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The FERMOR/FARMER  
Wills of Rotherfield in  
East Sussex (1529 – 1700)

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By Geoffrey Barber

Version 1.02

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

## BIOGRAPHY

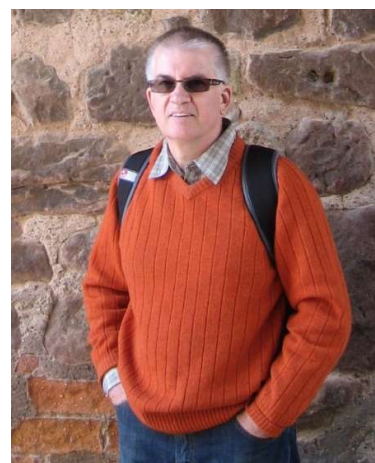
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Geoffrey Barber has been researching his English family history since about 1983. He maintains his family history web site [www.nynne.org](http://www.nynne.org) as a means of making the results his own research more widely available.

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Title:

**The Fermor/Farmer Wills of Rotherfield in East Sussex (1529-1700)**

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## Introduction

The Fermor/Farmer families were one of the important families at Rotherfield when parish records commenced in 1538. They held Walsh's manor there during the late 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. The success of the family makes it difficult for the researcher, as there are a number of family lines in existence at the start of parish records, and the repeated use of christian names Thomas, John, William and Adam causes much confusion. It is the Fermor/Farmer wills and the surviving manorial records, which give us a chance to develop accurate family trees.

This book assembles together all the known wills and administrations of the Fermor/Farmer families of Rotherfield in the 1500-1700 period and also other wills which have been found to hold information relevant to these families. It cannot be guaranteed that this is the complete set and future revised editions may be needed to incorporate new discoveries.

The ultimate aim in publishing these wills/admons is to develop accurate family trees and these are documented in this book to the best ability of the author. Feedback and discussion concerning these trees is invited so as to ensure they represent the most accurate available.

Rotherfield is a wonderful parish to research, not the least because of the work done in the early 20th century by Catharine Pulein. Her book "Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors", published in 1928, is a classic in local history research. Not as well known is the work she did in transcribing and indexing the Rotherfield manorial records, and these handwritten documents now reside at The Keep. I was there when the Rotherfield Church Archivist handed them to Christopher Whittick on 9 April 2014. It is to be hoped that one day these might be typed and published.

This book provides three indexes which offer great value to Fermor/Farmer 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.

These indexes have already facilitated the search for connected wills; that is, wills belonging to one extended family, sometimes a number of generations apart. Each will in this book includes a family tree placing the will in context and highlighting how other wills are connected. The trees are based on many years of research using primarily the Sussex Family History Group baptisms, marriages and burials indexes and are also based on the information gleaned from the Fermor/Farmer wills and from manorial records.

The author has been a long-time contributor to the Sussex Family History Group Wills Depository project which now has over 13,000 Sussex wills transcribed that are available to members free of charge. All the wills in this book have 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 1<sup>st</sup> January and 25<sup>th</sup> 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 surname have been standardised to “Farmer” to simplify use of the index except for the branch which maintained the “Fermor” spelling. The original spelling of surnames is retained in the will transcriptions.
3. Abbreviations:
  - Admons: Letters of Administration
  - ESRO: East Sussex Record Office
  - PCC: Prerogative Court of Canterbury
  - SFHG: Sussex Family History Group
  - TNA: The National Archives
  - HAM: Hampshire
  - KEN: Kent
  - 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
  - pr. probate
4. Symbols used in the transcriptions:
  - // Page break in the original
  - [ ] Transcriber’s note or addition
  - { } Unclear or illegible text

Geoffrey Barber  
12 May 2022

## Chapter 1 - The Main Family Trees

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

It is not possible to put together a single, large family tree as the origins of the Fermor/Farmer families at Rotherfield are well before parish records began, so there was plenty of time for many branches to diverge and become established. However, it is highly likely that all lines converge at some point, and Pullein states that the family was said to have originally come from Picardy in the north of France in the reign of Edward III (1327-1377). The earliest Fermors named in connection to Rotherfield are a Roger Fermour and wife Joan in 1384 who held land in Frant and Rotherfield, and a Robert le Fermur who was taxed at Framfield in 1327.<sup>1</sup>

One branch of the family held Walsh/Walshes manor at Rotherfield/Crowborough in the late 15th – 17th centuries. The first to hold this manor was William Fermor (-1540) and he only had one son Alexander who inherited the manor and passed it to his heir etc.. This family tree is shown in Tree1. Interestingly, the spelling FERMOR was retained by the line that inherited the manor, but for others the surname evolved into FARMER. For this reason, the spelling FERMOR has been retained in Tree 1 but standardised to FARMER in the other trees. However, transcriptions of the wills and other documents retain the spelling as per the document.

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<sup>1</sup> Catharine Pullein, *Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors*, (1928), p. 347.

## Tree 1. Descendants of William Fermor ( - 1540) of Walsh/Walshes Manor

Catharine Pullein's book "*Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors*" published in 1928 has two chapters which provide much of the history of the Fermors of Walsh/Walshes manor at Rotherfield.<sup>2</sup>

William Fermor ( - 1540) was the first to hold Walsh manor. The title "Esq." has been used in the tree to show who inherited the title of lord of the manor. By the early 1700s the Fermor family had scattered and the manor was effectively in the hands of the tenants.

People who left wills highlighted. All places in Sussex unless otherwise shown.

**John Fermor** [identified by Pullein]

+ unknown spouse

└─ **William Fermor**, bur. 15 Apr 1539 at Rotherfield

+ **Joan (--?--)**, m. c1500, bur. 15 Jun 1540 at Rotherfield

└─ **Alexander Fermor Esq**, b. c1510 at Rotherfield, bur. 5 Jan 1582 at Rotherfield

+ **Elizabeth Fowle**, m. 28 Sep 1539 at Rotherfield

└─ **William Fermor**, bap. 2 Jun 1541 at Rotherfield, bur. 2 Apr 1602 at Hastings

+ (--?--) **Fulwer**, m. c1560

+ **Elizabeth Scott**, m. c1590, bur. 16 Feb 1594/95 at Hastings

└─ **Anne Fermor**, bap. 24 Jan 1590/91 at Rotherfield, bur. 19 Aug 1623 at Mayfield

+ **Alexander Elliott**, bap. 1584/85 at Burwash, m. 2 Dec 1613 at Mayfield, pro. 11 Dec 1660

└─ **Mary Elliott**, bap. 6 Nov 1614 at Mayfield

+ **Matthew Hartridge**, m. 1 Jul 1634 at Mayfield, d. before 1659

└─ **Mary Hartridge**, b. c1635

└─ **John Elliott**, bap. 13 Apr 1617 at Mayfield, bur. 25 Apr 1617 at Mayfield

└─ **Elizabeth Elliott**, bap. 13 Apr 1617 at Mayfield

└─ **William Fermor Esq**, bap. 27 Oct 1592 at Rotherfield, bur. 17 Apr 1614 at R. [see note below]<sup>3</sup>

+ **Alice Williams**, m. c1612

+ **Margaret Barlowe [nee Squier]**, m. 6 Aug 1596 at Hastings

└─ **Bridget Fermor**, bap. 5 May 1597 at Hastings

+ **John Oliffe**, m. 26 Oct 1618 at Hastings

└─ **Judith Oliffe [Olive]**, bap. 18 Mar 1620/21 at Hastings

+ **John Martin**, m. 15 Apr 1640 at Rotherfield

└─ **Alexander Fermor Esq**, bap. 8 Jan 1598/99 at Hastings, bur. 26 Feb 1662/63 at Rotherfield

+ **Mary Fowle**, b. c1595, m. 12 Jun 1617 at Rotherfield, bur. 3 Oct 1646 at Rotherfield

└─ **William Fermor Esq**, bap. 24 Feb 1624/25 at Rotherfield, bur. 20 May 1686 at R. [see note below]<sup>4</sup>

+ **Mary Pickering**, m. c1650

└─ **Alexander Fermor**, b. c1655, bur. 18 Apr 1677 at Rotherfield

+ **Margaret Goddin [nee Buck]**, m. 1657, bur. 23 Jan 1665/66 at Rotherfield

└─ **William Fermor**, b. 2 Dec 1658 at Rotherfield

└─ **Anthony Fermor**, bap. 11 Sep 1661 at Rotherfield, bur. 26 Sep 1661 at Rotherfield

└─ **John Fermor**, bap. 23 Apr 1663 at Rotherfield, bur. 19 Sep 1664 at Rotherfield

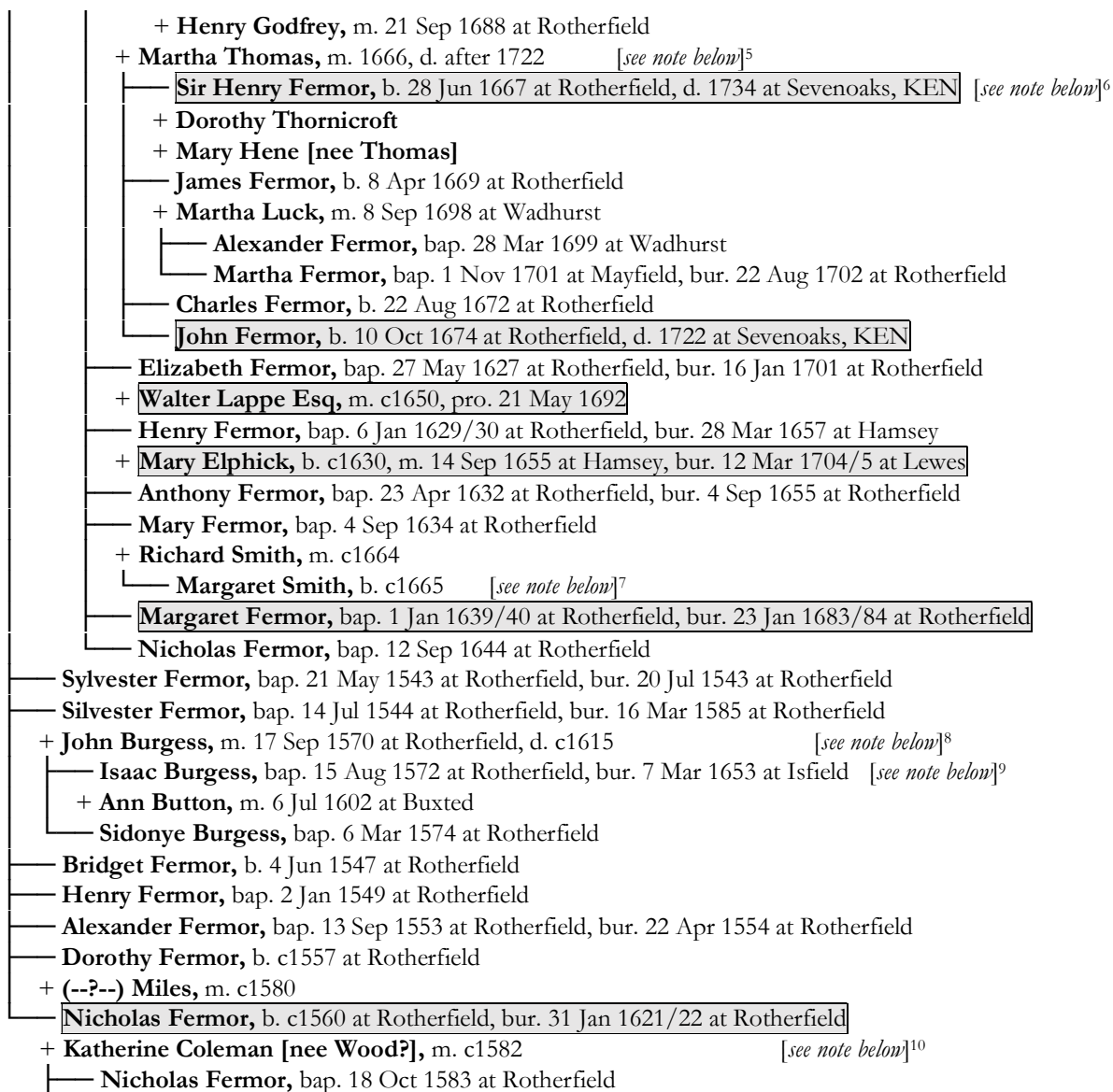
└─ **Frances Fermor**, bap. 27 Jul 1665 at Rotherfield

<sup>2</sup> Catharine Pullein, *Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors*, (1928), Chaps. XXX, XXXI.

<sup>3</sup> William died without issue (and without a will) and his entitlement to Walsh manor passed to his half-brother, Alexander Fermor (1599-1662/3). See Pullein p. 358

<sup>4</sup> William Fermor's gravestone inside Rotherfield St Denys church is most informative: *Beneath resteth William the son of Alexander Fermor, Esq. of Walsh als Walshes, by Mary daughr of Anthony Fowle Esq. of this parish. He had three wives. Mary Pickering, Margaret Buck and Martha Thomas. By the First he had one Son Alexander, by the Second He had William, Anthony and a daughter Frances. By the last He had Henry, James, Charles and John. He was born 1624 and Dyed 1686.*





<sup>5</sup> Martha was still living when her son John's will was proved on 23 Jan 1722 as she is named as a beneficiary. John's will has not been transcribed as it is outside the 1529-1700 scope of this book. Details of his life can be read in Pullein on p.367.

<sup>6</sup> Sir Henry Fermor is well known for his substantial bequest to found a school at Crowborough which still stands today as the Sir Henry Fermor Church of England Primary School. See Pullein for details on his life.

<sup>7</sup> Possible baptism 17 Aug 1664 at St Clement Danes, Westminster, London, daughter of Richard and Margery Smith.

<sup>8</sup> John Burges/Burgess is referred to as John of Brook. His dwelling is known as Brook House today. He remarried in 1586 after Silvester's death, and the document ESRO: AMS 6917/1/2/19 dated 31 Oct 1615 implies "John of The Brook" died within 6 months of that date, and that he had two more sons Thomas and John who may have been from John's second wife and so are not shown here.

<sup>9</sup> Isaac Burges' death at Isfield is confirmed in ESRO: AMS 6917/1/1/2 "Isaac Burges of Isfield, yeoman, to his cousin John Burges, only son of his brother John Burges of Isfield, deceased, all his household stuff at his house called The Brooke in Rotherfield, 'as bed-steddles, tables, forms and furnaces, ... shelves, boards and planks', all his husbandry tackling and his apple-mill at Brook House sealed and delivered to Isaac Burges's wife Ann in trust for John Burges, and a pewter dish delivered in token of possession of the rest".

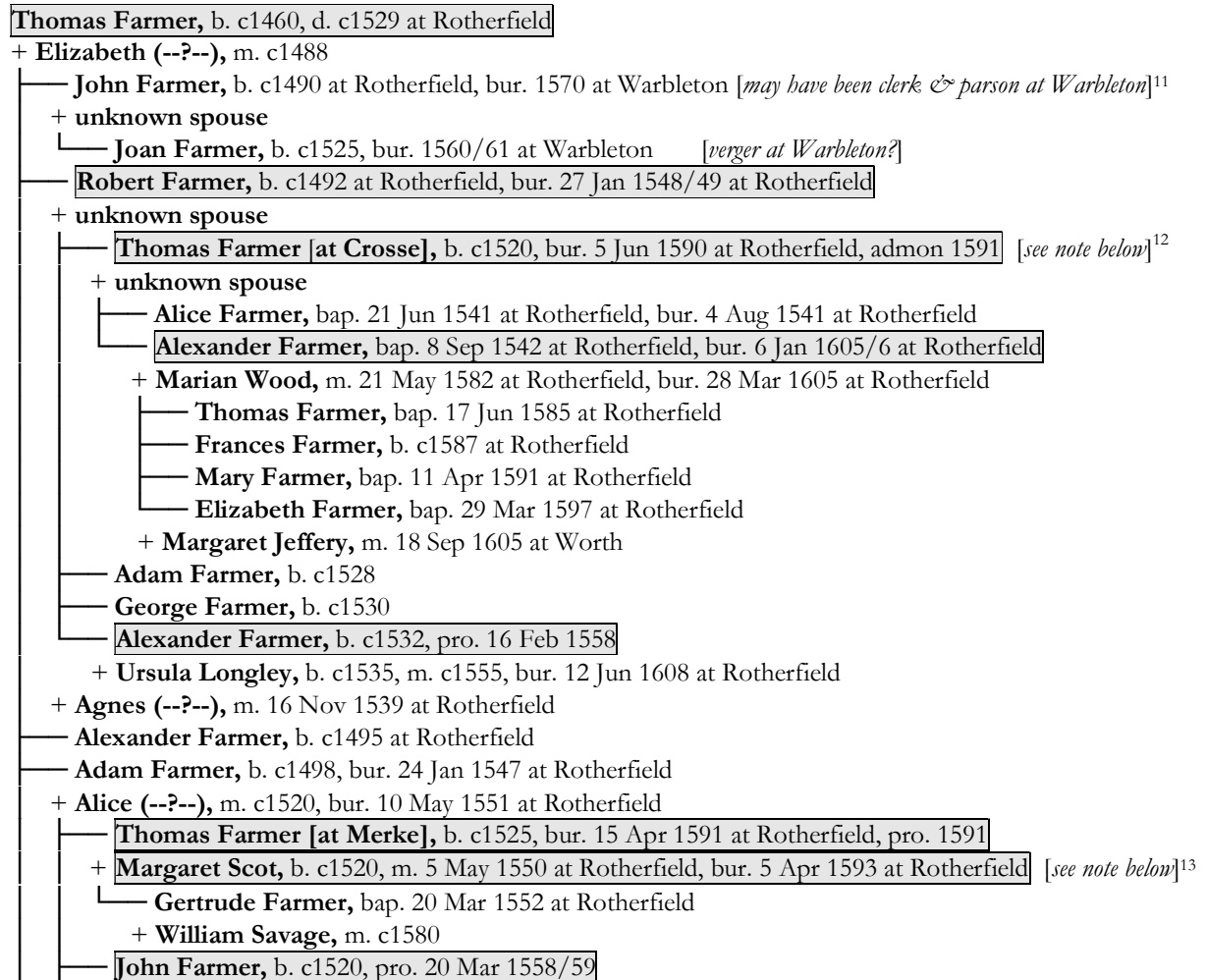
<sup>10</sup> Pullein (p. 359) states that Nicholas Fermor married Katherine Wood, the source not stated but previous paragraphs refer to a pedigree from a Visitation 1663-4. The 1621/22 will of her husband Nicholas Fermor indicates that Katherine was a widow when she married him, and that she had a son Robert Coleman, so Wood may have been her maiden name but it has not been confirmed.

- **Bridget Fermor**, bap. 5 Sep 1585 at Rotherfield, bur. 20 May 1586 at Rotherfield
- **William Fermor**, bap. 23 Oct 1586 at Rotherfield
- **Herbert Fermor**, b. c1590, bur. 2 Apr 1647 at Rotherfield
- + **Mary (--?--)**, m. c1614, bur. 1 Sep 1638 at Rotherfield
  - **Margaret Fermor**, bap. 11 Sep 1614 at Rotherfield
  - **Walter Fermor**, bap. 7 Dec 1616 at Rotherfield, bur. 17 Nov 1631 at Rotherfield
  - **Nicholas Fermor**, bap. 4 Oct 1618 at Rotherfield, bur. 15 Jul 1638 at Rotherfield
  - **Katherine Fermor**, bap. 9 Dec 1621 at Rotherfield
- + **Elizabeth Baker**, m. 27 Aug 1639 at Rotherfield
- **Dorothy Fermor**, b. c1592
- + **Samuel Leacie**, mlc. 23 Apr 1617
- **Judith Fermor**, b. c1595
- + **Francis Leonard**, m. 17 Nov 1618 at Rotherfield
  - **Philadelphia Leonard**, b. c1619, bur. 26 Apr 1621 at Rotherfield
  - **Nicholas Leonard**, bap. 22 Oct 1620 at Waldron
- **Bridget Fermor**, bap. 1 Feb 1598 at Rotherfield

## Tree 2. Descendants of Thomas Farmer ( -c1529) including Robert Farmer

Pullein considers this tree to be connected to Tree 1 sometime back in the 1400s. It is a substantial family tree and the marriage of John Barber alias Nynne to Alice Farmer in 1554 at Rotherfield is where this author connects to the Farmers of Rotherfield.

People who left wills highlighted. All places in Sussex unless otherwise shown.



<sup>11</sup> Between 1540 and March 1543/44 a John FARMER is recorded as Curate and Clerk at Rotherfield St Denys church. He was instituted at Brightling on 19 Dec 1549. He was presented at Streat on 13 Jun 1554 and 20 Jun 1554. He was instituted as rector of Warbleton on 26 Aug 1556. His burial is notated “clerk & parson of this parish” and there is also a burial for a Joan Farmer, “verger”. It is suggested that John is the son of Thomas Farmer of Rotherfield who left a will in 1529 leaving money to a son John Farmer and his daughter Joan.

<sup>12</sup> Thomas was the eldest son and known as Thomas Farmer at Crosse (he probably lived at Town Row Cross). At the Rotherfield manor court held 30 Jan 1587/88: *It is found that Robert Farmer & Agnes his wife who held one tenement & garden on R. Hyll & 1 parcel called Marlynge containing 5 acres & 3 rods assart lying next Byddenenstole & 1 parcel called Inhome 5 acres Mylhole, a croft called Rowcroft ... 1 meadow Coosmeade containing 6 acres, ..... comes Thomas Farmer at crosse, eldest son & heir & prays, etc.*

*Robert Farmer who held 7 acres of assart of Henlye in B. died .... Comes Thomas Farmer at Crosse*

*Robert Farmer who dies held 1 parcel containing 17 acres called Rugham in Scuttlecrouch in Rotherfield. Comes Thomas Farmer at Crosse his eldest son etc.*

<sup>13</sup> Margaret is the mother of Henry Aderoll alias Skinner and both left wills. Henry’s will (1613) is in Chapter 3.

+ **Odyan Kent**, m. 26 Jul 1544 at Rotherfield, bur. 17 Sep 1585 at Rotherfield

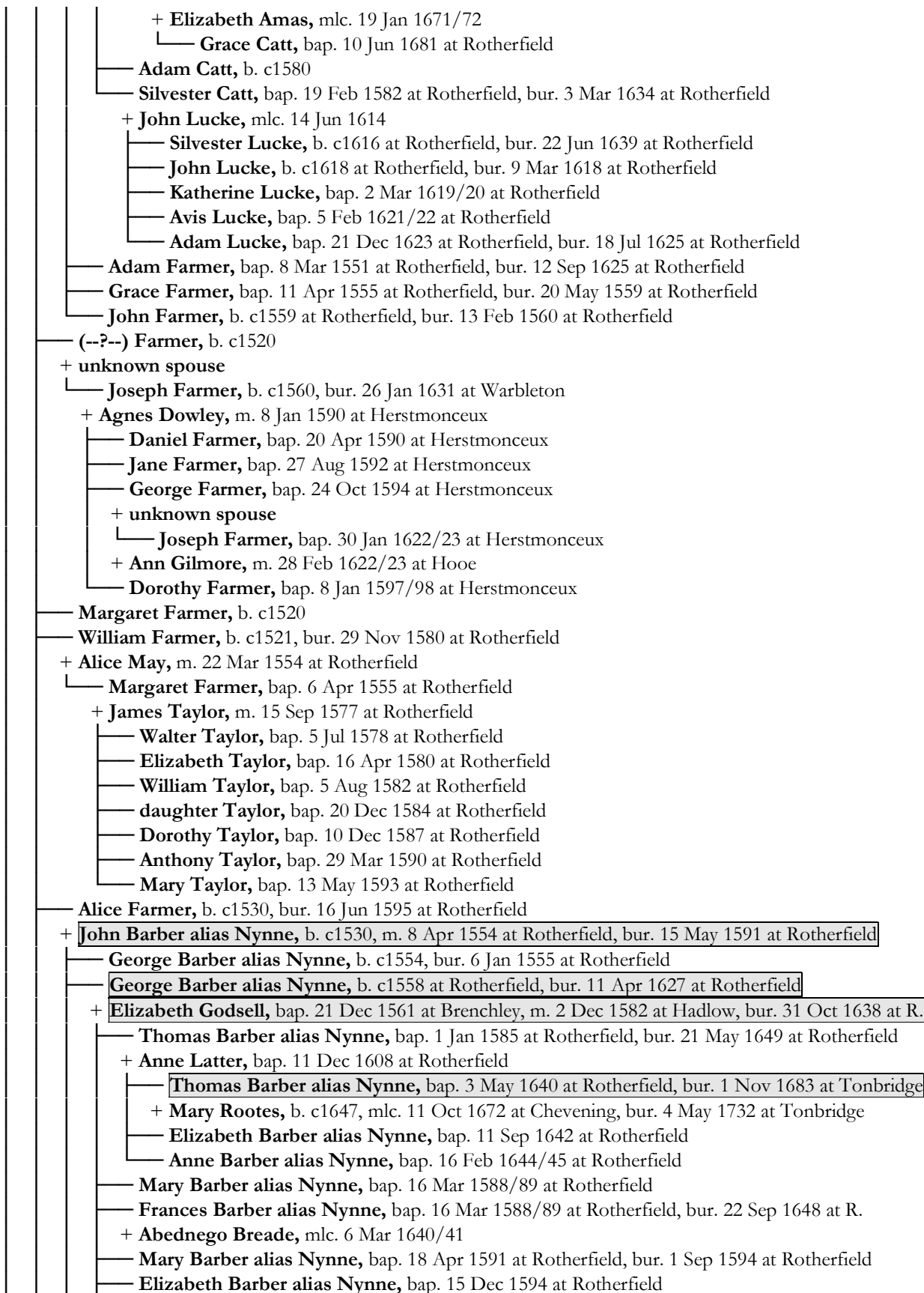
- **Sylvester Farmer**, bap. 12 Feb 1546 at Rotherfield
- + **John Lockyer**, bap. 21 Jun 1547 at Rotherfield, m. 30 May 1571 at Buxted, bur. 24 Jan 1596 at R.
  - **Barbara Lockyer**, b. c1574
    - + **Isaac Alchorne**, b. c1551 at Rotherfield, m. 1596, bur. 5 Aug 1601 at Rotherfield
      - **Adam Alchorne**, bap. 5 Jun 1597 at Rotherfield
      - **Thomas Alchorne**, bap. 29 Apr 1599 at Rotherfield
      - + **Agnes Parkes**, m. 26 Jan 1623/24 at Rotherfield
        - **John Alchorne**, bap. 12 Dec 1624 at Rotherfield
        - **Joan Alchorne**, bap. 16 Sep 1627 at Rotherfield
        - **Christopher Alchorne**, bap. 19 Dec 1630 at Rotherfield
  - **John Lockyer**, bap. 5 Sep 1576 at Rotherfield, bur. 3 Dec 1628 at Rotherfield
  - + **Elizabeth Downs**, m. 16 Jan 1625/26 at Dallington
    - **Mary Lockyer**, bap. 14 Oct 1627 at Rotherfield
  - **Alice Lockyer**, bap. 30 Dec 1578 at Rotherfield, bur. 6 Jan 1581 at Rotherfield
  - **Thomas Lockyer**, bap. 28 May 1581 at Rotherfield, bur. 10 May 1649 at Rotherfield
  - + **Mary Longly**, m. 1 Jun 1635 at Rotherfield, bur. 2 Feb 1650 at Rotherfield
  - **Elizabeth Lockyer**, bap. 28 May 1581 at Rotherfield
  - **Sylvestra Lockyer**, bap. 7 Jun 1584 at Rotherfield
  - + **Thomas Hyland**, bap. 26 Jul 1590 at Ticehurst, m. 31 May 1613 at Dallington, bur. 22 Dec 1657

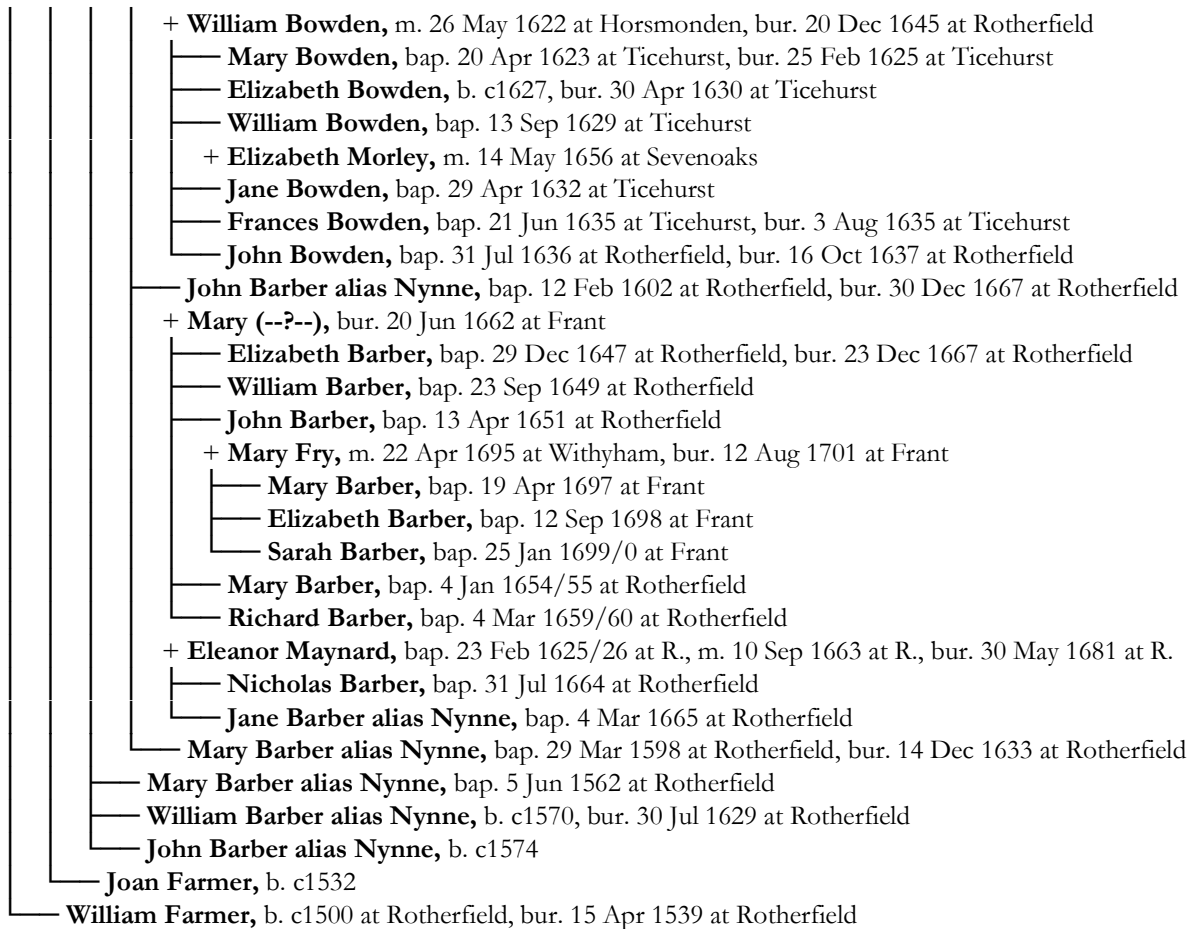
at Brightling

- **John Hyland**, b. c1614
- **Elizabeth Hyland**, bap. 19 Nov 1615 at Brightling, bur. 8 May 1620 at Brightling
- **Anthony Hyland**, bap. 14 Sep 1617 at Brightling
- + **Judith Beechen**, m. 6 Jun 1643 at Etchingham
- **Thomas Hyland**, bap. 2 May 1619 at Brightling
- **William Hyland**, bap. 14 Oct 1621 at Brightling
- **George Hyland**, bap. 5 Aug 1623 at Dallington
- + **Ann Selmes**, b. 1622 at Brightling, m. 2 Feb 1642/43 at Brightling
  - **Thomas Hyland**, bap. 9 May 1647 at Dallington
  - **John Hyland**, bap. 20 Jan 1649/50 at Dallington
  - **Anne Hyland**, bap. 7 Dec 1651 at Etchingham
  - + **John Moone**, bap. 26 Aug 1632 at R., m. 7 Nov 1671 Ticehurst, bur. 24 Oct 1678 at Frant
    - **Jane Moone**, bap. 13 Feb 1672/73 at Frant, bur. 30 Dec 1754 at Rotherfield
    - **Anne Moone**, bap. 12 Apr 1674 at Frant
    - **Thomas Moone**, bap. 7 Jul 1678 at Frant
  - **William Hyland**, bap. 5 Nov 1654 at Etchingham
  - **George Hyland**, b. 26 Feb 1656/57 at Etchingham
  - **George Hyland**, bap. 27 Jan 1658 at Etchingham
- **Grace Hyland**, b. c1640
- **Increased Hyland**, b. 18 May 1656 at Brightling
- **Susanna Lockyer**, bap. 8 May 1586 at Rotherfield
- + **John Ovenden**, m. 5 May 1617 at Withyham
  - **Anne Ovenden**, bap. 5 Mar 1617/18 at Rotherfield
- **Joan Lockyer**, b. c1588

**Avice Farmer**, bap. 6 Jul 1548 at Rotherfield, bur. 30 Nov 1633 at Rotherfield

- + **John Catt**, m. 4 Jul 1572 at Rotherfield
  - **Arthur Catt**, bap. 7 Oct 1576 at Rotherfield, bur. 11 Feb 1647 at Rotherfield
  - + **Elizabeth Puxty**, m. 5 Jun 1626 at Lewes, bur. 21 Jul 1626 at Rotherfield
  - + **Grace Hosmer**, m. 13 Jun 1632
    - **Arthur Catt**, bap. 26 Jan 1633/34 at Rotherfield
    - **Grace Catt**, bap. 11 Sep 1636 at Rotherfield
    - **John Catt**, bap. 26 Jul 1640 at Rotherfield





### Tree 3. Descendants of Joseph Farmer ( c1560-1631)

This tree is connected to Tree 2 but it is not known how. The will of Daniel Farmer in Tree 2, proved 1621, leaves generous bequests to the children of Joseph Farmer in the event that Daniel's only daughter Elizabeth does not have any heirs, suggesting that Joseph is a very close relation to Daniel. The will contains the phrase "**Danyell Farmer sonne of Joseph Farmer my cosen**" confirming a relationship, but no other information has been found to determine how they are related.

There is also a connection with Tree 6, as Michael Farmer of Wartling (died 1600) also states in his will that Joseph Farmer is his cousin.

People who left wills highlighted. All places in Sussex unless otherwise shown.

(--?--) Farmer, b. c1520

+ unknown spouse

└─ Joseph Farmer, b. c1560, bur. 26 Jan 1631 at Warbleton

+ Agnes Dowley, m. 8 Jan 1590 at Herstmonceux, bur. 15 Feb 1621 at Dallington

└─ Daniel Farmer, bap. 20 Apr 1590 at Herstmonceux, bur. 22 Dec 1622 at Dallington

└─ Jane Farmer, bap. 27 Aug 1592 at Herstmonceux

└─ George Farmer, bap. 24 Oct 1594 at Herstmonceux, adm. 30 Apr 1625 at Herstmonceux

+ Ann Gilmore, m. 28 Feb 1622/23 at Hooe

└─ Joseph Farmer, bap. 30 Jan 1622/23 at Herstmonceux

└─ Dorothy Farmer, bap. 8 Jan 1597/98 at Herstmonceux

### **Joseph Farmer of Dallington, alehouse keeper; alehouse keeper's recognizance**

Date: 1615

ESRO: QR/15/96

Creator(s): Sussex Quarter Sessions, c 1350-1914; Sussex Quarter Sessions, Eastern Division, c1550-1914; East Sussex Quarter Sessions, 1914-1970

The following document provides a link between Adam Farmer in Tree 5 with the town of Herstmonceux, where Joseph Farmer lived. However the John Farmer of Herstmonceux who transferred the property to Adam Farmer in 1631 is yet to be identified:

Title: **Deeds of a copyhold house and barn called Nicholas Tenement at Rotherfield**

ESRO: AMS6393

Description:

On 6 October 1572 John Huggett surrendered the property to Thomas Aynescombe and his wife Mary, who on 25 September 1576 surrendered to **William Farmer** and his wife **Elizabeth**, who obtained a licence to demolish the western part of the kitchen on condition that they repaired the eastern half (ACC 2805/1/1)

In 1589 **William's** eldest son **John Farmer** claimed the reversion after the death of his [step?] mother **Elizabeth Grayling**; in November 1618 it passed to his nephew **John Farmer**, age 12, son of his brother **William Farmer**. On 29 September 1631 **John Farmer** of Herstmonceux surrendered Nicholas Tenement to **Adam Farmer** of Rotherfield, tailor, and his wife **Denise**; their son **Adam** succeeded in 1645 and surrendered to **Richard Hutchinson** in 1655 (Pullein 173) [..... more]

## Tree 4. Descendants of Edward Farmer (died before 1539)

People who left wills highlighted. All places in Sussex unless otherwise shown.

**Edward Farmer**, b. c1475

+ **Margaret (--?--)**, b. c1480, m. c1500, bur. 8 Apr 1539 at Rotherfield

— **Bartholomew Farmer**, b. c1500, adm. 1558 at Rotherfield [see note below]<sup>14</sup>

— **George Farmer**, b. c1510, adm. 20 Mar 1558 at Rotherfield [see note below]<sup>15</sup>

+ **Gadys Cornish**, m. 26 Oct 1543 at Rotherfield

— **George Farmer**, bap. 11 Feb 1544 at Rotherfield, bur. 11 Sep 1615 at Rotherfield

+ **Rebecca Atkin**, m. 26 Jan 1566 at Rotherfield, bur. 5 Feb 1612 at Rotherfield

— **Dorothy Farmer**, bap. 4 Apr 1568 at Rotherfield

— **Mary Farmer**, bap. 14 Feb 1577 at Rotherfield

— **Goodwith Farmer**, bap. 28 Jun 1581 at Rotherfield

+ **Nicholas Barret**, m. 25 Jan 1601/2 at Frant

— **Steven Farmer**, bap. 10 Jul 1583 at Rotherfield, bur. 10 Dec 1642 at Rotherfield

+ **Frances Clercke**, m.c. 10 Jun 1606

— **Elizabeth Farmer**, bap. 4 Oct 1607 at Rotherfield

+ **John Downer**, m. 16 Jan 1637/38 at Chiddingly

— **Edward Downer**, b. c1640

— **Stephen Farmer**, bap. 19 Aug 1610 at Rotherfield, bur. 25 Nov 1610 at Rotherfield

— **Anne Farmer**, bap. 22 Sep 1611 at Rotherfield

+ **William Karrick [Carrick]**, m. 21 Oct 1631 at Wadhurst [see note below]<sup>16</sup>

— **William Karrick [Carrick]**, bap. 25 Apr 1633 at Wadhurst

— **Anthony Karrick [Carrick]**, bap. 31 Oct 1634 at Wadhurst

— **David Karrick [Carrick]**, bap. 13 May 1636 at Wadhurst

— **Thomas Karrick [Carrick]**, bap. 9 Jun 1640 at Wadhurst

— **Margery Farmer**, bap. 1 May 1614 at Rotherfield

+ **James Rootes**, m. 12 May 1646 at Rotherfield

— **Stephen Farmer**, bap. 24 Mar 1615/16 at Rotherfield, bur. 16 Dec 1644 at Rotherfield

— **Adam Farmer**, bap. 13 Sep 1618 at Rotherfield, bur. 3 Nov 1646 at Rotherfield [mason]

— **Joan Farmer**, bap. 3 Dec 1620 at Rotherfield

+ **Edward Bridger**, m. c1640

— **George Farmer**, bap. 13 Sep 1587 at Rotherfield, bur. 12 Mar 1647 at Rotherfield

— **Harry Farmer**, bap. 9 Dec 1546 at Rotherfield, bur. 17 Dec 1546 at Rotherfield

— **Henry Farmer**, bap. 31 Dec 1547 at Rotherfield, bur. 27 Jan 1548 at Rotherfield

— **Nicholas Farmer**, bap. 3 Feb 1548 at Rotherfield

— **Marjery Farmer**, bap. 21 Nov 1551 at Rotherfield

+ **John Muddle**, m. 11 Feb 1588 at Rotherfield

— **Alexander Farmer**, bap. 25 Nov 1554 at Rotherfield

— **Henry Farmer**, bap. 25 Nov 1554 at Rotherfield

<sup>14</sup> Bartholomew is probably the son of Edward and Margaret Farmer because:

1. Bartholomew's brothers George and William are named in his administration after his death. Their occupations are tanner and trugger respectively.
2. It is speculated that Edward Farmer had a son George (see following footnote).
3. The admon of this George Farmer 1558 does mention a William Farmer, occupation a trugger.
4. Analysis of surviving Farmer wills and admcons does not show any other obvious link.

