter
William Langham of Burwash, gent, overseer, witness
Symon Beard of Wartling, yeoman, overseer, witness
John Springat, witness
John Wenham, witness

Places

Herstmonceux
Burwash
Wartling

Relevant Events

Abraham BREACH married Eleanor THOMAS on 21 May 1615 at Herstmonceux.
Abraham BREACH married Fearnot SPRINGATE on 14 Aug 1620 at Herstmonceux.

Family Tree

See Tree 1. "Thomas & Joan Breach of Warbleton (1500s-1800s)" in Chapter 2.

26. Will of Peter Breecher, Husbandman of Brede, 1639

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/26/21C)

Made: 20 Jan 1638/39

Proved: 2 May 1639

FamilySearch: film: 1885823; Images: 658-659

In the name of god a mende I **Peteer Breecher** of Bread in the County of Sussex husban man being sicke of bodie but of perfett memorie thankes be to to [sic] god I ^do^ macke this my last will and testament the 20 day of January 1639⁴¹ in maner and form following I bequeth my sould to allmyethy god and Jesus Christ my my [sic] macker and redeemer by hoese merites I hoope to be saveed: and my bodye to the earth from whence it came in prym{u}se I give and bequeth to the poore of Bread twenty shillings I give and bequeth to my Brother **Thomas Breecher** of oore ten pound to be payed with in on [quar]ter⁴² of a year of my deceese Item I give and bequeeth to my syster **Elizabeth paaggden** wyfe of **John pagden** of Wattelling twnty [sic] shillings to be payd to her thre monts after my decese Item I will and bequeth unto **Peter Brane** my fathers ^son^ ten pound to be payd hem when he cometh the ages of on and twenty yeares Item I will and be queth to **Richard Bran** ^the brother of **Peter bran**^ fyve pound to be payd when he comes to the age of on and twenty yeares all the ressidue of my goodes and chattell I will and give to **Elizabeath** my wyffe whom I mack my hoole exexcutor of this my last will and testament I decier **Phillip Drinker** and **frances kyng** to be my over seeres In wittnes her of I have ^hereunto^ set my hand and seele Wittneses the marke of **Peter Breacher**

Phillip Drinker

The marke of **Alexander wildish**

Frances Kinge

Probate [on verso]: *Proved at the court of Mr Thomas Doe clerk MA Surrogate etc. 2nd May 1639 by the oath of **Elizabeth Breecher** relict and executrix etc. to whom was committed administration etc.*

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 6th June 2020

NOTES:

People

Peter Breecher, husbandman, testator

Elizabeth Breecher, wife, executrix

Thomas Breecher, brother

Elizabeth Pagden, wife of John Pagden [of Whatlington or Wartling], sister

John Pagden [of Whatlington or Wartling], brother-in-law

Peter Brane, father's son

Richard Brane, brother of Peter Brane

Phillip Drinker, overseer

Frances Kinge, overseer, witness

Alexander Wildish, witness

Places

Brede

Wartling or Whatlington

Ore

⁴¹ The scribe has made a mess of the 9 and written it in again above.

⁴² The first character is an abbreviation of 'qu'.

Relevant Events

Peter Breecher was buried 12 Apr 1639 at Brede St George.

Peter Breecher married Elizabeth Beeching on 7 May 1629 at Udimore.

After Peter's death, Elizabeth Breeching (widow) married John Frebody (yeoman of Udimore) at on 10 Jul 1639 at Udimore.

Peter Beecher states in his will "Item I will and bequeth unto **Peter Brane** my fathers ^son^ ten pound" suggesting that Peter Brane is illegitimate (it could be Peter Breecher who is illegitimate but he does mention a brother Thomas Breecher so less likely).

Peter's brother, Thomas Breecher of Ore, married Denise Bercom, widow, on 5 May 1632 at Westfield. Denise was buried 29 Jun 1632 at Ore St Helen, ("wife of Thomas") and Thomas then married Ann Pith on 26 May 1635 at Bexhill.

They had two children baptised at Ore, Mary (8 May 1636) and Elizabeth (28 Aug 1639).

Ann Britcher was buried 27 Oct 1681 at Ore St Helen ("widow").

Family Tree

Peter Beecher is almost certainly connected to Tree 6. "The Breecher Families of Westfield and Ninfield" in Chapter 2, however the relationship is yet to be found.

27. Will of Jeremy Breecher, Yeoman of Westfield, 1640

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/27/16)

Made: 22 Mar 1639

Proved: 23 Apr 1640

FamilySearch: Film 1885868; Images: 32-33

In the name of God Amen I **Jeremy Breecher** of Westfeild in the County of Sussex yeoman do this two & twentyeth day of March one thousand six hundred thirty and nine make this my last will and testament in manner and forme following that is to say first I surrender my soule unto God that gave, & my body to decent buri[-]all at the discretion of mine executrix Item I give and bequeath my freehold te[ne]ment called Corters croft unto **Joane Breecher** my youngest daughter and to her heires for ever. Provided alwayes my mind and will is, and I doe give & bequeath one annuallty or yearlye rent of forty shillings of lawfull money of England unto **Anne** my daughter the wife of **Richard Borham**⁴³ of [word deleted] of Bread duringe her naturall life, to be paid her quarterly that is to say at the feast of the anuntiation of the Blessed Virgine Marye; at the feast of Saint Jhon the Bap[-]tist; at the feast of St Michaell the Archangell & the nati[-]vity of o[u]r Blessed Lord & saviour, by equall & even portions the first payment to beginne at the next of the feast that shall happen after my disease, And if it shall happen that the said yearlye Rent of forty shillings or any part [word deleted] there[-]of to be behind & unpaid the space of tenne dayes next after any of the feast aforesaid, that then it shall and may be lawfull to & for the said **Richard Borham** or **Anne** his wife, of the said annuallty of forty shillings & any or every part thereof w[i]th the arreareages if any bee shalbe fully satisfyed and paid. Item I give and bequeath unto **Mary Breecher** my daughter the sume of thirty pounds of la[w]full⁴⁴ money of England to be paid her w[i]thin twelve moneths next after my disease. Item // I give and bequeath unto **Jeremy Breecher** the sonne of **Thomas Breecher** my brother the sume of forty shillings of lawfull money of England to be paid him when he shall attaine the age of one & twenty yeares; Item I give unto my grandchildren **Anne Borham, Thomas Borham & mary Borham** [words deleted] & **Elizabeth Borham** and **Richard Borham** the children of **Richard Borham**, to be paid them severally ten shillings apeece, when they shall attaine, their sev[er]all ages of one & twenty yeares, or the daughters come to the day of their sev[er]all marriages Item I give unto the poore of the parish of Westfeild the sume of tenn shillings to be distributed amongst them w[i]thin one moneth after my disease at the discretion of my Executrix. Lastly I constitute make & ordaine **Mary** my beloved wife [deletion] sole & onely executrix of this my last will & testam[en]t. hereby revokinge all former wills & testaments. In witnes whereof I the said **Jeremy Breecher** have hereunto sett my hand & seale dated [word deleted] the day & yeare above written

Jeremy Breecher his marke

Witnesse **Thos Weekes & Laranc Averie**

John Theobald

*Proved at the court of **Thomas Doe** clerk MA Surrogate etc. 23rd April 1640 by the oath of **Mary Breecher** relict and executrix etc. Sworn well and faithfully etc.*

(Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 5th June 2020)

⁴³ Barham. The 'or' is like the 'ar' in marriages (below).

⁴⁴ There is a hole in the paper where the w would have been.

NOTES:

People

Jeremy Breecher, yeoman, testator
Mary Breecher, wife, executrix
Joane Breecher, youngest daughter
Anne Barham, wife of Richard Barham of Brede, daughter
Richard Barham, son-in-law
Mary Breecher, daughter
Thomas Breecher, brother
Jeremy Breecher, son of Thomas Breecher, nephew
Anne Barham, granddaughter
Thomas Barham, grandson
Mary Barham, granddaughter
Elizabeth Barham, granddaughter
Richard Barham, grandson
Thomas Weekes, witness
Laranc [Laurence?] Averie, witness
John Theobald, witness

Places

Westfield
Brede

Relevant Events

Jeremie Breecher was buried on 28 Mar 1640 at Westfield St John.
He was baptised 24 Nov 1586 at Westfield St John the Baptist (parents names not stated).

