

Wolstanton, Staffordshire: Wills & Inventories 1600-1650

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134	Thomas Cotes of Great Chell, yeoman, date of will 28th October 1634, buried 12th November, inventory taken 20th November, date of probate 17th February 1634/5.	239
	134.1 Inventory	240
	134.2 Notes	241

135 Margaret Eardley of Grubbers Ash, widow, no will, buried 25th November, inventory taken 26th November, administration granted 4th Dec 1634.	242
135.1 Inventory	242
135.2 Notes	242
136 Joan Leigh of Stodmorelowe, widow, date of will 25th April 1634, burial date not known, no inventory, date of probate 4th May 1636.	243
136.1 Notes	243
137 William Clowes of Fowley, husbandman, will dated 25th Feb 1634/5, buried 2nd March 1634/5, inventory taken 9th March 1634/5, date of probate 24th April 1635.	243
137.1 Will	243
137.2 Inventory	244
137.3 Notes	245
138 John Beech of Knutton, yeoman, will dated 27th August 1635, buried 3rd September 1635, inventory taken 5th September, date of probate 16th September 1635.	245
138.1 Will	245
138.2 Inventory	246
138.3 Notes	247
139 John Unwin, husbandman, date of will 20th December 1634, buried 10th December 1635, inventory taken 11th December 1635, date of probate 2nd January 1635/6	248
139.1 Will	248
139.2 Inventory	249
139.3 Notes	249
140 Randle Whytall of Olcott, nailer, will dated 20th March 1633/4, buried 27th ?July 1635, inventory taken 30th July 1635, date of probate 4th August 1635.	250
140.1 Will	250
140.2 Inventory	250
140.3 Notes	252
141 John Milnes of Newchapell, no will, buried 3rd May 1635, inventory taken 5th May[Tue], date of probate 6th May.	252
141.1 Inventory	252
141.2 Notes	254
142 Roger Smyth of Haykar, yeoman, will dated 4th Aug 1635, buried 9th Feb 1635/6, inventory dated 10th February[Tue], date of probate 17th Feb 1635/6	255
142.1 Will	255
142.2 Inventory	255

142.3Notes	256
143Raphe Barlowe of Bruckhouse, skinner, will dated 10th March 1634/5, buried 24th June 1636, inventory taken 30th June 1636, date of probate 17th August 1636.	257
143.1Will	257
143.2Inventory	258
143.3Notes	258
144Alice Hanson of Stonetrough, spinster, no will, buried 28th January 1636/7, inventory taken 2nd February 1636/7, exhibited 11th May 1637.	259
144.1Inventory	259
144.2Notes	259
145Elizabeth Turnor of Wolstanton, widow buried 26th September 1637, no will, inventory taken 27th September [Wed], administration granted 26th October.	260
145.1Inventory	260
145.2Notes	260
146Katherine Prince of Stadmorelow, widow, will dated 26th February 1636/7, buried and inventory taken 29th March 1637, date of probate 1st April, 1637.	261
146.1Will	261
146.2Inventory	262
146.3Notes	263
147John Rowley of Turnehurst, will dated 6th October 1633, buried 9th May 1637, inventory taken 11th May 1637[Thur], date of probate 17th May 1637	264
147.1Will	264
147.2Inventory	264
147.3Notes	265
148Richard Wood of the Wood, will dated 26th May 1628, buried 20th May 1637, inventory taken 25th May 1637, date of probate 26th May 1637.	266
148.1Will	266
148.2Inventory	266
148.3Notes	267
149William Stonier of Wedgwood, yeoman, will dated 16th May 1637, buried 1637, inventory taken 2nd June 1637, date of probate 28th June.	268
149.1Will	268
149.2Inventory	268
149.3Notes	269

150 Thomas Baddeley of Pale, yeoman, date of will 13th September 1637, buried 17th September, inventory taken 21st September 1637, date of probate 5th October 1637	270
150.1 Will	270
150.2 Inventory	270
150.3 Notes	271
151 Thomas Burslem of Brownlees, will dated 27th July 1637, buried 29th July 1637, inventory taken 13th August, date of probate 5th October.	272
151.1 Will	272
151.2 Inventory	272
151.3 Note	273
152 John Marsh of Chesterton, no will, buried 4th December 1637, inventory taken 9th December, administration granted 14th December 1637.	273
152.1 Inventory	273
152.2 Notes	274
153 Richard Gregory [?of Brerehurst], no will, buried 9th September 1637, inventory taken 11th September, administration granted 26th December 1637.	275
153.1 Inventory	275
153.2 Notes	275
154 Raphe Abney of Chesterton, no will, buried 3rd January, date of inventory 20th January, administration granted 16th March 1637/8	276
154.1 Inventory	276
154.2 Notes	277
155 Ellen Stile, widow, will dated March 1st 1637/8, buried 3rd December 1638, inventory taken 4th December 1638, date of probate 14thm December 1638.	278
155.1 Will	278
155.2 Inventory	278
155.3 Notes	279
156 Margerie Twemlo, widow, of Brerehurst, will dated 30th May 1633, inventory taken 24th August 1638, date of probate 4th October 1638.	280
156.1 Will	280
156.2 Inventory	280
157 Thomas Harvey of Bradwall, buried 23rd December 1638, no will, inventory taken 26th December 1638, administration granted 3rd Jan 1638/9.	281
157.1 Inventory	281
157.2 Notes	281

158	John Morton the elder of Wolstanton, husbandman, will dated 16th Dec 1637, buried 6th April 1638, date of inventory 7th April 1638, date of probate 1st May 1638.	283
	158.1 Will	283
	158.2 Inventory	283
	158.3 Notes	284
159	George Hanson of Woolstanton yeoman, will dated 13th December 1637, buried 2nd November 1638, inventory taken 10th November,[Fri] date of probate 22nd Feb 1638/9.	285
	159.1 Will	285
	159.2 Inventory	285
	159.3 Notes	287
160	Henrie Colcloughe of Chesterton, yeoman, will dated 12th March 1638/9, buried 21st March, inventory taken 27th March 1639, date of probate/admon 6th March 1639/40.	287
	160.1 Will	287
	160.2 Inventory	288
	160.3 Notes	289
161	John Baddeley of Holditch, gentleman, will dated 24th April 1628, buried ?22nd April 1639, inventory taken 13th May 1639, date of probate 12th June 1639.	289
	161.1 Will	289
	161.2 Inventory	290
	161.3 Notes	290
162	Margarett Whytall of Olcott, widow, date of will 26th March 1635, buried 6th June 1639, inventory taken 11th June, date of probate 5th July 1639.	291
	162.1 Will	291
	162.2 Inventory	292
	162.3 Notes	292
163	Ann Drakeford of Wedgwood, spinster, will dated 10th September 1639, buried 13th September, inventory taken 16th September, date of probate 8th October 1639.	293
	163.1 Will	293
	163.2 Notes	294
164	John Greenwood of Heath End, husbandman, will dated 30th July 1640, date of inventory 18th August, date of probate 3rd September.	294
	164.1 Will	294
	164.2 Inventory	294
	164.3 Notes	295

165 Thomas Bourne the elder of Dimsdale, yeoman, will dated 3rd October 1639, buried 7th September 1640, inventory taken 10th Sept,[Wed] date of probate 15th Sept.	296
165.1 Will	296
165.2 Notes	296
165.3 Inventory	297
166 Thomas Fenton of Knutton, yeoman, will dated 8th November 1638, buried 5th April 1640, inventory undated, date of probate 26th May 1640.	298
166.1 Will	298
166.2 Inventory	298
166.3 Notes	299
167 Thomas Wood of Chesterton, yeoman, date of will 28th December 1638, buried 30th July 1640, inventory taken 4th August 1640, date of probate 17th August 1640	299
167.1 Will	299
167.2 Inventory	300
167.3 Notes	300
168 Edward Unwyn, will dated 13th April 1641, buried 25th April, will proved at London 23rd July 1641.	300
168.1 Will	300
168.2 Notes	301
169 William Merriman of Chesterton, husbandman, will dated 18th May 1641, buried 21st May, inventory taken 25th May 1641, date of admn 29th June 1641	302
169.1 Will	302
169.2 Inventory	302
169.3 Notes	304
170 Edward Erdswick, gentleman, no will, grant of administration 17th February 1640/1, inventory taken 10th February 1640/1, exhibited at Lichfield 29th March 1641, account accepted 5th April 1642.	304
170.1 Inventory	304
170.2 Notes	306
171 Richard Dickenson of Ramscliffe, tanner, nuncupative will dated 20th February 1640/1, buried 27th February, inventory taken 1st March, date of probate 19th March 1640/1.	307
171.1 Inventory	308
171.2 Notes	308

172Richard Podmore of Moule [Mow Cop], will undated, buried 11th April 1641, inventory taken 16th April, exhibited 2nd September, date of probate 16th September 1641.	309
172.1 Will	309
172.2 Inventory	310
172.3 Notes	310
173Richard Coleclough of Hayhed, no will, buried 25th December 1641, inventory taken 29th December 1641, date of probate 19th January 1641/2	311
173.1 Inventory	311
173.2 Notes	312
174Thomas Henshaw of Woolstanton, nuncupative will dated 11th April 1641, buried 13th April, inventory dated 16th April, administration granted 16th September	313
174.1 Inventory	313
174.2 Notes	315
175Thomas Frost of Newchappell, blacksmith, will dated 5th June, buried 1st June [?7th June], inventory taken 8th June, date of probate 16th September 1641.	315
175.1 Will	315
175.2 Inventory	316
175.3 Notes	317
176Thomas Kent of Brerehurst, webster, will dated 25th February, buried 7th August 1642, inventory taken 17th August,[Tue] date of probate 29th August	318
176.1 Will	318
176.2 Inventory	318
176.3 Notes	319
177Thomas Bullock, buried 7th May 1642, no will, inventory taken 18th May 1642, [Tue]date of admon 19th May.	320
177.1 Inventory	320
177.2 Notes	320
178William Bourne of Ewtree the elder, gentleman, will dated 8th August 1642, buried 7th Sept 1642, inventory taken 7th Sept, date of probate 13th December	321
178.1 Will	321
178.2 Inventory	322
178.3 Notes	324

179	Antony Moore of Wolstanton, husbandman, will dated 6th June 1644, buried 9th June, inventory taken 22nd June, date of probate 7th January 1644/5.	327
	179.1 Will	327
	179.2 Inventory	328
	179.3 Notes	328
180	Francis Bristoe of the Red Street, broad glass maker, date of will 15th January 1644/5, buried 24th January 1644/5, inventory taken 22nd February 1644/5, date of probate 30th Oct 1648.	329
	180.1 Will	329
	180.2 Inventory	329
	180.3 Note	330
181	Joyce Burslem of Parkehouse, widow, will dated 27th Jan 1643/4, inventory taken 20th April 1645, date of probate 10th Dec 1646.	331
	181.1 Will	331
	181.2 Inventory	331
	181.3 Notes	332
182	Joyce Myles of Newchapell, widow, will dated 26th February 1645/6, buried 1st March 1645/6, inventory taken 2nd March 1645/6, date of probate 17th Oct 1650.	333
	182.1 Will	333
	182.2 Inventory	333
	182.3 Notes	334
183	John Barlow, will dated 24th March 1645/6, buried 6th May, no inventory, administration granted 10th December 1646.	335
	183.1 Will	335
	183.2 Note	335
184	Ann Machen of Foule Ieye (Fowlea), widow, will dated 24th June 1634, buried, inventory taken 8th December 1646, date of probate 10th December 1646.	335
	184.1 Will	335
	184.2 Inventory	336
	184.3 Notes	336
185	Elizabeth Whillocke buried 23rd July 1646, no inventory, administration granted 10th December 1646.	336
	185.1 Note	337
186	Antony Beech of Great Chell, yeoman, will dated 25th November 1643, buried 3rd March 1644, no inventory, proved in London 5th May 1646.	337
	186.1 Notes	338

187	Raphe Bourne [of Chesterton], yeoman, date of will 12th August 1647, buried 8th October 1647, inventory taken 12th October 1647, date of probate 13th October.	339
	187.1 Will	339
	187.2 Inventory	339
	187.3 Notes	340
188	William Shaw of Great Chell, yeoman, date of will 3rd October 1648, buried 30th January 1648/9, inventory taken 2nd February 1648/9, date of probate 2nd May 1649.	340
	188.1 Will	340
	188.2 Inventory	341
	188.3 Notes	342
189	John Rowley of Haycarre, yeoman, will dated 13th March 1648/9, buried 30th May 1649, inventory taken 1st June, date of probate 7th July 1649	342
	189.1 Will	342
	189.2 Inventory	343
	189.3 Notes	345
190	John Clownam of Knutton, yeoman, date of will 18th December 1644, buried 1st February 1647/8, inventory taken 3rd February, date of probate 15 June 1648	346
	190.1 Will	346
	190.2 Inventory	347
	190.3 Notes	348
191	John Caulton of Stadmoreslow, will dated 21st February 1648/9, buried 4th March 1647/8, inventory undated, date of probate 17th May 1649.	348
	191.1 Will	348
	191.2 Inventory	349
	191.3 Notes	350
192	Robert Parker of Tunstall, yeoman, will dated 31st March 1649, buried 1st April 1649, inventory taken 5th April, date of probate 17th May.	350
	192.1 Will	350
	192.2 Inventory	351
	192.3 Notes	351
193	William Burslem, no will, buried Nov 23rd 1648, inventory taken 11th May 1649,[Wed] date of probate 17th May.	352
	193.1 Inventory	352
	193.2 Notes	352

1 John Bourne of Chesterton, yeoman, will dated 1st August 1597, inventory taken 11th March 1599/1600, date of probate 21st March 1599/1600

1.1 Will (summary)

Being in good health of body; to be buried in the parish church of Wolstanton.

To Henrie Bourne, my eldest son, in the name of his heirs: one silver salt (gilt), 12 silver spoons, 1 long table, and a square table in the parlour and 2 forms and 1 carpet belonging to it/them, 4 chairs, 2 joint beds, 2 pair of bedsteads in the chamber over the buttery, 1 long brooch, 1 pair of iron-bound wheels, 3 iron chains and all my yokes, 1 harrow and plough with the plough-irons, 1 pair of goberts, 1 hutch or whytch, 1 great coffer or chest, and 1 pot.

To my daughter Marie Baylie (whom I have already bestowed in marriage): 10 shillings, for her portion.

My debts and funeral expenses being discharged of the whole, I give and bequeath to Elinor Bourne my wife and to my two sons William Bourne and John Bourne the residue of all my goods, moveable and unmoveable, to be divided in three equal parts amongst them.

Executors: Henry Bourne and John Bourne.

Witnesses: Henry Bourne, William Bourne, William Brett.

1.2 Inventory

The Inventorie of all the goodes Cattell & houshold stuffe of John Bourne of Chesterton w[i]thin the p[ar]ishe of Wolstanton Lately Deceased, taken by Henrie Bourne Henrie Cowall Thomas Wood & Raffe Whyllocke the xjth daie of march in the yere of our lord 1599 & in the xlijth yere of the raigne of of our sou[er]aigne ladie queene Elizabeth &c.

Foure oxen	£16	6s	8d
seven kyne	£16	6s	8d
Three twynt[e]rs	£4	6s	8d
fyve calves	£3	6s	8d
one mare		13s	4d
the Corne & hay in the barne	£2	10s	
Corne on the ground	£8		
one Sylver Salt & spoones	£4		
all the Poultrie		4s	4d
the Brasse & Pewter	£4		
the bedding & napry ware	£6	13s	4d
bedsteedes tables Chestes & all other treene Ware	£5		
Butt[e]r, Cheese, fleshe & other houshold p[ro]vision	£1		
Brooches gobertes Brandart & other Iron stuffe		6s	8d
Cart plowes yokes & other husbandrie Implementes	£1		
the Dunge		10s	
his wayring Apparell	£2		
S[um]m[a] tot[alis]	£76	16s	8d
[Actual	£76	4s	4d]

1.3 Notes

1. Wills in which the testator declares that he is in good health tend to be the exception in this period, and, more often than not, such wills are written some time before death. John Bourne's will is included here as he evidently died in 1600. (The appraisers followed what was normal practice at this time of putting the old year for any date occurring between 1st January and 24th March. In my headings and notes I have given this as 'old year/new year' where it occurs.) Details (of burials etc) from the Wolstanton parish register only survive from 1624.
2. Wills of later centuries - which are concerned with the disposal mainly of sums of money - are much less informative about household and farming goods. In the period 1600-50, money (in the absence of banks) was tied up in land, goods and loans to borrowers. Of these, bequests of land are not found in the wills of all land holders. (Sometimes the man transferred land during his life. Otherwise it passed to the heir in accordance with the traditional custom of the manor in which the land was held - usually to the oldest son, with a third of it reserved to the widow for her life.)
3. Household goods: the salt is a salt-box; and the 'Brooches gobertes Brandart & other Iron stuffe' are the equipment of the hearth.
4. The appraisers (those who undertook an inventory of the deceased's goods and valued them) were neighbours of similar social standing to him. Henry Bourne is a resident of Chesterton, but not necessarily related.
5. The inventory does not mention a lease. But he is likely to have been the tenant of the lord of the manor of Chesterton and living in the manor house.
6. The bishop's court at Lichfield had to make the decision about probate ie the proving of the will so it could be accepted as valid. The probate records that survive at Lichfield for John Bourne are the inventory, the will and a piece of paper with nine lines of Latin

on it. This seems to be a record of Henry Bourne's renunciation of the role of executor. On the back of the will is a note of the court's decision to grant letters of administration to the widow Elinor, empowering her to administer her late husband's estate.

2 John Bourne of Chesterton, no will, inventory taken 16th April 1598, date of admon 9th April 1600

2.1 Inventory

The Inventorie of all the good[es] moveable & vnmovable of John Bourne of Chesterton latly deceased taken by Henrye Bourne Thelder Henrye Bourne the younger Thomas Woode & John Colclouge the xvjth daye of Aprill in the yeare of our lord god 1598 & in the fortith yeare of the raigne of our sou[er]aigne Ladye Elizabeth etc
Foure Featherbedes three mattresses w[i]th the
boulsteres & the residue of all the beddinge
all the sheetes & naprye ware
all the pewter and brasse
all the tables beddstiddes Chestes of coferse copboord
wth all other treene ware
one grat two brooches & all other iron ware
the geese and pultrie
two carpites five quyshions twoo sakes & linen yarn
corne in the house & on the grond
the dunge
his purse & wayringe apparell
Sum[m]a £15 19s 6d

3 John Meere, no will, inventory taken 9th February 1599/1600, administration granted 14th February 1599/1600

Nono die February 1599

3.1 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect Inventorie of all the goodes of John Meere late deceased praised by Thomas Burslem William Bourne James Beech and John Rowley

all his bedding	£1	
iiij quishions		1s
all his apparell		10s
one ould framing saw one grate nogars and all other		
Iron ware		6s
all the boordes and trine ware		2s
all the pewter		4s
all the brasse		13s 4d
Su[m]ma	£2	16s 4d
Debtes owing vnto the said John		

Richard Doston	£3	6s
Raphe Moreton	£2	4s
John Rowley	£1	10s

The debt which the said John oweth is ..11s

4 Thomas Shawe of Chell, will dated 23rd March 1599/1600, died and inventory taken 26th March 1600, date of probate 28th March.

4.1 Will

Sick in body; to be buried in the churchyard of Wolstanton.

To Margerett my wife: a half of a messuage and half of all my freehold lands in Chell, for her life if she keeps herself sole and unmarried; and half of all my goods and chattels (except one great ark or whiche, one tubstone, with half of all my husbandry wares, which I give my son Thomas Shawe).

Residuary legatees: my sons Henry Shawe (two-thirds) and James Shawe (one third).

Executors: Margerett my wife and Thomas Shawe my son.

Overseers: Anthony Beeche of Chell and (?John) (?R)owley my brother-in-law.

Witnesses: John Rowley of Wedgwood, William Bourne of Chell, James Rowley, with others.

4.2 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect Inventorie of all and singuler the goodes and Cattals the w[hi]ch weare of Thomas Shawe of Chell in the p[ar]ish of woolstanton w[it]hin the Countie of Stafford at the day of his death: praysed By William Bourne. Anthony Beeche and Richarde Bourne of Chell, the xxvith day of Marche Anno D[omi]ni 1600 Annoq[ue] Regina Elizabeth xlij.

foure yonge oxen	£12	15s	
fyve kyne and ij sucinge Calves	£13		
foure Twynters	£8	10s	
syx Styrkes	£8		
foure yearelinge Calves	£4		
one mare and one Colt	£2	13s	4d
seven olde sheepe and ij lambes	£2		
ij yonge swyne		13s	4d
c[er]tayne pullen		3s	4d
Corne & hay in the barne and [?on the grond]	£3		
Brasse and pewter	£3		
all man[er] beddinge	£3		
one great Arke and c[er]tayne coffers	£1	6s	8d
c[er]tayne nappery wares		6s	8d
c[er]tayne tryne warres		6s	8d
c[er]tayne Iron ware		10s	
Bordes formes Cheares stooles & cushins		10s	
all man[er] Implem[ent]es of husbandry		13s	4d
one Weau[er]s loome		3s	4d
c[er]tayne maynore		10s	
c[er]tayne wayne tymber j tubstone & j grindlstone		5s	
App[ar]ell for his body	£1	10s	
S[um]ma tot[a]lis	£66	13s	4d
[Actual:	£66	16s	8d]

4.3 Note

The weaver's loom indicates one of Thomas Shawe's sources of income, and it looks likely that one of his sons continued in the weaving trade (see the will of Thomas Shaw of Great Chell who died in 1626). However, the investment in four oxen (a ploughing team) indicates a commitment to arable farming, together with the husbandry ware (farming gear).

5 Margaret Shawe of Chell, widow, will dated 10th May, inventory taken 14th May, date of probate 19th May 1601.

5.1 Will

Sick in body; to be buried in the churchyard of Wolstanton near the place where my husband lies.

To Thomas Shawe my eldest son: one stirk and certain rye standing in a compe in the barn.

To Margaret Shaw my daughter-in-law: one pair of silver hooks.
To James Sawe my second son: one stirk.
To Eve Harrison my sister: my best petticoat, my best smock and my best kerchief ('kercher').
To goodwife Beeche: one flaxen smock
To good Rowley: my elsteyd apron.
To my aunt Alice Cartliche: one smock and a kercher.
To Robertt Hochkynson: a half hoop of rye.
To Joane Harrison my servant: one old petticote, one smock and one kercher.
To Richard Tormoure: one jerkin.
To his wife: my old gown.
Residuary legatees: James Shawe and Henry Shawe.
Executor: James Shawe.
Overseers: John Rowley and James Rowley of the parish of Norton.
Witnesses: John Rowley, James Rowley and Anne Beech with others.

5.2 Inventory

The true Inventorie of all and singuler the goodes and Cattales the which weare of margarett Sawe of Chell in the p[ar]ish of woolstanton in the countie of Stafford wyd-dowe, at the day of her death, pryced, by will[ia]m Bourne of Chell Anthony Beech and Richard Bourne the xiiijth day of may Anno d[omi]ni 1601 Anno[ue] Reginae Elizabeth[e] xliij

iij kyne	£6		
iij Twynters	£4		
ij styrkes	£2		
ij wayninge Calves	£1		
j mare	£1	16s	8d
ij swyne		13s	4d
iiij sheepe	£1		
Corne in the howse	£2	6s	8d
Corne one the grownde	£2	10s	
c[er]tayne take grownd	£2	10s	
Brasse and pewter	£1	6s	8d
all maner Beddinge	£2	10s	
all man[er] nappery ware	£2		
c[er]tayne newe Cloth	£1		
hempe and yearne		10s	
c[er]tayne coffers or Chestes	£1		
Bordes, formes, tressles, bedstockes, cheres stooles and Cushins		6s	8d
Bacon at the Rouffe		10s	
Butter and Cheyse		8s	
all man[er] tryne ware		5s	
Iron ware		10s	
husbandry ware		6s	8d
c[er]tayne manur or donge	£1		
App[ar]ell for her body	£1		
one Bakestone w[i]t[h] all other implem[en]tes of household before vnpryced		3s	4d
Sum[ma]	£36	13s	0d]

5.3 Notes

1. The will and inventory are in the same handwriting and are probably copies. Some mistakes in the will are probably due to the haste of the copyist and maybe (in the case of 'elsteyd apron') to the illegibility of the original.
2. Overseers were called upon to advise and adjudicate; they were usually more senior figures who were not necessarily part of the family. As the bulk of Margaret Shaw's possessions were not specifically donated in the will, the overseers would have to see that the goods were divided equally between the two brothers, helping to settle such tricky questions as: who was to get the mare?
3. The dairy was regarded as the wife's province; Margaret's servant Joan would have been the dairy maid, while Margaret's sons James and Henry would have concentrated on the arable farming. But she has corn on the ground.
4. Her late husband Thomas had left her half of his goods and chattels, and their respective probate inventory totals reflect this fairly closely.
5. Take grownd ie tack ground, that had been leased for a term of years.
6. Silver hooks were also bequeathed two years later by another female parishioner,

Margaret Colclough.

7. The compe where her rye was stored was different from the ark or whiche which her husband had at his death and bequeathed to a son.

6 Margaret Burne of Chesterton, single woman, will undated, no inventory, administration granted 6th August 1600.

In the name of god amen I Margrett borne of chesterton in the countye of stafford single woman doe bequeath my solle to the keping of almyghtye god and my bodye to be buried in the chearche yard of woolstanton first I giue unto my brother Thomas borne my best hatt a pursse and a ring I giue to Ellen torner my sister one durance apurne Item I giue unto Jone torner my cossin one gerdle Item I all the rest of my wearing apparill I geue to Katterne borne Item I giue unto Margreate wood to the use of hir eldest doughter sixe shillings eigh pence Item I giue unto Jhon bo[u]rne twelue pence Item I geue unto Jone hanson xijd. my funer[al expences] deschard and payd It[e]m I giue unto thomas bo[u]rne and kathern borne my sister all the resudye of my goods mouable and unmouable equallye to be deuydid
in the presence of these whose names are under written
Thomas Wood margarett wood Jhon borne Jone hanson

6.1 Notes

1. Thomas Burne of Brodwall (Bradwell), husbandman, accompanied by Randle Meare of Woolstanton, yeoman, had to travel to Lichfield to be granted the administration of his sister's goods. The other sister Katherine had to go to the vicar of Wolstanton Henry Stevenson to be sworn on oath.
2. The will refers to the payment of her funeral expenses, but not the payment of any money she owed, so it can be inferred that she didn't. Likewise there is no evidence of anyone owing her money.
3. The OED gives the definition of 'durance' as 'stout durable cloth' - so presumably Margaret Burne's apron was made of a material such as hemp or canvas - or leather?

7 Andrew Smith of Heath End, yeoman, nuncupative will dated 31st January 1600/1, undated inventory, date of admon 17th Feb 1600/1

In the Name of God Amen The Last day of Januarie. Anno d[omi]ni 1600 In the p[re]sence of John Peeke of Keele, John Coolcloughe of Grubbershill & Margrett his

wyef this ones good neighbour Andrew Smith late of Hea[th]end wth y[n the] Parrishe of Woolstanton & Countie of Stafford yoman hath by word of mo[uth] vttered and declared his last Will & Testament Nuncupative in such mannor as followeth

I Andrew Smith sicke in bodie but of good & perfect memorie, Thankes be to God for it, by reason of the extremitie of sickenesse & want of tyme, fearing least I should not be able to putt downe in wrytinge this my last Will & Testament am willinge in p[re]sence of you my good neighbours & frendes to expresse [the] same:

First I bequeath my soule into the handes of Almightye God from whence cometh my salvation & my bodie to be buried in the parrishe churchyard of Woolstant[on] Also I give my house & lande w[i]th it appurtena[u]nces to John Smith my sonne too enter vpon the same at such tyme as he shall accomplish the full age of one & twentie yeares vntill w[hi]ch tyme my wyef shall occupye the whoole, further my Will is that Isabell my wyef shall haue the vse & occupac[i]on of the one half of my said house & Landes togetheather w[i]th my sonne duringe her naturall lyef

Also I gyve to the said John Smith my sonne the whoole Terme of my Tacke Lyinge in Woolstanto[n] beinge tow parcells of ground called the over flattes & the Lower flattes to enter vppo[n] the same when he shall accomlishe the full age of sixeteene yeares vnto w[hi]ch tyme my wyef shall haue the occupac[i]on therof

Also fo[r] his heirees I give to my sonne one yron boane Wane, a Wytch, & Table a Cubword & a Grate and all my husbandrie ware, savinge that Isabell my wyef shall haue the occupac[i]on therof togetheather w[i]th him duringe her naturall [lyef] keep[ing] the same in good & sufficient reparac[i]on Also my best bedd as it now standeth furnished so shall remaine to John my sonne to enter vppo[n] the same at the day of his marriage. Also I give to my sister in law Mary Smiths children everie one of them vjs viijd and I give to everie godchylde xijd

All the rest of my goods & Chattels moveable & vnmmoveable, quicke or dead of what sorte or in whose handes soever they bee, my Debtes paid & funerall expenses discharged I whoolelie give to Isabell my wyef & Ellen my daughter equallie to be devyded betwixt them, and my will is that my wyef shall haue the bringinge vp of Ellen my daughter & the rule & governement of her goods vntill she come to lawfull age vsinge & bestowinge them to her best p[ro]ffit & com[m]oditie. And I ordaine & make Isabell my wyeff my sole & lawfull executrix iustlie & trulie to execute & performe this my last will & Testament accordinge to the trust I repose in her In Witnesse wherof we the foresaid John Peeke, John Coolclough & Margrett his wyf haue putt to our handes the Tenth day of Februarie in the three & fourth yeare of the Raigne of the Queens ma[jes]tie that nowe is. These beinge Witnesses

John Pateson Rand[a]ll Pateson

John Peakes Marke x Richard Peake & Thoma[s] Smithe

John Coolcloughes x w[i]t[h] others

& Margrett Coolcloughes x

Debtes owynge to mee Andrew Smith as foloweth

Thomas Baddeley of Holdiche	40s	
Homfrey Burgis	36s	
Richard Glover of Knutton	16[s?]	
Widdow Cowper	10s	
John Morgen of Keele	10s	
Thomas Beeche	16s	
Margrett [Ashley?]	2s	
Richard Smith of Newcastell		12d
Mr Sabshed		20d
Mr Keelinge	£4	
John Pateson	£23	
John Clownan	40s	
Widdow Heath	6s	8d
William Vnwin	10s	

7.1 Inventory

A true & p[er]fect Inventorie of all the good and Chattells of Andrew Smith late of Heath end deceased, praysed and Valued by thestimac[i]on of Richard Glover John Coolclough Richard Peeke John Peeke w[i]th others

foure Oxen	£25	
Tow steares	£5	
Three Lesser steares	£6	
Threetine Kyne & heyfers	£26	
Sixe Twynters	£7	4s
Sixe Calves	£4	
Tow Meres & a colte	£5	
Tow & fourtie sheepe	£9	
Three swyne		15s
Geese & hennes		4s
Corne in the barne	£7	
Hay	£3	6s 8d
Corne vppo[n] the earth	£5	
Brasse & pewter	£4	
Beddinge & all other napperie ware	£5	
Butter & cheese	£1	10s
Fleshe at the house		13s 4d
Chestes & all other treene ware	£1	
Iron Ware & other implement belonginge to husbandry	£2	
His Tack Taxe or Chattels	£10	
Apparell for his bodie	£2	
Sum[m]a	£1[2]9	13s

7.2 Notes

1. 'Tacke' - lease. The Over flattes and the Lower flattes (containing about 8 statutory acres) were owned by Rondull Meare in 1615.
2. At the time of this inventory - which was taken in February - there was a lot of hay, which could be in a barn or stack. Haystacks are to be found at this time eg a Cheshire inventory of February 20th 1610/11 has 'all the hey in the hey barne and standing in a stack' valued at £3 6s 8d.
3. 'yron boane Wane' in the will is an iron-bound wain (cart or wagon).

8 William Hancocke of Knutton, will dated 26th February 1598, inventory taken 24th February 1600/1, date of probate 5th March 1600/1

8.1 Will

Sick in body; to be buried in the church of Wolstanton in St Nicolas' aisle there.

To Mathewe Peart my son-in-law: 12d.

To my daughter Ellen Peart his wife: 12d.

To everyone of their children: 12d each.

To Joane Hexom my daughter: all the goods that sometime were in the possession of my late wife Anne Hancock, mother of the said Joane.

Residuary legatee: Joane my daughter

Executor: Thomas Keelinge of Newcastle under Lyme.

8.2 Inventory

A true Inventorie of all the goodes & chattles of William hancock of knutton in the countie of Staff[ord] deceased, taken & praised the 24 Februarie 1600 by Richard Bagnall and John dorington.

one featherbed, one Matrisse, one payre of sheetes, one table cloth, & ij old table-clothes, one wallett & two course towells

four bolsters, & ij course pillowes, one bedcou[er]inge, a cou[er]lett & ij Quishions

Apparell of the deade

ij payer of bedstids, iij Coffers, one Cupbord, iij Chears & one table & tressles

two broches, & one payer course golberts, yro[n] grate & other yro[n] ware of lyttle value

two Candesticks, one scorrer, ij course salt sellers, & in sawcers & other pewter thertene pieces

one pott and litle posnett

three pannes a spade and some other implem[en]t[es] of household of little value or worthe

8.3 Notes

1. His executor was an alderman of Newcastle. William Hancock served as thirdborough for Knutton in 1567, 1574, 1581 and 1595. He owned land which was freehold, but the will does not say to whom it passed after his death. However it must have been to his daughter Joane who was married to Ralph Hexam, as the latter was acting as constable at Easter 1602 for Knutton for the tenement that was William Hancock's.
2. 'course' (coarse) conveys the same meaning as 'of low value'.
3. His deceased wife's possessions, bequeathed to his daughter, are likely to have included her clothes.

9 Elizabeth Tunstall, no will, inventory taken 20th November 1601, date of admon 16th May 1602.

9.1 Inventory

A true & lawfull Inventorie of all the goodes cattelles & chattelles of elizabeth tunstall deceased w[i]thin the p[ar]ish of owlstanton taken the xxth daye of november in the xliiijth yeare of elizabeth the quenes ma[jest]ie that nowe is by vs Richard knyght Antho[n]y beche edwarde sneyde and Robert sneyde pressors

sixe kyne

towe twinters heffers

ijj sterkes

ij calves

one mare & a coulte

ij swyne

certen pullen

brasse & pewter

certen beddinge

naperi ware

trene ware

Iyron ware

bordes formes coffers & bedstockes

cheres & stoles

towe wevers lommies w[i]th furniture

one wich 6s 8d

empelmentes of husbandrie

certen whytemete

corne & heye in the barne

certen mamure or dounge

certen tryfeles if there be any vnpressed

Apparell for her body

for the lease of certeine a house and certeine grounds at held hill £8

9.2 Notes

1. From the probate records it appears that Elizabeth Tunstall left behind five boys (William, Richard, John, Henry and James). Her nearest relative William Burne of Chell, yeoman, came forward to take on the administration of her goods and the bringing up of the children.
2. The family lived at Held Hill or Hield Hill; the present designation is It lay at the edge of Rainscliffe township on the lane eastwards from Peacock Hay. A tailor John Tunstall was living in Rainscliffe in 1622; and later between 1631 and 1684 at least two William Tunstalls lived at Hield Hill. In 1666 it was the first house listed for Rainscliffe in the list of Hearth tax payers. It was a one-hearth dwelling. Much of the parish in this period was dotted with farmsteads, rather than large groups of houses.
3. The household items are mainly summarised in categories according to what they were made of. The bedding would include mattresses (referred to as 'beds'), bolsters, blankets and bed coverings. The sheets and pillow cases are not listed separately in this inventory, so they must be included under 'napery ware'. The beds themselves are referred to as 'bedstocks'. Tables are represented by 'boards'. Brass vessels for the most part are for food preparation and cooking, while pewter vessels and dishes are generally for serving and eating from. Ironware in this inventory refers to the grate and other implements of the hearth. 'Treenware' seems to refer to items made from wood such as pails, barrels and tubs. In this case the very low valuation for 'treneware' suggests: a few pails, a set of wooden trenchers and the household's spoons.
4. The weaver's looms are interesting. Nesta Evans (1985) in *The East Anglian Linen Industry* says 'the [hand-loom] used by weavers today are rather more sophisticated than those worked in the past'. Women could learn to operate them, but the presence of the looms in Elizabeth Tunstall's inventory must indicate that they once belonged to her late husband, Henry Tunstall.

10 Robert Rathbone of Ramscliff, husbandman, will dated 4th January 1602/3, inventory taken 15th January, date of probate 3rd February.

10.1 Will

Being aged and sick in body.

My body to be buried in Wolstanton churchyard near my father's grave.

To Margrett Rathbone, my son Richard's wife and to his children now living: 12d each.

To Ellin Hill, being John Hill's daughter: 12d

To John Hill and his now wife and the rest of his children: 2s each

To Alice Teylior my now servant: 2s

To Elizabeth Hill, Thomas Hill's daughter: 2s

To John Hill, son and heir apparent of Thomas Hill: 12d

To Raph Hall: 12d

To Elizabeth Unwin & Margery Teylior my goddaughters: 12d each.

To Randull Rathbone and his now wife, and to Katerine Rathbone, Elizabeth Rathbone, Margerie Rathbone and Anne Rathbone, my brother's daughters: 12d each.
 To Jeis [C]oolcloe: 12d [check original] To Richard Scot's two children: 4d
 To Jone Hardin: 4d
 To Jefferyie Swinerton my workdays doublet and coat and 12d.
 To the said John Hill, my wife's son: my best horse doublet and jerkin.
 To Thomas Beech: 12d.
 Residuary legatees and executors: Agnes Rathbone, my wife and Richard Rathbone, my son. (John Hill to have the use of the mare after my wife's decease).
 Overseers: Randull Rathbone and John Hill.
 Debts which I owe
 To my son Richard: 20s
 To Richard Scot: 6s 8d, which was of my son Richard's rent.
 Witnesses: Randull Rathbone, William Baddeley, John Hill, Thomas Beech

10.2 Inventory

A true & p[er]fect Inventorie taken the Fiftinth day of Januarie in the Fyve & fourthith yeare of the Raigne of our moust gracious quene Elizabeth yt now is etc 1602 of all the goodes & cattles moveable or vnmoveable of Robertt Rathbons of kidc [crossed out] the p[ar]ish of wolstanton in the countie of Stafford husbandman late valued & prised, by Anthonie Rowlley & William Rowlley honest men.

four kyne & A heffer Sterk	£9		
one [S]owe & a hogg		8s	
one little pigg		2s	
one ould mare		13s	4d
hey & corne	£2	13s	4d
pullen		1s	
Brasse & Pewter w[i]th one ould frying pane	£1	6s	8d
all man[er] of Bedding w[i]th napperie ware	£2		
coffers Beddstockes formes bordes formes tressels cheirs			
stooles one cubbord w[i]th one which	£1	10s	
All manor of trine ware w[i]th a spinning whiele		8s	
one plow one harrow one grate w[i]th all man[er] of			
Irone ware		11s	
a pack sadle & hackney sadle		2s	
peanted clothes		1s	
Ap[ar]jell for his Bodie		5s	
one little closse called the Bath	£1	10s	
[Total	£20	11s	4d]

10.3 Notes

1. If the writer of the inventory hadn't crossed it out, this would have been a reference to 'Kidcrew', later to become 'Kingsgrove'. At that time it was no more than a few houses in the township of Ramscliff.
2. The connection with the Hills is through his wife Agnes: Thomas Hill and John Hill are her sons, presumably by a previous marriage. Robert Rathbone was owner with her and Thomas Hill of a cottage and 10 acres of land. The last item of the inventory indicates that he had also taken out a lease on 'The Bath' for a term of years - a field situated probably on the east side of present-day Bath Pool.
3. 'peanted clothes' are painted cloths, popular as hangings in the Elizabethan period.
4. His clothes are priced at a low amount presumably due to their age rather than their quality. Robert Rathbone is old enough to be a grandfather, and probably if Agnes his widow had not been alive, more items than the frying pan would have been described as 'old' by the appraisers. (His widow and son, as executors, would have commissioned the inventory)
5. It is likely that the location of his father's grave in the churchyard was marked with a painted wooden head-board. (Although wooden grave-markers do not survive from this period, ones from the Georgian period and Victorian era are known.)

11 Edward Colcloughe, will dated 15th September 1602, inventory taken 24th September, date of probate 6th October.

11.1 Will

To be buried in the parish churchyard of Wolstanton.

To James Colclough, my oldest son, in the name of all his heirs, after my wife's decease: my best pan (which was my father's pan), my best coffer, one which standing in the barn, my meal-board, bench and form in the house with all the painted cloths in the house, one plough and one harrow, one iron grate and one voyder the best in the house.

To John Reeve, my daughter's son: one shership being a ewe sheep.

To Agnes Reeve, my daughter for her child's part: one ewe sheep.

To Margarett my wife: all my tack grounds for the term I have in them, if she lives so long; and after her decease, the reversion or reversions to James my son, who is to pay yearly to Ellene, Jone and John Colcloughe his sisters and brother the sum of £5 ie 4s 8d to Ellen, and 2s 8d to each of Jone and John to be paid within 6 months of Margarett's death. In default of payment the remaining term is to go to Ellene, Jone and John. My will is that James shall permit John his brother to have a bedroom within during his life if he is unmarried and stands in need of it using himself honestly.

To James my son: one heifer stirk with a white ball in the head to be kept with his mother's cattle until she is a cow.

To Margarett my wife: all my corn upon the ground for and towards the keeping of my children if they be out of service.

Residuary legatees: Margaret my wife (a third) and my children Ellene, Jone and John (two-thirds to be divided equally).

Executrix: Margaret my wife.

Overseers: Richard Kinges and John Henshawe.

Witnesses: Edward Ley and others.