<sup>15</sup> Rotherfield manor court held 22 Oct 1559: "*At this court it is found by the homage that George Farmer who held 17 acres formerly Edward Farmers died as siesed & there falls a heriot a red hoked cow which has been delivered, that George Farmer is his eldest son & next heir & is 15 years old & now he comes & asks admittance & gives of relief 5/- etc.*". Based on this, Edward is speculated to be the father of George Farmer (c1510-1558).

<sup>16</sup> The surname Karrick is spelt Carrett in the will of Adam Farmer (1618-1646). Karrick/Carrick is the more common variant, with Garret a possibility.

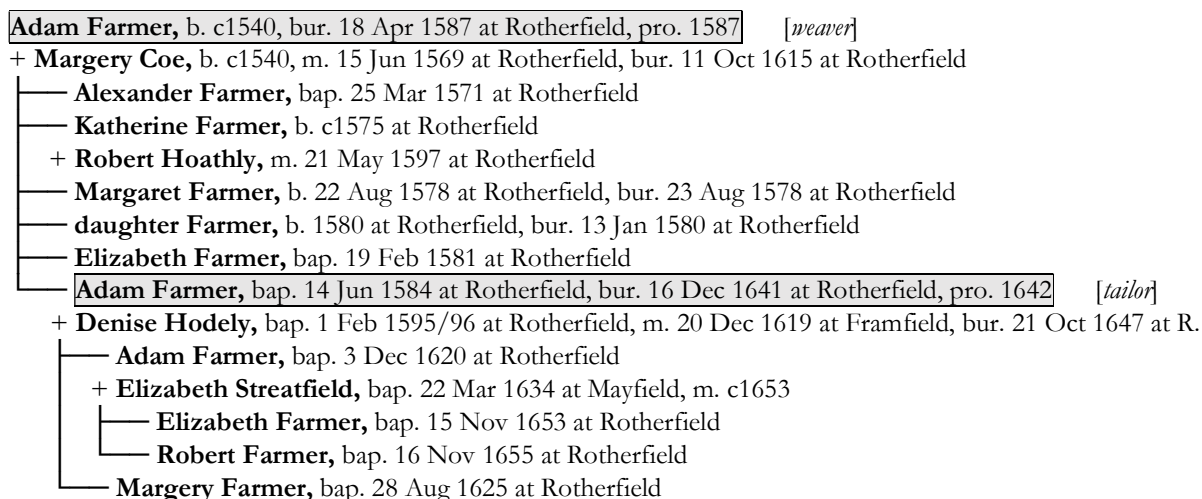


+ **Susan Mepham**, m. 5 Feb 1582 at Rotherfield  
— **Margaret Farmer**, b. c1510, bur. 16 Mar 1539 at Rotherfield  
— **William Farmer**, b. c1510

## Tree 5. Descendants of Adam Farmer, the Weaver (- 1587)

This tree is probably connected to Tree 4 in some manner (see below). The marriage into the Streatfield family is an interesting feature of this tree. The Streatfields were mercers at Rotherfield so the connection to the Farmers who were weavers and tailors is understandable. The actual marriage has not been found but the intention to marry is in the Rotherfield manorial records for the court held 4 Nov 1652. Elizabeth is noted as daughter of Robert Streatfield who is documented in Streatfield wills (at Rotherfield) as being of Westerham, Kent. It is thought that this tree continues in the Westerham & Edenbridge areas of Kent, but it has not been followed up.

People who left wills highlighted. All places in Sussex unless otherwise shown.



The following manorial court entry follows the death of Adam Farmer in 1587 and records his deathbed request to the court to transfer his property to the use of Margaret, his wife. One of the witnesses is George Farmer, likely to be the George Farmer (1544-1615) in Tree 4. For George to be present at the deathbed of Adam Farmer suggests that he is kinsman, and if so, this tree would connect to Tree 4 in some manner.

At the Rotherfield court held 2 May 1587: *Adam Farmer, out of court, viz. Apr 11, by John Nynne alias Barber, deputy of Isaac Alborne, bedell, in presence of John Staple, Ric. Coe & Geo. Farmer, surrenders 1 messuage, 1 barn and 1 garden containing 1/2 acre on Townhyll in Rotherfield to use of Margaret Farmer his wife.*

Richard Coe, mentioned above, is the brother of Adam Farmer's wife, Margery Coe (refer Adam Farmer's will, 1587). The following document concerns Richard's son William, and identifies the father of both Richard and Margery as John Coe:

Title: **Award by independent arbitration**

Date: 18 Apr 1602

ESRO: SAS/AB/344

Description: Arbitrators: William Allfraye of Withyham, John Burges, John Staplye and Thomas Dyne of Rotherfield, yeomen

Disputants: *Thomas Bennett of Rotherfield, yeoman, and William Coe of Rotherfield*

*the right, title, etc, to a certain way or lane between the lands of Thomas Bennett called Redgefeld, formerly Gabriell Alborne's, and the lands of Thomas Bennett called Hilders, formerly William A Kente's, extending*

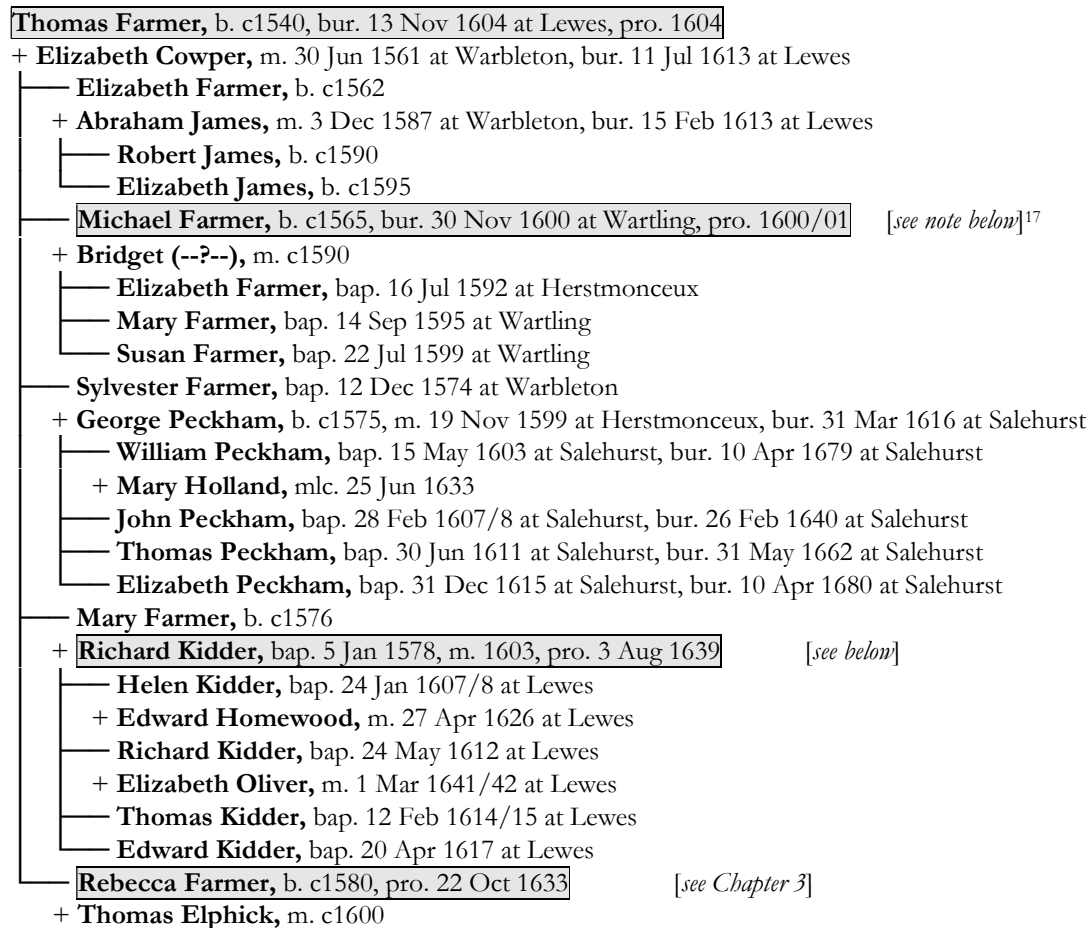
*from the Queen's highway leading from Triblers Green in Rotberfield to certain parcels of freelands of William Coe, formerly lands of his father Richard Coe, and before his grandfather John Coe, in Rotberfield*

*Award: William Coe may use the way for all purposes without interference from Thomas Bennett; Thomas Bennett may erect a gate or pair of bars on the same way but not to be wedged or fixed closed; hedges and ditches to remain where they have usually been; William Coe to pay Thomas Bennett five shillings as recompense for a 'supposed batterye to be done' by William Coe to Mary Bennett wife of Thomas Bennett; recriminations on old disputes to stop at once; the disputants to pay equally cost of this deed*

## Tree 6. Descendants of Thomas Farmer (-1604) of Lewes

The family line of this Thomas Farmer would appear to go back through Warbleton and so he may be a descendant of John Fermor/Farmer who was the clerk and parson at Warbleton between 1556-1570 (his burial there on 12 Aug 1570 states "clerk & parson of this parish"). There is also an earlier burial there of a "Jone FARMER" on 14 Jan 1561 "verger" who may John's daughter. It is known that this John Farmer was curate at Rotherfield St Denys between about 1540 and 1544 and it seems possible that he is the son of Thomas Farmer of Rotherfield who died there in 1529 and left a will mentioning his son John and John's daughter Joan (see Tree 2). John Farmer (the parson) moved around Sussex a lot (he was known to be in Brightling and Streat for brief periods of time), and given that the Warbleton parish records start around 1559, it is difficult to determine the actual family line for Thomas (c1540-1604).

People who left wills highlighted. All places in Sussex unless otherwise shown.



Title: **Original will of Richard Kidder of Lewes All Saints, yeoman**

Date: 3 Aug 1639

ESRO: AMS 6870/3

Description: bequests to his son-in-law Edward Holmewood and his wife Ellen, Richard Kidder's daughter, to his son Thomas Kidder (already provided for) whereas he is charged with

<sup>17</sup> Michael's widow remarried: On 28 Aug 1604 Bridget FERMER, widow of Lewes, and Thomas LUXFORD, yeoman of Wartling, obtained a marriage licence (Archdeaconry of Lewes)

legacies granted to his son Edward Kidder by the will of Richard Kidder's sister-in-law Rebecca Elphick, Richard Kidder now augments her legacy to £200, to be paid to Edward Kidder within a month after his apprenticeship expires, provided Edward Kidder seal a release to Richard Kidder's executors.

Wife Mary and son Richard executors and residuary legatees

All messuages in Lewes All Saints and St Thomas Cliffe to eldest son Richard Kidder in tail, with remainder of messuage in All Saints [14 High Street] to son Thomas Kidder and messuage called The Red Lion in Cliffe to son Edward Kidder

Witnesses: John Frier, William Alcock

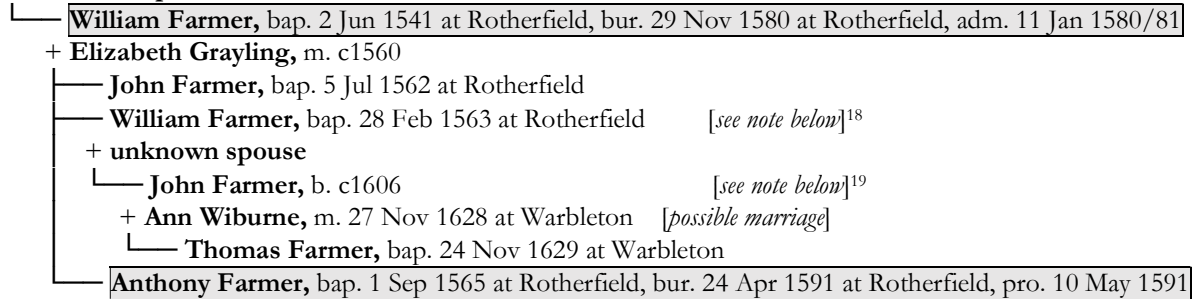
endorsed: my cousin Kidder's father's will

## Tree 7. Descendants of Anthony Farmer of Rotherfield

A small tree with origins in the early 1500s which seems to disappear after 1629. People who left wills highlighted. All places in Sussex unless otherwise shown.

### Anthony Farmer

+ unknown spouse



William Farmer's wife, Elizabeth Grayling, is identified in the following document (from the ESRO catalogue):

Title: **Deeds of a copyhold house and barn called Nicholas Tenement at Rotherfield**

ESRO: AMS6393

Description: ... On 6 October 1572 John Huggett surrendered the property to Thomas Aynescombe and his wife Mary, who on 25 September 1576 surrendered to **William Farmer** and his wife **Elizabeth**, who obtained a licence to demolish the western part of the kitchen on condition that they repaired the eastern half (ACC 2805/1/1)

In 1589 **William's** eldest son **John Farmer** claimed the reversion after the death of his mother **Elizabeth Grayling**; in November 1618 it passed to his nephew **John Farmer**, age 12, son of his brother **William Farmer**. On 29 September 1631 **John Farmer** of Herstmonceux surrendered Nicholas Tenement to **Adam Farmer** of Rotherfield, tailor, and his wife **Denise**; their son **Adam** succeeded in 1645 and surrendered to Richard Hutchinson in 1655 (Pullein 173) [..... more]

<sup>18</sup> William Farmer is identified as "of Penshurst" in Anthony Farmer's will, 1591.

<sup>19</sup> John Farmer is identified as aged 12 years in 1618 and in 1631 he was living in Herstmonceux. (ESRO: AMS6393)

## Chapter 2 – The Fermor/Farmer Wills

### 1. Will of Thomas Farmer of Rotherfield, 1529 -p.1

(ESRO: PBT 1/2/1/26B)

Made: 11 Sep 1529

In Latin. Abstract as follows:

In the year 1529 on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of September

I **Thomas Farmer** of Rotherfeld in Sussex of sound mind and memory

body to be buried in the churchyard of St Denis in Rotherfeld aforesaid

12d to the altar of the same for my tithes forgotten

to Chichester cathedral 4d

Itm to **Elizabeth** my wife the use of all the domestic utensils she brought with her at our marriage

Itm to **John Farmer** my son gent. £3 6s 8d and to **Joan Farmer** his daughter 53s 4d if [anything remains] after my debts are paid etc. [something about executors]

**Robert Farmer** and **Alexander Farmer** my sons whom I ordain exectors of this my last will and testament... to pay all debts, legacies etc and provide for the health of my soul as seems best to them with overseer **William Foule**

Witnesses: **[Gregory] Saunders**, rector of Rotherfeld; **Sir Robert Fullar** [chaplain] of the same; **William Foule**; **[Adam] Farmer**; **William Farmer** my sons etc.

*Abstract by Claire Wickens, 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017 for Geoffrey Barber*

### NOTES

#### People

Thomas Farmer, testator

Elizabeth Farmer, wife

John Farmer, son, gent

Joan Farmer, Granddaughter and daughter of son John Farmer

Robert Farmer, son (Executor)

Alexander Farmer, son (Executor)

Adam Farmer, son, witness

William Farmer, son, witness

Gregory Saunders, rector of Rotherfield, witness

Sir Robert Fullar, chaplain of Rotherfield, witness

William Foule, witness

#### Places

Rotherfield

#### Relevant Events

At a Rotherfield manorial court held on 6 Nov 1488, Thomas Farmer was admitted to a messuage with garden lying upon the [Rotherfield] Hill. Could this signify his marriage (and hence need for a family home)?<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Catharine Pullein, *Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors*, (1928), p. 351.

Thomas Farmer was a churchwarden at Rotherfield St Denys in 1513.<sup>21</sup>

### Family Tree

See Tree 2. “*Descendants of Thomas Farmer (-c1529) including Robert Farmer*” in Chapter 1.

The following is part of the above document:

### **2. Will of Thomas Farmer of Rotherfield, 1529 -p.2**

(ESRO: PBT 1/2/1/26B)

Made: 1529

Probate: Missing

*Top left corner of document missing*

... **Thomas ffarmer** above named made the day & yer above wryten ... of the rayne of king Henry the viii<sup>th</sup> ffyrst I wyll that **Alexandr ffarmer** mye ... afrt my deceasse a pece of land called [holwish] [con]taynyng by estmacon xii acras ... & to heys of his body lawefully begoten [and] if it fortune the said **Alexandr** to dye wtout heys of hys body lawfully begoten the said grownde to remayne and [retorn] to my next heyer Also I wyll yt my said son **Alexandr** shal sone afrt my deceasse pt howse yt I nowe dwell yn wt all ye land therto belongynge suffery[n]ge **Elyzabeth** nowe my wyffe peesablye & [q]ethe duryng her lyf naturall yf she kepe her selfe sole a wydowe & wante a husband to have to her own use halfe ye said howse halfe ye gardyn fyndyng of ii kene wt sufficient fuell & the use of the well as it is more playnly expressed & declared in a payre of indentures made betwene me the forsayd **Thomas ffarmer** & **John Webe** of Bradborne & **John Byrd** of Chep[stide] [Chipstead in the parish of Chevening near Sevenoaks?] in the cownty of Kent beryng date ye xx<sup>to</sup> yer of ye rayne of king Harry the viii<sup>th</sup> ye xvii<sup>th</sup> day of Novebr [1528] and after the deceasse or maryage of the said **Elizabeth** the said **Alexandr** peesablye to have the said howse and lands to him belongynge to him selfe paynge for it to my executors or overseers xx<sup>h</sup> stlyng of that wich xx<sup>h</sup> the said Alexandr hath payd to me in hand v[i]<sup>h</sup> xiii<sup>s</sup> iii<sup>d</sup> Itm & more [over] I wyll that **Robt Farmer** my son shalhave [aftre] my [decesse] my copy land callyd highland in rothffeld aforsaid to hym & to his heys of his body lawfully begoton Itm I wyll that **Willm Farmer** shalhave aftre my decesse my ffre & dede landes callyd fi[v]?? othrwys callyd fevrlands in Roffeld aforsaid to hym & to hys heys of hys body lawfullye to be begoten and it fortune [*illeg.*] forsaid **Robt & Willm** or [both] to dye wtout heyre or heys thr bodyis lawfullye begoton then tht the forsaid lands or any of them shall retorn to my next heyre Itm I wyll that the foresaid **Robert Farmer & Willm** theyr heys executors or assignes shall pay yerely owte of the said lands callyd highlands & fere othwise feyers to **Elizabeth** my wyfe during her lyffe naturall xx[v]i<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> at the festes of the nativity of our lord god The Annuncyacon of our Ladye the Natyte of snt John Baptyst & my[c]helmas by equall porcyons And yf it chaunce the forsayd **Robt & Willm** or any of them to be behynd of any of the said payment or payments at any of the said festes in part or in the hole then he or they so beyng behynd shall forfyt to the said **Elizabeth** my wyffe vi<sup>s</sup> in [*illeg.*] of a payn And yf the foresaid **Robert & Willm** or any of them be behynde of any such payment or payments x[ ] days aftre any of the said festes then it shalbe lawfull to the said **Elizabeth** or her assignes to entr in to any pcell or pcells of hym or them so beyng behynde to take dystres or dystresses to carye lede dryve or bere away the foresaid dystresses or dystres so takyn & to kepe it or them to hir selfe tyll he or they have fully contentyd her & payd bothe for the payment or payments so beyng behynde and also for the payns of vi<sup>s</sup> so forfityd for lak of any payment or payments beforsaid as it is more playnly [or] contaynyd in a payr of Indenturs made betwixt me **Thomas**

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<sup>21</sup> Catharine Pullein, *Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors*, (1928), p. 222.



**ffarmer** befor named & **Elizabeth** my wyfe **John Webe** & **John Byrd** befor namyd berynge the dat of the xix<sup>th</sup> day of Novebr the xx<sup>th</sup> yer of king Henry the viii<sup>th</sup>  
[MISSING PAGES?]

*Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017 for Geoffrey Barber*

## NOTES

### People

Thomas Farmer, testator  
Elizabeth Farmer, wife  
Alexander Farmer, son  
Robert Farmer, son  
William Farmer, son  
John Webe  
John Byrd

### Places

Rotherfield  
Highland, Rotherfield  
Feyrlands, Rotherfield  
Bradborne [Bradbourne, East Malling], Kent  
Chipstead, Kent

### Family Tree

See Tree 2. “*Descendants of Thomas Farmer (-c1529) including Robert Farmer*” in Chapter 1.

### 3. Will of Robert Farmer of Rotherfield, 1548/49

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

Made: 1 June 1546

Probate: missing [1548/59?]

In the name of god amen I **Robert farmer** of the pishe of Rotherfeld beyng sick of body [*illeg.*] & pfet of [remembrance] do make my te<sup>mt</sup> & last will [after] this forme that [*illeg.*] folow[ynge or eth] fyrst I bequeathe my soule to Almyghtie god in whome & by whome & of whome I trust to have salvation both of body & soule [through] the onely [meryts] of christs [*illeg.*] pasion my body to bee buried in the churche yard of Rotherfeld Itm I bequeathe to the high alter of Rotherfeld for tythes negligently [forgotten] iiiii<sup>d</sup> Itm I wyll that at the day of my buriall [is to be stowed] for the [reste] of my soul in [*illeg.*] to [prestes clerkes] & [pore people gevyn] vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> Itm at the day of my [monthes] mynd vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> Itm at my [yeres] mynd & prestes clerkes & pore people to pray for my soules helth I will it to be my [*illeg.*] to the [discretion] of my exors Itm I will that **Adam my son** shall receyve x<sup>h</sup> at the age of xxiii<sup>te</sup> yeres to be delyvered & paid by the [hands] of **Thomas my son** his exors or assignes It. I bequeath to [**George**] my son x<sup>h</sup> to be paid from the hands of **Thomas my son** his [exors] or assignes [*illeg.*] at the age of xxii yers It. I bequeath to **Alexander my son** [xli] & he likewise to receyve it at the hands of **Thomas** his exors or assignes **Alexander** beyng at the age of xxii yers All these [sums] of monye to be paid at the uttermost of the yers of age [*illeg.*] date specyfyed by the hands of **Thomas** my son unto **George & Alexander** my sons And if it so happen any of [my] sons without heys lawfully begotten of theyr bodies that they I bequeath to them [appoynted] to be devided betwixt them the ii other my sons lyyving by equall [portions] And if it happen ii of my sons to dye that then my [*illeg.*] is that theyre ii [portions] be [delyvered] to the third brother of [them] It. I do bequeath to [**Agnes**] my wiff my best [bell] bolster ii pyllowes iii blankettes & one covlett the best Item further the best [*illeg.*] the greatyst caudronne a lytell ketell & & a pan It. I bequeath to **Alexander** my son my second caudronn & the greatyst [pott] Itm I bequeath to my sonne **Adam** [*illeg.*] i ??lle i [*illeg.*] ii blanketts & the second covlett that the resydew of brasse pewter & [*illeg.*] payre of shets to be shyftyd [*illeg.*] my [wif] & the youngyst to chose fyrst Itm I bequeath to **Thomas Adam George & Alexander** my sonnys my [*illeg.*] of the [best] every of them one Itm I bequeath to **Alexander** the son of **Thomas farmer** my son one waynling of this yere Itm I bequeath to [*illeg.*] [second] [*illeg.*] to be devyded betwyxt them thre It. I wyll that if it so happen that [**Annes**] my wyf do [*illeg.*] or els [*illeg.*] my pte or porcon of my [*illeg.*] by her or by her assignes that then she to [*illeg.*] any pte of my sonnys bequest The resydew of my goods [*illeg.*] I gyve unto **Thomas** my son whom I [name] to my [sole exor] & he [*illeg.*] [the hole contents] of this my [*illeg.*]... wrytyng the first daye of [June] in the yere of our lord [1546] these witnesse [*illeg.*] **John [Yardland] Adam farmer Willm farmer Willm [atherwold]** with other men [see Note 1 below]

*Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017 for Geoffrey Barber*

NOTE 1: Followed by a note of the sum sworn, which looks like 15£ xs – can't make out the pence. C.W.

#### NOTES

##### People

Robert Farmer, testator

Agnes or Annes Farmer, wife

Thomas Farmer, son, executor [eldest?]

Adam Farmer, son

George Farmer, son

Alexander Farmer, son  
John Yardland  
Adam Farmer  
William Farmer  
William Atherwold [Atherol]

#### Places

Rotherfield

#### Relevant Events

Robert FARMOR was buried at Rotherfield St Denys on 27 January 1548/49. (SFHG Burial Index)

There is a land grant to Robert FERMER made by Adam FERMER, likely his brother, on 20 January 1547:

*Adam FERMER of Rotherfield, yeoman, to Robert FERMER and John STAPLE, 20 January 1547.*

*Lands in Rotherfield (47 acres) abutting N on way leading between Skuttylechroche and house called Sbereffs, S on land of John FERMOR called Archerede, SW on way leading from Rotherfield to Orgarshyll [Argos Hill?] and piece of land called Cukkam, SE on land called Bondmede and Clayton, E on way leading from Clayton*

*Adam FERMER appoints William SAWYER and George MAYND to deliver seisin to Robert FERMER and John STAPLE*

*Witnesses: John CARRWYND of Frant, Thomas FARMER of Rotherfield*

Abstract recorded by ESRO for their catalogue (ESRO: DYK 377)

Robert's wife is noted as Agnes in manorial records. At the Rotherfield manor court held 30 Jan 1587/88:

*It is found that **Robert Farmer & Agnes his wife** who held one tenement & garden on R. Hyll & 1 parcel called Marlynge containing 5 acres & 3 rods assart lying next Byddendenstole & 1 parcel called Inhome 5 acres Mylhole, a croft called Romcroft ... 1 meadow Coosmeade containing 6 acres, ..... comes **Thomas Farmer at crosse**, eldest son & heir & prays, etc.*

***Robert Farmer** who held 7 acres of assart of Henlye in B. died ..... Comes **Thomas Farmer at Crosse***

***Robert Farmer** who dies held 1 parcel containing 17 acres called Rugham in Scuttlecrouch in Rotherfield. Comes **Thomas Farmer at Crosse** his eldest son etc.*

This entry is nearly 40 years after the death of Robert Farmer which is probably the result of no action being taken on the properties after his death. There is no evidence for another Robert Farmer in the parish records between his death in 1548 and the date of the above entry.

There is a marriage for Robert FARMER at Rotherfield St Denys on 16 November 1539 (no wife name). So Agnes is likely to be a second or third wife and cannot be the mother of all Robert's children. (Sussex Marriage Index)

(Source: Court Rolls of the manor of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, 1587-1593, Vol. 3 of handwritten translation of abstracts by Catherine Pullein c1928 (ESRO: PAR 465/26/1/3))

#### See also:

Admon for Robert's son Thomas FARMER of Mark Cross, 22nd April 1591 (ESRO: PBT 1/3/2/114J).

Will for Margaret FARMER, the wife of Thomas FARMER of Mark Cross, made 12 March 1591/92, proved 15 Oct 1593 (ESRO: PBT 1/1/9/219A).

Will for an Alexander FARMER made 23 January 1558/59 who may be the son of Robert (ESRO: PBT 1/1/4/194A).

Will for Robert's father Thomas FARMER 1529 (ESRO: PBT 1/2/1/26B).

Family Tree

See Tree 2. “*Descendants of Thomas Farmer (-c1529) including Robert Farmer*” in Chapter 1.

#### 4. Will of Alexander Farmer of Hamsey, 1552

(ESRO: PBT 1/1/3/24A)

Made: 23 Sep 1551

Proved: 7 Apr 1552

In the Name of god Amen in the yere of our Lord god 1551 on the xxiiii day of the moneth of Septembre I **Alexander Farmer** of the pyshe of Hamsey in the countie of Sussex beinge sicke of Bodye but in good and pfytt remembrance make this my Testament & Last Wyll in man' & forme as Followyth Fyrst I bequeth my soule to the mercye of allmyghtie god and my Bodye to be buried in the Cherech yarde of Hamsey aforesaid Also I will that **Elizabeth** my Wyffe shall have yerely whyll she lyveth of myne executors & of the assignes ii quarters of whett & iii qters of malte vi Lodds of wodd brought home unto here liiis iiid to bye for here selffe ii kyne It I wyll that she have yerly xls of myn executors of lawfull monye of England to be payd qterly by even porcons It I bequeth to Thomas my sone my gretest Cawdern & a brasse potte of ii gallons iiiii platters iiiii dyshes ii sawcers and a Saltceller of pewter It a Chaffingdyshe & ii Candylstrycks of Laten It a flocke bed a cov'lett a bolster & a blancket & x payre of shetts It ii table Clothes one fyne & an other Course & a towell It I bequeth to **Willm** my sone my lesse Cawdern & a brasse potte of iiiii gallons iiiii platters iiiii dyshes ii sawcers & a saltceller of pewter a chaffynge dyshe & ii Candylsticks of Laten It my lesse fetherbed a cov'lett a bolster a blanckett & x payre of shetts ii tableclothes one fyne & an other course & a towell It I gyve to **John** my yong sone a grett pan & a brasse potte of iiiii gallons iiiii platters iiiii dyshes ii sawcers & a saltceller of pewter a chaffynge dyshe & ii Candylsticks of Laten It a mattras a cov'lett a bolster a blanckett x payre of shetts ii tableclothes one fyne & an other course & a towell It liiis iiid to bye two kyne wth all And also I will & bequeth to this my yong sone & to his heires & assignes for ev' myn acre of earable Londe Lienge in Wellingham in the pyshe of Rynghmer whiche I purchased of **John Anstie** & I will that myn executors shall pay hys fyne to the Lorde at his admyttance to his Lande And also I will that at suche tyme as he shall entre into the possession of my ten't in Wellingham aforesayd that then myn executors shall fynd sed at thyr own costs & charge & shall sowe lawfully suche parte of the grond as shalbe mete & shall pve for ev'y sed as whete barlye peson benes & tares for that yere only And I bequeth to **Johanne Booxe** my dowghter a grett brasse pan whiche she hayth alrebye & xxs of Lawfull monye of England The residue of all my howshold stuffe I gyffe unto **Elizabeth** my wyffe Also I bequeth to **Alice Margett & Margery Richard Booxes** chyl dren And to **Johanne Farmer** the dowghter of **John Farmer** myn eldest sone to eche of theme a tegge and I wyll to the poore mens boxe of Hamsey xiid The Residue off all my goods unbequethed I gyve unto **Thomas & Willm** my sones whome I make myn executors wyllinge theme to dispose & bestowe For my soule to the refresshenge of the poore people as they shall thynke to be mete by their discrecon

Wytnes **Nicholas Mab John Page John Tayler** of Hamsey & **Richard Booxe** of Barcombe & **Nicholas Levinge Thomas Stafford John Lydinge** of Ringmer & **Thomas Mantill** of Lewes  
Sma Inventarii xlviij. iiis viid

Proved 7 April 1552

(Transcribed by Dr. Annabelle Hughes, refer <http://www.bandhpast.co.uk/h-wills.php>)

#### NOTES

##### People

Alexander Farmer, testator

Elizabeth Farmer, wife

William Farmer, son

John Farmer, son  
John Anstie  
Johanne [Joan] Booxe, daughter  
Alice Booxe  
Margrett Booxe  
Margery Booxe  
Richard Booxe of Barcombe  
Johanne [Joan] Farmer, daughter of eldest son John Farmer  
Thomas Farmer, son  
Nicholas Mab, witness  
John Page, witness  
John Tayler, witness  
Nicholas Levinge, witness  
Thomas Stafford, witness  
John Lyndinge of Ringmer, witness  
Thomas Mantill of Lewes, witness

Places

Hamsey  
Ringmer  
Barcombe

Relevant Events

## 5. Will of Alexander Farmer of Rotherfield, 1558/59

(ESRO: PBT 1/1/4/194A)

Made: 23 Jan 1558/59

Proved: 16 Feb 1558/59

In the name of god Amen the xxiii<sup>th</sup> daye of Januarii in the yere of our Lorde god m v<sup>c</sup> Lviii I **Alexander farmer** of Rotherfeld beyng sicke in bodye but whole of mynd & pfyte in Remembraunce Do make this my testament and last wyll after the maner and forme folloyng ffyrst I bequethe my soule to Allmyghtie god my maker and Redemer in whome I trust to have Salvation And my bodye to be buried in the churche yarde of Rotherfeld aforesayde ffyrst I wyll to **george farmer** my brother all my Rayment Itm I wyll to **Adam farmer** my brother vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> the whiche is in the hands of **Thomas Longlye** of Rotherfelde also I wyll to vii children of my brother **thomas farmer** vii<sup>s</sup> Itm I wyll to vii childre of my father in lawe **george Longlye** ii<sup>s</sup> iii<sup>d</sup> The Resydew of all my moveable goods not gyven I gyve and bequethe to **Ursula** my wyfe whome I mak my sole executrix of this my testament and last wyll To thys beyng wytnesse **Thomas farmer adam farmer george farmer & george Longlye** wth others

S[uma] I[urii] ..... xii<sup>h</sup> xiii<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup>

Ext in Ecolia pochiali de Marsfeld xvi<sup>o</sup> die Februarii Anno Dni 1558 p exec ad valorem [eiusdem] iurat

(Above paragraph:

Sum Sworn: £12 13s 8d

Exhibited in the parish [school?] of Maresfield on the 16th day of February AD 1558/59 by the executor [who swore to the value of the same?])

*Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2017 for Geoffrey Barber*

### NOTES

#### People

Alexander Farmer, testator

Ursula Farmer, wife

George Farmer, brother

Adam Farmer, brother

Thomas Farmer, brother

George Longley (father-in-law)

Thomas Longley

#### Places

Rotherfield

#### Relevant Events

Burial not found.

Alexander has been identified as the son of Robert Farmer primarily because his will mentions brothers George, Adam and Thomas while Robert Farmer's will (made 1546) mentions sons Thomas, Adam, George and Alexander.

Alexander Farmer's widow, Ursula, may have married again (twice):

12 Feb 1559/60 Ursula FARMER and Barthomew PUSANE were married at Frant.

Bartholomew PUSANNA was buried on 27 Nov 1583 at Rotherfield.

23 Nov 1585 Ursula PUSANNA married Henry KENT at Rotherfield.

The following extract comes from “Sussex Coroners' Inquests 1558—1603” written by R. F. Hunnisett and may be connected to the family of Alexander Farmer and Ursula Longley:

21st. August 1588. Rotherfield, Sussex. Magnus Fowle, county coronor. Jurors: John Midelton, John Coper, alias Palar, John Staplee, John Hider, George Longely, John Gowldsmyth, Robert Ryvers, Stephen Hosmer, Daniel Philtnersse, Christopher Hilles, Henry Kent, James Tayler, Richard a Jeames.

*On 7th. July [1588] **Ursula Farmer** late of Rotherfield, Sussex, 'spinster', gave birth to a live female child at Rotherfield, Sussex and immediately afterwards she and her mother, **Alice Farmer** of Rotherfield, Sussex, 'spinster' murdered the child, Ursula throwing her with both hands into a well containing water whence she immediately died and Alice being feloniously present aiding and abetting her. They were delivered up to the assizes and both pleaded not guilty and were acquitted: they had no chattels and had not fled. They were therefore released.*

Perhaps Alice Farmer, the mother mentioned above, was related to Alexander?

It does illustrate the lengths that people would go to avoid the stigma and consequences of having illegitimate children.

#### Family Tree

See Tree 2. “*Descendants of Thomas Farmer (-c1529) including Robert Farmer*” in Chapter 1.



## 6. Admon of Bartholomew Fermer of Rotherfield, 1558

(ESRO: PBT 1/1/4/170A)

Admon: 1558

Rotherfield

**Bartholomew Fermer** dying intestate

**George Fermer** tanner **William Fermer** trugger his brothers having [sworn] to administer... [*can't make out the rest*].

[Original Latin]

Rotherfeld

Bartholomeus fermer deceden[te] intestat

**Georgius fermer** tanner **Wilhelmus fermer** trugger fratris sue admstr [jur] habent ... [*can't make out the rest*].

*Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2017 for Geoffrey Barber*

### NOTES

#### People

Bartholomew Farmer, deceased

George Farmer, brother

William Farmer, brother

#### Places

Rotherfield

#### Relevant Events:

There is no burial record at Rotherfield St Denys, probably missing due to the disturbances of the Queen Mary period (Q.M. died 17 Nov 1558).

Bartholomew's father is unknown. However, there is a possibility that his father was Edward FARMER because:

1. Bartholomew names brothers George and William.
2. It is speculated that Edward FARMER had a son George because George inherited a property that belonged to Edward Farmer; the assumption being that George was Edward's son & heir. (However, it is also possible that Edward was an uncle and not the father). The information is found in the Rotherfield manor court held 22 Oct 1559 (at the time of George's death) notes that "*At this court it is found by the homage that George Farmer who held 17 acres formerly Edward Farmers died as siesed & there falls a heriot a red hoked cow which has been delivered, that George Farmer is his eldest son & next heir & is 15 years old & now he comes & asks admittance & gives of relief 5/- etc.*"
3. The admon of this George FARMER 1558 (ESRO: PBT 1/1/4/312J) does mention a William FARMER, trugger, but does not specify the relationship. However, both William's having the same occupation of trugger would suggest a connection and that this George is the brother of William and Bartholomew.
4. Analysis of surviving FARMER wills and admons does not show any other obvious link. Although speculation, it is mentioned here to aid future research.

A trugger is a maker of trugs, a boat shaped shallow oblong basket made of strips of wood.

(Source: Court Rolls of the manor of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, 1557-1560, Vol. 2 of handwritten translation of abstracts by Catherine Pullein c1928 (ESRO: PAR 465/26/1/2))

Family Tree

See Tree 4. “*Descendants of Edward Farmer (died before 1539)*” in Chapter 1.