Jeremy Breecher of Westfield and Mary Kinge of Brede obtained a marriage licence on 30 Dec 1609 (Archdeaconry of Lewes). After Jeremy's death, Mary Breecher (widow) married Thomas Edwardes (yeoman of Hollington) on 22 Oct 1640 at Westfield.

Agnes Breecher of Westfield and Richard Barham, yeoman of Westfield, obtained a marriage licence on 7 Jan 1627/28 (Archdeaconry of Lewes).

Joan Breecher of Westfield and John Cooper, mercer of Brede, obtained a marriage licence on 10 Aug 1640 (Archdeaconry of Lewes).
Joan Breecher married John Cooper, mercer of Brede, on 18 Aug 1640 at Westfield.

Other Related Events:

Copy of court roll, manor of Crowham

Date: 28 May 1641

ESRO reference: PAB/186

Description: Admission of Mary Breecher, for life, on an out-of-court surrender, in extremis, by her husband Jeremy Breecher (W: John Theobald the beadle, Henry Sloman, Richard Pettibone)

Conveyance (lease and release) for £300

Date:10, 11 Oct 1688

Repository:East Sussex Record Office

ESRO reference:PAB/191, 192

Description: John Cooper of Marden, Kent, yeoman only son and heir of Joan Cooper late wife of John Cooper of Brede, mercer dec'd, and only daughter of Jeremiah Breecher, late of Westfield, yeoman

Parcel of freehold land called Carter's Croft (2½a) in Westfield, intermingled with copyhold land there

Witnesses: Peter Colman, John Purfield, Robert Spiller

Family Tree

See Tree 6. "The Breecher Families of Westfield and Ninfield" in Chapter 2.

28. Will of Thomas Breecher, Husbandman of Ninfield, 1641/42

(ESRO: PBT/1/5/352)

Made: 23 Feb 1641/42

Proved: 12 Mar 1641/42

FamilySearch: Film 1885592; Image: 307

In the name of God Amen the three & twentieth day of February in the yeare of the Reigne of o[u]r Sovereigne Lord Charles by the grace of God of England Scotland France & Ireland King defender of the faith etc the Seaventeenth Anno Dni 1641 I **Thomas Breecher** of Nenefield in the County of Sussex husbandman Do make my last will & Testament in mann[er] & forme following First I Comend & Comit{t} my Soule into the hands of Almighty God my ^most^ glorious Creator hopinge that by the onlie merites of ^my^ blessed Savio[ur] Jesus Christ my soule shalb[e] saved & obtayne & [sic] ever lasting Life & my bodie to [be] buried att the descrecon * of myne execut[or]s heerafter to be named And as Concerneing my worldly Estate I dispose of it as followeth It I give unto my sonn **Jeremy Breecher** the Summe of Twenty poundes p[ar]t whereof my will is shalbe imployed to bind ^him^ out an Apprentice to some good ha{nd} craft trade ^& the {???}⁴⁵ be paid him^ at the age of one & twenty yeares ^or w[i]thin one yeare next after my decease^ by myne Executors in trust heerafter named It I give unto my two younger Children **Richard Breech{er}**⁴⁶ & **Elizabeth Breech{er}** ^Fifteene^ poundes a peece to be paid them att the age of one & twenty yeares, or so much of it as shalbe left, after myne Ex[ecut]ors shall have bredd them up in a pious & Christian way It I give unto my sonn **Henry Breech{er}** Tenn poundes to be paid him w[i]thin one yeare next aft[er] my decease It I give unto my sonn **Thomas Breech{er}** Tenn pounds to be paid ^w[i]thin one yeare after my decease^ one & twenty yeares [sic] It I give unto my kinsman **Jeremy Hunt** ^Fourty sh[illings]^ to [be] paid him w[i]thin one whole yeare next after my decease And my will & mynde is if my psonall estate will not amo{un}t to that value as to raise such Severall Legacies as are by me formerlie bequeathed, that then there shalbe made a proportionable abatement of a[lll]⁴⁷ the said former Legacies & the said Legacies ^as they shall^ arise in ther severall proporcons my will & m[ynde] is shalbe paid according to the dayes & tymes afore specified Allwayes provided that my Executors in Trust heerafter to be ^named do^ pay my ^true^ debts ^rents^ [word scored through] & funerall expences in the first place & then my Legacies as they will arise in the next It I give unto **John Smith** my s{ervant} v^s to be paid him w[i]thin a yeare next after my decease It my will & mind is that if eith[er] of my s{aid} young{er} Children **Jeremy** [word scored though] **Richard** or **Elizabeth Breech{er}** do die before their Legacies become to be due then my will & minde is that the Lecacie & Legacies of the deceased or so much of it or [sic] then as shalbe left shall remayne & be equally divided unto him or ^{them}^ as shalbe {surviv}ing All the rest of my goodes & Chattells my debtes rentes Legacies & funerall charges discharged I give unto my sonn **Richard Breech{er}** whome I make sole Executor of my last ^will^ & Testament And I would entreat my two loveing n{ei}ghb[ou]rs **Thomas Blackman** & **Joseph Chapman** to be Executors in trust to this my last will & I give them power over this my estate to sell my goodes & {??} moneyes for them & to pay my debtes & receave discharges for them & to ma{nn}age for my said sonn **Richard** my Ex. in his Minor Age & trulie to account to him hereafter And I give them for ther paynes to be bestowed heerin Twenty shillings a peece And I would entreat my lo[ve]ling frend **M' Gyles** minister of Nenefield to be my Overseer to help to advise my said Executors in Trust & I give him towards his paynes tenn shillings

Published to be [the] last will of me **Thomas Breech{er}** in the psence of **John Gyles**

⁴⁵ Possibly 'rest'.

⁴⁶ From this point on the surname is abbreviated.

⁴⁷ Assumed. The end of the word is at the edge of the page and either obscured or missing, as with 'mynde' in the line below.

Thomas Breech{er} his m[ar]k
William Y{e}lding
Jeremy Hunt his m[ar]k

[inserted in the left-hand margin]

* Itm I give unto my sonn **Henry Breech{er}** one of my stocke of beddes & the other stocke I give unto **Jeremy Breech{er}** my sonn and I give unto my sonn **Thomas Breech{er}** my whit Twelvemonting male colt And I give unto my maid **Mary {n}ash**⁴⁸ five shillinges

Probate (on verso): *Proved at the court of **Mr Thomas Russell** clerk MA Surrogate etc 12th March 1641 (English style) by the oaths of **Thomas Blackman** and **Joseph Chapman** executors etc sworn well and faithfully etc.*

(Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 3rd June 2020)

NOTES:

People

Thomas Breecher, husbandman, testator
Jeremy Breecher, son
Richard Breecher, son
Elizabeth Breecher, daughter
Henry Breecher, son
Thomas Breecher, son
Jeremy Hunt, kinsman, witness
John Smith, servant
Mary Nash, maid
Thomas Blackman, neighbour
Joseph Chapman, neighbour
Mr Gyles, minister of Ninfield
John Gyles, witness
William Yelding, witness

Places

Ninfield

Relevant Events

There is a gap 1641-1662 in the burials for Ninfield.

Thomas Breecher is thought to be the son of Thomas Breecher (c1540-1609) who left a will proved 3 May 1609 (ESRO: PBT/1/1/12/350C). This Thomas Breecher (c1540-1609) married Margaret Hunt on 26 Apr 1592 and hence the mention of Jeremy Hunt as kinsman in the above will.

Thomas appears to have married three times (Marie c1611, Elizabeth c1615 and Elizabeth Weekes on 26 Oct 1629 at Ninfield).
(SFHG Indexes)

⁴⁸ A fold in the paper obscures the first part of the surname.