11.2 Inventory

The Inventorie of all and Singler goodes and Cattelles the which Were Edwarde Colcloughes of the p[ar]issh of Wolstanton & Countie of stafforde late deceased p[re]sed by Richard knight William Burslem Richard colecloughe John henshawe and James Colcloughe in the countie afforsaid yeomen the xxiiij th daie of septemb[e]r in the xliiij yeare of our Sou[er]jgne ladie Elizabeth the quenes magstie yt nowe is anno d[omi]ni 1602.

v kyne

ij bullockes

one heffer stirke

one Calffe

one oulde mare

iiij Small Sheipe

ij yonge Swyne

one gowse & a gonder

Certayne pullen

Deade goodes

brasse & pewter

beddinge & napp[er]ie Wares

treyne Wares 6s 0d

one oulde Which & certayne coffers

bordes & formes

bedstockes

Irone Wares

Implem[en]tes of husbandrie

butter & cheisse

flesshe at Rowffe

corne & haie

app[ar]ell for his bodie

Certayne hempe & flaxe

Certayne mouck

11.3 Notes

1. He owned a third of an acre in the township of Oldcott, and lived there too. (In 1601 Edward Colclough was headborough for Oldcott.) The 'tack grounds' are additional land for which he has leases for the lives of himself, his wife and James who, according

to the manor court rolls, was the heir after his father's death. They are bringing in (or expected to bring in) an annual rent of £5.

2. James the oldest son and John the youngest child do not appear to get on. His father in his will wants James to provide lodging for John, under three conditions, one of them being that John will behave in a respectable manner ('using himself honestly'). One daughter is married and has her own house; the other children are unmarried, and either living at home or else in service and living with an employer.

His wife runs the dairy, probably with the help of Ellen and Jone. Edward is evidently a husbandman.

3. The harvest is late. Edward is thinking ahead to Michaelmas at the end of the month, when his children's one-year employment contracts come up for renewal. There is no money in his purse - it is set aside for paying the next rent instalment which will be due at Michaelmas. The money bequests to Ellen, Jone and John are deferred and will have to be paid by James.

4. His wife died 5 months later. Comparison of the two inventories shows the changes brought about by his wife having a third of the unbequeathed goods, as well as the depletion by household consumption during the winter.

12 Agnes Rowley of Ramsclife, widow, no will, administration granted 28th March 1600, inventory taken 19th November 1602, exhibited 3rd February 1602/3.

12.1 Inventory

A true Inventorie of all the goodes and Chattelles late Agnes Rowleyes of Ramsclife Widdowe deceased presed by Willia[m] Bourne of Ewtree and Willia[m] Rowley of Ramsclife the xix daye of Nouember in the fiue and fourtith yeare of our sou[er]aigne Ladie Elizabeth that now is an[n]o 1602.

two kye and one heffer £5 6s 8d

one swyne and two pigges 13s 4d

all the pullenn 1s 0d

all the corne both in the house & barne £3

all the hay £1 3s 4d

all the hempe 3s 4d

all the brase and pewter £2

all the Iron ware 3s 4d

all the wudden ware as boardes chestes formes

tressules dishboardes cuppoardes lowmes boukes

dishes and all such 10s 0d

all the bedinges and napperie ware £2 6s 8d

all the p[ro]vition in the house both flesh and

whitmeate 13s 4d

all the manore 1s

one womans saddle and furniture thervnto belonginge 6s 8d
one ould packsadle 6d
one spinninge while 8d
all her wearinge apparell £3
£19 9s 10d [checked]
Deptes owinge the sayde Agnes Rowley at the tyme of her death
Andrewe Betson £1 10s
Deptes which the sayde Agnes did owe at the daye of her death
To John Thickines £2
Robert Smith £5
Thomas Baddeley £4
Alice Podmore £1
the executors of John Smith £1
Richard knight 10s
to Mr Varname of Haslington £10
Som[m]e is £23 10s

12.2 Notes

1. Administration of the goods was granted to her son James Rowley of Ramscliffe, blacksmith, with her brother William Rowley having reserved power.
2. The inventory was taken three years after her death, during which time the holding was managed presumably by her son. Deciding what were his goods and what could be attributed to his mother would be open to interpretation. The delay in producing the inventory was probably due to the situation arising from her large debts. Her husband James Rowley died in 1590 and left goods and cattle whose value was less than the total of his very long list of debts.
3. Instead of the usual 'treen ware', the dishes are lumped in with all the other items made of wood ('wudden ware'), except for the spinning wheel, which perhaps was added as an afterthought.
4. It was probably for her work rather than her leisure that she travelled on horseback.

13 Joan Turnock, inventory taken 30th ?, administration granted 22nd November 1602.

13.1 Inventory

ie of all & Sing[u]ler the goodes Rightes &
dowe deceased late of the p[ar]ishe of
Staff[ord], w[hi]ch were seene & praised the 30th
by Henrie Bourne, Henrie Bourne
Robert Sneyd & Raphe Whittall.
£2 10s

£4
£1 4s?
6s
12s
£1 16s
r certayne yeares yet enduringe £3 6s 8d
12s
10s
alled milne croft £2 5s?
9s
5s
6s 8d
all Linens £1
are 6s 8d
a grate 2s
ii of the deceassed 10s
S[u]m[ma tot[alis] £19 16s 8d [Actual £17 1s 0d]

13.2 Notes

1. The inventory, torn in half, is all that survives of the probate records, except for an entry in the Act Book which says that administration was granted to her son John Turnock.
2. The presumed lease of Milne Croft is worth xlxs - which does not make sense.
3. The two Henrie Bournes are from Chesterton which perhaps gives a clue to ..

14 Joan Baddeley, widow, no will, inventory taken 3rd May 1603, administration granted 25th May 1603.

14.1 Inventory

A True & p[er]fect, Inventorie of all the goodes, deebtes & Catles of Joane Baddeley wyddowe of the p[ar]ishe of woolstantone w[i]t[h]in the diocesse of Cov[e]n[trie] & Lich[field] latley deceassed valewed & pryced the iijd daye of maye: 1603. by Thomas Burslem Thomas Baddeley & John Boweyer w[i]t[h] others in man[ner] & forme followinge Viz

all her apparrell & the money in her purse	£10	3s	
all the Beaddinge 8 payre of sheetes w[i]t[h] all lyneses & Apernerie ware	£3	6s	8d
all the Brasse in the howse wh[a]tsoeu[er]	£1	6s	8d
all the peyces of pewter whatsoeu[er]		6s	8d
all the Implementes of howshold stuff, beinge wooden & tryneware whatsoeu[er]	£1		
all the Cattles whatsoeu[er] the[y] be	£15		
all the Corne in the howse & vpon the grounde one Sywne	£2		7s
all the salt meate			10s
all the husbandrie ware & yron ware whatsoeu[er]		13s	4d
all the manu[re] or mucke whatsoeu[er] about the howse		16s	
the S[u]mme is	£35	13s	
[Actual:	£35	9s	4d]

14.2 Note

Administration was granted to her daughter also called Joan Baddeley.

15 Margrett Beech of Wolstanton, widow, will dated 2nd September 1603, inventory taken 2nd September 1603, date of probate 16th September.

15.1 Will

To be buried in the churchyard of Wolstanton.

To Thomas Beech my son: the house in which I live and the buildings and land belonging to it for the remainder of the term which I have in it; a great chest, the table in the house [hall], the dishboard, a chair, all the boards and bedstocks, two chargers, and the bed which he lies on with the furniture (bedding) belonging to it; my share of a ewe and a lamb that we have between us; and a third of my corn and hay, both in the barn and in the field.

To Margrett Merrie my daughter: a chest standing at the foot of my bed, a brass pot, two chargers, two sheep, a pair of sheets and a bolster, a new flock bed and a [?winnowing sheet].

To Pheles Merrie my daughter: a chest standing in the lower chamber, two chargers, two [?saucers], a brass pot, a pair of sheets, a bolster, a ewe and a lamb, and a towel.

To my daughter Ellen Caulton: a little brass pan for her child's part.

To John Caulton: 12d.

To Margrett Caulton: 12d.

To Thomas Sneyd: a lamb.

Residuary legatee: Joan Beach, my youngest daughter.

Executors: Richard Caulton William Brett.

Debts which I owe:

To my daughter Pheles Merrie: £5.

To my daughter Margrett Merrie: 5s.

To Thomas Sneyd: 2s.

15.2 Inventory

A tr[ue] & p[er]fect Inventorie of all the goodes Rightes & Debtes of Margrett Beach widowe lat of Wolstanton seene & praised by John Eaten Thomas Bullocke & John Sneyd the second Day of September 1603.

tow kine

the corne

hay

on stirke

a calf

a swine

six sheepe

brasse

pewter

iron ware

on fryinge pan & a cresset

trien ware

beddinge

all Lin[n]ens

all the cheeses

bacon

five hens

hempe

her apparell

dounge

the lease of the house & the grondes therevnto belonginge for the space of foreteene yeares

15.3 Notes

1. 'the lease of the house & the grondes therevnto belonginge for the space of foreteene yeares' - In September 1575 Raph Sneyd esquire renewed the lease of a tenement in Wolstanton to the tenant Thomas Beech and his assigns for 21 years. This is recorded in a Newcastle manor court roll for that year. The roll for the second half of 1596 doesn't survive, but if this lease was renewed in 1596 for another 21 years, then in 1603 it would have 14 years to run. The low valuation is comparable with that of other cottages (eg Edward Bourne 1608 and Roger Bettison 1610)

2. On 28th June 1605 the administration of Felice/Pheles Merrie's goods was granted

to her brother Thomas Beech, with powers reserved to her sister Margaret Merrie. This information is in the Act Book at Lichfield (which records each probate case in date order). It also states that the court required an inventory to be exhibited - but if it was it hasn't survived.

As for Margaret Beech's first husband, the Newcastle manor court roll for 1560 records that William Sneyd, knight, leased a cottage and a croft containing 2 acres of customary land in Wolstanton to John Merrey and his assigns for the term of 26 years. He had to pay 7s 2d a year, perform a day of haymaking at haymaking-time and two days of reaping at harvest-time each year, and render each Christmas two fat capons. These were not token conditions - his great-grandson William Sneyd personally recorded that he received 25 capons from his Keele tenants in 1694, and listed those who had rendered hay-making services that year.

3 The chargers and saucers - if is that is what the reading is - have been included in the 6s 8d worth of pewter that was inventoried. A charger was a large flat dish for serving meat, and a saucer was a dish or deep plate for holding salt and sauces at table.

4. It is fairly clear that the mother (Margaret Beech) and her two daughters had an equal share of the corn in the field and in the barn, priced at 27s in the inventory.

16 Agnes Morton of Wolstanton widow, will dated 4th July, inventory taken 7th July, date of probate 20th October 1603

16.1 Will

Sick in body.

To be buried in in the churchyard of Wolstanton.

To John Eaton: my great weeting compe, all my husbandry ware ie wains, ploughs, harrows, yokes, chains, and all implements of husbandry such as axes, hatchets, augers [Aukers], forks, shovels and such-like; one brewing pan and the greatest pot save one.

To Margret Eaton my daughter: the greatest pan save one and a press; two kine: one called Tadge, the other called Blackwall.

To Hugh Eaton: the best heifer stirk of colour black.

To Thomas Eaton; one other heifer stirk of colour red.

To Henrie Eaton: one bullock stirk.

To William Eaton and Elizabeth Eaton; another bullock stirk.

To John Eaton: half the corn on the ground and in the house, and half the corn for three crops in the field of Thomas Turmor, and for two crops in the field of Raphe Morton.

Residuary legatees and executors: Henrie Stevenson, clerk, John Eaton, and John Moreton to the use and behoof of Ellenor Poole, my daughter, and afterwards shall remain and be to such person and persons as Ellenor shall at any time [.....

.....]
such gift and conveyance to the next of her kindred. This applies to the residue of all my goods etc especially all my right, title and interest in one close or pasture called the

Ouldforde in Handley of the surrender of John Hill of Shelton the elder.
Overseers: Thomas Henshaw and Raphe Morton.

16.2 Inventory

A true and p[er]fecte Inventorie of all and singular the goodes rightes and debtes of
Agnes Morton widowe late of Wolstanton, taken and priced the vijth day of Julie 1603
by Richard Hanson William Prince Raphe Morton Thomas Vardon Thomas Henshawe
Roger Dale and William Brette
the winter corne in the Stonifeild
Oates and Barlie
4 calves
six Oxen
two kine given to Margret Eaton
fiue kine
fiue stirkes
three twinters
a mare and a colt
a colt
one sheepe
one daymath of meadowinge
one croft or pasture called Stonifeild for 2 yeares
the third p[ar]te of a croft called ouldford
the swine
geese
husbandrie wares
donge
three Pottes
fiue Pannes
Pewter
two chafers
one iron grate 2 broaches and other iron wares
spin[n]ing wheeles
two arkes and a compe
halfe a stone of hemp
Treene wares
the table in ye house and a forme
three chestes
beefe and bacon
sheetes towelles and other linnens
beddinge
foure paire of bedstockes
butter and cheese
corne in the house
hay in the barne

a frying pan
the apparell of the deceased

16.3 Notes

1. The 1615 survey of the Manor of Newcastle says (under the heading 'Shelton') that John Hill held 'one Close of erable ground called the old forde by est[imacion] 7 [customary] acres'; and under 'Wolstanton' it gives three owners of fields called Stonifields, which probably lay between The Marsh and what is now Etruria Rd.
2. 'my great weeting compe' - For comparison, a Bowden yeoman has 'a great waiting vessel standing in the barn'. Possibly a wooden vessel for steeping barley grains as a first step in the brewing process.
3. The winter corn was sown in the previous autumn.
4. John Eaton (or Heaton), her son-in-law, owned land in Wolstanton until his death in 1612 or 1613.
5. Her other son-in-law was Robert Poole, who until 1614 owned (but did not occupy) a cottage and a croft in Wolstanton.
6. The vicar Henrie Stevenson refused (18th Oct 1603) to be an executor.
7. A Newcastle manor court roll dating to April 1575 may refer to her: It mentions Ralph Sneyd esq leasing a messuage etc in the holding of Hugh Moreton to Raph Whelock for 21 years following on after the decease of Agnes Morton and John Swettenham her son. If so, Ralph Whelock had an awfully long time to wait!
(My assumption is that she was born about 1540.)

17 **Margarett Colcloughe, widow, will dated 13th February, inventory taken 18th February, date of probate 1st March 1602/3.**

17.1 Will

Sick in body; to be buried in the parish churchyard of Wolstanton.

To Anne Reeve my daughter: a round silk hat & a cap, my flaxen smock and my best muffler.

To Anne Reeve her daughter: 12d.

To Margarett Henshawe: 12d.

To Margarett Ley: 12d.

To James my son: a piece of white cloth about some three yards, my best hat, one flaxen shirt ['Shortt'] which was his father's, 3 quarters of white caresie [kersey] and 2 shillings of money which I borrowed of him.

To John my son: 3 yards of russett cloth and 3 shillings of money which I borrowed of him.

To Elizabeth Colcloughe of Bradfield: a red petticoat with a flaxen body [bodice] and

one peck of barley.
To Joyse Colcloughe: my old petticoat and my old waistcoat.
To Jone Colcloughe my daughter: my best gown, a smock with a flaxen body and and a pair of sheets.
To Emote Ley: a pair of hose and 2 aprons, and a hoop of oats.
To Ellen my daughter: a durance apron and a pair of silver hooks and 26s of money which I borrowed of her.
To Thomas Colclough of the Heahede: 20s which I borrowed of him.
To Ellen Leyler: a hoop of oats.
To Jarvice's wife: a peck of barley.
Residuary legatees: John Colcloughe, Ellen Colcloughe and Jone Colcloughe, to be equally divided amongst them.
Executrix: Ellen Colcloughe my daughter.

17.2 Inventory

A trewe Inventorie of all & Singler goodes and Catteltes the which weare margarett Colcloughes of the p[ar]isshe of wolstanton & countie of Stafford Widdowe at the tyme of her death and p[re]sed by Richard knight Richard Colcloughe John henshawe & John Reeve in the saide Countie yeomen the xvijth daie of februarie in the xlth yeare of The Raigne of our Soueraigne Ladie Elizabeth the quenes maijstie yt nowe is 1602

quicke goodes
ij kyne & the third p[ar]te of bullocke £5 8s 4d
third p[ar]te one mare 13s 4d
ij little Shote pigges 3s 4d
Dead goodes
brasse & pewter £1 2s 0d
bedding & napp[er]ie wares £1 6s 8d
trejne wares 2s
certayne coffers 3s 4d
bordes & formes 1s 8d
bedstides 10d
Irone wares 2s
Implem[en]tes of husbandrie 2s
Certayne corne in the barne 8s 4d
Certayne haye in the barne 6s 8d
app[ar]ell for her bodie £1
Certayne hempe and flaxe 1s

17.3 Notes

1. If she had a married grand-daughter, then she must have been quite old. In deference to the family, the appraisers have not mentioned the age of the widow's furniture

and farm equipment, but the low valuations are a plain indication. Ellen and Jone her daughters presumably lived with her and had a share in the livestock. In the inventory her third share of her husband's unbequeathed goods shows up in a number of instances. The share of the mare is of course notional, and the same may apply to some of the 'dead goods' as well.

2. Some bequests in her will are repayments of debts, and in a looser sense other bequests may be too. The will hints at how Margaret got by in a small community of neighbours and relations. Margaret appoints Ellen 'my trusty and lawful executrix to see my last will performed' and she adds (unusually) 'to the glory of God and the health of my soul'.

2. durance apron ('durance app[er]ne') - type not known, but if it was attached with silver hooks it must have been rather special.

3. The 'howpe of oates and 'pecke of barley' tell us what her crops in the barn are. A peck is a quarter of a bushel and is a measure of capacity. In terms of troy weight, there are 16lb to a peck, according to a seventeenth century description of weights and measures. The peck of barley bequested represents the output of a plot no more than 9 yards by 9 yards, after allowing for the rector's tithe. At the price of barley prevailing in 1600, a peck of barley was worth 63/4d. [?6d) The hoop of oats would have amounted to a quart ie an eighth of a peck; it refers to a measuring cup for meal. (But Richard Knight's inventory suggests 6 hoops might be one bushel)

4. Bradfield ie Broadfield (presumably in Broadfield Rd, Goldenhill) was held by the Colclough family from at least 1549 (VCH Staffs Volume VIII p 89)

18 Ann Unwin of Hardinges Wood, widow, will dated 25th January 1602/3, inventory taken 1st Mar 1602/3, date of probate 17th June 1603

18.1 Will

Being sick in body

To be buried in the parish churchyard of Wolstanton.

To John Unwine and Edward Unwin my sons: 12d for child's part.

To Mary Unwine, Margeri Unwine, Anne Unwinne, Elizabeth Unwinne and Ursula Unwinne my daughters: 12d for child's part.

To my daughter Ursula: 20s which was given to her by John Unwine of Burslem late deceased - to be put for her best profit by the executors at midsummer next after my decease.

If my goods will not extend to pay my debts then one meadow called Walle Meadow and Smythy Fields thereunto adjoining - the meadow being parcel of Hardinges Wood - shall be set by my executors to pay the rest of my debts.

My will is that one close called Whakley, now in the occupation of Raphe Wood and Richard Shawe, after the term is ended which was made by my husband to Richard Wood, shall be set by my executors to pay the rest of my husband's debts.

Executors: William Bourne my brother-in-law and my said son John.
Overseers: Raphe Whilton and Richard Ratcliffe
My will is that the parcel of meadowing now in the holding of John [Hall?] shall be set
by my executors to discharge William Wood.
Debts which I owe:

Richard Scott due at midsummer next	44s
Raphe Woode	12s
Mistris Unwine	3s
John Roweley of Wedgwood	40s
William Unwine of Keele	36s 4d

Witnesses: Richard Ratcliffe, Heneri Gibbens, Thomas Beeche, Richard Scott

18.2 Inventory

A trew And p[er]fecte Inventorie of All the goodes that were Anne Vnwyns deceased
At the tyme of her death vewed And praysed by William Borne John Rowly Raffe
whilton And Richard Ratcliffe the first daye of march In the xlvth yeare of the Raigne
of Elizabeth the queenes ma[jes]t[i]e

one twinter heffer	£1	10s	
one horse payd for Aheriote	£1	13s	4d
fowre shepe	£1		
one swyne		10s	
two hennes		1s	
corne And hey in the barne	£2	10s	
donge	£1		
All beddinge	£1	13s	4d
beddsheetes And naprie ware		10s	
her Apparell	£1		
All brasse And pewter	£2	3s	4d
one chafinge dish And Acandesticke		2s	
one grate one broch one brendiren one payre of golbordes			
one cressett two fryinge pannes		11s	
coffers And And bedstockes		10s	
one dishbord, w[i]th two tables And fore shilfes And cheires		18s	
one Axe one hachet one mattocke A payre of plow Irens			
one bill, And two Iren wedges		4s	
shovell shole, One payre of bellowes, and payre of pot hokes one payre of tonges		1s	4d
All treene ware		6s	8d
quishens		2s	
sertene towe And yorne		8s	
two yokes two ladders, w[i]th All other implem[en]tes		2s	
[Total	£16	16s	0d]

18.3 Notes

1. Anne Unwin was widow of Ralph Unwin, gentleman. John, Mary and Margery (and possibly Edward too) were the children of Ralph and herself; the different spelling given to the surnames of Anne, Elizabeth and Ursula Unwinne looks deliberate - perhaps to indicate that they were the children of another marriage - to another Unwin, it seems. Ralph's brother was William Unwin, gentleman, who in the 1590's was owner of the woods, pastures and meadows called Hardinges Woodes, which may also have comprised a messuage, cottage and corn mill. The 'mill in Hardingswood' is mentioned in 1577 as a boundary point: it was at the north-west corner of the manor of Tunstall, and also of the parish of Wolstanton. A corn mill and large mill pond are visible on a 19th century OS map.

William Unwin was a substantial landowner in the district, [mainly in Rainscliff but also in Brerehurst, and Olcott] owning 230 statute acres of land, 4 messuages and 6 cottages, in addition to Hardinges Woodes.

2. The total of her debts is £6 15s 4d, the total of bequests is £1 7s 0d and the total value of the testator's goods is £15 2s 8d after the heriot is deducted. The item 'one horse payd for Aheriote' was inserted after. The amount of her husband's debts is not known.

3. Hardingswood was in the township of Brerehurst. Ann Unwin would now find this part of Kidsgrove unrecognisable. After the middle of the eighteenth century, it acquired two canals, lime kilns, a railway line, an iron foundry and a gas works, and now a Tesco's superstore and its car park.

4. The Unwins who built and owned nearby Clough Hall (which was in Audley parish) were close neighbours but very distantly related. A John Unwin died in 1641, having rebuilt Clough Hall as a substantial building. He has more connection with Audley parish eg he left a sum in his will for the education of children in Audley and Talke. The John Unwin mentioned in Anne Unwin's will is likely to be the husbandman who died in 1635 (see his will and inventory).

5. William Bourne (who subsequently refused to act as executor) was married to Ralph Unwin's sister, Mary. It is just possible that he is the same as the William Bourne who died in 1642 having reached an age to be a great-grandfather. (However, as her son Edward in his will (1641) mentions a Bourne of Little Chell as a cousin of his, it makes it less likely.)

19 Richard Glover of Knutton, yeoman, will dated 1603, inventory taken 16th June 1603, date of probate 28th November 1603.

19.1 Will

Sick in body; to be buried in the parish church of Woollstanton in the place that seems best to my executors and overseers.

To Agnes Glover my sister in law: 20s.

To John Gloover my nephew: 20s.

To Henrye Gloover, another son of my brother's: 20s.

To Jone Glover my brother's daughter: 40s.

To Ellin Glover another of my brother's daughters: 20s.

To Dorothe Glover a third daughter of my brother's: 20s.

To Edward Hensye: 20s.

To Sampson Bolton my servant man: a ewe and a lamb.

To William Boothes: another ewe and lamb.

To Thomas Clownam, eldest son of John Clownam: a ewe and lamb.

To Randle Clownam and John Clownam, sons of the said John: a ewe and lamb each.

To Ellin Clownam: one ewe and lamb.

To Margery Clownam: one ewe and lamb.

"My debts being paid and funeral expenses discharged, I give all the rest and residue of my goods & Cattells to Margery Hensye to whom I think both by the law of God and nature I am bound to do for."

Executor: John Clownam my nephew.

Overseer: my neighbour John Fenton.

Debts owing to the testator

In the hands of Roberte Baggley		40d
In the hands of William Hill	6s	10d
In the hands of John Whyte	10s	
Debts the testator owes		
To John Beeche	40s	
To Thomas Baddeley	30s	
To John Thicknis	26s	8d
To Thomas Burne	28s	
To John Bleste	26s	
To Roger Bolton	16s	
To William Lytton	10s	
To Thomas Harrisson	9s	
To John Nieens	5s	
To Richard Nieens	5s	
To Rondull Lovatt	3s	4d
To Otewell Stubbes	8s	
To Charles Samiles	7s	
To Widow Smythe robe maker		22d
To John Bowyer	2s	2d
To John nieens Junior		12d
To Henrye Taylor	3s	4d

19.2 Inventory

A true & p[er]fecte Inventorye of all the goodes & Cattells of Richarde Glover of knooton in the Countye of Stafforde yoman decessed, made & prayed by Thomas Baddeley John Bowyer Runulphe Patson Roger Elkin John Fenton John white the xvjth daie of June, in Anno d[omi]ni 1603.

in readie money		6s	8d
his apparell	£2		
Fetherbeddes, Matrazes, Cou[er]littes & blankittes	£2	13s	4d
Naperye & Lynnen	£2	6s	8d
Treene ware		6s	8d
Brasse	£1	4s	2d
Pewter		10s	
bordes frames formes cheeres & stooles		5s	6d
Iron wares		8s	3d
Tooles & Implem[ent]es of husbandrie	£1	3s	2d
twoe paire of Iron bounde wheeles	£4		
bedde stiddes		5s	
one presse		2s	
iiij Coffers		4s	
pawnes & gages	£1	0s	8d
Corne in the Barne		13s	4d
Rye growinge on the grounde	£3		
ye Oates growinge	£3		
vj O[xen]	£20	13s	4d
vij kyne	£17	6s	8d
ij heffers	£3	6s	8d
ij stirkes	£3		
vj Calues	£3		
one Mare	£1		
one Colte	£2	6s	8d
xv Cooples of Ewes & lambes	£3	15s	
xiiiijteene hogges sheepe	£2	16s	
the swyne Livinge	£1	13s	4d
beeefe & bacon at ye roofe	£1		
Geese & poultrie		5s	
butt[er] & Cheese in ye howse		6s	
oates in ye howse		4s	
hempe & Flaxe		3s	4d
the Middinge or woorthinge		10s	
[Total	£84	14s	5d]
Debts owing to Testato[r]			
In the hands of Roberte Baggelie		40d	
In the hands of Will[ia]m Hill	6s	10d	
In the hands of John White	10s		

1. Who was Margery Hensye? Richard Glover's reference ('by the law of God and nature') is to common law, so was Edward Hensye the son of his common-law wife?

2. The total of Richard Glover's debts is £11 2s 4d. I calculate that, taking into account the discharge of debts and funeral expenses, the payment of bequests and cost of proving the will, Margaret Hensye would have been left goods worth about £62 13s 4d.

The inheritor of his land and executor of his will was John Clownam (date of probate 15 June 1648). To obtain probate of the will, John Clownam swore before the vicar,

thus saving the cost of a 60-mile plus round trip to Lichfield and back.

3. 'pawnes & gages' - these are worth 20s 2d, and what is owing to him (listed separately) comes to 20s 8d. Sometimes money owing was included in the inventory total (as in Hugh Wilkinson's in 1623) but this was deliberately not done in this case.

4. A lamb and its mother are priced in the inventory at 5s. He bequeaths seven of them ('cooples'), which indicates that the will, though undated, must have been made very close to his death as the inventory records all the sheep having their lambs.

5. 'hogges sheepe' - these are yearling sheep that have not been shorn.

6. The Newcastle court rolls show that Richard Glover was thirdborough for Knutton in 1565, 1572, 1579 and 1586. (If they had survived for all the years of Elizabeth's reign, they would have probably have recorded him in subsequent years too.) Assuming that it is the same Richard Glover each time, his age at death must have been at least 59.

7. His Newcastle connections: Otewell Stubbs was an alderman of Newcastle. In 1599 Richard Glover already owned (or became the owner of) the following property in Newcastle: two messuages, two tofts, a barn, three gardens and eight acres of land, an acre of meadow and two acres of pasture.

8. The 'twoe paire of Iron bounde wheeles' were valued separately from the rest of the husbandry ware because they were so expensive. This is the only piece of evidence - and it can hardly be called strong - that wains at this time had four wheels, not two as in the Middle Ages.

20 John Drakford, no will, date of admon, 5 July 1604, inventory taken 1st Sept 1604 [Sat]

20.1 Inventory

A true And perfecte Inventorye of All the goodes And cattells that were John Drakfordes At the tyme of his death, vewed And praysed by William Stonior And Thomas Rowley the firste daye of September in the yeare of our lord god 1604

his Apparrell 12s

The Reste of All the goods And cattells that the sayd John Drakford had, he (In his lyffe tyme did (by his Deed in writinge geue or sell the same for good considerac[i]o[n] vnto John Drakford his Thomas Rowley brothers sonne / And the court was soe satisfied

20.2 Note

John Drakeford was thirdborough for Wedgwood in April 1604. The indented inventory is all in the same writing - including 'And the court was soe satisfied'.

21 Thomas Bullock of Thursfield, no will, administration granted 10th July, date of inventory 14th July 1604

21.1 Inventory

A trewe and p[e]fect Inventorie of all the goodes Cattels Debtes and Chattells that late were the goodes of Thomas Bullocke of the hamlet of Thursfilde w[i]thin the p[ar]ishe of Wolstonton & in the Countie of Staff[ord] husbandman deceased seein and praysed by Williame Burnne of Vewtrie in the said Countie gent[leman]. John Welde of newbolde and of Singlewood in the Countie of Chester Randall Brooke Richard Caulton Rauffe Whilton and Randull Whital the xiiijth daye of July anno d[omi]ni 1604.

eighte oxene	£21		
eight Kyne	£13		
twoe twinter bullocks	£2	13s	4d
fyve stirkes	£4		
syxe wayninge Calves	£3		
one nagge	£4		
twoe hogges	£1		
one suckinge pigg		1s	4d
geese duckes & pullen		4s	
pannes pottes skelletes & suche brasse vesseles	£2		
pewter dishes platteres counterfettes Candlestikes			
saltes and pewter vesselis		13s	4d
one Cubbord tables formes dishebord bedstides and all			
suche timber stuffe		16s	4d
all treene vessell		5s	
twoe old fetherbeddes w[i]th there furniture and all			
theer beddinge	£1	13s	4d
Sheetes Lynenes and naperie ware	£1	6s	8d
two payre of Irone bound whiles w[i]th plowes harrowes			
and all other tooles and ymplementes of husbandrye	£2	13s	4d
one yrne grate brindrethe . hookes Rackes tonges and			
all suche yrone stufe		4s	
Chares stoles formes & quishenes		2s	
come in the barne vnthrashene		6s	8d
come in the howse		10s	
fleshe at rowfe & in the howse		10s	
cheese and whitmeate		10s	
paynted Clothes		1s	4d
the deceadantes apparrell	£1		
otes growinge on the grounde	£4		
mucke in the dungehill	£1		
hempe growinge		1s	
money in the howse at his decease	£4		
one bill of debte from William Prince and Rauffe moretone	£7		
one bill of debte from James Caulton and John Caultone			
his sonne	£2		
owinge by John fernihaughe and hughe his sonne p[ar]cel of a greter			
some w[hi]ch is all payd savinge the some of		13s	4d
sadles and brydles		3s	4d
haye gotten in to the barne		3s	4d
some tymber broken		10s	
three milnestones		13s	4d
a Leace of the longe haye medowe for three yeares yet			
in beinge from thannunaci[i]on of o[u]r lady next cominge	£2	10s	
a riverc[i]on of the leace of his ten[e]m[en]te for			
one yeare from thannunaci[i]on of o[u]r lady next	£4		
Sum[ma] total[is]	£88	5s	
[Checked]			

21.2 Notes

1. Single Wood is near Sandbach.
2. 'fleshe at rowfe & in the howse' - the bacon and beef were stored under the rafters, and in the main room of the house.
3. Administration was granted to his wife Anne and she was given until Michaelmas to exhibit an inventory.

22 John Bourne of Tunstall, no will, inventory taken 19th October 1604, administration granted 22nd October 1604.

22.1 Inventory

A true & p[er]fect Inventorie of all & singler the goodes Rightes & debtes of John Bourne late of Tunstall in the p[ar]ishe of wolstanton deceased, taken & praised the sixth daye of October 1604 by Richard Knyght Thomas Brett & Thomas Baddeleye.

tow kine	£4		
3 sheepe		10s	
on brasse pan		13s	4d
on coffer & on chaine		3s	
the apparell of the deceased		10s	
a bed w[i]th furniture		10s	
debtes owinge to the said deceased in the handes of			
Will[ia]m Unwin gent[leman]	£10		
of Richard Tunstall	£1	13s	4d
of Raphe Unwin latelie deceased	£3	6s	
Sum[ma]	£21	15s	8d
[should be	£21	5s	8d]

22.2 Note

Administration of his goods was granted to his sister Margaret Beech, so he is presumably single. The contents of the inventory indicate that he is living in someone else's house, but not as a servant or a temporary lodger. Sheets have not been mentioned in the inventory so they must have been provided by the householder. Also, he may be relying on the householder for the hay for the cows in the coming winter.

23 Richard Calton [of Brerhurst], yeoman, will dated 31st July 1604, inventory taken 20th November 1604, date of probate 16th January 1604/5.

23.1 Will

Sick in body; to be buried at the parish church of Wolstanton.

For the disposition of my lands and tenements: my wife is to have her jointure as previously recorded - for her own use and profit; and my wife is to have the rest of my lands - to bring up my two children according to my calling and keeping my name; and when they reach their full age, their share of the profits is to be accounted to them.

To Ellen Calton my wife: the third of my goods, except the goods which I give to my son ie a table as it now stands with the form and bench; my dishboard, a pair of woollen wheels, a great chest and my best bedsteads.

To my son and daughter, equally to be divided between them: the rest of my goods.

My intention is that if my wife has the good fortune to be expecting at the time of my decease, then the child is to have as good a share as the other children.

I desire my wife to see my debts paid for my soul's health:

To Joane my wife's sister: five nobles [£1 13s 4d]; 3s 4d; 13s; 6s.

To Felixe Merie I owe 20s.

To George Twemlowe 5s 2d and two trees, which are known.

Debts owing to me:

John Bothe owes me 2s.

Executors: Ellen Calton my wife and Raffe Whilton yeoman.

Overseers: my two brothers in law John Burselem and Richard Colclughe, yeomen.

Witnesses: Roberte Lawton, John Podmore, Richarde Colclughe and John Henshawe.

23.2 Inventory

Richarde Calton of the p[ar]ishe of Wolstanton in the County of Stafforde yeoma[n] deceased Valued and prayed by thestimac[i]on of of Richarde Colclughe John mylnes & Rondle Whitaughe the twentithe day of November in the yeare of o[u]r lorde god 1604 as followethe

sixe kyne whereof one was his harriott	£10		
two twynters bullockes	£3		
two bullock Stirkes & a heffer Stirke	£3		
four waynelinge Calves & one mare	£4		
certayne Sheepe	£1	19s	
two Swyne	£1		
geese hennes or pullen		2s	4d
Corne and haye	£3	6s	8d
one payre of wheels, a harrowe, a plowe, & all other thinges belonginge to husbandrie		12s	
brasse and pewter	£2		
two trinde of Felles		2s	
boordes, formes, cheires, Coffers, bedstockes & all trene ware		10s	
beddinge & all lynnens & Napperyware in house	£2		
certayne whitmeate		10s	
the lease of a pasture called Vnwyns feilde for xvne yeres	£10		
apparell for his bodie	£1		
Som[m]a totalis	£43	7s	
[Actual:	£43	2s	0d]

23.3 Notes

1. Both the will and the inventory are in the same hand - small writing but legible. The top line of the inventory is now missing.

2. The jointure is the land which the lady had for her use after her husband's death. It would have been recorded separately at the time of her marriage, but her husband, when he was alive, would have counted it as his land.

3. Richard Calton expects the children on maturity to be given an account of the rents received from tenants and of the expenses, so that they will be able to see that their mother has given what was due to them during their childhood. (He owned over 50 statute acres of land and his house was in Whitehill.) An unpublished manor court roll gives further information. In order to transfer his copyhold land legitimately to his illegitimate son John, Richard Calton's sister (the true heir according to the custom of the manor) attends the court (perhaps at a date when John had come of age) to give the land to him.

4. Margrett Beech's will dated 2nd September 1603 supplies extra information about his relations: Felice Merrie and Joan Beech were his sisters-in-law, and his children were called John and Margarett. It is likely that John was over 14 at the time of his father's death. He lived in Whitehill for the rest of his life and died in 1671.

5. The cattle are listed in descending order of age. Twinters are two-year-olds. Stirks are yearlings - either female (called a heifer stirk in this inventory) or castrated male (bullock stirk). And 'waynelinge Calves', nowadays spelt 'weanling', are newly weaned calves.

The price of sheep varied with the season of the year. The valuation represents about 13 sheep.

6. two trinde of Felles - enough felloes (curved segments of the circumference of a wooden wheel) to make a set of four wheels for a farm vehicle.
7. 'Nappery ware' probably included tablecloths, table napkins and towels.
8. By 'certayne whitmeatt', the writer meant butter and cheese.
9. 'the lease of a pasture called Unwyns feilde'. A lease, if for a term of years, was regarded as a chattel, and thus included in the inventory.
10. The apparell for his body, valued at a pound, was probably about average for someone of yeoman status at this date. Usually probate inventories written in this area of England included 'money in his purse' at this point. Either Richard Calton had no money in his purse. Or the inventory was taken a long while after burial, which is more likely as the heriot (harriott), his best beast, had already been handed over.

24 Richard Bourne of Chell, yeoman, date of will 8th January 1604/5, inventory taken 21st January, date of probate 31st January 1604/5.

24.1 Will

Sick in body; to be buried in the parish churchyard of Wolstanton, as near to the grave where Jeffrey Bourne my late father was buried, as conveniently as may be.

To Geffrey Bourne, my eldest son: one coumpe, one meal ark and one moulding board.

To Margaret Smalwoode my daughter: 12d.

To Marie Bourne my daughter: 3 sheep.

To William Bourne my son: the bed which he lies in.

To Thomas Bourne my son: one bed to be delivered to him at the discretion of Ellen Bourne and Anne Bourne my two daughters.

To Ellen, Anne and Marie my three daughters: all my bedding with all my brass and pewter and other goods within the house.

Residuary legatees: William, Thomas, Ellen, Anne and Marie my children.

Executor: William Bourne my son.

Overseer: Anthonie Beech.

Witnesses: Richard Knight, John Baggeley and others.

24.2 Inventory

The Inventorie of all & Singler goodes Catteltes & chattelles the which weare the goodes of Richarde Bourne of chell of the p[ar]jisshe of wolstanto[n] and Countie of Stafford yoman at the tyme wherin he died & p[re]sed by Will[ia]m bourne Richard knight Anthonie beech & John baggeley in th[e] Said p[ar]jisshe & Countie yomen the xxjth daie of Januarie in the yeare of our lord god 1604

quicke goodes

iij kyne	£6	13s	4d
ij bullock stirkes	£2		
iij Calves	£1	10s	
one mare		16s	8d
iij Shiepe		12s	
one Shoat Swyne		4s	6d
Deade goodes			
Corne in the barne	£2	6s	8d
haie in the barne	£2	6s	8d
beddinge brasse & pewter & Certayne coffers	£5	6s	8d
napp[er]ie wares		5s	
Irone Wares		12s	
treyne wares		6s	8d
one ould cupborde		5s	
bordes formes trestles & cheares		5s	
meale & malte in the howse		6s	8d
one strike of barley		3s	4d
flesshe at Rowffe	£1		
Certayne Whitmeate		5s	
one fielde taken & paid for for iiij yeares or there aboute	£5		
app[ar]ell for his bodie	£1		
Certayne bedstockes w[i]t[h] one ould disshbord & one peire of belowes		4s	
Certayne manure		3s	
	[£31	12s	2d]

24.3 Notes

1. Of his seven children, only Ellen, his unmarried daughter, left a will which survives. At the time of her will in 1632, her sisters Anne and Margaret had already died. The eldest son, Geoffrey Bourne lived until 1648.
2. 'one coumpe, one meal ark and one moulding board'. The coumpe (or compe) is probably a container of grain, the ark is used for holding meal and the moulding board is for shaping loaves, suggesting his son Geoffrey baked bread. His wife must have already died.
3. The 'Shoat Swyne' is a young pig, according to a later Wiltshire glossary, three or four months old.
4. Richard Bourne probably owned no more land than the 2 customary acres which his son Geoffrey Bourne of Chell owned in 1619, even though he is classed a 'yeoman'. Besides the lease for years of a field, (mentioned in the inventory), he is likely to have had a lease for lives of his house and other land.

25 Edward Sneid, no will, inventory taken 15th April, date of probate 17th April 1605.

25.1 Inventory

The Inventorie of all & singler goodes & cattelles The which weare of Edward Sneid of the p[ar]lishe of Wolstanton at the tyme of his death p[re]sed by Richarde knight thomas badley Roberte parker Richard glover & Richard Clewley in the countie of Stafford yoman the xv th of aprill anno d[omi]ni 1605

quicke goodes
ij kyne
one heffer
ij twinter heffers
ij ould horses
one Shote Swyne
iij geise & one gonder
iiij hennes
deade goodes
corne in the barne & corne vppo[n] the ground
brasse & pewter
beddinge & napp[er]ie wares
treyn wares 2s 4d
Iron wares
coffers bordes & cheares
app[ar]ell for his bodie
Certayne donge

25.2 Notes

1. Administration was granted to Elizabeth, his widow. Thomas Clayton, described as a yeoman of Newcastle, had to enter into a bond.
2. Shote swyne = young pig.

26 Isabelle Smith, [widow] will dated 5th March 1609 [recte 1605], inventory taken 26th April 1605, date of probate 30 April 1605.

26.1 Will

Sick in body.
To be buried in the parish churchyard of Woolstanton.
To John my son: all the bedstocks, chairs, forms, with all other wooden and treen ware

within the house, saving my daughter Ellen shall have three of my chests; one woolbed with a coverlet, a bolster, two twill sheets, two pillows, six pair of sheets, a dyable boardcloth, a pillow bere two pots the best pan saving one, eight pewter dishes, two saucers, the best candlestick, one salt and one chafing dish, for and in the name of his heir's or his child's part; all the corn on the ground, and corn and hay in the barn, and all the provision of flesh and whitemeat, with the swine, geese and pullen. He is to pay my daughter Ellen £20 at the day of her marriage.