## 7. Admon of George Farmor of Rotherfield, 1558

(ESRO: PBT 1/1/4/312)

20 March 1558/59

Administration of the goods of **George Farmor** granted to **Godicia**, relict **John Bocher** shingler **William Farmor** trugger and **William Akent** wheelwright parish of Rotherfeld [fealty] [Exhibited] in the nave of the parish church before [rev.?] **Bartholomew Apley** of Maresfield 20<sup>th</sup> day of March anno 1558 [1558/59] by **John Bocher** [aforesaid] administrator to the value of the [said] inventory

[Original Latin]

Ado bonor **Georgii ffarmor** concessa **godicie** Relcta

**Johes bocher** shyngler **willmus farmor** trugger & **willmus akent** whelewryght pochie de Rotherfeld [fideiuss]

Ext in aulia pochiali divi **Bartholomei apli** de Marsfeld xxth die marcii Ao 1558 per **Johan bocher** p[c] administr ad val[or] eiusdem inv

*Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2017 for Geoffrey Barber*

### NOTES

#### People

George Farmer, deceased

Godicia Farmer, wife

John Bocher, administrator (shingler)

William Farmer (trugger)

William Akent (wheelwright)

Bartholomew Apley of Maresfield

#### Places

Rotherfield

Maresfield

#### Relevant Events

George FARMER married Gadysh [sic.] CORNYSHE on 26 October 1543 at Rotherfield (Sussex Marriage Index).

There is no burial record at Rotherfield St Denys, probably missing due to the disturbances of the Queen Mary period (Q.M. died 17 Nov 1558).

George FARMER's death confirmed at the Rotherfield manor court held 22 Oct 1559: "*At this court it is found by the homage that George Farmer who held 17 acres formerly Edward Farmers died as siesed & there falls a heriot a red hoked cow which has been delivered, that George Farmer is his eldest son & next heir & is 15 years old & now he comes & asks admittance & gives of relief 5/- etc.*".

Although not stated, this indicates that George FARMER was possibly the son & heir of Edward FARMER. Also of interest is that a Margaret FARMER, "widow of Edward", was buried at Rotherfield St Denys on 8 April 1539 following the burial of Margaret FARMAR, "daughter of Edward" on 16 March 1539 (SFHG Burial Index).

George FARMER's son & heir mentioned above (also a George FARMER) married Rebecca ATKIN on 26 Jan 1566 at Rotherfield St Denys (Sussex Marriage Index). One of their daughters

was baptised Goodwith FARMER, thought to be another variant of George's mother's maiden name (written as Gadys/Godicia - other variants appear to be Gadys/Godice/Goodiss/Geadys).

The William FARMOR, trugger, mentioned in the above admon is almost certainly the same William FARMOR, trugger, mentioned in Bartholomew FARMOR's admon of 1558 (ESRO: PBT 1/1/4/170A) in which George and William are identified as brothers of Bartholomew. George's occupation is also given as tanner.

(Source: Court Rolls of the manor of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, 1557-1560, Vol. 2 of handwritten translation of abstracts by Catherine Pullein c1928 (ESRO: PAR 465/26/1/2))

#### Family Tree

See Tree 4. "*Descendants of Edward Farmer (died before 1539)*" in Chapter 1.

## **8. Will of John Fermar of Rotherfield, 1558**

(ESRO: PBT 1/1/4/305A)

Made: 13 Oct 1558

Probate: 20 Mar 1558/59

In the name of god Amen The xiii day of October in [the year] of our Lord god m v lviii I **John Fermar** of the parishe of Retherfield being syck in bodie but hole of mynd & perfect in Remembrance thanks be unto God do make this my Testament & last will after the manner & form following Fyrst I bequeath my Soule unto almighty god my maker & Redemer in whome & by whome I trust to have salvacion & my body to be buryed in churche yeard of Retherfield aforesaid Item I give to the mother churche of Chichester iiiid Item I give to **Sylvester** my daughter viili xiiis iiiid to be payd at the age of xx yeres & yff she doe marry before the age of xx yeres I will she shalbe payd on ye day of her maryage Also I give to my daughter **A.ys [Avis]** in lyke manner to be payd as is aforesayd Item I wyll to my daughter **Grace** vili xiiis iiiid & ii kine The one of them ys in keping with **Robt Stapull [Robert Staple]** my wyll ys she shall have the cowe & the sheepe as ... & the other cowe I wyll she shall have for of mony .... & the sheepe Also her mony to be payd as ys aforesaid & the cowe & shepe to be delyvered Immedyatly after my decease Item I wyll the part of my farme of ...feld shall Remyne to my sonn **Adam** for the tyme of my yeres Also I geve to my goddaughter **Joan Hodlye** vis viiid to be payd at her day of her maryage Item I wyll to (**Gatbred or Gartred**) [**Gertrude**] Farmer A Red ..... wenlynge bullocke Item I will to my godson **John Farmer** A fallow whyt backed wenlynge bullock Item I will to **Margaret** ye daughter of my brother **William Farmer** a wenlynge bullocke Item I will to **John Nyndes [Nynne]** ii children eche of them a wenlynge bullocke Item I give to my godson **Robt Skynner** a wenlynge bullocke Item I wyll to my syster **Jone** a heffer & a calfe to be delivered Immediately After my decesse Also I will my bequestes to my iii daughters shalbe payed equally by my Executors Item I will to my servant **Ryc a Downe [Richard A'Down]** a heffer & a calfe Also I will to my boye **John Colbrand** a wenlyng bullocke The risydew of all my moveable goods not geven I give & bequethe to **Odyan** my wife & **Adam** my sonne whome I make my executors of this my testament & last wyll & I ordayne & make my brother **Wyllm Farmer** & my brother **Thomas Farmer** my faythfull overseers & they to have for ther laboure xs apece To this being wytnes **Ryc Knyght & George Maynard** with others  
Summa Inventorii lvii li iiiii s  
Ext in ecclia ... Sancti Bartholomew .... de Marsfeld xx die martii  
Ao Dno 1558 p .... exec ad ..... reservata potestate  
.... Commissionis .....

*Transcribed by Rosie Ansell March 2016 from a copy supplied by Geoffrey Barber.*

Names in [ ... ] by Geoffrey Barber from his family research. See notes below for interpretation of the name Gertrude.

A weanling animal was one that was being weaned or was just weaned

Fallow was a pale brownish or reddish yellow

### **NOTES**

#### **People**

John Farmer, testator

Odyan Farmer, wife  
Sylvester Farmer, daughter  
Avis Farmer, daughter  
Grace Farmer, daughter  
Robert Staple  
Adam Farmer, son  
Joan Hodlye, goddaughter  
Gertrude Farmer  
John Farmer, Godson  
Margaret Farmer, daughter of brother William Farmer  
Robert Skynner, godson  
John Nynde's [Nynne] two children  
Joan (Farmer?) sister  
William Farmer, brother (overseer)  
Thomas Farmer, brother (overseer)  
Richard A'Downe, servant  
John Colbrand, boy  
Richard Knight, witness  
George Maynard, witness

#### Places

Rotherfield

#### Relevant Events

The Rotherfield manorial court held on 22 Oct. 1 Eliz (1559) records the death of John Farmer and admits his 8 year old son Adam as heir. Adam lives to be the only surviving son of John Farmer but never marries.

The interpretation of the name "Gertrude" in the will was based on:

1. Christopher Whittick (ESRO archivist) had written Gertrude on the sheet that he returned to Rotherfield church archivist Alan Yates but then crossed it through and written Gatbred instead with a message that they were the letters as written.
2. The name in the will is tricky to read but it could be interpreted as Gartred according to Rosie Ansell.
3. The only possible baptism for Gertrude at Rotherfield is:  
Gyrtsered [sic] Farmer, baptised 20 March 1551/52 at Rotherfield. Brian Cutler (SFHG Baptisms Index coordinator) checked this in the original records on 24 March 2016 and agreed with the transcription so it has been left unchanged in the Sussex Baptisms Index but with a note suggesting the probable interpretation is Gertrude.
4. Gatbred, Gartred and Gyrtsered would all be phonetic spellings. This was at a time when spelling was very fluid and influenced by a person's accent.
5. The will mentions Thomas as a brother of John Fermar, and also lists John Nynde's two children as beneficiaries (John Nynne married Alice Farmer on 8 April 1554 at Rotherfield). In the Rotherfield manorial records for 1588 Thomas and Margaret Farmer nominate their daughter Gertrude Savage, wife of William Savage, as their heir, thus confirming that a Gertrude Farmer did exist. John Nynne facilitated this transfer. In the later will of Henry Aderoll alias Skynner, made 6 July 1612, the families of William

Savage and George Barber alias Nynne (son of John Nynne) are beneficiaries. While not absolute proof, these connections support the view that this Thomas Farmer was the brother that John Fermar mentioned in his will and hence that his daughter Gertrude, baptised 1551/2, is likely the Gartred/Gatbred also mentioned in the will.

John FERMOR's father has been identified as Adam FARMER based on the following document:

**Surrender by John Farmer, senior, son of Adam Farmer and Alice his wife**

Date: 6 Edward VI Oct. 8 (28 Jan 1552-27 Jan 1553)

Reference: PRO 30/26/40/19

Description: Court Rolls. Rotherfield [co. Sussex]. Surrender by John Farmer, senior, son of Adam Farmer and Alice his wife, to William his brother of his holdings in Sherlond, Crokeshawe and Streteland.

Note: Copy. 1m. These documents (PRO 30/26/40/1 - PRO 30/26/40/21) were received through the post, without any accompanying letter, on 25 September 1899.

Held by: The National Archives, Kew

The fact that he named his first son Adam is supportive of this also.

Pullein speculates that John FARMER could share a common descent (perhaps they are cousins) with Alexander FERMOR of Walsh Manor (son and heir to William FERMOR who died 1540) because they both named their first daughter Silvester. The fact that John possessed a number of landholdings and is referred in the court rolls as gentleman at one time, would support this also.

Alice Farmer who married John NYNNE alias BARBER is likely to be John FARMER's sister, as "John NYNDE's children" are mentioned in his will. In addition, one of the Barbers is left £100 in the 1625 will of John Farmer's son, Adam Farmer (copy attached). Adam Farmer was named an overseer in the will of John NYNNE alias BARBER, 1591. Given that Adam FARMER was only 8 years old when his father died, and that his mother Odyan never remarried, the Barbers probably played a significant role in his upbringing. Alice is shown as his sister in the family tree with a reasonably high degree of confidence.

Family Tree

See Tree 2. "*Descendants of Thomas Farmer (-c1529) including Robert Farmer*" in Chapter 1.

## 9. Will of Thomas Farmar of Rotherfield, 1559

(ESRO: PBT 1/1/4/308A)

Made: 10 August 1558

Probate: missing [1559?]

In the name of god Amen in the yere of our Lord god 1558 the x[th] day of August I **Thomas farmar** of the pryshe of Retherfeld beyng syck in bodye but hole of mynde & pfyte [perfect] of remebrace make this my testament in ma. & forme followyng ffirst I bequethe my Soule to Allmyghtye god & to our ladye & to all the holye companye in heven & my bodye to be beryed in the churche yead of Rotherfeld aforesayd Item I wyll to **margaret farmer** my syster a Twelmontyng bullocke Itm I wyll my wyfe shall have all the pfyte [profit] of my land at [Lyminge] Into the tyme my Sonne **Danyell** cometh to the age of xxi<sup>ti</sup> yeres and the two next years after I wyll the pyfit shall remayne to my v Dawghtres Equally devyded yff any of them dye [then] twoo yeres that her or ther pte so dyeng shalbe shyffted among the others Also I will to my sone **Danyell** ii oxen [*illeg.*] The Resydew of all my goods not gyven I gyve & bequeth to **margaret** my wyfe whome I wyll & I make my sole Executrix of this my Testament & last wyll & I mak & ordayn **John Farmor** to be my ovseer and he...

MISSING PAGE?

*Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2017 for Geoffrey Barber*

### NOTES

#### People

Thomas Farmer, testator

Margaret Farmer, wife (executrix)

Margaret Farmer, sister

Daniel Farmer, son (under 21 years)

Five Daughters (not named)

John Farmer (overseer)

#### Places

Rotherfield

Lyminge

#### Relevant Events

Thomas FERMER was buried 6 Jun 1559 at Rotherfield St Denys.

At the Rotherfield manor court held 12 Dec 1558:

*At this court it is known that **Thomas Fermor** since last court surrendered into the lord's hand by acceptance of George Maynard, deputy bedell in presence of John Fermor & Stephen Chintinge a cottage & 15 acres land upon Rotherfield Hill of assart, viz. to use of **Margaret Fermor** wife of the said **Thomas** for the term of her life to ....? From that person to **John Fermor son of Thomas** & his heirs under condition however that the said **Margaret** does not claim or sell any title, marriage dowry or jointure or other way ....? whatsoever after the age of 21 years of **Daniel Farmer** son of the said **Thomas** which the lord etc. fine 20d*

This identifies another son, John FERMOR, not mentioned in the above will, although some of the will appears to be missing (he is unlikely to be John Farmor, the overseer).

Thomas's parents have not been identified. The will of his son Daniel Farmer (1621) appoints a cousin Alexander Farmer, gent, as a trustee, and Thomas Burges and John Savage as overseers. If



this Alexander Farmer is the one born in 1571, then possibly Daniel's father Thomas Farmer (c1520-1558) is a brother of Alexander's father, Adam Farmer (c1540-1587).

**See also:**

Will of Daniel FARMER, made 19 May 1621, proved 10 July 1621, son of Thomas. (TNA: PROB 11/137/650)

Family Tree

**Thomas Farmer**, b. c1520, bur. 6 Jun 1559 at Rotherfield, pro. 1559  
+ **Margaret Woodgatt**, m. 22 Apr 1543 at Rotherfield  
├── **John Farmer**, bap. 12 Jun 1547 at Rotherfield  
├── **William Farmer**, b. c1550 at Rotherfield, bur. 20 Aug 1551 at Rotherfield  
└── **Daniel Farmer**, b. c1552 at Rotherfield, bur. 22 May 1621 at Rotherfield, pro. 1621  
+ **Isabell (--?--)**, b. c1560, m. c1575  
└── **Elizabeth Farmer**, b. c1577  
    + **Edward Hill**, m. 23 Jun 1597 at Rotherfield

## 10. Will of Thomas Farmer of Hamsey, 1561/62

(ESRO: W/A 5/64 (?))

Made: 16 Sep 1561

Proved: 5 Jan 1561/62

In the Name of God Amen ... the xvith day of September in the yere of our Lord God M v lxi (1561) I **Thomas Farmer** of Hamsey in the Countye of Sussex yeoman beinge sycke of bodye & hole of mynde & in pfecte memorye thanks be to god Doe order & make this my last wyll and Testament in manner & forme Followinge First I bequeath my Soulle to Allmyghtye god my maker & redeemer And my bodye to be buried in the churchyard of Hamsey aforesayd Item I gyve and bequeath to **Thomas Farmer** my brothers sonne my gret Caldron a payr of shetes a blanckett a platter a pewter dysse a haffer of ii yers old ii wethers and xxs in monye Itm I gyve and bequeath to **Edward Farmer** my gret pott a payr of shetes a blanckett a platter a pewter dysse a haffer of ii yers old & xxs in monye Itm I gyve and bequeath to **Elizabeth Farmer** Syster to **Thomas & Edward** a haffer of ii yers old & xxs in monye Itm I gyve and bequeath to **John Farmer** my brother all my Tymber in **Thomas Peerces** land Itm I gyve and bequeath to **Anne & Johane** my servants iiis iiid a pece Item I gyve and bequeath to **Nicholas Mychell** my servant xxd Itm I gyve and bequeath to **John Adams** of Kyngston a gored stere of iii yers old Itm I gyve and bequeath to **John Marks** wyffe iiis iiid Item I gyve and bequeath to to **Agnes** my wyff whom I ordeyne and make my Sole executor of this my last wyll and Testament The Residue of All my goods cattall Corne howshold moveables and other ... they be not bequeathed to se thys my dettes payd and legacyes fulfilled pformed of this my last wyll & Testament ordered to the true meanyng hereof Itm Also ... **Nicholas Malle & Peter Bonyck** to be my trustye overseers ...

Wyttnesses hereof **Nicholas Malle Peter Bonyck Richard ?Burye** wth others

Inv Lxxxxviii℥ xiis

5 January 1561

*(Transcribed by Dr. Annabelle Hughes, refer <http://www.bandbpast.co.uk/b-wills.php>)*

### NOTES

#### People

Thomas Farmer, testator

Agnes Farmer, wife, executrix

Thomas Farmer, brother's son

Edward Farmer, brother's son

Elizabeth Farmer, brother's daughter, sister of Thomas & Edward

John Farmer, brother

Thomas Peerce [Pierce]

Ann & Johane [Joan], servants

Nicholas Mychell, servant

John Adams of Kingston

Wife of John Marks

Nicholas Malle, overseer, witness

Peter Bonyck, overseer, witness

Richard Burye, witness

Places

Hamsey

Kingston

Relevant Events

## 11. Will of William Farmer of Newick, 1576

(ESRO: PBT 1/1/7/27B)

Made: 16 May 1574

Proved: 10 Oct 1576

In the name of god Amen the xv<sup>th</sup> daye of Maye Anno d[om]ini 157{4} I **William Farmer** of N{ewyc}ke in the Countie of Sussex & dioces of Chichester yeoman beinge sicke & feable in bodye but of goode and p[er]fecte remembran{n}ce thankes be geven to god for y{t} doe make constitute & ordayne this my present testamente & laste will in maner and fo{rme} followinge (that is to saye) Firste I bequeathe my soule unto god my {cr}eator & [deletion] redem[er] my onlye {iu}stifier & sa{vio}ur And my bodye to be buried in the churche yard{e} of newicke afors{ai}de Also I bequeathe to the poore of the p[ar]yshe of newicke x<sup>s</sup> A {lso} I bequeathe to my iiiij<sup>or</sup> children **Will[ia]m Alexander Alice** and **margarett** to eyther of them xv<sup>li</sup> of goode usuall monye of Englande to be payde to eyther of them by myne executrix at the age of xx {j} <sup>tie</sup> yeres excepte my sonne **Will[ia]m** & he to have his porc[i]on at the age of xx {iiiij} yeres Provided always that yf eyther of them dye before the tyme or tymes a[-]bove men{c}yoned That then that p[ar]te or p[ar]tes to be equallye devided [th]e reste<sup>22</sup> & [th]e lon{gest} lyver to enioye the hole stocke yf they all fayle before the tyme or tymes above rehe{r}sed Then the whole stocke to remayne to **Jone** my wyfe A {lso} I will that **Will[ia]m mills** and **Richarde P{???** shall be my ov[er]seers And for their paynes taking {therunto} {I} {??? to {eyther} of them vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup> The r{este} of my goods & cattells {ungeven} & {un}bequeathed my debts & legac{ye}s {beinge} payde I geve unto **J{o}ne<sup>23</sup>** my wyffe whome I doe make my {sole} executrix of this my laste will & testament Also I will that {for} [th]e ass{???<sup>24</sup> of my childrens stockes That my ov[er]seers shall have full powre & aucthorytie to take sufficient bonde of myne executrix whensoev[er] occasion shalbe g{e}ven them so to doe W{itnesses} at {the} rehersall herof **Will[ia]m mills Richard Pe{c?}en Thomas Pec{???** & **Robarte Jefferye**

*Probate: 10<sup>th</sup> October 1576 before Mr William Coell, Commissary. (No further details given.)*

*Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022 for Geoffrey Barber*

### NOTES

#### People

William Farmer, testator

Jone [Joan] Farmer, wife (executrix)

William Farmer, son

Alexander Farmer, son

Alice Farmer, daughter

Margaret Farmer, daughter

William Mills, overseer

Richard Peckam, overseer

Thomas Peckam, witness

Robarte Jeffery, witness

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<sup>22</sup> Sic. Presumably 'among the rest' is intended.

<sup>23</sup> The name is very blurred but looks too long for 'Jone'. There is possibly an h in the middle, so it could be 'Johane'.

<sup>24</sup> Assurance?

### Places

Newick

### Relevant Events

No burial found for William Farmer at Newick in SFHG indexes other than a William Farmer buried on 16 May 1568 at Newick St Mary. However, there is a burial for his son: Alexander FARMER buried 4 Aug 1582 at Newick St Mary, “young lad”. (These two entries are the only FARMER burials in the Newick register).

Daughter Alice FARMER married John BAKER on 9 Aug 1584 at Newick.

Note that an Agnes PECKAM had married Thomas BAKER on 9 Oct 1558 at Newick.

William’s widow, Joane Farmer, appears to have re-married and taken the surname GODLEY. The will of Joane GODLEY of Newick, 1589/90 suggests that she was the widow of William FARMER, although neither her marriage to William FARMER or to a GODLEY has been found (see Joan GODLEY’s will in Chap. 4).

### Family Tree

Cannot be placed in a tree.

## 12. Admon of William Farmer of Rotherfield, 1580/81

(ESRO: PBT 1/3/1/93A)

11 January 1580/81

Administration of the goods of **William Farmer** of Rotherfield / was committed on the 11th January to **Elizabeth** his relict [...] [*sworn?*] £17 13s / Farmer of Rotherfield.

[Original Latin]

Ado bonor **Willm ffarmer** de Rotherfield

Commissa fuit xio januarii **Elizabeth** eius relicte [*three abbreviated words I can't make out*] Iur. xvii li xiii s /

ffarmer de Rotherfield

*Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2017 for Geoffrey Barber*

*C.W. - I'm not sure if the sum of money was the value of the goods or the amount of a bond. There doesn't appear to be any mention of an inventory.*

### NOTES

#### People

William Farmer, testator

Elizabeth Farmer, wife

#### Places

Rotherfield

#### Relevant Events

William FARMER was buried 29 November 1580 at Rotherfield St Denys. (SFHG Burial Index)

There is no William FARMER/FERMOR marriage to an Elizabeth in the Sussex Marriage Index. Also, there is no burial of an Elizabeth FARMER/FERMOR in the SFHG Burial Index.

At the Rotherfield manor court held 12 March 1587/88:

**William Farmer** who dies held to him & his heirs 1 parcel of Strabland at Rotherfield Hill of assart of Townehyll. Comes **John Farmer** eldest son & heir & prays admittance etc.

It is possible that this entry relates to the William FARMER who died 1580, even though it was dated 1587/88 [however, note gap in manorial records 1560-1587]. There are no other William FARMER burials in the SFHG Burial Index for Rotherfield between 1580 and 1587. Some inheritance transactions such as this did occur some years after the death, however there is a gap in the Rotherfield manorial records 1560-87 so it cannot be assumed to be for this family as there were other William Farmers at Rotherfield.

(Source: Court Rolls of the manor of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, 1587-1593, Vol. 3 of handwritten translation of abstracts by Catherine Pullein c1928 (ESRO: PAR 465/26/1/3))

William's wife, Elizabeth Grayling, is identified in the following document:

Title: **Deeds of a copyhold house and barn called Nicholas Tenement at Rotherfield**

ESRO: AMS6393

Description: The property formed a copyhold tenement of the manor of Rotherfield Rectory otherwise Dewlands, and was held by a quitrent of 12d and a fine certain of 13s 4d. It was one of three tenements which lay to the east of the churchyard; for a map showing their location, and

speculation that the tenements may have been the site of a house for chantry priests, see C Pullein, Rotherfield, 172-174

Miss Pullein also traced the descent of the tenement between 1589 and the admission of Mary Hutchinson in 1692. Her statement that the tenement ceases to be mentioned as a separate holding is however incorrect

The narrative which follows combines information from the documents themselves with that from the surviving court rolls and books and with Miss Pullein's account, which is largely based on documents which remain undeposited:

On 6 October 1572 John Huggett surrendered the property to Thomas Aynescombe and his wife Mary, who on 25 September 1576 surrendered to William Farmer and his wife Elizabeth, who obtained a licence to demolish the western part of the kitchen on condition that they repaired the eastern half (ACC 2805/1/1)

In 1589 William's eldest son John Farmer claimed the reversion after the death of his mother Elizabeth Grayling; in November 1618 it passed to his nephew John Farmer, age 12, son of his brother William Farmer.<sup>25</sup> On 29 September 1631 John Farmer of Herstmonceux surrendered Nicholas Tenement to Adam Farmer of Rotherfield, tailor, and his wife Denise; their son Adam succeeded in 1645 and surrendered to Richard Hutchinson in 1655 (Pullein 173) [..... more]

**See also:**

Will (nuncupative) of Anthony Farmer of Rotherfield, 1591, William's son.

Family Tree

See Tree 7. "*Descendants of Anthony Farmer of Rotherfield?*" in Chapter 1.

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<sup>25</sup> Possibly John Farmer bap. 26 Aug 1610 at Wartling, son of William Farmer. Wartling is next to Herstmonceux.

### **13. Will of Alexander Farmer of Rotherfield, 1582**

(TNA: PCC 11/64/239)

Made: 18 Dec 1581

Proved: 22 May 1582

In the name of god amen, the eightenthe of December in the fower and twentithe yere [1581] of the raigne of our sovraigne Ladye Elizabeth by the grace of god Queen of England, Ffrance and Ireland defender of the faith etc. I **Alexander Ffarmer** of Rotherfelde in the county of Sussex beinge sycke of bodye but of good gea and perfecte remembrance (god be thanked) doe ordeine and make this my last will and testament in manner and forme following (that is to say) ffirst I gyve and bequeathe my sowle to Allmighty god, and my bodye to be buried in the churchyard of Rotherfelde aforesaid. Item I gyve to the poore people of Rotherfelde fortye shillings to be paide and distributed to theme at the daie of my buriall, And I gyve to theme twentye shillings a yeare to be distributed to theme twentye shillings a yeare during the yeare next after my decease. Item I gyve to the repaireinge of the parrishe church of Rotherfelde twentye shillings. Item I give to **Isaac Burges**, sonne of **John Burges** fortye shillings. Item I gyve to all my godchildren fower pence a piece that will aske it. Item I gyve and bequeath to **William** my sonne the one moytye of the Manner of Welche als Sypsys to have and to hold to him and to the heirs male of his bodye lawfully begotten. Then I will and my mynde is that **Henry** my son shall have the said moytye of the said Manner of Welche als Sypsys to him and his heires forever. Provided alwayes that yf the said William doe dye having no heire male of his bodye lawfully begotten and having heires female of his bodye lawfully begotten so that the said moytye of the said manner of Welche als Sypsys doe remayne to the said **Henry** and his heires according to the true meaning of this my last will and testament. That then I will and my mynde is that the said **henrie** my sonne shall paie to the said heire female of the said **William** one hundred pounds if the said **William** hath but one daughter and if the said **William** have more than one daughter of his bodye lawfully begotten then I will that the said hundrethe pounds shalbe equally devided amongst the saide daughters. Provided also that if the said **William** my sonne shall at anye tyme hereafter duringe his lyfe discontinewe his estate by this will gyven unto him of in and to the saide moytye of the saide manner of Welche als Sypsys or shall suffer recovery, knowledge fyne, order or suffer anye other acte or thinge whereby the said estate shall or may be discontinued cast of altered or channged soe that the said moytye thereby shall not or might not goe or remaine according to the true meaning of this my will or if the said **William** shall entende, resolve, practice or goe about the same and shall doe anye acte or deede to that rude and purpose, Then my will and mynde is that presently after such discontinuance deede or acte committed and donne, the saide **William** shall presently forfeit his saide estate in and to the saide moytye and then I will that the saide moytye before willed to the saide **William** shall presently remayne and to be to the saide henrie and his heires and assignes forever. Item I will that henrye my sonne shall have the other moytye of the saide manner of Welche als Sypsys to him and his heires forever. Item I will that the said **henrye** shall have my house and lands at Jervys Brook now in the occupation of **John Balcombe** to him and his heires forever. Item I will that all the residue of my goods to **Elizabeth** my – wyfe whom I make myne onlie executrix of this my last will. And I ordayne and make **Nicholas Ffowle** and **John Stapley** my brother-in-law and **John Burges** my sonne-in law overseers of this my last will and testament. Witnesses at the declaring hereof **Nicholas ffowle** and **John burges** and others

Probate in Latin 22 May 1582 to **Elizabeth** relicte et executrix.

*Transcribed by John F Howes October 2013.*



## NOTES

### People

Alexander Farmer, testator  
Elizabeth Farmer, wife, executrix  
Isaac Burges, son of John Burges  
John Burges  
William Farmer, son  
Henry Farmer, son  
John Balcombe, tenant  
John Stapley, brother-in-law, overseer  
Nicholas Fowle, overseer  
John Burges, son-in-law, overseer

### Places

Rotherfield  
Manor of Welche als Sypsys

### Relevant Events

Alexander FARMER Esq. was buried 5 Jan 1581/82 at Rotherfield St Denys.  
He held the manor of Walsh/Walshes at Rotherfield, East Sussex. Catharine Pullein's book has two chapters which provide much of the history of Walsh manor and its occupants.<sup>26</sup>

### Family Tree

See Tree 1. "*Descendants of William Fermor (- 1540) of Walsh Manor*" in Chapter 1.

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<sup>26</sup> Catharine Pullein, *Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors*, (1928), Chap. XXX, XXXI.

#### 14. Will of Adam Farmer, Weaver of Rotherfield, 1587

(ESRO: PBT 1/1/8/11)

Made: 11 April 1587

Probate: 23 May 1587

In the name of God amen the xith daye of Aprill in the nyne and twentithe yeare of the raigne of our soveraigne Ladye Elizabeth by the grace of God Queene of Englande ffrance and Irelande defender of the ffaythe &c An<sup>o</sup> dni 1587[the 8 is unclear but matches the regnal year] I **Adam ffarmer** of the pische of Rotherfelde in the Countye of Sussex wever beinge of good and pfecte remembrance doe make and declare this my last will and testamente in maner and forme ffollowinge ffirste I geve and yelde my soule into the handes of the allmighty my saviour and redeemer and my bodye to the earthe from whence it came and desentlye to be buried accordinge to the laudable Custome of our countrye Item I geve and bequeathe to **Margarye** my wiffe my dwellinge howsse or tenamente situate and beinge in the towne of Rotherfelde aforesayde with the barne and other edifices and buildinges and also the Close garden orchard and other Customarye landes there unto belonginge To have and to holde to her and her assignes duringe her naturall lyffe Item I geve likewise to my sayde wyffe my freeholde landes lyinge and beinge in Rotherfelde aforesayde conteynge by estimacon five acres of lande more or lesse to have and to holde unto her and her assignes for the [space?] and terme of Eight yeres next after my deceasse yf she // live soe longe a tyme fully to be complete and ended And after my sayd wiffes deceasse my will is that my sonne **Alexander ffarmer** his heyres and assignes shall have my sayd dwellinge howsse or tenamente with the other edifices and alsoe the close garden orchard and the Customarye landes aforesayd unto the sayde dwellinge howsse belonginge and appertayninge Item I geve and bequeathe unto my sonne **Alexander ffarmer** all those my loomes and staves and other harnesse unto the Crafte of weavinge belonginge or appurteynge and alsoe one cupborde one table and one forme now standinge and beinge in the Hall of my dwellinge howsse aforesayde uppon this condicon that the sayde **Alexander** my sonne shall finde sufficiente [securi]ties when he shall come to the full age of one and twentye yeares to paye or cause to be payde to my daughter **Katherine ffarmer** within two yeares after that he the sayde **Alexander** shall receive the proffitte of the house and landes with other the premisses aforesayde after my wifes deceasse the full some of five poundes of lawfull money of England But if my sayde sonne **Alexander** when he shall [come] to the full age of one and twentye yeares aforesayde shall refuse to [finde] sufficient sureties as is aforesayde for the paymentte of the five poundes aforesayde unto my daughter **Katherine** then my will ys that the sayde **Katherine** shall have and take my loomes aforesayde with all the staves and other the pmisses to the craft of weavinge belonginge and alsoe the Cubbord table and forme aforesayde in full recompence of this my gifte of five poundes aforesayde for her porcon And concerninge my free landes aforesayde after the Eight yeares above specified after my deceasse be fully expired or imediatlye after my ~~deceasse~~ wifes deceasse if she dye before the eight yeares be ended my will is that my // overseers here under named their Executours Administrators or assignes shall have hold and enioye the yearely rent of my sayde free landes to them their Executours administrators and assignes untill the yearely rent thereof by them received be fullye sufficiente to paye unto my daughter **Elizabeth** five poundes of good and lawfull money of England And to my sonne **Adam ffarmer** ten poundes of like monye in maner and forme followinge That is to saye my will ys that my sayde o<sup>v</sup>seers their executors Administrators or assignes shall paye or cause to be payde unto my sayde daughter **Elizabeth** the five poundes aforesayde as sone as the yearely rentes of my sayde free landes by them received will be sufficiente to paye the same And after the paymentte thereof my will is likewise that my sayde overseers their Executours Administrators or assignes shall paye or cause to be payde the other tenne poundes to my sonne **Adam** or his assignes as sone as the yearely renttes of my frelandes is as aforesayde to be fully sufficiente to paye the somme likewise And after those my legaces geven out of my frelandes as aforesayde be fully pformed and payde my will is that my sonne **Alexander** shall

have the sayde lande to him and his heyres forever But if anye of my sayde daughters **Katharine** [end of name illegible] and **Elizabeth** doe dye before such tyme as they shall receive the severall giftes to them bequeathed then my will ys that the longest liver of them shall have and receive the pte or porcon which should be due to the deceased at the tyme for the payment thereof as is aforesayde All the rest of my moveable goodes not geven and bequeathed (my dettes discharged my legaces pformed and my funerall expences discharged) // I geve wholly to my wyffe **Margarie** whome I make and ordayne my Executrix of this my laste will and testamente desiringe my neighbour **John Staplye** and my Brother in lawe **Richard Co** to be my trustye and faythfull overseers of this my last will to be aydinge helpinge and assistinge my said Executrix in the provinge of this my testament and to see that my legaces and geefts accordinge to my mynde herein declared fully pformed and discharged These beinge witnesses at the declaring hereof **Thomas ffarmer Richard Co John Staplye and William Burges** the writer hereof

Probate: granted 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1587 to **Margerie**, relict and executor named in the will

*Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017 for Geoffrey Barber*

## **NOTES**

### People

Adam Farmer, testator  
Margery/Margarie Farmer, wife  
Alexander Farmer, son, under age 21 years.  
Katherine Farmer, daughter  
Elizabeth Farmer, daughter  
Adam Farmer, son  
Richard Co [Coe], brother-in-law  
John Staplye [Stapley], neighbour  
Thomas Farmer, witness  
Richard Co [Coe], witness  
John Staplye, [Stapley], witness  
William Burges, witness

### Places

Rotherfield

### Relevant Events

Adam FARMER was probably born c1540-45.

Adam FARMER married Margery COE on 15 June 1569 at Rotherfield St Denys. Margery's father has been identified as John COE (-1547/48) because Adam FARMER's will mentions Richard COE as his brother-in-law, and another document identifies Richard's father as John COE:

Title: **Award by independent arbitration**

Date: 18 Apr 1602

ESRO: SAS/AB/344

Description: Arbitrators: William Allfraye of Witherham, John Burges, John Staplye and Thomas Dyne of Rotherfield, yeomen

Disputants: Thomas Bennett of Rotherfield, yeoman, and William Coe of Rotherfield the right, title, etc, to a certain way or lane between the lands of Thomas Bennett called Redgefild, formerly Gabriell Alchorne's, and the lands of Thomas Bennett called Hilders,

formerly William A Kente's, extending from the Queen's highway leading from Tribblers Green in Rotherfield to certain parcels of freelands of William Coe, formerly lands of his father Richard Coe, and before his grandfather John Coe, in Rotherfield

At the Rotherfield manorial court held on 2 May 1587, there is an entry pertaining to the transfer of a messuage, barn and garden containing 1 acre from Adam Farmer to "Margt Farmer, his wife" and is an example of a so called "deathbed transfer". The deathbed transfer occurred when a person near death instructed a manorial officer in the presence of witnesses regarding the disposal of copyhold property on his death. Those present then attended the next manorial court meet to carry out the dying (or dead) tenants wishes. Essentially an oral will regarding customary property. A key point here is that the tenant was unable to attend court in person and that the actual transfer and payment of entry fines still occurred in the manorial court via surrender and admission thus protecting the lord's financial interests. This was necessary as at that time it was not possible to transfer copyhold property via a will, only freehold property, and so is complementary to Adam Farmer's will transcribed above.

At the court held 2 May 1587: *Adam Farmer, out of court, viz. Apr 11, by John Nynne alias Barber, deputy of Isaac Alborne, bedell, in presence of John Staple, Ric. Coe & Geo. Farmer, surrenders 1 messuage, 1 barn and 1 garden containing ½ acre on Townhyll in Rotherfield to use of Margaret Farmer his wife.* [buried 18 April 1587 at Rotherfield].

Although, at first sight, not an obvious deathbed transfer, the words "*out of court*" are a giveaway and confirmation is given with the burial record from the church register. Note that the date of the out of court hearing (11 April) was the same day that the will was made.

Adam's widow, Margery FARMER married Henry HODELY on 6 Nov 1591 at Rotherfield ("Margery a widow").

**See also:**

Will of Margery Hodely of Rotherfield, made 6 Oct 1615, proved 4 Nov 1615 - see Chapter 3.

Will of Adam Farmer, made 7 Dec 1641, proved 2 May 1642 – see Chapter 2.

**Family Tree**

See Tree 5. "*Descendants of Adam Farmer, the Weaver (- 1587)*" in Chapter 1.

## 15. Admon of Thomas Farmer [at Crosse] in Rotherfield, 1591

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

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1591

The same day [22 April 1591]

Administration was issued on the goods of **Thomas Farmer** formerly of Rotherfield deceased to **Alexander** his son well and faithfully etc.

The same **Alexander Farmer, Domick Monger** and **John Baxter** etc. bound in the sum of £40. Inventory exhibited totalling £20 9s 2d

[Original Latin]

Eodem die [22 April 1591]

Emat ad bonore **Thome ffarmer** dum vixit de Rotherfelde def.

**Alexander ffarmer** suis filius de bene et [fideliter etc?] jurat

obligantur idm **Alexander ffarmer** de Rotherfeld pd yeoman et **Dominicke Monger** p ??? ???

**Johis Baxter** Sowthover [iuxta?] Lewes Taylor [a] xl li

[Invii] est exhibitu? ad [firmam] \_\_\_\_ xx li ix s ii d

*(Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017 for Geoffrey Barber)*

### NOTES

#### People

Thomas Farmer, deceased

Alexander Farmer, son

Dominic Monger

John Baxter

#### Places

Rotherfield

Town Row Cross at Rotherfield

Southover, Lewes

#### Relevant Events

There are two candidate burials at Rotherfield for Thomas Farmer: 5 Jun 1590 and 15 Apr 1591. The later burial on 15 Apr 1591 is annotated with “of Merke” [of Mark Cross] while the 1590 burial has no annotation. The manorial records (see below) clearly state the death of Thomas Farmer at Crosse [Town Row Cross?] in 1590, so this is the earlier burial. The above administration therefore belongs to Thomas Farmer at Crosse [Town Row Cross?] whose son & heir was an Alexander Farmer.

The following excerpts from the Rotherfield manorial records in 1590 confirm that the earlier 1590 burial is for Thomas Farmer at Crosse. Various Rotherfield manorial records confirm that he is the son of Robert Farmer.

Rotherfield manor court held 30 Jan 1587/88: *It is found that **Robert Farmer & Agnes his wife** who held one tenement & garden on R. Hyll & 1 parcel called Marlynge containing 5 acres & 3 rods assart lying next Byddendenstole & 1 parcel called Inhome 5 acres Myllhole, a croft called Rowcroft ... 1 meadow Coosmeade containing 6 acres, ..... comes **Thomas Farmer at Crosse, eldest son & heir** & prays, etc.*

***Robert Farmer** who held 7 acres of assart of Henlye in B. died ..... Comes **Thomas Farmer at Crosse***

**Robert Farmer** who dies held 1 parcel containing 17 acres called Rugham in Scuttlecrouch in Rotherfield. Comes **Thomas Farmer at Crosse** his eldest son etc.