Thomas had an illegitimate child before marriage:

Bond in £40;

Thomas Breecher of Westfield, yeoman Francis Daniell, butcher and Peter Harrison, beer brewer to Stephen Harrison, tailor and Thomas Edwards, shipwright

Date: 3 October 1604

ESRO: RYE 28/15

Description: Conditional on Thomas Breecher or his son Thomas father of a girl by Alice Olyver, late of Westfield, delivered in Rye, maintaining her, and keeping the town harmless.

Witnesses: Robert Convers, Angell Shawe, Thomas Bray.

Family Tree

See Tree 6. "The Breecher Families of Westfield and Ninfield" in Chapter 2.

29. Will of John Breach, Yeoman of Herstmonceux, 1654

(TNA: PROB 11/234/55)

Made: 23 November 1653

Proved: 13 April 1654

I **John Breach** of Horsmonsi{s} in the Countie of Sussex yeoman being weake in body but of perfect memory Doe make this my last will and Testament First I comitt my Soule and body to Almighty God hoping to be saved by the Blood and Passion of Jesus Christ Item I give unto my twoe brothers **Abraham** and **William** all my wearing Apparell to be equally devided betweene them Item I give unto my sister **Mary** all the household stuffe I bought of her and my Truncke All the Rest of my Estate my Funeralls and my Overseers Charges for his Care and trouble being Discharged I give unto my brothers **Abraham William** and my sister **Mary** to be equally devided betweene them three And I doe appoynt my good freind **William Draper** of Horsmounsis to be Overseer of this my last will and Testament to receave all my Debts and his Charges being discharged to devide my whole Estate equally betweene my borthers and sister in three equall portions In witnesse whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and Seale the twenty third of November in the yeare 1653 **John Breache** his marke In the presence of **George Clarke John Tapham**

The thirteenth Day of Aprill in the yeare of our Lord one thousand six hundred fifty foure issued forth a Com[m]ission to **William Draper** the Overseer named in the last will and Testament of **John Breach** late of Horsmonsis in the County of Sussex yeoman deceased to administer the Goods Chattles and Debts of the sayd deceased according to the Tenor and effect of his sayd Will, the sayd **William** being appointed Overseer under certeine lymytac[i]ons in the sayd Will menc[i]oned and having first taken his Oathe by vertue of a Comission well and truly to administer the same

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 20th November 2020

NOTES:

People

John Breach, yeoman, testator

Abraham Breach, brother

William Breach, brother

Mary [Breach?], sister

William Draper, overseer

Places

Herstmonceux

Relevant Events

John Breach was buried 29 Nov 1653 at Herstmonceux All Saints.

John Breach was baptised 30 Jun 1628 at Herstmonceux All Saints, son of Abraham Breach and Fearnot Springate.

It appears that he never married.

(SFHG Indexes)

Family Tree

See Tree 1. "Thomas & Joan Breach of Warbleton (1500s-1800s)" in Chapter 2.

30. Will of John Breach, Cordwainer of Burwash, 1684

(ESRO: PBT 1/1/36/176B)

Made: 13 January 1683/4

Probate: 9 May 1684

FamilySearch: Film: 1885904; Image: 570

In the name of God Amen I **John Breach** of Burwash in the Co. of Sussex Cordwayner being sicke & weak in body but of perfect mind & memory blessed be God therefore do make & ordaine this my last will & Testament in maner following. First I render my soule unto the hands of God that gave it & my body to the earth to be buried at the discretion of my Executor hereafter mentioned. And as to my worldly estate I dispose thereof in this wise Imprimis I will that all my debts be duly & justly paid. Also I give & bequeath unto my daughter **Mary** the wife of **Thomas Gunter** the summe of five shillings of Lawful money of England to be paid within one month after my decease. Item As for the remainder of all my estate (the bed on which I ly with all things thereto belonging as also the bed stead being excepted which I give unto **Susan** my beloved wife) I will to be divided into five equal parts & then to be equally distributed between Susan my beloved wife **John Elizabeth Susan & Sarah Breach** my children each of them an equal share. Lastly I do constitute & appoint **Susan** my beloved wife full & sole executrix of this my last will & testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and seal this thirtieth day of Jan: Anno Dom MDCLXXXiij

The marke of John Breach

Sealed & published

In the presence of

Thomas Goldham

Edward Austen

Willm Roele

Probate: 9 May 1684 to **Susanna Breach** the Executrix before John Evesby Surrogate

Transcribed by Geoffrey Barber, January 2018

NOTES:

People

John Breach, cordwainer, testator

Susanna Breach, his wife

Mary Gunter, wife of Thomas Gunter, daughter

Thomas Gunter

John Breach, son

Elizabeth Breach, daughter

Susan Breach, daughter

Sarah Breach, daughter

Thomas Goldham, witness

Edward Austen, witness

William Roele, witness

Places

Burwash

Relevant Events

John Breach was buried 1 Feb 1683/84 at Burwash St Bartholomew.

John Breach was baptized 16 Mar 1622/23 at Warbleton, the son of John Breach and Alice Peerse.

Mary Breach married Thomas Gunter on 22 Apr 1682 at Wadhurst.

(SFHG Indexes)

Family Tree

See Tree 1. “Thomas & Joan Breach of Warbleton (1500s-1800s)” in Chapter 2.

31. Will of Mary Breach, Widow of Framfield, 1687

(ESRO: PBT 2/1/1/126)

Made: 29 July 1686

Proved: 4 June 1687

In the Name of God Amen the nine & twentieth day of July in the yeare of our Lord One Thousand Six Hundred and Eighty Six, I **Mary Breach** of the parish of Framfeild in the County of Sussex Widow being sick and ill in body, but of good and perfect memory thanks be to God, therefore and calling to mind the uncertain Estate of this transitory life and that all flesh must yield to death when it shall please God to call, therefore I the said Mary Breach doe make & constitute and ordaine this my last Will and Testament in manner and forme as followeth, First I give and bequeath unto my daughter **Mary Breach** the sum of Ten pounds of good and lawfull money of England to be paid by my executors hereafter named withing six months after my decease, I give also unto my said daughter six pieces of my best pewter and all the linen in my Trunke mark't with M.B. Item all the rest of my money household stuff and goods whatsoever, I give and bequeath unto my sonn **William Breach**, and I desire my Loving friends **John Weller** and **John Smith** of Framfeild to receive & take the Administration of the said goods for the use, and on the behoofe of my sonn **William Breach** hee being non Compos, and my mind and will is that the said **John Weller** and **John Smith** doe improve and put out the said moneys for and towards the maintenance of my sonn, and if any shall be remaining and not spent when my son dyes, I will and give the same unto my daughter **Mary Breach** and her heirs forever. In Testimony whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and seale the day and yeare above written the marke of **Mary Breache** signed and sealed in the presence of **Jane Peckham Elizabeth Weller Thomas Hammon**

Quarto die Junii Anno Domini Millesimo sexcentesimo octogesimo septimo magistro Richardus Tabor Surrogatus etc (eoquod nullus in Testamento ejusdem **Marie Breach** nuper de Framfeild defunct nominatur Executor) commisit Administracionem cum Testamento annex omnium et singulorum bonorum iurium et creditorum defuncti predicti **Johanni Smith** et **Johanni Weller** fidei commissariis in huiusmodi Testamento nominat Primitus de bene et fideliter Administrando etc Ad sancta etc jurat

Transcribed by Geoffrey Barber, February 2018. Probate transcribed by Rosie Ansell.

NOTES:

People

Mary Breach, widow, testatrix

Mary Breach, daughter

William Breach, son ("non compos")

John Weller of Framfield, friend

John Smith of Framfield, friend

Jane Peckham, witness

Elizabeth Weller, witness

Thomas Hammon, witness

Places

Framfield

Relevant Events

Mary Breach's burial yet to be found.

Mary Burgess married Richard Breach on 16 May 1664 at St John sub Castro, Lewes, both of East Hoathly.

Richard was buried 4 Apr 1670 at St Thomas A'Becket, Framfield.

Daughter Mary Breach married George Page on 18 Jun 1691 at Framfield.