To my brother Rondull's children: 3s 4d each

To my sister Ellen: an in-calf heifer.

To her child: a ewe and lamb.

To my sister Mary's six children: 6s 8d.

To the son of John Smith of the Carre: 3s 4d each

To the son of Thomas Smith of the Cowhay: 3s 4d.

To Elizabeth Halfpenie, my maid: 6s 8d and a pair of sheets.

To Edward Smith: half a strike of rye and half a strike of malt.

To Edward Bearsley: a ewe and a lamb.

To every godchild: 12d.

Residuary legatee: Ellen my daughter.

Executors: Mr Stevenson and Rondull Pateson.

Overseers: John Colclough and John Peake.

Debts owing to me Isabell Smith

John Beech the younger of the over doore: £3 4s.

John Beech of the lower doore: 4s.

John Fenton: 19s.

Elizabeth Lythgoe: 2s 4d.

Goodwyfe Huitt of Keele: 20d.

Witnesses: William Yardley Richard Beech Edward Smith Edward Bearsley with others

26.2 Inventory

A true & p[er]fect Inventorie of all sing[u]l[a]r the goodes Rightes & Chattells of Isabell Smith widdow late of Wolstanto[n] taken & priced by John Coulclough, Edward Rowley Robert Wood & Richard Peake the xxvjth day of Aprill An[n]o 1605.

Seven Oxen	£26		
Nyne kyne & three calves	£20		
fower heffers	£7	10s	
sixe Twinters	£8	10s	
foure yearelinge calves	£3	13s	4d
One Mare	£2		
Tow Cooltes	£4		
Eight & thirtie sheepe	£10		
Three swyne	£1	4s	
fowre geese & twentie geslinges		6s	8d
fyve Hennis & a Cocke		2s	
fleshe at the Rafe	£1	10s	
fiue dayes worke of Winter Corne	£6	13s	4d
Nyne day woorke of Oates	£4	10s	
Twelve Thraue of Rye	£10	8s	
Twelve stryke of Malt	£1	4s	
Three Pannes	£2		
Three Pottes	£1		
Tow skelletts one Candlesticke a chafinge dishe & a ski[m]mer		3s	4d
xij pewter dishes v saucers one pewter boale tow saltes	£1	10s	
Sixe peeces of Linnen Cloath	£2	6s	8d
Tow fether beddes one flock bed one woole bed & one Chaffe bed . £3 Three boolsters & foure pillowes	£1		
Tow Coverleddes & one bedhillinge	£1	7s	
Tow twill sheetes & one blanket		13s	8d
Three other twilsheetts & tow Chaffebeds		13s	4d
Nyne & twentie paire of sheetes & all other napperie	£8	5s	
Three stone of woole	£2		
The deades Apparell	£2		
The Worthinge	£1		
[Total	£134	10s	4d]

26.3 Notes

1. Her husband was Andrew Smith of Heath End (in this collection); however she is described as 'of Wolstanton', which is where the two pieces of land ('The Flats') mentioned in her husband's nuncupative will were situated. 'The Flats' were fields which had two cottages in them - or at least they did in 1581.

There is no mention of wains, ploughs, harrows or other husbandry ware in the probate inventory, so she has not been involved in farming in her last years. She has found a tenant for the tenement at Heath End. This must be John Fenton - he was the one who took Andrew Smith's place amongst the thirdboroughs for Knutton for 1605. (And is 19s the rent that he owes?)

2. The dyable boardcloth mentioned in the will is a cloth for covering a table or cupboard, and 'dyable' presumably means that it hasn't been dyed, the last stage in the

production of cloth. Or it may a mis-hearing by the scribe of 'diaper'.

3. The whitemeat is butter or cheese, but these are not mentioned in the inventory.

4. Her sister Joan Pattson had died three years previously; and a sister Ellen Hareison; her brother John Pattson (not mentioned in her will) was thirdborough for Knutton in 1599 and witnessed her husband's will; her brother Rondull Pattson may have outlived John, being referred to as 'Rondull Pattson of Knutton, yeoman' at his death in summer 1623.

5. Making the vicar of her parish and her brother joint executors of her will was unusual, particularly as they both carried the responsibility for bringing up her daughter Ellen who was a minor.

6. 'John Smith of the Carre' - This was in Audley township. Richard Parrott, writing 120 years later, records that it belonged to the Smiths for many generations. And this is borne out by the Audley parish register, which Parrott must have based this on; the earliest example is the baptism in 1608 of Anne, the daughter of John Smithe of Carr.

27 Elizabeth Wood of Tunstall, widow, will dated 18th May 1605, inventory taken 29th May, date of probate 3rd July.

27.1 Will

Sick in body; to be buried in the parish church of Wolstanton.

To Raffe Wood my son: 30s and a flaxen sheet.

To Elinor Broadfould my daughter: 40s for her child's part.

To Joane Parker my daughter: 6s 8d for her child's part.

To Henry Wood my son: a bullock sterke.

To Margerie Woodd my daughter: 10s.

To Margaret Wood my daughter: 10s, a feather bed and a pair of flaxen sheets.

To everyone of my children's children: 12d.

Residuary legatees: Raffe, John, Henry, Margerie and Margaret my five children, equally to be divided between them.

Executor: Thomas Wood, my eldest son.

Witnesses: Richard Knight & Robert Parker & others.

27.2 Inventory

A true Inventorie of the goodes of Elizabeththe Woode of Tunstall widdowe decesed taken the xxixth of maye A[nn]o 1605

towe oxen

sixe kyne whereof some of them have calves

ijj sterkes

one mare & Coulte

Swyne
pullen
corne & malte in the house
corne on the grounde
Husbanderie ware
hempe & flaxe
Ieron wares in the house
brase & pewter
naparie ware
beddinge
Silver sponnes
trine ware 10s 0d
cofferes & Chestes
Sawed bordes
her weringe aparell
p[ro]vcion in the house
yarne
Praysed by vs the daye & yeare aboue written
Anthonye Beeche Thomas Brett Thomas Baddelye Robert Parker

28 Jefferie Bourne of Tunstall, will dated 29th May 1605, inventory taken 1st June 1605, date of probate 12th June 1605.

28.1 Will

Being sick in body; to be buried in the churchyard at Wolstonton.
To Richard Baddelye: one twinter heifer.
To Henrie Baddelye: one chest.
Residuary legatee and executor: Tame Bourne my wife.
I owe John Leigh of Brodwall .. 20s

I owe Margerie Brode	20s
I owe Margratt Sneyde	10s
I owe Margratt Bourne	6s
I owe Robert Sneyde	8s

Witnesses: Richard Clewley Thomas Baddelye John Baddelye
The first daye of June A[nn]o 1605

28.2 Inventory

A true inventorie of the goodes of Jefferie Bourne of tunstall Desessed taken the daye
& yeare aboue written

towe kyne	£4	13s	4d
one mare	£1	10s	
pullen		4s	
Corne on the grounde		15s	
all mannore of househoulde stuffe and p[ro]vicion in the house	£1		
his weringe apparell		10s	
husbandrie ware		2s	6d
	[£8	14s	10d]

Prayssed by vs Thomas Brett Rob[er]t parker Thomas Baddelye

28.3 Notes

1. He died indebted, with no cash at all. It was not usual for 'Household stuff' (a common expression for household contents) to be summarised in one line of an inventory. Both the will and inventory refer to him as Jefferie Bourne of Tunstall - this is because there was another person of the same name in Great Chell.

Tunstall had nothing urban about it in 1605, being a hamlet like all the others in the parish. Jefferie Bourne rented arable land in Tunstall's open fields. Eight years later, all the open fields in Tunstall were enclosed by agreement amongst the landowners (including Thomas Brett and Thomas Baddeley), probably leading to a reduction in the amount of arable.

2. The note of probate says the executors were his widow Anne Bourne and son William Bourne. Yet only one executor is named (strangely!) in the will. [Check!]

29 Thomas Bourne of Colclughe, no will, inventory taken 15th October 1605, administration granted 25th October 1605.

29.1 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect Inventorie of all the goodes and cattels late Thomas Bournes of Colclughe of the p[ar]ish of wolstanton deceased taken and prayssed the xvth day of October in the third year of the raigne of our sou[er]aigne Lorde James by the grace of God Kinge of England France and Ireland defendour of the faith and of Scotland the xxxixth by william Bourne of the Ewetre Richard wouldrich of whitgreeve Edward Bourne of Chell heath beinge Indiferentlie chosen 1605

foure oxen	£14		
foure kyne	£8		
two twinter bullockes	£4		
three sterkes and two calves	£5		
one ould mare	£2		
foure sheepe		13s	4d
foure Swyne	£1	6s	8d
all the giese duckes and henes		3s	4d
all waynes, plowes, yokes, chaynes, & other husbandrie ware	£1		
all haye and corne in the barne	£10		
all brasse and pewter	£3		
all beddinge boardclothes and other naperie ware	£4		
all chestes bedstides & boardes formes, tressels cupboardes & other trine ware		13s	4d
all whitmeate & other provision in the house	£1		
all hemp and woole		6s	8d
all corne meale and mault		6s	8d
all Iron ware		6s	8d
all his wearinge apparell	£1		
money in his purse		5s	
owing by william Bourne of Shelfcroft	£40		
Sum[m]a nyntie five poundes one shillinge eyght pence			

Debtes owinge by the foresaid Thomas Bourne

to John Burne of the Ewetre	£2		
to John Adames	£8		
to John Stevenson	£4		
to Joane Bourne	£26	12s	
to John Buterton		16s	8d
to Thomas Bourne	£6	16s	
owinge		5s	
to be bestowed upon the poore by the appoyntment of my Lorde Bishop	£1		

29.2 Notes

1. Administration of his goods was granted to his wife Agnes.
2. He lived somewhere along Colclough Lane, now situated in Goldenhill but then in the township of Olcott. There were quite a few families with the surname Bourne at the time. The ones at Ewetre were the nearest. Shelfcroft is probably to be identified with 'Sheild Croft' on Yates map of 1775 and 'Sealscroft' on the 19th century Ordnance Survey one-inch map, lying just in the parish of Norton. One of the 'indifferently chosen' appraisers lived at Whitgreave, between Yarlet and Great Bridgeford, a distance of over 16 miles to the south.

3. The value of the farming equipment (husbandry ware) is expressed in shillings. The guess that it is 20s assumes that the person working out the total missed £2 somewhere. The most expensive items are the means of transport - carts and wains. The number of chains and yokes needed make these the next most important items eg Thomas Brett's inventory in 1590 list 4 chains totalling 4s and 9 yokes totalling 4s 6d. The same inventory shows 3 ploughs (not counting plough irons) priced at 1s 6d, and one pair of harrows priced at 2s 6d. Other tools to be expected are hatchets, bills, scythes, sickles, shearing tools, mattocks, worthing hooks, forks, shovels and axes. 'Husbandry ware' sometimes included woodworking tools such as augers, which would have been used for construction or repair work.
4. boardes - in this context, they could have been 'dressing boards' for meat preparation, or table-tops for meals.

30 Richard Burne, will dated 22nd January 1606/7, inventory taken 19th February, date of probate 25th February 1606/7.

30.1 Will

In the name of god amen the xxij daye of Ianuarii in the yeare of our lord 1606 I Richarde burne of the bancke house within the p[ar]ishe of owlstanton And countie of Stafford yoman sicke in body but of good And p[er]fect memorie god be p[rai]sed for the same doe make & ordayne this my last Will and testament in maner and forme folowinge that is to saye first I com[m]end my soule into the handes of god my maker hopinge assuredly by thugh the onely merrites of Jesus criste my saveour to be made p[ar]taker of life everlastinge And I com[m]end my body to the earthe whereof it is made And to be buried w[i]thin the p[ar]liche churche of owlstanton. Item my will And mynde is to be honestly brought home Item I geve And bequest to mari shawe John shawes wiffe one shepe And other towe shepe the one to mari shawe John shawes dowghter the other to John coclught alias Rowley Item I geve to Eme smythe servante in the hous[e] xijd. Item I geve to John shawe one littell pott Item after that my two funerall be discharged And Legacies And my Dettes payd all the Rest of my goodes cattles & chattels I geve vnto William Burne my nevie cosen And landlord And I doe nominatt & apoynte William Burne my cosen and landlord to be my trwe & lawfull executor to sey this my Last will And testament truly p[er]formed to the glorie of god In wyttenes whereof I have putt my hande these beinge wyttenes John shawe my tenant William coxen mari shawe wyfe of John Shawe
Richard burne
Dettes owinge vnto me R[i]chad burne Imprimis Richard bullocke xxxiij s iiij d

30.2 Inventory

A true & lawfull Inventorie of all the goods And catteles of Richard burne of bankehouse within the p[ar]riche of owlstanton taken and presed the xixth day of february by thomas burne of olcott William coxen & John shawe presers A[nn]o d[omi]ni 1606

fore key
one sterke & a calfe
one horse
iij shepe
one pott iij panes
a chafen dich a candelsticke ix pecces of pewter
one silver sponne vij pewter sponnes
one kettell
ij coffers one wiche one cubbord iij bordes w[i]th some shilfes
a frynke pane a brunderd a broch a peare of goberts one gratt tounes pott chenes & houckes backestone ij cheres
one lome and a clouse boucke
ij fetter bedes iij coverlettes iij blanketes a twilshitt ij boulsters ij pillowes iij flaxen shettes ij hempen shettes a pillowe beare a bandcloth a towell
certen woolle bestockes hyron ware waynes plowes a harowe w[i]th some other small thinges

Reparrell for his body
 hay in the barne 10s
 a bushell of corne 4s
 one hacavitie bottell
 towe turnels
 certen mucke or dounge

30.3 Notes

1. The Bankhouse. There exist references to: Richard Burne of Bankehowse (1573), and William Burne of Bankhouse who had a pew in Wolstanton church in 1583. A predecessor, William Burne of Bankhouse, had a pew in Wolstanton church in 1583. A later occupant was probably Mary Bourne of Little Chell, widow, was died in 1628, as she had a lease of the Bankehouse. John Bourne of Bankhouse was churchwarden in 1635/6 and presumably was her bachelor son. In 1664/5 a daughter was born to Richard Baddiley of Bankhouse who was still living there in 1678. There is another reference to Bankhouse in 1686, but none afterwards.
2. Although he says William Burne is his cousin, 'nevie' is an obsolete form of 'nephew'. (The word occurs in an Essex will of 1555 referring to a grandson.)
3. fore key = four kine
4. 'owlstanton' represents one of the pronunciations of 'Wolstanton' at the time.
5. 'brought home' is paralleled in the will of Rycharde Colcloght of Wolstanton parish dated 3rd May 1536: (modernised spelling) "Also I will that when I am brought home and all my debts paid of the will the residue of my goods equally to be divided..." . The meaning is that he wishes his debts to be paid.

6. The inventory spellings disguise the fact that Richard Burne possessed a chafing dish, a frying pan, 2 feather beds, bedstocks, iron ware and an aquavita bottle.
7. Thomas Burne of Olcott is probably of Colclough lane house - a freeholder.

31 Margery Baddeley, no will, inventory taken 22nd May 1607, date of probate 27th May.

31.1 Inventory

A true And p[er]fect Inventorie of All the goodes of margerye Baddeley of the p[ar]ishe of wolstanto[n] in the county of Stafford deceased, praysed the xxijth daye of maye In the yeare of our lord god 1607 by John Rowley of wedgwood, John Rowley of tornehurst And Anthony Beech. [Total £134 10s 4d] fyve yeardes of meddly cloth her apparrell

two ould feather beddes

two bolsters And one pillowe

foure ould ould coverlets

one ould twill sheete

one payre of sheetes sertene napkins And A towell

certene lynnne yarne

All brase And pewter

one fryinge panne, two little broches, And other Irenwares

All bordes And formes

one cupbord, three cheires And three coffers

one turnell And all treine wares

fowr payre of bedstockes

certene towe

two geese, certene goslinges And one henne

paynted clothes

sum[m]a £7 4s 8d

Debtes owinge to the seyd margery

Thomas Rowley £1

Debtes w[hi]ch the seyd margery did owe

vnto John Rowley 7s

vnto margeret And William Stonior 2s 4d

vnto James Rowley 1s 2d

vnto katheren Rathbone 1s

vnto matilda stonier 4d

James tunstall 1s

vnto Anthony mylnes 8d

vnto Richard Scote 3d

Sum[m]a 13s 9d

31.2 Notes

1. She probably lived in the township of either Chell or Thursfield, or possibly in Tunstall. (The third appraiser, Anthony Beech, lived at Great Chell.)
2. The probate note refers to Anne Bosson as being the nearest blood-relation. Richard Bosson, presumably the brother-in-law, is stated to be a yeoman of Norton in le Moores. A crossing out of Margaret Cley's name perhaps refers to another relation.

32 Henry and Elizabeth Tunstall, no will, inventory undated, administration granted 29th April 1608.

32.1 Inventory

An Inventorie of all the goodes And chatteles of heneri tunstall And elizabeth tunstall his wyffe deceased within the p[ar]ishe of owlstanton
the tenement or lease £8

33 Ellen Rathbone, widow, will dated 9th April 1608, inventory undated, date of probate 11th June 1608.

33.1 Will

In the name of god amen The ixth daie of Aprill in the yeares of the raigne of kinge James of England Fra[un]c and Ireland the sixt and of Scotland the one and fourtieth 1608. I Ellen Rathbone of the p[ar]ish of wolstanton in the countie of Stafford widowe being aged and sicke in bodie and dreading the uncertayne of death naturall but nevertheles of good and p[er]fect memorie laude and praise be vnto almightie god therfore doe ordayne and make my last will and testament in manor and fourme followinge. first I committ my soule to almightie god my maker and redeemer and my bodie to the earth. It[em] I giue vnto Thomas Rathbone my sonne vjd and to John Rathbone my other sonne vjd for and in the name of their porc[i]on and childes p[ar]te of all my goodes It[em] I giue to Anne Cartlich margerie Tailer and marie Fallows three of my daughters everie one of them vjd for and in the name of their porc[i]on and filiall childes p[ar]te of all my goodes It[em] I giue vnto Ellen Rathbone my youngest daughter xxxs and all my apparell and a ewe sheepe & a little chest or coffer alwaies excepted that the said margerie my daughter shall haue my best hatt and my [?russett] cote. It[em] for the reste of my goodes vnbequeathed after my debtes legacies and funerall expenses discharged I giue vnto James Rathbone my third sonne. It[em] I make my said sonne James executor for the good confidence I repose in him witnesse herof John Duncalfe Richard Ratcliffe and Thomas Beech.

Debtes which the said testator doe owe

Thomas Followes vjs

It[em] to James Rathbon viijs

Debts owing me the said testator
Richard Tailer Carpenter vjd

33.2 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect Inventorie of all the goodes and cattels of Ellen Rathbone of the p[ar]ish of wolstanton widow late deceased taken by Thomas Bourne and John Duncalfe being prayzers

one cowe

three Sheepe

beddinge

brasse and pewter

all the tryne ware

all the iron ware

a cupbord a coffer a spinning wheale boordes tressels bedsteedes with all other such implementes

the dong about the house

hir wearinge apparell

33.3 Notes

1. Some goods will have to be sold by the executor to raise the 30 shillings for the widow's daughter, Ellen - hence the time limit of a year. If, as it is probable, the latter was living in the same house as her mother, then her goods (including a spinning wheel maybe, and the clothes in the bequeathed chest) will not have been included in the inventory.
2. Probably she lived in the township of Ramscliff, where her brother-in-law declares he was living. Since that date, her husband Randull had died, and the daughters Anne and Margerie had married. The two younger daughters Mary and Ellen are not mentioned in the will. But the will mentions Katerine and Elizabeth, who may have been Randull's daughters from a previous marriage.
3. John Duncalf was a carpenter; James Rathbone grew hemp.

34 Edward Bourne of Chell Heath, husbandman, no will, inventory taken 9th August 1608, administration granted 14th August 1608.

34.1 Inventory

This is a trewe Inventorie of all & Singler goodes Cattelles & chattelles the which weare of Edwarde Bourne of Chell heath of the p[ar]isshe of Wolstanton & countie of

stafforde husbandman at the tyme of his death p[re]sede by Anthonie beech of Chell Will[ia]m bourne of Shildes crofte geffrey bourne of Chell & Richard knight of lit-tle Chell in the Countie afforsaid yeomen the ixth Daie of auguste anno d[omi]ni one thowsande Sixe hundreth & eight

v kyne	£11		
ij Sterkes	£2	10s	
ij weyninge Calves	£1	6s	8d
one yonge mare	£2	10s	
xij Sheipe	£1	13s	4d
Swyne	£1		
hennes		1s	
Deade goodes			
brasse & pewter		£4	
beddinge napp[er]ie wares		£6	
treyne wares			5s
Irone Wares			6s 8d
ij Wevers lowmes with the geares therto belonginge	£1		
bordes Cheares & formes with Certayne bedstockes		6s	8d
one cupborde & one disshborde		10s	
one whitch & Certayne coffers		16s	
one carte one ploughe & one harrowe		8s	
app[ar]ell for his bodie	£1	10s	
Certayne otes vppo[n] the grounde & Certayne haye in the barne	£4		
Certayne pented Clothes w[i]t[h] a fewe quissshines		3s	6d
butter & Chiesse		10s	
flesshe at Rowffe		1s	
Certayne manure		6s	
his house & grounde aboute one yeares terme	£2		
ij Saddelles & one cart saddell		2s	
one heare & iij stone troughes		8s	
Sum[ma]	£42	12s	
[Actual	£42	12s	10d]

34.2 Notes

1. Administration of his goods was granted to his wife Margery.
2. The appraisers were local men. William Bourne lived at Shildes crofte, which was less than a mile south of Chell Heath.
3. Weaving was generally a male occupation, and could well have been combined with farming.
He had 'One heare' - a haircloth (worth 5s) which could be for brewing or for cider-making.
4. treyne wares (treen) - Coopers made many small, staved watertight vessels for use

as tubs, buckets and bowls; these are referred to in inventories sometimes as coopery ware. Another craftsman was the wood turner: treen bowls and platters were made by a turner from wood hacked straight from the tree and turned on a lathe.

Wooden ware was cheap: in the inventory of Thomas Brett of Wolstanton, gentleman, (1589), 9 'lowmes' (wooden vessels) were priced at 3 shillings altogether, and 2 'treen dishes or platters' were priced at 1 penny. In the 17th century, pewter dishes were superseding wooden ones on the dinner table. These were more expensive than wooden ones: in the same inventory, Thomas Brett had 11 chargers of 1s each, and a pewter bowl priced at 10 pence.

5. 'Certayne pented Clothes'. Painted cloths were imported into this country in the 15th and 16th centuries. Doubtless locally painted cloths met the big demand at all levels of society. They could depict biblical subjects - Shakespeare and other playwrights of the period refer to them - but we do not really know what they looked like because none seem to have survived.

6. At his death Edward Bourne had only one more year of his lease at Chell Heath to run. The lease had been held by his father who died in 1592/3, and Edward must have reEnewed it since then.

35 Elynor Bourne [?of Chesterton], widow, no will, inventory taken 19th August 1608, date of probate 23rd August.

35.1 Inventory

The Inventory of all the goods of Elynor Bourne wydow lately deceased, taken by Henry Bourne Bourne thelder & william Berd the sixth day of August in the year of our lord god -1608

Four kyne	£10		
Two young Swyne		13s	4d
Trene wares		1s	4d
money in hir purse	£1 6s 8d		
hir wayring apparell	£2		
Debts yt were owing to hir viz.			
John Brett esquier	£3		
John Gilbert of Shelton		16s	8d
John Hill of Shelton		5s	
Thomas Sutton		1s	5d
Sum[ma]	£18	4s	5d

35.2 Notes

1. Her son, Henry Bourne of Chesterton, yeoman, was granted the administration of her goods, with reserved power to her other children William, John, and Mary Bourne. Following the death of her husband, John Bourne of Chesterton (whose will is informative about the house she was probably sharing with son Henry at her death), Elinor Bourne had been the tenant of a house and large pasture in Hanley, but this property was in all likelihood occupied by a subtenant. According to the Newcastle manor records for 6th October 1608, she held, for life only, various properties in Shelton.
2. There are three appraisers.
3. John Hill, John Gilbert and Thomas Sutton were residents of Shelton and held various amounts of land there. John Brett was resident of Dimsdale Hall and lord of the manor of Knutton.

36 Thomas Beech of Wolstanton, date of will 1608/9, date of inventory 14th February 1608/9, date of probate 7th March

36.1 Will

In the name of god Amen in the yeare of our Lord 1608 I Thomas Beech of wolstanton in the diocesse of Covent[ry] and Lich[field] beinge sicke in body but of perfect remembrance do make and ordeyne this my present Testament conteynge in it my last will in manner and forme followinge. Imprimis. I bequeath my soule into the hands of god & my body to be buryed in the churchyard of Wolstanton aforsaide. It[e]m I giue to Margrett Turnocke the wife of John Turnocke Thirty nyne shillinges wherof nyneeteene shillinges is in the handes of Agnes Bullocke of Mole widdowe. It[e]m I giue to Henrie Morton the sonne of John Morton foure shillings. It[e]m I giue to Katerne Hancocke the daughter of Robert Hancocke Fourtye shillinges. Item I giue to Margrette Whytaugh the daughter of Richard whytaugh foure shillinges. All the rest of my goods rightes cattels and chattels whatsoever they be (my debtes and legacies payde and my funerall expences discharged) I giue and bequeath to my brother in Law Robert Hancocke. It[e]m I constitute and make the saide Robert Hancocke to be my sole executor to execute this my present Testament accordinge to the tenour & true meaninge of the same.

Witnesses: Henrie Stevenson Clerk, John Allerton, Joane Payne, Elizabeth Arriam.

36.2 Inventory

A true and a lawfull Inventory of all the goods and chattels of Thomas Beech of Wolstanton taken the xiiijth day of February 1608 by vs Richard Hanson & John Morton Praisers

the lease of his house and all landes belonginge to it	£10	
his apparell	£1	10s
in the handes of John Payne	£2	
two logges of Tymber		10s
all chests		8s
all the bordes benches Pickels Axes Spades Hommers		
Sithes and other his husbandry furniture		10s
[sum total	£14	18s]

36.3 Notes

1. Joan Payne is the wife of John Payne - both their inventories are in this collection.
2. Thomas Beech lived in a cottage in Wolstanton, leased from Ralph Sneyd esquire. Some land went with the cottage, as indicated in the will of his mother Margaret Beech dated 7th Sept 1603. Robert Hancock, his brother-in-law, was known to be occupying it after his death and, as this inventory is not of a complete household, probably before his death too. In October 1609 the Sneyd family sold it, with Robert Hancock still in occupation, to John Eaton/Heaton. The cottage was mentioned in the 1615 survey under 'Heaton', and Robert Hancock in 1620 was in occupation of a cottage, garden and hemp-butt.

37 William Burslem of the Brownlees the elder, yeoman, will dated 4th April 1609, inventory taken 10th April, date of probate 19th May 1609.

37.1 Will

Sick of body; I commend my body to the earth whereof it is made.

To my two daughters Jhone and An: £60 each.

To my son William: 20 nobles.

Whereas my son John now oweth to me 20 marks to be paid at the end of five years next after the date hereof, if he the said John be then living and I and Agnes my wife both dead, my will is that the said 20 marks be paid to such person or persons as my wife shall limit and appoint by her last will and testament, or by her gift in writing in her lifetime.

To my son John's children Thomas, William and John, An, Katherene and Elizabeth: 10s each.

To John Burslem, son of the above-named William Burslem: 20s and one sterke.

To the children of my son-in-law Thomas Bowyer (Richard, Thomas, Francis and Marie): 20s.

To Hughe Jonsone my servant: one ewe lamb.

To my son-in-law Thomas Bowyer: my cupboard to be divided at the decease of my wife.

Residuary legatee: Agnes my wife.

Executors: Agnes, and my son-in-law Thomas Bowyer.

Debts to me owing:

John Heaton & William Turner	£10		
Raphe Moreton	£3	6s	8d
William Burslem Of Wolsteton	£4	6s	8d
John Milnes	£3	5s	
William Podmore	£1	2s	6d
Olliver Dale		8s	6d
my brother-in-law Prynce		8s	
my son John Bursleme	£3		
John Rowley of Wedgwood		6s	8d
Sum total £26 4s [checked] Debts by me owing			

To my son John Bursleme £6 13s 4d

37.2 Inventory

The Inue[n]torie of William Bursleme of the Brownlies Deceased takene & praysed by Thomas Bursleme Hughe Barlowe & Richard Coulcloughe w[i]th others the tenth Day of Aprill in the yeares of the raignes of our sou[er]aigne lord James by the grace of god of England, France, & Ireland kinge Defendor of the faith the seaveanthe, & of Scotland the two & forteethe.

for iiij oxen

ix kyne & heafers

vj twinters

v calves

one mare & a fillie

Swyne

two geese & three henes

waynes, plowes & other husbandrie wares

one which, one compe, one Turnell & a bracke

trine wares 10s 0d

fore coffers

bordes, formes, tressels, & shilfes

one cupbord

two grates, two broches, one peare of goberts, two axes & a bill, one peare of pothookes,

w[i]th two sawes & other iron wares

cheires & Stowles

brasse & puter

shites tableclothes w[i]th other linens

all Beddinge w[i]th one carpett

bedstockes fore

app[ar]jell

corne in the barne & vppo[n] the earthe

beeffe & bacone
tenne sheepe

37.3 Notes

1. He declares himself at the start of his will as 'William Burslem of Brownlees the elder' a phrasing which implies two people of the same name living either in the same house or in the same place. It is probably the latter, as the other William Burslem of Brownlees was either his son or his 19-year-old grandson. Brown Lees now is on the outskirts of Biddulph and the present-day map shows Brown Lees Farm. Its location would have been just inside the parish boundary, within the township of Stodmoreslowe.

Burslems were at Brownlees for the next seventy years at least, and it is clear they were not tenant farmers. In 1666 William Burslem was assessed for 2 hearths (corresponding to the two grates mentioned in his great-grandfather's inventory). The fact that in the 1620's John Burslem was paying a chief rent to the lord of the manor of Tunstall for his holding means he was the owner. (In the mid-eighteenth century, Mr Richard Podmore was paying 15s 10d (exactly double what John Burslem paid) as chief rent for 'Brownley')

2. A noble is 6s 8d; a mark is 13s 4d.

3. The cupboard valued at 16s did not necessarily have sides and doors. It would have been covered with a cloth (or with the carpet which is mentioned in the inventory) and used for displaying the pewter plate. What we call a cupboard today would have been called a press. The owner of The Three Swans inn in Banbury, Oxfordshire, at his death in 1617 had 'one press and cupboard' in his hall worth 10s. ie a single piece of furniture. Possibly William Burslem's cupboard was like this and would need to be divided (as his will says) before it could be removed to Thomas Bowyer's house.

4. At his death he had the farmhouse and 31 acres (equivalent to 66 statute acres), which is a sizeable farm-size for this period. The value of his crops is higher than average for this parish. The heriot due to the lord of the manor was one ox worth 78s.

5. It is clear from this that a which was different from a compe, the latter holding barley and water, while the ark held dry cereal.

38 Robert Lawton, no will, inventory taken 10th January 1609/10 [Tue], date of probate 12th February 1609/10.

The xth daie of January 1609

38.1 Inventory

A Inventory taken of all the goods of Roberte Lawton Deceased in the p[ar]ish of Vinstentonn

4 bedsteds	13s	
6 litle chestes	4s	6d
3 litle tables	6s	8d
3 old pottes	6s	8d
2 old pannes & a kette	10s	
3 litle spittes	2s	
1 paire of Colbertes		8d
1 pott cheane		6d
2 litle brunderd 1 Drypinge panes	2s	
1 backe stone	1s	2d
2 ladles & a paire of old bellows		8d
2 candlestickes		10d
3 old paire of sheates & 2 pillobers	4s	
1 old fether bed 2 pillowes	13s	4d
1 old covered 1 old coveringe	6s	8d
2 blankettes 2 mattres	8s	
1 mucke forke 1 mucke hooke		4d
2 spinninge wheeles	1s	4d
3 old painted clothes old		9d
3 old lumes	1s	2d
2 litle lockes		7d
1 dosen of Trenchers		2d
3 litle Chesfates		10d
2 swine lumes	1s	
1 coke 2 capens & a hene	1s	8d
2 geese a gander & a ducke	2s	6d
old haie	8s	8d
1 old fryinge pane		6d
1 fier shovole & a paire of Å tongues		10d
old glasse	3s	8d
mucke or worthinge	10s	
1 hatchett		5d
1 morter & pestle	2s	6d
1 Ierne widge		4d
1 beare pott		2d
1 chaffen dish		3d
1 old Cressett & a tostinge forke		8d
1 old carpet	1s	
1 Ierne graite	3s	2d
2 litle formes		6d
3 old stooles	1s	6d
1 Chespresse		6d
1 paire of paniers		4d
2 huckes		4d
1 litle Churme		6d
2 litle silver spones	8s	
2 litle cheares		8d
certaine old painted clothes	3s	4d
1 lornels [turnell]	84	10d
1 maslen pane		10d
1 chesse crach		6d
6 boardes	2s	8d
1 litle lader		2d

Some is £7 3s 1d
Henj Tunstall Richard Glover

38.2 Notes

1. The terms 'little' and 'old', which the appraisers liberally applied to Robert Lawton's household possessions, are characteristic of the inventories of elderly people with no surviving close family. With the administrator who is the deceased's nearest relation being Robert Addrely (originally spelt 'Atherly' in the probate note) of Dilhorne, a parish some seven to ten miles away, no offence would be caused by these words, which the appraisers used so as to justify low valuations of the goods. There are references in the Tunstall court rolls to Robert Lawton, gentleman, who was presented for encroaching in Brerehurst and Thursfield. In addition he was essoined at two courts in 1604 by the headborough of Thursfield, suggesting he was living there at the time. Robert Lawton witnessed the will of Richard Calton [of Brerehurst], yeoman, in July 1604.

2. The probate inventory is not typical. The process behind it may be this. Henry Tunstall and Richard Glover wrote the list of the 53 lots that the goods were to be sold in. Then were added the actual prices that the items fetched in the sale after Robert Lawton's death. Finally the document was copied by an unknown scribe.

3. Although the total value of the household goods is small, the detailed inventory provides evidence that most forms of cooking (except baking) were practised. Colbertes (also coberdes, golbedes etc) were the rests either side of the fire which supported the spits for roasting the meat, the fat of which fell into the dripping pan and was used for basting the meat with a ladle. The kettle, suspended by a pot chain, is a cooking pot used for boiling food.

Brunderd (also brundred) - may in this case have served to support the dripping pan. It is defined as a fireplace implement, either a gridiron or an iron bar for supporting firewood.

Backe stone - a stone which, when heated, was used for cooking oatcakes or similar.

Further down the inventory we find a frying pan, This would have had a long wooden handle so that it could be held over the fire.

Lastly we have a toasting fork, which was for toasting bread, cheese or small cuts of meat in front of the fire.

4. old haie. The presence of such a large amount of old hay (ie from grass mown 18 months ago or longer) and muck raises the question - why wasn't it sold before this?

5. muck hook - muck rake.

6. old lumes/swine lumes - s are open vessels.

7. The reference to poultry (1 cock, 2 capons, 1 hen, 2 geese, 1 gander, 1 duck) is more detailed than usual. The capons (castrated cocks) were destined for the cooking pot or the spit.

8. old glass - Window glass, wall partitions - even ceilings - could still be regarded as moveables in this period, and thus be included in inventories.

9. Ierne widge/Ierne graite. Iron wedges are found sometimes in the inventories - three in the case of one of the carpenters in this collection - and could be used in combination

with a beetle for splitting wood.

10. chaffen dish - a chafing dish, a dish to put on a chafer to keep cooked food warm.

11. Cressett - a pole with a lantern on the end of it.

12. 1 paire of panniers - for a pack horse.

13. huckles - perhaps 'hutches', wooden receptacles for kneading dough or sifting flour.

14. lornels - The person copying out the inventory made several slips. This item may be a turnell, a kind of tub. A 'maslen pane' is a maslin pan ie a pan used for boiling, and made of brass or a similar alloy.

15. chesse crach - probably a wooden or wickerwork container for holding cheeses. A cheese cratch is mentioned in William Addams' inventory too.

Chesfates/Chespresse. Evidently several cheese vats were needed in cheese making. The cheese press is used for pressing the cheese and consists of two flat plates secured together with a large screw; plus there were separators between the cheeses.

17. No clothing, money, food or fuel are mentioned. The spinning wheels and the geese indicate a female occupant.

39 Roger Bettison [of Chesterton?], husbandman, will dated 18th April 1610, inventory taken 20th April 1610, date of probate 11th May 1610.

39.1 Will

Sick in body; to be buried at the discretion of my executors.

To my wife Elizabeth Bettison and to John Maxfilde alias Baddeley, my son-in-law: the lease of my house where I live with the appurtenances with all my goods, moveable and unmoveable during the life of my wife, and then wholly to John Maxfilde alias Baddeley, who, in consideration of the lease and goods, shall keep my wife with food, drink, lodging, clothing and all necessities appropriate to her. My will is that he should deliver from my goods within one month after my death a ewe and lamb to Richard Bettison my son, and pay him within a year of the death of my wife £4 10s, that is to say 45 shillings after six months and the other 45 shillings at the end of the 12 months. Executors: my wife Elizabeth Bettison and John Maxfilde alias Baddeley.

Overseer: John Colecloughe of Chesterton

Witnesses: John Colcloughe, Richard Bettison, Margaret Johnson and William Beard.

39.2 Inventory

A true & p[er]fitt Inventorye of all the goodes Cattels & Chattls of Roger Bettison deceased, valued and praysed, by Henrye Bourne, John Colcloughe, John Maxfilde, & Rondull Whytoughe, the xxth day of Aprill, in the yeares of the raygne oaf our most gracious soveraygne Lord James, by the grace of god Kinge of England, Fraunce, & Ireland Defendor of the fayth the vijth, & of Scotland the xliijth.

two kyne, one hayfor, & three Calves	£5		
one horse, and a mare	£1	13s	4d
poultre ware		2s	4d
fyfe sheepe	£1		
manure or dunge		5s	
Brasse and peuter	£2		
beddinge & napperie ware	£2	10s	
one Cupbord, certayne Cofors, one table vpon a frame, lowmes, Cheeres, formes, and all other treene ware	£1		
one grate, one harrowe, & certayne other implements of husbandrie, & all other thinges in the house before not valued		6s	8d
a lease of the house, or Cottage	£2		
his apparell		10s	
£16 7s 4d			

39.3 Note

In the first half of seventeenth century, various Betsons lived in this, Keele and Stoke on Trent parish. Roger Bettison and his wife lived in a cottage for which he had a lease. It is probable that Roger Bettison had been living at least 20 years in the area, as he witnessed a will of a Chesterton man who died in 1588.

40 Thomas Turner of Brerehurst, husbandman, no will, inventory taken 19th December 1609, administration granted 6 July 1610

40.1 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect Inventorie of all the goodes and Catells of Thomas Turner late of Brerehurst in the County of Stafford husbandman taken the sixth day of december An[no] d[omi]ni 1609 seene and praised by Richard Colcloughe Peeter Lownes and Richard Gregorye.

three kyne	£7		
one calffe	£1		
seven sheepe	£1	10s	
Corne and haye	£1		
iron ware and husbandry ware		13s	4d
tow ould sadels		11s	
brasse and pewter	£2		
tryne ware		3s	
bordes formes shelffes & other implementes of houshold		6s	
coffers	£1		
tow bedstiddes		7s	
beddinge and lynnes	£1	6s	8d
butter cheese & bacon		10s	
mucke		2s	
his apparell		6s	8d
one leace for diu[er]es yeares yet enduring	£12		
£29 14s 8d			

[should be £29 15s 8d]

40.2 Note

More than six months after this inventory was taken, the administration of Thomas Turner's goods was granted to his wife, by now called Margaret Turner alias Meare. He had left two children called William and John who were still minors; Thomas Meare of Brerehurst the step-father had to enter into a tuition bond for the administration of the portions due to them.

41 Thomas Willatt of Chesterton, will dated 28th April 1610, inventory taken 7th May, date of probate 11th May.

41.1 Will

Being sick in body.

To be buried in the churchyard of Wolstanton.

To Jhon Willat my son: my best wain or cart, the best plough, the best yoke and chain, the best harrow, a stone tub, a great hutch or coffer, the long table in the house, one iron grate, one brass pan: for and in the name of his heirs.

Residuary legatee and executrix: Elizabeth Willat, my wife (My funeral expenses being discharged, and debts being paid on the whole, I give and bequeath to Elizabeth Willat my wife the residue of all my goods, cattles, chattells and household stuff whatsoever towards the bringing up of my children.)

Witnesses: Henry Borne the eldest, Henry Borne the younger, Henry Borne the youngest

and William Borne.
These are the debts which I owe:
To John Duncalf for building a barn £5
To John Turnocke £3 16s
To Raffe Wood 26s 8d
To my brother William Willot 26s 4d
To Elizabeth Whylocke 9s
To Peter Maxfild gent 16s 4d

41.2 Inventory

The Inventory of all the goods Cattells & houshold stuffe of Thomas Willat of Chester-
ton lately deceased taken the Seventh Day of Maie A[nn]o D[omi]ni 1610 by Thomas
Woodd Henrye Bourne & William Bourne

Foure oxen
Foure kine
Three twynters
Three styrkes
one mare
sixe sheepe
twoo swyne
the poultrie
Corne vpon the ground
Corne in the howse
the Dounge
the houshold p[ro]vision
bedding & napry ware
brasse & Pewter
all Iron ware in the howse
the waines plowghs yokes chaynes harrowes
w[i]th all other Implements belonging to husbandrye
his Apparell
the table the Chests & all other treene ware

41.3 Note

Thomas Willatt had no cash when he died - there are no cash bequests in his will and
the inventory omits the usual 'and money in his purse'.

There was a lot of borrowing and lending in this period. Much of it was of small
amounts and of short duration - a matter of weeks only.

And these are the sort of debts which Thomas Willatt listed at the end of his will, know-
ing death was imminent.