Court held 16 Sep 1590: **Thomas Farmer at Crosse** on his deathbed out of court & after the last court viz. 4th June last by Adam Farmer deputy of John Hider the lord's bedell there in the presence of Wm Burgess clerk and John Catt tenants of the lord surrendered 1 swyne in the ferling of Cobways in Rotherfield containing 8 acres to use of **Alexander Farmer his son & heir**.

At the Rotherfield manor court held 10 Dec 1590: Comes **Alex Farmer son & heir of Thos Farmer at Crosse** & prays a parcel called Mylhole formerly Nicholas Burgess's cont. 2 acres lying in the forest towards the N & W & to lands of Thos Hosmer at Grene towards E. & towards lands Isaac Alborne on south & a garden on townhill formerly Bychfeld to ..... with ?ynnesfeld cont. 4 acres and south at ..... did swear affidavit and admitted(?) offer.... Nic Maynard & John Maynard

**Thomas Farmer at Crosse** must have died between the court meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1590 and 10 Dec 1590, so the burial on 5<sup>th</sup> Jun 1590 would be the correct one.

Court held 16 Sep 1590:

**Thomas Farmer at Crosse** on his deathbed out of court & after the last court viz. 4th June last by Adam Farmer deputy of John Hider the lord's bedell there in the presence of Wm Burgess clerk and John Catt tenants of the lord surrendered 1 swyne in the ferling of Cobways in Rotherfield containing 8 acres to use of Alexander Farmer his son & heir.

Comes Alexander & prays Thomas Farmer at Crosse who dies held to him & his heirs certain assart & gave for heriot a cow worth 33s 4d.

Thomas Farmer at Crosse who dies held to him & his heirs certain free lands called Gladles, who before his death alienated the premises in mortgage to a certain **Adam Farmer**.

Court held 10 Dec 1590:

Comes **Alexander Farmer, eldest son & next heir of Thomas Farmer at Crosse** deceased & prays a tenement with garden of Rotherfield Hill & a piece of land called Marbynge containing 5 acres of assart near Byddendenstale, & a piece called le Inhome (Inborne?) containing 5 acres & 1 piece of field called Coes Meade containing 6 acres assart & 1 piece called Mylbouse containing 2 acres formerly (not entered) & 1 croft containing 4 acres assart & certain lands called Meades containing 12 acres of assart of Henbye & 1 parcel called Rugham containing 17 acres lying near Scuttlecrouch in Rotherfield. The said **Alexander** is admitted tenant, to him & his heirs.

Court held 10 Dec 1590:

Comes **Alex Farmer son & heir of Thos Farmer at Crosse** & prays a parcel called Mylhole formerly Nicholas Burgess's cont. 2 acres lying in the forest towards the N & W & to lands of Thos Hosmer at Grene towards E. & towards lands Isaac Alborne on south & a garden on townhill formerly Bychfeld to ..... with ?ynnesfeld cont. 4 acres and south at ..... did swear affidavit and admitted(?) offer.... Nic Maynard & John Maynard

Court held 1 Apr 1591:

The homage say that **Robt Farmer** who held to him & his heirs a piece of land called Mylhole containing 4 acres with some ?? near the forest formerly John Nicholas's died as siesed several years ago. Comes **Alex Farmer**, kinsman & heir of **Robert**, viz. eldest son & next heir of **Thos Farmer** eldest son & next heir of **Robert** & prays, etc.

Court held 29 Mar 1592:

*Comes **Alexander Farmer** & surrenders a piece of land called Marlynge containing 5 acres 3 rods of assart at Byddendenstole & a piece called Coes Mead containing 6 acres assart in Rotherfield. To use of **Adam Farmer** & his heirs.*

(Source: Court Rolls of the manor of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, 1587-1593, Vol. 3 of handwritten translation of abstracts by Catherine Pullein c1928 (ESRO: PAR 465/26/1/3))

**See also:**

Deathbed Transfer of Alexander Farmer of Rotherfield, 1605/06 (Court of the manor of Rotherfield held Thursday 15 January 3 James I [1605/06])

Family Tree

See Tree 2. “*Descendants of Thomas Farmer (-c1529) including Robert Farmer*” in Chapter 1.

## 16. Admon of Thomas Farmer [at Merke] in Rotherfield, 1591

(ESRO: PBT 1/3/2/119B)

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> May 1591

25th May 1591

Administration of the goods of **Thomas Farmer** while he lived of Mark [Mark Cross] in the parish of Rotherfield deceased was granted to **Margaret** the relict of the said deceased represented by **Henry Atheroll** sworn

The same **Henry** of Rotherfield husbandman and **William Nynn** of the same place carpenter were bound in the sum of 20 marks

Inventory exhibited in the sum of £7 8 10d.

*(Transcribed by Rosie Ansell, December 2023)*

### NOTES

#### People

Thomas Farmer, deceased

Margaret Farmer, wife

Henry Atheroll

William Nynne

#### Places

Rotherfield

Mark Cross at Rotherfield

#### Relevant Events

Thomas Farmer was buried on 15 Apr 1591 at Rotherfield St Denys, "of Merke" [Mark Cross].

#### Ancestry of Thomas of Mark Crosse

His parents are identified through the 1559 manorial court record (see below) which mentions him receiving the property "ferling at Frith" from his father Adam Farmer, and the later 1587 and 1588 manorial court records mentioning the same property and family members.

Court held 1559: "*At this court comes Thomas Farmer son of Adam Farmer and prays leave to let 1 messuage 1/2 soyne of **ferling of Frith** containing 10 acres more or less to Alex Quaiße for space of 4 years following the Feast of Annunciation [25 March] to the end of 4 years which per 2/- fine is granted. And Thomas Farmer comes & prays leave to let half soyne of Frith ferling containing 10 acres more or less for 5 years to Andrew Skinner from said Feast by fine 12d.*"

At the manorial court held on 2 August 1587: (p11 of PDF)

"*Thomas Farmer at Marke [Mark Cross] surr. 1 messuage, 1 barn, 1 garden, 1 piece of land cont. 3 acres on **ferling of Frith** in R. [Rotherfield]. To use of John Nynne alias Barber.*"

A ferling was a division of land on the manor of Rotherfield whose size varied from some 35 acres to 134 acres which, over the years, became divided amongst several tenants. The ferling of Frith was located near the hamlet of Mark Cross. Each ferling was divided into six "swyne" lands, so called because of a custom whereby the owner of each swyne had to give the lord of the manor a hog (swine) every year. The ferlings are thought to be the result of consolidation and enclosure in the 14th century after the Black Death. The manor of Rotherfield court roll for 1556 lists a total of 32 1/2 ferlings (Pullein p73-80).

On 1 April 1588: (p22 of PDF)



*“John Nynne alias Barber prays to be admitted to 1 messuage, 1 barn, 1 garden & 1 parcel adjacent to said messuage at Mark Crosse containing 3 acres on **ferling of Fryth** in Rotherfield which Thomas Farmer at the court held on 2 August last surrendered to use of said John. Comes John Nynne alias Barber & surrenders above to use of Thomas Farmer & his heirs.”*

*“Comes Thomas Farmer of Merke and surrenders 1 soyne [swyne; Pullein p80] of land at **ferling of Frith** in Rotherfield adjacent to the lands of Herbert Pelham esq towards the East of the Kings way at Maregate towards Marecrosse & towards the West with appurtenances in Rotherfield. Said premises are held by Thomas & Margaret his wife during their natural life and after their decease by a certain Gertrude Savage daughter of said Thomas wife of William Savage & heirs of the said Gertrude for ever.”*

These property transactions involve John Nynne alias Barber, a kinsman of Thomas Farmer. They are probably connected to an inheritance strategy devised by Thomas, as John Nynne alias Barber appears to be acting as a trustee. In the last transaction Thomas and Margaret Farmer surrender another property (probably the land connected to the messuage above) to the use of themselves in their life and afterwards to their daughter Gertrude Savage wife of William Savage ensuring she inherits it. (p22 of PDF). The families of John Barber and William Savage are linked again in the will of Henry Aderoll alias Skynner in 1612 which names both families' children as beneficiaries. In the will of Margaret Farmer above she names Henry Aderoll as her son.

(Source: Court Rolls of the manor of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, 1587-1593, Vol. 3 of handwritten translation of abstracts by Catherine Pullein c1928 (ESRO: PAR 465/26/1/3))

**See also:**

Family Tree

See Tree 2. “*Descendants of Thomas Farmer (-c1529) including Robert Farmer*” in Chapter 1.

**17. Will (nuncupative) of Anthony Farmer of Rotherfield, 1591**

(ESRO: PBT 1/1/8/418A)

Made: April 1591

Proved: 10 May 1591

Aprill 1591

In the name of God amen I **Anthonic Farmer** of Retherfeeld single man beinge of good & p[er]fect remembrance did comend comend his soule to allmightye god: his bodye to be bu[-]ryed: And he did geive and bequeathe to **Elizabethe** his mother a red bald amblinge mare All the residew of his goods Cattles creditts & debts his debts beinge paide he did geive & bequeathe to **Wm Farmer** his brother whome he did appointe his sole executor Wittnesses hereunto **Anthonic Gralinge Ralf Terry Wm Burges** & others //

*Probate: 10<sup>th</sup> May 1591 to **William Farmer**, brother and executor. Sworn by Robert Otringham, notary public, his proctor.*

*Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 7<sup>th</sup> May 2022 for Geoffrey Barber*

**Caveat re Anthony Farmer of Rotherfield, 1591**

(ESRO: PBT/1/3/2/116B)

Made: 26 April 1591

[*In left hand margin:*] Caveat Farmer  
xxvjo die Aprilis  
{anno domini 1591}<sup>27</sup>  
Cave ne aliquod fiat in bonis Anthonii  
Farmer dum vixit de Retherfeld def.  
nisi prius vocato Will[iel]mo eius frat[er] {i}  
de Penshurst Com. {K}ant., vel Robert  
Otringham eius procurator {qui} [*last word illegible*]

*Caveat Farmer*

*26<sup>th</sup> April {1591}*

*Be aware that in the matter of the goods of **Anthony Farmer** formerly of Rotherfield, deceased, that **William** his brother, of Penshurst in the County of Kent, was previously named and also Robert Otringham who {last word illegible}*

*Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 7<sup>th</sup> May 2022 for Geoffrey Barber*

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<sup>27</sup> Line illegible due to a fault in the document image.

## **NOTES**

### People

Anthony Farmer, testator  
Elizabeth Farmer, mother  
William Farmer, brother?

### Places

Rotherfield  
Penshurst, Kent

### Relevant Events

Anthony FARMER was buried 24 Apr 1591 at Rotherfield St Denys.

He was baptised 1 Sep 1565 at Rotherfield St Denys, son of William FARMER.

His father may be William FERMER bap. 2 Jun 1541 at Rotherfield St Denys, son of Anthony FERMER, or the William FARMER who married Alice MAY on 22 Mar 1554.

### **See also:**

Admon of William Farmer of Rotherfield, 1580/81, possibly Anthony's father.

### Family Tree

See Tree 7. "*Descendants of Anthony Farmer of Rotherfield*" in Chapter 1.

## 18. Will of Margaret Farmer of Rotherfield, 1593

(ESRO: PBT 1/1/9/219A)

Made: 12 March 1591/92

Probate: 15 Oct 1593

In the name of God amen: I **Margarett ffarmer** of the pish of Rotherfeld wydowe unto the saide **Thomas Farmer**] of marke [see Note 1 below] late deceased do thus ordaine and make my last will and testament in true and perfecte remembrance thancks be unto Allmightie God my maker and redeemer And my bodye to be buried in the churcheyarde of Rotherfelde Item I give and bequeathe unto **Garthered Savage** [see Note 2 below] my daughter the wife of **Willyam Savage** A Cupborde and a frame wth a table and a Joyne Bed with a truckell bed [ great new cheste and iron // posnett and a brasse kettel the smalleste brasse kettell Item I gyve and bequeathe unto **Marye Savage** and **Elizabeth Savage** vi peces of pewter one of them a peece of sheete and a pillowcoate and the other another sheete and a pillowcoate Item I gyve and bequeathe unto **Garthared** my daughter the new bolster Item I give and bequeathe unto **Henrye Atherowle** my sonne all the reste of my moveable goods within the pishe of Rotherfelde or in Sussex or else where unbequeathed And my sonne **Henrye Atherowle** to be my whole executor This will bearinge date the xiith daye of Marche and in the xxxiiijth yeare of the queenes maties raigne that now is Witnes to this will makinge **Richarde Hosmer and John Skyunner Pryce Huse and Willm Barber als Nynne** wt others

Probate: xvto die [15th] October 1593 to Henry Atheroll the executor named

Inventarii est exhibitum ad summam vjli vs viijd

*Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 26<sup>th</sup> February 2017 for Geoffrey Barber*

[1] Merke or Marke is often used for the hamlet of Mark Cross as it is called today.

[2] Garthered/Gyrthered – we would say Gertrude today.

### NOTES

#### People

Margaret Farmer widow, testator

Thomas Farmer of Marke [Mark Cross], deceased, husband

Gertrude Savage, daughter, wife of William Savage

William Savage

Mary Savage [granddaughter?]

Elizabeth Savage [granddaughter?]

Henry Atherol/Atherolle, son, executor

Richard Hos?te [Hosmer?], witness

John Skyunner, witness

Pry?? Hos? [Price Hewes/Hughes], witness

William Barber alias Nynne, witness

#### Places

Rotherfield

Mark Cross at Rotherfield

## Relevant Events

Burials of Margaret Farmer and her husband Thomas Farmer of Mark Cross

### 1. Margaret Farmer

There are two Margaret Farmer burials at Rotherfield St Denys in the SFHG burial index which may relate to this will:

- i. **5 April 1593 Margaret Farmer**
- ii. 6 August 1592 Margaret Farmer widow of Thomas

Given the probate date of 15th October 1593, the Margaret Farmer buried on 5 April 1593 is likely to be the correct one.

The will of Margaret Farmer mentions a son, Henry Atherolle[sic], suggesting that he may be a son-in-law or she may have had a previous marriage. Henry Aderoll alias Skinner's will is included in Chapter 4.

Her daughter Gertrude married William Savage and they had a large family at Rottingdean, where William was vicar. Gertrude was buried at Rottingdean St Margaret on 28 Sep 1592, six months after Margaret made her will, and William Savage was buried there on 6 Sep 1619 "Mr., vicar of Rottingdean".

### Marriage of Thomas Farmer and Margaret

There are two possible marriages at Rotherfield St Denys for Thomas Farmer of Merke [Mark Cross] and Margaret:

- i. 22 Apr 1543 Thomas Farmer and Margaret Woodgatt of Penshurst
- ii. **5 May 1550 Thomas Farmor and Margaret Scot**

The second is considered most likely for the following reasons:

1. There is a Thomas Farmer who died 1559 and his will mentions wife Margaret (ESRO: PBT 1/1/4/308A) and sons John and Daniel. There is a John, son of Thomas Farmer, who was baptised at Rotherfield St Denys on 12 Jun 1547 (no mother given). There are no other John's in the baptism register. This implies that this Thomas and Margaret were married before 1547, hence the 1543 marriage is the correct one for them. The marriage for Thomas Farmer at Merke [Mark Cross] should therefore be the one in 1550.

The admon of Thomas Farmer at Merke [Mark Cross] (25 May 1591) appoints Margaret represented by her son Henry Atheroll as administrator, while the will of his wife, Margaret Farmer (1593) only mentions her son Henry Atherolle and daughter Gertrude. Gertrude was baptised 20 March 1552 at Rotherfield.

### **See also:**

Will of Henry Aderoll alias Skinner of Rotherfield, proved 2 Nov 1613. (TNA: PROB 11/122/389)  
Admon of Thomas Farmer at Merke in Rotherfield, 1591

### Family Tree

See Tree 2. "*Descendants of Thomas Farmer (-c1529) including Robert Farmer*" in Chapter 1.

## 19. Will of Michael Farmer of Wartling, 1600/01

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/11/72B)

Made: 4 Dec 1600

Probate: 4 Jan 1600/01

FamilySearch: Film:1885745, Image: 426-429

*[NB Document torn from top to bottom, with some areas missing and adjacent writing smudged. There are four images, the RH side appearing in 427 and the foot of the document in 428 and 429.]*

In the name of god Amen The four{the} daye of December Anno Domini [*row of space fillers, then the tear*] [...] {six} hundreth I **Michaell Farmer** of Wartlinge in the County of Sussex yeoman beinge sicke of body but of good & perfect remembrannce praised be god doe ordayne & make this my last will & testa[ment in mann]er & forme followinge First I give and bequeath my soule into the handes of allmighty god the father and his sonne Jesus Crist my only Lord & Saviour by whose meritts I bele{ive} verilye to have remission [...] of my sinnes and everlastinge {salvation} And my bodye to be buried in the parishe Churche of Wartlinge abovesaid Imp[ri]mis I will & bequeath to the poore of the said parishe of wartlinge fortye shillinges of [lawfull money] of England to be given them at the feest of the Nativitye of our Lord ^god^ next insuinge by the discretion of mye executrix It[e]m I give and bequeath ^un^to my daughter **Elizabeth** and to the heires of her body lawfully [begotten] [...] {lan}des {??}es revercions remaynders & hereditamentes w[i]thin the said parish of Wartlinge [\*]<sup>28</sup> And yf it shall happen my said daughter **Elizabeth** to dye w[i]thout heires of her body lawfully begotten, that then my [...] {??}es revercions remaynders & hereditamentes shall remayne unto **Susan** another of my daughters and the heires of her body lawfully begotten and for default of such heires to remayne to **Mary** another of [my daughters]<sup>29</sup> and the heires of her body lawfully begotten and for default of such heires to the right heires of me the said **Michaell Farmer** for ever And my will & meaninge nevertheless is that **Bridget** my wyfe shall rec[eive &] take the issues & profites of my said landes ten[amen]tes remaynders revercions & hereditamentes untill my said daughter **Eli[-]zabete** shall accomlishe the age of one & twenty yeares, or untill the daye of her mariage w[hi]ch of them firs[t ha]ppen And yf my daughter **Elizabeth** dye w[i]thout issue of her body lawfully begotten before she accomlishe the age of one & twenty yeares or be maried that then yf **Susan** shall be under the age of one & twenty year[es ...] unmaried that then my said wyfe shall take the issues & p[ro]fites of my said landes ten[amen]tes revercions remaynders and hereditamentes untill my said daughter **Susan** shall accomlishe the age of one & twenty yeares or [be maried which] shall first happen And yf my daughter **Susan** dye w[i]thout issue of her body lawfully begotten before she accomlishe the age of one & twenty yeares or be maried that then yf **Mary** shall be [under the age] [...] and unmaried that then my said wyfe shall take the issues & profites of my said landes ten[amen]tes revercions remainders & hereditamentes untill my said daughter **Mary** accomlishe the age of one & twenty year[es or be] maried w[hi]ch shall first happen It[e]m I give and bequeathe unto **Mary** my daughter All that p[ar]cell of marshland comonly called Pound marshe conteyninge by estimation two & thirty acres of land more or lesse some [...] {??}ge p[ar]cell of certayne marsheland called Lampho{nn} scituat lyinge & beinge in Manxey w[i]thin the liberty of Pevenssey To have and to hold the said p[ar]cell of marshland w[i]th the appurten[an]ces unto my said [d]augh[ter] **Marye** & the heires of her body lawfully begotten and for default of such heires to **Susan** my daughter & the heires of her body lawfully begotten and for default of such heires to **Elizabeth** my daughter and the heires of her body lawfully begotten and for default of such heires to my right heires for ever And nevertheless my will & meaninge is that **Bridget** my wyfe shall receive & take all the issues & profites of my said mar[sh la]nd untill my said daughter **Mary** shall accomlishe the age

<sup>28</sup> There is a mark here resembling an asterisk but there does not appear to be an annotation associated with it.

<sup>29</sup> Assumed from the context.

of one & twenty yeares or untill the daye of her mariage w[hi]ch shall first happen And yf my daughter **Mary** dye w[i]thout issue of her body lawfully begotten be[fore s]he accomlishe the age of one & twenty yeares or be maried ~~that then yf Susan shalbe under the age of one & twenty yeares or be maried~~ that then yf **Susan** shalbe under the age of one & twenty yeares & un[maried] that then [my] wyfe shall take all the issues and profites of my said marshland untill my said daughter **Susan** shall accomplish the age of one & twenty yeares or be maried w[hi]ch shall first happen And yf my daug[hter **Su]san dye w[i]thout issue of her bodye lawfully begotten my daughter **Elizabeth** beunge under the age of one & twenty yeares & unmaried that then my said wyfe shall take the issues & profites of the said ma[rshland] untill my said daughter shall accomlishe the age of one & twenty yeares or be maried w[hi]ch shall first happen And I doe further will that the said **Bridget** my wyfe shall w[i]th the issues & profites w[hi]ch she [...] of my said landes & hereditamentes bequeathed as abovesaid as abovesaid see my children well & decently brought up accor[-]dinge to my estate & degree & in learninge It[e]m I give & bequeath unto **Susan** my daughter [...] {ye} powndes of good & lawfull money of England to be paid to her at the age of one & twenty yeares or daye of her mariage w[hi]ch shall first happen And my farther meaninge is that the said three [hundr]eth & fifty powndes at such tyme as my ^said^ daughter **[Su]san** shall accomlishe the age of fourteene yeares shalbe employed to the best profit of my said daughter by my executrix w[hi]ch profit shalbe likewise p[aid he]r at the daye of her mariage or age of one & twenty yeares w[hi]ch shall first happen And yf my said daughter **Susan** happen to dye before the tyme above lymitted for the paiment of the said three hundre[th & fifty] powndes unto her then I will the said three hundreth & fitye powndes to my said daughters **Elizabeth & Mary** yf they be then lyvinge or yf ether my daughters **Elizabeth** or **Mary** be dead then to the [survivo]r of them to be payd unto them or the survivor of them at the age of one & twenty yeares or the day of there mariage w[hi]ch shall first happen And yf my said daughters happen to dye before the tyme l[...]<sup>30</sup> paiment of the said three hundreth & fifty powndes to them as abovesaid then I will the said three hundreth and fifty powndes shall be payd to the nearest of my blode at suche ^tyme^ as **Susan** my daughter {shold} [...] age of fourteene yeares yf she had lived ^x^<sup>31</sup> It[e]m I will & bequeathe to my sister **Mary** that the mony w[hi]ch I am to paye here by my fathers gift be made by my Executrix the full som[m]me of [...]eth powndes of good & lawfull mony of England & payd unto her at the feast of St Michael the Archangell next insuing the date hereof It[e]m I will & bequeath unto my **Cose{n} Joseph {Fa}rmer O{n}** [...] be delivered unto him by my Executrix before the feast of St John the Baptist nex insuinge the date hereof It[e]m I give & bequeath {un}to **John West** my servant fower powndes of lawfull english [...] [pai]d unto him or his assignes w[i]thin fowr yeares next after my decease and wheras by covenant he is to serve me for three yeares yet to come yf I happen to decease that then he be discharged at the feast [...]asion of our Lady next insuing after the date herof then to serve at his pleasure It[e]m I give & bequeath unto **Andrewe** my servant twenty shillings to be payd unto him at the feast of the Annuncya {tion of} [...] [nex]t insuinge It[e]m I give & bequeathe unto **Robert James & Elizabeth James** the children of my **brother James** of Lewes to eche of them five powndes of lawfull englishe mony to be payd ^un^to them [...] {fo}urteene yeares It[e]m I give & bequeathe unto my **sister Elphicke** & my **sister Peckam** eche of them five powndes of lawfull englishe mony to be payd unto them w[i]thin six yeares after my [...] {b}equeathe ^un^to **Alice** my servant and **Joane** my servant to eche of them forty shillings to be payd unto them at the feast of S[ai]nt James the Apostle next ^insuinge^ And I do ordeyn {e} [...] **Bridget** my wyfe my sole Executrix of this my last will and testament unto whome (my debtes and legacies being paid) I doe give and bequeath all my goodes & chattelles whasoever A{nd} [...] my will ordaine & make **John Hay** of Herst{m}oncex gent and **Thomas Alfray** of Catisfild gent and **Walter Dal{??}g**<sup>32</sup> of Ringmore yeoman overseers of this my last will & testament [...] performed And I doe will and bequeath**

<sup>30</sup> Possibly 'limited for'.

<sup>31</sup> As note 1 above.

<sup>32</sup> Botched corrections have made this illegible here and again below. Daling?

unto [th]e said **John Haye & Thomas Alfray** to eche of them six powndes of lawfull english mony to be payd unto them the first day of may next [...] of the {paynes} ^that^ they shall take in overseeinge ^of^ this my last will And I do farther hereby revoke all other former willes It[e]m I will & bequeathe unto **Walter Dal{??}g** six powndes of lawfull englishe [...] be payd unto him the first day of May next It[e]m I will that yf **Bridget** my wyfe happen to be disposed to marry that then before she marry she shall [...] <sup>33</sup> the somme of Seaven hundreth powndes upon condition that she her executors administrators or assignes shall see this my last will & testament well & truly performed according [...] and meaninge therof:<sup>34</sup> (**Michaell Farmer**;) Witnesses at the sealinge publishinge and declaringe of this will the daye and yeare w[i]thin mencioned, **Abraham Diconson, Robert S{mi??}, [...] Haye, Josephe Farmer**

*Probate: 4<sup>th</sup> January 1600 (English style) to **Bridget**, relict and executrix of the deceased. Oath taken on her behalf by Mr Robert {O}tringham, notary public.*

*Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2022 for Geoffrey Barber*

## NOTES

### People

Michael Farmer, testator  
Bridget Farmer, wife  
Elizabeth Farmer, daughter  
Susan Farmer, daughter  
Mary Farmer, daughter  
Joseph Farmer, cousin  
John West, servant  
Andrew (--?--), servant  
Abraham James [Abraham]  
Robert James, son of brother James  
Elizabeth James, daughter of brother James  
Sister Elphicke [Rebecca Elphicke – see father's will]  
Sister Peckam [Sylvester Peckham – see father's will]  
Alice (--?--), servant  
Joane (--?--), servant  
John Hay of Herstmonceux, gent, overseer  
Thomas Alfray of Catsfield, overseer  
William Daling[?] of Ringmer, overseer  
Abraham Diconson, witness  
Robert Smith[?], witness  
(--?--) Haye, witness  
Joseph Farmer, witness

### Places

Wartling  
Pound Marsh, Pevensey  
Lampham, Pevensey  
Manxey, Pevensey

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<sup>33</sup> Text hidden by a crease, then the tear.

<sup>34</sup> From here on the text is in a different hand and darker ink, as are the interlineations, the supposed asterisks and the probate. The same hand has written all the witness names.



Ringmer  
Herstmonceux  
Lewes

#### Relevant Events

Michael FARMER was buried 30 Nov 1600 at Wartling St Mary.  
He was the son of Thomas FERMER of Lewes who left a will proved 29 Nov 1604 mentioning his deceased son Michael and his daughters Elizabeth, Susan and Mary. That will suggests that Michael's widow remarried: Bridget FERMER, widow of Lewes, and Thomas LUXFORD, yeoman of Wartling, obtained a marriage licence on 28 Aug 1604 (Archdeaconry of Lewes). Thomas FERMER's will refers to her as his daughter-in-law Bridget FERMER alias LUXFORD.

Elizabeth FARMER was baptised 16 Jul 1592 at Herstmonceux All Saints, daughter of Michael FARMER (abode: Wartling).

Mary FARMER was baptised 14 Sep 1595 at Wartling St Mary Magdalene, daughter of Michael FARMER.

Susan FARMER was baptised 22 Jul 1599 at Wartling St Mary Magdalene, daughter of Michael FARMER.

Abraham JAMES married Elizabeth FARMAR on 3 Dec 1587 at Warbleton.

Ann JAMES bap. 21 Jun 1607 at Lewes St Thomas at Cliffe, daughter of Abraham JAMES.

Abraham JEAMES of Glynde buried 15 Feb 1613 at Lewes St Thomas at Cliffe.

Abraham JAMES of Cliffe [Lewes] was recorded as a timber merchant in 1599.<sup>35</sup>

Thomas PECKHAM of Mayfield married Silvestra FARMER of Wartling on 19 Nov 1599 at Herstmonceux.

#### **Confirmation**

Date: 24 Nov 1614

ESRO: AMS 903

Description: John Jordon of Charlwood in Surrey and his wife Elizabeth, and Richard Button of Buxted and his wife Mary

1 Studdens and other lands in Wartling

2 Pound Marsh (30a) in Manxey in Pevensey

(a) convey interest in 2 to (b)

Recites that **Michael Farmer** of Wartling, father of **Elizabeth** and **Mary**, by will devised 1 to Elizabeth and 2 to Mary, and to settle disputes each party had agreed to convey their interest in the others property to the opposite party

Witnesses: Thomas Aynscombe, John Baker, William Olive

Endorsed as sale of part of Lampham

#### **Joseph Farmer of Dallington, alehouse keeper; alehouse keeper's recognizance**

Date: 1615

ESRO: QR/15/96

Description: The data on which this record relies have not been checked and may not be accurate.

Creator(s): Sussex Quarter Sessions, c 1350-1914; Sussex Quarter Sessions, Eastern Division, c1550-1914; East Sussex Quarter Sessions, 1914-1970

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<sup>35</sup> Colin Brent, *Pre-Georgian Lewes : c890-1714*, p.260, 261

**See also:**

Will for Thomas FERMER, Yeoman of Lewes, proved 29 Nov 1604, Michael's father. (ESRO: PBT/1/1/12/43B)

Family Tree

See Tree 6. "*Descendants of Thomas Farmer (-1604) of Lewes*" in Chapter 1.

## 20. Will of William Fermor, Gentleman of Hastings, 1602

(TNA: PROB 11/100/108)

Made: 28 March 1601

Probate: 19 Jul 1602

In the name of God Amen the Eighte and twentithe day of March in the yeare of our lord god one thowsande six hundred one and in the three and Fortith yeare of the Raigne of our most gracious Sovereigne Ladie Queene Elizabeth of England Frannce and Irelande etc I **William Fermor** of Hastinge in the countie of Sussex gent beinge at this tyme full of payne and sicknes in my body but of good and sounde memory (god be glorified for yt) do make and ordayne this my testamente and last will in manner and forme followinge First I bequeath and commit my soule unto allmighty god my maker and Creator and to his blessed sonne Jesus Christe my onely Redeemer by whom and whose death onely and by none other meanes or merittes I hope to have salvacion and to be partaker of the ioyes and blisse of heaven and my bodie to the earth from whence it came to be decently buried neere unto my wiffe in the Church of Allhallows in Hastinge aforesaid (yf conveniently yt may be) or els where yt shall please god and myne Overseers hereunder named And touchinge that porcion of worldly goodes which yt pleased allmightie god of his greate goodnes to bestowe uppon me (farre unworthy thereof) I do give and bequeathe thereof unto the poore people of the Towne of Hastinge fortie shillings of lawfull Englishe money to be distributed to them at my buryall twentie shillings and within one yeare nexte after other twentie shillings at the discrecion of the Maior and the most discreete Inhabitanes of either of the parishes of the said Towne Item I do bequeathe to the poore people of the parishe of Rotherfeilde in Sussex fortie shillings to be paid the one halfe within one quarter of a yeare nexte after my decease and the other halfe within the seconde yeare nexte after my decease and to be distributed by my brother **Nicholas Fermor** (yf he shall then be dwellinge there) and by fowre other of the most discreete Inhabitanes of the parishe where they shall thincke most neede Also I bequeathe unto the poore people of the Towne of Lewes twentie shillings viz to the poore of the parishe of Allhallowes in Lewes tenne shillings and to the poore of the residue of the saide towne tenne shillings to be paide within the first yeare after my deathe to be distributed in Allhallowes by fower the most discreete personns of the same parishe and the residue by the Constable of the said towne where and to whome they shall thincke most neede Item I give and bequeath unto my sister **Dorothie Miles** one newe featherbed and a bolster which is in myne howse at Rotherfeild which shee already claymeth to be her owne Also I give and bequeath unto **Elizabeth Pailor** my saide sisters daughter the somme of twentie shillings to be paide to her owte of my landes either at the age of eighteen yeares or daie of her marriage which shall first happen Also I will that **Margaret** nowe my wiefe shall have and take to her owne use and behoofe all such monie goods chattells debts and other things as were hers at the tyme when I marryed her except one featherbed and a bolster with the things thereunto belonging nowe in my chamber at Staple inne in London Also I will that my side wiefe shall have the use and occupying of all my howseholdstuffe and implements of howshoulde whatsoever which I have in my now dwellinge howse in Hastinge dureinge her lief (yf she continue widdowe so longe) and after her decease to remaine and belonge to my children **Bridget Farmer and Alexander Fermor** by equall porcions provided always the standerds to remaine to the saide howse and yf it shall happen my saide wiefe to marrye againe then I will that shee and hee with whome shee shall so marrie shall become bounden with two sufficient suerties with them to myne Overseers in double the value of the saide howshouldestuffe to satisfie to my saide two children at the tyme of her deathe all the saide ymplements of howshoulde and howseholdstuffe or the verie value thereof in money as the same shalbe apprised after my deathe at the choise and election of my saide children (yf they shall then be of full age) or of those that shall then be governors of them yf my said children shall then happen to be under their severall ages of one and twentie yeares but yf they shall refuse so to be bounden then ymmediatlie after

the saide marriage had this my devise thereof to her to be utterly voide and then the use and occupacion of the said howshouldstufte and ymplements of howshold to be to my other two children **William Fermor and Anne Fermor** to be equallie devided betwene them Also I doe will and bequeath to **Armiger Barlowe Thomas Barlowe and Marie Barlowe** the children of my nowe wiefe either of them fortie shillings to be paid to the said **Armiger and Thomas** owte of my landes when they shall come to their ages of fower and twentie yeares and to be paide to the saide **Marie** owte of my landes when shee shall come to the age of one and twentie yeares or the daie of her marriage which shall first happen Item I will and my mynde and desire is that **Margerie** (sic) my wiefe shall yf shee will have the custodie educacion and bringing upp of my two children **William Fermor and Anne Fermor** untill such tyme as my daughter **Anne Fermor** shall come to the age of fowertene yeares yf shee wilbe ruled and ordered by my said wiefe and that my saide wiefe shall so longe remayne unmarried but yf she will not be ruled and ordered by my saide wiefe then my will is shee shalbe otherwise placed at the discretion of my Overseers or the most parte of them for her better education & bringing upp and in consideracion thereof I doe will and devise to my saide wife for and towards the charge of fyndeing apparrellinge and bringing upp of my saide daughter **Anne** yearelie during so longe tyme as shee shall by virtue of this my will keepe finde apparrell and bring upp my saide daughter Tenne poundes of lawfull monie of Englande to be paide to her by myne overseers owte of my said landes quarterlie at the feasts of the Annunciacion of the blessed virgin Marie the Nativitie of Saint John the Baptist Saint Michaell the archangell and the Nativitie of our lord god by even porcions And for my sonne **William** my mynde is my saide wiefe shall have the educacion and bringing up of him so longe tyme as myne Overseers or the moste parte of them shall thinck good and that shee shalbe allowed and paide by them for the same so much monie quarterlie owte of my landes as they in their discretion shall thinck fit and convenient Item I doe will and devise that the residue of the yearely proffitts and revenues of my landes tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances in Rotherfeild which shalbe more and over and above that which by this my will I have or shall devise to be yearely paide owte thereof shalbe yearelie levied and taken upp by my said Overseers hereunder named and Fortie poundes yearelie thereof employed to the onely use and behoofe of my saide daughter **Anne Fermor** untill such tyme as the somme of two hundred Fifty poundes be thereof fullie levied and received which saide yearely somme of Fortie poundes as the same shalbe to her use received I will shalbe from tyme to tyme employed and disposed to the best use and commoditie that maye be for my saide daughter **Anne** at the discretion of myne Overseers or the most parte of them the which two hundred Fifty poundes with the proffitts & increase thereof I doe whollie give and bequeathe unto my daughter Anne to be paide unto her at the tyme of her marriage or within one whole yeare then next followinge after (yf shee shall marrie with the good likeing of my saide Overseers or the most parte of theme and of **William Skott** gent my brother in lawe her uncle) Item I will that yf my saide daughter **Anne** shall happen to departe this lief before she shall come to the age of one and twentie yeares or be married then I will give and bequeath the saide two hundred Fifty poundes to my sonne **William Fermor** Item I give and bequeath to **Margaret** my wiefe all my howses and landes in Hasting to her already not assured to hold to her and also to her assignes dureinge the tearme of her lief and after her decease to remaine to **Alexander** my sonne and his heires for ever yet nevertheless yf my saide wiefe shall thinck good with the good likeinge of myne Overseers or the most parte of them to sell my saide howse and tenements in Hastinge or anie of them for her better benefit and proffitt and the proffit of my saide sonne **Alexander** then I doe give and devise unto my saide wiefe full power and autoritie to sell all the saide howses and tenements in Hastinge in Fee simple fee taylor otherwise at the will and pleasure of him or them that shall so buye them notwithstanding the remayneder before devised unto my saide sonne **Alexander** Provided always and with this condicion that then my saide wiefe doe put in sufficient securitie and bonde in double the value unto myne Overseers or the most parte of them to have the whole value of the said howses and tenements so sold to the use

of my saide sonne **Alexander** after her decease Item I further give and bequeath unto my saide wief one Annuite of six poundes tenne shillings yssueing and goeing owtt yearlie owte of one Inne called the Kings head and certain tenements in the olde change in London to holde to her her Exeutors and assignes during the continuance thereof Also I give and bequeath unto my saide wief all myne estate of one lease of certain march which I holde of **Simpson Leonard Esquire and Ladie Margaret Dakers** his wief within the parrish of Herstmonceuz in Sussex Item I further will and bequeath unto my saide wife yearelie tenn poundes to be yssueing owte of my saide landes in Rotherfeild to hold to her dureinge the tearme of her lief naturall to be paide to her by myne Overseers quarterlie at the feaste of the Annunciacion of our Ladie Saint Marie the virgin Saint John the Baptiste Saint Michaelle the Archangell and the Nativitie of our Lord by even porcions untill my sonn **William Fermor** shall come to his landes by vertue of this my will And whereas I have bene in this my will given unto my saide wief one Annuite of six poundes tenne shillings yearely in London and one Lease of a marshe in Herstmonceuz by estimacion worthe fower poundes yearelie more than the Rent Nowe when it shall happen the saide Annuite of six poundes tenne shillings yearelie in London to cease and be expired then I give and bequeath further by this my will unto my said wief owte of my said landes at Rotherfeild six poundes tenne shillings more yearely to be paid her quarterlie as aforesaide dureing the tearme of her lief naturall And when it shall happen the said Lease of marche in Herstmonceuz to be expired and ended then I further give unto my saide wief owte of my said landes at Rotherfeild three poundes tenn shillings more yearelie dureing the tearme of her naturall lief to be paide her quarterlie as aforesaide And yf after such tyme as my saide sonne **William** shall come to his landes the saide Annuite or yearlie legacies before devised to my saide wief anie of them or anie parte or parcell of anie of them shall happen to be behinde unpaide by the space of fowertene daies after anie of the Feastes in which it owght to be paide that then and so often it shalbe lawfull for my said wief and her assignes to enter into my saide landes at Rotherfeild or anie parte thereof and to distreine and the distresses there so had & taken lawfullie to leade beare carry and drive away and it to deteine and keepe untill the saide Annuities or yearelie legacies or so much of the same as then shalbe behinde shalbe to the said **Margaret** my wief or her assignes fullie contented and satisfied Item I give unto my sonne **Alexander Fermor** and my daughter **Bridget Fermor** either of them one hundred poundes apece of lawfull money of Englande to be paid them by myne executrix at their severall ages of one and twentie yeares or at their daie of marriage which shall first happen and I will my saide wief shall have the proffitts and use of the same in the meane space towards their educacion and bringing upp Provided that if anie of them happen to die before their severall ages of one and twentie yeares or daies of marriage aforesaide then I give thone halfe of the saide hundred poundes to him or her so devised unto my said wief and thother halfe to him or her then survivinge and if it shall [happen] both my saide children to die before their severall ages of one and twentie yeares or daie of marriage then I give one of the saide hundred poundes unto my wief and thother hundred poundes unto my sonne **William Fermor** and my daughter **Anne Fermor** equallie to be devided betweene them Further I give and bequeathe unto my saide sonne **Alexander** thirtie three poundes six shilliges eight pence to be paide unto my wief for him owte of my landes at Rotherfeild assoone and ymmeditatlie after that the legacie of my daughter **Anne Fermor** shalbe levied and paide owte of my saide landes and the same then to be paide unto him at his age of one and twentie yeares And if it shall happen my saide sonne **Alexander** to die before he cometh to the age of one and twentie yeares then I will that the saide legacie of thirty three poundes six shilliges eight pence shall remaine wholly to my sonne **William Fermor** Item I give and bequeath unto my sonne **William Fermor** and my daughter **Anne Fermor** all my howsholdstufte at Rotherfeild equallie to be devided betwixt them (the standers of the howse onelie excepted) the which I give whollie unto my sonne **William Fermor** Also I give unto my saide sonne **William** all my bricks shingles and sawed bords which I have nowe remayninge at Rotherfield and my will and desire is the shalbe employed as speedily