(SFHG Indexes)

Family Tree

Candidates for Mary's husband, Richard Breach, from the SFHG baptism index are:

1. bap. 15 Jan 1631/32 at Herstmonceux, son of Edmund Breach and Elizabeth Barnet
2. bap. 16 May 1624 at Herstmonceux, son of Richard Breach and Mary Pierse (twin)
3. bap. 6 Mar 1624/25 at Warbleton, son of John Breach and Alice Peerse. Richard is not mentioned in his father John Breach's will of 1627 and neither can his burial record be found at Warbleton or Herstmonceux.

The parents of all the above candidates are on Tree 1. "Thomas & Joan Breach of Warbleton (1500s-1800s)" in Chapter 2.

32. Will of Thomas Breach, Husbandman of Arlington, 1723

(ESRO: PBT 1/1/51/198A)

Made: 10 January 1711/12

Probate: 14 June 1723

FamilySearch: Film: 1885995; Image: 602

I **Thomas Breach** of the Parrish of Arlington in the County of Sussex Husbandman Being of sound mind and memory thanks be to Almighty God for it and calling to mind the uncertain Estate of this transitory Life and that all flesh must yield unto Death when itt shall please God to call. Do make and declare this my Last will and Testament In manner and form following Item I commit my Body to the Earth to be decently buried at the discretion of my Executor hereafter named and for the settling of my temporal estate and such Goods Chattells and Debts as itt hath pleased God to bestow upon me I do order Give and dispose the same in manner following that is to say Imprimus I give and bequeath unto my brother **John Breach** twelve pence. Item. I give unto my sister **Anne Evernden** of the parish of munfield [Mountfield] twelve pence. Item I give unto the issue of my Sister **Bridget Breach** twelve pence. Item all the rest of my Goods and Chattells Debts and houssell Stuff whatsoever and where so ever I give and devise unto my now Loving wife **Mary Breach** whom I make Sole Executrix of this my Last will and testament. In witness hereof to this my last will conteyning one half sheet of paper have put my hand and seal this tenth day of January one thousand seven hundred and eleven. Anod: 1711/12

Thomas Breach X his mark

Signed Sealed and Published

In the presence of

John Mephram

Michll Walmsley

Probate: (in Latin) Juratus fuit **Michael Walmsley** de veritate hujus Testamenti Cui Commissa fuit Administracio Omnium et Singulorum Bonorum Jurium et Creditorum Defuncti cum hoc Testamento annex (Sub Cautione etc) **Maria Breach** Relicta Defuncti et Executricis in eodem Testamento nominat prius in Scriptis Renuntiante Coram nobis Geo Jordan**

Transcribed by Geoffrey Barber, January 2018

** **Michael Walmsley** was sworn to the truth of the will (which had been made some time before) and was granted the administration, and that the widow had renounced.

NOTES:

People

Thomas Breach, husbandman, testator

Mary Breach, wife

John Breach, brother

Anne Evernden, sister

Bridget Breach, sister

John Mephram, witness

Michael Walmsley, witness

Places

Arlington

Munfield [Mountfield]

Relevant Events

Thomas Breach was buried 29 May 1723 at Arlington St Pancras.

Thomas Breach married Mary Foster on 15 Feb 1693/94 at Arlington.

The Sussex Marriage Index has William Everenden married Mary Breach on 3 May 1670 at Arlington. However, this is thought to be a mistake and should be Anne Breach. William and Anne Everenden had children baptized in Mountfield after this.

A probate inventory exists: ESRO: PBT 1/10/1588

Family Tree

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

John Breach, b. c1620, bur. 1702 at Arlington
+ **Elizabeth (--?--)**, m. c1640, bur. 1694 at Arlington

- **John Breach**, bap. 1642 at Hellingly
 - + **Joan Fox**, bap. 1648 at Hailsham, m. 1682 at Arlington, bur. 1711 at Arlington
 - **Elizabeth Breach**, bap. 1686 at Arlington
 - + **Richard Chele**, m. 1723 at Arlington
 - **Thomas Breach**, bap. 1688 at Arlington
- **Anne Breach**, bap. 1645 at Arlington
 - + **William Evernden**, b. c1645, m. 1670 at Arlington, bur. 1695 at Mountfield
 - **Walter Evernden**, b. 1671 at Mountfield, bur. 1701 at Mountfield. pro. 1701⁴⁹
 - **William Evernden**, b. 1672 at Mountfield
 - **Anne Evernden**, b. 1674 at Mountfield
 - **Elizabeth Evernden**, b. 1676 at Mountfield
- **Elizabeth Breach**, bap. 1647 at Arlington
- **Bridget Breach**, bap. 1650 at Arlington
- **Sarah Breach**, bap. 1653 at Arlington, bur. 1677 at Arlington
- **Thomas Breach**, bap. 1655 at Arlington, bur. 1723 at Arlington, pro. 1723
- + **Mary Foster**, m. 1694 at Arlington, bur. 1729 at Arlington

⁴⁹ Will of Walter Everenden [Evernden] of Mountfield, made 14 Mar 1698, proved 31 May 1701 (ESRO: PBT 1/1/44/100). FamilySearch: Film: 1885908; Image 558.

33. Will of Nicholas Brech, Gardener of East Dean, 1760

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/60/214)

Made: 5 April 1747

Probate: 5 June 1760

FamilySearch: Film: 1886025; Image: 383

In the name of God amen I **Nicholas Brech** of Eastdeane in the County of Sussex, Gardener being in good Health and of sound and perfect mind and memory / Praised be Almighty God for the same / do make this my last Will and Testament hereby revoking and making void all former Wills by me made And first and Principally I recommend my soul unto Almighty God hoping and assuredly believing in and through the Merits Death and Passion of my Blessed Saviour Jesus Christ to have free Pardon and Forgiveness of all my Sins and everlasting life And as for my body I commit to the earth to be decently buried at the discretion of my Executrix hereinafter named. And my Will is that all my just Debts Funerall Charges and the Probate of this my Will shall be first paid and discharged And after payment thereof I do hereby give and bequeath all the rest and residue of my Goods Chattells Rights Credits and Personal Estate whatsoever and wheresoever unto my Dear and Loving Wife **Mary** And I do hereby make her sole Executrix of this my last Will and Testament In Testimony whereof I the said **Nicholas Brech** the Testator have to this my last Will and Testament contained in one Sheet of Paper sett my hand and seal the fifth day of April in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and forty seven.

Signed Sealed Published and

Declared by the above named **Nicholas**

Brech the Testator and for his last

Will and Testament in the Presence of us

who subscribed our Names as witnesses

thereto in his Presence

Nic Gilbert

E Acton

Signed **nic brech**

5th June 1760

Then was sworn **Mary Brech**

the only Executrix in this Will

named To whom was committed

the Burthen of the Execution

thereof By Us

Transcribed by Geoffrey Barber, January 2018

NOTES:

People

Nicholas Brech, gardener, testator

Mary Brech, wife, executrix

Nicholas Gilbert, witness

E Acton, witness

Places

East Dean

Relevant Events

Nicholas Breach was buried on 1 Apr 1760 at Buxted St Mary.

Nicholas Breach married Mary Pelham on 19 Jun 1716 at Hollington (“Nicholas of Friston”).

Nicholas's first wife Jane appears to have died c1713 although a burial record has not been found. Nicholas had three children with Jane, but none are mentioned in his will above.

Nicholas's widow Mary Breach made her own will in 1763 and left her estate to her Pelham relatives at Little Horsted. She died at Buxted.

Family Tree

See Tree 1. “Thomas & Joan Breach of Warbleton (1500s-1800s)” in Chapter 2.