The first one, though, is different. The building of the barn was likely to have been
started recently. The last of the previous season's corn would have been threshed and

the grain brought into the house, the stocks of hay would have been used up, and the old barn could therefore be demolished, saving any sound timbers for re-use. The sum mentioned (£5) is likely to represent the whole cost of building the barn.

42 William Burslem the younger of Wolstanton, will dated 3rd August 1610, inventory dated 21st August, date of probate 28th September 1610.

42.1 Will

In the name of god Amen the thirde day of August in the yeare of our Lorde god one thousand sixe hundred and ten. I william Burslem the yonger of Wolstanton in the countie of Stafforde and diocesse of Coventrie and Lichfeilde being of whole minde and in good and p[er]fect remembrance and yet nevertheles fearinge that I shall not haue sufficient time to make my will in writinge by reason of the extremitye of my sicknes do in the p[re]sence of my good neighbours Thomas Fenton and Francis Lysat of Wolstanton aforsaide make this my last will in wordes as followeth. first I bequeath to William Burslem my father seaven beastes in regarde of the Somme of fourteene poundes which I owe to my said father. It[e]m my will is, that my debtes shall be paide of the rest of my goodes. And that which remaineth after my debtes are paide I giue and bequeath to my wife and my childe It[e]m I do make and ordaine my vnclie Anthonie Beech of greate Chell and William Burslem my said father executors of this my last will.

42.2 Inventory

A true and perfect Inventarie of all the goodes and Chattles late William Burslems the yonger of Wolstanton preysed by William Bourne of Ewtree John Heaton of Wolstanton Thomas Henshawe and Thomas Fenton of Wolstanton the one and twenteith of August 1610

fiue horses and there furniture for carriage
one geldinge taken for an heriot and his furniture
seaven beastes
tow barrels of Sope conteyninge a Ferkin
tow kettles one fryinge panne one brasse candelsticke foure pewter dishes
tow feather beds one boulster tow keverlets
all the wooden ware
one pounce and tow vneces of Indegall
tow pounce of Starch
powder blew
one pounce of pepper
all his wearinge apparell

all his Iron ware
hey
three bale of flaxe
all other small thinges
one sacke of salt

42.3 Notes

1. The Newcastle manor court roll for October 1610 records that William Burslem junior owned at his death half of a messuage and lands in Wolstanton; the heriot was a gelding worth £3; and his heir was his son aged 1 year. William Burslem had married Elizabeth Daniel at St John's Burslem on 5th October 1608.
2. Inspection of the inventory shows that the items were listed first (presumably by Thomas Fenton - who also wrote the will), then they were priced by different appraisers who put the amounts down in their own writing. (Additional confirmation that this was the process used is shown by the fact that the starch and powder blue are separately listed. If it had been known at the start that they were so small in value, they would have been combined in the listing.) Finally it was totalled by yet another person, who used arabic numerals.
3. William Burslem junior had 6 horses but no cart or husbandry ware. The inference is that most of them were pack horses. The unusual items (such as quantities of salt, pepper, bales of flax etc) are transportable by pack-horse, suggesting he was a trader. Some of these are connected with the cloth trade. Indegall is presumably indigo, a dye. Powder blue and starch were [perhaps] used in cloth preparation. For comparison: in the 1560's Matthew Commin of Salisbury 'used many occupations. First he was a hosier....Then he was a merchant of cloth and small wares, and sold hops, salt, pitch, rosin, raisins, groceries and all apothecary drugs'. His wife had a stall in the town on market days where she sold flax and other things (from Simon Forman, Autobiography).
4. He was the son of William Burslem who was presented on several occasions for breaching the assize of ale, and who probably married in 1581. (A surrender in the manor court that year could be a marriage settlement.)

43 Richard Knight of Little Chell, yeoman, will dated 29th April 1609, inventory taken 19th December 1610, date of probate 16th January 1610/11.

43.1 Will

To be buried in the parish church of Woolstanston.

To Margreat, my eldest daughter and to heirs of her body lawfully begotten: two messuages and two cottages with 26 acres of customary land in Tunstall and Chatterley,

paying to my three daughters, Ane Knight, Elizabeth Knight and Marie Knight the sum of £40 to be divided equally between them within three years of my decease. And if there is no heir then to Alice my daughter and to heirs of her body lawfully begotten, paying to my three daughters above-mentioned the sum of £80 to be divided equally between them within the next three years, with successive remainders to Ane, Elizabeth and Marie and their heirs lawfully begotten, and the remainder to the right heirs of Richard Knight for ever.

Whereas my wife and I own a messuage, a cottage and water-mill and 40 acres of freehold land going with them my intention is that they should be divided equally between my five daughters after my wife's decease.

To Jane Knight my wife: the third part of all my goods.

Residuary legatees: Ane Knight, Elizabeth Knight and Marie Knight.

To Alice my daughter: 3s 4d.

To my daughter's two children James Beech and William Beech: 6s 8d each.

To every one of my godchildren: 6d.

To every one of my servants: 12d.

Executors: James Beech, my son-in-law, William Lee of Ashes and Jane my wife.

Overseer: Thomas Burslem of Burslem.

These are owing me:

Richard Glover and Richard Baddiley of Tunstall for beef	34s	
Mr Unwine	8s	10d
Thomas Cartleiche	3s	
James Baddiley	58s	
Thomas Broode of Whittfeild	15s	

43.2 Inventory

A true, perfect, & Just, Inventorie of all the goodes and Cattels moueable & vnmoueable of Richarde Knight of little Chell in the parishe of Woulstandstone lately deceased, prayesd the xix daye of Dece[m]b[er] by Mr John Telright William Burne, Thomas Burslem Anthonie Beeche and John Boughie: Anno dom[ini] 1610

6 oxen	£34		
13 kine	£45	10s	
7 Twinters	£21		
7 sterks	£14		
8 Caul[ves]	£8		
1 Mare	£6	13s	4d
14 Sheepe	£3		
4 Swine	£1	10s	
Certayne pullen		1s	
dead goodes			

Heaye	£6	13s	4d
Corne in the barnes	£10		
Treene ware		13s	4d
2 wenes, ploughes & all the rest of husbandrie ware	£4		
Dunge at Tunstalle		5s	
7 Bedsteeds		10s	
2 bords, 1 forme & a frame		5s	
2 Wiches 5 Chests & cofers		13s	4d
1 Iron Chimley 1 Iron grate, 2 broches 1 paire of goberts,			
1 paire of Racks 1 paire tongs 1 fyre shoovle		13s	4d
1 Tubstone 4 stone trowes		2s	
1 Tubstone at Tunstalle		1s	4d
Cheares & stooles		2s	
4 dayes works of Rye on ye ground	£1		
10 hoopcs of malt in ye house		10s	
10 hoopcs of oeatcs		10s	
1 Busshell of tole corne		6s	
1 Butt of Rye at Tunstall		2s	
5 Fetter bedds 12 boulsters 3 pillowes	£5		
4 Woole bedds	£1		
12 Coverlets	£4		
6 Blankets		12s	
14 paire of sheetes	£3	10s	
1 doozen of napkins		6s	
Certayne clouthe & yarne	£2		
8 kisshins		2s	8d
21 dishes 3 salts of pewter	£1	11s	
4 potts 2 panes of Brase	£1	10s	
3 candlesticks		1s	
1 Cubborde		8s	
4 Swine lyeing in salt	£1	6s	8d
Certayne Whitmeate	£1		
2 milestones 1 Wiche & pickes w[i]th other necessaries			
in ye mile	£1		
his purse & apparrell	£1	10s	
Su[mma] totalis 184 18s 4d [checked]			

43.3 Notes

1. It seems that within 10 years his daughters Alice and Elizabeth (or rather their husbands) ended up as the main beneficiaries. Richard Knight's wife had in her possession a house, water mill and a cottage. While her husband is alive, it is in joint names. After his death she has sole possession of it, but her husband's will directs what should be done with it after her death!

2. The sites of mills remained unchanged for centuries, even if their machinery and function altered. Richard Knight's water-mill is likely to have been situated near the

junction of Little Chell Lane and Victoria Park Rd, Tunstall. It would have been on Scotia Brook, which formed the boundary between the townships of Chell and Tunstall. The exact location is uncertain, as no map shows its position. Thomas Beeche, presumably the grandson of Richard Knight, acted as churchwarden in 1642 'for the house of Millhouse'. 'Thomas Machin of Beeches Mill' sold his estate to Thomas Baddeley of Newfield in 1753 who subsequently used the mill for grinding flint. The last mention of the mill is in 1819 (Victoria County History of Staffs Vol VIII p 99).

The toll corn was the payment in kind made by users of the mill. The amount charged was set at a certain fraction of the corn brought to the mill to be ground; twenty bushels of corn (assuming the rate charged was 5%) represent either a very short period of milling operations or a very small acreage of corn - probably the latter.

In 1539, Richard Colclough of Little Chell owned this freehold land: a messuage, a cottage, a water mill, forty acres of land, ten acres of meadow, forty acres of pasture and six acres of wood in Little Chell and Tunstall.

Richard Knight had 13 acres and 1 day work of arable land in the open fields of Tunstall; none of the three inventory items which he has in Tunstall implies that he had any farm buildings there.

3. The hoop referred to is a measuring container for meal.

4. A day work was a third of a customary acre in this locality. Butts varied in size but averaged out at half a day work. So this inventory shows some internal consistency in its pricing of rye.

5. '3 salts of pewter' = three pewter salt boxes.

6. The 'four swine lying in salt' were sides of meat covered in salt, each in their own container. It is interesting to compare their price with the price of the four live swine.

7. '2 milestones 1 Wiche & pickes' = a pair of millstones, a grain holder and possibly pitchforks (called 'pikeforkes' in the 1589 inventory of a Wolstanton gentleman).

44 Richard Hanson of Wolstanton, yeoman, date of will 29th December 1610, inventory taken 9th January 1610/11, date of probate 16th January.

44.1 Will

Sick in body; to be buried in the churchyard of Wolstanton.

To my three daughters Margerie, Margaret and Ales Hanson: a messuage or tenement and one water mill, and all buildings, lands etc belonging in Bagnald, now in the occupation of one John Hanson of Bagnald; to have and to hold to Margerie, Margret and Ales Hanson from 1619 for twenty one years paying twenty shillings to them each year; unless my son and heir apparent George Hanson pays £80 to my 3 daughters within a year; if not, my will is that they should let it to my brother John Hanson of Bagnald, he paying a reasonable price.

To Elizabeth Hanson, my wife: half of certain lands called the Hygfeildes and half of a meadow called the great demath in Wolstanton for the remaining term; one croft called

Baullcroft in Wolstanton during the term which I have in it; and the third part of all my goods.

To John Burslem of Brownelees: half of certain lands lying in Brompton which I lately purchased from Richard Hunt.

Residuary legatees: my three daughters. If one dies before the age of 21 or is married...

Executors: my wife and brother John Hanson

Overseers: Henrie Stevenson, clerk, and Thomas Henshaw.

44.2 Inventory

A true & p[er]fect Inventorie of all and singuler the goodes rightes & debtes of Richard Hanson of Wolstanton in the Diocesse of Coventrie & Lichfeild the nineth day of Januarie 1610. by John Astbury Henrie Bourne Raphe Morton John Morton Thomas Henshaw.

foure oxen	£17		
eight kine	£27	10s	
six sterks	£12		
one twinter	£2		
six calves	£6		
on nag & on Filly	£6	16s	8d
nineteene sheepe	£5	16s	8d
three swyne	£1	5s	
pooltrey		10s	
on stawll of bees		5s	
corne on the ground & corne in the barne & corne in the house	£21		
waines plowes harrowes yokes waine timber chaines plow Irons saddles panniers & all other husbandry ware	£5		
on grate one paire of gorb[-]ates tow spites one paire of fire tongues a fire shuvell and other Iron ware		6s	8d
brasse and pewter	£6		
beddinge & linnen clothes	£12		
butter cheese beife & bacon	£4	16s	8d
all tryen ware	£1	10s	
on ioyned bed		13s	4d
flax hemp & yorne		6s	8d
the apparell of the decessed	£5		
syling timber		6s	8d
a swyne tub a baking stone a grindinge stone & swine troughes		4s	4d
leases of certaine groundes	£5		
[Actual total: £138 14s 4d]			

44.3 Notes

1. Richard Hanson held land in Bagnall (halfway between Hanley and Leek), Wolstanton and Brompton, the latter being one of the common fields of Newcastle. Richard Hanson's father and grandfather owned land in Wolstanton, and there is a connection through a female line with the Braymers who owned land in Wolstanton in the early 15th century.
2. His son George, aged 14 at the time, inherited the house and lands in Wolstanton. These passed to him by the customary laws of inheritance, so Richard didn't spell this out in the will. A heriot, the testator's best beast (which was an ox in this case) was due to the king, as lord of the manor.
3. 'syling timber' refers to the boards of the ceiling - or to wainscotting. The insertion of a ceiling over the large hall, previously open to the roof, was one of the developments starting to occur in contemporary houses in this region.
4. 'stawll' is hive.
5. In 1609 John Burslem leased a croft called Ball Croft in Wolstanton to Richard Hanson for five years.

45 Mary Knight of Chell, a singlewoman, will and inventory dated 4th November, date of probate 14th November 1611.

45.1 Will

To be buried in the parish church of Woolstanston.

To my brother James Beech's three children, James Beech, William Beech, and Margreat Beech: one cow.

To Brian Par: one sheep.

To Richard Tealer my godchild: 5s.

Residuary legatees: my four sisters, Margreat Knight, Alice Beech, Elizabeth Burne and Ane Knight.

Executor: John Boughey of the Wall in Awdley.

Debts owing to me

William Burne of Chell	£5		
James Beech of Chell		7s	
Thomas Burne of Chell	£2	10s	
Jane Knight mother of the [testator]	£10	3s	
William Badley of the Flates for a measure of rye		2s	8d
Richard Knight of Alger	£4	8s	2d

45.2 Inventory

A true and perfect inventorie of all the goodes and Cattelles of Marie knight prayesed by william Lee James Beech, Richard knight and Thomas Burne the iiiijth day of November

Quicke goodes

three yonge beastes	£5	13s	4d
one cowe	£2	13s	4d
seven sheepe	£1	8s	
her parte of ij oxen	£3	6s	8d
part of one mare and one hefer	£1		

Dead goodes

Certayne bedinge	£1	13s	4d
Certayne bras and pewter		5s	
her purse and aparill	£2		
Certayne instore and husbandtrie woore ..	£1	11s	
Certayne Corne	£1	10s	
one arke and Certayne Coffers		10s	
[£21 10s 8d]			

45.3 Notes

1. The oxen were shared with one other person (on the basis of the price of an ox at this date), probably her mother. She was the youngest daughter of five, and her father had died the previous year. Alice Beech was an older sister. The large sum of money owing her by her mother can be understood as the consequence of the settlement of her father's estate. Her father's will divided the estate so that his widow got a third and Mary Knight and two of her sisters got two-ninths each. Mary has got less cattle than would have been expected from this division, so it is likely that her mother bought some of the stock from her. All in all it seems that where she was living, her mother was head of the household.
2. 'Alger' refers to the place Alsager in Cheshire.
3. 'a measure of rye' - the price suggests this measure was 2 (standard) bushels ie about 72 litres capacity. William Badley may be the only one of the debtors not related by blood or marriage. It is a sale.

46 Alice Burne of Great Chell, no will, inventory taken 14th Sept 1612, administration granted 23 Oct 1611.

46.1 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect Inventorie of all the goodes and chattells late Alice Burnes of great chell w[i]thin the p[ar]ish of wolstanton w[it]hin the dioc[ese] of Coventrie and

[?Lich] prysed 14th daye of September a[nn]o d[omi]ni 1611 by Anthonie Beech of the towne aforesaid and William Burne of Ewetrie w[i]thin the said p[ar]ishe prysers indifferentlie chosen.

The apparell	£1	10s
three little pewter dishes		2s
one brasse pann		10s
one twilsheete one cov[er]lett iij sheetes & one towell.		13s 4d
Sum[ma] £1 15s 4d		

[Recte £2 15s 4d] Debts owing to the s[ai]d Alice Burne

Anthonie Beech of Great Chell	£1	6s	8d
Jefferie Burne of the same towne	£4	10s	
John Baggaley of the same towne	£2	4s	
William Rowley of the same towne	£2	4s	
Edward Shaw and Richard Drakford	£2	4s	
John Burslem and Raffe Whitton	£12		
Sum[m]a	£25	8s	8d

[Recte £24 8s 8d]

46.2 Note

Administration was granted to her son, Thomas Burne of Ewtree. William Burne of the parish of Stoke also had to enter into a bond. The inventory is not of a complete household.

47 Agnes Bullock of Wolstanton, widow, date of will 31st December 1611, inventory taken 27th February 1611/2, date of probate 3 March 1611/2

47.1 Will

Being sick in body.

To be buried in the churchyard of Wolstanton

To Thomas Bullock alias Merrie: £13 16s 8d, to be paid within one year of my death. Until he reaches 21 years John Turnock, one of my executors, to have the use and disposition of it.

To Thomas Sneyd alias Chittie: £10; 40 shillings which Richard Harries owes me; one pot, one featherbed, a chaff bed, one coverlet, one blanket, two bolsters and a pair of sheets.

To William Sneyd of Chesterton: £5

To Anne Clare of Namptwich in the diocese of Chester: 40s.

To the four children of Richard Whitaugh of the White-hill in Wolstanton parish: 40s to be equally divided.

To Francis Drakeford: one half of two parcels of land called the Newfield and the Edge of the demise of John Boothes.
 To Edward Bullocke: 20[s]..... To Joane Hancock the wife of Robert Hancock: all my [bedd]ing, wearing apparel and napery ware.
 To John Turnocke aforesaid: all my pewter, brass, bonds, chests, and all other my household stuff.
 To John Stonihewer: 16 shillings which he owes me.
 Residuary legatees and executors: John Turnocke and Robert Hancocke.
 John Turnocke to have £4 in trust to be by him disposed and paid to such persons as I have before Mr Stevenson vicar of Wolstanton appointed and directed him.
 Witnesses: Henrie Stevenson, Raphe Stevenson, Margret Turnocke, Anne Hill.
 Debts owing to the testatrix:

William Burslem	20s	
Rondull Tunstall	3s	4d
John Turnocke	£4	

47.2 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect Inventorie of all and singler the goodes rightes and debtes of Agnes Bullocke widow late of wolstanton deceased taken and priced by Thomas Henshaw and william Smithe the seaven and twentieth day of Februarie in the yeare of o[u]r Lord one thousand six hundred and eleaven.

three brasse pottes	£1		
one brasse panne a skellet and a candlesticke	£1	6s	8d
all the pewter		13s	
all yron ware		10s	
all tryen ware	£1	10s	
all the bedding linnens and the apparell of the deceased ..	£8	16s	
one milstone		4s	
money owing to the deceased	£53	7s	
Summ tot[al]	£67	1s	

[Actual £67 6s 8d]

47.3 Notes

1. Merrie is a genuine Wolstanton surname of the period.
2. The widow has household stuff worth £14, which indicates a reasonable standard for widows. (Compare Alice Burne in this collection with just £2 15s 4d of household goods.) Elderly widows were either poor or a source of loans. In her will Agnes Bullock mentions only a fraction of the money owing to her.
3. Some of the names mentioned in this will crop up also in Thomas Beech's will, including Agnes Bullock herself. If it is the same person, then she must have moved

from the extreme northern end of the parish to Wolstanton within a few years before her death.

4. The White-hill was in Brerehurst, and the area still retains the name. She could be Anne Bullock, the widow of Thomas Bullock.

48 Richard Ridgway of Knutton, will dated 1st June 1612, inventory not dated, date of probate 19th June

48.1 Will

Being sick in body.

Body to be buried in the parish churchyard of Wolstanton.

To George Rigway my eldest son, John my second son, and Richard my youngest son, Margreat my second daughter and Mary my youngest daughter: 15 pence each.

To Anis my eldest daughter: all those my boards [boyreds] that lie over the house, with one little pot and one painted cloth.

Residuary legatee and executor: Dorothy, my wife.

Overseers: John Clownam & my son George.

48.2 Inventory

A true and Perfit inventory of all the goodes and catelles of Richard Rigway, deceased.

Toow barin keyen	£3	6s	8d
bracese and powter		10s	
one gratte one broch and cobertes with some other			
Impelmentes of Irne		5s	
all the Irene ware		1s	
one tabell and toow peares of bedstids		5s	
bedding and ther appryall shytes and close	£2		
three cofferes and one cubbord		13s	4d
his aperell and money in his purse	£1		
his dung hill		5s	
some is £8 16s			

[actual total £8 6s 0d] [Appraisers not named]

48.3 Notes

1. 'his' - the inference from each occurrence of 'his' is that there is another one. This applies naturally to the money and clothes, but surprisingly it also means that there is another dung hill on the premises which is not his.

2. In October 1610 his daughters Margaret and Mary were each fined 5s for preventing Richard Braddock taking their hay from a meadow called Barrecroft Meadow. Richard Braddock must have been acting in an official capacity, perhaps distraining for debt.

3. His wife did not remarry and lived another 24 years, dying in 1636. His eldest son George is mentioned in 1620 as a tenant of Ralph Sneyd esquire, probably in Chatterley.

49 Robert Wood of Knutton, yeoman, will dated 22nd February 1612/13, inventory taken 20th March 1612/13, date of probate 22nd March 1612/13.

49.1 Will

Being in good health; to be buried where my executors shall think convenient or where it shall please God to designate.

To [the wife of] John Hill and to Elizabeth Heath, daughters of my daughter Joane Bowyer: 10s each, as I have already given them their marriage portions.

To Richard Bradocke: 3s 4d.

To every one of my god children: 12d.

To my daughter Joane Bowyer for her natural life, and to her son John Badeley (and his heirs and assigns) after her decease: 3 days work of arable land in Ashfeild which I purchased of John Broughall deceased, on condition that John Badeley, his heirs or assigns within a year of my death pay £20 to Ellin Bowyer and Sara Bowyer, Joan's daughters, otherwise the land is to go to them and their heirs.

Also to Joan for her natural life, and to her son John Bowyer (and his heirs and assigns) after her decease: all my copyhold lands within the manor of Newcastle which I purchased of John Hill and George Egerton.

To John Hill, son of John Hill of the Banke in Shelton and to Joan his wife, daughter of Joan Bowyer: any interest which I have in the copyhold land (whether leases for years or lives) of the inheritance of the said John of the Banke.

Residuary legatees: the children of my son-in-law John Bowyer.

Executors: John and Joane Bowyer.

Witnesses: Thomas Keelinge, John Townsend, Thomas Burnes, [Raph] Keeling

49.2 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect Inventory of all the goodes and Cattells of Robert Wood of Knutton deceased.

the halfe of 2 kime and a twynter bullocke

3 stirkes

one Mare halfe one Twynter filley, and halfe one Coult

twelue sheepe

one Cowe of his owne

beddinge

brasse and Pewter

his treene Ware

his Wearinge apparell
Debts owinge:
Jo[hn] hill thelder of the banke £21 6s 8d
Taken the 20th of March 1612 by vs whose names are vnderwritten
Richard Peake
Randull Patsson
Steven halles

49.3 Notes

1. Aged over 70 at his death, Robert Wood had acted as thirdborough for Knutton in 1560, 1567, 1574, 1581 and 1595.
2. Ash Field was one of the common fields of Newcastle. The will says the strip of land (3 day works amounts to 2 acres in modern terms) was near Knutton, and it probably sloped down from Liverpool Road in the vicinity of either Hassam Avenue or Roberts Avenue. The copyhold lands which he owned within the manor of Newcastle were in Shelton and Hanley.
3. The 1615 survey of the manor of Newcastle shows John Bowyer with about 30 acres (in modern terms) of copyhold land.
4. The correction 'Mary' is supplied from his son-in-law's will. (John Bowyer's will and inventory are in this collection.) Also, it looks as if 'Sara' should be 'Margaret'.
5. Situated at the top of the bank in Shelton, The Bankehouse was a farmhouse with extensive land in the seventeenth century. In 1615 John Hill of the Bankehouse owned more than 120 acres in Shelton. Ward, in his book History of Stoke on Trent (1843), includes an engraving of the rambling and dilapidated building, by then one of the oldest in the locality and known as Shelton Old Hall. The remaining part of the farmhouse was demolished in the early twentieth century, and now only the name 'Shelton Farm Road' remains.
6. A Robert Wood mentioned in a Feet of Fines dated 1587 had a wife Ellen (?and sister-in-law Joan Browghall) who owned property in (the parishes of) Newcastle, Stoke and Wolstanton. Robert Wood of Knutton is several times mentioned as a mortgagee in the court rolls of Newcastle under Lyme.
7. In this locality a convenient way of enabling non-burgesses to graze their stock on the extensive common fields surrounding Newcastle was to grant a part-share to a burgess, and thus use their entitlement eg a limit of so many sheep per burgess. In October of the previous year, the borough of Newcastle banned this practice as far as sheep were concerned, and his burgess partner would have had until the end of November to dispose of his share in the sheep that he held to parts.
8. In this inventory 'treen ware' refers to all wooden items, including furniture, hence the higher than usual price for this.

**50 Margerie Rowley of Olcott, widow, will dated 7th
February 1612/3, inventory taken 21st February 1612/3,
date of probate 22nd May.**

50.1 Will

Being sick in body; to be buried in the parish churchyard of Wolstanton.

To my son John the younger: one great coffer standing in the house.

To my son Thomas: one malt coffer; one bullock stirk.

To my daughter Jone one 'beene [or keeue?] bord'

To John my eldest son: my corn wain and my part of the mare.

To John Rowley, son of John Rowley my eldest son: one great meal board and a ewe.

To Anne his sister: one ewe.

To Margerie Colclough: one black wether hog.

To my daughter-in-law Sibill: my gown that was last made.

To my daughter Elenor: my best cow, one twinter heifer; all my household goods (whether owned by me or between us); one grate, one broche, one pair of tongs and pothooks; all my corn and hay; the reversion of one acre of land lying in Hodgfeild; all my cloth(e)s, both linen and woollen, bedding and bedstocks.

Residuary legatee and executrix: my daughter Elenor; 10s to be equally divided between my son John the younger, my son Thomas and my daughter Joan, and to be paid by Elenor.

Witnesses: Elenor Rowley, John Rowley and Randull Whitall.

50.2 Inventory

A trewe And p[er]fect Inventorie of All the goodes And chattels that were margerie Rowleys widdowe the tyme of her decease, vewed, seene And praysed (the xxjth of februarie In the yeare of our lord god 1612.) by John Rowly of Wedgwod John Rowly of gilbanke, John, And Thomas Rowly, And James colclaugh

two keyne

two heffers

one bullocke stirke

one yonge swyne or pigge

three sheepe

fyve hennes

her Apparrell

beddinge bedshettes And naperie ware

brasse And pewter

Iren ware

treene ware

one cubbord, bordes formes, cheeres, coffers, And bedstockes

ould wayne And one ould harrowe

corne And haye

one Acre of tacke groundes
certene bacon w[i]th some other victels
certene mucke or donge
Debtes that the sayd margerie did owe, were £1 6s 8d

50.3 Notes

1. The eldest son John would have inherited on the death of his father. The will makes little difference to his position except that he now owns the corn wain and doesn't share the mare any longer. As well as this, he is probably due to take over the house, which his mother (or should it be stepmother?) has been sharing with Elenor. (There is a medium probability that the testator Margerie is a second wife. If so, John the eldest son would be the product of her husband's first marriage.) Then, perhaps only a few weeks after his (step-)mother, he dies: see his will and inventory in this collection.
2. The bequests to Elenor include cloths or clothes, almost certainly the latter.
3. Margerie has a life interest in the acre of land in Hodgfield (a lease for a term of years which is priced at 5s in the inventory).

51 John Rowly of Olcott, will dated 8th January 1612/13, inventory taken 17th March 1612/13, date of probate 26th Oct 1632

51.1 Will

To be buried in the churchyard of Wolstanton.

To my son John Rowly: my 2 meat boards or tables standing in the upper and lower rooms of my house in the name of his heirs.

Residuary legatees: Joan my wife (a third), the said John my son and Anne Rowly my daughter (two thirds).

I have made a term or grant of two parts of my house and grounds unto certain of my friends upon special trust and confidence that they will either bestow my son John in marriage, or else let the house and grounds, and with the money taken for it, pay and discharge all my debts that are contained in this my last will. And after my debts have been paid, from whatever more shall remain, if any, I give and bequeath unto the said Anne my daughter £10, if the amount comes to it. And if it comes to more, the same sum to go to my son John; if not, then what is left is to go wholly to my daughter.

Executors: John Rowly of Wedgwood, James Bech and John Rowly my brother.

Witnesses: James Colclough, John Rowly younger, Elenor Brode, Jone Colclough with diverse others.

Debts: To Rondull Whitough	£11	4s	
To Richard Scotte	£7	4s	
To Richard Whytough	£13		
To Elen Colclough	£7	14s	
Marsh's son-in-law	£2	4s	
John Rowly my brother	£9	14s	
To Richard Henshawe	£4	8s	lccc
Richard Wildbloud younger	£4	8s	
William Drakford of Tunstall	£2	2s	
Jone Wood	£2	4s	
To Thomas Lawton of Auger	£2		
To Thomas Rowly my brother	£2	6s	8d
To my sister Elenor Brode		15s	
And for three hoops of oats to her			
[Total] £69 5s 8d besides the oats			

51.2 Inventory

A true And p[er]fect Inventorie of all the goodes And cattels that were John Rowles of Olcott At the tyme of his decease, vewed And praysed the sevententh daye of march In the yeaere of our lord god. 1612. by Anthony Bech Rondull Whytough, And James colclough.

two stirkes
one mare mare
one calf
corne haye And straw in the barne
one wens bodie
All corne in the howse
All victels in the howse
All carpentrie toles
All meat bordes, formes, And shilfes
All coffers
All beddinge
All bedd sheetes And naprie ware
All brase And pewter
All treene ware 10s 0d
bedd stockes
husbendrye wares
one grate And potthokes, tonges & bellows
geese And pullen
one swyne
his Apparrell
one cheire w[i]th stoles
one paynted cloth

broches A golbords
dunge or muck

51.3 Notes

1. The will was exhibited on 26th October 1632. The case papers that might explain the delay are not available. There is nothing that says that the will was proved.
2. The will and inventory (with the characteristic capitalising of every initial 'a') are in the same hand - by inference James Colclough.
3. In the 1590's Thomas Rowley held half a messuage and 15 customary acres, paying 6s 6d as chief rent. In 1615 John Rowley, a minor who was son of John Rowley of Olcott deceased, was owner of a messuage and 15 acres in Olcote. In 1681 William Marsh held 15 acres 'in the hamlet of Oulcott'. These all could be the same holding.
4. At the time of his death he owned a messuage and 15 acres which passed to his son John aged 17. The heriot taken by the bailiff for the lord of the manor was a stirk (a cow less than two years old) worth £1.
5. 'Auger' is Alsager, Cheshire. According to the relevant English Place Name Society volume for Cheshire, this is the old pronunciation of the name.

52 John Glover [of Tunstall], no will, inventory dated — February 1612/3, administration granted 3rd March 1612/13.

52.1 Inventory

A true & p[er]fect invitorie of all & singler the goods rights & debtes of John glouer late deceased in the p[ar]ish of wolstenton taken & priced the — February 1612 By Thomas Baddeley Robert Parker [and] Richard glouer.

the corne heay straw & menor	£1	6s	8d
one cow sterck & a calfe	£3	6s	8d
Timber		6s	8d
Hemp		3s	
one Brake swine trow & a forke		1s	
2 Bussshell of oates		14s	
2 Bages		1s	4d
2 Bedsteeds		3s	
chestes		8s	
2 spinning whiels		1s	6d
2 tables 2 formes & a buffet stowle		6s	
Tryne ware		7s	
3 shilfes one disbord & a hopper		5s	
Iron		5s	
one Tubstone		2s	
Puter		2s	
Brasse	£1	6s	8d
Appar[r]ell	£1	10s	
sheets & one table cloth		11s	8d
Beding		14s	
Flesh meate		13s	4d
cheares & stowles		1s	4d
The reuertio[n] of his lease	£17		
Richard copland oweth him	£1		
Thomas Hanley		10s	
Richard Edge		10s	

Debts which John glouer oweth are as followeth

to Widdow Terrick	[£]		
Richard marsh	£5		
John Daniell	£2	10s	
Eme Daniell	£1	1s	
Humfrey cowper	£2	10s	
Margarett Alcok	£3		
John peake	£2	8s	
Raphe wood	£1	13s	
Hew knight	£1	5s	
Richard Baddeley	£3	2s	
Mr Bourne		9s	
William copland	£1	3s	4d
John Willison		2s	
Thomas Bruck			6d
Margery Bourne		6s	
William Bourne		10s	
Anne Machine		2s	2d
Margaret sneade		1s	6d

Grant of administration
fiat administrac[i]o bonor[um] quae fuerunt Joh[ann]is Glouer nup[er] du[m] vixit
p[ar]och[ie] wolstanton Johanna relict[e] dict[i] defunct[i]
Comiss[io] Vicario wolstanton
Oblig[etur] d[i]c[t]a Johanna Glouer de Tunstall in Comit[at]e Staff[orde] vidua et
Thomas Burne de Shilef Croft in Comit[at]e Staff[orde] hu [Crossed out and yeoman
substituted] William Burne

52.2 Notes

1. John Glover lived at the Crosshouse in Tunstall, probably near Brownhills where he rented three acres of pasture. (Tunstall manor court roll for April 1607: Henry Adderley, gentleman, and Joan Adderley his wife ask to demise to farm to John Glover a messuage called the Cross house with an acre on the backside called the Crosse croft, one acre in Whitley feilde in Tunstall, 3 acres of pasture called the Brownehills in Burslem in Glover's occupation, for 21 years at 17s 4d a year. Entry fine 2s 6d.) His widow, Joan Glover of Tunstall, was granted the administration of his estate after his death. As was usually the case, she had to enter into a bond, together with a man of good standing, (in this case Thomas Burne of Shilef Craft, yeoman), that she would administer the estate well. The inventory was presented at the diocesan court where a clerk wrote at the bottom of it: Raph Adeley - Mr Johnson I pray S[i]r if you may to trust this gent[leman] w[i]th the bond, I can assure you he will see it safe returned [by] Hugh Bradock from Carswall [ie Caverswall]. Henry Adderley, gentleman, was John Glover's landlord in 1607, and Raph may have been his son.
2. The total of goods and chattels is £31 15s 10d; the money he owes is at least £25. (The debt to John Daniell stood at £2 in Jan 1609/10 when the latter made his will).
3. The 'Iron' is almost certainly ironware.

53 Ales Morton of Wolstanton, widow, date of will 7th April 1609, inventory taken 10th May 1613, date of probate 17th May 1613

53.1 Will

[No burial instruction; and reference to her being sick crossed out] To my son John Morton: £4 to discharge my funeral expenses; and 20s, of which 10s is to be equally divided between his 2 sons Raphe Morton and Henrie Morton.

To my son John's two daughters Margrett Morton and Anne Morton: one cow, to be equally divided.

To his two daughters Marie Morton and Ales Daniell: 20s to be divided equally.

To my daughter-in-law Elizabeth Morton: one angel in gold.

To my son Raphe Morton's daughter Marie: one cow.
 To his other two daughters Elinor and Margrett Morton: one cow and 20s to be equally divided. My will is that his sons John Morton and Thomas Morton are to have 10 shillings. (The cows and money are in the hands of Raphe Morton, except 20s which is in the hands of my son John Morton.)
 To my son Thomas Morton: one cow (which is in the hands of Roger Townesende of Blourton) and 40s which is in his own hands, of which he is to give his two sons 10s to be equally divided.
 To Elizabeth Daniell, Margrett Daniell and Ellen Daniell, the three daughters of my son-in-law Richard Daniell: one cow in the hands of my son Thomas Morton and one in the hands of Thomas Amison of Blourton - to be equally divided.
 To my daughter Ellen Barlowe: 20s in the hands of my son John Morton.
 To Thomas Daniell, son of the said Richard Daniell: 6s 8d.
 To my daughter-in-law Margrett Morton: 6s 8d to be paid by my son John Morton also. My will is that Raphe Morton shall have the whole house and the ground belonging to it after my decease; and half the sylinges [?panelling] of a meat table and forms and trestles and shelves and other such things within the house not hitherto dealt with.
 To William Barlowe: 5s to be paid by my son John Morton.
 Executor: my son John Morton.
 Overseers: Raphe Morton and Hugh Barlowe, my son-in-law.
 Witnesses: Thomas Brett, Hugh Barlowe.

53.2 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect Inventarie of all and singler the goodes rightes and debtes of Ales Morton widow late of Wolstanton in the diocesse of Coven[trie] and Lich[field] deceased taken and priced by Thomas Henshawe and John Turnocke of Wolstanton afor-said the tenth day of May one thousand six hundred and thirteene

seaven kine	£17	10s
one featherbed one bolster and tow coverlettes a pillowe and three sheetes..	£2	
in money	£12	
the apparell of the said Ales	£1	
money in her purse		12s
[Total: £33 2s]—		

53.3 Notes

1. The reference to sylinges (sealing is wainscotting or panelling) is not completely clear, but it may be relevant that the inventory of her son John Morton in 1638 has 'seelinge vpon the benche in the house'. (The farmhouse where she was living was probably occupied by her son Raphe Moreton, his wife and family, as the furniture is not listed in the inventory. Raphe died in 1630/1, so it is quite possible for the house to be in John's hands subsequently.) A seeled bedstead occurs several times in inventories

of this period in Wymondham, Norfolk, and also a seeled settle.

2. Six cows are bequeathed. The seventh is likely to be claimed as a heriot by the lord of the manor.

3. Probably she is living with her son John, so perhaps it is not so surprising that she remembers the names of all but two of her sixteen grandchildren. There is an interesting difference of treatment of Ralph's children: the grandsons get money and the granddaughters cows.

54 John Coleclough of Grubbershill, yeoman, will dated 20th April 1613, inventory taken 21st May 1613, date of probate 3rd June 1613

54.1 Will

Sick in body; to be buried in my parish churchyard of Wolstanton.

To William Yardley, my son-in-law: my freehold lands in the parish of Audley.

To Raph Keeling, my son-in-law: my freehold lands in Knutton called Nickriddinges; (Raphe Keeling is to pay £20 at any time before Michaelmas 1629 to the said William Eardley, his executors or assigns, and William Eardley is to receive the rents payable from the said land up to the time just mentioned.)

To Margaret my wife: 40s a year with her table to be paid out of my tack [land leased to me] by William Eardley, my son-in-law.

To my daughter Margaret Eardley: £10 for her child's part.

To my daughter Elizabeth Keeling: £10 for her child's part.

To Raphe Keeling's four children: £30 to be divided equally.

To William Eardley, my son-in-law: all the right, title, interest and term of years of my messuage and tenement called Grubbershill during the term of Margaret's life.

To Jane Blowe my servant: 10s for a legacy.

To Robert Bell my servant: one lamb for a legacy.

To the two children of my kinsman John Halpenie: two lambs.

To my son-in-law Raphe Keeling: £10 for his child's part.

Residuary legatee and executor: William Eardley, my son-in-law.

Witnesses: Raphe Keeling, Robert Bell.

Debts owing me as follows:

Owing to me from John Dale	£5	
from James Cotton	£3	
Thomas Walker	£2	
John Burges		10s
from Raphe Keeling	£10	

54.2 Inventory

The Inventorie of (the moiety of) all the goodes & Chattells of John Coolcloughe deceased valued & pryced by the estimac[i]on of Henrie Bourne, Roger Sparrie, John John Dale & Richard Wood, the xxjth day of maye Anno d[omi]ni 1613.

fiue oxen

Tenn Kyne

Seven Twinters, eight stirkes & fiue calves

One Mare & Colt & tow twinter coltes

Sixteene ewes & lambes & xiiij geld sheep

Three Swine

Geese, hennes, & other poultrie

Corne growinge vppo[n] the ground

Corne in the house

In malt & groates

In Brasse & Pewter

In Beddinge, linnen and woollen w[i]th all other napperie wares

One Presse & Cubbord, tow longe tables w[i]th frames & formes therto belonginge,

Chestes & coffers, bedstockes w[i]th all benches, formes & others sheilvs

One Hutch, a weetinge Compe, w[i]th all Turnells, Barrels, Peales & other treene ware

In yron ware, as a grate, spittes, gobettes chaines

Yron bound waines, yokes, plowes, harrowes & other husbandrie ware

In Salt, fleshe & whitmeats

The Apparell for his bodie

Woole, Hempe, Yorne, Dunge, quishions w[i]th all other thinges not before valued & pryced

54.3 Notes

1. His son-in-law Ralph Keeling was the son of an alderman of Newcastle and became mayor of Newcastle for the year 1615, and again in 1634. He married Elizabeth in 1602. 'Nickriddinges' is presently open land (in 1839 about 8 acres) at the back of Poolfields, Newcastle.

2. The wooden ware (treenware) included pails (peales), a receptacle for dough or flour (hutch) a brewing container (compe) and a tub (turnell)

Did John Colclough (or his wife) come from Audley parish?

3. Comparison with other inventories of the parish in this decade shows that his dairy cows (kine) are low-priced - indicating poor quality. Likewise his oxen.

4. The inventory. In the preamble 'the moiety of' has been inserted afterwards; for what purpose is unknown.

All the prices are expressed in roman numerals in the original.

55 John Colclough of Broadefeild, will dated 14th June 1614, inventory taken 27th June 1614, date of probate 15th July 1614.

55.1 Will

Sick in body; to be buried in the church of Wolstanton.

To Marie Colclough my wife: all the chattels that she brought from her father's house and one other cow more; five sheep and four lambs; one bed with furniture and all those household goods which she brought to my house; one day work of winter corn, and four days work of oats in the Barn Croft.

To my son Anthonie Colclough: £80. And my will is that my executor shall pay £30 of it at the feast of St John Baptist 1615, and the residue to be paid when Anthonie reaches 25 years.

To John Colclough alias Rowley: £3 6s 8d.

To Mary Colclough alias Rowley: £10 to be paid by 40s a year by my executor.

To Phillip Colclough: £10 to be paid to my wife Marie for Phillip's use at the feast of St John Baptist 1616.

'I giue to such other childe as my wife (being with childe) may bring forth' £10 to be paid at the feast of St John Baptist 1616 to my wife for the use of the child.