as maie be towarde the repaireinge of the dwelling howse and buildings Also I give unto my saide sonne **William** two litle featherbedds and two bolsters with all that belongeth unto them which is in my chamber at Staple Inne in London Also I give unto my saide sonne **William** all my bookes and other things necessarie for him which I have in my said chamber at Staple Inne in London and in my studdie there And if it shall happen my saide sonne **William** to departe this liefe without yssue male of his bodie lawfullie begotten before he come to the age of thirtie yeares then I will and bequeathe that all my landes at Rotherfeild shall remaine unto my son **Alexander** and to the heires of his bodie lawfullie begotten and then I will that the saide **Alexander** shall paie or cawse to be paide unto my daughter **Anne Fermor** in further augmentation of her porcion owte of my saide landes three hundred poundes to be paide within fower yeares next after the deathe of my saide sonne **William** and to my daughter **Bridget Fermor** in augmentation of her porcion xxxiiitie vis viiid to be paide within five yeares next after the deathe of my saide sonne **William** and paying and dischargeing all other such legacies guifts and devises as I have given and bequeathed owte of my saide landes And for lacke of heires males of my saide sonne **Alexander** of his bodie lawfullie begotten then I will and bequeath that all my saide landes at Rotherfeild shall remaine unto my brother **Henrie Fermor** and his heires for ever and then I will that my brother **Henrie Fermor** and his heires shall paie or cawse to be paide unto my daughter **Anne Fermor** in further augmentation of her legacie fower hundred poundes and to my daughter **Bridget Fermor** in augmentation of her legacie two hundred poundes and alsoe that hee and his heires shall discharge and paie all other such guifts legacies and devises which I have given owte of my saide landes Item I nominate and appointe **Henrie Fermor** gent my brother **William Scott** gent my brother in lawe **William Parker** clerke my brother in lawe my cozen **William Fowle** gent my cozen **William Wood** and my nephew **Isaack Bridges** to be my Overseers of this my last will and testament and I doe give full power and authoritie unto my saide Overseers to demise let and sett all my saide landes at Rotherfeild except my woodland called Skadeland which I would in noe wise should be let at their wills and pleasure or at the will and pleasure of the moste parte of them and to take upp the Rent yssues and proffitts thereof and to ymploye them from tyme to tyme unto the performance of such legacies bequests and devises as by this my will I have given willed and devised and for the more ease of my saide Overseers in executing the premisses my mynde and will is that my said Overseers shall have power and authoritie to choose of themselves (f they shall so thinck good) such two or one as they shall thincke fitt to devise set and let from tyme to tyme as neede shall require my saide landes and tenements and to take upp the yssues revenues and proffitts thereof the residue of my saide Overseers or some two of them whereof the saide **William Parker** I will to be one (yf hee be then liveing) to take sufficient securitie of those partie so to be assigned to take upp the saide proffitts and revenues to make a true accompte unto the residue of my Overseers or the most parte of them once every yeare untill such tyme as my sonne **William** shall come to his age of fower and twentie yeares or yf my sonne **William** shall die without yssue male before he come to the age of fower and twentie yeares then untill such tyme as my sonne **Alexander** shall come to his age of fower and twentie yeares provided always and my will is that **Edmund Terry Edmund Knell William Snatt and Edmunde Hoodeley iunior** my nowe Fermors shall not be put from the occupacion of the saide landes which they nowe hould of me yf they list to continue the occupyinge of the same untill my sonne shall come to the full age of fower and twentie yeares abovesaid they paying their Rent and Keepeinge their covenants agreed uppon unless the most parte of myne Overseers shall see greate cawse to the contrarie And I doe will and give power and authoritie hereby to the residue of myne Overseers which shall not be ymployed aboute the letting and takeinge upp of the proffitts and revenues of my saide landes to take once in every yeare at some conveniente tyme and place by them to be appointed an Accompte and reckoning of them so appointed to receive the revenues of my saide landes and uppon such Accompte so had to receive of him or them the remaynder of the proffitts thereof over and above such legacies as I have before by this my will given and bequeathed and the same

so received to imploye to the bringing upp or other best behoofe of my saide sonne **William** as they in their discreosn shall thincke good And my will is that my saide Overseers or the moste parte of them shall take good bandes and securities in the name of my sonne or in the name of such other as they shall thincke good for the iust and true payement of such somms and the proffitts and increase thereof as they shall imploy anie waie to his use and benefitt Also I will that of such stocke and porcion of monie of the proffitts & yssues of my landes or otherwise as shall remaine and belonge from yeare to yeare and from tyme to tyme unto my saide sonne **William** I will that my Overseers or moste parte of them shall allowe and paie unto my sonne **William** or them that shall have the educacion and bringing up of him somuch as they in their discretion shall thincke meete and convenient for his reasonable mainteynance and educacion in such honest facultie and course of lief as hee shall bend himself unto and that he my saide sonne **William** shall have noe power nor authoritie to take upp anie proffitts of my lades himselfe untill he come to the full age of fower and twentie yeares aforesaide and then and ymmediatlie after my will and desire is that my saide Overseers shall yeld unto my sonne a iust and true reckoning and Accompte of all such Rents yssues and proffitts of my landes as they or anie of them have to shall receive by virtue of this my will or of the ymloyment and bestoweing thereof and to cawse payement to be made of all such monies as shalbe founde anie ways to be due unto him And my will ys that none of my forenamed Overseers shall take to farme my saide lands or anie parte thereof nor retaine in his hands anie of the proffitts or revenues of the same longer than untill such tyme as hee hath yearelie given up his Accompte thereof unto the residue of myne Overseers Item I further give and bequeathe unto my sonne **William Fermor** one salte of sylver guilte one flat boll of sylver percell guilte and one golde ringe with a redd stone in it And I give and bequeathe further unto my daughter **Anne Fermor** one flat boll of silver parcell guilte and two gold Rings which were her owne mothers Item the residue of all my goods and chattells not given nor bequeathed my debts paide my legacies performed and my funerall charges discharged I wholly give unto **Margaret** my loveinge wiefe whome I make my sole executrix of this my last will and testament Item I give to my saide wiefe all the fynes which shalbe taken of **William Alchorne** my Coppieholder and of the heire of **Nicholas Alchorne** an other of my Coppieholders or their heires for their severall admittances to their severall cppyholds which they hold of my Mannor of Welth Also I give unto her all such provision for howskpeeinge which I have reserved of my tenants at Rotherfeild uppon the Leases of their landes which to hold of me to hold to her untill such tyme as my said sonne **William** shall come unto the age of fowre and twentie yeare Item yf anie dowts scruples ambiguities shall happen to arise aboute this my will or anie thinge therein conteyned then my mynde and desire is that for the avoiding of controversies and sutes in the lawe the same shalbe hearde decided and determined by my saide Overseers of the more parte of them accordinge to my true meaneinge and by such other learned counsell as they in their discretion shall call unto them Item moreover I give and bequeath unto **Margaret** my wiefe aswell all my Rents due by my Fermors and tenants for my lande at Rotherfeild at the feaste of the Aunnunciacion of our Ladie last past before the date hereof as also all the same Rents of the same landes which shalbe due at the feaste of Saint Michaell tharchangell next after the date hereof to be levied and paide her by myne Overseers above named shee findeing and keepeinge at her owne costs and charges my son **William** and my daughter **Anne** dureinge the tearme of one whole yeare next after the date hereof Item I give unto myne Overseers abovenamed or the most parte of them full power and authoritie when they by their discretion shall thincke fitt to cut down of my woods called Skadelands somuch thereof as they shall thincke fittest to be cut downe and the same to sell to the best profit they can to the use of my saide sonne **William** and the monie thereof comeinge to imploye to the best use and advantage they maie in their discretion to the use and benefitt of my saide sonne **William** and to take sufficient bonds that the same may be paide to him at the full age of fower and twentie years or sooner yf they doe or the most parte of them shall soe thincke good In witnes that this is my verie true and last will and testament and that I revoke

and renounce all other wills whatsoever heretofore made which I doe declare before the witnesses hereunto named I have to this seaven sheetes of paper conteynge all my said last will and testament setto my sealle and them severallie subscribed with myne owne hande theis beinge witnesses **Martyn Life Richard Life John Lunsford William Parker James Michell William Fermor**

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascriptum apud London coram magistro Johannes Hone legum Doctore Surrogato venerabilis viri Magistri Johannis Gibson legum etiam doctoris Curie Prerogative Cantuariensis Magistri Custodis sive Commissarii legitime constituti Decimo nono die mensis Julii anno domini Millesimo Sexcentesimo Secundo Juramento **Margarete** Relicte dicti defuncti et executricis in huiusmodi testamento nominat Cui commissa fuit administracio bonorum Jurium et creditorum eiusdem defuncti de bene et fideliter administrando eadem etc Ad Sancta Dei Evangelia iurat

*Transcribed by Rosie Ansell, May 2019.*

## **NOTES**

### People

William Fermor, testator

Margaret Fermor, wife

Dorothy Miles, sister

Nicholas Fermor, brother

Henry Fermor, brother, overseer

Elizabeth Pailor [Paler?], daughter of Dorothy Miles

Alexander Fermor, son

Bridget Fermor, daughter

William Fermor, son

Anne Fermor, daughter

Armiger Barlowe, son of wife Margaret (from previous marriage)

Thomas Barlowe, son of wife Margaret (from previous marriage)

Marie Barlowe, daughter of wife Margaret (from previous marriage)

William Skott [Scott], brother-in-law, overseer

William Parker, clerk, brother-in-law, overseer

Simpson Leonard Esquire

Lady Margaret Dakers, his wife

William Fowle, cousin, overseer

William Wood, cousin, overseer

Isaac Bridges, nephew, overseer

Edmund Terry, Fermor [farmer on Walsh manor]

Edmund Knell, Fermor [farmer on Walsh manor]

William Snatt, Fermor [farmer on Walsh manor]

Edmunde Hoodley [Hodely] iunior, Fermor [farmer on Walsh manor]

William Alchorne, copyholder of the Manor of Welth [Walsh], heir of Nicholas Alchorne

Nicholas Alchorne, copyholder

Martyn Life, witness

Richard Life, witness

John Lunsford, witness

William Parker, witness

James Michell, witness

William Fermor, witness



### Places

Hastings

Rotherfield

Skadeland, Rotherfield

Manor of Walsh, Rotherfield

Herstmonceux

London

### Relevant Events

William Fermor baptised 2 June 1541 at Rotherfield.

He married Elizabeth Scott circa 1590 (mother of Anne and William). According to Pullein's book, Elizabeth was the daughter of George Scott of Congerhurst [Conghurst] in Hawkhurst in county Kent, and the widow of ..... Ordium. Elizabeth was buried at All Saints, Hastings on 16 Feb 1594/95.

He married Margaret Barlow 5 Aug 1596 at All Saints Hastings (mother of Bridget and Alexander). According to Pullein, Margaret was a widow, nee Squier.

William Fermor was buried 2nd April 1602 at All Saints Hastings.

The Fermors of Walsh Manor are discussed in detail in Catharine Pullein's book "Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors", Chapter XXXI (page 362-373).

### Family Tree

See Tree 1. "*Descendants of William Fermor (- 1540) of Walsh Manor*" in Chapter 1.

## 21. Will (nuncupative) of Thomas Fermer, Yeoman of Lewes, 1604

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/12/43B)

Made: 25 Nov 1604

Proved: 29 Nov 1604

In the name of God Amen **Thomas Fermer** of Lewes in the County of Sussex & diocese of Chichester yeoman being sicke in body but of good & perfect remembrance thanks bee given to god did declare & make this his last will & testament nuncupative this five & twentieth day of the month of November in the yeare of our Lord God one thousand six hundred & foure in manner & forme following First hee did comend his Soule to Almighty God & his body hee willed to bee buried in the Churchyard of All Saints in Lewes Item hee did give and bequeath to the poore people of the parrish of All saints aforesaid Twenty Shillings to bee distributed unto them at the day of his buriall Item hee did give and bequeath to his daughter **Sylvester Peckham** the wife of **George Peckham** Tenn shillings And hee did give to **William Peckham** her sonne Ten shillings Item hee did give to **Mary Kidder** the wife of **Richard Kidder** his daughter the best Fetherbed that hee lay upon together with twoe blancketts & one Coverlett belonging to the same Bed Item hee did give & bequeath to **Rebecca Elphicke** the wife of **Thomas Elphicke** his daughter Tenn Shillings Item hee did give & bequeath to **Elizabeth Fermer** daughter of his sonne **Michaell Fermer** deceased one Spurreryall of gold And hee did give & bequeath to **Susan Fermer & Mary Fermer** two other daughters of his said sonne Michaell to each of them an Angell of gold Item hee did give & bequeath to **Mr Henry Rogers** Preacher of the word & the Minister of the parishe praying that hee would make a sermon at his buriall A French Crowne in gold as a token of his good will Item hee did give & bequeath to the widdow Snelling twoe shillings six pence in gold Item he did give & bequeath to **Alice Thetcher** Twenty shillings Item he did give & bequeath to **Susan Fermer** aforesaid his sonnes daughter one Fetherbed All the rest of his goods & Chattells moveable & unmoveable hee did give & bequeath to **Bridgett Fermer als Luxford** his Daughter in Law whome he requested to dispose & pay these his legacies aforesaid ----- Witnesses hereunto **Mary Luxford & Joanne Elphicke**

Probate to **Bridgett Fermer als Luxford** 29 November 1604.

*Transcribed by Julian Elphick January 2020.*

A spur royal was an English gold coin issued in the reign of James I.

### NOTES

#### People

Thomas Farmer, yeoman, testator

Sylvester Peckham, daughter, wife of George Peckham

George Peckham

William Peckham, her son

Mary Kidder, daughter, wife of Richard Kidder

Richard Kidder

Rebecca Elphicke, daughter, wife of Thomas Elphicke

Thomas Elphicke

Michael Fermer deceased, son

Elizabeth Fermer, daughter of Michael Fermer

Susan Fermer, daughter of Michael Fermer

Mary Fermer, daughter of Michael Fermer  
Mr Henry Rogers, minister of the parish  
Alice Thetcher  
Bridget Fermer alias Luxford, daughter-in-law, executor  
Mary Luxford, witness  
Joanne Elphicke, witness

#### Places

Lewes

#### Relevant Events

There is a burial entry at Lewes All Saints: 13 Nov 1604 “---- FARMOR”, Goodman.  
There is also a burial there on 14 Jul 1586 of “--- FARMER”, wife of William, gent” but no other FARMER or FERMER burials there and no baptisms (starts 1561).

Thomas Fermer may be the Thomas FARMORE who married Elizabeth COWPER on 30 Jun 1561 at Warbleton.

Bridget FERMER, widow of Lewes, and Thomas Luxford, yeoman of Wartling, obtained a marriage licence on 28 Aug 1604 (Archdeaconry of Lewes). Bridget was the widow of Thomas’s son, Michael.

Sylvester FARMER bap. 12 Dec 1574 at Warbleton, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth FARMER.

Thomas PECKAM of Mayfield married Silvestra FARMER of Wartling on 19 Nov 1599 at Herstmonceux. (Either the will or the marriage record has an error – will says George PECKAM)

Mary FERMER, spinster of All Saints Lewes, and Richard KIDDER, wheeler of the same parish, obtained a marriage licence on 29 Nov 1603 (Archdeaconry of Lewes).

#### **See also:**

Will for Michael FARMER, Michael Farmer of Wartling, proved 4 Jan 1600/01, Thomas’ son. (ESRO: PBT/1/1/11/72B)

#### Family Tree

See Tree 6. “*Descendants of Thomas Farmer (-1604) of Lewes*” in Chapter 1.

## 22. Deathbed Transfer of Alexander Farmer of Rotherfield, 1605/06

This is not a will, but it has a similar effect. It is known as a deathbed transfer and is a record of oral instructions given to representatives of the manorial court for the transfer of property where the person was unable to attend the next court session due to sickness and imminent death. It was a means by which copyhold/customary property (i.e. property beholden to the manor) could be transferred after death according to the wishes of the deceased. The Statute of Wills 1540 allowed freehold land owners the ability to determine who would inherit their property by permitting bequest by will (and if no will, following the laws of intestacy) but this did not apply to copyhold/customary property whose transfer/inheritance had to pass through the manorial court system and so protect the lord of the manor's rights and privileges (to fees etc.). In the absence of this deathbed transfer instruction, the transfer of the copyhold property after death would follow the custom of the manor with regards to inheritance. It later became possible to transfer copyhold/customary property via a will if, before death, the property was surrendered to the lord of the manor subject to a will. Then on death, the manorial court would transfer the property as instructed in the will, with the lord of the manor collecting a fine (fee) and a heriot (payment due to the lord on death, normally the deceased's best animal or payment to the value of). This system continued until copyhold/customary property started to become enfranchised (made freehold) in the 19th century onwards.

### Court of the manor of Rotherfield held Thursday 15 January 3 James I [1605/06].

At this court it is found that **Alexander Farmer** senior lying on his death bed since last Court, viz 4<sup>th</sup> day of this January, & out of Court by acceptance of **John Hosmer**, deputy bedell of the lord, & in the presence of **George Nynne alias Barber & William Alchorne**, two customary tenants of this manor, surrendered into the lord's hand all his customary lands & tenements of this manor as well assart as [well?] bondland, to the use of the said **Alexander** during his natural life & after his decease to the use of **Thomas Farmer**, his son & heir under condition that the said **Thomas** or his heirs should pay to **Margaret**, wife of the said **Alexander**, £20 lawful money of England within a year after his decease & to any of his daughters viz. **Frances, Mary & Elizabeth** £40 lawful money of England to each of them as reach the age of 21 years. And there falls to the lord a heriot a red coloured cow worth 50s. Therefore the bedell is charged etc. And first proclamation etc. And it is found that the said **Alexander Farmer** died on January 5<sup>th</sup>.

Source: Court Rolls of the manor of Rotherfield, Sussex, England, 1593-1606, Vol. 4 of handwritten translation of abstracts by Catherine Pullein c1928 (ESRO: PAR 465/26/1/4)

*(Geoffrey Barber, 12 Feb 2017)*

### NOTES:

#### People

Alexander Farmer, on his deathbed  
Margaret Farmer, wife  
Thomas Farmer, son  
Frances Farmer, daughter  
Mary Farmer, daughter  
Elizabeth Farmer, daughter  
John Hosmer, deputy bedell  
George Nynne alias Barber, customary tenant  
William Alchorne, customary tenant

### Places

Rotherfield

### Relevant Events

Alexander Farmer was buried 6 Jan 1605/06 at Rotherfield, East Sussex.

His first marriage was to Marian WOOD on 21 May 1582 at Rotherfield. They had children Thomas, Frances & Mary).

His second marriage was to Margaret JEFFERY on 18 Sep 1605 at Worth, Sussex. Their marriage licence, granted on 16 Sep 1605, states that Alexander is of Rotherfield and Margaret of Worth. One of the sponsors was Dominick MOUNGER, a tailor of Southover, Lewes.

For further information about deathbed transfers see:

Zvi Razi and Richard Smith (ed.), "Medieval Society and the Manor Court", (1996), Clarendon Press Oxford, Chapter 4: "The Development of Deathbed Transfers in Medieval English Manor Courts" by Lloyd Bonfield and L.R. Poos.

### **See also:**

Admon of Thomas Farmer, granted 22 Apr 1591, father of Alexander Farmer.

### Family Tree

See Tree 2. "*Descendants of Thomas Farmer (-c1529) including Robert Farmer*" in Chapter 1.

### 23. Will of Daniel Farmer, Yeoman of Rotherfield, 1621

(TNA: PROB 11/137/650)

Made: 19 May 1621

Proved: 10 July 1621

In the name of God Amen The sixth daye of Maye 1621 I **Daniell Farmer** of Retherfeild in the Countye of Sussex yeoman beinge sicke in bodye but of good and perfect memorye thanks be given unto God therefore doe ordaine and make this my last will and testament in manner and forme followinge ffirst I bequeathe my soule unto Allmightie God my maker trusting to be saved in and through my Saviour Jesus Christ by faith in him and noe other meanes and my bodie to the earth from whence it was taken and to be buried in some convenient place where it shall please my Executrix concerninge the disposinge of my lands Item my will and meaninge is that **Isabell** my wife shall have the same wth all profitts thereunto belonginge duringe her naturall life and after the deceasse of **Isabell** my said wife my will and meaninge is that **Elizabeth** my daughter shall have the said lands to her and her heires and for wante of heires of her body then I give the said lands unto **Alexander ffarmer** of Retherfeild gent and to his heires forever under the Condicons followinge Viz my will and meaninge is that he shall paye unto **Danyell ffarmer** sonne of **Joseph ffarmer** my cosen threescore pounds of lawfull money of England wthin one moneth nexte after the time that the land shall descend unto him And unto **George ffarmer** brother of the said **Danyell** tenn pounds of lawfull money of England to be paid unto him at the said tyme and unto **Dorothie ffarmer** sister unto the said **Daniell and George** ffive pounds of lawfull money of England Item my will and further meaninge is that my Cosen **Alexander ffarmer** shall pay unto **John Wood** of Eastgrinsteed twenty pounds of lawfull money of England And my further will and meaninge is that yf my daughter **Elizabeth** shalbe disposed to give unto her freinds twentye pounds amonge them then I further will that my said Cozen **Alexander ffarmer** shall pay the same at such time as before is expressed Item I give unto **Elizabeth Hills** my daughter Twenty pounds remayninge in the hands of **Thomas Newnham** of Mayfeild the wch said twentye pounds my will and meaninge is shall remaine in the hands of my Overseers hereafter named (if they cann receive it) to be putt out to the use of my said daughter and the profitt thereof arisinge to be paid unto my said daughter at such times as thinke fitt Item I give unto **Isabell Grinsted** my servant five shillings of lawfull money of England Item I give unto **Isabell** my Wife all my goods houshold stuffe Cattles and Chattles not before bequeathed whom I make my sole and onely executrix of my last will and testament And I doe ordaine and make my welbeloved freinds **Thomas Burges** of Retherfeild and **John Savage** of Mayfeild my Overseers to this my said last will and testament And I doe appointe my said Executrix to allowe unto them for their paines and Charges that which they shall lay out In wittnes whereof I hereunto sett my and seale Wittnesses hereunto **Thomas Burges Jon Savage Robte ffisher** his marke

Probate: 10th July 1621 to **Isabell Farmer** relict and executrix

*Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017 for Geoffrey Barber*

#### NOTES

##### People

Daniel Farmer, yeoman, testator

Isabell Farmer, wife

Elizabeth Hills, daughter

Alexander Farmer, gent, cousin

Danyell Farmer son of cousin Joseph Farmer

Joseph Farmer, cousin

George Farmer, son of cousin Joseph Farmer  
Dorothie Farmer, daughter of cousin Joseph Farmer  
John Wood of East Grinstead  
Thomas Newnham of Mayfield  
Isabell Grinsted, servant  
Thomas Burges of Rotherfield, friend  
John Savage of Mayfield, friend  
Thomas Burges, witness  
John Savage, witness  
Robert Fisher, witness

#### Places

Rotherfield

#### Relevant Events

Daniel Farmer was buried on 22 May 1621 at Rotherfield St Denys.

Daughter Elizabeth FARMER married Edward HILLES on 23 June 1597 at Rotherfield. (Sussex Marriage Index)

Joseph FARMER/FARMAR had children Daniel (1590), Jane (1592), George (1594) and Dorothy 1597/98) at Hurstmonceux, Sussex. Mother's name not given on any of the baptisms. (SFHG Baptism Index)

A Joseph FARMAR married Agnes DOWLEY on 8 Jan 1590/91 at Hurstmonceux. (Sussex Marriage Index)

A Joseph FARMER buried 26 Jan 1631 at Warbleton St Mary, "an old man". (SFHG Burial Index)

Daniel's parents are identified in the records of the Rotherfield manor court held 12 Dec 1558:

*At this court it is known that **Thomas Fermor** since last court surrendered into the lord's hand by acceptance of George Maynard, deputy bedell in presence of John Fermor & Stephen Chinting a cottage & 15 acres land upon Rotherfield Hill of assart, viz. to use of **Margaret Fermor** wife of the said **Thomas** for the term of her life to ....? From that person to **John Fermor son of Thomas** & his heirs under condition however that the said **Margaret** does not claim or sell any title, marriage dowry or jointure or other way ....? whatsoever after the age of 21 years of **Daniel Farmer** son of the said **Thomas** which the lord etc. fine 20d. See also "Will of Thomas Farmer of Rotherfield, 1559".*

In his will, Daniel Farmer appoints a cousin Alexander Farmer, gent, as a trustee, and Thomas Burges and John Savage as overseers. If this Alexander Farmer is the one born in 1571, then possibly Daniel's father Thomas Farmer (c1520-1558) is a brother of Alexander's father, Adam Farmer (c1540-1587).

#### See also:

Will of Thomas FARMER of Rotherfield, 1559, father of Daniel FARMER. (ESRO: PBT 1/1/4/308A)

Admon of George FARMER of Herstmonceux, 1625, cousin of Daniel FARMER. (ESRO: PBT 1/3/5/200A)

Family Tree

**Thomas Farmer**, b. c1520, bur. 6 Jun 1559 at Rotherfield, pro. 1559

+ **Margaret Woodgatt**, m. 22 Apr 1543 at Rotherfield

├── **John Farmer**, bap. 12 Jun 1547 at Rotherfield

├── **William Farmer**, b. c1550 at Rotherfield, bur. 20 Aug 1551 at Rotherfield

└── **Daniel Farmer**, b. c1552 at Rotherfield, bur. 22 May 1621 at Rotherfield, pro. 1621

+ **Isabell (--?--)**, b. c1560, m. c1575

└── **Elizabeth Farmer**, b. c1577

+ **Edward Hill**, m. 23 Jun 1597 at Rotherfield



## 24. Will of Nicholas Fermor of Waldron, 1621/22

(TNA: PROB 11/139/168)

Made: 27 Apr 1620 and 26 Jan 1621/22 (see note at end of will)

Proved: 13 Feb 1621/22

In the name of God amen: The seaven and twentieth daye of Aprill in the yeare of the Raigne of oure sovereign Lorde James by the grace of God of England Franncce & Ireland kinge defendor of the faithe &c the eightenth and of Scotland the three and fiftithe [1620] I **Nicholas Fermor** of Waldron in the Countye of Sussex gent in healthe and perfect remembrance (thanks be given to Allmightie God doe make and ordaine this my last will and testament in manner & forme followinge Firste I bequeathe my Soule to Allmightie God my Maker & by and through the deathe of Jesus Christe my only Savioure and Redeemer I hope to have remission of all my Synnes and to enioye the kingdome of God my heavenlye ^father^ And my body I comytte to the Earthe decentlye to be bu[-]ried in some Church or Churcheyard where it shall please God that I shall end my lyfe Item I will to the Poore people of that Parische where I shall happen to departe this lyfe Three poundes To be distributed to them at my Funerall Item I will and bequeathe unto **Katherine** my wief my two blacke heifers w[i]th white faces one Bedsted that standeth in the Kitchin Chamber in my howse in Clackham streete, one Featherbed, one Coverlett, one white Rugge, twoe Blancketts, twoe Bowlsters one payre of Pillowes, twoe payre of Pillowcoats eighte payre of Sheets p[ar]te of the best sorte and p[ar]te of the other sorte, sixe Tableclothes, p[ar]te of the best sorte and p[ar]te of the other sorte, one dosen of Table napkins one greate ioyned Cheste, one Chest of Bourdes that was her firste Hus[-]bands, one other Chest of Bourds, twoe Boxes of the best to laye Lynnen in, one little Brasse pott, one little brymde brasse Posnett Three doz[en] of Pewter p[ar]te of the best sorte and p[ar]te of the other sorte One Iron Kettle, one Spitt & other things, such as shee w[i]th some of my overseers shall thinke meete for hir to use towards her Howsekeepinge And whereas I have by my Deed indented grannted one annuytie of Seaven pounds yearlie to my sayd wief owte of my // Howse and Land in Clackham streete in Retherfield duringe her lief my will & mynde is yf yt please her that shee shall have the use and occupac[i]on of the sayd Howse and Landes in respect of her sayd Annuytie after my deceasse for her owne use to dwell in and occupie soe longe as shee shall keepe herself sole and unmarried uppon this condic[i]on that my sayd wief shall keepe the rep[ar]ac[i]ons of the sayd Howse, Barnes, Hedges, Ditches, Fences, and Inclosures as they are nowe kept and re[-]payred from tyme to tyme as often as neede shall requier And it shalbe lawfull for my sayd wief yearlie in seasonable tymes of the yeare to toppe and take three Cords or Wood of the topps of the Oakes groweinge uppon the sayd Lands and the sayd Woodes and Spraye that shall come of the sayd three Cords of Wood to spend it in the sayd Howse Item I give to my sayd wief Twelve poundes yearlie beinge the Rent of my Corne myll in Retherfield to be payde unto her soe longe as shee keepeth herself sole and unmarried halfe yearlie as the Rent shall growe due by my Lease letten to **William Cooke** of my sayd Mill Item I farther will & be[-]queathe to my sayd wief Twenty marcks in monye To be payde w[i]thin one moneth after my decease Provided allwayes that if my sayd wief shall clayme any Dower or Thirds oute of the Landes that I purchased of John Colvill lyenge and beinge in the Parrishe [of] Waldron And oute of the Howse and Landes that I purchased of **Edwarde Longley** lyenge & beinge in Retherfield that then shee shall loose & forfeyt all the Legacies before to her given and bequeathed And I will that my Executor shall paye her Fourtye shillings in full satisfacc[i]on of all the sayd Legacies within halfe a yeare after her sayd Clayme Item I alsoe give unto my said wief one graye nagge w[hi]ch shee useth to ryde on The saddle, brydle, and all other furniture belonginge to the same Item I give to **Walter Fermor** sonne of my sonne **Herb[er]t Fermor** and to his heires forev[er] my Howse and Landes in Clackh[a]m streete in the sayd p[ar]ishe of Retherfield after the decease of my sayd wief with all & singuler thappurtenances thereunto belonginge Item I will and bequeathe unto **Robert Cole[-]man** my wiefs sonne Eighte poundes to be payde w[i]thin one yeare next after my decease Item I give and bequeathe unto

**Walter Fermor** sonne of **Harbert Fermor** my sonne the Lease of my Watermyll in Retherfield w[i]th all com[m]odities thereunto belonginge after the decease of my sayd wief the yeares that then shalbe unexpired in the sayd myll And if it shall happen the sayd **Walter Fermor** to departe this lief w[i]thout heires male of his bodye lawfully begotte[n] Then my will is it shall remayne unto **Nicholas Fermor** his brother and to his heires dureinge the contynuanche of the sayd Lease Item I give & bequeathe unto the sayd **Walter Fermor and to Nicholas Fermor** his Brother To eith[e]r of them Fiftye poundes a peece To be payde w[i]thin one yeare next after my decease to my Overseers And to be by them putt oute to proffitte for the sayd Children untill they shall come to their severall ages of Fower and twenty yeares And then to be payde to them w[i]thin<sup>36</sup> the increase and proffitt that shall arryse thereof Item I give and bequeathe unto **Francis Leonard** my sonne in Lawe Twenty shillings to be payde w[i]thin one yeare next after my decease Item I will and bequeathe unto **Margaret** the daughter of **Herbert Fermor** my sonne the Somme of Fiftie poundes of lawfull monye of England To be payde to my Overseers w[i]th[in] one yeare next after my decease And to be putt oute to proffitte for the sayd **Margarett** towards her bringinge up to learninge And to be payde to her when shee shall come to the age of Fower and twenty yeares Item I will and bequeathe more unto ~~Catherine my wief the one halfe of one peece of Clothe that is nowe {awcaving at one} William Glasyers of Waldron aforesayd gent Item I will & bequeathe unto<sup>37</sup> // the wief Judith the wief of Francis Leonard my daughter) six yarde of the sayde Clothe to make hir a Petticoate and a Wasteoate And twenty shillings in mony Item I give and bequeathe unto ~~Philadelphie daughter of Francis Leonard my sonne in lawe~~ Item I give and bequeathe unto **Nicholas** the sonne of **Francis Leonard** my sonne in lawe all suche Goodes and Howshouldstuff as nowe is in or at my Howse in Waldron where the sayd **Francis** my Sonne in lawe nowe dwelleth Item I give and bequeathe unto **Dorothie** the wief of **Samuell Leasie** my daughter Twenty shillings of lawfull mony of England To be payde w[i]thin one yeare next after my decease The residue of all my Goodes and Chattells not before given and bequeathed (my debts and Funerall expenses beinge discharged and my Legacies well and iustlie payde and delivered accordinge to the trewe meaninge of this my will) I will and bequeathe unto **Harbert Fermor** my Sonne whome I make executor of this my last will and Testament And I doe verye kyndelye intreate my loveinge Cosyns **Mr John Frenche** of Chittingleigh my Cosyn **John Maynard** of Watlinge and my cosyn **Nicholas Stapley** of Chittinglye to be overseers of this my last Will and Testament And I will and bequeathe unto everie one of them Three poundes six shillings and eighte pence To be payd to them by my Executor w[i]thin six monethes next after my decease towards their paynes to be taken aboute the execu[ti]on of this my last Will and Testament Provided allwayes and my mynde and Will is that if my sayd sonne **Harbert Fermor** at any tyme after my decease shall goe aboute by any wayes or meanes or in any sorte or manner to alter this my present Will or to doe or procure or suffer to done<sup>38</sup> any acte or acts devise or devises w[h]ich shall or maye in any respecte frustrate make voyde alter or change this my sayd Will or any thinge or matter therein conteyned to that end intent and purpose that this my sayd will shall not in every respect take effect and be well and iustlie performed accordinge to my trewe meaninge That then and soe soone as he or they shall practize devise or goe aboute to frustrate and make voyde this my will as aforesaid Then my Will is that my sayd sonne **Herbert Fermor** shall forfeitt and loose the whole benefitt of this my last Will and of everie Legacye and benefytte therein conteyned & therof shalbe whollye excluded and debarred forever And I will that **Walter Fermor** sonne of my sayd sonne **Herbert Fermor** shall take and enjoye the whole benefitte of everie Legacie before given and bequeathed to my sonne **Herbert Fermor** afore[-]sayd And I will that my overseers or any twoe of them shall take the whole benefitt of everie Legacye before given unto my sayd Sonne **Herbert Fermor** to the use of the sayd **Walter Fermor** and his heires~~

<sup>36</sup> sic

<sup>37</sup> There are annotations in the margin here and against the deletions on the next page which read 'or[igina]li sic', i.e. the deletions are recorded as they appear in the original document.

<sup>38</sup> sic

forev[er] and to see him ^to be^ broughte up to learning untill he shall come to the age of one and twenty yeares And at his age of fower and twenty yeares to make him a reasonable accompte of suche Benefitts and proffitts as shall belonge unto him And I will that my overseers shall paye unto **Herbert Fermor** my sonne Fourtye shillings oute of the proffitts that shall come and belonge unto the sayd **Water**<sup>39</sup> **Fermor** by this my will w[ithin] one yeare after that the sayd **Herbert Fermor** shall foreytt his sayd Legacies as aforesayd in full sarisfacc[i]on of all his righte tytle and interest to all my Goodes and Chattells whatsoever **Nicholas Fermor** This is the last will and Testament of me the beforesayd **Nicholas Fermor** published, declared sealed and subscribed in presence of **Robert Coleman John Michell and William Byshoppe** the xxvith daye of Januarie anno D[omi]ni one thowsand six hundreth twenty one I **Nicholas Fermor** did reviewe this my will and have confirmed the same accordinge as it nowe standeth interlyned and at some place rased<sup>40</sup> In wittnes whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name in the p[rese]nce of **Robert Colman William Bishopp Richard Twyner** his marke. / **Nicholas Fermor** ./

Probate: London, 13<sup>th</sup> February 1621 (English style) by the oath of **Herbert Fermor**, son and executor.

*Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022 for Geoffrey Barber*

Note Regarding Dates: It will be obvious to the reader that the date at the start of the will (27<sup>th</sup> April 1620) differs from the date at the end of the will (26<sup>th</sup> January 1621/22). There may be a reason for this, other than a transcribers error (this being a copy of the original will) and the lines crossed out in the middle may give a clue. The date at the start of the will is one day after his granddaughter Philadelphia Leonard was buried at Rotherfield. The will must have been in preparation before she died for her name to be crossed out, so perhaps the will was set aside after her death and then completed at the date shown at the end of the will (26 Jan 1621/22), just a few days before he died.

## NOTES

### People

Nicholas Fermor, testator

Katherine Fermor, wife

William Cooke, tenant

John Colvill

Edward Longley

Herbert Fermor, son

Walter Fermor, son of Herbert Fermor

Nicholas Fermor, son of Herbert Fermor

Margaret Fermor, daughter of Herbert Fermor

Robert Coleman, son of Katherine Fermor (from her previous marriage)

Francis Leonard, son-in-law

Judith Leonard, daughter, wife of Francis

Nicholas Leonard, son of Francis Leonard

~~Philadelphia Leonard, daughter of Francis Leonard (deleted in will)~~

Samuel Leasie, son-in-law

Dorothy Leasie, daughter, wife of Samuel

John French of Chiddingly, cousin

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<sup>39</sup> sic

<sup>40</sup> erased?