34. Will of Mary Breach, Widow of Buxted, 1765

(ESRO: PBT 2/1/8/285)

Made: 25 Jul 1763

Probate: 5 April 1765

FamilySearch: Film: 1067011; Image: 151

This is the last Will and Testament of me **Mary Breach** of Buxted in the County of Sussex widow hereby revoking all former wills of me made I give and bequeath to my Kinswoman **Lucy Pelham** daughter of my Nephew **John Pelham** of the parish of Little Horsted in the said County all my Goods Chattells and personal Estate which I shall be possessed of at the time of my death after all my Debts and funeral Expences are paid Or if she dies without lawful issue I then in the same manner give and bequeath to her younger Sister **Mary Pelham** all my said Goods Chattells and personal Estate as before I do hereby make and constitute her **Lucy Pelham** sole Executrix of this my last Will and Testament or in case she dies without lawful issue I make and constitute her Sister **Mary Pelham** sole Executrix of this my last Will and Testament In Testimony whereof I the said **Mary Breach** have to this my last Will and Testament set my hand and seal this twenty fifth day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty three. This is the Mark X and Seal of **Mary Breach** the Testatrix. Signed sealed published and declared by the said **Mary Breach** the Testatrix as her last Will and Testament in the presence of us who have subscribed our names as Witnesses thereto **Jos Wright John Turner**

The Will of **Mary Breach** late of Buxted within the Deaconry of South Malling in the County of Sussex widow deceased was proved the fifth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty five before the Reverend Mr Edward Lund Clerk surrogate and so forth upon the oath of **Lucy Pelham** Spinster sole Executrix in the said Will named.

Transcribed by Geoffrey Barber, January 2018

NOTES:

People

Mary Breach, widow, testatrix

Lucy Pelham, daughter of John Pelham, kinswoman

John Pelham, nephew

Mary Pelham, sister of Lucy Pelham

Jos Wright, witness

John Turner, witness

Places

Buxted

Little Horsted

Relevant Events

Mary Breach was buried 4 Apr 1765 at Buxted St Mary.

Mary was the widow of Nicholas Breach who was buried at Buxted in 1760 and left a will "Will of Nicholas Brech of East Dean, Gardener 1760", (ESRO: PBT/1/1/60/214).

Lucia and Mary Pelham were the daughters of John Pelham and Mary Moon married 7 Apr 1734 at Withyham, Sussex (Mary Moon of Little Horsted). Both were baptized at Little Horsted (1737 and 1749 respectively).

Family Tree

See Tree 1. “Thomas & Joan Breach of Warbleton (1500s-1800s)” in Chapter 2.

35. Will of Thomas Breach, Gentleman of Eastbourne, 1793

TNA: PROB 11/1228/128

Made: 2 March 1792

Proved: 6 February 1793

In the Name of God Amen I **Thomas Breach** now of Eastbourne in the County of Sussex Gentleman do make and ordain my last will and Testament in manner following that is to say I give and devise unto my beloved Wife **Mary Breach** and her Assigns for and during the term of her natural life one Annuity or clear yearly sum of Fourteen Pounds of lawful money of Great Britain free of Taxes and all other deductions whatsoever to be issuing and payable from and out of my Malthouse Stable Coach House Buildings Grounds and Hereditaments with their Appurtenances situate and // lying at or near Susans in Eastbourne aforesaid now in the several Tenures or Occupations of **Thomas Pix** and **Richard Baker** their Assigns or undertenants being Copyhold of Inheritance holden of the Manor of Eastbourne Wilson and which I have surrendered to the use of my Will and to be paid and payable by equal half yearly Payments at the two most usual Feasts of days of Payment in the year that is to say the Feasts of the Annunciation of the blessed virgin Mary and Saint Michael the Archangel by even and equal portions the first Payment thereof to begin and be made on such of the said Feasts or days as shall first and next happen after my decease and I give and devise unto my daughter **Mary Breach** and to her Heirs and Assigns for ever All and every my said Malthouse Stable Coachhouse Buildings Grounds and Hereditaments with their Appurtenances and every part thereof subject to the Payment of the said Annuity Yearly Rent or Sum of fourteen Pounds to my said wife **Mary Breach** or her Assigns during the term of her natural life as aforesaid and also subject to the payment of the Sum of one hundred pounds of lawful money of Great Britain unto my Daughter **Charlotte Breach** or in case of her death to her Executors of Administrators within the space of one year next after the death of my said wife **Mary Breach** and in case the said Annuity Yearly Rent or sum of Fourteen Pounds so given to my said wife **Mary Breach** and her Assigns for the term of her Life as aforesaid or any part thereof shall be behind and unpaid by the space of twenty eight days next over or after either of the said Feasts or days of Payment whereon the same ought to be paid as aforesaid then and so often it shall and may be lawful for her my said wife **Mary Breach** and her Assigns to enter into and upon the said Malthouse Stable Coachhouse Buildings Grounds and Hereditaments so charged with the said Annuity as aforesaid and to distrain for the ^same^ or for so much thereof as shall be so in Arrear and all Costs and charges occasioned by nonpayment thereof and I give and bequeath unto my three Sons **William Breach John Breach and Thomas Breach** the Sum of ten pounds apiece of lawful Money of Great Britain to be paid to them respectively within six Calendar Months next after my decease and after payment of all such Debts as I shall justly owe at the time of my death my Funeral Expences and the said several legacies so given to my said three Sons as aforesaid I give and bequeath unto my said Wife **Mary Breach** and her Assigns for and during the term of // her natural life the use Interest and benefit of all the Rest Residue and Remainder of my Household Goods and Furniture Plate Linnen China Monies Effects and Personal Estate whatsoever and of what nature kind or quality soever the same may be and from and after the decease of my said wife **Mary Breach** then I give and bequeath all my said Household Goods and Furniture Plate Linnen China Monies Effects and Personal Estate and every part thereof unto my said two Daughters **Charlotte Breach** and **Mary Breach** their Executors Administrators and Assigns to and for their and each of their own uses absolutely equally to be divided between them share and share alike and I make constitute and appoint my said two Daughters **Charlotte Breach** and **Mary Breach** Executors of this my last will and Testament And Lastly I do hereby revoke all former and other wills by me at any time heretofore made and do declare this only to be my last will and Testament In Witness whereof I the said **Thomas Breach** have to the first sheet of this my will contained in two sheets of Paper set my hand and to the last sheet thereof my Hand and Seal the second day of March in the thirty second 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 and in the year of our Lord one Thousand seven hundred and ninety two **Thos Breach** (LS) Signed and sealed by the above named **Thomas Breach** and by him published and declared as and for his last will and Testament in the presence of us who have hereunder subscribed our names as Witnesses thereto in his presence **Matthew Richardson John Hitton Jno Sinnock**

*Probate: London, 6th February 1793 to **Mary Breach** Spinster, daughter and one of the executrixes. Power reserved to make a like grant to **Charlotte Breach**, daughter and other executrix named in the will.*

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 23rd November 2020

NOTES:

People

Thomas Breach, gentleman, testator
Mary Breach, wife
Mary Breach, daughter
Charlotte Breach, daughter
Thomas Pix, tenant
Richard Baker, tenant
William Breach, son
John Breach, son
Thomas Breach, son
Matthew Richardson, witness
John Hitton, witness
John Sinnock, witness

Places

Eastbourne

Relevant Events

Thomas Breach's burial not found in the SFHG indexes.
Thomas Breach married Mary Denham on 9 June 1756 at Bexhill ("Thomas of Eastbourne").

This may be relevant:

23 Aug 1765: Bastardy bond binding Thomas Breach of Eastbourne, shopkeeper. Description: Bound in £100 for the support of the daughter (born around 11 Aug in Uckfield) to Elizabeth Thomas, singlewoman (TNA: PAR 496/34/3/12)

Family Tree

See Tree 1. "Thomas & Joan Breach of Warbleton (1500s-1800s)" in Chapter 2.