If one of the children die, the other child is to have the portion.

Residuary legatee: William Colclough, my eldest son.

To William and his heirs for ever: one cottage or tenement and 5 acres of customary land belonging to it in Olcot within the manor of Tunstall in the separate tenures of me the testator, and of Rondull Whitaugh and James Colclough, on condition that William shall pay all my legacies; otherwise I bequeath them to Henry Stevenson, William Bourne of Little Chell, and Anthonie Beech and to their heirs for ever as to friends of trust towards the payment of the legacies.

Executor: William Colclough.

Overseers: Henrie Stevenson, William Bourne and Anthonie Beech.

55.2 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect inventorie of all and sing[u]l[er] the goodes rightes and debtes of John Colclough deceased, late of Broadefeild in the p[ar]ish of Wolstanton taken the seaven and twentieth day of June one thousand six hundred & foureteene by Anthonie Beech of great Chell, John Colclough of Chesterton, Thomas Bourne of little Chell and John Beech of Whitfeild.

tenne kyne and a bull

eight yonge beastes

tow horses and saddles

nine calues

twelve sheepe and nine lambes

foure swyne

fifteene day workes of corne upon the ground
 sawed bordes
 one corne cart and a tumbrell, tow plowes yokes, harrowes and other implementes of
 husbandrie chaines axes hatchetes, a bill, spittes, grates, & other iron wares
 bedding
 linnen sheetes and linnens
 brasse
 pewter
 a table bordes, chestes, and other trien stuffe
 butter cheese flesh and other meates
 dounge
 a fowling peece and a lute
 corne in the barne
 glasse
 a bow and arrowes
 the apparell of the deceased
 hemp and flaxe
 trunkes quishions and bookes
 hops
 one geldinge or horse

55.3 Notes

1. The will and inventory are copies in neat writing. The last item in the inventory was added after in a different hand and ink (and different spelling convention) . This, plus the fact that the inventory is left untotaled, suggests that more items were expected to be added.
2. The inventory doesn't mention brewing equipment, but does mention hops. Growing started in England in the mid-16th century. Early adopters grew an acre or less.
3. His son, termed a gentleman in the probate note at the bottom of the will, was at Grays Inn. It cost a lot to study at the Inns of Court, which is where barristers were trained. In the 15th century a governor of Lincolns Inn suggested a student could not be well maintained there for under £28 a year. Inflation would have doubled that by the time of John Colclough. There is no record of his admission in 'Register of Admissions to Gray's Inn 1521-1889.'
4. This is the only example of a lute in the Wolstanton inventories of this period. John Colclough was called 'gentleman' in the list of jurors for Stafford quarter-sessions in 1609.
5. His widow Mary left the house immediately to live in Chell. (In a parallel situation in 1557 Richard Humphrey of Long Buckby in Northants, husbandman, actually instructed his pregnant widow in his will to take her things and leave the house.) For John Colclough it had been a re-marriage, and his wife was probably much younger than him. One possible interpretation of the names of the two children John Colclough alias Rowley and Mary Colclough alias Rowley is that the mother's name was Colclough and the father's was Rowley. The wife Mary was the daughter of William

Bourne of Little Chell.

She is given no land but the winter corn and oats which are due to be harvested.

6. He had land which he farmed in Brerehurst.

56 John Beech of Knutton, yeoman, date of will 14th May 1610, inventory undated, date of probate 17th Feb 1613/4.

56.1 Will

Sick in body: to be buried in the parish churchyard of Wolstanton.

To John Beech, my eldest son: my house and lands; one iron grate, and a tubstone, and one great turnell for his child's part.

To Raphe Beech, my son: one cow, one featherbed, of single coverlet, one twill sheet, two pairs of sheets, and my fourth part of corn which I have at Knutton; and £4 to be paid by Richard Beech, his brother, within a year of my decease, for his child's part.

To John Beech, son of Henrye Beech of Newcastle, one strike of rye.

Residuary legatee and executor: Richarde Beech, my son.

Witnesses: Thomas Keelinge John Bydul.

56.2 Inventory

A true and p[er]fecte Inventorye of all the goodes and Callets moueable and vnmoue-able of John Beech of Knutton deceased

quicke goodes

one bullocke	£3		
three kine	£8		
one bullocke stirke	£1		
one calfe	£1		
one sheepe		2s	6d
two swine		10s	

deade goodes

beddinge & nappery stuffe	£3		
his wearinge apparell & money in his purse	£1		
implem[en]tes of husbandrye		13s	4d
brasse & pewter	£1		
three payre of bedstides & one Cofer		10s	
treene ware		6s	8d
fleshe, butter & cheese	£1	10s	
hay, and Corne	£6		
shilfes and thinges of smale value		2s	

[Total £27 4s 6d] praised and taken by
John Clownan Randull Pateston John Bowyer John Fenton John Beech

56.3 Notes

1. The Beechs' tenement took turns in providing one of the thirdboroughs for Knutton township - there was a John Beech every seven years from 1568 to 1617. The farmhouse, probably at The Wood, was a substantial one, having 4 hearths in 1666. A will of 1605 made bequests to John Beech the younger of the upper door and to John Beech of the lower door, suggesting it was then (temporarily) divided.
2. The house and the relatively immoveable things in it have been given to his eldest son, John. Richard's share of the moveable goods was at least twice that of Ralph's. The inventory is incomplete - there is no iron ware (principally the fire things), nor any of the items bequeathed to son John.
3. In a situation like this where there were three grown-up sons, one has to suppose that apparent omissions in the inventory such as a horse or mare were in fact on the premises, but in the ownership of one of the sons. A farmhouse which had four hearths when it was assessed in 1666 is likely to have had substantial lands going with it and much more in the way of livestock than presented in this inventory. The eldest son John has inherited the house and lands but not the livestock. Therefore he has already has livestock of his own (unless he is expected to buy it from his younger brother) and could well be farming his father's land already.

57 Richard Burne of Chesterton, husbandman, date of will 21st May, inventory taken 27th May 1614, date of probate 2nd June 1614.

57.1 Will

Sick in body.

To be buried in the parish church or church yard of Woulstanton.

Residuary legatees: my wife Elizabeth (a third); my four daughters Elline, Jone, Elizabeth and Mary Bourne (the remainder, to be equally divided at age 18).

If any die...

Executors: Randle Sharmon, my brother-in-law, and Elizabeth my wife.

Overseers: Henry Bourne thelder and Henry Bourne the younger

Witnesses: Henry Bourne, Henry Bourne, John Bourne, John Coughlow

Debts owing to me by William Bourne of Chesterton	18s
by Henry Bourne the younger	£3 2s

57.2 Inventory

A true inventory of all the goodes Cattell and Chatteles of Richard Burne of Chesterton late deceased taken the seauen and twentiethe daie of Maie in the yere of our Lorde god 1614 By vs Thomas Woode, Henry Bourne theldeste, John Colcloughe John Bourne
on oxe
on Bullocke
6 kyne and their C[a]lues
on stirke
on mare
Eighte sheepe
on swyne
poultre
Corne in the house & vpon the ground
implementes for husbandrie
Brasse & pewter
Beddinge & naperyware
the Cupbordes Chestes tables & all
trineware
the p[ro]vision of the house
the lofte bordes
Iron ware for the fyer
the manure
the Chattell of bytackes
in money
the Chattell that hee dwelleth vpon
his apparrell
Total £105 18s 0d [Actual: £106 0s 0d]

57.3 Note

1. Randle Sharmon, the executor of Richard Burne's will, is a yeoman of Endon according to the grant of probate.
2. 'the loft bordes'- indicates the house was open to the roof from which the meat (significantly, the 'provision of the house' was the previous item) was suspended. The boards are regarded here as moveable items; significantly, he has a lease of the house he lives in.

58 William Bourne of Little Chell, yeoman, date of will 25th February 1614/5, inventory taken 28th February, date of probate 27th March 1615.

58.1 Will

Sick in body; to be buried in the parish church of Wolstanton.

To John Bourne my youngest son: the annual rent of 26s 8d from my messuage or tenement in Great Chell in the holding of John Bageley or his assigns from the time of my decease until March 25th 1620; and then for a term of 21 years the messuage itself with all meadows, lands, and pastures belonging; and my cottage in Great Chell in the holding of Raphe Robinson with all lands, meadows and pastures for a term of 26 years from the time of my decease, paying the annual rent of 26s 8d for the messuage and cottage to my heirs from 25th March 1620 for a term of 21 years and a herriott [best beast or other goods] at the decease of any tenant during the tenancy.

To Marye my wife, Richard Bourne, John Bourne and Marie Colcloughe my three younger children, two thirds of the lands that I am now in actual possession of for one year after my decease, and by way of payment providing William Bourne my eldest son with sufficient food, drink, clothing and lodging fit for his position and £10 on 1st May and [?1st June check original] this year in equal portions; and if he doesn't like his food or clothing then they are to pay the £10 on 20th August this year.

To William Bourne my son: one young bald mare, my corn wain and the iron-bound wheels on which it stands, my plough and plough irons, my best broach, my best feather bed, bolster and pillow, coverlet, two blankets, 2 pairs of flaxen [?sheets - see original], the table in the parlour, and the which [ark] in the barn, the best bedsteads, a coffer in which my evidences lie, and three boards that I bought from William Colcloughe my nephew.

My intention is that my executors shall pay all the debts that William my son stands indebted to and for me to any person or persons whatsoever.

Residuary legatees: Marie Bourne my wife, Richard Bourne and John Bourne my sons, equally to be divided.

Executrices: Marie my wife and Marie Colecloughe.

Overseers: Raphe Sneyde the younger esquire, Thomas Docksie, William Forde, John Rowley and Anthonie Beech.

Witnesses: John Rowley of Wedgewoode, William Foorde of Foo[r]de Greene, Anthony Beeche of Greate Chell.

58.2 Inventory

A true and p[er]fecte Inventorie of all the Goodes and Cattalls and Chattells that were William Bournes of Little Chell in the Countye of Stafford at the tyme of his decease Seene Vewed and Praysed the eighte and Twentieth daie of february In the Yeare of our lord God one thousand Sixe Hundred and foureteene by William Forde John Baddeley Anthony Beeche & Thomas Bourne

Eighte oxen and foure Stires
 foureteene keyne & a Bull
 Two Twynter Heyfors & Eighte Stirkes
 Eleven Calves
 all Sheepe
 foure Horses and one Colte
 foure Swyne
 Certeyne Geese and Pullen
 all Corne and haye
 Waynes Plowes Yoakes Corne Arkes
 a Harrowe Chaynes a Weetinge fate, Tymber, Sawed boardes wayne Tymber & some
 other thinges belonging to husbandrie
 Certeine Cole Woode
 one payre of Bellowes at the Smythie c[er]teine Smythye Tooles Chercooles Iron and
 Iron Stone
 a Lease for one Whole Yeare of Twoo p[ar]tes of all Those Groundes in Little Chell
 that Were in the Testators Actuell Possession
 Brasse and Pewter
 all Iron Ware
 all Bedding Bedstides napp[er]ie Ware With Ten Silver Spoones and Wolle
 all Coffers
 one Cubbord
 all Treene Ware
 c[er]teyne meate Bordes formes Cheres and Shilfes
 all dunge or Mucke with Two Tubstones
 all fleshe and whitemeate
 his Apparrell

58.3 Notes

1. Often the will gives a lopsided picture of what the heir gets, because the land which he inherits by the laws of inheritance is not mentioned. However, this is an unusual will and we can only guess at what lies behind the treatment of the eldest son William. In 1627 William Burne of Little Chell died.
2. The will and inventory of Mary Bourne the widow (who died in 1628) are in 'Wills of Wolstanton II'.
3. 'or his assigns' - meaning that John Bagguley may have sub-let it.
4. The corn and hay are a very high price, so the land which he had farmed himself ("in actuall possession") must have been very extensive. He was a substantial farmer, and smaller farmers in all probability paid him for the services of his bull and plough oxen.
5. The coffer contains his title deeds (evidences).
6. There is evidence of iron-working. The smithy is a bloom smithy. The 'cole wood' must be wood for converting into charcoal. A lease of 1717 of property in Shelton reserves for the landlord the right to 'pill barke cut down stock up Coard Cole & convert

into charcoal any wood underwood & timber trees growing on the premisses.'

7. The price of sheep varied according to the month, February being the time of year when sheep fetched high prices. The size of William Bourne's flock would have been between 36 and 45.

The sterks are yearlings and the calves are slightly younger, judging by the price of them.

8. The will is on parchment.

9. He had a lease of lands in Little Chell. Part (a third) he had assigned (sold) to someone else; the remaining two-thirds he was holding at his death and has been valued by the appraisers at £40.

59 Richard Keeling, no will, inventory taken 25th March 1615, administration granted 7th June 1615.

59.1 Inventory

March 25 A true & iust Inventory of all the goodes of Richard An[n]o D[o]m[ini] Keeling, late deceased, dwelling in the parishe of 1615 Wolstaneston & County of Staff[ord] Husbandman

The names of the prayzers were Thomas Adams Steeven Drakfoord William Stonyer John Henshall John Newton

Three kine & one heyfer	£8	13s	4d
fowre sterkes	£4		
Two mares	£6		
One yew & a lambe		6s	
Pultery		5s	
The coarne	£2	13s	4d
The haye		10s	
The husbandry wares	£1		
The greate Arke		6s	8d
The boardes, formes, shilfes chayres, & spinning wheeles		6s	
The bedding & nappery	£1	10s	
The woole & yarne	£1	4s	8d
The Brasse & Pewter	£2		
The treene ware & other Implementes		5s	
The mucke or woorthinge		5s	
The money in his purse & his apparell	£1		
The reu[er]c[i]on of his lease	£10		
The debts which the sayd Richard Keelinge did owe			

to John Daniell	£5	
to Hugh Sherrat	£4	8s
to Wm Hargreves	£3	10s
to John Wiliamson	£4	
to Ellen Stonier	£4	12s

Grant of administration

fiat administrac[i]o bonorum quae fu[er]unt superdic[ti] defuncti et administrac[i]o s[e]c[un]d[u]m tenorem eiusdem Margerie Keelinge relicte

Comissio Ministro de Wolstanton

Ob[ligentur] d[ic]ta Margeria Keelinge de Newchappell in Com[itatu] Staff[ordi] vid[ua] et Thomas Adams de Bemersley in d[ic]to Com[itatu] yeoman

[On separate sheet or on back:] Cozen Mr Chauncelor is not willing to trust bands into ye Cuntry yet hath he given Direction [?fore] the widow whoe is not hear & this bearer to be bound There is noe body to take this bond afor this man hath sealed & see her seale & Deliu[er] [& return it - added after]. Therefore I desire to knowe his pleasure. Cozen I haue acquainted my m[aste]r herew[i]th and he is contented that the bond be trusted w[i]th this bearer, who hath protested for the safe retorne therof by Ridgwey the apparitor

59.2 Notes

1. The widow was Margery Keelinge of Newchapel. As an administrator she would be required to swear an oath, constituting a bond.
2. The apparitor is a court official, summoning people to court. In this case he was presumably local, as Hugh Ridgway, an apparitor, was buried at Wolstanton in 1634.

60 Richard Stonyer of Cobmore, yeoman, will dated 23rd October 1615, inventory taken 17th November 1615, date of probate 20th January 1615/6.

60.1 Will

Revokes all former wills.

Being sick in body; to be buried in the church or churchyard of Wolstanton or elsewhere if it pleases God to decide.

To my two sisters Margery and Ellen: £10 to be divided equally.

To William Bllower, my servant: £3 which he owes me; the bed on which I lie, with everything belonging to it except the best blanket and coverlet; a [torn] ...heel.

Residuary legatees and executors: William Stonyer and George Stonyer, both of Odd Rode are to discharge his debts, legacies, heriot and funeral expenses.

Witnesses: William Gibson, William Bllower and Margaret Bllower his wife, with others.

Debts owing to me

Raffe Stonyer	£10
William Colecloughe	32s

60.2 Inventory

A trew & p[er]fett Inventory of all the goodes Catteltes & Chattells of Richard Stonier of Cobmore in the Countie of Stafford yeoman deceased; prayesd & Rated by John Kennt Randull Hilditche, Richard whytehawghe & Richard Gregory in A[nn]o do[mi]ni 1615 the xvijth of novemb[er]

a bed w[i]th appurt[en]ences	£1
a Cou[e]rlett & blanckett	£1
napery ware	£1
his apparrell	£1
twoo kyne	£4 10s
a Chest	2s 6d
in money & debts owing to the testator	£20 17s
[£29 19s 6d]	

60.3 Notes

1. Perhaps explaining the apparent incompleteness of the inventory, Richard Whitehaughe, one of the appraisers, lived in half of this house (or at least was tenant of half the house), and was due to take on the tenancy of the whole house after Richard Stonyer's death. Going with it were 9 acres of land in Brerehurst.
2. Of the other appraisers, John Kennt, lived in Odd Rode - if he was the same as the John Kente mentioned in a will twenty-six years later; Randull Hilditche lived in Scholar Green; and Richard Gregory was living in Brerehurst.
3. The testator is unusually circumspect about his future place of burial. He may have considered that he would end up in Odd Rode, which is in Cheshire, where a succession of Stoniers lived until the nineteenth century. The modern civil parish of Odd Rode embraces: the Cheshire part of Mow Cop, Scholar Green, Little Moreton Hall, Rode Heath and Thurlwood.
4. Both William Blower (in 1608) and Richard Stonyer (in 1600) are mentioned as victuallers in Audley parish.

61 William Drakeford [?of Wedgwood], no will, inventory taken 21st May 1616, administration granted 24th May 1616.

61.1 Inventory

A true And p[er]fect Inventorie of All the goodes of will[ia]m drakford of the p[ar]ishe of wolstanton, that were the sayd will[ia]ms At the tyme of his decease, sene, And prayed the the xxjth daye of maye in the yeere of our lord god 1616 by John Rowley, will[ia]m Rowley, and will[ia]m Stonior

his Apparrell	£1	6s	8d
one websters lome, and worppe stocke And certene websters Reedes	£1		
one little coffer		2s	
fryinge panne, one nawger one torth with [?]		2s	
one ould sworde And dagger		6s	
dettes owinge to him of John calton	£2		

61.2 Notes

1. The administration of his goods was granted to his son John Drakeford. Possibly it was his house William Drakeford was living in.
2. Websters were weavers. They received spun yarn from the clothier to weave on their at home, and afterwards the cloth was collected for the later stages of production (fulling, drying, dyeing and finishing). For this reason, only William Drakeford's and ancillary equipment are mentioned in the inventory, not yarn or cloth.
3. There is no such word as 'torthwith' but that is what is spelt. It must be 'torch with'. The word 'torch' was applied to a lamp carried on a pole.

62 Raphe Burne of Ewtree, singleman, no will, inventory taken 6th April 1616, administration granted 10th April 1616.

62.1 Inventory

A true & p[er]fect Inventorie of all the goodes & chattelles of Raphe Burne of Ewtree of the p[ar]ish of woolstanton in the countie of Staff[ord] singlema[n] latelie diseased as the weire viewed & praised this p[re]sent sixt daie of Aprill A[nn]o d[omi]ni 1616 by willia[m] Bourne of Burslem Thomas Bourne & John Whythough.

One vnled Mare	£1		
Foure Coffers		8s	6d
All the trine ware & some fewe bordes		4s	
All the iron ware		6s	6d
One ould coppe			6d
The reu[er]sion of a Leace vppo[n] ye crofte an intack vppon the waste		2s	
all the beddinge	£1		
All his wearinge apparrell	£2		
The monie in his presse		5s	9d
The monie owinge him by Thomas Burslem of ye Parcke	£4		
One ould hackney sadle		1s	6d
Som[m]a	£9	8s	9d [checked]

62.2 Notes

1. An unled mare = not part of a team of pack-horses.
2. Up till 1608 he had an income from Burslem mill and was styled 'husbandman'. In that year he assigned the remainder of the term of the lease to his nephew William, on condition that he kept him in food, drink and lodging. This was drawn up in a legal agreement. The cup valued at 6d presumably was a long-cherished drinking cup.
3. Although the two burial dates are not known, he must have died shortly before his married brother John, whose inventory follows.

63 John Bourne of Ewtree, no will, inventory taken and administration granted 9th July 1616.

63.1 Inventory

A true & p[ar]fitt Inventorie of all the goodes & Chatteles late John Bournes of Ewtree w[i]thin ye p[ar]rishe of woolstanton & dyocese of Coventree & Lichfild deseseyd as ye were praysseyd by Thomas Bowyer of the p[ar]rishe of Biddulph Thomas Burslem of the p[ar]ke & Anthony Beeche of Chell w[i]thin ye p[ar]rishe of woolstanton the 9 day of Julye Ano 1616.

All his weringe aparell	£3	6s	8d
The monye in his purse	£2		

63.2 Note

John Bourne was a copyholder owning land in Thursfield, Olcote, Tunstall, Ramscliffe and Burslem. At one time he had a messuage, a cottage and 38 customary acres of land, but by the time he died he was an old man, and had already given most or all of it to his son and heir William Bourne.

64 Eva Stonior, nuncupative will undated, died 27th April 1616, inventory taken 28th April [sun], date of probate 24 May 1616

Nuncupative will

'Eva Stonior of the p[ar]ishe of wolstanton dyed the seven And twentieth daye of Aprill in this p[re]sente yeare of our lord god 1616. who before her death (beinge of good memorie) did (in the p[re]sence of these p[er]sons whose names Are subscribed As witnesse) make her last will And testamente noncupatiue (being nowe put in writinge) in man[er] And forme As foloweth. viz. first I freely com[m]itte my soule vnto Almightye god my maker, And my bodie to be buried in wolstanton churchyarde:'

To William Stonior, my brother William's son: £7.

To Anne Hochkinson, my sister Anne's daughter: 20s.

To each of my sister's other children: 4s.

To Margeret Alleines: 20s, and to each of her children: 4s.

To William, son of William Whytough, 20s.

To each of his other children: 4s.

Residuary legatees: William, John, Agnes, Ellen, Margerett and Katheren, my brothers and sisters; Margerett Hochkinson, my sister Agnes' daughter.

Executor: my brother William Stonior.

Witnesses: John Rowley, Margerett Stonior and Margeret Stonior, John Stonior, Anne Drakford and Anne Drakford.

64.1 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect Inventorie of All the goodes And dettes that were Eva Stoniors At the tyme of her death prayed the eight And twentieth daye of Aprill in the yeare of our lord god. 1616. by John Rowley, William Stonior, And Steven Drakford.

her Apparrell	£1	10s	
one fether bedd [?ti]cke, one boulster And one pillow		13s	4d
Dettes owinge to her	£26	8s	
more to her	£7		
more to her	£2	4s	
more to her where of she had noe specialtye		12s	

64.2 Notes

1. The inventory was taken on a Sunday.
2. She was presumably living at her brother's house - in Wedgwood? Feather beds were priced at £1 or more by the end of the period 1600-50. The tick (ie the casing)

alone accounted for half or more of the cost. A blot caused the uncertain reading of the word at this point.

3. She falls into the category of single women who lent money or invested. She was owed £36 4s 0d at her death, almost all of which consisted of loans on security (ie bonds).

65 William Rowley of Ramscliffe, no will, inventory taken 8th July, date of admon 9th July 1616.

65.1 Inventory

An inventory taken by me Edward Dickenson of the goodes and Cattells, of William Rowley of Ramsclife lately deceased And praysed by William keene, Richard Keene, and Anthony Rowley, & John Hill, thongar the eight of July Anno d[o]m[ini] 1616.

2 Oxen	£7	10s	
10 kime	£27		
5 stirkes	£6		
3 twinter heyfars	£5		
fiue wayninge calves	£3	6s	8d
2 mares	£6		
12 sheepe 4 lambes	£4		
Corne growinge on the ground	£12		
Corne in the house		7s	
beddinge and bedstiddes	£6	13s	4d
brasse and and pewter		40s	
a wayne ploughes yoakes and other husbandry ware		40s	
nyne Chestes		30s	
tables, formes chaires		53s	4d
one presse		13s	4d
Linnen ware		13s	4d
Apery ware		3s	4d
beefe and Bacon		5s	
butter and cheese		20s	
one grate and other Iron ware		6s	8d
Coales and wood		3s	4d
Mucke		5s	
swyne geese and Hennis		24s	
all Saddells		6s	8d
swyne trowes a cheese presse a lather			18d
new cloth and woollen yorne			8d
his apparell	£3		
Owinge to william Rowley w[i]thout specialty of Jeffry Mayer . £10			
in desporate debts	£4	8s	0d
Summa	£108	17s	6d
Debtes owinge by William Rowley			
to Richard Keene £12			
Randoll whitough £10 4s			
to William Symson £5 10s			

65.2 Notes

1. lathor = ladder
2. Apery ware = napery ware ie the linens.
3. There is bacon, but no swine. 'swine trowes' - A cheap swine trough could be made from a log, using an adze to gouge out the centre.
4. Possibly he is the brother-in-law of Agnes Rowley.
5. Note the distinction made at the head of the inventory between the person taking the inventory and those valuing the items. The actual inventory as presented shows evidence of this in that the figures given are not all written by the same hand.

66 Thomas Teylior, husbandman, date of will 14th April 1617, inventory taken 22nd April, date of probate 29th April

66.1 Will

"Being sick in body and incompetent and aged and dreading the uncertain time of death natural"

Revokes all former wills.

Place of burial not specified.

To John Teylior my son: 12d.

To Jone Teylior my wife, Elline Teylior my daughter, and to Elnor Teylior alias Shaw her daughter: one heifer equally between them.

To Ellin and Alice Teylior my daughters equally: the reversion of my term in the lease of the Delf field or croft.

To my son James Teylior: 12d.

To Anne Pickeren, my eldest daughter: 12d.

To Ellin Pickeren her youngest daughter: 4d.

Residuary legatees: my wife and daughter Ellin.

Executors: John Unwin of Hardinges Woodd and my daughter Ellin.

Overseers: Richard Scot, Richard Ratcliff.

Witnesses: John Unwin, Richard Scot, Richard Ratcliff, Thomas Beech (clerk)

Debts which I owe:

Margerie Twemloe	7s	
My son John	13s	
Elizabeth Ratcliff	4s	7d
William Wodd of Talke		8d
Richard Scott		8d
To Henrie Wilkensone		6d

Debts owing to me:

Katherine Cartwright widow	6s	10d
Rondull merwodd	4s	
John merwodd	4s	
Thomas Shaw	£1	3s

66.2 Inventory

A true & a p[er]fect Inventorie taken the xxij th day of Aprill A[nn]o dom[ini] 1617 of all the goodes cattles moveuble & vnmoveuble of Thomas Teyliors of the p[ar]ish of wolstanton in the countie of Stafford husbandman late deceased valued & prised by Rondull wilkenson Richard Scott Robertt Amsone & John Hill.

one cow one heffer
 another cow
 one ould mare
 Brasse & pewter
 three hens
 trine ware w[i]th three coffers
 Pedloockes
 Bordes tressels formes stoules a spinning while and all maner of Iron ware & husbandrie
 toules
 flaxe & towe
 all maner of Beding & naperie ware
 mucke
 hey in the Barne
 one pack sadle wyntie & garth
 one leace of sixe years tearme
 Ap[ar]jell for his Bodie
 linon yorne
 half of three lambes & halfe of [?fiue fleces] of woole

66.3 Notes

1. His death was presented to the manor court thus: "Thomas Tayler who lived on the waste at Ramscliffe died since the last court but what title the said Thomas had in the said cottage the jurors do not know, nor what is due to the lords of the manor." Thomas Taylier refused to serve the office of headborough for the hamlet of Ramscliff for the year 1605. It would involve him representing it at the regular sittings of the manor court for a year. Refusal carried a stiff financial penalty of ten shillings, imposed by the court. He accepted office the following year.

As headborough, he was required to report on the misdoings of the people of Ramscliffe, which could lead to their being fined. Thomas Taylier himself was fined 3s 4d by the court in 1611 for putting hemp in the common water where the cattle drank - this could be the brook separating Ramscliff and Chatterley. The Elizabethan versifier Thomas Tusser advised farmers for the month of September:

Now pluck up thy hemp, and go beat out the seed
 And afterwards water it as ye see need;
 But not in the river where cattle should drink
 For poisoning them and the people with stink.

In 1610 he was presented at the manor court for refusing to allow his mares to be used for repair of the highways. According to the act of 1562 every farmer had to send a cart with two of his men for 6 days each year to do this work.

2. 'one pack sadle wyntie & garth' - they were all used together; the wyntie refers to the means of securing the horse gear. There was quite a variation in the price of horses - 11 shillings is near the bottom of the range.

3. John Unwin was not (apparently) related, so maybe the choice of him as executor was because of a business connection - perhaps textiles. When the will was proved, the

administration of it was granted to Ellen Taylor, with reserved power to John Unwin.

4. Padlocks were used when the lock was not integral to the gate, door or chest. The premises consisted of at least two buildings. If this was a self-built cottage, the doors originally may not have had locks fitted. This is the only mention of padlocks in the inventories. Does it mean that Thomas Teylior was more security conscious than his neighbours?

5. The amount of hay, as indicated by the price (1s), was small and would have occupied little space in what was perhaps a small barn. It represents perhaps a quarter of a cartload. (A cart-load of hay was valued at 4s at an inquest in Stafford in 1614. (SHC 4th Series, Vol XVI, 1994 Matthew Cradock's Book of Remembrance, 1614-1615))

6. The lease of the field, valued at £2, is for a term of 6 years, and the will has to specify the beneficiary.

67 Thomas Richardson of Knutton, carpenter, will dated 28th January 1617/8, inventory undated, date of probate 19th February 1617/8.

67.1 Will

To be buried within the churchyard of St Margaret in Wolstanton, in such place as my executor shall think convenient.

To John Filpote: £6.

Residuary legatee and executrix: Margaret my wife.

Debts owing to me:

Richard Lovat of Cleaton £2

Raphe Smithe dwelling near Hudsons in the lane .. 4d

67.2 Inventory

Invent[arium] o[mn]iu[m] singulor[um] bonor[um] inriu' et Catellor[um] Thom[e] Richard-
son. de Knutton in Com[itate] Staff[ordie], Carpenter Couent[rie] et Lich[field] dio-
cesse decessi. tempore mortis sue existen[tium] app[re]ciat[orum] p[er] Joh[ann]em
Clownam Joh[ann]em Bowyer Joh[ann]em Beech et Thom[em] Peake.

one heffer

hay and Compost

his tooles

trineware

brasse and pewter

Ironware

bedinge

sheetes

linnen Cloath
2 saddles
yarne and towe
one grindlestone
butter and Cheese
fiue little Coffers
his apparell
money in his purse
money oughinge
foure bagges

67.3 Notes

1. The available evidence suggests that where Thomas Richardson lived wasn't his house, and that his widow moved to the parish of Stoke immediately after his death - perhaps to Clayton, where we know that a Josua Richardson at this time had two acres of land.
2. Presumably the two sums of money owing to him were for carpentry work. Despite there being no mention in the will of money which he himself owed, the bequest to John Filpotte strongly indicates a debt.
3. Even though hard-up, he had clothing worth £1 - a figure suggesting a desire to keep up appearances. His widow would have been left destitute, after the cow and carpentry tools and other things had been sold to pay John Filpotte.
4. Much of the will is taken up with the expression of his faith in his salvation and bodily resurrection. This emphasis is not typical of the wills in this collection.
5. 'near Hudsons in the lane' - this address suggests that, apart from the outlying farms, the houses in Chesterton at this time were strung along a single lane. Alternatively it could be in Hartshill (in 1561 James Hudson was granted leave to build a barn on waste land "in a lane called Meyre lane leading from Stoke to Newcastle, near his dwelling house"; and we know that in 1615 a James Hudson owned a cottage within the township of Penkhull.)
6. The use of Latin for the inventory preamble goes back to the 16th century and before, but the layout of the valuation figures in columns is several decades in advance of other inventories.
7. He has no horse but he would need one to get around for his work. His two saddles reflect perhaps a more prosperous past.

68 Robert Snead of Brodwall, will dated 4th April 1618, inventory taken 2nd May, date of probate 12th May 1618.

In the name of god amen I Robeart Snead of Brodwall in the Co[u]nty of Staff[ord] beinge sicke in bodye but of good & p[er]fecte memorye thanks be to god therefore doe make this my laste will & testament in mannor and forme folowinge first I give & bequeth my sole to almighty god my maker & to Jesus Christ my redimer & to the holy gost my sanctifyer & p[re]server & my body to bee buried in the parishe Chriche year of wolstanton secondly I geve to my sonne Robeart Snead xijd for & in the name of his Childes part also I geve to my said sonne viijs in the handes of one yearly about Norton yf he can get it also I geve to my sonne John Snead for & in the name of his Childes parte xls in the handes of Thomas Ruston of Blurton also I geve to my said sone John my best sute of aparell. also I geve to my brother Rondull Snead my second sute of aparell also I geve to Ales Snead my wife one pide cow one heghfer & a calfe also I geve to my doughters Child tow keyne one red Cowe & a barren Cow to be bestwed of my said doughters Child at the discretion of Thomas wood of Chesterton & John Leaghe, servant to Mr Snead of Keele so that my will is that out of these fower keyne that there shalbe paid xliiij s w[hi]ch I ow vnto Raphe wood of Chesterton also I geve to Ales Snead my wif tow partes of my houshold goodes & the threed part to my doughters Child is to be bestowed at the discretion of the said Thomas wood & John Leyghe & my clock at the disposing of my worshipfull maister also my will is that my funerall expenses shalbe paid out of my whole goodes also my will is that[,] yf the aboue named Thomas wood & John Leyghe see cause [,] to divid my Houshovld goodes w[i]th my said wife for the good of the child also I ordeane & make my trustye welblosed in god Ales Snead my wife my true & Lawful executrix.

In witnes whereof I have put to my hand & seall the iiijth day of aprill 1618.

Sealed & d[elivere]d in the p[re]sentes of John Leyghe Thomas Harvye Thomas Fenton

68.1 Inventory

A true & p[er]fect Inventarie of all & s[i]ngler the goodes Rightes & debtes of Robert Sneyd of the p[ar]ishe of Wolstanton in the diocesse of Coventrie & Lichfeeld latelie deceased. priced by Francis Bagnald John Sparry William Alcocke & Thomas Fenton the second day of May 1618.

4 kine	£14	
brasse & pewter		16s
bedding & sheetes		16s
tow Chestes		5s
a fryinge pan on chaire a mortar & an Iron bakeston		
& a fyre shovell & a paire of tonges		3s 4d
an asse & a handsawe		6d
the apparell of the deceased	£1	

Sum[ma] tot[alis] £18 0s 10d
[Actual £17 0s 10d]

68.2 Notes

1. As a servant [employee] of Mr Sneyd (as seems likely), he may have had the clock as a present from his master. [Are all the Bradwell testators on the Sneyd payroll?] Alice Sneyd, widow, was buried in Wolstanton in 1629 (and 1638.) So it is possible that she stayed in Bradwell after her husband's death. The absence of bedstocks or other wooden furniture suggests their accommodation was in Bradwell Hall itself. The testator directs that the debt of 44 shillings is to be paid off through the four cows; this would be by hiring them out, as there is nothing to show that he or his wife maintained the cows themselves. They may have been looking after their daughter's child - the daughter is unnamed, suggesting that it was their only daughter and that she was dead. I suppose that the child was a daughter, on the basis that a daughter was more likely to be given a cow (compare Ales Morton's differential bequests to her grandsons (money) and granddaughters (cows)).

2. 'asse' must be axe.

3. Markham (1657) says that the best cattle in this country "are bred in Yorks, Darbyshire, Lancs, Staffordshire, Lincs, Gloucestershire and Somerset - these generally black with exceeding large horns." Robert Snead's pied (pide) one and red one may be unusual for the area therefore. Bradley, an early eighteenth-century writer on agriculture, said that the red cattle were the largest in England, their milk rich and nourishing.

4. An unusual way of mentioning desperate debts: "also I geve to my said sonne viijs in the handes of one yearly about Norton [around Norton in the Moors] yf he can get it"!

69 Francis Bagnald [of Chatterley], husbandman, will dated 19th September, inventory taken 24th September, date of probate 2nd Oct 1618.

69.1 Will

Being sick in body and aged.

My body to the earth.

To Eline Willat my daughter: 12d for her child's part.

To Margreat Willat, daughter of John Willat, my son-in-law: one ewe lamb

To John Bagnald, son of my brother John Bagnald: another ewe lamb.

To John Bagnald, my son: £10 to be paid by the discretion of Emme Bagnald, my wife, John Bagnald, my brother, and Thomas Wright, my brother-in-law for his best profit.

Residuary legatee: my wife, keeping herself sole and unmarried; and if she marry, then the goods to go to my son John, using himself honestly and being a good husband and thrifty, to be delivered him at the discretion and oversight of my brother John Bagnald and Thomas Wright.

Executrix: my wife.

Overseers: my brother John Bagnald, Thomas Wright, John Willat

Witnesses: Thomas Biche, clerk, John Smithe, William Verna[n]

69.2 Inventory

A true & p[er]fect Inventory of all the goodes & Cattels of Francis Bagnald of the p[ar]rishe of wolstanton decesed the xxiiijth September 1618

p[re]sed by vs Thomas [R]ight Thomase Richard Willat John Bagnald

Quicke goodes

tow oxen

five kyne

tow twinter bullockes

one sterke

three calves

one mare

foretine sheepe

one swine

poltre ware

Geese

Dead goodes

Corne & haye

Husbandry ware

Brase & pewter

Trine ware

bordes & bedstockes Cofers & a copbord

Iron ware

Beddinge & nappery ware

Butter & Cheese & houshold provision

His wearinge apparill & money in his pourse

All other thinges of small valew

Dounge

69.3 Notes

1. The value of the 'one sterke' is given as £30. I have corrected this.
2. A note on the back of the will giving a commission to the minister of Newcastle (rather than the vicar of Wolstanton) suggests one of the parties lived there.
3. The testator desires his son John to be honourable ('honest') in his dealings and careful with his money and possessions ('a good husband and thrifty'); in other words, like his father, who appears neither to have incurred debts nor lent money.
4. The Tunstall manor court roll for 1604 helps to identify him. At the court held 12th April 1604 he was a member of the jury of freeholders, and also headborough for Chatterley.
5. Thomas Beech (clerk) was a witness to the will of Thomas Teylior, husbandman, of

Ramscliff in 1617.

6. The value of the dung is unusually precise and may be a copyist's error

70 Henry Stevenson, vicar of Wolstanton, will dated 31st July 1618, inventory taken 10th September, date of probate 28th November.

70.1 Will

Sick in body.

To be buried within the chancel of Wolstanton church.

To my loving wife Elizabeth Stevenson: part of the messuage called Peele House in the manor of Audley i.e. from the entry towards the orchard on the east side of the messuage; the third of the barns and other houses of office belonging to the messuage; the great orchard on the east side of the messuage; one pasture or parcel of ground called the Sandeflatt, another parcel of ground lying on the backside of the messuage and adjoining to the Mott, one meadow called Whalley Meadow, one parcel of ground called Cawdey Croft and two other parcels of land called the Middle Fields (all these lying together); to have and to hold to the said Elizabeth Stevenson and her assigns during her life, for and in the name of her jointure according to the custom of the manor of Audley.

To John Stevenson my son: one cottage together with the orchards, backsides, buildings and lands belonging, in the holding of Robert Sonderland, and certain parcels of land called the Anakers and one parcel of land called the Little Taylors Field lying next to Cowpers Green; to have and to hold to John Stevenson, his heirs and assigns for ever, under this condition: if my son Thomas Stevenson pays John £100 within 6 years of my death then he can inherit the cottage and the other premises forever according to the custom of the manor of Audley.

To my son Henry Stevenson: one other cottage and all buildings, orchards, backsides and lands belonging, now in the holding of Robert Joynson and John Blowre; one meadow called the Oxehay Meadow, one parcel of land called the Great Tealors Field; to have and to hold to Henry Stevenson, his heirs and assigns for ever according to the custom of the manor of Audley, on condition that if my son Thomas pays £100 to Henry Stevenson within 6 years of my death, then he shall inherit the cottage and the other premises, to have and to hold etc.

Residuary legatees (all my goods, corn, cattle and chattels): my wife Elizabeth Stevenson and my sons John Stevenson and Henry Stevenson.

Executors: My wife, and Thomas Jolly of Leeke my son-in-law.

Overseers: my brother-in-law Anthonie Beech of Chell, and my cousin Robert Burslem of the Parke House.

[Signed] Henry Steuenson

Witnesses: Ottewell Stubs, Raphe Keeling, John Morton, Thomas Bullock

70.2 Inventory

A true and lawfull Inventorie of all the goods of Henrie Stevenson Clarke late vicar of Wolstanton deceased taken and praised the tenth day of September 1618 by Anthony Beech Randall Patesonn John Stevenson, James Beech

all the corne hay and straw	£40		
fiue kine, one sterke 3 calves	£18		
2 mares, one horse, and a coult	£12	10s	
2 Swine and a pig	£2		
all the poultry wares		3s	4d
2 witches		10s	
all the moult		3s	4d
all the husbandre ware as Carts plowes yokes cheanes			
harrowes & swine trowes	£2	10s	
all the saddles		10s	
all the worthinge	£1	10s	
foure fetherbeds & coverlides one caddow fiue blankets			
fiue boulsters and one pillow	£11	6s	8d
all the sheets and nappery wares	£3		
all the brasse and pewter	£4		
all the Ironware spits rackes Coberts grats fier shoule			
tounges potthookes potcheane	£1		
all the bedstides	£3		
chests	£1	10s	
all the tables	£2	6s	8d
stooles cheares quishines	£1		
woole hempe flax and feathers	£4		
butter cheese and flesh att the roufe	£2		
all the woodne and treene ware	£1		
all his bookes	£3	6s	8d
for a mill	£4		
a pented clouth	£1		
a heare cloth		6s	8d
his apparell	£6	6s	8d
[Total £125 10s 0d]			

70.3 Notes

1. In the inventory preamble, the writer had originally omitted the 'l' in 'Wolstanton'. The common pronunciation of the name at that time was Wosington or even Hosington.

2. In his will the vicar's first concern is for his wife, who would have to vacate the vicarage on his death. A jointure is property settled on a woman in consideration of marriage who is to enjoy it after her husband's decease. His widow's burial is recorded in 1639 in the Audley parish register.