Nicholas Stapley of Chiddingly, cousin  
John Maynard of Wartling, cousin  
John Michell, witness  
William Byshoppe, witness

#### Places

Rotherfield  
Clackham St, Rotherfield (now Clackhams Lane, Crowborough)  
[Corn] Mill, Rotherfield  
Waldron  
Chiddingly  
Wartling

#### Relevant Events

Nicholas Fermor was buried 31 Jan 1621/22 at Rotherfield St Denys (“gentleman”). He is a descendant of the FERMORS of Walsh/Walshes manor at Rotherfield, East Sussex. Catharine Pullein’s book has two chapters which provide much of the history of Walsh manor and its occupants.<sup>41</sup>

Pullein states in her book that Nicholas Fermor married a lady named Katherine Wood, the source not stated but previous paragraphs referred to a pedigree from a Visitation 1663-4.<sup>42</sup> The above will indicates that she was a widow when she married Nicholas Fermor, and that she had a son Robert Coleman, so perhaps Wood was her maiden name. This has not been confirmed as none of the relevant marriages have been found.

John MAYNARD, yeoman of Wartling, married Frances FOWLE, spinster of Frant, at Frant on 26 Feb 1616/17. He would be a cousin to Nicholas through the FOWLE family (Nicholas’s mother was Elizabeth FOWLE).

Title: **Deed poll feoffment** (Latin)

Date: 2 Nov 1598

ESRO: SAS/AB/188

Description: John Tyndall, of Hellingly, yeoman, Richard Weller and Thomas Newenham, of Mayfield, yeoman, to **Nicholas Fermor**, of Rotherfield

1 messuage at Clackham Street in Rotherfield

2 cottage, barn, garden, and 2 piece of land with lane adjacent, one of which is called Smalhouse Mead and the other the Strake (6 acres)

3 2 pieces of land called the Homett and the Bresons (6 acres) in Rotherfield lying together at the highway (W: between Maynards Gate and Treblers Green; S: towards land called the Church Croft; E: land of Edward Lucke part of the manor of Hall; N and E: to meadow of Edward Chesman and garden of Jasper Alchorne

Recites deed of gift or feoffment (25 Feb 1597) from John Howell and John Lucke

At the Rotherfield manorial court held on 13 May 1623. Katherine transferred her rights to the two parcels of land called Sneighton, about 11 acres, of the ferling of Denners & Mallette to Herbert Fermor and his heirs.

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<sup>41</sup> Catharine Pullein, *Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors*, (1928), Chap. XXX, XXXI.

<sup>42</sup> Catharine Pullein, *Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors*, (1928), p. 359.

Family Tree

See Tree 1. “*Descendants of William Fermor (- 1540) of Walsh Manor*” in Chapter 1.

## 25. Will of Adam Farmer, Yeoman of Rotherfield, 1625

(TNA: Prob 11/147/571)

Made: 8 Sep 1625

Proved: 20 Dec 1625

In the name of God Amen The eight day of September one thousand six hundred twenty five I **Adam Farmer** of the parish of Retherfeild in the County of Sussex yeoman sick of body, but of good and perfect remembrance thanks be given unto almighty God ^doe make & ordaine this my last will & testament in wrightinge in mann[er] & forme following (vizt.) First I give & bequeathe my Soule to Almighty God^ my maker and redeemer, trusting in Jesus Christ to have free pardon and forgiveness of all my sinnes, and my body I bequeath to the earth and decently to be buried As touching my moveables I will it be in manner and forme as is hereafter expressed Item I give and bequeath unto old **William Alchine** one hundred pound to be paid unto him within one moneth after my decease by my Executors hereafter named. Item I give and bequeath unto **Avis Catt** my sister one hundred pound to be paid unto her within one moneth next after my decease. Item I give and bequeath unto **Joane Lockyer** one hundred pound to be paid unto her by my Executors. Item I give and bequeath unto **Silvester Hilland** the wife of **Thomas Hilland** one hundred pounce to be paid unto her by my Executors. Item I give and bequeath unto my godsonne **Adam Farmer** one hundred pound to be paid unto him by my Executors. Item I give and bequeath unto **Arthur Catt** one hundred pound to be paid unto him by my Executors. Item I give unto **Silvester Lucke, Katharine Lucke and Avis Lucke** one hundred poundes a peece, to be paid unto them by my Executors hereafter named. Item I give and bequeath unto **Thomas Locker** Fiftie pound, And I forgive him all such money as he oweth me. Item I give and bequeath unto my Godsonne **Thomas Barber** one hundred poundes to be paid unto him by my Executors hereafter named. Item I give and bequeath ^un^to my godso{n} **Adam Ashdowne** five poundes. Item I give and bequeath unto **Anne Ovenden** five pound This is the last will and Testament of me the said **Adam Farmer** made and declared the day and yeere above said, and all other former willes made by me I deny and acknowledge this to be [my] last will and Testament, which my hand and seale is to. As touching all the rest of my {move}[-]ables, my debtes being paid, my legacies before given discharged, I give unto **John Luc{ke} John Lockyer and Adam Catt** whome I make my Executors of this my last will, And I in {trust} // **Thomas Burgis and William Allchine** being present with me, to be my overseers and I give to **Thomas Burgis** five pound. In witnes whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seale in the pre[-]sence of these witnesses. And I have considered of the poore people of the parish of R{e}therfeild and I give unto them five poundes and I give unto my godsonne **Adam As{her}d** ten poundes And to all my godchildren ten shillings a peece that I have not given to in this my will, And as concerning the mending of porc[i]ons with interlyning it is done by my consent, and before the setting to of my hand and seale, as these witnesses can testifie./ The marke of **Adam Farmer**. witnesses **Thomas Burges. William Allchine.** The marke of **Nicholas Turner.**/

*Probate:*

1) London, 20<sup>th</sup> December 1625 by the oath of **John Luck** one of the executors to whom was granted administration etc. Power reserved for a similar grant to **John Lockyer and Adam Catt**, the other executors named in the will, when they request it.

2) 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1625 (English style) by the oath of **Adam Catt** another of the executors. Power reserved re **John Lockyer**.

3) 16<sup>th</sup> May 1626 by the oath of **John Lockyer**, also named as executor in the said will.

*Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022 for Geoffrey Barber*

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

## NOTES

### People

Adam Farmer, yeoman, testator  
 Old William Alchine [Alchorne]  
 Avis Catt, sister  
 Joane Lockyer  
 Silvester Hilland, wife of Thomas Hilland  
 Thomas Hilland  
 Adam Farmer, godson  
 Arthur Catt  
 Silvester Lucke  
 Katherine Lucke  
 Avis Lucke  
 Thomas Locker [Lockyer]  
 Thomas Barber, godson  
 Adam Ashdowne, godson  
 Anne Ovenden  
 John Lucke, joint executor  
 John Lockyer, joint executor  
 Adam Catt, joint executor  
 Thomas Burgis [Burgis], overseer  
 William Alchine [Alchorne], overseer  
 Adam As{her}d, godson  
 Nicholas Turner

### Places

Rotherfield

### Relevant Events

Adam FARMOR was baptised 8 Mar 1550/51 at Rotherfield St Denys, the son of John FARMOR and Odyan KENT.

It appears that he never married.

Adam was buried on 12 Sep 1625 at Rotherfield St Denys.

The Rotherfield manorial court records the death of Adam's father, John Farmer, at the court held on 22 Oct. 1 Eliz (1559) where the 8 year old Adam is admitted as heir (Pullein transcription page 38 of 78). Adam lives to be the only surviving son of John Farmer.

In John Nynne alias Barber's will proved in 1591, he appoints Adam Farmer an overseer in his will (ESRO: PBT 1/1/8/423D). Adam is almost certainly closely related to John Nynne alias Barber's wife Alice (nee Farmer). It is most likely that Alice is a sister to Adam's father John Farmer, who made the following bequest in his 1558 will:

*“Item I will to John Nyndes [Nynne's] ii children eche of them a wenlynge bullocke”*

In Adam's will above (1625) he leaves £100 to his godson, Thomas Barber.

**See also:**

Will of John Fermer of Rotherfield, made 13 Oct 1558, proved 20 Mar 1558/59. (Adam's father)

Will of Avice Catt, widow of Rotherfield, made 1 May 1633, proved 1 Mar 1634. (Adam's sister)

Family Tree

See Tree 2. "*Descendants of Thomas Farmer (-c1529) including Robert Farmer*" in Chapter 1.



## 26. Admon of George Farmer of Herstmonceux, 1625

(ESRO: PBT 1/3/5/200A)

Granted: 30 Apr 1625 (taken from ESRO catalogue)

[In LH margin] Farmer

[In RH margin] Warbleton Horsmonnsex

Eodem die<sup>43</sup>

Quo die mag[iste]r Joh[ann]es Chauntrell Presbiter Surrogatus etc  
Com[m]isit Administrac[i]o[n]em Bonorum etc d[omi]c[il]i defuncti Josepho  
Farmer patri n[atu]rali et l[egi]timo eiusdem defuncti de bene et  
fidel[ite]r administrando etc ad S[an]cta etc iurato Obligantur  
idem Josephus de Warbleton butcher et Thomas Beale de Lewes Joyner in \_ x<sup>li</sup>  
In[vento]rium est exhibitum extendens ad sum[m]am \_\_\_ iij<sup>li</sup> viij<sup>d</sup> iij<sup>d</sup>

*The same day*

*Which day Mr John Chauntrell priest, surrogate etc. committed administration of the goods etc. of the said deceased to **Joseph Farmer**, natural and legitimate father of the same deceased, well and faithfully etc. Sworn on the Holy etc. The said **Joseph** of Warbleton, butcher, and **Thomas Beale** of Lewes, joiner, being bound in the sum of £10.*

*Inventory exhibited amounting to the sum of £4 8s 3d*

*Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022 for Geoffrey Barber*

### NOTES

#### People

George Farmer, testator

Joseph Farmer of Warbleton, butcher, father

Thomas Beale of Lewes, joiner

#### Places

Herstmonceux

Warbleton

#### Relevant Events

Burial cannot be found.

He would appear to have not long been married: George FARMER married Ann GILMORE on 28 Feb 1622/23 at Hooe, Sussex.

#### See also:

Will of Daniel Farmer, Yeoman of Rotherfield, 1621, cousin of George Farmer. (TNA: PROB 11/137/650)

#### Family Tree

See Tree 3. “*Descendants of Joseph Farmer (c1560-1631)*” in Chapter 1.

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<sup>43</sup> Date not shown on the extracted image.

## 27. Admon of Walter Farmer of Rotherfield, 1631

(ESRO: PBT 1/3/6/108C)

Granted: 28 Dec 1631 (as per ESRO catalogue)

[*In LH margin*] Farmer / Compu[tacionem] reddidit 163{2}<sup>44</sup>

[*In RH margin*] Retherfield

Vicesimo octavo die Decembris pred[ictio]

Quo die mag[iste]r Will[iel]mus Inians Presbiter Surrogatus  
etc Com[m]isit Administrac[i]o[n]em Bonor[um] etc Walteri

Farmer nup[er] de Retherfield Celibis ab intestato

deceased Herberto Farmer Patri n[atu]rali et l[egi]timo

eiusdem defuncti de bene et fidel[ite]r administrando

etc ad s[anc]ta etc iurato. Obligantur idem herbertus

Farmer de Retherfield pred[ictum] yeoman et Rich[ard]us

Tull de Clivo iuxta Lewes locksmith in \_\_\_ Cc<sup>li</sup>

Et h[ab]ent ad In[vent]orium exh[ib]end Citra Festu[m] An[n]unciat[ionis] p[ro]x[imum]

In[vent]oriu[m] exhibitu[m] extendit ad sum[m]am \_\_\_ L<sup>li</sup> x<sup>s</sup>

[*In LH margin*] Farmer / Account submitted 163{2}

*The twenty eighth day of December aforesaid*

*Which day Mr William Inians, priest, surrogate etc., committed administration of the goods etc. of **Walter Farmer** formerly of Rotherfield single man deceased intestate to **Herbert Farmer** the natural and legitimate father of the said deceased, well and faithfully to administer etc. Sworn on the holy etc. The said **Herbert Farmer** of*

*Rotherfield aforesaid yeoman and **Richard Tull** of Cliffe by Lewes locksmith being bound in the sum of £200.*

*And they are to exhibit an inventory before the Feast of the Annunciation next to come.*

*Inventory exhibited to the total sum of £50 10s*

*Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022 for Geoffrey Barber*

### NOTES

#### People

Walter Farmer, deceased

Herbert Farmer of Rotherfield, yeoman, father

Richard Tull of Cliffe [Lewes], locksmith

#### Places

Rotherfield

Lewes, Cliffe

#### Relevant Events

Walter FERMOR buried 17 Nov 1631 at Rotherfield St Denys, “son of Herbert”.

#### See also:

Will of Nicholas Fermor, Gentleman of Waldron, 1621/22, grandfather of Walter Fermor. (TNA: PROB 11/139/168)

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<sup>44</sup> Year not shown on this extracted image. The final digit could be 1 or 2.

Family Tree

See Tree 1. “*Descendants of William Fermor (- 1540) of Walsh Manor*” in Chapter 1.

## 28. Will of Nicholas Fermor, Gentleman of Rotherfield, 1638

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/25/137A)

Made: 11 Jul 1638

Proved: 2 Aug 1638

Familysearch: Film: 1885823, Image: 399

In the name of god amen I **Nicholas Fermor** of Retherfeild in the Countie of Sussex gen[tleman] being sick of bodie but of good and p[er]fect memorie thanks be given to god doe this Eleventh daie of July in the Fourteenth yeare of the Raigne of our sov[er]eigne Lord Charles<sup>45</sup> by the grace of god kinge of England Scotland France and Ireland defender of the fait &c, make declare & ordeine this my last will & testament in manner & forme following Imprimis I give & bequeath my soule to god and my bodie I will to the earth with an assureance of a resurrection unto eternall life through the merritts of Jesus Christ my onlie saviour It[e]m I give unto my loveing mother **Marie Fermor** All my lease & leases of the Mill tenem[en]t & p[re]misses now late in thoccupac[i]on of **William Cooke** or his assignes in Retherfeild aforesaid and all my estate right and title of in & to the s[ai]d leases mill teneme[en]t & p[re]misses It[e]m I give devise & bequeath to my said loveing mother All other & the rest & residue of my goods Cattells Chattells legacies sume & sumes of monie to me due or owing or to me given or demised And I alsoe make my said loveing mother **marie Fermor** executrix of this my said last will & testament In Wittnes whereof I have hereunto sett my hand & seale the daie & yeare first above written

**Nicholas F{a}rmer**

Read sealed and delivered and published and declared to be the last will & testament of the said Nicholas Fermor in the p[re]sence of **William Catt & Anne Tayl{a}r** her marke

Probate: 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1638 to **Marie Fermor** mother and executrix of the deceased.

*Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022 for Geoffrey Barber*

### NOTES

#### People

Nicholas Fermor, testator  
Marie [Mary] Fermor, mother  
William Cooke, tenant  
William Catt, witness  
Anne Taylor, witness

#### Places

Rotherfield  
Mill, Rotherfield

#### Relevant Events

Nicholas Fermor was baptised 4 Oct 1618 at Rotherfield St Denys, son of Herbert and Mary Fermor.

He was buried 15 Jul 1638 at Rotherfield St Denys (age 19 years).

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<sup>45</sup> 1638

**See also:**

Will of Nicholas Fermor of Waldron, made 26 Jan 1621/22, proved 23 Feb 1621/22 (his grandfather). (TNA: PROB 11/139/168)

**Family Tree**

See Tree 1. “*Descendants of William Fermor (- 1540) of Walsb Manor*” in Chapter 1.

## 29. Will (Unregistered) of Adam Farmer, Yeoman of Rotherfield, 1642

(ESRO: PBT 1/3/7/281B)

Made: 7 Dec 1641

Proved: 2 May 1642

FamilySearch: Film: 1885592; Image no: 371-372

In the name of God Amen I **Adam Farmer** of Retherfeild in the County of Sussex yeoman being sicke in body but of sound & p[er]fect memory & understanding (thankes bee therefore given to Almighty God) doe make this my last will & testament in manner & forme following First & principally I bequeath my soule to God my creator that gave it hoping assure{dly} through the onely meritts of Jesus Christ my Saviour & redeemer to bee p[ar]taker of everlasting ioy & ahppines with his Saints in heaven And my body to the earth to bee there decently buried after the discretion of myne execu[to]r hereafter named And concerning such worldly goodes as it hath pleased God to bestowe upon mee I will & bequeath in manner & forme following vizt. Inprimis I will & bequeath unto **Adam Farmer** myne onely sonne my best fetherbed w[i]th the boulder blankettes & a new ^blue^ rugge & also the best stedle, w[i]th the matte [*deletion*] thereunto belonging Item I will unto the said **Adam** my sonne one dozen of pewter dishes & one ^great^ ioined chest standing at my beds foot & one other plaine chest & one dozen of table napkins two payer of pillowcoates six payer of sheets & one brasse kettle & one iron ^seething^ pott Item I will & bequeath unto **Margery** myne onely daughter my second best fetherbed w[i]th the boulder blankettes & one new coverlett six payer of sheets two payer of pillowcoates & one dozen of table napkins & one dozen of [*deletion*] pewter dishes & one iron pott one brasse kettle & one great brasse stuffnet & two ioined chests & one plaine one Item I will & bequeath unto the said **Margerie** my daughter one hundred poundes to bee paid unto her at her age of two & twenty yeares ^to bee levied & p[er]ceived out of my landes & tenem[en]ts^ & in case shee die before such age unmarried & w[i]thout issue of her body lawfully begotten then I will the said hundred poundes to my said sonne **Adam** Item of this my last will & testam[en]t I make & ordaine **Dennis** my wife sole executrix & to her I bequeath the residue of all my goods unbequeathed by this my last will. Item I bequeath unto the poore of the p[ar]ishe of Retherfeild the summe of ^forty^ [*deletion*] shillinges to bee distributed among them according to the discretion of my said executrix ^Item I will unto **Margery Dennet** my servant the summe of twenty shillings to bee paid her w[i]thin one yeare^ Item I desire **Symon Coe** my cosen to bee sup[er]visor of this my will & to assist my said executrix in the execu[ti]on thereof to whom for his paines therein I will the summe of ten shillings In wittnes whereof I have hereunto sett my hand & seale Dated this seaventh Day of December ^Anno D[omi]ni^ 1641

**Adam Farmer**

Sealed subscribed & published in the p[re]sence of Anthony Fowle Jnr Nichoolas Allchorne

Probate (overleaf): 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1642 by the oath of **Denise**<sup>46</sup> **Farmer** relict and executrix.

*Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022 for Geoffrey Barber*

### NOTES

#### People

Adam Farmer, yeoman, testator

Dennise Farmer, wife

Adam Farmer, only son

Margery Farmer, only daughter

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<sup>46</sup> Dionysia

Margery Dennet, servant  
Symon Coe, cousin  
Anthony Fowle junior, witness  
Nicholas Allchorne, witness

#### Places

Rotherfield

#### Relevant Events

Adam Farmer was baptised 14 Jun 1584 at Rotherfield St Denys, son of Adam Farmer and Margery Coe.

He married Denise Hodely on 20 Dec 1619 at Framfield. Their marriage licence, issued on 10 Dec 1619, states that Adam is a tailor and Denise a widow, both of Rotherfield.

Adam Farmer was buried 16 Dec 1641 at Rotherfield St Denys.

His wife Denise was buried 21 Oct 1647 at Rotherfield St Denys.

Adam Farmer's son (Adam Farmer) married Elizabeth Streatfield c1653. The marriage is not in Sussex Marriage Index but intention to marry is recorded in the Rotherfield manorial records, court held 4 Nov 1652. Elizabeth is noted as daughter of Robert Streatfield. Robert is documented in the 1673 will of his brother, William Streatfield, Mercer of Rotherfield, as being of Westerham, Kent. Adam and Elizabeth disappear from Sussex and may have moved to Kent to the Westerham or Edenbridge area.

#### Family Tree

See Tree 5. "*Descendants of Adam Farmer, the Weaver (- 1587)*" in Chapter 1.

### 30. Will of Adam Farmer, Mason of Rotherfield, 1647

(TNA: PROB 11/199/339)

Made: 6 Oct 1646

Proved: 12 Feb 1646/47

In the name of God Amen The sixth day of October in the Two and Twentieth yeare of the raigne of our Sovereigne Lord Charles by the grace of god kinge of England Scotland France and Ireland defender of the Faith &c Anno[que] dom[ino] One Thousand Six hundred Fortie {&} sixe I **Adam Farmer** of Rotherffeild in the Countie of Sussex Mason beinge sicke in bodie but of good and perfecte minde and memorie I praise Almightye God therefore doe make and ordaine this my last will and Testament in manner and forme followinge First I will and bequeath my Soule unto Almightye God my Creator and maker, and to Jesus Christ his onelie Sonne my redeemer trustinge in his meritts death and passion to have forgiveness of all my Sinns, and to enioye everlastinge happines in the world to come And my bodie to the earth from whence itt came To bee buried in the Parishe Churchyard of Rotherffeild abovesaid Item I doe give and bequeath unto **Anthony Carret** Sonne of **William Carrett** and **Anne** his wife my Sister six poundes of lawfull money of England To bee paid unto him when hee shall accomlishe his age of one and Twentie yeares and the benefitt and profitt of the said money shall bee and remaine to the use of my mother for her mainten[a]nce as longe as shee liveth and my minde and will is That after the decease of my said mother the said Six Poundes shall bee putt out to the best use and profitt that itt maie for my said kinsman **Anthony Carrett**, & to bee paid unto him, when hee shall accomlishe his age of one and Twenty yeares, And if itt shall please God That hee die before that age of one and Twentie yeares Then my minde and will is, That the Survivinge Brothers and Sisters of the said **Anthony Carrett** Sonne of **William Carrett** shall have the said six Poundes with the use and benefitt of the same equallie devided betweene them, and to bee paid unto them att their severall ages of one and Twentie yeares Item I doe give and bequeath unto **Edward Do{w}ner** Sonne of **John Downer**, and **Elizabeth** my Sister six Poundes of lawfull money of England To bee paid unto him, when hee shall accomlishe his age of one and Twentie yeares, and the benefitt and p[ro]fitt of the said money shall bee and remain {e} To the use of my mother for her mainten[a]nce as longe as shee liveth And my minde and will is That after the decease of my said mother the said six Poundes shall be putt out to the best use and profitt that itt maie for my said kinsman **Edward // Downer** and to be paid unto him, when hee shall accomlishe his age of one and Twentie yeares And if itt shall please God that hee die before that age of one and Twentie yeares Then my minde and will is, That the survivinge Brothers and Sisters of the said **Edwarde Downer** Sonne of **John Downer** and **Elizabeth** my Sister shall have the said six Poundes with the use and benefitte of the same equallie devided between them, and to bee paid unto them att their severall ages of one and Twentie yeares Item I doe give and bequeath unto **John Clarke** sonne of **Thomas Clarke**, and **Barbara** his wife six Poundes of lawfull money of England To bee paid unto him when hee shall accomlishe his age of one and twentie yeares and the benefitt and profitt of the said money shall bee and remaine unto the use of my mother for her mainten[a]nce soe longe as she liveth, And my minde and will is That after the decease of my said mother The said six Poundes shall bee putt out To the best use and profitt that itt maie for my said kinsman **John Clarke** and to bee paid unto him when hee shall accomlishe his Age of one and twentie yeares And if itt shall please god That hee die before that age of one and Twentie yeares Then my minde and will is That the Survivinge Brothers and Sisters of **John Clarke** shall have the said Six Pounds with the use and benefitt of the same equallie *[deletion]* devided betweene them, and To be paid unto them att their severall Ages of one and twentie yeares Item I doe give and bequeath unto **Margerie Roots** the wife of **James Rootes** my Sister Twentie Shillings in money To bee paid unto her within three monethes next after my decease if itt bee dema {n}nded Item I doe give and bequeath unto **Joane Bridger** the wife of **Edward Bridger** my Sister twenty shillings in money To bee paid unto her within three monethes next after my decease Item I doe give and bequeath unto **Elizabeth**



**Downer** my Sister the wife of **John Downer** twelve pence in money To bee paid unto her presentlie after my decease Item I doe give unto **Ann Carrett** my Sister the wife [of] **William Carrett** Twelve pence in money To bee distributed and paid unto her presentlie after my decease All the rest of my mooveable goods, my debts and legacies herein given and bequeathed beinge paid, and my funerall expences being discharged I doe give and bequeath unto **Frances Farmer** my mother whome I doe make my whole and sole Execut[rix] of this my last will and Testament And I doe renounce, and revoake all other former will intents and Purposes whatsoever And I doe entreate my trustie and welbeloved freinds in Christ **Isaac Alchorne Jun[ior]** of Retherffeild in the Countie of Sussex Yeoman and **Nicholas Alchorne** of Retherffeild aforesaid Blacksmith to bee my Overseers of this my last will and Testament desiringe ^of^ them for Gods sake That they will bee carefull to guide my Execut[rix]<sup>47</sup> the best waie they can in the performance of this my last will and Testament And I [doe]<sup>48</sup> give unto either of them Two Shillings and six pence a peece over and above all their charges expences and travell beinge to bee paid by my Execut[or] In wittnes whereof I the said **Adam Farmer** have heard this my last will and Testament read and doe publishe the same to bee my last will and testament In the presence ^of us^ whose names are hereunder subscribed, and have hereunto sett my hand and Seale in Con[-]firmation whereof written in two Sheetes of Paper the daie and yeare ^first^ above written **Adam Farmer** Signed, sealed, published and declared To bee the last will & Testam[en]t of **Adam Farmer** in the presence of us **Roberte Stre[?]fild Roberte Tyndale** script[or]

*Probate: London, 12<sup>th</sup> February 1646 (English style) by the oath of **Frances Farmer** mother of the said deceased and executor named in the said will, to whom was committed the administration etc.*

*Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 for Geoffrey Barber*

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

## NOTES

### People

Adam Farmer, mason, testator  
Frances Farmer, mother  
Anthony Carrett, son of William & Anne  
William Carrett  
Anne Carrett, sister, wife of William Carrett  
Edward Downer, son of John & Elizabeth  
John Downer  
Elizabeth Downer, sister, wife of John Downer  
John Clarke, son of Thomas & Barbara  
Thomas Clarke  
Barbara Clarke, wife of Thomas Clarke  
Margerie Rootes, sister, wife of James Rootes  
James Rootes

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<sup>47</sup> End of word obliterated

<sup>48</sup> Illegible but assumed from the context

Joan Bridger, sister, wife of Edward Bridger  
Edward Bridger  
Isaac Alchorne junior, yeoman, overseer  
Nicholas Alchorne, blacksmith, overseer  
Robert Streatfield, witness  
Robert Tyndale, witness, sriptor

#### Places

Rotherfield

#### Relevant Events

Adam Farmer was buried 3 Nov 1646 at Rotherfield St Denys.

Adam Farmer was baptised 13 Sep 1618 at Rotherfield St Denys, son of Steven Farmer and Frances Clercke.

He never married.

#### Family Tree

See Tree 4. “*Descendants of Edward Farmer (died before 1539)*” in Chapter 1.

### 31. Will of Alexander Fermor of Rotherfield, 1662/63

(TNA: PROB 11/310/438)

Made: 18 Dec 1662

Proved: 20 Mar 1662/633

In the Name of God Amen The Eighteenth day of December in the fowerteenth yere of the Raigne of our Sovereigne Lord Charles the Second [...] And in the yere of our Lord god one Thousand Six Hundred sixty two I **Alexander Fermor** of the parish of Retherfield in the County of Sussex esquire being sicke in body but of // good and perfect memory thankes be to Almighty god and calling to remem[-]brance the uncertaine estate of this transitory life and that all flesh must yeild unto death when it shall please god to call doe make constitute ordaine and declare this my last will and Testament in manner and forme following revoking & annulling by theis presents all and every testament and testaments will & wills heretofore by me made [...] And first being penitent and sorry from the bottome of my heart for my sinnes past most humbly desiring forgiveness for the same I give and committ my soule unto Al[-]might god my Saviour and Redeemer [...] And my body to bee decently buried without any {wayne}<sup>49</sup> pompe or state by mourning of otherwise in the middle Space of Retherfield Church six foote deepe under the greate blewish marble stone where many of my ancestors and predecessors have bin formerly buried according to the rights and ceremonies of the protestant Church of England with the booke of common prayer whereof I am a member And now for setting of my temporall estate and such goods Chattells and debts as it hath pleased god favor above my defects to bestowe uppon me / I doe order give and dispose the same in manner and forme following That is to say First I will that all those debts and duties as I owe in right or <sup>in</sup> conscience to any manner of person or persons whatsoever shalbe well and truely contented and paid or ordayned to be paid within convenient tyme after my decease by my executor hereafter named To whome I give and bequeath the rest and residue of my goods Chattells money debts oweing me Jewells leases and plate whatsoever unbequeathed in this my will and testament My debts Legacies and funerall Charges being first truely paid performed delivered & discharged I fully and wholly give and bequeath unto my now only sonne & heire **William Fermor** whome I doe appointe constitute and ordaine to be executor of this my last will and testament Item I give and bequeath unto my said two daughters **Mary** and **Margarett Fermor** soe much houshold stuffe of myne at or in Walshes house to furnish them a chamber to the full and true value of one hundred markes of lawfull money of England of what kinde or nature soever they please To have the same of as it shall be indifferently and did[-]creetly apprized by the apprizers of my goods after my death And by the iudgement approbac[i]on and advise of the overseers of this my last will & Testament surely and willingly without the denyall murmuring of gayne[-]saying of the executor or executors of this my last will and testament to bee delivered them within one quarter of a yere or sooner if possible the same may bee with conveniency done next after my decease by my executor without imbeazeling or grumbling thereat And I desire the same may continue remaine and stand and be in my said house after a duplicate thereof is made till conve[-]niently they can transport and carry the same away elsewhere or any other trunks wearing apparill plate or goods of their owne formerly given by me or their mother my deare and welbeloved wife or of any other goods or lynnens given or to be given them or my **daughter Lappe** by this my last will and testament according to my sonnes many former p{r}omises made to me to the effect of all above said Item I give and bequeath to my three daughters **Elizabeth** the wife of **Walter Lappe** Cittizen and mercer of London, **Mary Fermor** and **Margarett Fermor** // aforesaid all and every parcell of my lynnens whatsoever fine or course as sheetes pillow[-]beers cubbord clothes Table clothes napkins towells shirts neckeclothes bands Cuffes Childebed lynnens my dammaske mantle and other mantles to be equally devided betweene them three my said daughters (except my two best suites of table dyaper and damaske with all the

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<sup>49</sup> This word doesn't appear in the Ancestry copy of the will.

napkins Towells and Cubbord clothes sutable belonging to the same su<sup>{i}</sup>tes which I give and bequeath to my grandchilde **Alexander Fermor**, to be delivered to my three daughters to be laid up by them carefully without usage or imbeazling to the sole use and benefitt of the said Alexander to be delivered to him by them or the survivours of them at his age of twenty and one yeares Item I give and bequeath to my daughter **Marie Fermor** for the care and paynes shee hath taken with mee in thro my late sicknes my pockett watch if I doe not deliver and and<sup>50</sup> give the same to her in my lyfe tyme Item I give and bequeath unto my grandchilde **Alexander Fermor** my greate best guilte baskett hilted Sword with the greate buffe Belte and my best Turkish Semiter hanger with the buffe girde buckled with silver buckles w[i]th the appurtenances belonging to the same Item I give and bequeath to my now five household servants if they live with me at the tyme of my death to each of them tenn{e} shillings a peece to be paid them w[hi]ch are of age within one yere next after my decease And to them w[hi]ch are not of age at their severall ages of one and twenty yeares Item I give fiftie shillings to the poore people of the parrish of Retherfield which received dole money of **Mr Large** and my Selfe at or before this Christmas now coming according to the proporc[i]on they severally then received And the remainder thereof to be distributed amongst others of the poore that then received noe dole money which said fiftie shillings I will shalbe delivered by my executor to **Mr Large** and the over[-]seers of the poore of Rether<sup>^</sup>field<sup>^</sup> to bee by them distributed and paid with one yere next after my decease Item I give and bequeath to my executor my best gold ring with my Cote of Armes engraven thereon Alsoe I give & bequeath to my welbeloved brother **Anthony Fowle** esquire my ring of gould given me by my sister **Anne Barlowe** widdowe Alsoe I give and bequeath my ring with a Toadstone thereon sett to my true friend **Mr John Large** of Retherfield Minister Item I give and bequeath to my loveing sonne in Lawe **Mr Walter Lappe** my wedding round Ring desireing that my sonne **Lappe** will after his death and after the new melting and moulding thereof suffer the same ring to come be and remaine to his sonne **Alexander Lappe** my god[-]sonne Item I earnestly desire and as much as in me lyeth appointe & nominate my said loving brother **Anthony Fowle** esquire my said true friend **Mr John Large** and my said Loving sonne in lawe **Mr Walter Lappe** to be over[-]seers of this my last will and testament and to be at the apprizing of all my goods and chattells nowe in the house and upon the ground when they shall be apprized and Inventaries by some discrete and Judicious neighbo {rs} w[hi]ch I desire may be within a quarter of a yere next after my decease Item I desire my welbeloved sonne **William Fermor** my executor my said three daughters and grand[-]childe **Alexander Fermor** to be ordered guided and directed by my said overseers and the survivors or survivor of them concerning anything in this my will according to the discrec[i]on direction and advise of my said overseers That there may aryse noe sute in lawe trouble or m{a}llefac[i]on among them And if any sutes or differences in lawe or otherwise (w[hi]ch god forbid) should aryse betwixt them or any of them That then the same be agreed arbitrated and decided by my said overseers [...] remembering our Saviour Christs legacie and will to his disciples I will that yee love one another Item whereas there is two coppices of myne to be felled this winter in Fordbrooke Farmes and Inch Reedlands by **Nicholas Ongley** and his partners called // The Lodge field wood and Ford brooke Coppice together with underwoods and alsoe the underwoods now upon the said farme to be cutt in the next winter 1663 And in the Spring following I will order and appoint that all sommes of money as they shall growe due from them or any of them for the said woods and under[-]woods and for the Brush and Spray ariseing out of all the said woods in both the said yeares and Springs shalbe paid to sold and received by my said executor for and towards the true payment of my debts legacies and other disbursments menc[i]oned or fitting to be paid in this my last will and testament And the monyes soe to be due and received for the same to be added and annexed to the Inven[-]tary of this my will and testament and my said executor to be answerable an accomptable for the same moneyes aswell as for any other foods or chattells whatsoever of myne which shall come to his custody and possession This is the last will and testament of me

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<sup>50</sup> sic

**Alexander Fermor** of Retherfield in the County of Sussex esquire concerning the disposing and selling of divers messuages lands and tenements not formerly selled and disposed of by me lying in the parrishes of Retherfield Mayfield and Buxted in the Countie of Sussex First I give and bequeath grannt and confirme to my welbeloved and well deserving daughters **Mary Fermor** and **Margarett Fermor** and to their heirs forever All that my Capitall Messuage and Tenement lying in the parrish of Mayfield aforesaid called or known by the name of Hunts [...] And alsoe all the buildings barnes Stables gardens Orchards and Courts Closes and backsides with Thappurtenances to the said messuage or tenement adioyning or belonging or therewith all letten used or enjoyed And alsoe all those severall peeces or parcells of land meadowe pasture and woodground with thappurtenances to the said messuage or tenement belonging [...] called or knowne by the names of the two acres the kitchin field the hay Lodge field the meadow the broad[-]field the Popes the Motters Godwell Coggers Greves Sheepe Coates Hill & Pooke Lands al[ia]s Pooke Lane or by whatsoever other name or names [...] conteyning in all by estimac[i]on fower score and tenne acres be it more or lesse now in the occupac[i]on of **Henry Lord Loughborough** or of **Francis Eaton** gent or their [...] assignes And my will intent and meaning is that my wel[-]beloved friends **Mr John Houghton** and **John Newnham** yeoman of Mayfield now and formerly trustees in trust of all the lands abovesaid for me for the sole use and benefit of me and my heirs And for and to such uses and directions and appointment as I shall by my last will and testament lymitt order & directe And that alsoe my sonne **William Fermor** esquire according to his Covenants under his hand and seale doe within one year after the death of me **Alexander Fermor** Joyne with the said **Mr John Houghton** and **John Newnham** in one or more deeds of conveyance for the sure selling of all the lands aforesaid according to my desire intent and meaning In as full ample and large manner as learned Counsell shall advise and directe in upon and unto the said **Mary Fermor** and **Margarett Fermor** their heirs & assignes for ever To have and to hold the same [...] to them and their severall heirs severally by moyeties meets bounds and divisions & not by joynt tenancies [...] And if they have no heirs of their bodyes begotten then I desire them that they will suffer the same lands aforesaid to remaine come and discend to the right heires of the body begotten of **William Fermor** aforesaid my sonne namely to **Alexander Fermor** my grandsonne and to his heires forever Item my will and meaning is That my heires and executors deliver or cause to be delivered unto my said daughters **Mary** // and **Margarett Fermor** all the [*deeds and other documents*] which concerne the same And all Charters plotts and measurements of land Court Rolles [*etc.*] which is now in my Custody or shall come into the hands of my said executor at any tyme hereafter within three monethes next after my decease with the boxes wherein they now are or shalbe [...] which in any manner or wise concerne the said messuage or tenement and the Lands abovesaid [...] called Hunts aforesaid together with a true examined copy of this my last will and testament Item I give grante and confirme unto **Mary Fermor** my said daughter for her better maintenance and livelyhood dureing her naturall life one yearly rent charge of five pounds by the yeare of lawfull money of England [...] to be [...] paid to her out of all those my lands whatsoever lying in the parrish of Rether[-]field called [...] Inchereed lands and Foordgrooke Farme Lands with thappurtenances [...] now in the occupac[i]on of **Arthur Marchant** and **William Sparrowe** [...] To have and enjoy [...] the said yerely rent of five pounds [...] unto the said **Mary Fermor** and her assignes for and dureing the naturall life of the said **Mary Fermor** payable [...] uppon the feast dayes of thannunciac[i]on of the blessed virgin Saint Mary next ensuing the date of theis presents And the feast of Saint Michaell tharchangell [...] by even and equall porc[i]ons which shall first happen after the decease of me [...] or within thirty dayes next after eyther of the said Feasts at or in the principall Church porch of the Parrish Church of Retherfield [*right to enter the said property to distraine if payment not made*] [*Similar annuity of £5 to be paid to daughter Margarett out of the same property and under the same conditions*] // [...]