36. Will of John Breach the elder, Mariner of Hastings, 1823

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/74/738)

Made: 22 Apr 1818

Proved: 15 Apr 1823, Archdeaconry of Lewes

FamilySearch: Film 1886179; Images 698-701

This is the will of me **John Breach** the elder of the Town and Port of Hastings in the County of Sussex Mariner First I will and direct that all my just debts and funeral and testamentary expences be fully paid and discharged by my Executors hereinafter named as soon as conveniently may be after my decease And subject thereto I give devise and bequeath unto my Wife **Elizabeth Cogger Breach** all and singular my Real and personal Estate property and Effects whatsoever and wheresoever and of what nature kind or quality soever the same may be which I shall be seized possessed of or otherwise entitled unto at the time of my decease To hold to her my said Wife **Elizabeth Cogger** and her assigns for and during the Term of her natural life And from and immediately after her decease I give devise and bequeath all and singular my said Real and personal Estate and property and every part thereof respectively unto my Son **William Breach** of Hastings aforesaid Mariner and my Friend **William Gill** of the same place Banker their heirs executors and administrators Upon trust that they the said **William Breach** and **William Gill** or the survivor of them or heirs executors or administrators of such survivor shall and do as soon as conveniently may be absolutely sell and dispose of either by public Sale or private contract my said Real Estate and such part of my personal property and effects as may be of a saleable nature for the most money and best price or prices that can be reasonably had or gotten for the same And for promoting and facilitating such Sale or Sales I do hereby declare that it shall and may be lawful for them my said Trustees to make and execute all such Contracts Covenants Agreements Conveyances and Assurances as shall be deemed requisite and proper And that the Receipt or Receipts of my said Trustees or the survivor of them or the heirs executors or administrators of such survivor for any Sum or Sums of money payable under or by virtue of the Trusts of this my Will shall be a sufficient and effectual discharge and sufficient and effectual discharges for the same respectively or so much thereof respectively as in such receipt or receipts shall be acknowledged or expressed to be received and that the person or persons to whom the same shall be given his her or their heirs executors administrators or assigns shall not afterwards be answerable or accountable for any // loss misapplication or nonapplication or be obliged or concerned to see to the application of the money therein mentioned and acknowledged to be received And I do hereby will and direct that my said Trustees the survivor of them his executors or administrators shall stand possessed of and interested in all and singular the Monies arising by such Sale or Sales and in my other monies and personal Estate so given and bequeathed to them as aforesaid Upon trust in the first place to pay unto my Son **Mark Breach** the Sum of Fifty pounds sterling over and above any other benefit he will be entitled to under this my Will and to whom I give and bequeath the same accordingly And do and shall in the next place divide the residue and remainder of the said Trust monies and estate into five equal parts or shares and pay or cause to be paid unto my Son **John Breach** his executors or administrators One equal fifth part thereof for his and their own use absolutely and to whom I give and bequeath the same accordingly One other equal fifth part thereof unto my said Son **William Breach** his executors or administrators for his and their own use absolutely and to whom I give and bequeath the same accordingly One other equal fifth part thereof unto my Daughter **Mary** the Wife of **Thomas Pollard** of Hastings aforesaid Mariner her executors or administrators for her and their own use absolutely and to whom I give and bequeath the same accordingly One other equal fifth part thereof unto my said Son **Mark Breach** his executors or administrators for his and their own use absolutely and to whom I give and bequeath the same accordingly And upon this further trust that they my said Trustees or the survivor of them his executors or administrators do and shall lay out and invest the remaining fifth part or share of the said Trust monies or premises in their or his

names or name at Interest upon government or good real Security or Securities to be from time to time altered varied and transposed at their or his discretion and from and after the placing out investing and securing of such last mentioned fifth part or share Upon trust to pay or permit or suffer and authorize my Son **James Breach** or his assigns for and during the term of his natural life to receive and take the interest dividends and produce thereof from time to time as the same shall become due and payable to and for // his own use and benefit And from and after the decease of my said Son **James Breach** In trust to pay assign or transfer the said one fifth part or share of the Trust monies last mentioned unto and equally between all and every the lawful Child and Children of the said **James Breach** which shall be living at the time of his decease and the Issue lawfully begotten of any deceased Child or Children as and when they shall respectively attain the ages of Twenty one years the Issue of any such Child or Children nevertheless to take only the part or share which his her or their deceased parent or parents would have been respectively entitled unto if living equally between them And do and shall pay and apply the Interest Dividends and annual proceeds thereof for and towards the maintenance education and support of such Child or Children and the Issue of any deceased Child or Children of my said Son during their respective Minorities And I do hereby expressly direct that the several legacies and sums of money hereinbefore by me given and bequeathed to my Sons **John William** and **Mark** and my said Daughter **Mary Pollard** shall be considered as vested Interests or vested Interest in them respectively from the time of my decease and be transmissible to his her or their respective Representatives in case of his her or their death before the same shall become due or payable under or by virtue of this my Will I hereby nominate constitute and appoint my said Son **William Breach** and **William Gill** Executors of this my Will And do declare that it shall and may be lawful for my said Trustees and Executors by and of the Monies which shall come to their hands by virtue of or under this my Will to retain and reimburse themselves respectively all such costs charges damages and expences as they or either of them bear pay expend or be put unto for or by reason or on account [dotted line] of this my Will or the Trusts thereof Together with a reasonable Allowance to the said **William Gill** for Journies Loss of Time and other Troubles And also that they my said Trustees and Executors shall not be answerable or accountable for the other of them or for the acts deeds or receipts neglects or defaults of the other of them but each of them for his own acts and deeds only And that they shall not be answerable or accountable for any involuntary loss misfortune or damage which may happen in the execution of this my Will or the Trusts thereof And lastly I hereby revoke all other Wills Codicils and Testamentary Dispositions by me at any time heretofore made and do declare this only to be and contain my last Will and Testament In // witness whereof I the said **John Breach** the Testator have to this my last Will and Testament contained in four sheets of paper set ^my^ hand to the first three sheets and my hand and seal to this fourth and last Sheet thereof the Twenty second day of April in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and Eighteen [signed] **John Breach**

Signed Sealed Published and Declared by the said **John Breach** the Testator as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who in his presence at his request and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our Names as Witnesses the Word "Eighteen" in the last line of the last sheet being first written on an erasure

Willm Thorpe

John Longley

Edw^d Fermor

The fifteenth day of April 1823 Then was sworn before us **William Breach** one of the Executors (**William Gill** the other Executor refusing to act) in this Will named; - to whom was committed the burden of the Execution thereof. - Sworn also that the Goods, Chattells and Credits of the Deceased do not amount in Value unto one Hundred and Fifty Pounds.

Before me

Tho^s Richards Surrog^{te}

(Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 2nd June 2020)

NOTES:

People

John Breach the elder, mariner of Hastings, testator
Elizabeth Cogger Breach, wife
William Breach, mariner of Hastings, son, joint trustee and executor
William Gill, banker, friend, joint trustee and executor
Mark Breach, son
John Breach, son
Mary Pollard, wife of Thomas Pollard, daughter
Thomas Pollard, mariner of Hastings, son-in-law
James Breach, son
William Thorpe, witness
John Longley, witness
Edward Fermor, witness

Places

Hastings

Relevant Events

John Breach is considered to be the person bap. 1 Feb 1751 at Eastbourne, son of John and Mary Breach.
John Breach was buried on 30 Sep 1822 at Hastings St Clement ("72 years").
John Breach married Elizabeth Cogger Eldridge on 4 Nov 1772 at Battle, Sussex.
Elizabeth Cogger Breach was buried on 15 Jun 1832 at Hastings St Clement ("86 years")

Their daughter Mary Breach married Thomas Pollard on 27 Jun 1802 at Hastings St Clement.