3. Peele House - now Old Peel Farm, situated at the end of Peel Hollow in Audley, and close to the M6. 'Message' means house. The moat was clear to see on the north and east side until nearly the end of the twentieth century. Parrot in 1733 (An Accountt Who Hath Enjoyed the Severall Estates in the Parish of Audley and Hamlett of Talk in the County of Stafford for 200 Years last past) refers to 'Parson Stephenson who bought the Peel Estate', and a Stephenson was living there in Parrot's day.
4. Cowpers Green is present on the 1st edition one-inch Ordnance Survey map, half a mile to the north-east of Old Peel Farm.
5. He had been vicar of Wolstanton since 1588. In diocesan reports of him made in 1602 and 1604, he is described as well instructed in holy scripture, though without a degree; no adverse comments on him are made.
6. He doesn't owe any debts. He requires his executors to pay his funeral expenses. Burial in the chancel would have required the permission of the impropiator, i.e. Ralph Sneyd esq.
7. Ottewell Stubs was an alderman of Newcastle.
8. The chief use of straw in early modern England was for bedding down livestock. It was also the chief material for thatching buildings and stacks.

9 £40

10. 'pig' - a young pig.

11. 'witches' - not the magical ones. My suggestion is that they were in the barn and held the malt mentioned in the next line.
12. 'worthinge' - muck
13. 'coverlides' are coverlets; a caddow is a coarse woollen covering, here for a bed.
14. 'potcheane' ie the chain for hanging the large cooking pot over one of the fires. (Treat 'ea' as representing the 'ai' diphthong at this period.)
15. 'quishines' - pronouncing, and spelling, 'cushions' in this way was common then.
16. feathers - used for feather beds. The birds ('all the poultry wares') may have consisted mainly of geese and ducks, whose feathers give higher insulation. Between 1600 and 1650, 128 Wolstanton parish probate inventories mention stock of some kind, mainly cattle, of these 85 had sheep. Considering that wool is mentioned in Henry Stevenson's inventory, it is surprising that he did not have sheep at his death. But it may be that they belonged to his wife and were kept in Audley.
12. 'att the roufe' - the sides of beef, bacon etc were hanging from the rafters.
13. 'for a mill' - for grinding the mealt probably. It must have been a large contraption, perhaps the same one as appears 61 years later in the mill house in Isaac Keeling's inventory.
14. 'a pented clouth'. Painted cloths were going out of fashion. Judged by its value, this must have been a splendid work of art. Alternatively, 20s could be a miscopying of 20d, a more reasonable figure.
15. 'his apparell'. At £6 6s 8d, his clothing tops all others in this collection in value.
16. A month before his last will, he had to pronounce in church the excommunication of William Bourne, a leading figure in the parish. This was part of a dispute that started in April over who should act as churchwarden. William Bourne then brought an action against the Archdeacon in the bishop's consistory court. The case was still being heard in the court after Henry Stevenson's death.

17. John Stevenson was minister of Burslem from October 5th 1645 and was possibly his son. This person did not graduate from Cambridge until 1627, and would be too young to act as executor - which would fit the case.

18. Some produce that he will have had in tithes from his parishioners. Flax and hemp, for example, were paid in kind.

71 William Prince of the parish of Wolstanton, yeoman, will dated 26th May 1618, inventory taken 17th June 1618,[Tue] date of probate 19th June.

71.1 Will

Being sick in body

Body to be buried in Wolstanton churchyard.

To Pennell Tylor my daughter: one cow.

To Elizabeth Prince my wife: the third of my copyhold lands that is out of lease for her life and £3 6s 8d to be paid yearly by my son Raffe and his heirs out of the rest of my copyhold lands; if she claims or has by custom or otherwise more than the third, then only 33s 4d yearly; 1 mattress, 1 boulder, 2 pairs of sheets, 2 blankets and coverlet.

Residuary legatee and sole executor: my son Raffe Prince.

Witness: John Rowley of Wedgwood (and I will publish the same as my will to diverse other persons as namely John Burslem and Richard Podmore).

71.2 Inventory

A true And p[er]fect Inventorie of All the goods and cattells that were William prince At the tyme of his decease seen vewed and praysed the xvijth daye of June In the yeere of our lord god 1618 by John Burslem John mylnes and William Stonior.

two steres £9 10s 0d

two twynter bullockes £6 13s 4d

sevne keyne £20

three stirke £3 6s 8d

foure wayninge calves £2 13s 4d

one mare And one coulte And one yonge nagge £7

ix sheepe £3 13s 4d

three swyne £3

geese and pullen 6s 8d

waynes, plowes wth All other husbandry wares £2 10s

corne in the howse And vpp[on] the grounds £10

certene haye in the barne £1

All beddinge bede sheetes And nitarie wares £10

brase and pewter £7

certene coffers £1 13s 4d
All bedstiddes, tables, formes, cheeres, And shilfs £1
Iren ware £1
All treene ware 10s
flesh meate and whitmeate £2
his Apparrell £3
certene silver spones £2
Sum £96 6s 8d
[Actual £97 16s 8d]

71.3 Notes

1. Some or all of his land is copyhold land. He expects to pay a heriot (which is the best beast of the deceased) to the lord of the manor. Examples of heriots in this collection are the ox taken from Thomas Burslem (1619) and a horse from Ann Unwin (1603).
2. Thomas Fenton, tailor, was summoned to appear at Stafford Quarter Sessions for assault and battery on William Prynce at Wolstanton in 1598.
3. Elizabeth Prince, widow, was clearly expected by her husband to move out of the house, taking only her bedding with her. She was buried 15th March 1628/9.
4. The value of cattle increased with age. In order of increasing value, the sequence runs: calves, stirks, twinters and kine; and in a separate category: steers and oxen. Calves are likely to be either female or castrated males destined to become respectively dairy cows (kine) or oxen. Stirks are yearlings - either female (called a cow stirk in one inventory) or castrated male (a bullock stirk). Twinters are two-year-olds, sometimes distinguished as twinter heifers (female) or twinter bullocks. A heifer is a young cow which has not yet calved. Kine. In modern Britain the average life-cycle of the dairy cow is about six years, the last four of which are spent bearing calves and providing milk. Steers are younger than oxen, and were used for pulling. William Prince's inventory indicates that steers were more than two years old.

72 **Richard Still, will dated 18th March 1619/20, inventory taken 21st March 1619/20, [Mon] date of probate 26th April 1620.**

Nuncupative will
Sick in body.
To be buried in the ladies aisle in Wolstanton church.
To Randle Still his brother: his best suit of apparel, and 26 shillings owed
To John Willett: his leather doublet.
To William Bell: the residue of his apparel.
To Ellen, wife of Rich Wolriche: one brass pan.

To John Smyth: his twynter colt, the bed whereon he did lie, and his best hat.
 To Ellen Ridgway: 12d
 Residuary legatee and sole executrix: Ellen Still his wife.
 Witnesses: John Rowley, John Smyth, Jone Bothes and others.

72.1 Inventory

A true And p[er]fecte Inventorie of all the goodes And cattells that were Richard Stilles of the p[ar]ishe of Wolstanton At the tyme of his decease seene, vewed, And praysed the xxjth daye of march In the yeare of our lord god 1619 by John Rowley Roger Smyth John Rowley And Robert Whytaugh

two oxen	£9		
three keyne & three heffers	£18		
two twynter heffers	£2	13s	4d
two calves	£2		
one ould mare	£2		
one twynter coulte	£2	10s	0d
one swyne		10s	
geese, duckes And pullen		6s	8d
corne And haye	£3		
brasse and pewter	£5		
beddinge, sheetes & lynen clothes	£5	6s	8d
husbandrye wares	£2		
Iren ware		6s	8d
one Arke And coffers		10s	
beddstides		5s	
bordes, formes, shilfes, And cheeres		6s	8d
treene wares		4s	
one ould cubbord		2s	6d
fleshe And whitmete		10s	
his App[ar]ell	£1		
A dette owinge to the deceedant by Raffe Whillett	£2	13s	4d
Summa totalis £58 3s 10d [checked]			

72.2 Notes

1. Ellen his wife survived him by almost 20 years.
2. Ellen Ridgway at the time of the widow's death was a servvant.
3. 'one twynter coulte' - a two-year-old colt.

73 Jane Knight, widow, no will, inventory taken 4th May 1619, administration granted 28th May.

73.1 Inventory

A true & p[er]fect inventory of all the goods mouable & vnmouable chattels rights & debts of Jane Knight widdow late deceased intestate as the were prayed by William Bourne of vtrees Raphe Adderley & Anthonie Beech the fourth day of May 1619

5 Kine
2 twinter heafers
2 sterkes
1 Mare
3 swine
10 sheepe
Rye in the house
one cow taken for a herriat
Pullen
Dung
Beding & napriware
Brasse & Puter
tables formes & all other wooden ware
waines yokes plowes & Irne ware
all such things as are within the milne
corne vpon the ground
money in her purse & wairing apparrell
vittles in the house
all other things about the house
Debts oweing her
John Heaton William Turnor
Rent in the wich
Sum[m]a totalis
Debts which she oweth
To Anne Knight
To Alse Perrie
to Thomas Bourne
to Frances Lysat
James Beech
to Thomas Ryshson

73.2 Notes

1. On her death, her best beast is claimed by the lord of the manor - this is called a heriot. The lord would know which properties in his manor he could by ancient right claim a heriot from. A feet of fine of 1612 or 1613 seems to refer to a sale (or confirmation of a deed of gift) by Jane Knight, widow, to Elizabeth Bourne, her daughter, and to

two others, probably also her children. Included in the sale is a house and water-mill, plus land in Little Chell, Tunstall and Sneyd. Sneyd is just outside the parish, so Little Chell or Tunstall are possible alternatives for her home.

2. 'all such things as are within the milne'. The mill referred to here is the water-mill her husband Richard Knight had owned and probably was situated on the stream between Tunstall and Chell.

3. 'Rent in the wich' - the word 'wich' in this locality and period refers to a receptacle for grain. I assume that the rent is due from the miller and is in kind ie it is grain.

4. The main victuals ('vittles') are likely to be sides of beef and bacon.

5. Letters of administration were granted to her daughter Elizabeth Bourne, which specified that the oath was to be administered to Thomas Bourne of Chell, yeoman, who was the husband of Elizabeth.

6. The debt of £24 owed by William Turnor is a large one. It is interesting that John Heaton's name was crossed out. Topping the list of debts owing to William Burslem of Brownlees in 1609 when he died was £10 from John Heaton & William Turner. Perhaps the two were in partnership, and John Eaton had paid off his share of the debt to Jane Knight.

74 Hughe Knight of Tunstall, will dated 1st November 1619, inventory taken 20th November, date of probate 24th November.

74.1 Will

Being in good health; to be buried in the churchyard at Woolstanton.

To Thomas Baddellie, son of Thomas Baddellie of The Pale in Tunstall: 20s

To Richard Perrie of Tunstall: 20s to be employed for the good of William Perrie his son.

To Alice Baddellie of The Flatts: 12d.

To John Baddellie alias Teliar of the mill: 12d.

To Robert Crewe, Richard Teliar, John Parker, and Richard Gallimore: 12d each.

I remit Thomas Handley 25s which he owes me.

Residuary legatee and executor: Thomas Smith of Tunstall.

Witnesses: W. Bourne, Randle Whiteall.

74.2 Inventory

A true and p[er]fecte Inventorie of all the goods, depts and Chattels, late Hughe Knighte of ye p[ar]ishe of Woolstanton, within the diocesse of Couentrie and Lichfeild late deceased, taken and preysed by Raphe Adderley of Tunstall gent[leman] William Bourne of Ewtree and James Beech of Tunstall afforesaid yeomen, the xxth daie of nouember in the Seauenteenth yeare of the Raigne of our Sou[er]aigne Lorde James of Englande

France and Irelande and of Scotlande the three and Fourteethe. An[n]o d[omi]ni 1619
One brasse pott
Two Couerletts an ould boulster filled w[i]th chaffe one chaffe bed one paire of ould
sheetes
One ould Twillsheete
Certaine Whittmeate
Wearinge Apparell
monie in his purse
one paire of ould bestidds & two little Chestes
diuers other smale thinges
Sum[m]e is
Dettes owinge him at the tyme of his deathe
William Bourne & Richard Bourne
Richarde Baddelie
William Gloouer
Richarde Gloouer
George Ridgwaie
John Baddelie
Richarde Coplande
Thomas Sabsheade
William Beeche

74.3 Notes

1. Like Shakespeare in his will, he declares himself to be in good health at the start of the month and is dead before the end of it. However, he signs it with an unshaky hand. His intention, he says, is to dispose of his goods to God's glory and the good of those to whom he is most beholden. He may have outlived his relatives.
2. Because of damage to the edge, it is not known which debt has 6d missing.
3. He lived on his own. (The appraisers refer to 'apparell', not 'his apparell'). His standard of living was poor - the chaff bed and chaff bolster; the lack of any table, stool or form - but he had a lot of money to lend. The indications are that he came from a yeoman family - there were two pews in Wolstanton church in 1583 belonging to Knights; the appraisers of his goods were of yeoman status or higher; he could sign his own name - yet his small stock of clothes and the absence of a horse show that he must have fallen on hard times.

**75 Thomas Baddely of Holditch, yeoman, date of will
16th August 1619, inventory taken 20th August 1619,
[Thurs]date of probate 17th September.**

75.1 Will

Sick in body but in good and perfect memory.
 To be buried in the churchyard near the corpse of my father.
 To my son John Baddely: 12d for his child's part.
 To my daughters Marie, Margaret and Ellenor: 12d likewise.
 To William Baddely, the eldest son of my son John: two tables now standing in the hall with the forms and benches belonging, and one great hutch in the barn.
 To Anne Dakin daughter of Randulphe Dakin my deceased son-in-law: £10, and £5 which is in the hands of my son-in-law John Beech, to be spent on her upbringing until she is 14.
 To Randulphe Dakin, son of Randulphe Dakin: £10 which is in the hands of William Hard of Barleston payable at the latter's death.
 To Ellenor Beech and Anne Dakin: the rest of the goods in the chamber in which I lie.
 To my sons-in-law Anthony Coclough and James Hancocke: 12d.
 To Alice Baddely my daughter-in-law: £10.
 I allow towards my funeral £6 0s 8d.
 Executor: my trusty and well-beloved friend John Beech, my son-in-law.
 Witnesses: Frauncis Capps, John Beech
 Item I remember I do owe to Ellenor Cowall 6s which shall be paid at my decease out of the legacy of Ann Dakin aforesaid.

75.2 Inventory

The Inventorie of the good and chattalles of Thomas Baddely deceased and taken by John Bourne and Thomas Fenton the xxth day of August anno d[omi]ni 1619

a pare of bedstockes and a bed w[i]th that belongeth to it	£3	4s	4d	
twoe chestes		5s		
his wearing aparrell	£2			
money in his purse		5s		
Iron ware		3s	4d	Sume
one little kettle one skellet one pewter dish		3s		
two ould cheares and one paile w[i]th other thinges				
of small value		3s		
£6 3s 8d]				

75.3 Note

Thomas Baddely was one of at least ten children of John Baddeley of Houldiche, yeoman who died in 1592. Ellenor Cowall was a sister of his.

The Holditch estate in the 19th century comprised a block of land of more than 145 acres. It had a mill at one end of the estate and Holditch Hall stood at the northern end (between present-day Holditch Rd and Peacock Rd). Almost certainly, the estate was the same size in Thomas Baddiley's time. (Chancery records show his son John owning 143 acres). For maybe two centuries or more there were Baddileys at Holditch. A deed of 1482/3 was witnessed by Henry Badeley of Holdych. The last one was William Baddiley, gentleman, who died in 1672.

His father John Baddiley of Houlditch had a seat near the front of Wolstanton church, indicating his high status within the parish. It is therefore surprising that his and his son's burial-place was in the churchyard.

There is no signs of any involvement with farming. He is a widower, probably living in a downstairs room of Holditch Hall.

76 Thomas Burslem of the Parke house, will dated 4th Feb 1617, inventory dated 8th May 1619, date of probate 28th May.

76.1 Will

Being in good health.

Body to be buried in the parish church of Wolstanton.

To Thomas Burslem my eldest son, and Robert Burslem and John Burslem two of my younger sons: 12d for their child's part.

To Elizabeth Kent, Joyce Milnes and Margret Macclesfield my three eldest daughters: 12d for their child's part.

To Richard Burslem and William Burslem two other of my younger sons: £20.

To Catherine Burslem, one of my youngest, and Marie Burslem, my youngest daughter: £50

To Robert Burslem - one close, pasture or parcell of land called Armitage lying and being in the manor of Newcastle under Lyne to have and to hold to him and his heirs from the day of the date of this my present last will unto the full end and term of threescore years from thence next following, giving and paying yearly the rent of 19d of lawful English money at the feast of St Michael the Archangel and the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary by even portions and also paying all chief rents due to our Sovereign Lord the King's Majesty that now is and his heirs and successors.

Residuary legatee: my wife Joyce Burslem.

Executors - Joyce Burslem wife and son Robert.

Overseers: Henrie Stevenson vicar of Wolstanton & Anthonie Beech of Great Chell.

Witnesses: Henrie Stevenson, Edward Ley, Anthonie Beech, John Rowley of Gilbank.

[Signed] Thomas Burslem

76.2 Inventory

A true & p[er]fect Inventorie of all the goodes moveable & unmoveable Rightes Chattels & debts of Thomas Burslem of the p[ar]ke. Latte of Wolstanton decesed taken & p[re]sed the viijth day of May by Raphe Adderley William Bourne John Burslem James Beeche Anno 1619.

Nine oxone eight steares	£28		
therteene keine 10 [?] cauleus [calves]	£43	6s	
Neyne twinters	£18		
Eight sturkes	£9		
one Mare	£3		
twoe Coultres	£2	6s	8d
Foure Swyne	£2		
Fourteene Ewes & Lambes) Eight geeld shipe)		8s	
all the pultrie [crossed out: as geeise gesslinges diges hens & turkies]		13s	4d
all the Brasse & pewter	£6	13s	4d
all the Bedinge	£13	6s	8d
all the standinge tables		10s	
all the Bedstides	£2		
all the Chestes & shilfes	£1		
all tressles Cheares & formes & stoules		6s	8d
all wooden & trine ware in the howse	£2		
one byble		10s	
turniles whiches & Coumpes	£1		
all the weanes	£3	6s	8d
all ploughes yokes Cheanes harrowes plowe Irones & husbandlie furnture	£2	10s	
all the Ladders		3s	4d
all the stone troughes at the parke		6s	8d
all mamor of timber	£2		
all Linen sheetes & napriware	£10		
all twilshates all the quishions		8s	
all grattes fyre shoules tonges brundreles pothookes & pott Rakes.	£1		
all the spittes gobertes dripinpan & bastinge Ladle		10s	
all billes Axes haccettes shoules mattoke & weane Rope		8s	
one heare		8s	
all the sawed bordes	£2		
all the Linon yorme & ij knithe of hempe		10s	
one peece of Twill att the weavinge		4s	
one sillver spoone		5s	
all pykittes		2s	
all manor of ladles		6s	8d
grindle stons		1s	
bakstones		1s	
xij daye worke of otes att Burslem	£8		
iiij day workes of Rye	£3		
Corne on the grounde at the P[ar]ke	£9	9s	
Corne & hey in the barne	£4		
Corne in the house	£2		
Mealle & malte in the whiche	£1		
fleche at the Rouffe	£1		
hempe & flax one the grounde		2s	
one Chaliesed an lease for yeares of padax w[hi]ch is houlden of Thomas telright		10s	
all spinning whelles		3s	4d
all the worthinge	£1	10s	
all other thinges unpraised		2s	
Certen painted Clothes		2s	
his wearinge ap[p]arell	£3	6s	8d
money in his purse	£2		
one oxe taken for a herriot	£5		

Sum[ma] £188 13s
[Recte £198 12s 8d]

76.3 Notes

1. geeld shipe' - gelded sheep; diges - ducks.
2. 'xij daye workes of otes att Burslem' -The Dale Hall and Overhouse estates in Burslem were later held by his eldest son Thomas. Incidentally, before 1741 the parsons of Burslem levied a tithe of 16d per day work of oats. That this tithe does actually equal a tenth is shown by the valuation of £8 given in this inventory.
3. The Parke or The Parke house was in Oldcott township. It appears on the first edition of the Ordnance Survey one-inch map close to The North Staffordshire Railway. The position it occupies is now, it seems, the 6th hole of Goldenhill Golf Course. The map shows a nearby bridge over the deep railway cutting, probably a link with a path up to the chapel on the hill, now St James Church, Newchapel.
Ward in A History of Stoke-on-Trent describes how Thomas Burslem's father was cleared in 1574 of forging the deeds relating to land called The Blacke Parke and pastures and meadows containing an estimated 60 statutory acres in Oldcott. Burslems continued to live at the Parke for several generations. In 1681 it was held by Phillip Machin, who had married Elizabeth Burslem.
4. John Burslem died in 1596, when The Armitage passed into his son Thomas' hands. The Armitage is now covered by secondary woodland and the D-road. Thomas' concern about paying the 19d rent was well-grounded. This land, like most of the land in Wolstanton township, was held under copyhold tenure as part of the Manor of Newcastle, which was part of the Duchy of Lancaster. Thomas Burslem's rent of 19d for his 3 customary acres of land was just as low as that of the other copyholders - low that is when compared to the rents charged in the contemporary land market. For some years, the chief rents paid by the copyholders to the Duchy of Lancaster had been either withheld by them or not collected. In 1615 all copyholders and freeholders in the manor of Newcastle were summoned to a special court to declare what land they held, and what rent they were due to pay for it to the Duchy. At the time that Thomas Burslem was writing his will, this train of events had still to draw to its climax - the demand in the king's name of an amount from each copyholder equating to 40 years' rent.
5. The unmarried daughters get the larger amounts, so as to help them find husbands. (See the will of his widow - who died some 25 years later - for the daughters under their married names.) nThe spinning wheels may have been used by them, as no servants are mentioned, and no spinning wheels appear in his widow's inventory.
6. The quantity of calves is not clear, being written over an erasure. The large number of corrections in the inventory is unusual.
7. 'turniles whiches & Coumpes' A turnell is a tub, especially a shallow oval tub. It could be used for making cheese, kneading bread, salting meat etc. 'Whiches' are evidently containers, and one of them may be the old one mentioned in his widow's inventory 25 years later. The term 'boulting hutch' is also found. (In the same year as this inventory, Ben Jonson refers to 'the miller and the hopper, the hutch and the boulder.') while a 'boulting witch' (for sifting flour) occurs in a Banbury inventory of this period.

8. 'fyre shoules' - fire shovels; 'one heare' - this is a hair cloth, used for drying malt over a kiln; the high valuation suggests a big one in terms of thickness.
 9. The will is signed (shakily) and sealed.

77 Ellen Colecloughe of Oulcott, will dated 18th May 1618, died 8th June 1619, inventory undated, date of probate 18th June 1619.

77.1 Will

Sick in body; to be buried in the parish churchyard of Woolstanton.

To my sister Jone: 40s.

To Edward Coleclough my godson: 10s.

To my brother James' three children, Margerie, John and Thomas: 20s to be divided equally, which my brother James owes me.

To my godson Richard Coleclough: 10s.

To my goddaughter An Rowley: 10s.

Residuary legatee and executor: my brother John.

Dated 18th May 1618.

[Added after] To John Coleclough son of James Coleclough my brother: 10s, which John Rowley of Gillbanke owes me.

To my godson Edward Colecloughe: another 10s.

Debts owing to me

Richard Colecloughe	£7		
John Caulton	£5		
John Henshawe:	£2	6s	8d
William Podmore	£1		
Richard Smalewoode	£1		
John Cartlidge		6s	8d

Raphe Morton owes £2 10s, of which I remit and forgive him 10s.

Henrie Gibbins and his mother owe me 11s.

Oliver Rollison owes me £1.

William Coleclough gentleman owes 10s.

Witnesses: Richarde Coleclough, Randle Whiteall junior.

Richard Coleclough deceased owed me 45 shillings of which I remit and forgive 6s.

77.2 Inventory

A trew Inventorie of goods of Ellin Coleclough who died ye 8 of June 1619

One cow

Tow hens

Brass and Pewter

Beddinge and Naperie
Trine wares
Two little Coffars
Iron ware
Hay
Hempe & flax
Apparrell
Money in her purse
Debtes owinge her

The names of the prayzers are theise
Randle Whiteall
John Henshawe
James Colecloughe

77.3 Note

As with Alice Hanson, another spinster in the parish, the inventory shows the value of Ellen's personal possessions is dwarfed by the amount owing to her. She is the daughter of Edward and Margaret Colcloughe, who died in 1602 and 1603, so we know that the money that she had available for lending was from savings - not inherited. In fact the largest debt her mother had at her death was to Ellen. Annual wages for a female in this part of the seventeenth century were no higher than 50 shillings a year. Probably she lived with her brother John.

John Rowley of Olcott in 1613 owed to Elen Colclough £7 14s.

78 William Baddeley, died intestate, inventory taken 22nd April 1619, administration granted 28th August 1619.

78.1 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect Inuentarie of all the goodes Catte[ls] and Chattells of William Baddeley deceised intestate, moueable and i[m]moueable taken the xxijth of aprill an[n]o domini 1619 by William Bourne of Ewtree Thomas Brett Thomas Bourne of Colclough lane William Steeuenson Thomas Bourne of Chell hamlet Cheyne[?r] and Thomas Steele and others.

one lease for yeares of 3 Croftes and the Corne growinge thereof

Corne at Coleclough lane

One other lease of hils land

Two oxen

Three barren kyne

Foure twinters
Three in Calfe kyne
Three horses with furniture
Hey and Corne
Five styrkes
One Calfe
one Cow taken for a heriot
one swine
Two hens and one Cocke
For 3 demath of meddowing
p[ro]vision of meate in the house
Linen Cloth and napperie
Bedstockes bordes and [Coffrs] Beddinge
Brasse and pewter
Treene [?ware] Cheires and stooles
one table and frame
one grate and Iron in the house
weanes plowes harrows yokes and Cheanes and husbandrie ware
one years mucke
two stone trowes
Hempe with all other implementes
wearinge apparell and money in his purse

Debtes owinge to the said William
Vnpaid for Cariage of stone
John Mynes
Mr Isacke
Henrie Baddeley
John Milns
Richard Edge
paid for rent
Sum[m]a totalis
Debtes which I owed
Raph Wood
Richard Colclough
Mr mintrich
goodman Bret
to him
Anthonie Milnes
to William his son
spent at his buriall

78.2 Notes

1. Thomas Bourne of Colclough Lane in Olcott owned about 50 acres (in modern terms), and William Baddeley had 10s worth of corn stored in his barn.
2. 'One other lease of hils land' - this amounts to 2 customary acres owned by John Hill in Lyme Heath (which was possibly in or near Sandyford).
3. 'For 3 demath of meddowing' - a day math was a measure of meadow, probably close to a modern acre in area. This could refer to a lease of meadow of approximately 1 acres.
4. Administration was granted to his son William Baddilie, husbandman, living at the Flat. The parish register records in 1663 the burial of 'William husband of Margrett Badily of Flatts'; using the Hearth Tax returns for 1662 and 1666, their house can be located in Wolstanton. This son in his will expressed the wish to be buried in Wolstanton churchyard "near to my ancestors."
5. Thomas Baddilie of Biddulph, husbandman, was also bound.
6. 'Vnpaid for Cariage of stone' - this is unattributed, and may represent unpaid bills from a number of people.

79 John Colclough of Chesterton, nuncupative will, inventory taken 13th December 1619, date of probate 14th December.

79.1 Will

John Colclough of Chesterton Late deceased gaue by his last Will and Testament to his daughter Elizabeth Colclough twentye poundes [inserted - which is in the handes of his sonne Henrye] and to his daughter Margret the wife of Richard wearom one ewe hogge, and to his sonne Henrye colclough all his wearinge clothes, in the p[re]sence of Henry Bourne
Thomas Wood

79.2 Inventory

The Inventorye of the goods of John Colclough of Chesterton late deceased taken by us Henrye Bourne John Bourne Edward Tunstall Raphe Abne[y] Raphe Whittell. Decemb[er] 13 1619

one ewe hogge	6s
his wearinge clothes	20s
twentye poundes w[hi]ch is in the handes of his sonne Henrye	
The som[m]e is £6 6s 0d [Check amount on original]	

79.3 Note

The will and inventory are on a single sheet of paper. Administration was granted to his son Henry Coleclough of Chesterton, yeoman.

80 Richard Henshawe of Great Chell, husbandman, no will, inventory taken 6th June, date of probate 8th June 1620.

80.1 Inventory

A true and p[er]fecte Inventorie of all the Godes Cattalles and Chattalles of Richard Henshaw late of Greate Chell in the parishe of Wolstanton in the County of Stafford husbandman Deceased Taken and Praysed by Randall Pattson and Anthony Beeche John Henshawe and Thomas Bourne the Sixte Day of June In the Eighteenth yeare of the Raigne of our Sou[er]aigne Lord Kinge James of England fraunce and Ireland and of Scotland the Three and fiftyeth 1620.

fower kyne

five Sheepe

His take Ground

Certeine Wooll

Certeine Hey

one Coffe

one framinge Sawe

one Paire of Waighes

Certeine Newe Lynnen Clothe

Certeine Wollen Clothe

Apparrell for his bodye

80.2 Note

1. Administration of the deceased's estate was granted to his nephew Thomas Henshaw of Wolstanton, and Thomas Fenton, tailor, was also required to be bound.

2. Richard Henshawe is invisible in other records of the time, so what we know about him is what we can infer from his inventory. He was unmarried and lived in someone's household (there are no items of cooking, bedding or furniture). He was involved in cloth production, but as he didn't have a loom of his own, he must have sub-contracted it. He used the weights to weigh the wool. His greater interest in textiles than dairying is linked to his not being married, and is shown by the fact that he has more sheep than cows - the reverse of most farmers in the parish. Also, he has no calves, nor is there any evidence of butter or cheese production. However, he does have four cows that are not described as barren, hay that kept them during winter, and a meadow or pasture that he

rents from someone (his take (or tack) land.)

81 Thomas Rowley of Newchapel, no will, inventory taken 6th December 1620, administration granted 12th December 1620.

81.1 Inventory

A true and p[er]fecte Inventorie of all the goodes and Chattells of Thomas Rowley deceased of newchappell in the p[ar]ish of wolstanton and dyocis of Couentrie and Lichfeild taken and praissed the sixt daie of Decemb[er] 1620 by William Bourne of Ewtree gent John Milnes of newchappell Anthonie Milnes of the same & Willia[m] Henshalle of the same.

two ould kine	£3	6s	8d
one sterke	£1	5s	0d
3 calues	£1	6s	8d
two store swine		18s	
all the corne in the barne	£2		
all the haye	£2		
all the bedinge and knapperie ware	£3	6s	8d
all the brasse	£1	13s	4d
all the Pewter		8s	4d
4 Chests	£1		
all the bedstids	£1		
all bords formes trestles & oth[e]r trinware		13s	4d
all butter & Cheese		14s	0d
all the corne meale & and mault in the howse		10s	
all his wearinge apparell & monie in his purse	£1		
all the Iron ware		13s	4d
a cubbord		3s	
all the hempe		2s	7d
one cowe taken for a heriott	£2	13s	4d
all the manuringe aboute the howse		5s	
all oth[e]r small thinges not praissed		2s	
Su[m]ma	£25	1s	4d

Debtes owinge by the said Tho[mas] Rowley deceased.

to Wil[ia]m Smithe £3 6s 0d

to Willia[m] henshalle £3 10s 0d

to Jone Turner £3 8s 0d

to Richard Whitealle £2 6s 0d

to Tho[mas] Henshalle £2 7s 4d

to Willia[m] Stonier 7s 6d

to Richard Rowley 16s 8d
to William Rowley for rent £1 10s 0d
to Thomas Tumlinson 3s 2d
the funerall expences & monie leade forth in his sicknes £2 8s 0d
for rent vnpaid to his landlord £4
to Tho[mas] Meare 2s 6d
to blanche Henshalle 6d
Su[m]ma £24 4s 8d

81.2 Notes

1. Thomas seems to have been an unmarried relation of John Rowley of Turnhurst, to whom the administration of the estate was granted. He came from a gentry family, though not one that was granted a coat of arms. Whether through drinking, sickness or misfortune, he had accumulated debts greater than the total of his assets, (excluding the heriot which was payable to the lord at death). Either he rented his tenement in Newchapel at rack rent or he had a lease for lives.
2. 'knapperie ware' - the linens. (The spelling with a 'k' indicates that in this half-century, the initial 'k' in words like 'knight and 'Knutton' ceased being pronounced.)
3. 'all the manuring aboute the howse' - ie the manure heaps around the house.
4. The reference to funeral expenses and to money laid out in caring for Thomas while he was sick is unusual. The administrator would have submitted accounts to the probate court, but it is rare for these to survive in the Staffordshire probate records from this period.
5. The hay was not stored in the barn (or not all of it) and must have been stacked in a rick.

82 John Baggaley of Great Chell, will dated 24th May 1620, inventory taken 20th June, date of probate 1st July 1620.

82.1 Will

Sick in body; to be buried in the churchyard of Wolstanton.

To my executor: all my freehold lands in the manor of Tunstall that I lately purchased known by the name of Outerlonges, for the term of 60 years, upon condition that my executor or administrator pay and discharge £50 of my debts to my creditors. If they refuse the lease and payment of £50, then I give and bequeath the freehold lands to my executor to be let for the term of 60 years for the payment to my [torn ?creditors] of the £50 or as much of it as the lands can be let for during that term.

To my executor: all my goods, on condition that she pay all the debts over £50; my intention is that my lands shall pay £50 of my debts, and my goods shall pay the rest.

After the expiry of 60 years, the land is to go to whichever of my children (and heirs for ever) my executor during the term will nominate.

To Elizabeth my wife (a third), John and Randle my sons, Alice, Margrett and Anne my daughter (two-thirds, equally to be divided): all my goods.

Executor: Elizabeth my wife.

Witnesses: Anthony Beech, William Rowley, R[?obert] Hodkinson, John Hodkinson.

Money owing to me John Baggaley

Edward Baggeley 27s 6d

James Swindels	5s	
Lent to the said Edward Baggaley a coverlid		
Robert Collier	7s	
John Brownsward of Stoke	2s	8d
Thomas Adames of Bemersley	£3	6s 8d
Edward Elkin of Stoke	10s	6d
Money which I John Baggeley owe		
To John Rowley of Turnehurst	24	[torn -?shillings/pounds]
To William Stonier	£5	
To Raphe Robinson	£3	
To Alice Perrie	£6	
To Robert Morgan of Keele	£11	
To Thomas Bourne the millner	£2	2 s
To Mr Raphe Sneyd esquire	£6	

82.2 Inventory

A true and p[er]fecte Inventorie of all the goodes and Chattells late John Baggeley of greate Chell w[i]thin the p[ar]ish of wolstanton and dyocis of Couentrie & Lychfeild vewed and praissed by William Bourne of Ewtree Anthonie Beeche of great Chell & William Rowley of Turnehurst the twentieth daie of June 1620 beinge praissers indeferentlie Chosen

foure kyne & heffers & three suclinge Calues

two weaninge Calues

foure twinter beasts

fiue sterkes

one Cowe taken for a herriott

one ould horse

one Sowe & pigs

three sheepe

all the pultrie ware

all the corne vpon the ground

Corne in the howse

all the manure about the house

all the husbandrie ware

hempe vpon the grounge

all the brasse & puter in the house

all bordes formes Chests bedstides & all oth[e]r trynware
all bedinge & knapperie ware
his wearinge apparrell
all p[ro]uisioun of white meate & other vittailles
all the Iron ware in the howse
the howse & ground till Michaelmas next
all oth[e]r thinges not alreadie praissed

82.3 Notes

1. The lands which John Baggaley had bought the freehold of were ex-copyhold lands and amounted to 6 customary acres.
2. His debts - presuming they are all itemised - come to £57. Owing to him is the sum of £2 19s 4d (plus the coverlet!)
3. John Baggeley's clothing (only worth 10s) and lack of cash indicate that he has stinted himself. His widow's situation is not secure - the lease of the family's home has only a few more months to run. The note about the tuition bond in the probate records states that the children are still minors. Thomas Blackburne of Middlewich, saddler, entered into the bond with Elizabeth.
4. Some identifications:
John Brownsward at this time lived in a rented cottage in Stoke.
Edward Elkin of Stoke obtained an alehouse licence 14 years before this. Also, in 1609 Edward Elkin of Stoke, yeoman, stood as surety for £10, when a Penkhull labourer was bound before Ralph Sneyde esq. in his role as JP to keep the peace. In 1596 the Stoke upon Trent churchwardens paid him for making the ropes for the bells.
Raffe Bourne rented Burslem mill twenty years previously.

83 John Payne, died intestate, inventory taken 20th May 1620, administration granted 3rd June.

83.1 Inventory

A true and perfect Inventory of all & singular the goods & cattels of John Payne who lately deceased intestate of the parish of Woolstanton.

two kine one calfe	£4	13s	4d
3 sheepe 1 lambe		13s	4d
1 swine		6s	8d
brasse & Pewter	£2		
tryne ware & wooden ware as coffers etc..	£1		
bedding & napery stuffe	£2		
Iron stuffe & Implements for husbandry		6s	8d
hempe & yarne		2s	6d
bacon and corne		10s	
2 hens		1s	
paynted clothes & his money		2s	6d
His waring clothes	£1	6s	8d
Sum[m]a totalis	£13	2s	8d

The names of ye Prizers

Thomas Turmor, Raffe Morton, John Morton, and Thomas Bullocke

83.2 Notes

1. John Payne in 1615 held in copyhold a cottage, and two arable fields called the Marsh Croft and the Sparch Croft. These can be identified fairly probably with two fields on the 1839 Tithe Map as lying between The Marsh and Sparch Hollow.
2. The cottage is presumably adjacent to one of the fields, so it could be on The Marsh or on Sparch Hollow.
3. Presumably John Payne lived in the cottage and farmed the fields himself. We don't know if he held other land as a tenant. He may have had a share in the Town Meadows: his widow at the onset of winter 18 months later had approximately 3 loads of hay. He would have been able to pasture his animals on The Marsh.
4. His fields came to 2 customary acres (just over 4 statutory acres). It is unlikely that he survived on just the proceeds of agriculture, but there is no hint in the inventory of what trade he pursued.
5. The agricultural aspect of his livelihood: the fixed capital would be his 'implements for husbandry' and draught animals, if he had any. But neither in his or his widow's inventory are any draught animals (oxen or horses) mentioned. For ploughing he must have borrowed them. His widow mentions in her will "my trusty and beloved friend Thomas Bullocke of Woolstanton yeoman" who is a possible source.
6. The hemp, yarn, and corn could all have been produce of the previous year's harvest, and the bacon could have come from the slaughter of one of his own swine.
7. The valuation of the corn represents the output of no more than an acre. Some corn would by May have been consumed or sold. Neither the 1615 survey nor the inventory mention a barn going with the cottage, and the corn therefore must have been stored within the cottage.
8. Flax and hemp required ponds or pits. Retting was involved - steeping the plant in water to rot the soft tissues and leave the fibre. Beating the hemp then took place: the very detailed inventory of Margarett Sawbridge of Banbury (1605) lists in the kitchen 'one brake for hemp and a block to beat hemp in' (value 1s)

From the average prices from Chaddesley inventories and Quarter Sessions papers (1601-52) given by West (Village Records), hemp is 1s per knitchen, and flax as 6d per pound. Locally, hemp in one inventory (Agnes Morton 1603) is 2d per lb. It was the same price in Banbury where the sale of a deceased's goods on 21st June 1613 included 25 pounds of hemp for 4s 2d. Perhaps because of the low price hemp and flax fetched, big farmers were disinclined to grow it.

The ship building industry's requirement for hemp and flax (for sailcloth and cordage) were met by imports from the Baltic. Two relevant acts: A statute made for the sowing of hemp seed and flax - Act of 24 Hen VIII c4 (1533); and Act of 5 Eliz c. 5 (1563) enjoins farmers to plant one acre of flax for every 60 arable acres.] Thomas Tusser A Hundreth Good Points of Husbandrie encourages the sowing of flax and hemp - and implies the farmer's wife should ensure it is not overlooked:

For flax and for hemp, for to have of her owne
the wife must in May, take good hede it be sown.

And trimme it and keepe it, to serve at a nede:
the femble to spin, and the karle for her sede.

9. The amount of stock is small. No butter or cheese is listed in John's inventory, but is in his widow's. The equipment for making them are presumably included under a general heading (eg treenware and/or brass).

10. No separate rooms are mentioned, as they are in some inventories, so we don't know how many there were. Most of the dwellings in Wolstanton had only one hearth. The Hearth Tax of 1666 shows that a John Peane had a single hearth, and this may refer to the same dwelling.

11. The fact that the 1615 survey describes the fields as arable is significant. (Mostly the phrase "arable and pasture" is applied to the use of the fields in the manor.) There was no need to use the fields as pasture, with the Marsh available close-by.

12. It was very much a family small-holding. His widow's will suggests grown-up children had been, and continued to be, involved in aspects of farming. Outside help may have been needed at harvest time. But with a large family to help and by growing crops that were ready at different times, the expense of hiring reapers might be avoided.

13. In summary, his livelihood was the antithesis of specialisation. It was characterised by probably quite a variety of crops (flax, hemp, barley, oats,) and animal produce (butter, cheese, etc). The family aimed for self- sufficiency, but this was not wholly subsistence farming; for many centuries the local economy had been one where cash was needed to purchase goods and services (and pay rent, tithes and taxes). There was stock raising, dairy farming, and production of crops and animal products. Underwood from the hedges supplied material for treenware, fences and firewood. Plants from the garden and growing wild could be used for the cooking pot and home medication.

14. Painted cloths were common and were used for decoration eg for hangings for a four-poster bed, or for covering a wall or a chimney breast.

84 Joan Payne, widow, will dated 7th Nov 1621, inventory dated 4th December,[Mon] date of probate 10th December.

84.1 Will

To be interred in parish churchyard of Woolstanton.

To my eldest son Thomas Payne: 12d and one pound of wool the cupboard the painted cloths and all bed stocks.

To my son John Payne: one wether which he oweth me and ten shillings more, 2 pewter dishes a great one and a little one, a coffer.