Item whereas I **Alexander Fermor** did eyther secundo, tertio, or quarto Regis Carolis primi or in one of them yeares surrender into the hands of the Lord or Lady of the Mannor of Framfield by the acceptance of the Steward or his deputy one parcell of bond Coppyhould land de virgata de

Greenhurst al[ia]s Grove[-]hurst (as I take it) one barne then thereupon newly built one orchard called the three acres with thappurtenances contayning by estimac[i]on six acres [...] And alsoe one building called a Forge thereupon likewise built withall and singuler the appurtenances usually called little Buxted forge to the use of me **Alexander Fermor** for and dureing the whole terme of my naturall life, and after my decease to such uses as in my last will & testament in writeing should be by me menc[i]oned and declared And for default of such declarac[i]on [...] to the use of the right heires of me [...] forever I doe hereby in order to the said Surren[-]der give confirme and grannte all the [*above copyhold property*] to **Alexander Fermor** my grandchilde the eldest sonne of **William Fermor** esquire now my only sonne and heire And if it will stand in law by the custome of the said Mannor and the Jurisdiction there[-]of [...] That then my will intent and meaning is And then I give bequeath confirme and grante All the said Coppyhold lands for want of heires males of the said **Alexander** my grandchilde [...] To my sonne **William Fermor** and his heires males forever Item I give and bequeath all the utensills Forge tooles Iron plates hammer Beame Wheelles scales weights whatsoever belonging to and with the said forge menc[i]oned and fixed in a Scedule to the forge Lease to the said **Alexander Fermor** [...] Item I give [...] to my said grandchilde **Alexander Fermor** [...] all those my Forge lands lyeing in the parish of Mayfield w[hi]ch I purchased of **William Bishop** gent and **Anne** his wife now in the occupac[i]on of **Nicholas** {??}ley<sup>51</sup> and for want of heires [...] to my Sonne **William Fermor** and his heires [...] Item I give [...] all other the Forge Lands parcell heretofore or now of Foordbrooke Farme or of // Inchreed lands together with the wayes through the same with the water Layes Ponds and all other com[m]odities and easements for the benefitt of the well[-]goeing of the said little Buxted Forge and the occupiers thereof together w[i]th one indenture of Lease made to **Nicholas Ongly** now the ymediate tennants of the said Coppiholde landes Forge house Coalehouse and cole places and all other the said Lands as aforesaid to them granted by the said Indenture yearly at the rent [...] of twenty seaven pounds per annum to my grandchild **Alexander Fermor** and his heires [...] with all easements com[m]odities and benefitts and for want of heires [...] to **William Fermor** my sonne [...] and I doe hereby [...] appoint my sonne **William Fermor** to re[-]ceave all the rents [...] dureing the minoritie of the said **Alexander** over and above the said allowance and paternall alimony of his father to him which I hope will bee in a most fitting manner as to his eldest sonne, and with the same rents and paternall allowance to educate nurture and bring up at free Schooles or other good private Schooles at one of the Universities Innes of Court in the profession of Divinity Physicke or common Lawes of theis Realmes as hee shalbe most fitting for in his capacitie [...] And for his better educac[i]on & to further him in a godly life and Studies I give and be[-]queath unto him the said **Alexander** my two best Bybles the one in English the other in Latine all my bookes of Divinity Physicke and Lawe And that hee may have some knowledge in other the liberall sciences I give and bequeath unto him all other my bookes and manuscripts excepting six of my best prayer bookes w[hi]ch I give to my three daughters and except my written booke in folio of Phisi[-]call and Surgery Receipts<sup>52</sup> which I will shall remaine and bee as in the first and second leafe thereof menc[i]oned for every one of my Children to have a Coppy to take out if they please And I will that a duplicate of all my said bookes to be made the one to be lefte with my said executors the other with one of my overseers or daughters to be carefully kept for my said grandchilde and the said bookes to be lefte with my executors to be delivered unto him as he shall want them in his minority without Lending spoyl[-]ing misusing or imbeazeling the same or any of them, to be delivered fully to him at his full age of twenty and one yeares Alsoe whereas I am willing to leave unto my said sonne and grandchilde **Alexander Fermor** a considerable estate to live by and maintaine himselfe in that rancke and quality I have bredd him, and my said grandchilde wherein I desire he should live after him soe I am willing to have my debts and legacies in the first place well and struel satis[-]fied and paid by him, Therefore I doe hereby give [...] to my said sonne **William Fermor** my executor for and towards the true and iust pay[-]ment of my debts First to

<sup>51</sup> Possibly Ongley.

<sup>52</sup> i.e. recipes

be paid and discharged out of the yerely rents & profitts of all my lands whatsoever not herein formerly disposed of called Inchreed Foordbrooke Farme Lands and the Coppice together with a small tenement in the occupac[i]on of **Robert Marchant** To have and to hold the said lands [*etc.*] dureing his naturall life with livery for liberty ^for him^ and his assignes to cutt down any tumber thereon for the necessarie repaying of any the messuages barnes and houses Bridges Cutts fludgates and Sluces thereon built whatsoever And after my debts soe payd & discharged // Then I give [...] after my sonne **William Fermors** death all the said lands aforesaid to my grandchilde **Alexander Fermor** and to his heirs [...] And for default of such heires [...] to my sonne **William** and his heires forever And my will and meaning is That the disposall of all the Lands to him and his sonne next above menc[i]oned shall not be preiudiciall or voyd to my two daughters **Mary** and **Margarett Fermor** concerning the Annuities given them [...] Neyther shall be priudiciall to my grandchilde **Alexander Fermor** [...] And lastly [*revokes former wills and confirms the present one*] And in further testimony hereof have to the same sett my greatest Seale And to every Sheete thereof sub[s]cribed my name being seaventeen sheets of paper the day and yeare first above written **Alexander Fermor** [...] in the presence of us **William Ovenden John Baker Thomas Snatt William Snatt John Dannton**

Probate: London, 20<sup>th</sup> March 1662 (English style) by the oath of **William Fermor**, son and executor.

*Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022 for Geoffrey Barber*

## NOTES

### People

Alexander Fermor, testator  
William Fermor, son  
Mary Fermor, daughter  
Margaret Fermor, daughter  
Elizabeth Lappe, daughter, wife of Walter Lappe  
Walter Lappe, son-in-law, Cittizen and mercer of London  
Alexander Lappe, godson  
Alexander Fermor, grandson  
Mr. John Large, Minister of Rotherfield  
Anthony Fowle, brother-in-law  
Anne Barlowe, widow, sister-in-law  
Nicholas Ongley  
Henry Lord Loughborrough  
Francis Eaton, gent  
Mr John Haughton, friend  
John Newnham, yeoman of Mayfield, friend  
Arthur Marchant, tenant  
William Sparrowe, tenant  
William Bishop, gent  
Anne Bishop, wife of William Bishop  
Nicholas Ongley, tenant  
Robert Marchant, tenant  
William Ovenden, witness  
John Baker, witness  
Thomas Snatt, witness  
William Snatt, witness  
John Dannton, witness

### Places

Rotherfield

Walshes, Rotherfield

Fordebrook, Rotherfield

Inchreed, Rotherfield

The Lodge, Rotherfield

Hunts, Mayfield

Greenhurst alias Grovehurst, Framfield

Buxted Forge

Forge Lands, Mayfield

### Relevant Events

Alexander Fermor was baptised 8 Jan 1598/99 at Hastings, son of William Fermor and Margaret Squier. He married Mary Fowle on 12 Jun 1617 at Rotherfield.

Alexander Fermor was buried 26 Feb 1662/63 at Rotherfield St Denys.

### Family Tree

See Tree 1. "*Descendants of William Fermor (- 1540) of Walsh Manor*" in Chapter 1.



## 32. Will of Margaret Farmer, Spinster of Rotherfield, 1684

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/36/162B)

Made: 22 Nov 1683

Proved: 6 Apr 1684

FamilySearch: 1885904, 524-525

*[NB Document damaged, with one large hole in the lower half of the page.]*

In the name of God Amen I **Margarett [Fe]rmor** of Rotherfield in the County of Sussex ^spinster^ being ~~of perfect~~ of perfect memory doe Constitute make & ordain this my last will & testament in manner & form followeing Hereby Declareing that I Resign my Soul into [the] Hands of Almighty God expecting salvation by & through the Merritt an[d] satisfaction of Jesus Christ alone my saviour & Redeemer My Body I desire may be decently buried in the Chancell of [the] Parish Church of Rotherfield at the discretion of my Executor herein & hereafter Named And for the wordly<sup>53</sup> estate which God hath been pleased to bless me withall I make this Disposall of all followeing

Imp[rimis] I give & bequeath to the Poor of the parish of Rotherfield afores[ai]d the sum of five pounds to be p[ai]d within one monthe next after my death by my Executor & to be distributed among them by the Minister & Churchwardens at their discretion

It[e]m I give to **Frances Fermor** my Neece only daughter of my brother **William Fermor** Esqr the sum of five pounds, to be payed unto her by my Executor hereafter named at such time as she shall accomplish the age of one & twenty yeares, or upon the day of her Marriage which shall first happen to be.

It[e]m I give to **Magarett Smith** daughter of **Richard Smith** being my Neece & Godaughter the sum of five pounds to be payd unto her by my Executor hereafter named, at such time as ^she^ shall have accomplished the age of one & twenty years or upon the day of her Marriage which of them times shall first happen to be & come

It[e]m I give & bequeath unto **James Fermor Charels Fermor & John Fermor** sons of my Brother **William Fermor** Esqr to each of them severally the sum of five pounds to be payd to each of them as they shall respectively accomplish the full age of one & twenty years by my Executor hereafter named & if any of them shall dye before they have [accomplished] the age of one & twenty years, then my will is, that the Legacy hereby given to such of them as shall soe dye {in their}<sup>54</sup> minority shall be equally divided among the survivors

It[e]m All the Remainder of my Goods, Chattells, debts bonds Mortgages & my whole estate whatsoever it be & in whose hand soever it be, & not herein & heretofore given & disposed of my debts, if I shall owe any at the time of my death, being first payd & my funerall Expences discharged I doe give & bequeath it all to my nephew **Henry Fermor** Eldest Sonn to my said Brother **William Fermor** By his present wife **Martha** my dearest Friend & Sister

It[e]m I doe make & constitute my loveing Friends **Humphry Fowle** of Rotherf{y}eld Esqr & **Thomas Porter** of Wadhurst in the County of Sussex Gentleman joyntly & severally the overseers of this my last will [&] testamen[t] And because my Executor herein Named is under age, I doe appoynt the sayd **Humphry Fowle & Thomas Porter** joyntly & severally to be Guardians [...]<sup>55</sup> unto my said Executor Henry Fermor, hereby desireing & empowering them after my death to see this [...] Executed, & to take into theyr hands my estate & [...] improve & imploy according to theyr discretion [...] [be]nefitt of my sayd Executor **Henry [F]ermor** & it {w}ith all the product thereof to pay to him when [...] [acc]omplish [the fu]ll age of one & twenty years

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<sup>53</sup> sic

<sup>54</sup> Obliterated by a tear in the page.

<sup>55</sup> The large hole starts here.

Lastly I doe hereby Revoke renounce & utterly [...] me formerly made whether by word of writing,  
And that [...] & Testament which under my hand & seal, This two & twentieth [...] Novem[ber]  
[...] {s}ignify & declare to be my last [...] & testament  
Signed, sealed, published & [de]clared by the Testator **Margaret Fermor** to be her last Will &  
Testament, in the p[re]sence of us

**Elizabeth Fowle**

**G Vinter**

**Anne Luxford**

[‘Fermor’ and a seal appear on the right hand side of the page. ]

Probatio dat. 6to Apri[li]s 1684

*Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2022 for Geoffrey Barber*

## NOTES

### People

Margaret Fermor, spinster, testator

William Fermor, brother

Frances Fermor, niece

Margaret Smith, daughter of Richard Smith, niece

Richard Smith

James Fermor, son of William Fermor

Charles Fermor, son of William Fermor

John Fermor, son of William Fermor

Henry Fermor, nephew, eldest son of William Fermor and Martha, executor

Martha Fermor, wife of William Fermor, mother of Henry

Humphry Fowle of Rotherfield, joint overseer

Thomas Porter of Wadhurst, joint overseer

Elizabeth Fowle, witness

G Vinter, witness

Anne Luxford, witness

### Places

Rotherfield

Wadhurst

### Relevant Events

Margaret Fermor was baptised 1 Jan 1639/40 at Rotherfield St Denys, daughter of Alexander Fermor and Mary Fowle.

Margaret Fermor was buried 23 Jan 1683/84 at Rotherfield St Denys, “gentlewoman”.

Richard Smith is the husband of Mary Fermor, sister of Margaret (see her brother William Fermor’s will, 1686).

### See also:

Will of Alexander Fermor of Rotherfield, 1662/63, Margaret’s father. (TNA: PROB 11/310/438)

Will of William Fermor of Rotherfield, 1686, Margaret’s brother. (ESRO: PBT 1/1/37/129)

### Family Tree

See Tree 1. “*Descendants of William Fermor (- 1540) of Walsb Manor*” in Chapter 1.

### **33. Will of William Fermor of Rotherfield, 1686**

(ESRO: PBT 1/1/37/129)

Made: 9 Aug 1684

Codicil: 4 Mar 1685

Probate: 26 Jun 1686 (date of probate supplied from the act book, ESRO: PBT 1/3/11 f14)

In the name of God Amen the Nineth day of August in the six & thirtieth year of the raigne of our Sovereigne Lord Charles the second by the grace of God of England Scotland Frances & Ireland King Defender of the faith etc Annoq Domini 1684 I **William Fermor** of Retherfeild in the County of Sussex Esqr being in good health & of sound mynd & memory (thanks being therefore given to Almighty God) & knowing the certainty of my death but the uncertaine tyme when doe therefore make this my last will & testament in writeing in manner & forme following First I give & bequeath my soule into the hands of Almighty God my Creator hoping assuredly to bee saved thorough the merits & passion of Jesus Christ my blessed Saviour & Redeemer & my body I comitt to the earth to bee decently buried And as for that reall estate wherewith it hath pleased God to blesse mee I doe hereby dispose of the same as followeth And first I give & devise all that my messuage or Tenement barne buildings & appurtenances thereunto belonging called Hosmers & now in the ocupacion of **John Alchorne & Nicholas Alchorne** or their assignes & all that peice or parcell of land called Pales Croft now in my owne ocupacion & all that peice or parcell of land called Walsh Reed & Mote Reed now in the ocupacion of **William Ovenden** or his assignes leading from **my dwelling house called Walshes** to Crowborough in Retherfeild aforesaid, unto **James Fermor** one of my younger sonnes & to the heires of his body to bee begotten & for want of such heires unto **Charles Fermor** one other of my younger sonnes & to the heires of his body lawfully to bee begotten & for want of such heires unto **John Fermor** one other of my younger sonnes & to the heires of his body lawfully to bee begotten And for want of such heires unto **William Fermor** my eldest son & to the heires of his body lawfully to bee begotten And for want of such heires unto **Frances Fermor** my daughter & to the heires of her body lawfully to bee begotten And for want of such heires To my right heires for ever Item Whereas in Trinity terme Anno Domini 1677 I leavyed one fine in the Court of Common Pleas at Westminster unto **William Dyke of Fant** in the said County Esqr & to **Henry Selby** of the Inner Temple Esqr & to their Heires of a Certaine messuage & lands called the Foord brooke lands & Each Reed [Inchreed] land the Lodgefeild wood & Foord brooke Coppice Wyland wood or Coppice the upper & lower Grey Bircketts the Mill Coppice with a forge house backside & lands parte of a forge lately bought of **William Byshop & Anne** his wife conteyning by estimacion one hundred & eighty acres more or lesse & are scituate lying & being in Retherfeild aforesaid & in Mayfeild & Buxted in the said County or in one of them to the use of mee & my heires And whereas I have suffered one Comon Recovery in the Court held for the Mannor of Framfeild in the said County of a parcell of Copsyhold land holden of the said Mannor called the three acres conteyning by estimacion six acres with a forge & a barne thereon built to the use of mee & my heires & made then & there a surrender thereof to the use of my last will & testament All which premisses are now in the severall tenures or ocupacions of mee **William Fermor** & of **Thomas Ongley & Richard Humphery** or their assignes And first of all I give & devise All that parte of Foord brooke & Each Reed [Inchreed] lands with the Messuage barnes & buildings ponds & waterlayes in the same with the appurtenances As also the Lodgefeild wood & Foord brooke Coppice now in my owne ocupacion & in the ocupacion of **Christopher Parker & Henry Baker** or their assignes unto the said **Charles Fermor** my sonne & to the heires of his body lawfully to bee begotten &

for want of such heires unto my said sonne **James Fermor** & to the heires of his body lawfully to bee begotten And for want of such heires unto my said sonne **John Fermor** & to the heires of his body lawfully to bee begotten And for want of such heires unto my said sonne **Henry Fermor** & to the heires of his body lawfully to bee begotten And for want of such heires unto my said sonne **William Fermor** & to the heires of his body lawfully to bee begotten And for want of such heires unto my said daughter **Frances Fermor** & to the heires of her body lawfully to bee begotten And for want of such heires to my right heires for ever Item I give & devise All that other parte of Foord brooke & Each Reed [Inchreed] lands the Upper & lower Grey Bircketts or the Mill Coppice the Wyland wood or Coppice the forge house & other the buildings thereon with the backside & that East end of little Buxted forge heretofore purchased by my father of one **William Byshop & Ann** his wife with thappurtenances & also all that piece of Coppyhold land conteyning by estimacion six acres with the forge called little Buxted forge & barne thereon built all which premisses are now in my owne occupacion & in the occupacion of **Thomas Ongly & Richard Humphery** or their assignes & are scituate & being in Retherfeild Buxted and Mayfield aforesaid to the said **John Fermor** my sonne & to the heires of his body lawfully to bee begotten & for want of such heires to the said **Charles Fermor** & to the heires of his body lawfully to bee begotten & for want of such heires to the said **James Fermor** & to the heires of his body lawfully to bee begotten And for want of such heires to the said **Henry Fermor** & to the heires of his body lawfully to bee begotten & for want of such heires to the said **William Fermor** & to the heires of his body lawfully to bee begotten & for want of such heires to the said **Frances Fermor** & to the heires of her body lawfully to bee begotten And for want of such heires to my right heires for ever Provided alwayes that my said sonne **Charles** my other said sonnes & daughter & their severall heires on whom that parte of Foord brooke & Each reed [Inchreed] lands now settled on my said sonne **Charles** in this my will shall descend & come shall allow to my said sonne **John Fermor** his heirs & assignes & to my other forenamed sonnes & daughter his her & their heires & assignes in like manner or free licence & authority of ingresses egresses & regresse to carry wood coales Iron or other materials & to goe or ride over & thorough the same in the usuall ways there And also to pen up water or draw water in the foord brook pond at any tyme or tymes for the benefitt of his forge called little Buxted forge soe as he or they or his or their tenants to the said forge doe keep & maynteyne the gates or barrs in the said ways & the bayes dams floodgates & sluces in the said Ford brooke pond with all needful & necessary reparacions Item I doe hereby give & devise All that my message or tenement with thappurtenances called Jarvises with the greate Mead & Uper Cony mead & lower Cony mead now or late in the occupacion of **Robert Baker** the tenement called Heywards als Haywoods close in myne & **Thomas Latters** occupacion with the smithes & Butchers shop thereon built The Sparrow land meade & that parte of my mannor of Walshes called the Sydshale farme conteyning foure peices of land late in occupacion of one **Thomas Snatt** Also one other parcell of my manner of Walshes called the Lottsmans farme with the fishponds woods Woodgrounds with a barne thereon built now or late in the occupacion of **John Ovenden** or his assignes And also one parcell of land divided into foure peices or parcells of my said mannor of Walshes called Eachdeans & the Ashetts now or late in my owne occupacion all which premisses are scituate & lying in Retherfeild aforesaid unto the said sonne **William Fermor** & to the heires males of his body lawfully to bee begotten And for want of such heires to the said **Henry Fermor** & to the heires males of his body lawfully to bee begotten And for want of such to the said **James Fermor** & to the heires males of his body lawfully to bee begotten And for want of such to the said **Charles Fermor** & to the heires males of his body lawfully to bee begotten And for want of such to the said **John Fermor** & to the heires males of

his body lawfully to bee begotten And for want of such to the said **Frances Fermor** & to the heires of her body lawfully to bee begotten And for want of such heires to my right heires for ever Upon this Condicion that my said sonne **William Fermor** his heires & assignes & all & every of my said sonnes next in remainder as aforesaid & all & every of their heires & assignes to whome the premisses next above lymitted shall descend & come shall pay unto the said **Frances Fermor** & her assignes during her natural life one Anuity or yearly rent chardge of Thirty & five pounds by the yeare yssuing & payeable out of the said premisses at the two most usuall feasts or termes in the yeare that is to say the feaste days of the Annunciacion of the blessed virgin Mary & St Michaell the Archangell by equall porcions The first payment thereof to begin & bee made on the first of the said feast days which shall next happen after my decease And I doe hereby will & appoint that if defalt of payment shall bee made It shall & may bee lawful to & or the said **Frances Fermor** & her assignes not the lands & premisses soe chardged to enter & the same to have hold & inioy untill the said Anuity or Rent chardge with the arrerages thereof if any bee unpaid together with her costs & chardges in the law bee fully satisfied & paid Provided always that if my said sonne **William Fermor** his heires or assignes or any of my said other sonnes or their respective heires or assignes to whom the premisses shall descend or come shall pay unto my said daughter **Frances** the summe of Three hundred & fifty pounds of lawfull money of England or that the messuages or tenements called the White harte als Whitehart Court at or neer the Grate in Turnmill streete shall descend & come to my said daughter by the death of my said sonne **William Fermor** That then this present Anuity or rent chardge shalbe voyd cease & determine to all intents & purposes whatsoever And I do hereby further will & appoint That if all my said sonnes & my said daughter shall happen to dye without heires of their bodyes whereby the lands & tenements hereby devised shall descend and come unto my sisters **Elizabeth now the wife of Walter Lapps Esqr** and **Mary now the wife of Richard Smith gent** or either of them or their or either of their heires That then my said sisters & their heires shall pay unto my loveing wife **Martha** the summe of Foure hundred pounds of lawful money of England within three moneths next after the said lands & premisses shall descend or come to them or either of them or to their or either of their heires And I doe hereby further will and appoint that if my said Sisters or either of them their or either of their heires shall refuse or neglect to pay the said foure hundred pounds to my said wife in manner aforesaid That then my said wife **Martha** & her assinges shall have hold & inioy all my said lands & tenements hereby given or devised for & during the terme of her naturall life Item I give to the poore of the parrish of Retherfeild aforesaid the summe of Forty shillings Item I give to my said sonne **William Fermor** six of my best physick books to bee chosen by himselfe one greate bible three other bookes of Divinity such as shalbee thought fit by my overssers the Workes of King James Littletons tenures with my Lord Cookes Comment on it Wingates Abridgement of the Statutes The Earle of Dorsetts & my Unkle **Henry Fermors** & **Grandfather Squires** pictures the plates and backs of Iron in my Chimneys at Walshes my Iron chest the tables in the hall & parlor there & all the hoppoles in my hop-gardens there & else where that are cut Item I give unto my said sonne **John Fermor** the working tooles & Colewaynes belonging to his forge All the rest of my goods chattells & personall estate whatsoever (my debts legacies & funerall expences being first paid & dischardged I give & devise unto my said loveing wife **Martha** whom I make sole Executrix of this my last will & testament & Guardian to all my said Children during their minorityes & to educate them & place them out to good trades & callings And I doe make **Charles Amherst** of Bayhall Esqr **Humphery Fowle** of Retherfeild Esqr & **Richard Isted** of Lewes gent Overseers of this my will And if any controversye shall happen to arise amongst any of my said Children about any matter or thing mencioned in this my will That then I doe order

& appoint such of my said Children between whome any such controversye shall soe arise to submit & refer themselves to my said overseers to determine the said matter between them And I doe hereby chardge & require them to stand to & abide such arbitracion as my said Overseers or the survivor of them shall make therein Item I doe will and appoint that my said sonne **William** shall pay out of the lands & tenements hereinbefore devised unto him unto my said other sonnes **Henry James Charles and John** att their severall & respective ages of one & twenty yeares the summe of One hundred & fifty pounds of lawfull money of England apeice that is to say to every one of them one hundred & fifty pounds And my further will & mind is that if my said sonne **Henry** (sic) shall refuse to pay unto my said other sonnes or any of them the said one hundred & fifty pounds each at their severall & respective ages That then it shall & may be lawfull to & for my said younger sonnes & every of them whose money shall remayne unpaid after the same shalbee come due & payable to enter into & upon all & singuler the lands tenements hereditaments & premisses hereinbefore devised to my said sonne **William** (Subiect neverthesse to the rent chardge of Thirty & five pounds per annum payeable to my said daughter **Frances**) & to receive & take the rents yssues & profitts thereof untill my said sonne **William** shall have paid or they shall have received out of the rents & profitts thereof their severall & respective summes of one hundred & fifty pounds a peice And my will & meaning is that in the first place the said Anuity or rent chardge shalbe paid to my said daughter & the residue of the rents & profitts of the said lands to bee equally devided amongst my said other younger sonnes untill they are paid their said severall summes of one hundred & fifty pounds each as aforesaid In witness whereof I have to every sheete hereof being five in number sett my hand and seale the day & yeare first abovewritten **Willm Fermor** Signed sealed and published in the presence of **Richard .....rd Robert Hammond junr Thomas Watton**

Bee it knowen That whereas I **William Fermor Esqr** made my last will & testament in writing bearing date the Ninth day of August in the six & thirtyeth yeare of the raigne of the late King Charles the Second That now for asmuch as I have changed my mind touching certaine things in the same last will conteyned And for & concerning All other things in the said last will mencioned (other than such as I shall not hereby otherwise dispose of) I doe by this present Codicill confirme & ratify the said last will And whereas by my said last will I did give and devise unto my eldest sonne **William Fermor** & to the heires males of his body with remainders over (amongst other lands) All that my message or tenement with thappurtenances called Jarvises with the greate mead & Upper Cony mead & lower Cony mead now or late in the ocupacion of **Robert Baker** The tenement called Heywards als Heywoods close in myne & **Thomas Latters** ocupacion with the Smithes & Butchers shops thereon built The Sparrow land mead And that parte of my mannor of Walshes called the Sydshale farme conteyning foure pieces of land late in the ocupacion of one **Thomas Snatt** my will now is & I doe hereby give & devise unto my sonne **James Fermor** & to the heires males of his body with the same remainders over as I have lymitted & intayled other lands given unto him in & by said will All & singuler the messuages or tenements barnes buildings lands tenements hereditaments & premisses above perticulerly mencioned & expressed subiect nevertheless & shalbee lyable to make good the yearly rent chardge or annuity of thirty & five pounds given unto my daughter **Frances Fermor** for her life in & by my said will And my will is That this Codicill or schedule bee & bee adiudged & taken to bee parcell of my last will & shalbe affixed to my said last will In witness whereof I have hereunto sett my hand & seale the fourth day of March in the yeare of our Lord One thousand six hundred Eighty & five **Willm Fermor** Signed sealed and published in the presence of **William Palmar Thomas Shelley Ann Burges**

According to the Keep catalogue this will was proved 26 June 1686.

*Transcribed by Rosie Ansell December 2020.*

## **NOTES**

### People

William Fermor Esq., testator  
Martha Fermor, wife  
John Alchorne  
Nicholas Alchorne  
William Ovenden  
William Fermor, son  
Henry Fermor, son  
James Fermor, son  
Charles Fermor, son  
John Fermor, son  
Frances Fermor, daughter  
William Dyke of Frant  
Henry Selby  
William Byshop  
Anne Byshop, wife of William  
Thomas Ongley  
Richard Humphery  
Christopher Parker  
Henry Baker  
Robert Baker, tenant  
Thomas Latter, tenant  
Thomas Snatt, tenant  
John Ovenden, tenant  
Elizabeth Lapps, wife of Walter Lapps Esq., sister  
Walter Lapps Esq.  
Mary Smith, wife of Richard Smith, sister  
Richard Smith, gent  
Henry Fermor, uncle  
Grandfather Squires  
Charles Amherst of Bayhall Esq., overseer  
Humphery Fowle of Rotherfield Esq., overseer  
Richard Isted of Lewes, gent, overseer  
Robert Hammond junr, witness  
Thomas Watton, witness  
William Palmar, witness  
Thomas Shelley, witness  
Ann Burges, witness

### Places

Rotherfield  
Manor of Walsh, Rotherfield  
Foord Brook, Rotherfield  
Lodgefield Wood, Rotherfield

Inchreed, Rotherfield  
Hosmers, Rotherfield  
Jarvises, Rotherfield  
Upper Cony mead, Rotherfield  
Lower Cony mead, Rotherfield  
Heywoods, Rotherfield  
Sparrowland mead, Rotherfield  
Sydshale farm, Rotherfield  
Whitehart Court, Rotherfield  
Lottsmans Farm, Rotherfield  
Inchdeans, Rotherfield  
Ashetts, Rotherfield  
Little Buxted Forge, Rotherfield  
Grey Bircketts, Rotherfield  
Mill Coppice, Rotherfield  
Wyland wood, Rotherfield  
Pales Croft, Rotherfield  
Walsh Reed, Rotherfield  
Mote Reed, Rotherfield

#### Relevant Events

William Fermor was baptized 24 Feb 1624/25 at Rotherfield St Denys son of Alexander Fermor and Mary Fowle.

William was buried on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1686. The following inscription is recorded on William's iron gravestone inside Rotherfield St Denys:<sup>56</sup>

*Beneath resteth William the son of Alexander Fermor, Esq. of Walsh als Walsbes, by Mary daughr of Anthony Fowle Esq. of this parish. He had three wives. Mary Pickering, Margaret Buck and Martha Thomas. By the First he had one Son Alexander, by the Second He had William, Anthony and a daughter Frances. By the last He had Henry, James, Charles and John. He was born 1624 and Dyed 1686.*

The Fermors of Walsh Manor are discussed in detail in Catharine Pullein's book "Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors", Chapter XXX and XXXI.

#### Family Tree

See Tree 1. "Descendants of William Fermor (- 1540) of Walsh Manor" in Chapter 1.

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<sup>56</sup> Catharine Pullein, *Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors*, (1928), p. 363.



## Chapter 3 - Other Related Wills and Documents

### 34. Grant – Adam Fermer 1547 (Latin)

(ESRO: DYK 377)

20 January 1547

[Sciunt pres]entes et futuri qd ego **Adam ffermer** de Rotherfeld in Com Sussex yoman Dedi Concessi et hac psenti [carta mea] confirmam **Robto ffermer** et **Johi Staple** omne[s?] illae terrae meae ad[m] vico iacen in pochia de Rotherfeld ... pdca ad ...am stratam ducentem inter Skuttylcroche et mancoem vocat Sherreffs [in] sue boream ad tr[o] ... **Johis Ferm** [vocat] Archrede in sue Austr ad stratam ducen a Rotherfeld [usque?] orgarshyll et ad unam pecia [illegible] vocat Cukkam [in] suo Austr et occiden et ad [tre di] Ade vocat Bondmede et Clayton ... Austr et orien et ad [quidam] venella ducent in trs voc Clayton in sue orien pnt mete et bund[s] ... [undique] d??dunt et restunt Continen in toto p estimac quadraginta septem acrs terrs lib [om(n)e?] ??? ... tenend pdcas terr libas [cu?] ?ibus suis ptnd pfatis **Rbts et Johi Sta[ple]** ... Cap dmo ffeodi ill p fine inde debite et de iure Consueta Et ego ... vero ... terrs cu[m] ptin pfatis **Rbto et Johi Staple** hered et assign ... [illeg.] gente ... bi[m] ? impptin p presentes Et Insup St[?]atis me pdcm **Ad[am ffermer]** ordina[ss]o... locog meo p ... ect ?? in ppo **Willm Sawyer et Georgiu Maynd** meo[s] veros et legitimos [attonat] Conimitti et dimisi ad [intend] vi?e et [usie mea] in pdicts terr cu ptin et possess inde cap[ie]nd nec[non] possessioem seiam illi [aut] hic plenam pfatis **Rbto ffermer** et **Johi Sta[ple]** totu et ... ? huic g'd mei att... et effect hui[us] pscript C[art]e mee Rat et g?t et hen[d] hitur... psona tr... interessem ... Cu re... aut eor alt noie me? in pmiss fecit [sicut] ego ipe ibm [illeg.] Dat ap[ud] Roth[erfeld] ... estimem [b]ye psent Carte a? litt acto'n mea Sigillu me...

??? die mensis Januarii anno regm Regis Henrici octavi [dei] gra anglie ffranci et hib[nie] ... sup?? Tricesimo octav[o] ... testib[r] psent temp[e] ...

*Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2017 for Geoffrey Barber*

### Abstract recorded by The Keep for their catalogue:

Adam FERMER of Rotherfield, yeoman, to Robert FERMER and John STAPLE 1547

Lands in Rotherfield (47 acres) abutting N on way leading between Skuttylcroche and house called Shereffs, S on land of John FERMOR called Archerede, SW on way leading from Rotherfield to Orgarshyll and piece of land called Cukkam, SE on land called Bondmede and Clayton, E on way leading from Clayton

Adam FERMER appoints William SAWYER and George MAYND to deliver seisin to Robert FERMER and John STAPLE

Witnesses: John CARRWYND of Frant, Thomas FARMER of Rotherfield

### Subsequent Notes from Claire Wickens (26<sup>th</sup> February 2017)

The abstract has the essentials – and I presume they must have been able to flatten out the document to read the witness names and other details that are hidden in the photo!

The 47 acres were 'free' lands (freehold) and there is a mention of fidelity and fine as of right accustomed, so there should be something in the court records. It's interesting that where the abstract says 'way', the first two were 'stratam' (road) and the third was 'venella' (lane).

## NOTES

### People

Adam Farmer  
Robert Farmer  
John Farmer  
John Staple  
William Sawyer  
John Maynard  
John Carrwynd, witness  
Thomas Farmer, witness

### Places

Rotherfield  
Archerede, Rotherfield  
Skuttylchroche, Rotherfield  
Shereffs, Rotherfield  
Orgarshyll [Argos Hill] , Rotherfield  
Cukkam, Rotherfield  
Bondmede, Rotherfield  
Clayton, Rotherfield

### Relevant Events

Adam FERMOR, the elder was buried just four days later, on 24 January 1547 at Rotherfield St Denys.

### Family Tree

See Tree 2. “*Descendants of Thomas Farmer (-c1529) including Robert Farmer*” in Chapter 1.

### **35. Will of John Baker, Gent of Rotherfield, 1625**

This will is included to give some important background on Anthony Fowle, father of Mary Fowle who married Alexander Fermor Esq on 12 Jun 1617 at Rotherfield. John Baker was only 21 years old when he wrote this will and died shortly after, but he was old enough to have inherited from his deceased father and his detailed will names many in the extended family.

John Baker was only two years old when his father Robert Baker died, and this will identifies his mother's second marriage to Anthony Fowle Esq., a person of importance at Rotherfield at the time (see Catharine Pullein's book which has two chapters on the Fowle family).<sup>57</sup> John would have been raised within the Fowle family.

Although this will is not directly related to the Fermor families, members of the Fowle family were part of their social circle and are mentioned in Fermor wills at various times. Also, John Baker's mother's maiden name was Porter, and this is probably the reason for various Porters appearing in Fermor wills.