Other

The following concern John Breach's two sons, John and James:

- Settlement examination
- Date: 31 Oct 1826
- Repository: East Sussex Record Office
- ESRO reference: DH/B/92/1 page151
- Description: James Breach of Holy Trinity Hastings: gained settlement in St Clement Hastings 16 years ago by renting a house from his father John Breach at 10 8s per annum for 11 years; in 1820 he was removed from St Clement Hastings to St John Horsleydown, Southwark, Surrey but the order was quashed at the Easter quarter sessions, 1821; he was then in the St Clement poorhouse with his family for 18 or 19 months; three or four years ago St Clement rented two rooms for him in Holy Trinity at 4s per week; daughter Elizabeth Breach is legitimate and was born in St Clement
- Settlement examination
- Date: 15 Apr 1823
- Repository: East Sussex Record Office
- ESRO reference: DH/B/92/1 pages 81-82

- Description: John Breach of Hastings concerning the late Edward Wallace of All Saints, fisherman: the father of Edward Wallace was settled in Wadhurst; 25 years ago John Breach married the widow of Edwards father; he took Edward to reside with him at All Saints Hastings and received 2s per week for several years from Wadhurst; five or six years ago Edward married and they continued to reside with Breach; Edward has left a wife Susannah and children Mary Ann (5 years), Susanna (4 years), Thomas (2 years), Amelia (7 months)
- Settlement examination
- Date: 9 Aug 1820
- Repository: East Sussex Record Office
- ESRO reference: DH/B/92/1 page 27
- Description: James Breach of St Clement Hastings: 23 years ago he was apprenticed to Thomas Downing of St John Horsleydown, Southwark, Surrey, sailmaker for 7 years but only served 3-4 years; hired 2 rooms in St Clement Hastings from Mrs Perry at 4s 6d per week for 3-4 years; hired a house in St Clement from his father John Breach at 4s per week for 2-3 years; wife Elizabeth and children Elizabeth (13 years), George (19 years), James (6 years)
- Lewes Sessions: Orders relating to poor relief
- Date: 20 Oct 1820
- Repository: East Sussex Record Office
- ESRO reference: QO/44/1820-10-20
- BREACH James, wife Elizabeth; Elizabeth 13, George 10, James 6; JPs' order removing them from St Clement's, Hastings to St John Horsleydown, Southwark, Surrey respited, St John to pay costs.
- Lewes Sessions: Orders relating to poor relief
- Date: 4 May 1821
- Repository: East Sussex Record Office
- ESRO reference: QO/44/1821-05-04
- BREACH John [James], wife Elizabeth; Elizabeth 13, George 10, James 6; JPs' order removing them from St Clement's, Hastings to St John Horsleydown, Southwark, Surrey quashed.

Family Tree

See Tree 1. "Thomas & Joan Breach of Warbleton (1500s-1800s)" in Chapter 2.

37. Will of Charlotte Breach, Spinster of Hastings, 1852

(ESRO: PBT 1/1/84/166)

Made: 18 Sep 1848

Proved: 15 May 1852

FamilySearch: Film 1886237; Image 224

The Last Will of **Charlotte Breach** spinster of the Town and Port of Hastings in the County of Sussex made this eighteenth day of September One thousand eight hundred and forty eight. Whereas I **Charlotte Breach** aforesaid do appoint **Sarah White** and **Elizabeth Pitter** my Executrixs, who shall at my demise cause the whole of my Goods and Chattles to be sold, except such as are herein after mentioned, And from the produce of such sale, together with such monies as may be in my possession or out on interest, pay my funeral expenses as well as all just debts and should there then remain sufficient money My Executrixs afore named shall cause a Head, Foot and Body stone to be erected over my grave in the Church Yard of All Saints Hastings and cause my Body to be entered in the same grave as my sister now lying there. The Head stone shall have inserted thereon my sisters name & together with my own name. And after such expense shall be defrayed should a further sum remain My Executrixs shall also cause a Head foot and Body stone to be placed over the grave of my Brother **George Breach** and his wife now lying in Halton Church Yard in the parish of St Clement Hastings. I also bequeath to my Executrixs viz **Sarah White** a Mahogany Sofa and to **Elizabeth Pitter** my best Cloake now in my possession. And in consideration should any goods remain not necessary to be sold to pay the expenses above named my Executrixs shall dispose of them as follows. viz To

[blank]

In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year first hereinbefore named

Signed **Charlotte Breach**

Signed Sealed and delivered in the presence of

Sarah White

Elizabeth Pitter

In consequence of the death of my excellent friend Sarah white and the removal of Mrs Pitter from Hastings, I hereby appoint Joseph Pitter son of Mrs Pitter and Hannah White daughter of Mrs White my Executors instead of their respective parents

Charlotte Breach

Signed Sealed and delivered in the presence of us who have hereunto set our names as witnesses this 19th day of November in the year of our Lord 1848

Sarah Weldiyeare[?]

William Poole

12 May 1852 Passed the seal 15 May 1852

Then were sworn Joseph Pitter and Hannah white the Executors in this will named to whom was committed the execution thereof with the codicil above written And the said Joseph Pitter and Hannah white were also sworn that the goods chattels and credits of the said deceased were under the value of one hundred pounds. By us

J.G Hyster, Surrogate

Testatrix died 2 May 1852

Transcribed by Geoffrey Barber, February 2018.

NOTES:

People

Charlotte Breach, spinster, testatrix

George Breach deceased, brother

Sarah White, joint executrix

Elizabeth Pitter, joint executrix

Joseph Pitter, son of Elizabeth Pitter

Hannah white, daughter of Sarah White

William Poole, witness

Places

Hastings

Relevant Events

Charlotte Breach was buried 15 May 1852 at All Saints Hastings.

In the 1841 census, Charlotte is living with her sister Mary Breach, spinster.⁵⁰

Her sister Mary Breach was buried 1 April 1845 at All Saints Hastings "age 79 years".

Her brother George Breach was buried 24 Feb 1848 at Halton St Clement, Hastings "76 years; of Ore".

Family Tree

See Tree 1. "Thomas & Joan Breach of Warbleton (1500s-1800s)" in Chapter 2.

⁵⁰ 1841 census: Class: HO107; Piece: 1107; Book: 2; Civil Parish: All Saints; County: Sussex; Enumeration District: 2; Folio: 16; Page: 7; Line: 15

38. Will of William Breach, Fishmonger of Hastings, 1855

(TNA: PCC Prob 11/2207/285)

Made: 24 September 1850

Codicil: 28 July 1852

Proved: 7 March 1855

This is the last Will and Testament of **William Breach** of Hastings in the County of Sussex Fishmonger First I direct the executors to this my Will to pay all my just debts funeral and testamentary expences after which I give devise & bequeath as follows To my son **James Breach** the house & premises he now occupies in Bourne Street subject to a mortgage of one hundred and fifty pounds thereon and which sum of one hundred and fifty pounds he shall be liable to Also one third part or share of the Boat or Lugger called the {F}ame Also one floor of the net shop under the East Cliff And to my son **Mark Breach** the one other floor of the before mentioned net shop under the East Cliff To my son **Charles Breach** I give devise & bequeath one quarter part or share of the boat or lugger three sisters whereof **Mark Swaine** is at present part Owner and Master also the Net Shop near the Pier Shop To my son **William Breach** I give devise and bequeath the shop near or close to the Queens Head Inn in the Fishmarket To my daughter **Sarah Breach** I give devise & bequeath the build[-]ing near the lighthouse and now partly occupied by **William S{mith}** Shoemaker To my two daughters **Frances Louisa Breach** and **Maria Love Breach** I give devise & bequeath in equal moiety all my share & interest in the house and premises No 13 Russell Street in the Parish of Saint Marys in the Castle together with my share of the furniture books plate pictures linen & as may be in the aforesaid house at the time of decease also the sum of twenty five pounds in money to the said **Frances Louisa Breach** and also twenty five pounds in money to the said **Maria Love Breach** And to my son **William Breach** I give devise & bequeath one floor of the last net shop built by me under the East Cliff and to my son **Charles Breach** I give the ^one^ other floor of the aforesaid net shop I also further give devise unto my son **William Breach** one quarter part or share of the boat or lugger Free trade and to my son **Charles Breach** the one other quarter part of share of the said boat or lugger Free Trade And I further give devise and bequeath unto my four sons **James Breach William Breach Mark Breach and Charles Breach** all my nets and ropes lines and other ropes and things belonging to me such nets ropes lines &c to be fairly divided into four lots such lots to be respectively numbered 1.2.3.4 tickets corresponding with such numbers to be placed in a bag and to be drawn for by seniority And after all these several and individual bequests hereinbefore mentioned I hereby give devise and bequeath unto my sons **James Breach William Breach Mark Breach and Charles Breach** and to my daughter⁵¹ **Sarah Breach Frances Louisa Breach and Maria Love Breach** their heirs or assigns share & share alike All the residue of my real and personal estate of whatsoever kind houses lands hereditaments and premises boats money in the funds cash in the house and at the bankers book debts notes of hand furniture plate linen pictures or any other kind of property not hereinbefore mentioned and bequeathed and do further direct that my son **James Breach** be not charged with any rent for the house & premises in Bourne Street up to the time of my decease The note of hand for one hundred pounds given me by **Richard Woodward Tonkin** of Newlyn and my son **Mark Breach** I hereby direct that my son **Mark Breach** be only charged with one half part of such sum as may be due on the same the other remaining half part of such sum as may be due thereon to be recovered of the said **Richard Woodward Tonkin** and I further direct that any amount which may be due at the time of my decease on the note of hand given to **Francis Tapley** of London shall be deducted from the share of my son **Mark Breach** {coming} to him & arising from his proportion of the residuary bequest of my real and personal estate And I do hereby appoint **Henry Thwaites** of Hasting[s] Butcher and **Bo{y}frett Breeds** of Hastings Hatter Executors to this my last will and Testament In witness whereof I have hereunto