If they challenge any portions accruing to them from their father dying intestate, then they shall have only 12d apiece.

To my son Mathew Payne: a heifer, a ewe and a lamb, 2 chargers a great and a little one.

in pair of sheets one blanket & twenty shillings of the money which my son Thomas oweth unto my daughter Joan as appears by a bond or bill.

To Mary Bullocke and Elizabeth Bullocke, daughters of Thomas Bullocke of Woolstanton: 6d apiece

To my daughter Joan: the residue of my goods, provided she gives hay to my son Mathew to winter his heifer with.

Executor: my trusty and beloved friend Thomas Bullocke of Woolstanton yeoman.

Thomas my son to discharge my funeral expenses because he is to enjoy the land and house; but if he refuse, then my daughter Joan to be at the cost of my burial.

X the mark of Joane Payne

Witnesses: Francis Capps, Thomas Bullocke, Richard Beech

Codicil

Memorandu[m] that Joane Payne aforesayd widow by reason that Thomas Bullocke the executor mentioned in her Will was newly deade was willing w[i]thout alteration of her will that her sone Thomas Payne should be her executor & that this will should be proved at the equal charge of all her children to whome shee had given by her last will legacies. novemb[er] 22 An[n]o d[omi]ni 1621

Witnesses: Fran[cis] Capp clerk, John Moreton

84.2 Inventory

1 cow 1 heifer	£3	
3 sheep		10s
1 swine		7s
Brass and pewter	£2	
tryne ware and wooden ware and coffers cupboard etc	£1	
Bedding and napery stuff	£1	10s
Iron stuff and implements for husbandry		5s
In hemp		5s
Hens		1s
Painted cloths		5s
Wearing apparel & money in her purse	£1	
Hay	£1	10s
In Dunge		2s 4d
In a debt owing by Mary Bullock		5s
In butter and cheese		9s
Sum[m]a totalis	£12 9s 4d	

Prized by vs 4 of December: John Moreton, Thomas Turner

85 Thomas Bullocke of Wolstanton yeoman, will dated 15th November 1621, inventory taken 30th November,[Thurs] date of probate 10th December.

85.1 Will

Body to be buried [not specified where].

To my daughter Mary (or such of my children as shall inherit my lands after my decease): one cupboard, one table with frame and forms and painted cloth in the [house?], half a weeting fatt which I have jointly with William Smyth, and one witch.

Residuary legatees: Mary my wife and my two youngest children, if such child as she now goeth with is a daughter, when my daughter is 19.

To my executors: all that pasture or close of land called Oakers flatt with the appurtenances which I purchased of John Burslem to have and to hold to them and their assignee[e]s fro[m] and after my decease for and during the term of 21 years for and towards the payment of my debts; if the aforesaid land for the aforesaid term will not extend for the satisfying of all my debts then my will is that my executors shall forth of my goods take so much of my goods as shall discharge the rest undischarged. Provided always that if Mary my wife refuse to convey and assign unto such person as my executors shall assign the aforesaid close called Oakers flatt, and all her right in it for the foresaid term for the payment of my debts, then she shall lose the benefit of my goods bequeathed to her.

To Mary my daughter and her assigns: all my lands, tenements, meadows, leasows,

and pastures with the appurtenances in Wolstanton, wherein I have any estate of inheritance, yielding and paying unto Elizabeth my daughter and to such other child as my wife goeth with (if it be a daughter) £30 a year when they reach the age of 19. And if either of my children hap to die.....

Provided always that if my wife have a son to inherit my land, she shall pay to my daughters £30 a year [when they reach 19]. In case of default of payment, I bequeath to them at age 19 all that close or pasture called Oakers flatt and one other parcel of land called Ba[rn?] Crofte with the appurtenances to them and theirs for ever, notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the present document.

To those godchildren that I am uncle to: 2s each.

To other godchildren: 6d each.

To those I am uncle to, not formerly mentioned: [torn] Executors: [torn] [Mary my wife and John] Rabone.

Signs by mark.

Witnesses: Henry Meire, John Morton, Thomas Bagnall, William Smyth.

85.2 Inventory

A true & perfect account of all the goods of Thomas Bullocke of wolstanton in the Countie of stafford yeaman Lately deseased

five Beasts	£13		
one mare, A twinter colt) seven Lams & one swine)	£7		
Corne & Heay	£2		
one Cart all Iron ware & Husbandry ware	£2	6s	8d
Brasse & pewter	£1	10s	
Three beds & napery ware	£6		
Coffers	£1		
Butter & Cheese & such provision as is in the house	£2		
one which[,] one Cubbord with other trine ware	£1		
one table with frame & fourmes and other bords & painted clothes	£1	10s	
Gheese & other pultry		6s	8d
Hemp & flax		6s	8d
his Aparell & money in his purse	£2		
the some	£40		

These goods weare praysed the last dai of november in the yeare of our lord 1621
by John Morton & William Smith

85.3 Notes

1. Oakers Flatt was on the north side of Pitgreen Lane in Wolstanton. Possibly his house was not far away. As in a number of cases of land specifically named in wills, this 'close or pasture' was a recent purchase (made since 1615).

2. 'Weeting fatt' - a brewing vessel. His partner, William Smyth, owned part of a house in Wolstanton.
3. John Rabone is described in the grant of probate as webster (ie weaver) of Astbury, Cheshire.

86 George Twemlowe of Brerehurst, yeoman, will dated 14th December 1620, inventory taken 8th January 1620/1, date of probate 29th January 1620/1.

86.1 Will

Sick in body; to be buried in the churchyard of Lawton.

To Margerie my wife: the use and profit of my dwelling-house and barn, with all my meadows, leasowes and pastures in Breryhurst, during her life if she continues a widow. If she marries again, my will is that my son John Twamlowe shall take over the house and grounds and pay his mother £10 within a quarter of a year of her marriage.

To John my son: my best brass pot.

To my wife: all my goods and cattle and all my goods both moveable and unmoveable, within and outside the house.

To Margerie my wife jointly with my son Andrew: the reversion that I have now remaining in the Admittes Feildes which are now in the occupation of Richarde Drakeford and William Drakeford his son; if neither of them [ie wife and son] live so long, then to William Halle, my son-in-law.

To my son John's children: 10 shillings.

To Nicholas Hopsonne's children: 10 shillings.

To Richard Podmore's children: 10 shillings.

To Margrett Beech: 5 shillings.

To Marie Slade: 5 shillings.

To Ann Badeley: 5 shillings.

To Roger Wearam: 1 shilling.

To Richard Pott's children: 2s 6d.

To Margrett Whylocke: 1s.

Executors: my son John Twemlowe and my son-in-law William Halle.

Overseers: my brother John Twemlowe and my brother Andrew Twemlowe.

Debts owing to George Twemlowe

John Whythaugh of Broockehouse	£10		
Mrs Rode	£4	5s	
Richard Cartright of Moule	£10		
William Smith of Bradnapp	£4	10s	
Hughe Lownes	£9		
Randle Hildiche of Scollaegreene	£8		
Anthonie Milnes	£1	6s	
William Kelsall		2s	
John Twemlowe	£3		
William Frost	£1	12s	8d
Randle Wilkinson	£2		
Randle Hildiche of Scollaegreene	£1	10s	
Sum	£54	9s	8d.

86.2 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect Inventorie of all they goodes and Chattelles late George Twamlowes of Breriehurst w[i]thin the p[ar]ish of woolstanton and Countie of Staff[ord] disseased as they weire preased the eight daie of Januarie an[n]o d[omi]ni 1620 by [inserted: Joan Twamloe] Nicholas Hobson William Slade and Andrewe Twemlowe preasers in-differentlie chosen.

Twoe kyne £4

One twinter heffer and two bullocke sterkes £4

one baye Mare £1

Nyne sheepe £1 10s 0d

Barlie Oates and other corne £3 13s 4d

For haye £1 6s 8d

Husbandrie ware as wheeles plowes harrowes weanes yokes cheanes axes and all other implements belonginge vnto husbandrie whatsoeu[er] Beddinge and Linnens and Naperie ware

his owne apparell

Bedstockes Chestes boardes shelfes Tressles Cheares stooles stoundes and all such tryne ware whatsoeu[er] Brasse and Pwyter

A grate Tounge, spittes, gorbardes, ballisse, pott rackes and a fryeing pann

Eyght yeares terme in Admitts feildes

Three yeares terme in one close called Sponde

Two yeares terme in one close called kidhey

Three Millnestones

His p[ar]te of Fyve stones

For one little stone

Monie in the house

A stalle of Bees

Poultreie ware

Butter Cheese & two fitches of bacon & salt meate

One swyne

Woolle Hempe and Flax
Stontrowes
Manure and dounge

86.3 Notes

1. George Twemlow of Moule was constable in 1614. Moule (Mow Cop) is where millstones were quarried, and most of it was in the township of Brerehurst. He evidently had a partner, and one or other of them would have had a lease or licence from the lord of the manor to quarry millstones. (In 1694 William Sneyd, the then lord of the manor, received £10 in rent from 5 millstone quarries within the manor of Tunstall.) 'Kidhey' is in Moule, on the border of Brerehurst and Stadmorelow, judging from the 1719 manor boundary description.

2. He lived nearer to Church Lawton in Cheshire, than to his parish church of Wolstanton, where neither he nor his wife were buried. Scholar Green is in Cheshire, just over the county boundary. Bradnop is to the east of Leek. John Whythaugh/Whitehall/Whitall of Broockehouse lived about two-and-a-half miles away to the south-east. William Kellsall of Audley is mentioned in a 1638 inventory of debts. William Frost and Randall Wilkinson were both of Brerehurst.

3. Balisse = bellows.

4. Besides the farm-house, the only farm building mentioned is a barn. Perhaps the barn, as well as being used for storage of crops was an all-purpose building which could also house cattle, if required to. The bay mare is distinguished by its colour, perhaps because it shared its quarters with other mares.

5. George Twemlowe had been the lessee and the lease had eight more years to run. The reversion of the Admites Fields is the right of succession to the lease after his death. The succession to the leases for the other two fields had evidently been planned for, as well as who was to have the house and grounds.

87 Margrette Sneade of Tunstall, no will, inventory taken 11th March 1621/2,[Sun] date of admon 28th March 1622

87.1 Inventory

A trewe and P[er]fecte Inventorie of all the Goodes that weare Margrette Sneades of Tunstall at the tyme of her deceas in the p[ar]ish of wolstanton and countye of Stafford deceased taken and praysed the Eleventh daye of march in the yeare of our Lorde God one Thowsand sixe Hundred Twentye & one by these p[er]sonns followinge Anthonie Beech of Chell Thomas Baddaley Robarte Parker of Tunstall and William Tunstall in ma[n]nor & forme followinge

All man[n]or of Beddinge	£1	10s	
all napprie ware		6s	8d
all Brasse and pewter	£1		
one Iorne grate		6s	8d
one potte Cheane tounge w[i]th other small Implementes of Iorne		1s	6d
Too Coffers		3s	
Cheres stooles boardes & spinninge wheles		6s	8d
c[er]tayne treene ware		2s	
App[ar]jell for her bodie	£1	10s	
c[er]tayne Bills of Debte due to the p[ar]tye deceased	£9		
c[er]tayne small debtes w[hi]ch weare oweinge to the p[ar]tye deceased are these followinge viz			

William Tunstall doth owe	18s		
Richard Clweley doth owe	10s		
Richard Perrye doth owe	10s		
Anthonie Colcloughe doth owe	2s	9d	
[Total £16 7s 3d]			

87.2 Notes

1. At the probate court Alice Sneade her sister was granted administration of the estate, and a bond was entered into by John Burne of Chell, yeoman, and John Tunstall of Ramscliffe, tailor.
2. At 6s 8d, the grate is the highest valued one in this collection.
3. John Glover (in this collection) owed her 1s 6d when he died in February 1612/3.6

88 Emme Bagnald, widow, [?of Chatterley], will dated 17th March 162[?0], inventory taken 20th March 1621/2, date of probate 28th June 1622.

88.1 Will

Sick in body; to be buried in the parish churchyard of Woolstanton.
 To Margret Wi[[lat?] my daughter's child: 10s which is in the hands of her father.
 To Els Edge my goddaughter: 4s.
 To Richard Snead my godson: 4s.
 Residuary legatee and executor: my son John Bagnald.
 Witnesses: Roger Smith, John Smith, Eline Rowley.

88.2 Inventory

a treue & p[er]fect Inventarye of all the goodes & Chattles Cattle moueable & vn-movable of Eme Bagnald widow latlye deceased p[re]sed by vs Roger Smith Henrye Bourne John Smith Rowley John willat the xxth of march 1621.

towe black kine	£5		
on Fetherbed tow Chafbed & three Coverletes tow blancketes			
tow twilshites tow boulsters tow pillowes	£1	10s	
linen stufe		10s	
tow Chistes tow peare of bedstockes tow tables one forme one Cupbord one dishbord		15s	
one pott one pane tow kettles five pouter dishes tow candlestic[kes]	£1	13s	4d
trine ware		5s	
her wearinge Cloth		10s	
one grate one bradreth w[i]th the rest of the iron ware		3s	4d
all the rest of the thinges of Small value		1s	
debtes owinge to the said decesed by Richard Snead	£1	2s	
sum[m]e is £11 9s 8d			

88.3 Notes

1. She is identifiable as the widow of Francis Bagnald of the township of Chatterley, where the witnesses also lived.
2. 'bradreth' - this was part of the fireplace.
3. The hay for the 2 cows is not mentioned in the inventory and was perhaps provided by someone else, such as her son John.
4. 'black kine' - the colour is perhaps mentioned so as to distinguish them from the other cattle her son had.

89 Hugh Wilkinson of Kidcrowe, will dated 2nd Jan 1622/3, inventory taken 27th January 1622/3, date of probate 4th February 1622/3.

89.1 Will

To Randle Wilkinson, my brother: a bill of £10, to be put forth or employed during the life of Alice Wilkinson, my mother, for paying her 20s every year that she lives.

My will is that Randle Wilkinson shall have £6, and Richard Wilkinsonne, my brother, shall have £4 of it.

To my brother John Wilkinson: a debt of £5 which he owes me.

Residuary legatee: Henrie Wilkinson, my brother, "soe that he see me honestlie brought

vnto my grave And discharge what by Lawe is due for me to be paide.”

89.2 Inventory

A p[er]fect Inventorie of al the goodes and chattells late of Hughe Wilkinsones of Kid-crowe in the p[ar]ish of Woolstanton and countie of Staff[ord] singlema[n] disseased praised and taken by Richard Whytall and Richard Coleclough both of the p[ar]ish In-differentlie chosen the 27th daie of Januarie An[n]o d[omi]no 1622.

his wearinge apparell	10s	
One Cheste	3s	4d
Monie in his pursse	2s	
One debte owinge him of	£10	
An other debt owinge him of	£5	
£15 15s 4d		

Debtes owinge by the s[ai]d Hughe Wilkinsonne
To Richarde Colecloughe 2s

89.3 Notes

1. Henry Wilkinson his brother, who was a nailer of Kidcrew, was granted the administration of his goods.
2. Hugh Wilkinson gave his brother Randle a bill of exchange. In the period before paper bank notes came into existence, a bill served as a form of money. It was a written order to someone to pay a sum of money to the drawer or another person. A bill could be sold or, as in this case, bequeathed. Hugh wanted the money invested to give a 10

90 Randull Patteson of Knutton, yeoman, will dated ?, inventory taken 21st June 1623, date of probate 8th July.

90.1 Will

My body to be buried in the earth whereof it is made.

To Margrett my well-beloved wife and her assigns for the term of her natural life: one half of the messuage or tenement where I now live; and half of all barns, buildings, orchards, gardens, meadows, leasows [’lessures’], pastures, woods, ways, waters and commons with appurtenances in Knutton or elsewhere in Staffordshire.

To Ann Pratchat: £20.

To Richard my son: £20.

To Thomas and Randull Patteson my sons: £15 each.

To Joane Henshall and Marie Pratchat: a year-old calf each.

To Joyssse Henshall my daughter: 12d for child's part.

To Margrett my wife for the term of her life, and after her, to my son John Patteson: the use and occupation of one half of all my wains, yokes, chains, ploughs, harrows and all other utensils of husbandry.

To the said John: one joined table and frame in the parlour, and the other half of all my wains, yokes, chains, ploughs, harrows and all other utensils of husbandry.

Executors: Margaret my wife and Robert Burslem.

Witnesses: John Bowyer, William Gibson, Thomas Bagnald.

[Signs by mark]

90.2 Inventory

A true & a p[er]fect Inventorie of all the goodes Cattels, Chattels, of Randul Patson of Knutton Late of wolstanton Deceased taken & the praised the xxth of June by John Clownome Anthonie

Beech & John Bowyer praisers 1623

4 kine

3 Twinters

2 sterkes

2 Calves

one mare & a Twinter Coult

2 Swyne

all the geeise & Pullen

all the Brasse & Pweter

3 fetterbedes & 3 Chaffbedes

Eight cou[er]lides & blankettes

three Twillsheetes

11 boutsters and pillowes

14 payre of Sheeites

all other Linon & naperie ware

Fyve paire of Bedstides

6 Chestes & quoffors

2 Tables & 2 formes

all Cheares stoules & shulfes

2 spits 2 grates one fire shoule on paire of tongues

flesh att the Roofe & whitmeate in the house

Corne on the ground

Corne & malte in the house

2 Ironebounde weanes

yokes plowes Cheanes harrowes & other husbandrie furniture

Loumes Turnils Comnps & all other wooden & treene ware

all the worthing & mucke

all other thinges Vnpraised

his aparrell & money in his purse

91 Raphe Wedgwood [?of Brerehurst], will dated 2nd April 1622, buried 7th April, inventory taken 16th April 1622, date of probate 27th March 1623.

91.1 Will

Sick in body; to be buried in the churchyard of Biddulph.

To Thomas Wedgwood, my eldest son: 12d.

To Jone Howse, my eldest daughter: 12d.

To Jane Wedgwood, my second daughter: 12d.

To An Wedgwood, one other of my daughters: 12d.

To Margreat Wedgwood, another of my daughters: 12d.

To Isbell Wedgwood, my youngest daughter: 12d.

To John Wedgwood, my youngest son: 12d.

To John Howse my son-in-law: 12d.

Residuary legatee and executor: Margreat Wedgwood my wife.

Witnesses: Thomas Wedgwood, John Boulton, Jane Boulton, Worber Dooton.

[Signs by mark]

91.2 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect Inventorie Indented of all the goodes and Cattalles of Raphe Wedgwood late of Wolstanton in the Countie of Stafford deceased seene vewed and appraised by Richard Podmore Fraunces Turner John Boulton the xvjth daie of Aprill in the Anno D[omi]ni 1622.

one Barren Cowe	£2	
Beddinge brasse Pewter Bordes bedsteedes shilfes treene ware		
Iron ware And all kinde of Impementes with gise & hennes	£2	
one lease of a Cottage and one Acre of land for the tearme of xij Yeares	£8	
All his Apparrell		10s
[£12 10s		

91.3 Notes

1. This inventory was indented: two copies of the inventory will have been made on a single sheet; having been cut and separated, one copy would then have been taken to the probate court and the other would have been retained.

2. 'Worber Dooton' is a lady's name, as it seems to be the same as that of Warburs, whose husband Rycharde Colcloght of Wolstanton parish died in 1536 or 1537. (Also Walburgis Smythe - baptized at Audley Feb 3rd 1540; and Warbura Wilkenson - buried at Audley June 23rd 1548)

3. A writ relating to Stafford Quarter sessions in January 1609 mentions Ralph Wedg-

wood and Richard Podmore as defendants. Jurors in the neighbourhood of Brerehurst were to be summoned.

92 Anne Turnocke, no will, date of admon 3rd December 1623, inventory dated [16th] December 1623 [Mon]

92.1 Inventory

A true Inventory of the goodes of Anne [Turnocke] late of Wolstanton deceased taken the sixt[.....] of December 1623 by John Turnocke and Francis Turnocke as Followethe

in Money[....]
her app[ar]jell £1

92.2 Note

1. These two items are the only ones; the torn portions would have shown the exact amounts.

93 William Alcock of Wolstanton, husbandman, date of will 17th Oct 1620, inventory taken 2nd July 1623 [Tue], date of probate 17th July

93.1 Will

To be buried in the parish church or churchyard of Wolstanton, and my funeral expenses shall be answerable to my estate, degree and calling.

To my daughter Margrett More: 12d for her child's part.

To my daughter Katherine Key: 12d for her child's part;
and to her two sons Thomas Key and John Key: 20s each.

To my daughter Elizabeth Lankishire: 12d for her child's part;
and her two daughters Margrett Lankishire and her other daughter: 20s each.

Executor and residuary legatee: Margrett Alcock, my wife.

Overseers: William Marten of Blourton and Thomas Bullock of Wolstanton.

To my son Henrie Alcocke 12d for his child's part.

[No witnesses, or testator's signature or mark]

93.2 Inventory

A True & p[er]fect Inventory of all the goods of William Alcocke Latly deseased the ii of July 1623.

Three kine and a sterke
one nagge
one parsill of ground held by Lease
Brasse & pewter
Beddinge & Napery ware
one Cubbord
one swine
butter & Cheese
Coffers
Trine ware
all Iron ware
Corne Hay & hempe
Detts oweinge vnto him
His Aparell & money in his purse
muck
John Willat thelder & John Willat the yonger & Raphe Morton & John Morton thelder
preasors

93.3 Notes

1. The bequest to the son is added after.
2. The three married daughters were from a previous marriage; he had only been married three years to Margrett when he died. It is possible that his daughter Margarett was the one who married Richard Marsh at Burslem in 1605.

94 Richard Colton of Grobers Ash, yeoman, will dated 14th May 1623, inventory taken 31st May 1623, date of probate 4th June 1623.

94.1 Will

Being sound and of perfect health.

Revokes all former wills.

To be buried in the parish church of Audley in the middle aisle.

To the poorest householders of the parish of Audley by the direction of my executors: 40s.

To Alice my wife: the messuage or tenement in which I live, and all the lands, meadows, leasows and pastures belonging to it with the appurtenances in Wolstanton and Apedale demised to me by William Bowyer esq deceased, for her life, she keeping herself sole and unmarried. And if she marries again after my decease, then my intention is that the property will pass to Thomas Latham and his assigns.

To Alice my wife: £50, six kine, my best [feather]bed and everything belonging to

it, and another bed (except for the joined bed and bedstock(s)) for a servant to lie on, suitably equipped.

To the children of my son-in-law Henry Wood, gentleman (other than to his son and heir whoever he then shall be): £100 to be equally divided.

Additionally, to my godson Richard Wood, one of Henry Wood's sons, his heirs and assigns for ever: the messuage or tenement called the Quarrell house and all the lands, meadows and pastures belonging to it with the appurtenances in Audley, now or late in the tenure of Thomas Bloore or his assigns.

To Michael Nicholls my son-in-law: £40 for Richard, Thomas, Ellin and Ann Nichols, my grandchildren.

To my son-in-law Henry Wood: my best iron-bound wheels and my best tumbrel.

To my daughter Ann Wood: my second best featherbed and sheets, bolsters, pillows, [cover]ings and the furnishings for a bed (except bedsteads); my best brass pan, five great pewter voiders and six silver spoons.

To Rondull Whitehough my son-in-law: £10.

To Robert Whiteough, Colton Whyteough, Ann Whyteough and Ellin Whyteough: £10 each.

To Roger Whitticars: 20s.

To Margrett Huntbach and Alice Doody: 20s each.

To John Doody, Alice's son: 20s.

To the children of my sister Alice [?Ri]eyste: £10 to be equally divided.

To Thomas Lathom for Colton Lathom, Ellen Latham and Elizabeth Latham his children, to be equally divided: £30.

To every one of my godchildren who will demand it within one year of my death: 6s 8d.

To Alice Latham (after my wife has died, if after my decease she stays unmarried and continues to live at my present dwelling house at Grobers Ashe): all the rest of my beds, bedding and bedsteads (whether joined or otherwise), brass and pewter which I have not already bequeathed, all my tables, boards, forms, frames and other household goods (excepting the table, and frame and forms belonging to it, which is in my house and which I give to Henry Wood).

To Thomas Latham: all the rest of my boards, wains, yokes, chains, ploughs and other implements of husbandry.

Residuary legatee: my son-in-law Henry Wood.

Executors: Henry Wood and Randull Whyteough.

Witnesses: John Smyth, William Bowers, Thomas Bagnall.

94.2 Inventory

A true and perfect Inventory Indented of All the goods Cattle and Chattles of Richard Colten of the p[ar]ishe of wolstanton in the County of Stafford yeoman deceased valued and prayed by will[ia]m yardley, Richerd wood, will[ia]m Bowers and will[ia]m Swinnerton the last day of may 1623.

vij oxen	£32		
vij kine	£14		
one Bull	£3	6s	8d
ij Bullocks	£3	6s	8d
one heifer & a bull Calfe	£2	6s	8d
v stirks	£5		
iiij Calves	£2		
xx sheepe & xiiij lambes	£6		
iiij swine	£1	16s	
one mare	£3	10s	
one Colt	£4		
v henns & a Cocke		2s	6d
Beddinge	£10	6s	8d
Brasse & pewter	£4	6s	10d
linnen	£4	8s	4d
Apparrell for his Body	£4		
Bedsteds bedstocks Cupbords Chests tables & formes	£9	6s	
Iron ware		15s	
Corne & mault	£3	4s	
Corne one the grownd	£20		
lime stone	£4		
hey and strawe		10s	
a shootinge givn		10s	
one Carpett		2s	6d
Carts weines Cheines & othe[r] husbandrie ware	£7	6s	4d
a Saddle & bridles		6s	8d
Beoffe Bacon & salt	£2	3s	
Butter & Cheese		10s	
Manvre or Donge	£1		
Cheires boukes spinninge wheles w[i]th other treene			
woodden ware w[i]th all other things not before valued	£2	4s	8d
Debts due vpon specialty	£345	10s	8d
Debts due w[i]thout specialtye	£5		
Redy money	£14		
Sixe silver spoones	£3		
S[u]m[ma] Totallis	£559	9s	2d
[Actual	£519	9s	2d]

94.3 Notes

1. The inventory has the highest inventory total for a Wolstanton parishioner between 1600 and 1650 and the highest amount owing to him. His £2 to the poorest householders (i.e heads of household) of Audley parish is the only instance of philanthropy in this collection of wills.
2. He had freehold land but how many acres is not known.
3. Plot (1686) refers to liming being necessary for the black moorland soils in Stafford-

shire and says that limestone was to be found all over the county. There are no references in the Wolstanton parish inventories to limestone before this one. (There are nine other references in the inventories taken before 1650.)

4. 'a shootinge givn' - This must be a shooting device other than a gun.

5. The grant of probate refers to a tuition bond for the executor to fulfill, involving seven children of Richard Colton. The nature of his bequests to his wife cover the possibility that his wife may or may not marry again.

6. The discrepancy at the bottom of the inventory between the actual total and stated total, is probably due to a copyist error, putting roman numeral 'l' for 'x'. The inventory looks as if it was a copy. Is the colt which is priced more highly than the mare an error as well?

95 James Coleclough, no will, inventory taken 30th January 1623/4, administration granted 18th March 1623/4.

95.1 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect Inventorie of all they goodes and Chattelles moovable and I[m]moovable of James Colecloughe of the p[ar]ishe of Woolstanto[n] in the Diocesse of Co[ventrie] & Lich[field] latelye diseased, had and taken by John Bourne Randle Whytaugh Thomas Rowley and John Rowley being praisers In differentlie chosen, the 30th daie of Januarie A[n]no d[omi]ni 1623

Two Calues 0 16s 0

Three kyne £6 0 0

Corne and Haie in the barne £1 0 0

[?fyue] Sheepe £1 6s 8d

Brasse and Pewter £1 10s 0

Beddinge £3 0 0

Three Coffers, two boxes, one whitche 0 8s 0

Bordes Formes and bedstockes 0 8s 0

The Trine Ware 0 4s 0

One grate, one brouche, one fryinge
panne, one paire of tounge, one mat-
tocke, one axe, one paire of plowe

Irons one paire of potrackes and other

Iron Ware 0 8s 0

Woolle, hempe and yarne 0 5s 0

Butter and Cheese 0 6s 8d

Two Flitches of Bacon 0 10s 0

One Harrowe, one Bill, and other
husbandrie ware 0 2s 8d

Three Geese and one Henne 0 2s 6d

Wayringe apparrell & monie in his purse £1 0 0

Som[ma] total[is] £17 7s 6d [Checked]

95.2 Notes

1. James Colclough had a cottage with only a few acres of land. A comparison of James' stock and goods with those of his father (Edward - Sept 1602) shows a decline. He owed money to his sister Ellen when she died in 1619. Some of the men who died intestate in this period had large debts.

Administration was granted to his widow, Joan Coleclough - she is described as of Olcott. John Rowley of Olcott, carpenter, was also mentioned. His sister Ellen in her will gives the names of his three children.

2. The figures in the inventory are arranged as shown but with roman numerals. During this half-century the changeover from roman to arabic numerals can be seen in inventories.

96 Robeart Twiford of Woolstanton, will dated 8th February 1623/4, died [and buried] 7th April 1624, date of probate 20th April 1624, inventory exhibited 31st May 1624.

96.1 Will

Sick in body.

To every one of his children begotten of his first wife and this his last wife: 10s each.

Residuary legatee and executrix: Elizabeth his present wife.

Witnesses: Francis Capps vicar of Woolstanton, Roger Prosall

96.2 Inventory

A trew and p[er]fect Inventory of all the goodes and Cattells and Chattels of Robeart Twiford of Woolstanton Lately decesed w[hi]ch said Robeart decesed the seventh day of Aprill 1624 praysed by vs Thomas Turmor John Turnocke Thomas Fenton Thomas Henshall

quicke goodes

six kine w[i]th three younge Calves one stirck one

ould mare hey

£14

three henes

1s

Dead goodes

Brasse and puter	£2	6s	
one fetherbed tow flock bedes fower bouldsters tow pillowes	£2		
fower Coverledes Coveringes tow twilshites tow blancketes	£1	6s	8d
eyght peare of shites tow table Cothes towells and napkins tow pillowebeares	£1	10s	
tow peare of bedstockes one Chest one Cofer one Cheere			
one table w[i]th all woodden and trine ware	£1		
milke pan[n]es steanes and potes		1s	
one grat one peare of plow irons one bill one hachet w[i]th all other iron ware		5s	
yorne	£1	3s	4d
his weringe apparell	£1		
dounge		3s	4d
provision in the house	£1		
all other thinges of Smale value vnprysed		1s	
Som[m]e is £24 18s [Actual is £25 17s 4d]			

96.3 Notes

1. It is a nuncupative will. By inference, the vicar Francis Capps dictated it to Roger Prosall. The inventory is in the same hand. (Nothing more is known about Roger Prosall, except that his handwriting can be identified in some other wills or inventories.)
2. Elizabeth Twyford, widow, was buried in 1632.

97 Anne Bowyer of Ewtree, widow, will dated 21st May 1624, buried 27th May 1624, date of probate 5th July 1624, no inventory.

97.1 Will

In the name of god Amen. The eyghteenth one & twentieth daye of Maie in the yeare of our lord god 1624 I Anne Bowyer of Ewtree w[i]thin the p[ar]ish of woolstanton and Diocesse of Co[untrie] and Lich[field] widdow late wyffe of Richard Bowyer gent[leman] deceased beinge in good and p[er]fect memorie blessed and prayed be my god therfore But forasmuch as the lorde hath appoynted his children to sett there houses in order and that I knowe the houre of death to be vncertaine doe make this my testament conteyninge my last will in man[er] and forme followinge Imp[rimis] I give and bequeath my poure soule as a Freewill offerringe vnto my most m[er]cifull god and lovinge father earnestlie beseechinge him for his sonne Jhesus christe his sake that he will accept and receaue it into his glorious kingdome when it shalbe deliu[er]ed from this miserable and mortall bodie of myne w[hi]ch I stidfastlie beleive he will doe desyringe the lorde to strengthen my faith that it neu[er] faile till I attaine the ende

of my hope even the p[re]sence of my god And my bodie to be buried in the p[ar]ish church of Biddulphe Ite[m] I give and bequeath vnto Catherine Bowyer my daughter the som[m]e of one hundred & Fiftie poundes Ite[m] I giue and bequeathe vnto my sonne in lawe Deantrie and Margrett my daughter and his wife either of them tenn shillings Ite[m] I give and bequeathe vnto my saide daughter Margret all my wearinge apparell Ite[m] I give and bequeathe vnto my daughters Catherine and Ann either of them one of my best feather beddes and furnishinge for them to be sett forth by my brother Francis Bowyer and my brother William Bourne Ite[m] I give and bequeath vnto my saide daughters Catherine and Ann two p[ar]tes of all my brasse and pewter Ite[m] I give & bequeath vnto Marie Bowyer alias Lander tenn poundes Item I give and bequeath all the rest of my goodes debtes and chattelles after my debtes be paide Funerall expences and legacies discharged vnto Lewis Bowyer and for the p[er]formance of this my last will vnto the glorie of god and the good of my children I nominate and appoynte Fraruncis Bowyer and William Bourne my brother in lawes my executors.

Ann Bowyer her m[ar]ke.

Sealed and deliu[er]ed in the p[re]sentes of vs Ursulae Burne Margret Bourne John Burne Ann Boulde

97.2 Notes

1. The insertions later than the 18th May were the designation of Anne Bowyer as widow of Richard Bowyer, and the bequest to Marie Bowyer alias [?L]ander.
2. An inventory was to be produced before Michaelmas 1624, but this was not done.
3. 'either of them' = each of them. Catherine and Ann are the unmarried daughters - their bedding will be hired out ('sett forth') until they are married.
4. She was living at William Bourne's house, Ewtree, which was situated between Tunstall and Goldenhill. It was not unusual for gentlemen with large houses to accommodate members of their wider family. Anne Bowyer must have been his wife Ursula's sister.

98 John Fenton of Knutton, yeoman, will dated 16th August 1624, inventory taken 23rd August, date of probate 24th August 1624.

98.1 Will

To be buried in the churchyard of Woolstanton.

To Thomas Fenton of Woolstanton my brother and his heirs for ever: my dwelling house wherein I now inhabit with all buildings, lands etc which I have lately purchased; Thomas is to allow Margery my wife to enjoy the property for her life, and to discharge my debts.

Also: all my wearing apparel; and (after my wife's decease) the reversion of my two

carts and their gear, all the tables, shelves, bedstocks, chairs, stools, forms, the grate in the house, and all wooden ware in my house except three coffers.

To my godson Raphe Biche (after my wife's decease): the coffer in the parlour and the better of the other two coffers.

To my godson John Biche (after my wife's decease): the third coffer.

To ...Grawcocke my servant: one pair of sheets.

Residuary legatee and executrix: my wife Margery.

Witnesses: William Gibson, John Biche, Edward Beardmore, Thomas Tumkinson, John Hill.

98.2 Inventory

[A] trew and p[er]fect Inventory of all the goodes and Chattles [of] John Fenton of Knutton latly decesed praysed by vs John Clownam John Boyer John Biche Tobias Cocke ye xxiiijth of August 1624

one ould Cow one stirck tow weni[n]g Calves

one mare

one swine

tow henes

brasse and pewter

bedding and nappery ware

tables formes bordes shilfes bedstockes Cofers and al trine ware

on grat and all iron ware

sacks

tow cartes w[i]th all horse geeres

all Inplementes of husbandrie

p[r]ovicion in the house

fuell

do[u]nge

Corne in the house and on the gro[u]nd

heaye

his weringe apparell

money in his purse

linen Cloth yorne tow

all other thinges of Smale valew

98.3 Notes

1. His brother's will and inventory are in this volume.
2. He was probably farming at Heath End (in Wolstanton parish) at the start of the century, while the owner, John Smith, was still in his minority. By 1607 he had moved elsewhere in Knutton, probably to his final home. By 1614 he was a freeholder, and served on the Freeholders Jury for Newcastle manor in that year and the next.
3. Some of the surnames are more commonly spelt as Beech, Bowyer, Cooke and

Tomkinson.

4. The gear of the bequeathed carts is the means of securing each one to the mare.

99 Alice Coulton of Grobers Ashe, widow, will dated 17th June 1623, inventory taken 2nd May 1625, date of probate 10th May 1625.

99.1 Will

To be buried in the middle aisle of the parish church of Audley.

To Roger Whittakers: 20s.

To Elizabeth Terrick: 20s.

To John Doodie: 20s.

To William Swynerton and Jane Swynerton his wife: an 11shilling piece of gold each.

To Joane Nicholls: an 11shilling piece of gold.

To Ellin Whitetough: 5s 6d.

To my daughter Anne Wood: 12d.

To every one of my godchildren: 12d each.

I give 20s to be distributed at their discretion by my executors to such poor householders who are most in need.

To Ellin Turner: 5s.

To Allice Latham: 2s 6d.

Residuary legatees: Margaret Huntbache and Allice Doodie.

Executors: William Swynerton, Richard Wood and Margaret Huntbach.

Witnesses: William Eardley [signs by mark], John Beech, Thomas Bagnall.

Alice Coulton's mark.

99.2 Inventory

A true and p[er]fecte Inventorie of All the goodes Credittes debtes Rightes and dues w[hi]ch late were Allice Coultons of Trentham in the County of Stafford widdowe deceased, made and taken, and the said goodes prised by Nicholas Townsend and Robert Tailor of Trentha[m] aforesaid husbandmen, the second day of May anno d[omi]ni 1625.

	£	s	d
her bedd w[i]th the blanckettes Coverlettes bolster pillowes and sheetes thervnto belonginge	4	0	0
all her Napperie ware	2	10	0
her Chest all her wearinge Apparrell and other thinges therein contayned her purse and money	6	13	4
one pewter Cupp	1	0	
one Bond from Raphe Saxon of Betley in the County of Stafford aforesaid Innehoulder, w[i]th suerties w[i]thin for the payment .	11	0	0
one other Bond from Thomas Latha[m] of Grobbers Ashe in the County aforesaid Tanner, for the payment of Sum[m]e is £38 4s 4d	14	0	0

By vs Nicholas Townsend Robert Tailer prisers

99.3 Notes

1. Grubbers Ash, where she was living at the time of her will, was near the western edge of the parish of Wolstanton; William Eardley, John Beech and Richard Wood were neighbours.
2. The will of her late husband Richard Colton explains the relationships of some of the above beneficiaries. Alice made her will a month after his death. Although she had the right to stay at Grubbers Ash, she decided to let her daughter Alice and son-in-law Thomas Latham live there, while she took up residence in Trentham - perhaps with another daughter.
3. The middle aisle of Audley church was where her husband had asked to be buried.

100 Amie Rowley of Parkehouse, will dated 8th December 1625, inventory taken 31st December, date of probate 2nd January 1625/6.

100.1 Will

Sick in body; to be buried in some convenient place within the parish church of Wolstanton.

To my brother John Rowley: 12d.

To Ellin Rowley my goddaughter: 12d.

To my brother Thomas Meare: 12d.

To my sister Elizabeth Clowes: 12d.

To Elen Brindley: all my wool which [s]he has in her hands. I give her 20s that she owes me.

To my sister in law Margaret Rowley at Mole: 12s that she owes me.
 To John Mylnes, Marie Mylnes and Katherin Mylnes, the children of John Mylnes: £3 each, which their father owes me.
 To Marie Shawe of Norton: 20s.
 To Katherin Burslem: one ewe lamb, my best red petticoat, a band, an apron and all my chests.
 To Marie Caulton: my bed.
 To Elin Burslem: one medley petticoat and white petticoat.
 To Katherin Whytall: my best waistcoat.
 To John Symson, Richard Frost and Elizabeth Parker: 12d each.
 Residuary legatees: William Burslem of thrinssll [Thursfield?], John Burslem, Katherin Burslem, Margaret Burslem and Marie Burslem, the children of Robert Burslem, and Randul Whytall, Robert Whytall and John Whytall, the children of John Whytall of Brookhowse, and Elizabeth Caulton and John Caulton, the children of John Caulton of Whyte hill, equally to be divided.
 Revokes all former wills.
 Executors: Joyse Burslem and Robert Burslem.
 Witnesses: John Caulton, Joyse Burslem, John Whytall, Robert Burslem, William Rowley, Thomas Whytall.

100.2 Inventory

A true & a p[er]feit Inventorie of all the goodes Cattels & Chatells of Amie Rowley of the parke Deceased taken & praised the Laste daye of december by John Wood John Caulton Randle Whytall

one Lambe		4s	
iiij Chestes & boxes		3s	
one fetterbed & j boulster & a pilowe	£1	10s	
ij blankettes & ij paire of sheetes	£1	10s	
Certen wolle		8s	
hir wearinge apparrell	£2	13s	4d
money in hir purse		12s	
debtes owinge by spetialtie	£70		
debtes owinge without spetialtie	£1	12s	
[Total £78 12s 4d]			

The presers names are these
 John Woode, John Caulton Randle Whytall

100.3 Notes

1. The will and inventory say 'Amie' but no Rowley of this name appears in the records.
2. The executor would be responsible for chasing up the debts, only a small proportion

of which Amie remitted in her will.

3. William Burslem, the first-named of the residuary legatees, could be the brother of Robert Burslem (who owned the Parke house in the township of Olcott). A torn fold in the will prevents the place-name being easily read, but the township of Thursfield is plausible.

4. As suggested by the small amount of goods in the inventory (including the lack of a bed), Amie Rowley was living in someone else's house. The head of the household was either Robert Burslem or Joyce Burslem, a widow who lived there for 25 years after her husband died. How she was connected to the Burslems is not known (if she was a relation); but her brother John might be 'John Rowley alias Burslem' who was living in the parish in 1629, probably in the township of Stadmoreslow. Margaret Rowley, Amie's step-sister, was 'Widow Rowley of Moll' (Mow Cop) in 1627. (All other indications are that Amie was unmarried, so 'sister-in-law' must mean step-sister, as it could in this period.)

5. How has she got so much money? The two sources must be earned income (wages and business) and maybe unearned income (rents). As a servant, not having to pay for her board and lodging, and paid wages only at Michaelmas each year there was scope for a girl to make savings. (For centuries, October was a popular month for weddings, for the precise reason that the couple had just had a new boost to their savings.) At this period servants (of either sex) were likely to be employed to make an important economic contribution to their employer's household, rather than being domestic servants, so their wages were not a pittance. Hence it was possible for a single woman with many years of savings who didn't frequent the alehouse to accumulate a respectable sum which would be invested in loans to people in the locality.