(TNA: PROB 11/145/260)

Made: 16 Oct 1623

Proved 16 Feb 1624/25

In the name of God Amen

I **John Baker** of Rotherfeild in the County of Sussex gent being sick in boody but of good and perfect memory (thanks be given to Almighty God and being desirous to settle and dispose that worldly estate which God of his mercy hath bestowed on me doe make and ordeyne this my last will and testament in manner and forme follow ing revoking all former wills by me heretofore made First I give and bequeath my soule unto Almighty God hoping by and through the only meritts of Jesus Christ to obteyne free pardon of all my sinnes and my body I commit to the earth from whence yt came to be buried in decent manner at the discretion of my executors hereafter named Item I give and bequeath to the poore people of the parish of Witheham Rotherfield and Frant in the said County of Sussex fifteene pounds of lawfull monie of England viz To the poore of each of the said severall parishes five pounds to bee distributed amongst them by the Churchwardens and overseers of every of the said severall parishes by the direction and consent of my executor here after named within three months next after my decease Item I give unto my loving father in lawe **Anthony Fowle Esqr** one hundred pounds of lawfull money of England and to my loving mother **Mrs Elizabeth Fowle** (now wife of the said **Anthony**) three hundred pounds of like lawful money to bee paied unto them within one half yeare next after my decease Item I give and bequeath unto **John Porter Esqr** my uncle twenty poundes And to my Aunt **Mrs Anne Porter** his wife tenn poundes of like lawfull money to be paied unto them within one yeare and a halfe next after my decease Item I give unto my uncle **Mr John Baker** forty shillings of lawfull money to buy him a ringe to weare in remembrance of me which I will shalbe paied unto him within a yeare and a halfe next after my decease Item I give and bequeth unto my uncle **Mr Thomas Baker** the some of twenty pounds of lawfull money to be paied unto to him within one yeare and a halfe next after my decease Item I give and bequeath to my **Aunt Newman** my **Aunt Warnett** and my **Aunt Smith** to every of them forty shillings apece to bee paied unto them within a yeare and a halfe next after my decease to buy them rings to weare in remembrance of me Item I give and bequeath to my Cosen **Mrs Knight** twentie shillings to bee paied unto her within a yeare and a halfe next after my decease to buy her a ringe to weare in remembrance of me Item I give and bequeath to my uncle **Mr Thomas Porter** tenn pounds of lawfull money And to my Aunt his wife five pounds of like lawfull money to bee paied unto them within one yeare and a halfe next after my decease Item I give and bequeath unto my uncle **Richard Porter** forty shillings to be paid unto him within one yeare and a halfe

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<sup>57</sup> Catharine Pullein, *Rotherfield: The Story of Some Wealden Manors*, (1928), Chaps. XXXII, XXXIII

next after my decease to buy him a ringe to weare in remembrance of me Item I give and bequeath unto my Uncle **Mr Richard Hawes** twenty shillings of lawfull money to buy him a ringe to weare in remembrance of me to be paied unto him within one yeare & a halfe next after my decease Item I give and bequeath unto my **Aunt Hawes** to my **Aunt Godman** and to my **Aunt Susan Porter** to every of them forty shillings a peece to buy them rings to weare in remembrance of me to be paied unto them within one yeare next after my decease Item I give and bequeath to my brothers **John Richard Christopher and William Fowle** and to my sisters **Anne and Jane Fowle** to every of them fiftie pounds apeece to bee paied unto my said father **Anthony Fowle** to and for the use of my said brothers and sisters within one yeare and a halfe next after my decease And I will that my said **father Fowle** shall become bound to my executor at the time of the receipt of the said Legacies to paye the same Legacies unto them the said **John Richard Christopher and William Fowle** my brothers at their severall ages of one and twenty yeares and to be paied unto the said **Anne and Jane Fowle** my sisters at their severall ages of one and twenty yeares or dayes of marriage first happening And also to paye and allowe unto my said brothers and sisters at the tymes of payment of his her or their severall Legacies as aforesaid such and so much money for the use and interest of their said Legacies as the same after the rate of five poundes for one hundred by the yeare from the tyme of his receipt of the said Legacies untill the said tymes of payment thereof as aforesaid shall amount unto And if anie of my said brothers shall happen to dye before they shall atteyne their severall and respective ages of one and twenty yeares without issue of their bodies or if either of my said sisters shall dye before their said ages of xxi tie yeares & dayes of marriage That then the Legacies of him her and them soe dying shall remayne and be equally devided amongst the survivors or survivor of them Item I give and bequeath unto my brother **Anthonie Fowle** twenty shillings of lawfull money of England to buy him a ringe to weare in remembrance of me which I will shalbe paied unto him within a yeare and a halfe next after my decease Item I give and bequeath unto my brother and sister **Farmer** forty shillings apeece And unto my cozens **Richard John Thomas and Arthur Porter** sonnes of my said Uncle **John Porter** and to my cozens **Elizabeth Anne Jane and Mary Porter** his daughters to every of them my said cozens twenty shillings apeece to be paied unto them within a yeare and a halfe next after my decease to buy them rings to weare in remembrance of me Item I give and bequeath unto my cozens **John Thomas and Richard Porter** sonnes of my said uncle **Thomas Porter** and to my Cozens **Mr Henry Porter and Mr Edward Godman** to every of them my said Cozens twenty shillings apeece to be paied unto them within one yeare and a halfe next after my decease to buy them rings to weare in remembrance of me Item I give and bequeath to my Cozen **Francis Pellet** five poundes of lawfull mony of Engl;and And to **William Weller** fortie shillings of like lawfull monie to be paied unto them within one yeare and a halfe next after my decease Item I give and bequeath unto **Mr Collyns** parson of Rotherfield fortie shillings to be payed unto him within threee monthes next after my decease to buy him a ringe to weare in remembrance of me Item I give and bequeath unto **Mr Rayner** tenn poundes of lawfull monie of England which he oweth me Item I give and bequeath unto such preacher of gods words shall preach a sermon at my funerall twenty shillings to be paied unto him on the daye of my funerall Item I give and bequeath unto mr Cozens **Mr John Baker and Mr Thomas Baker** of Mayfield and to my Cozen **Mr Thomas Ballard** twenty shillings apeece to buy them rings to weare in remembrance of me to be paied unto them within one yeare and a halfe next after my decease Item I give and bequeath unto my Cozen **Mr Henry Whitfeild** fortie shillings to buy him a ringe And to my cozen **Mr Samuel Whitfeild** twentie poundes of lawfull monie And to my cozen **Thomas Whitfeilde** tenn poundes of like lawfull monie to be paied unto them within one yeare and a halfe next after my decease Item I give and bequeath unto my servant **William Buckhurst** five poundes and to every of my mothers servants which shee shall have at the time of my deathe tenn shillings apeece to be paied unto them within a yeare and a halfe next after my decease Item I give and bequeath unto my brother **Anthonie Fowle** and to my said Cozens **Richard and John Porter** sonnes of

my said Uncle **John Porter** all my bookes to be equally devided between them and to be delivered unto them within three months next after my decease Item I give and bequeath unto the children of my **Uncle and Aunt Warnett** the sume of fiftie poundes of lawfull monie of England to be equallie devided amongst them and to bee paied unto them when they shall attaine theire severall ages of xxi tie yeares or daies of marriage first happening Provided and upon condicon that if anie or either of the children of my said **Uncle and Aunt Warnett** shall demand anie legacie or sume or sumes of monie by virtue of the last will and testament of **Robert Baker** my father deceased other than fiftie poundes already paied or secured to bee paied unto them or some of them by my uncle **John Baker** as a Legacy from my said father **Robert Baker** or shall refuse to discharge the executors and overseers of the last will of my said father **Roberte Baker** deceased of all accions guiftes Legacies and demands That then this my guifte of fiftie pounds to the children of my said **Uncle and Aunt Warnett** shalbe utterly voyde frustrate and of none effect Item I give and bequeath unto my **Uncle and Aunt Smithes** children the sume of fiftie poundes of lawfull monie of England to be equally devided amongst them and to be paied unto them when they shall attayne theire severall ages of one and twenty yeares or dayes of marriage first happening under the provisoe and condicon before herein last mentioned and Limited to and for my said **Uncle and Aunt Warnetts** children Item I give and bequeath unto the children of my **Uncle and Aunt Newman** the sume of fiftie poundes of like law full money to be equally devided amongst them and to bee paied unto them when they shall attaine theire severall ages of xxi tie yeares or dayes of marriage first happening under the provisoe and condicon before herein mentioned and Limmitted to and for the children of my said **Uncle and Aunt Warnett** Item I give and bequeath unto the children of my **Aunt Howell** deceased twenty poundes of Lawfull money euqally to be devided betweene them and to bee paied unto them when they shall attaine theire severall ages of one and twenty yeares or dayes of marriage first happening And alsoe to **Elizabeth** daughter of my **Aunt Vennell** xx li And to my cozen **Robert Vennell** xl s at their severall ages of xxi tie yeares to bee paied unto them under the provisoe and condicon before herein mentioned and limmitted to and for the children of my said Uncle and **Aunt Warnett** All the residue of my goods chattells and monie not before herein bequathed I will and bequeathe shalbe paied unto my said brothers **John Richard Christopher and William Fowle** and to my said sisters **Anne and Jane Fowle** equally to be devided betweene them And I will that the severall and respective parts thereof of my said brothers **John Richard Christopher and William Fowle** shalbe paied unto them with allowance for forbearance thereof after the rate of five poundes for a hundred by the yeare for soe longe time as the same shall remaine in my executors handes at theire severall ages of one and twenty yeares And I will that the severall and respective partes thereof of my said sisters **Anne and Jane Fowle** shalbee paied unto them with allowance for forbearance thereof after the rate as aforesaid at theire severall ages of xxi tie yeares or dayes of marriage first happening And if anie of my said brothers shall happen to dye before they shall attaine theire severall and respective ages of xxi tie yeares without issue of theire bodies or if either of my saide sisters shall happen to dye before theire said severall ages of xxi tie yeares or daies of marriage That then the parte or partes of him her or them soe dying shall remaine and be equally devided amongst the survivors or survivor of them Item I will and bequeath unto the said **Elizabeth** my mother and to her heires and assignes forever all that messuage or tenement barnes buildings orchards gardens closes lands tenements and hereditaments with thappurtenances commonlie called or knowne by the name of Coxlowe Sinderford and Bylsham conteyning in all by estimacon one hundred and twenty acres bee yt more or lesse situate lying and being in the parishes of Hellingley Chiddingleghe Waldron and Heathfeilde in the said County of Sussex or in some or one of them now or late in the occupacon of one **Richard Curteis** or his assignes and all revercon and revercons remainder and remain-ders thereof and of everie part thereof Item I will and bequeath to my said brother **John Fowle** and to his heires and assignes all those peeces or parcells of Lande commonlie called or knowne by the name of Machin alias Machins conteyning

in all by estimacon thirteen acres be yt more or lesse with thappurtenances lying and beinge in Rotherfeilde aforesaid And I doe desire my said Uncle **Mr John Baker** to make such further assurance of the said messuage and premisses called Coxlowe Sinderford and Bylsham with thappurtenances to my said mother and her heires and of the said premisses called Machin alias Machins with thappurtenances to my said brother **John Fowle** and his heires as by their Counsell shalbe advised and required according as my said uncle hath promised me to doe And whereas my said Uncle **John Baker** hath covenanted with me and promised that he his heires or assignes will grant and assure to my said father **Anthony Fowle** and to my said Uncle **John Porter** and their heires or to such person or persons and their heires as they should nominate and appointe one yearly rent charge of twentie poundes to bee issuing out of some of his Lands in the Counties of Kent and Sussex or one of them quarterly to bee paid for the terme of one and twentie yeares from and after my death to and for such charitable use or uses as shalbe expresseed in my last will and testament I doe thereofre hereby desire and intreate my said Uncle **John Baker** within two monthes next after my death to assure and conveye the said yearly rent charge of xx li to the said **Anthony Fowle and John Porter** and their heires or to such person or persons and their heires as they shall appoint for the terme of xxi tie yeares from my death quarterly to be paid And I doe will and desire that the said yearly rent of twenty poundes shalbe by them bestowed for and towards the mainteyninge of a schoole in Rotherfeild aforesaid for the istruccon and educacon of Schollars there during the said terme of one and twentie yeares And I doe desire the said **Anthonie Fowle and John Porter** to bee carefull in providing and getting a gra..... learned and inditious schoole master or schoolemasters to teache and instruct the said schollars in the said school Also I will that the said yearlie rent of twentie poundes shalbee employed during the said terme of xxi tie yeares or anie parte thereof to such other charitable use or uses as by my executors and overseers of the most parte of them shalbee thought fitt and agreed upon And I doe make and constitute and appoint my said Uncle **John Porter** to be executor of this my last will and I appoint my said father **Anthonie Fowle** and my said Uncles **John Baker** and **Thomas Porter** and my brother Alexander Fermor and **Thomas Houghton** to bee overseers of this my last will and testament to see the same duly and truelie performed In witness whereof I have hereunto sett my hande and seale the sixteenth daie of October 1623 and in the one and twentieth yeare of the Raigne of our Sovereigne Lord King James of England &c and of Scotland the lvii<sup>th</sup> the **John Baker** Read sealed published signed and declared in the presence of us **Symon Hilles Arthur Maynard Abraham Austen William Allen John Baker Roberte Gardner Thos Weller** The marke of **FrancisComber** Proved at London 16 Feb 1624/25 by **John Porter**.

There was a commission looking into his will and a definitive sentence pronounced, which resulted in teh executor being granted the probate.

*Transcribed by Helen Hartley.*

## **NOTES**

### People

John Baker, testator  
 Robert Baker, father  
 Anthony Fowle esq., father-in-law  
 Elizabeth Fowle, mother, now wife of Anthony Fowle  
 John Porter Esq., uncle  
 Anne Porter, aunt  
 John Baker, uncle  
 Thomas Baker, uncle

Uncle & Aunt Newman  
Uncle & Aunt Warnett  
Uncle & Aunt Smith  
Mrs Knight, cousin  
Thomas Porter, uncle  
Richard Porter, uncle  
Mr Hawes, uncle  
Aunt Hawes  
Aunt Godman  
Susan Porter, aunt  
John Fowle, brother  
Richard Fowle, brother  
Christopher Fowle, brother  
William Fowle, brother  
Anne Fowle, sister  
Jane Fowle, sister  
Anthony Fowle, brother  
Alexander Fermor, brother  
Sister Fermor  
Richard Porter, son of John Porter, cousin  
John Porter, son of John Porter, cousin  
Thomas Porter, son of John Porter, cousin  
Arthur Porter, son of John Porter, cousin  
Elizabeth Porter, daughter of John Porter, cousin  
Anne Porter, daughter of John Porter, cousin  
Jane Porter, daughter of John Porter, cousin  
Mary Porter, daughter of John Porter, cousin  
John Porter, son of Thomas Porter, cousin  
Thomas Porter, son of Thomas Porter, cousin  
Richard Porter, son of Thomas Porter, cousin  
Mr Henry Porter, cousin  
Mr Edward Godman, cousin  
Francis Pellet, cousin  
William Weller  
Mr Collyns, parson of Rotherfield  
Mr Rayner  
Mr John Baker of Mayfield, cousin  
Mr Thomas Baker of Mayfield, cousin  
Mr Thomas Ballard, cousin  
Mr Henry Whitfeild, cousin  
Mr Samuella Whitfeild, cousin  
Thomas Whitfeilde, cousin  
William Buckhurst, servant  
Aunt Howell  
Aunt Vennell  
Elizabeth Vennell, daughter of Aunt Vennell  
Robert Vennell, cousin  
Richard Curteis, tenant  
Thomas Houghton, overseer  
Symon Hilles, witness  
Arthur Maynard, witness

Abraham Austen, witness  
William Allen, witness  
John Baker, witness  
Roberte Gardner, witness  
Thos Weller, witness  
FrancisComber, witness

#### Places

Rotherfield  
Coxlowe  
Sinderford  
Bylsham  
Hellingley [Hellingly]  
Chiddingleghe [Chiddingly]  
Waldron  
Heathfeilde [Heathfield]  
Machin alias Machins, Rotherfield

#### Relevant Events

John Baker was baptised 24 Oct 1602 at Frant St Alban, son of Robert and Elizabeth Baker. He was buried on 29 Oct 1623 at Frant, Sussex (“Mr.”).  
His mother, Elizabeth PORTER, married Robert BAKER on 17 Dec 1600 at Frant, Sussex.

After Robert BAKER’s death, Elizabeth BAKER married Robert FOWLER [FOWLE] on 8 May 1606 at St Michael Wood St, London, “Robert a gent of Rotherfield, Elizabeth widow”. This is possibly a mistake in the register, and perhaps should be Anthony FOWLE. Perhaps the clerk got confused with her first husband’s name, Robert? There is no evidence of a Robert Fowle at Rotherfield.

Anthony FOWLE’s daughter, Mary FOWLE and Alexander FARMER Esq. (who held the manor of Walsh at Rotherfield) obtained a marriage licence on 7 Jun 1617, Archdeaconry of Lewes (“Alexander, gentleman of Rotherfield; Mary Fowle daughter of Anthony Fowle Esq. Sponsors: Alexander Fermor, Isaac Burgess, gent of the same parish”). Alexander FERMOR married Mary FOWLE on 12 Jun 1617 at Rotherfield.  
(Sussex Marriage Index)

#### Family Tree

See Tree 1. “*Descendants of William Fermor (- 1540) of Walsh Manor*” in Chapter 1.

Also, the family tree of John Baker and his mother is given below:

#### **Elizabeth Porter**

+ **Robert Baker**, m. 17 Dec 1600 at Frant, bur. 22 May 1604 at Frant  
├── **John Baker**, bap. 24 Oct 1602 at Frant, bur. 29 Oct 1623 at Frant  
├── **Mary Baker**, bap. 28 Nov 1602 at Frant, bur. 21 Oct 1603 at Frant  
└── **Frances Baker**, bap. 24 Feb 1604/5 at Frant, bur. 10 May 1607 at Frant  
+ **Anthony Fowle**, bap. 1 Dec 1567 at Rotherfield, m. 8 May 1606, bur. 8 Sep 1647 at Newick  
├── **Anne Fowle**, bap. 3 Mar 1606/7 at Rotherfield  
├── **John Fowle**, bap. 25 Mar 1607 at Rotherfield, bur. 9 Apr 1626 at Rotherfield  
├── **Jane Fowle**, bap. 5 Aug 1610 at Rotherfield  
└── **William Fowle**, bap. 27 Sep 1612 at Rotherfield



- **Richard Fowle**, bap. 31 Aug 1615 at Rotherfield
- **Christopher Fowle**, bap. 5 Sep 1616 at Rotherfield
- **William Fowle**, bap. 30 Mar 1619 at Rotherfield
- **Austen Fowle**, b. circa 1621 at Rotherfield, bur. 27 May 1621 at Rotherfield
- **Samuel Fowle**, bap. 10 Oct 1624 at Rotherfield

Anthony Fowle of Newick left a will made in Aug 1647 and probated on 15 Sep 1647 (TNA: PROB 11/201/617). It has not been transcribed here but the original can be downloaded from The National Archives website.

### 36. Will of Avice Catt, widow of Rotherfield, 1633/34

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/23/92A)

Made: 1 May 1633

Proved: 1 Mar 1633/34

Familysearch: Film: 1885822, Image: 405

In the name of God amen; the sixth daye of maye 1633 I **Avice Catt** of Rotherfeild in the Countye of Sussex widowe doe make my last will and testament in writing in manner & forme following that is to saye First I bequeath my soule to almighty god who gave it me, & my bodye I commit to the Earth from whence it came to be buried in decent manner Item I give to the poore people of Rotherfeild aforesaid twenty shillings to be distributed amongst them according to their neede Item I give unto my daughter **Silvester Lucke** wife of **John Lucke** twelve pounds Item I give unto my sonne **Arthure Catt** the one halfe of all my household stuffe & implements of household which I have in the house where I nowe dwell & I give unto my said sonne **Arthure** all such money as I did heretofore lone him, & I do acquite & discharge him of & from all somes of money debts & reckonings which he oweth me, & which I could demande of him, All the residue of my household stuffe, & all my other goods chattels ready money & debts whatsoever I give unto my sonne **Adam Catt** whom I make executor of this my last will & testament In witness whereof I the said **Avice Catt** have hereunto sett my hand the daye and yeare first above written

Signed **Avice Catt**

Witness hereunto

**Adam Farmer**

**Grace Catt**

Probate [Latin] 1 Mar 1633/34 to **Adam Catt**

*Transcribed by Geoffrey Barber, 21 April 2022*

#### NOTES

##### People

Avice Catt, testatrix

Silvester Lucke, daughter, wife of John Lucke

John Lucke

Arthur Catt, son

Adam Catt, son

Adam Farmer, witness

Grace Catt, witness

##### Places

Rotherfield

##### Relevant Events

Avice Catt was buried 30 Nov 1633 at Rotherfield St Denys (“widow”).

Avice Farmer, daughter of John Farmer and Odyan Kent, married John Catt on 4 July 1572 at Rotherfield.

Her daughter Silvester Catt and John Lucke obtained a marriage licence on 14 Jun 1614, Archdeaconry of Lewes (John Lucke, yeoman of Rotherfield).

Title: **Feoffment for £50**

Date: 6 Jan 1631

ESRO reference: SAS/AB/227

Description: **Avis Catt**, widow of **John Catt**, late of Rotherfield, and one of the sisters and co-heirs of **Adam Farmer**, late of Rotherfield, yeoman, to **Arthur Catt** of Rotherfield, yeoman her moiety of a field called Culverdens and Scarlette in Rotherfield, which came to her on death of her brother **Adam Farmer** (W and S: the King's highway leading from Rotherfield to Lomes Brooke; N: the parsonage of Rotherfield; S: lands of **John Luck**)

To be held to the use of **Avis Catt** for her life, and then to **Silvester Luck**, wife of **John Luck**, and only daughter of **Avis Catt**, and to the heirs of **Silvester Luck** for ever

Paid by **John Luck** of Rotherfield, gent, who is discharged for ever

Seisin granted to **Adam Catt**, son of **Avis Catt**, whom she appoints her attorney

**See also:**

Will of Adam Farmer, Yeoman of Rotherfield, made 8 Sep 1625, proved 20 Dec 1625 (TNA: PROB 11/147/571)

Will of John Fermer of Rotherfield, made 13 Oct 1558, proved 20 Mar 1558/59 (ESRO: PBT 1/1/4/305A)

Family Tree

See Tree 2. “*Descendants of Thomas Farmer (-c1529) including Robert Farmer*” in Chapter 1.

### **37. Will of Henry Aderoll alias Skinner of Rotherfield, 1613**

(TNA: PROB 11/122/389)

Made: 6 Jul 1612

Proved: 2 Nov 1613

In the name of God Amen the vi<sup>th</sup> day of July in the year of our lord god one thousand six hundred and twelve I **Henry Aderoll als Skynner** of Retherfeild in the county of Sussex being sicke in body but of good and perfect remembrance thanks be given to Allmightie God therefore doe make and declare this my last will and testament in manner and forme following that is to say ffirst and principally I will and bequeath my soule unto Allmightie God my nercifull maker, Saviour and Redeemer by whome and through whome I hope to have foregiveness of all my synnes and my body to the earth from whence it came and Decently to be buried where it shall please God. Item I will and bequeath unto **Nathaniel Savage** (the sonne of **William Savage**, gent) the some of ffyve pounds of lawfull money of England to be paid to him by my executor within one year next after my decease. Item I will and bequeath unto **Elizabeth Savage, Hester Savage and Thomas savage** the children of the said **William Savage** and to each and every of them three, Three pounds of like money a peece to be paid to them and every of them by my Executor withion one yeare next after my decease. Item I will and bequeath unto **Thomas Nynne als barber, Ffrances Nynne als barber, Elizabeth Nynne als Barber, Mary Nynne als Barber** and to **John Nynne als barber** the children of **George Nynne als Barber** and to each and every of them tenne shillings of like lawfull money a peece to be paid to them and every of them by my Executor within one yeare next after my decease. Item I give and bequeath unto **Elizabeth the wife of the said George Nynne** one joyned chest. Item I will and bequeath unto **Mary the daughter of the said George Nynne** one other chest. All the rest of my goods and household stuff not before given and bequeathed, my debts first paid, my legacies discharged and funeral expenses p<sup>r</sup>formed I will and bequeath unto **George Nynne als Barber** whome I make my sole Executor of this my will. And I doe ordayne and make **William Nynne als Barber** to be my faithfull and trustie overseer. And I give to him iij<sup>s</sup> iij<sup>d</sup> and his charges borne. There being witnesses {The marke of **Henry Aderoll als Skynner** (NOTE: this phrase crossed out in will)}/ **John Hosmer** and **William Chowne**. The marke of **Henry Aderoll als Skynner**.

*Transcribed by John Howes, December 2012*

The probate reads " Secundo Die mensis Novembris Anno Domini millesimo sexcentesimo Decimo Tertio"(2 Nov 1613) which probably means Henry died in mid to late October of that year.

*(Transcribed by John Howes, 11 Dec 2012)*

#### **NOTES**

##### People

Henry Aderoll alias Skinner, testator

Nathaniel Savage, son of William Savage

William Savage

Elizabeth Savage, daughter of William Savage

Hester [Esther] Savage, daughter of William Savage

Thomas Savage, son of William Savage

Thomas Nynne alias Barber, son of George Nynne alias Barber

Frances Nynne alias Barber, daughter of George Nynne alias Barber

Elizabeth Nynne alias Barber, daughter of George Nynne alias Barber

Mary Nynne alias Barber, daughter of George Nynne alias Barber

John Nynne alias Barber, son of George Nynne alias Barber  
George Nynne alias Barber, sole executor  
Elizabeth Nynne alias Barber, wife of George Nynne alias Barber  
William Nynne alias Barber, overseer  
John Hosmer, witness  
William Chowne, witness

#### Places

Rotherfield

#### Relevant Events

Henry Aderoll's death occurred during one of those periods that the Rotherfield PR's are missing.

Henry is identified in his mother Margaret Farmer's will proved in 1593: "*And my sonne **Henrye Atherolle** to be my whole executor*". Henry's birth has not been found so it is not known if he was the product of a previous marriage or illegitimate. He may have been raised by the Barber alias Nynne family and obviously remained close to his mother and step-sister, Gertrude Farmer who married William Savage.

William and Gertrude had a large family at Rottingdean, where William Savage was vicar. Gertrude was buried at Rottingdean St Margaret on 28 Sep 1592 (explains why she is not mentioned in Henry's will) and William Savage was buried there on 6 Sep 1619 "Mr., vicar of Rottingdean".

#### See also:

Will of Margaret Farmer of Rotherfield, 1593, made 12 Mar 1591/92, proved 15 Oct 1593 (ESRO: PBT 1/1/9/219A)

#### Family Tree

See Tree 2. "*Descendants of Thomas Farmer (-c1529) including Robert Farmer*" in Chapter 1. Henry is not shown in this tree because he is not a Farmer descendant, but his mother Margaret Farmer (nee Scot) is there.

### **38. Manorial Records for Thomas Farmer of Merke [Mark Cross]**

There are a number of property transactions in the manorial court rolls that involve John Nynne and the Farmer family. At the manorial court of 2 May 1587: At the manorial court held on 2 August 1587:

*Thomas Farmer at Marke [Mark Cross] surr. 1 messuage, 1 barn, 1 garden, 1 piece of land cont. 3 acres on ferling of Frith in R.[Rotherfield]. To use of John Nynne alias Barber*

Note that a ferling was a division of land on the manor of Rotherfield whose size varied from some 35 acres to 134 acres which, over the years, became divided amongst several tenants. The ferling of Frith was located near the hamlet of Mark Cross. Each ferling was divided into six "swyne" lands, so called because of a custom whereby the owner of each swyne had to give the lord of the manor a hog (swine) every year. The ferlings are thought to be the result of consolidation and enclosure in the 14th century after the Black Death. The manor of Rotherfield court roll for 1556 lists a total of 32 1/2 ferlings (Pullein p73-80).

This same property is then mentioned again on 1 April 1588: (p22 of PDF)

*John Nynne alias Barber prays to be admitted to 1 mess. 1 barn 1 garden & 1 parcel adjt to sd mes. at Mark crosse [Mark Cross] cont. 3 ac on f. [ferling] of Fryth in R. [Rotherfield] which Thos Farmer at the court held on 2 Augt last surrendered to use of sd John. Comes John N. alias B & surr. above to use of Thos Farmer & his heirs.*

The transactions are an indication of the closeness of the relationship between the Farmers and the Barber alias Nynnes and support the conclusion that Thomas Farmer at Mark Cross is the brother of Alice Farmer, wife of John Nynne alias Barber (see Tree 2). Immediately following these transactions Thomas and Margaret Farmer surrender another property (probably the land connected to the messuage above) to the use of themselves in their life and afterwards to their daughter Gertrude Savage wife of William Savage. (p22 of PDF) All these transactions are probably connected to an overall inheritance strategy devised by Thomas Farmer, "of Merke" who was buried 15 Apr 1591 at Rotherfield.

*Comes Thos Farmer of Merke and surrenders 1 soyne [swyne; Pullein p80] of land at ferling of Frith in Rotherfield adjacent to the lands of Herbert Pelham esq towards the E of the Kings way at Maregate towards Marecrosse & towards the W with appts in Rotherfield. Said premises are held by Thos & Margt his wife during their natural life And after their decease by a certain Gertrude Savage daughter of said Thos wife of William Savage & heirs of the said Gertrude for ever.*

The families of John Barber and William Savage are linked again in the will of Henry Aderoll alias Skynner in 1612 (documented in a later section) which names both families' children as beneficiaries. Also, the will of John Farmer (made 1558) has John Nynne's children as beneficiaries and mentions brothers William and Thomas Farmer. It does raise the likelihood that Alice Barber alias Nynne (nee Farmer) is a sister to John Farmer, William Farmer and the Thomas Farmer at Mark Cross. Although nothing has been found to prove this, I have made this assumption in the family tree (Tree 2).

Other notes from the manorial records:

Court held 19 Dec 1588 (p30 of PDF)

*The homage present that Thos Farmer at Merke incroaches upon the lord's waste & garden called Olyves garden.*

At the View of Frankpledge 4 Apr 1589: (p34 of PDF)

*Thos Farmer at last View of Frankpledge had a day give him to scour a ditch between Towne Rowe and Towne Rowe Crosse in North Pt there or pain 3s 4d. [likely to be Thomas Farmer at Cross, not Thomas Farmer at Merke]*

At the View of Frankpledge 6 Oct 1589: (p36 of PDF)

*And that Thos Farmer at Crosse is in default in not having his .....(?) appointed him by ye lawe or by ye Justices.*

At the View of Frankpledge 14 Apr 1590: (p43 of PDF)

*And that Thomas Farmer senior on 12 Jany was outlawed at the suit of Thos Alcock in plea of debt Therefore he forfeits all his goods and chattels And that he has (divers?) goods & chattels to the value of £9 assessed by Edward Luck bailiff there.*

Court held 16 Sep 1590: (p45 of PDF)

*Thomas Farmer at Crosse on his deathbed out of court & after the last court viz. 4th June last by Adam Farmer deputy of John Hider the lord's bedell there in the presence of Wm Burgess clerk and John Catt tenants of the lord surrendered 1 swyne in the ferling of Colways in Rotherfield containing 8 acres to use of Alexander Farmer his son & heir.*

*Comes Alexander & prays Thomas Farmer at Crosse who dies held to him & his heirs certain assart & gave for heriot a cow worth 33s 4d.*

(p46 of PDF)

*Thomas Farmer at Crosse who dies held to him & his heirs certain free lands called Gladles, who before his death alienated the premises in mortgage to a certain Adam Farmer.*

Court held 10 Dec 1590 (p47 of PDF)

*Comes Alexander Farmer, eldest son & next heir of Thomas Farmer at Crosse deceased & prays a tenement with garden of Rotherfield Hill & a piece of land called Marlynge containing 5 acres of assart near Byddendenstale, & a piec called le Inhome (Inborne?) containing 5 acres & 1 piece of field called Coes Meade containing 6 acres assart & 1 piece called Mylbose containing 2 acres formerly (not entered) & 1 croft containing 4 acres assart & certain lands called Meades containing 12 acres of assart of Henbye & 1 parcel called Rugham containing 17 acres lying near Scuttlecrouch in Rotherfield. The said Alexander is admitted tenant, to him & his heirs.*

Court held 10 Dec 1590 (p50 of PDF)

*Comes Alex Farmer son & heir of Thos Farmer at Crosse & prays a parcel called Mylhole formerly Nicholas Burgess's cont. 2 acres lying in the forest towards the N & W & to lands of Thos Hosmer at Grene towards E. & towards lands Isaac Alchorne on south & a garden on townhill formerly Bychfeld to ..... with ?ynnesfeld cont. 4 acres and south at ..... did swear affidavit and admitted(?) offer.... Nic Maynard & John Maynard*

Court held 1 Apr 1591 (p53 of PDF)

*The homage say that Robt Farmer who held to him & his heirs a piece of land called Mylhole containing 4 acres with some ?? near the forest formerly John Nicholas's died as siesed several years ago. Comes Alex Farmer, kinsman & heir of Robert, viz. eldest son & next heir of Thos Farmer eldest son & next heir of Robert & prays, etc.*

Court held 29 Mar 1592 (p66 of PDF)

*Comes Alexander Farmer & surrenders a piece of land called Marlynge containing 5 acres 3 rods of assart at Byddendenstole & a piece called Coes Mead containing 6 acres assart in Rotherfield. To use of Adam Farmer & his heirs.*

Family Tree

See Tree 2. “Descendants of Thomas Farmer (-c1529) including Robert Farmer” in Chapter 1.



### **39. Will of Margery Hodely, of Rotherfield, 1615**

(ESRO: PBT/1/1/15/66A)

Made: 6 Oct 1615

Proved: 4 Nov 1615

FamilySearch: Film: 1885787, Images: 422-423

In the name of God Amen the sixt day of October in Anno Domini 1615 I **Margery Hodely** of Retherfeld in the County of Sussex beinge sicke in body but of good & perfecte Remembrance thankes be geven to Allmighty God therefore doe make & declare this my last will & testamente in manner & forme followinge That is to say first & principally I will & bequeth my soule unto Allmighty God my mercifull maker Saviour & Redeemer by whome & thorough whome I hope to have forgevenes of All my synnes & my body to the earth from whence it came & decently to be buryed where it shall please God Item I will & bequeth unto **Alexander Farmer** my sonne a littell Joyned bedstedde standeinge in the gessen Chamber & the fetherbed cove[r]lett twoe bouldsters twoe blankettes & twoe payer of Good sheetes & all that doth belonge to the said bed Item I geve unto the said **Alexander** twoe shirte Clothes & cloth sufficient to lyne him a payer of hose beinge of my new Cloth Item I will & bequeth unto the said **Alexander** Ten poundes of lawfull money of England to be paid unto him & his heires in manner & forme followinge that is to say xx<sup>s</sup> a yere & every yere duringe the space of Ten yeres next ensuinge after my decease halfe yerely from my decease to be paid Item I will & bequeth unto **Margery Hodely** the daughter of **Roberte Hodely** twoe dozen of pewter platters & pewter dishes of that is in my Cubbord six payer of good sheetes & all my apparrell both woollen & lynnene And one new Coverlett that doth lye uppon my bed one brasse possnet Item I will & bequeth unto **Katherin** my daughter three payer of sheetes All the rest of my moveable goods not before by me willed I geve & bequeth unto **Adam Farmer** my sonne whome I make my whole executor he payinge my debtes & legaces & performinge my will And for the better ratifyinge of this my will I have here unto sett my hand & seale these beinge witnesses

**John Hosmer** the marke of **Margery Hodely** senior

**William Coe**

& **Thomas Burges**

Probate: proved before Mr William Inians Priest, Surrogate etc. 4<sup>th</sup> November 1615 by the oath of **Adam Farmer** natural and legitimate son of the said deceased and executor etc. to whom was committed the administration of the goods etc. he being sworn well and faithfully etc.

*Transcribed by Claire Wickens, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022 for Geoffrey Barber*

#### **NOTES**

##### People

Margery Hodely, testatrix

Alexander Farmer, son

Robert Hodely

Margery Hodely, daughter of Robert Hodely

Katherine Hodely, daughter

Adam Farmer, son

John Hosmer, witness

William Coe, witness

Thomas Burges, witness

### Places

Rotherfield

### Relevant Events

Margery Hodely was buried 11 Oct 1615 at Rotherfield St Denys.

Her first marriage was: Margery COE married Adam FARMER on 15 Jun 1569 at Rotherfield.

Her second marriage was: Margery FARMER married Henry HODELY on 6 Nov 1591 at Rotherfield.

### **See also:**

Will of Adam Farmer of Rotherfield, made 11 Apr 1587, proved 23 May 1587 (ESRO: PBT 1/1/8/11)

### Family Tree

See Tree 5. "*Descendants of Adam Farmer, the Weaver (- 1587)*" in Chapter 1.

#### 40. Will of Rebecka Elficke of Lewes, 1633

(TNA: PROB 11/164/482)

Made: 20 January 1632

Proved: 22 October 1633

In the name of God Amen I **Rebecka Elficke** of Lewes in the Countie of Sussex widdow doe ordayne and make this my last will and Testament the xx<sup>th</sup> daye of January in the yeare of our lord god One Thousand six hundred Thirtie and two In maner and forme followynge First I bequeath my soule to Allmightie God and my body to be burried in the p<sup>r</sup>ishe Churcheyard where it shall please god to take me out of this world Item I give to the poore of the same p<sup>r</sup>ishe twenty shillings to be distributed at the day of my Burriall Item I give and bequeath to **Edward Kidder** and his heires for ever my brother in lawe **Richard Kidders** sonne one annuitie or yearly rente of Fower pounds a yeare due to me the aforesaid **Rebecka** out of the house where **William Savadge** nowe dwelleth in Lewes in the Countie abovesaid Item I give to **Thomas Markam** and to **John Markam** both of Salehurst in the Countie aforesaid to each of them five shillings apeece Item I give to **Elizabeth Markam** their sister Fourtie shillings Item I give to **Mary Whatman** their sister in lawe Tenn shillings Item I give unto **Mary Kidder** my sister Tenn shillings Item I give unto **Richard Kidder** and to **Thomas Kidder** her sonnes to each of them Twenty poundes a peece of lawfull money of England to be paid them within one yeare next after my decease by myne Executor or Overseer if either of them twoe happen to dye the legacie of him soe dying to goe to the survivore Item I give to my **Cozen Susan Lane** and her sonne **William Lane** to eache of them five shillings a peece Item I give to **Elizabeth Masson** of Dorkinge in the Countie of Surrey the sum of Fortye shillings (marginal insertion “of lawfull money of England”) to be paid her within halfe a yeare after my decease Item I give unto the said **Elizabeth Masson** p<sup>r</sup>te of my wearinge apparrell to be delivered unto her by my **sister Kidder** accordinge to my **sister Kidders** discretion and my **sister Kidder** to have the rest and my executor shall have nothing doe with it Item I give to **Ellen Holmood my Cozen** one payer of sheetes All the rest of my goods and Chattells not given nor bequeathed I give to **Edward Kidder my brother Kidders** youngest sonne whome I make executor to this my last will and testament and if it shall happen my Executor to dye then my will and mind is that the executorshipp shalbe equally devided between **Richard Kidder** and **Thomas Kidder** his brothers equally to be devided And I doe intreate my brother in lawe **Richard Kidder** to be Overseer to this my will giving him full power to aske receive sue ympleade arest and recover all debts duties and demandes whatsoever due unto me the sayd **Rebecka Elficke** and my overseer to give and discharge for any debte whatsoever and to put out any monies w<sup>ch</sup> belonge to my Executor to the best proffitt hee can In witnes whereof I have hereunto sett my hand the day and yeare abovesaid Sealed and signed in the p<sup>r</sup>sence of **Edward Greene Richard Kidder Rebecka Elficke**

Probate 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1633 to **Richard Kidder** during the minority of the named executor **Edward Kidder**

*(Transcribed by Julian Elphick)*

#### NOTES

##### People

Rebecka Elficke, testatrix

Richard Kidder, brother-in-law, overseer

Mary Kidder, sister

Edward Kidder, youngest son of Richard, executor

Thomas Kidder, son of Richard

William Savage, tenant  
Thomas Markam  
John Markam  
Elizabeth Markam  
Mary Whatman  
Susan Lane, cousin  
William Lane, son of Susan Lane  
Elizabeth Masson of Dorking, Surrey  
Ellen Holmwood, cousin  
Edward Greene, witness

Places

Lewes  
Dorking, Surrey

Relevant Events

Mary FARMER of All Saints, Lewes and Richard KIDDER, wheeler, of the same parish, obtained a marriage licence on 29 Nov 1603 (Archdeaconry of Lewes).

Title: **Original will of Richard Kidder of Lewes All Saints, yeoman**

Date: 3 Aug 1639

ESRO: AMS 6870/3

Description: bequests to his son-in-law Edward Holmewood and his wife Ellen, Richard Kidder's daughter, to his son Thomas Kidder (already provided for) whereas he is charged with legacies granted to his son Edward Kidder by the will of Richard Kidder's sister-in-law Rebecca Elphick, Richard Kidder now augments her legacy to £200, to be paid to Edward Kidder within a month after his apprenticeship expires, provided Edward Kidder seal a release to Richard Kidder's executors.

Wife Mary and son Richard executors and residuary legatees

All messuages in Lewes All Saints and St Thomas Cliffe to eldest son Richard Kidder in tail, with remainder of messuage in All Saints [14 High Street] to son Thomas Kidder and messuage called The Red Lion in Cliffe to son Edward Kidder

Witnesses: John Frier, William Alcock

endorsed: my cousin Kidder's father's will

**See also:**

Will for Thomas FERMER, Yeoman of Lewes, proved 29 Nov 1604, Rebecka's father. (ESRO: PBT/1/1/12/43B)

Family Tree

See Tree 6. "*Descendants of Thomas Farmer (-1604) of Lewes*" in Chapter 1.

#### 40. Will of Joane Godley of Newick, 1589/90

(ESRO: PBT/1/4/1589/4)

Made: 7 Dec 1589

Proved: 7 Mar 1589/90

FamilySearch Film: 1885743; Image: 12

In the name of god, amen, the vij<sup>th</sup> day of December yere 1589 I **Joane Godley**, widdow of Newicke in the countye of Sussex beinge sicke in bodye but of good & p'fect remembrance thanks be geven to almightie god for yt, doe make, constitute & ordaine this my testament and last will in maner & forme followinge, that is to say first I bequeathe my soule unto almighty god my creatr and redemer and my only savior/ And my bodye to be buried in the churchyarde of Newick aforesaid. Item, I bequeathe to the poore of the pische of Newick iijs iiijd. Item, I will & bequeathe unto my **sister Pellinge** a pewter dish & a pewter platter (obscured by fold) Item, I will & bequeathe unto **Joan Godly** my daughter?(obscured by fold) a pewter dish & a pewter platter & a pewter fork. Item, I will & bequeathe unto **Willm ffarmer** my sonne in lawe a pewter dish, a pewter platter & a sawcer. It, I will & bequeathe to **George Gibson** a pewter dish & a pewter platter. Item, I will & bequeathe unto my daughter **Margrett ffarmer** one ffetherbeddand that wch belongeth to yt and halfe a dossen of pewter and a litel caldron and a kettell. The residue of all my goods & cattles ungeven or unbequeathed I geve unto my sone in law **John Baker** whom I make my sole executor of this my last will and testament and furthermore I doe make and ordeyne **Thos Earle and Richard Peckden** to be my overseers to see this my last will contented and fulfilled. Witness at the rehearsill<sup>p</sup> thereof, **Thomas Earle, Richard Peckden, John Pellinge, George Gibson senr.**

Probate in Latin to **John Baker** 7 Mar 1589.

*(Transcribed by John F Howes, Aug 2022)*

#### NOTES

##### People

Joane Godley, testatrix

Sister Pellinge

Joan Godley, daughter

William Farmer, son-in-law

George Gibson

Margrett Farmer, daughter

John Baker, son-in-law, executor

Thomas Earle, overseer

Richard Peckham, overseer

John Pellinge, witness

George Gibson senior, witness

##### Places

Newick

### Relevant Events

There is very little information on Joane in the parish registers. No marriages or burial can be found. It is considered likely that she was married to William FARMER of Newick. William left a will proved in 1576 and mentions his wife Joane. After his death it would appear that she married a GODLEY.

John BAKER married Alice FARMER in Newick on 9 Aug 1584. This is probably Joane's son-in-law John BAKER who is appointed the executor. Alice FARMER would be Joane's daughter.

William FARMER, her son-in-law, married Margrett FULLER, on 12 Sept 1569. It is possible that "son-in-law" means "step-son".

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