⁵¹ Sic

set my hand & seal this twenty fourth day of September one thousand eight hundred and fifty – **William Breach** – Signed sealed published and declared by the said **William Breach** the Testator as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who in his presence and at his request and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses – **Samuel Stace** – **Stephen Thwaites** //

And I do hereby further direct that all my nets cut ropes lines and other ropes and things shall be divided agreeable to my Will (and to which this is a Codicil) at the conclusion of the first herring or mackarel voyage after my decease as the case may happen In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal this twenty fourth day of September one thousand eight hundred & fifty – Signed sealed published and declared by the said **William Breach** the testator as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who in his presence and at his request and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names as witnesses – **Samuel Stace** – **Stephen Thwaites**

I do hereby further direct and do hereby give and bequeath unto my daughter **Frances Louisa Breach** (notwithstanding any thing the Will may contain to the contrary) all my half part or share of the Cutch⁵² business in which I am concerned with **Boyfrett Breeds** together with such share of stock and profits as may be in his hands at the time of my decease witness my hand and seal this twenty eighth day of July 1852 – **Wm Breach** – Signed sealed published and declared by the said **William Breach** the Testator in the presence of us who in his presence and at his request and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names as witnesses – **James Winter** – **William Palmer**

*Probate: London, 7th March 1855 by the oath of **Boyfrett Breeds**. Power reserved re Henry Thwaites.*

Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 20th November 2020

NOTES:

People

William Breach, fishmonger, testator
James Breach, son
Mark Breach, son
Charles Breach, son
William Breach, son
Sarah Breach, daughter
Mark Swaine, part boat owner and master
William Smith, shoemaker
Francis Tapley of London
Frances Louisa Breach
Maria Love Breach
Richard Woodward Tonkin
Henry Thwaites, butcher of Hastings, joint executor
Boyfrett Breeds, hatter of Hastings, joint executor
Samuel Stace, witness
Stephen Thwaites, witness
James Winter, witness
William Palmer, witness

⁵² Cutch is bark from the *Acacia Catechu*, used to produce a brown dye used in tanning and for preserving fishing nets and sails. See: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catechu>

Places

Hastings

London

Newlyn

Relevant Events

William Breach was buried 11 Dec 1854 at Hastings St Clements (“80 years”).

William Breach married Elizabeth Chatfield on 6 Jul 1797 at Hastings All Saints.

Elizabeth Breach (nee Chatfield) was buried 12 Apr 1821 at Hastings St Clement (“44 years”).

William Breach married Mary Archibald on 5 Jun 1823 at Ore (William of Hastings St Clement; Mary of Hastings St Mary in the Castle).

Mary Breach (nee Archibald) was buried 22 Apr 1846 at Hastings St Clement (“61 years”).

Family Tree

See Tree 1. “Thomas & Joan Breach of Warbleton (1500s-1800s)” in Chapter 2.

Chapter 4 - Other Related Wills and Documents

39. Will of Elizabeth Bean, widow of Seaford, 1772

(ESRO: SAS/DD 227, also PBT/1/1/62/566)

Made: 13 Feb 1772

Proved: 11 Jul 1772

(Summary from ESRO Catalogue)

Description:

Devise to son **John Bean** of a piece of ground late part of a plot in Seaford containing in length 82ft. and in breadth 42ft

To son **Henry Bean** two warehouses and a house, stable and appurtenances in Bishopstone.

Also to said **Henry** a lighter or barge

To grandson **Henry Bean**, youngest son of late son **William** £25. To granddaughter **Ann Bean**, eldest daughter of son **Henry** £25 and also wearing apparel &c. and specified household effects

Residue of household effects to said sons **John** and **Henry**

Devise to said son **Henry Bean** and to **John Bean** of Litlington, gent., of a house, stables, 2 gardens and the remainder of the plot of ground not given to son **John Bean** in Seaford in the occupation of the **Rev. Mr. Williams** In trust for sale

The proceeds of sale to be disposed of, as to a half to the said **Henry Bean** and the other half to be invested and the interest received by son **John Bean** until **Ann Bean** the natural daughter of **Ann Breach** late of Seaford, singlewoman deceased., should attain 21

When said **Ann Bean** attains 21 the said half to be divided between the said **Ann Bean** and **John Bean** and **Elizabeth Bean** other natural children of the said **Ann Breach** in each case at 21

Residue of personal estate, half to son **Henry Bean** and the other half to Trustees for the benefit of said natural children

House at Seaford charged with payment of legacies if personal estate not sufficient

Executors: said son **Henry Bean** and **John Bean** of Litlington

Proved at Lewes, 11 July, 1772

Signature, W. Raynes, Dep. Regr

Creator(s): Drake and Lee of Lewes, solicitors

NOTES:

People

Ann Breach, deceased

Places

Seaford

Litlington

Bishopstone

Relevant Events

Elizabeth BEAN was buried 8 Jul 1772 at Seaford st Leonard ("widow").

Elizabeth DUNN of Cobham, Surrey, married Henry BEAN of Litlington on 6 Apr 1713 at St Mary Magdalen Old Fish Street, London.

Henry BEAN was buried 20 Feb 1763 at Seaford St Leonard ("Mr., freeman").

Ann Breach was buried 25 Mar 1770 at Seaford St Leonard.

Family Tree

See Tree 1. "Thomas & Joan Breach of Warbleton (1500s-1800s)" in Chapter 2.

40. Will of Elizabeth Bean, spinster of Seaford, 1792

(ESRO: PBT 1/1/66/360)

Made: 26 Feb 1792

Proved: 28 Apr 1792

Abstract

Elizabeth is a spinster of Seaford.

Sister Arabella Bean, spinster, half share of wearing apparel.

Sister Ann Bean, spinster, half share of wearing apparel.

Elizabeth's legacy from her late father John Bean's will bequeathed to her two sisters.

Mother-in-law Charity Bean, widow, residue of estate.

Her two sisters and William Stevens, mercer of Alfriston, joint executors.

Abstract by Geoffrey Barber, 3 June 2021

NOTES

People

Elizabeth Bean, spinster, testatrix

Arabella Bean, sister

Ann Bean, sister

Charity Bean, mother-in-law [step-mother actually]

John Bean deceased, father

Places

Seaford

Relevant Events

Elizabeth Bean was buried 13 Apr 1792 at Seaford St Leonard.

Elizabeth was born illegitimate as Elizabeth Breach, daughter of Anne Breach and John Bean. She was baptised 11 Jul 1768 at Seaford St Leonard (father not named). She was one of three illegitimate children by Anne Breach and John Bean. Their mother Anne Breach died in 1770 and the children were raised with the surname Bean.

John Bean married Charity Tiltman on 6 Feb 1772 at Seaford. The marriage licence states that John Bean, gent of Seaford, is 50+ years and Charity, a spinster, is 30+ years. Their daughter Arabella Bean was baptised 11 Sep 1772 at Seaford St Leonard.

Elizabeth's grandmother left a will (see "Will of Elizabeth Bean, widow of Seaford, 1772" in Chapter 4).

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