101 Thomas Shaw of Great Chell, will dated 1st June 1626, buried 7th June, inventory taken 8th June, date of probate 23rd June

101.1 Will

Sick in body.

To be buried in the churchyard of Wulstandston.

To William Shaw, my son: one grindlestone, one swine trough, one crow of iron, one whip saw, one framing saw, one iron bound cart, all my work tools, with all ploughs & yokes, chains, harrows, & other things, belonging to husbandry, one pair of great golbordes, one grate, one pair of pot hooks, & pot chain, tongs, & fire shovel, one little pot, the lesser pan, the greatest pewter dish, one maslin pot, the bedsteads standing in the parlour, one featherbed, one bolster, one russet blanket, one coverlet, one bed-hilling, one hackney saddle, one cloak, paying his uncle for it, and all mine apparel.

To Ellen, my wife: my two heifer stirks, paying to Raph Boone 27s 8d.

Residuary legatee: Ellen my wife & Margaret Unwin my daughter, equally to be divided between them.

Executor: William Shaw, my son.

Witnesses: John Rowley, Raffe Unwin, Raffe Boone, William Shaw.

101.2 Inventory

A true & perfect Inventory of all the good[es] of Thomas Shaw of Great Chell in the Countye of Staff[ord], taken & prayesed the eight day of the mounth of June, In the yeere of our lord 1626 by Anthony Beech, William Rowley, John Rowley & Jefferey Bourne.

two stirkes	£3	6s	8d
Six ewes & three lambes	£1	10s	
weanes, harrowes, yoakes & chaynes w[i]th certen husbandry ware	£1		
One whippesaw, & framing Saw w[i]th certen other carpentry tooles		10s	
one Arke & twoo coffers	£1		
one payre of gobberts, on grate fyre Shovell, tonges,			
one Crow of Iren, potthookes & chaynes w[i]th three wedges		10s	
one pot, one pan, one pewter dishe, one maslen cupp	£1	6s	8d
Certen pewter dishes and candlestickes	£1		
One fetherbed, one boulster, one blanket on bedhilling,			
one Co= verlet & the bedsteedes	£2		
Certen paynted Clothes		2s	
One Tubston, Swyne trow and gryndlestone		3s	4d
One Hackney Saddle		2s	
three other pott[es], one chaffing dishe, 2 kettles,			
2 Skellet[es] & one Skim[m]er	£1	6s	8d
Two Spitt[es], 1 branderet, 1 backston		6s	
One turnell, 2 compes, 2 spini[n]g wheels w[i]th certen other treeneware	£1		
Three payre of bedsteeds, & oth[er] furniture	£2	10s	
Tables, Shelfes, bedstockes, & formes		10s	
One cubboord, Six Coffers	£1	3s	4d
Chayres, & Stowels		5s	
One payre of bellowes & bredyron		1s	
Boordclothes & certen nappery ware		13s	4d
his apparrell & money in his purse	£2		
The whole Som[m]e is £22 5s [checked]			

101.3 Notes

1. Thomas Shaw in 1619 owned a cottage and 1 customary acre of land. In addition he probably owned land for both arable and pastoral farming, as well as being a carpenter. This is the third mention of a framing saw in these inventories. It must be a tenon saw.

2. William Shaw the son is bequeathed a crow (i.e.crowbar) which could be used to dislodge blocks of stone in a quarry.
3. The will has a long pious preamble.
4. In bread-making, the loaves were put in and taken out of the oven on a long, flat bread-iron called a peel. The oven may have had bellows fitted to it. (Bellows and bread-iron are also mentioned together in another contemporary inventory, a baker's: 'one iron peelee one cowle rake a payer of bellowes'.) A rake or something similar would be needed for spreading the hot embers evenly over the oven floor. Ellen, his wife, would have used a wooden tub or trough to knead the dough, and a moulding board for shaping the loaves. These are no doubt included in the treeneware (wooden ware).
5. A skillet was a small pot (with legs) which could sit directly on the fire. Larger pots could be suspended over it from the iron pot-hooks and chains. The chafing dish was a portable container of burning embers for gently warming food.
6. The maslin pot or cup was evidently a drinking-vessel. 'Maslin' refers to the material, a kind of alloy.
7. Margaret Shaw was buried in 1624 and almost certainly Thomas had a wife called Margaret at the time of his mother's death in 1601.
8. The surviving will and inventory at Lichfield are copies in a contemporary hand (according to notes on their backs).
9. His widow and his daughter will continue to live in the house. They have been left all the furniture in the house (except one bed), they have two cows for milking, the bread-making equipment, the sheep which will produce the wool for spinning and equipment associated with brewing.

102 John Stonior of Wedgwood, bachelor, will dated 1st November 1626, buried 25th December 1626, inventory taken 30th December 1626, date of probate 3rd Jan 1626/7

102.1 Will

Being sick in body; to be buried in the churchyard of Wolstanton.

To my sister Margerett Drakeford: 4 marks.

To my sister Katheren Heyes: 4 marks.

To my sister Ellen Whitough: 4 marks.

To my sister Anne Hodgkinson: 20 nobles.

To John Hodgkinson her son: 20 nobles.

To Katheren, William, and Anne Hodgkinson, three of my sister Anne's children: 20 nobles each.

To Margaret Hodgkinson, my sister Anne's daughter: 20 marks.

To Margaret Addams, wife of John Addams: £5.

To Anne Burslem: 40 shillings.

To Richard Preston: 10 shillings.
 Residuary legatees: William Stonior my brother, and William Stonior his son, to be equally divided.
 Executor: my brother William Stonior.
 Witnesses: John Rowley, William Rowley.
 Debts owing to me, of which I have no speciality:
 Anthony Beech of Tunstall .. £4
 John Drakeford of Whitfield .. £3
 John Drakeford my brother-in-law .. £6
 John Burslem of Brown Lees .. £3
 William Keeling of Bemersley .. 40s
 John Chorley[?] .. 5 nobles
 William Heyes my brother-in-law .. 40s
 John Adams of Bemersley .. 12s
 John Ball .. 20s
 John Mills .. 20s
 William Harrison of Yocleton .. 13s 4d

102.2 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect Inventory of all the goodes Cattells and debtes of John Stonier late of Wedgwood w[i]thin the p[ar]ish of Wolstonton w[i]thin the Countie of Stafford Batchler, taken & prized the thirteenth daie of decemb[er] jn the second yeare of the Raigne of o[u]r Sou[er]aigne lord king Charles by the grace of god king of great Britaine Fraunce and Ireland defend[e]r of the faith &c By John Rowley Richard Whittall, William Williams Clark as followeth viz 1626

debtes owing to the said John Stonier, wherof he had specialtie	£117	8s	3d
more debtes owing vnto him wherof he had no specialtie	£25	18s	8d
two sheepe		10s	
his apparell & money in his purse	£2		
Som[m]e totall	£145	16s	11

102.3 Notes

1. Many of the beneficiaries are mentioned also in his sister's will (see earlier).
2. A noble is 6s 8d and a mark is 13s 4d. The total of unsecured debts should read £24 18s 8d.
3. Yockleton is near Shrewsbury; many of the others debtors lived not far from Wedgwood.
4. As with a number of wills in the parish, there is no philanthropy towards church or poor.
5. From the evidence I would suggest that John Stonior was an unmarried man who

lived with his brother William. (William Stonier of Wedgwood served as constable in 1625).The inventory shows no possessions besides his clothes and some sheep. Maybe he disposed of the rest of his goods during his lifetime.

6. The nephew John Hodgkinson married Ann Burslem in 1628, and became a husbandman in Brerehurst (1637). Another John Hodgkinson (his son?) represented Wedgwood as thirdborough in 1654 and suffered a number of bereavements in 1658 and 1659 when an epidemic hit the parish. These burials were recorded:

1658 Dec 22 Marie dau of John Hodgkinson

1658/9 Jan 30 William son of John Hodgkinson

1658/9 Feb 20 John son of John Hodgkinson

1659 Apr 5 Ann dau of John Hodgkinson

1659 May 14 Thomas son of John Hodgkinson

7. The appraiser William Williams, clerk, according to the testimony of a churchwarden Richard Bromsull only stayed in Wolstanton parish for nine or ten days, before going to Yorkshire ('so it was thought'), leaving his wife behind. The Anne Burslem mentioned, according to the vicar, 'was unlawfully begotten with child within the time aforesaid and that the said Anne was unlawfully married.'

103 John Nicklin of Wolstanton, no will, buried 5th February 1627/8, inventory taken 6th February, administration granted 12th February.

103.1 Inventory

A true & perfect Inventory of all & singular ye Goods Chattels & Cattels w[hi]ch John Nickils late of ye towne and parish of woolstanton dyed possessd of as they were prized ye sixh of February 1627 by vs whose names are subscribed

an old barren cow	£1	10s	
in brasse & a pewter dish	£1		
in bedding		13s	4d
in boords bedstockes & wooden ware		10s	
In yron ware & husbandly implements		3s	4d
in Treenware		2s	
in poultry		3s	4d
in apparell w[hi]ch he wore		5s	8d
Sum[m]a	£4	15s	4d

prizers John Moreton senior Thomas Henshaw Junior

Out of these goods was bestowed by ye relict on her husbands buryall 10s 2d

The defunct owes ye sum[m]e of 10s w[hi]ch ye Relict meanes to discharge.

103.2 Notes

1. Francis Capps the vicar was probably instrumental in getting an inventory taken, acting as scribe, and saving Anne Nicklin the widow the cost of journeys to Lichfield (to submit an account of her expenses) by listing them with the inventory. The writer's hasty scrawl and liability to embarrassing errors (such as referring to the dead person as if still alive) are characteristic. Normally a person with so few goods of value would have escaped the attentions of the church authorities in Lichfield.

Anne's 10s 2d would have been spent on the burial fee and drink. (The poorest parishioners were exempt from the payment of a mortuary.)

2. In 1610 John Nicklin had been occupying a cottage in Wolstanton (with an orchard or croft), which was then leased to John Moreton. As John Moreton already had a farm-house of his own to live in, the likelihood is that John Nicklin continued to occupy the cottage as a sub-tenant.

He acted as a thirdborough for Wolstanton on a number of occasions from 1603, and perhaps before that.

3. There was no corn for the poultry. Nor was there hay to feed the barren cow, but John Nicklin had Wolstanton Marsh, which offered over 30 acres of common pasture. The cow would be fattened on the spring grass when it appeared and then sold to a butcher.

104 John Bowyer the elder of Knutton, yeoman, will dated 18th February 1627/8, buried ?2nd March, inventory taken 4th March, date of probate 6th March.

104.1 Will

Sick of body; to be buried in such place as to my executors shall be thought convenient.

To John Bowyer my son: 12d for his child's part.

To Joan Bowyer, daughter of my son John: 10s.

To Marie Hill, my daughter: 12d.

To John Hill, son of my daughter Marie Hill: 10s.

To William Hill, Josua, Alice, and Sara Hill, sons and daughters of my daughter Marie Hill: 12d each.

To Isaac, Thomas, Edward, Ane, Elizabeth and Margrett, sons and daughters of Edward Heath of Keele: 12d each.

To John Hill, Katheren Hill, and Ann Hill, son and daughters of John Hill of Shelton: 12d each.

To Jane, Ellin and Elizabeth, daughters of John Baddelie of Madelie: 3s 4d each.

To Margrett Cowdall my daughter, and to every one of the children: 12d.

To Ellin my daughter: 12d.

Residuary legatee and executor: Joan my wife.

March the fourth an[no] d[omi]n[i] 1627

104.2 Inventory

A true and p[er]fett inventorie of all the goods Cattelles and Chattells of John Bowyer of Knotton deceased

foure oxen

sixe kine or heffers

foure sterkes

two Caulfes

sixe sheepe

two mares

two swine

poultre

all beddinge and napperie

brasse pewt[e]r and Iron ware

boards fourmes and bedstidds)

a Cubboard Chestes & arkes)

all Coperie and treene Ware)

weanes plowes yokes and all oth[e]r)

Implem[en]ts belonging to husbandrie)

a hand milne swine tubbe and troughes

Coarne Hea and Manure

bacon beeffe and Whyte meate

his Wearinge apparrell and money in his purse

Taken the fourth day of March in the yeare of o[u]r lord god 1627 by theise whose names are here Vnder Written

John Clownam Richard Wood John Hill William Gibson

104.3 Notes

1. From 1595 onwards he represented the township of Knutton on at least seven annual occasions as thirdborough, and therefore must have owned land within Knutton. In addition he owned land in Shelton and Hanley, amounting in 1615 to about 30 acres (in modern terms), and his heir was his son John - an illustration of how misleading the will is over inheritance of copyhold land. (Inheritance of copyhold land followed the custom of the manor, so the will did not need to mention it.)

2. Besides his children and grandchildren, he also remembers in his will his stepson John Baddellie of Madeley and his daughter Marie Hill's in-laws.

105 Mary Bourne of Little Chell, widow, will dated 3rd March 1627/8, buried 12th March, administration granted 4th July, inventory taken 12th July, exhibited 15th July 1628.

Nuncupative will

Memorandum that the third daye of march in the year of o[u]r lord god 1627 or theiraboutes that Marye Bourne of litle Chell of the p[ar]ish of wolstanton in the County of Stafford widowe nowe deceased being then in p[er]fect memorie Did Declare her mynde for the Disposeinge of her goodes Cattell & Chattells as followeth That ys to saye Her mynde was that John Bourne her yongest sonne shoulde have and enjoy all her goodes Chattells and Chattells whatsoeu[er] that shee was owner of. The said John Bourne meantayneinge her the said Marye w[i]th meate Drinke app[ar]ell attendantes and lodginge w[i]th other necesaries Conveyent and fitt for her Degree and callinge duringe her naturall liffe And also that the said John Bourne shoulde paye and Discharge all her Debtes that of right or consyance she then was owinge or was in Debted to anie And alsoe shee Did request the said John Bourne after her Debtes so [satisfied] and payed he woulde be contented to giue the Children of marye bagnall some p[ar]te of the overplus (if anie the[ir] weare in the handes of [hsem?] the s[ai]d John) In wites of Richard Bourne Mary Bagnall

105.1 Inventory

A trwe and p[er]fect Inventory of all the goodes Chattells and Cattells of Mary Bourne of wolstanton in the County of Staff[ord] widdow deceased: had and taken the tweluth daie of July in the fourth yeare of the raigne of o[u]r Sou[er]aigne Lord Charles by the grace of god of England, Scotland Fraunc and Ireland kinge defendo[r] of the fayth &c prayed and valeded by William Brett Hugh Ford and Richard Leigh as followeth.
one lease of a Messuage called the Bancke house w[i]thall Landes theirvnto belonging for the tearm of twelue years aft[er] the Testato[r]s death prased att a hundreth & four kyne and one heffer Sterke
one other Cowe
one Sterke
two Swyne
wooll
brasse and pewt[er] c[er]taine old Iron and Irone ware
five Coffers
beddinge
tryne ware
one little Table w[i]th boardes and shilfs
two old Arkes w[i]th bedstids
poultry
apparell

105.2 Notes

1. Formal agreements to maintain an aged parent were not uncommon, certainly in the Middle Ages. If she was recently widowed, then Mary Bourne's husband could have been William Burne of Little Chell who was buried 23rd May 1627, apparently without leaving a will.
2. The administrator of Mary Bourne's "will" (as it is referred to) was John Bourne of Little Chell, yeoman. John Bourne of Little Chell, gentleman, who died a bachelor in 1660, had land in Great Chell, and his nephews and nieces were the beneficiaries of his will.
3. Despite the misleading way of presenting it, the lease is in fact valued at £120, not £20. It is one of the few high-value leases in the collection, exceeded only by Margaret Eardley's lease worth £133 13s 4d.
4. The spare bedsteads were being stored in the barn along with arks which at one time would have held grain.
5. Wool amounting to £2 in value represented 3 stone (19kg) in Isabell Smiths inventory (1605).
6. There exist references to: Richard Burne of Bankehowse (1573) and William Burne of Bankhouse (1583). In 1664/5 a daughter was born to Richard Baddiley of Bankhouse who was still living there in 1678. There is another reference to Bankhouse in 1686, but none afterwards.

106 **Richard Wyldbloud [?of Brerehurst], will dated 10th May 1628, buried June 1628, date of probate 19th June 1628, inventory taken 26th June 1628.**

106.1 Will

Being sick in body: to be buried in Christian burial at the discretion of my executrix.
To Thomas Wyldbloud my son: one cupboard standing in his house, to remain to th2e use of William Wyldbloud his son after Thomas' decease.
To William and Richard Wyldbloud my sons: 12d in the name of their child's part.
To Ales Wyldbloud daughter of Thomas Wyldbloud: one lamb.
To Richard Wyldbloud the son of Richard Wyldbloud my son: one lamb.
To Elin Wyldbloud the daughter of Richard Wyldbloud my son: 12d
To Margret Wyldbloud the daughter of William Wyldbloud: 12d
To John [?deyne] my godson: 12d.
To William Booth, Katherine Booth and Elizabeth Booth: 12d
Residuary legatee and executrix: Elnor my now wife.
Debts owing me: in the hands of Mr Edowes of Shropshire - 50s 8d; and in the hands of Renald Warther of Shropshire - £3 3s 4d.

Debts which the testator owes: To William Wyldblood - 13s
[signs by mark] Witnesses: William Boothe, Robbert Maxfield, Katherine Boothe,
Thomas Gough.

106.2 Inventory

A true and perfect Inventory of all the goodes Cattels and Chattels moueable and vn-
moueable of Richard Wyldblod deceased 26 June 1628

three Cowes

one horse and one mare

fiue old sheep and 2 lambs

one swine

one payre of wheels

Brasse and pewter & treene ware

bedinge woole and napree ware

one dishbord and bedstooches and cofers & one table one grate and other Ireon ware
and all other such like implementes

his apparrell

two henns

monie oinge to the testator from Mr edowes dwellinge w[i]thin the Countie of Solope

another payre of old wheeles

Praysed By vs John maxfield Richard Whytovgh Thomas wyldblood Richard wyld-
blood

106.3 Notes

1. The date of burial is given as 27th June in the printed publication of the parish register.
2. Richard and Elinor got married in 1624. William Booth, Katherine Booth and Elizabeth Booth must be Elinor's children and Richard's step-children. Elinor carried both her married names at death in 1647 - the parish register calls her Elinor Booths alias Wildblood.
3. The price of the horse and mare must put them at the bottom of the price range. His grown-up sons must have got any carts and husbandry ware he had. What he has left to pass on to his widow are cows (for milking) and sheep (for wool) plus a horse and mare which he used for his business. The nature of this is unspecified but it involved travelling to Shropshire, as shown by his two trade debts. He has not been engaged recently in farming of any sort.
4. Richard Wyldblood had been a collier living in the township of Brerehurst in the 1600's, probably occupying a messuage which had about 9 acres (statute measure) of land going with it. His son Thomas is known to have been living in Brerehurst in 1626. It sounds as though the cupboard stayed in the Brerehurst house after his father had moved out.

107 Tobias Cooke of Knutton, yeoman, date of will 8th May 1628, buried 24th May, inventory taken 15th May, date of probate 23rd May.

107.1 Will

Being sick in body; [burial place not specified].
 To my son William Coocke: all my lands, goods and chattels.
 Executor: my son William Coocke.
 Witnesses: John Clownam, Roger Loe.

107.2 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect Inventory of all the goodes and Chatteles of Tobias Coocke latly decessed praysed the xvth daye of Maye 1628 by vs John Clownam Willia[m] Gibson John Biche Thomas Fenton

quicke goodes

three kine	£8		
tow twinter heghfers	£3		
one bullock stercke	£1	6s	8d
one Caulfe		10s	
three mares	£6	10s	
seven shipe	£2	6s	8d

dead goodes

Brasse and puter	£2	13s	4d
Beddinge and nappery ware	£3	6s	8d
his wearinge apparell	£2		
money in his purse		10s	
iron ware		6s	8d
one Carte plowes and all Implementes of husbandrie w[i]th Saddles and horse geeres	£2		
boardes bedstockes & all trine ware		10s	
fleshe and all whitmeat		10s	
woolle Clouth toe and yorne	£1		
Cofers Cheeres and stoules		5s	
one dou[n]ge hill		5s	
Corne in the house and on the grounde	£1	6s	8d
all other thinges of Smale value		1s	

Som[m]e is £30 7s 9d

[Actual sum £36 7s 8d]

107.3 Notes

1. It is an indented inventory.
2. He was a freeholder.
3. His son William died six years later.
4. The burial date must be an error.

108 Margery Johnson, widow, will dated 9th May, buried 13th May, inventory taken 18th May, date of probate 23rd May 1628.

108.1 Will

Sick in body; (burial place not specified).

To William Johnson my son: 40s and linen to make him two shirts (for his child's part).

To Thomas Haskey: 5s.

To William Haskey the younger: 12d.

To Anne Haskey: 12d.

To John Haskey: 12d.

To every one of my godchildren: 12d.

To John Johnson my grandchild: the best voyder in my house but one and the best candlestick but one; and 40s at age 21 to be paid by my executor.

To my sister Joane Haskey: the best gown I have but one, my best petticoat and one smock.

I give the rest of my workaday clothes to the poor, where my executor shall think most fit.

To Alice Johnson my daughter-in-law: my best gown, my best petticoat, one smock, two coffers and two bands.

To Margerit Barker of Leek, Richard Barker and Robert Barker: 12d apiece.

Residuary legatee: William Johnson my grandchild; or if he dies before 21, to John Johnson, son of my son William Johnson.

Executors: James Gowbourne, and my son William Johnson.

Witnesses: William Haskey the elder, William Arriam the younger, Elizabeth Twyford.

Margery Johnson signs with a mark.

108.2 Inventory

A true & perfect Inventory of all & singular ye goods Chattels & Cattels which Margery Johnson late of ye parish of woolstanten dyed beeing a widow possessed of by vs whose names are subscribed may 18 1628

4 boxes & small ware

3 Flocke beds 3 payre of sheetes)

4 Covelets 2 boulstes one feather bed pillow)

boulder one feather pillow 3 blakets)
 five flaxen sheetes
 23 payre of Hempten sheetes
 2 flaxen towells 2 flaxen table Clothes 2 pillow beares & napkins
 4 Smoks one wallet
 in other napery wares
 2 sacks & other trumpery stuffe
 2 old carpets
 4 yarde of [?Kyrsey] 3 yarde of Medley
 34 yarde of flaxen cloth
 7 chestes
 one table 2 formes
 4 payles 1 barrell 1 ferkin 1 kennell 4 [w?]heeles & other treen ware
 in lin[n]en yarne
 in Hempten & Flaxen tow
 2 payre of Shoes
 dyed wool
 8 pewter dishes 8 [?saucers] Candlesticks 2 salts 1 pewter quart 1 cup 3 dozen of
 Spones
 4 brasse kettles 2 pots 2 skellets 2 ladles 1 skimer
 in yronware
 in meale meale & oates
 in syves coales & other trumpery stuffe whatsoever
 in money
 in waring apparell
 Prizers William Smyth William Burslem Will [check if this was deleted] John Turnocke

108.3 Notes

1. The lady is likely to have been a resident of Wolstanton. (Thomas Haskye was third-borough for Wolstanton in 1599, John Turnock and William Johnson likewise in 1632; and William Smyth lived in Wolstanton until 1629.)
2. A voyder is a tray taken to the table to remove used dishes. John Smyth of Keele, gentleman, at his death (1619/20) had 'one voyder bason and ewer' worth 13s 4d.
3. The handwriting of the inventory is poor - hence some of the puzzles in the text.
4. The boxes contained 'small ware', a term still (or recently) used for small textile items such as tape or braid, but could also embrace other items of the peddler or street-trader.
5. Sempstresses and tailors made garments from the cloth brought to them by the customer. So (if Margaret Johnson is a sempstress) any unfinished goods in her cottage or house would not be counted as her possessions. The number of hempten sheets is too many to be for her own use. Was this a sheet factory?
6. Shirts were normally made at home. The bands referred to in the will are worn round the neck like a detached collar. Smocks in this period were undergarments, and petticoats were over-garments - the reverse of what we might expect!

The valuation of the kersey cloth has been changed from 8s to 4s. At a shilling a yard this falls within the very wide variation in prices paid for kersey (between 4d per yard and 6s 8d per yard in the period 1610 to 1660) that Margaret Spufford discovered in analysing probate accounts. (See Spufford M The Cost of Apparel in Seventeenth Century England in The Economic History Review Vol LIII No 4 Nov 2000).

7. A wallet was a bag used by travellers to carry provisions - as in Shakespeare's: Time hath, my lord, a wallet at his back....(Troilus and Cressida).

8. William & Mary Johnson had a child, Ralph, baptized in Nov 1629.

9. Margery Johnson has some of the characteristics of a chapman eg 4 boxes & small ware, the 34 yards of flaxen cloth. She must have run a small shop in Wolstanton where she sold hempen sheets, smallware and maybe made-up clothing. The person who was to inherit her stock was a grandchild. Obviously as a child he would not run the shop. But his parents would continue the business - if only to sell off the remaining stock - and account to him for the earnings when he reached 21 years.

109 John Brett esquire of Dimsdale, died 31st January [1627/8?], no will, inventory dated 24th March 1627/8, exhibited 19th June 1628.

109.1 Inventory

An Inventarie of all the goodes, vtinsills, houshold Implem[en]tes, Cattells & Chattalls of John Brett of Dimsdall in the p[ar]lish of Wolstanton in the County of Stafford Esq[ui]re deceased, taken at his house at Dimsdall aforesaid and prized by John Clownam of Knutton, John Cowall of Chesterton & John Moreton of Wolstanton as foresaid in the said County of Stafford yeome[n] the twentie fourth day of March in the yeare of our lord one thousand sixe hundred twenty seven.

Foure oxen, eight kine, foure yong calves,
eight yeareling Calves, Tenn sterkes, three
mares, twoe coultes, Seven swine & pullen 84 13 04

Corne vpon the groundes, corne in the barnes
& hay 21 00 00

Sum[ma] 105 13 04

In lynnens and flaxen yarne 04 00 00

In Brasse, pewter & iron ware a Clocke and
a Bell 12 00 00

In bedding Carpetes & cushions, together
w[i]th a peice of new medley cloth 18 19 04

Tables, formes, bedstedes chaires & stooles
in severall roomes [Chests?] [torn] trunkes,
presses, cupboardes, shelves, mapps & pictures,
barrels & tubs together w[i]th other lumber
all prized at 07 05 02

Houshold provision, In butter, cheese, beife,
 bacon, corne threshed in the house, hempe
 & flaxe 05 09 02
 Husbandry Implem[en]tes of all sortes, together
 w[i]th all the Implem[en]tes for the Mill & dunge
 about ye house 12 06 08
 plate together w[i]th his apparell & books 13 13 04
 Furniture for ye light horse 05 00 00
 Sum[ma] 78 13 08
 Summa total[is] £184 07s 00d

109.2 Notes

1. The inventory was written on parchment, with Gothic script used in the margin.
2. One of the leading figures in the area, John Brett was lord of the manor of Knutton (which included Dimsdale as a member), as well as owning property in Newcastle (including eight properties in the High Street) and 100 acres of land in Penkhull, Shelton and Hanley. His agricultural activities would have centred on his estate in Dimsdale. According to an advertisement in 1831, being lord of the manor of Knutton carried with it the "right of fishery in the well-stocked pools of water on Knutton Heath". His heir was his son Edward who was aged 31.
3. The date of his burial does not appear in the Wolstanton parish register; his widow Mary Brett who died thirty years later says in her will that her husband was buried in the church of Keele.
4. Known as Dimsdale Old Hall, his house survived until its demolition in 1940. A rear view shows a large black-and-white timbered building in ruinous condition. Its site is now occupied by Wolstanton Golf Club. An engraving of about 1840 shows the front view of a long two-storey building, broken by four gables each having dormer-windows. The chimney stacks are at either end and in the middle, serving some of the nine hearths which we know the house had in 1666. An inventory of 1696 mentions 7 grates, including one in the brewhouse, an outbuilding. The grates in John Brett's inventory are included under 'iron ware'. In 1696 one end of the house was in the hands of Beech - to be identified with William Beech of Dimsdale, yeoman who in 1698 took on the lease of Bradwell Hall and its lands for 4 years.
5. 'a Clocke and a Bell' - these are in a garret in the 1696 inventory and priced at £2 15s 0d. Could the clock face have been fixed to the outside of the building?
6. 'the Mill' . The 1696 inventory itemizes a handmill in the brewhouse.
7. The inventory mentions several items, such as maps and pictures, not found in other Wolstanton inventories of this period. The light house is a puzzle. The OED does not mention any non-maritime use of the word; the earliest use of the word it gives is in 1622. The word does not appear in Shakespeare - but then neither does 'glasshouse'. The transcription used by Andrew Dobraszczyć gives 'light horse' - this makes more sense; the 'furniture' then refers to the trappings for a horse such as saddle, etc.
8. The Inquisition Post Mortem for John Brett is dated 27th March 1633 and is in the Public Record Office (C142/629/38). It gives the day of his death, and states that he

held the manor of Knutton, 10 messuages, 50 acres of land, 5 acres of meadow and 40 acres of pasture with appurtenances. in the manor of Newcastle-under-Lyme. Except for the ten messuages, this is similar to the holding for John Brett esquire given in the 1615 survey of (mainly copyhold) land in the manor of Newcastle under Lyme..

110 Jane Lawton, [widow], no will, buried 14th February 1628/9, inventory taken 10th March 1628/9 [Mon], date of administration 14th March 1628/9.

110.1 Inventory

An Inventory of the goodes and Chattells of Jane Lawton in the parish of Woolstanton deceased taken the xth of Ma[rch] 1628
one Bond or Bill of forty pounds for the paym[en]t of twenty pounds. Due by Henry Aderley brother to the deceased.
Ra[lph] Adderley

110.2 Note

Could she be the widow of Robert Lawton, gentleman whose inventory was taken 10th January 1609/10?

111 Raffe Prince [of Stadmerlowe] of the parish of Wolstanton, yeoman, will dated 19th Mar 1628/9, buried 9th July 1629, inventory taken 13th July, date of probate 14th July.

In the name of God Amen The Nineteenth daye of March in the Yeere of o[u]r lord god One Thousand six hundred Twentie & eight I Raph Prince of the parish of Wolstanton in the Diocesse of Litchfield & Coventrie yeoman beinge sicke in body but of good & p[er]fect Memorie, god be thanked therefore Doe here Make and ordeine this my p[re]sent Testament, containing therein my last will as followeth Imprimis I bequeath my soule to god my maker trustinge to obteine pardon of all my sins through the meritts & satisfaccon of Jesus Christ my redeemer, And my body to be buried in Christian buriall Item I giue to my sonne william Prince Twentie pownds to be paid him when he shall accomplish the age of one and Twentie yeeres Item I giue to my said sonne william a Coffe w[hi]ch standeth att the windowe in the Celler and a Medley Caddow. Item I giue to my sonne Thomas Prince Twentie pownds to be likewise paid him at the age of one & Twentie yeeres One Coffe & my second brasse pott: Item I giue to my

sonne John Thirtie pownds to be paid him att the age of one & Twentie yeeres: Item I giue to my sonne Robert Prince Thirtie pownds to be paid him att the age of one & Twentie yeeres as aforesaid Item I giue to my daughter Elisabeth Prince One Messuage or Tennement wherin John Rowley al[ia]s Burslem doth nowe inhabitt & dwell and seuen Acres of freehold Land thereto belonginge & app[er]teininge & lyinge on the further side of the lane To haue & to hold the said Messuage or Ten[emen]te and the said seuen Acres of freehold land w[i]th all & euery their app[ur]t[en]anc[es] to the said Elisabeth Prince her heires & assignes for euer Provided neuerthelesse & my will is That if Raph Prince sonne & heire of me the said Raph Prince shall paie or cause to be paid to my said Daughter Elisabeth the summe of Fowre score pounds of currant English money att such time as she shall accomplish the age of Eighteene yeeres that than this my bequest to be void otherwise to stand in full force & power. Item my will is that if my said Daughter Elisabeth dye before she accomplish the age of Eighteene yeeres Thatt then my foure yonger sonnes (or soe manie of them as shall be livinge) shall haue hold and enioye the said Messuage or ten[emen]te & the said seuen Acres of land thereto belonginge in as full and ample Manner & vpon the same proviso & Condison as is formerlie expressed & contained in the bequest to my said Daughter Elisabeth Moreouer my will is that if anie of my said sonnes shall dye before he accomplish the age of one and Twentie yeeres That than his or their porcon or porc[i]ons shalbe equallie divided amongst my other younger sonnes w[hi]ch shall survive & be livinge.

Item I giue & bequeath to my said daughter Elisabeth my best panne my best pott A white Caddow and my Clothes Coffer Item I giue to my beloued wife all the rest of my brasse and pewter. Moreouer I giue & bequeath to my two executors hereafter Nominated all the residue of my goods Cattels and Chattells whatsoever of what nature & condic[i]on soeuer & in whose Custodie & possession soeuer the same be or remaine vpon the Condisons & to the vses purposes & intents hereafter in this my will expressed Together w[i]th the dwelling house I doe nowe inhabitt & dwell & all edefices and buildings therto belonginge And Nineteene Acres of land to the said house belonginge & app[er]teininge To haue & to hold to my said executors hereafter nominated the said dwelling house, edefices & buildings & the said Nineteene Acres of land for the terme & space of nine yeeres fullie to be compleate & ended to the vse intent & purpose that my said executors shall discharge & paye out of my said goods cattels & Chattells. & out of the said terme of Nine yeeres of the said dwellinge house & Nineteene acres of land the legacies by this my will giuen to my fowre younger sonnes And shall likewise well & sufficientlie educate Mainteine & bringe vp my said younger sonnes & my said Daughter till they shall accomplish the seuerall ages heretofore in this my will menconed & expressed. And after the end & expiracon of the said Nine yeeres I giue & bequeath to my beloued wife the Moitie or one halfe of my said dwellinge house & the moitie or one halfe of all edifices buildings, gardens yards orchards thereto belonginge & the Moitie or one halfe of all the said Nineteene acres of land (except one Close or pasture called the Daw hey) w[i]th all & euerie their app[ur]t[en]ances, duringe her Naturall life: Item I doe constitute appoint & ordeine my said wife & my said sonne Raph Prince executors of this my will & Testament And I appoint & Make william Burslem of Brownelees and George Hanson ouerseers thereof: In witsesse wherof I haue herevnto sett my hand and seale the daye & yeere

first Abouewritten:

In the presence of

Richard Drakford

Robert Hodgkinson

Debts due to me: Raffe Gardner of Greaseley in the parish of Prestbury - £4 6s 8d.

111.1 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect Inventorie of All the goodes And cattels that were Raffe princes
At the tyme of his deafe seene vewed And praysed the Thertienth daye of July Anno
D[omi]ni 1629 by John Maxfeild, John Burslem Will[ia]m Burslem And John myles.

Sixe keyne	£15		
Sixe steres And two twinter Bullockes	£14		
two twinter heffers	£4		
fore heffer stirkes And for calves	£4		
one mare And one colt	£5		
15 sheepe And sixe lambes	£3	6s	8d
two swyne	£1	6s	8d
17 geese with some pullen		7s	8d
weanes, plowes, harnesses And yokes	£1		
plowe Irens, cheanes, mattokes, showes) And other thinges belonginge to husbandry)		13s	4d
Brasse and pewter	£6	13s	4d
sixe silver spones	£2		
All Beddinge	£10		
Bedsheetes And naperie ware	£3		
wool And yorne	£1		
one peece of woollen cloth		13s	4d
one grate, broch, golberdes tonges and crowe of Iren	£1	6s	8d
All treene ware	£1		
coffers bedstides tables, formes shilfes cheeres And stoles .	£6		
butter And chees	£1	10s	
little hand mille	£1		
corne meale And malt in the howse	£2		
corne on the ground	£6		
his Apparrell And money in his purse	£3		
Sum	£100	10s	8d

[Actual sum: £93 17s 8d]

M[emorand]um that there is further owinge to the deccadent by Raffe Gardener
£3 6s 8d

111.2 Notes

1. Greaseley - no equivalent in present-day Prestbury. Raph Gardner married the daughter of John Smith of Heath End.
2. The names Prince and Burslem appear on the 1666 Hearth Tax list for Stadmorlowe. Brown Lees is a place or farm in Stadmoreslowe on a rate assessment list of 1768, is shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map and is a place and the name of a farm on the modern map.
3. In the grant of probate, the executors are referred to as Katherine Prince of Stadmerlowe and Raph Prince of the same township and place, yeoman. Katherine Prince, widow, was buried 25th March 1637, and the date of probate is 1st April.
4. Robert, son of Ralph and Katherine Prince, was baptized 13th Aug 1626.
5. 'Sixe steres And two twinter Bullockes' - perhaps a mistake for 'two steres And two twinter Bullockes' which is what his father had. The price seems far too low otherwise.

112 William Addams of Fowlea, freemason, will dated 5th October, buried 16th October, inventory taken 17th October, date of probate 22nd December 1629.

112.1 Will

My body to be interred in the parish church of Woolstanton.

To Anne Addams my wife: £80.

My wife is now quick with child; I give it the lease of my house in Foule lie and Randle Dakin's rent which he ought to pay me viz. £6 for certain years. If the child dies before the lease expires, I give the reversion of the child's legacies to William Addams, son of my brother John. Provided likewise that the said William shall pay £10 unto my sister Joan Addams spinster if he enters on [a] new lease, and £5 apiece to sisters Anne and Elizabeth.

Forasmuch as John did cast a bastard on me, I give unto the said bastard 30s a year, so long as the law hath provided and enjoined I must keep it.

To my goddaughter, Margaret Hales: 40s.

Joint executors: John Addams, my brother, Thomas Walter, my brother-in-law and Anne Addams my wife; and to have the tuition of my child.

[To Thomas Addams, son of John Addams: my best cloak - added in codicil] Residuary legatees: my child (half) and executors, my brother John's children [and Joane Addams, his wife - added in codicil], my sisters and their children (the other half), provided that my mother Anne Addams shall have 40s a year.

Signed: William Addams.

Witnesses: Francis Capps, John Addams, John Morton.

112.2 Inventory

A true and perfect Inventory of all & singular ye goods Cattels & Chattels wch Willia[m] Addams of Woolstanton Parish in ye County of staff lately deciated dyed possessed of; as they were prized by vs whose names are vnder written. ye 17th of October 1629

sixe kyne	£17		
sixe Steeres	£13	6s	8d
two mares	£5		
two calves	£1		
two swine	£1	10s	
in corne & hay	£10	10s	
in all manner of husbandry ware and implements therto belonging	£5	6s	8d
in Brasse & pewter and one Frying pan	£2	14s	
all man[n]er of Treen ware		10s	
5 coffers & 1 Trunke	£1	10s	
a cubbard 1 coffer & boord		15s	
in butter & cheese	£4	6s	8d
in bedding & sheetes	£2	6s	
1 table cloth 1 towell 6 napkins		5s	
4 payre of bedstockes		8s	
1 basket & quisket & cheese cratch & manger		3s	6d
yron ware & a boord & a baking stone		6s	8d
4 swine troughs		1s	
19 tun of limestone	£2	16s	
in debts as appeareth by bonds & otherwise acknowledged	£88	6s	4d
one dozen of spones		2s	6d
ye lease of his house for foureteene yeare in beeing	£50		
one particular debt of Randle Dakins for certaine yeares	£24		
his other apparell & money in his purse	£2		
his best cloake	£1		
in marle & manure		3s	4d
in woole yarne & feathers		6s	8d
in pullen		1s	6d
Sum[m]a totalis	£233	15s	6d

prizers Thomas Sergeant John Muchall John Walter John Morton

112.3 Notes

1. William Addams is referred to as 'of Foule-ley' in the list of burials in the parish register. A hundred years ago a farm called Fowlea stood where the A500/Etruria Rd roundabout now is. Probably from the mid-seventeenth century onwards, and perhaps earlier, there were other houses at Fowlea, some of them in the neighbouring parish of Stoke. He had the lease of his house which he bequeaths to his posthumous child, and which is valued at £50 in the inventory. It is likely he was a tenant of the Colcloughs. As a freemason (at this time it meant just 'mason') he would have had access to a quarry. The name 'Stone Hole Field' is given in the 1839 Tithe Award to a field less than a quarter of a mile away from Fowlea, and in Addams' time might have been part of the Colclough estate. In 1615 Sir Thomas Colclough was owner of land in this vicinity which was rented to Randle Dakin, possibly the father of the Randle Dakin mentioned here.
2. William Addams had acknowledged his responsibility for the bastard and undertook to pay maintenance, which his will enjoins should be continued. However, he claims on his death bed that his brother is the real father.
3. The executors are referred to in the probate note as: Anne Addams of Wolstanton, widow; John Addams of Bagnald, yeoman; and Thomas Walter of Blurton, tailor.
4. 'Quiskett' - whiskett ie a straw basket, principally for feeding cattle.
5. '19 tun of limestone' - the earliest mention of limestone in a Wolstanton parish inventory. Mortar and plaster were both made from lime (obtained from limestone). The other use of lime is for spreading on the land. Either use might be appropriate for William Addams. A lease of 1698 relating to land in Bradwell gives the tenant liberty to "get limestone and burne it in or upon any part of the parke or pastures and to carry it away for the improvement of the premises only." An article by Pollard J E & Wiseman Julie in Proceedings of The Yorkshire Geological Society Vol 38 part 3 No 15. 1971 which is available in Hanley reference library [See this for more information] mentions a limetone bed in Chesterton.
6. As with Raph Prince, the alleged high price for calves in 1629/30 doesn't seem to affect this area.
7. The writer of the will and inventory has the distinctive handwriting of the vicar Francis Capps. The flamboyantly designed preamble to the inventory and the correction in the first line ('oxen' was crossed out and replaced with 'kyne') are compatible with what we know of him.

113 William Eardley of Grubbers Hill, no will, buried 28th February 1629/30, date of inventory 1st March 1629/30, administration granted 14th May 1630.

113.1 Inventory

A trew and perfect Inventory of all the goodes and Cattels of William Eardley of Grubbers Hill in the p[ar]ish of Woolstanton and Count[y] of Stafford. late deseased taken

the first day of March Anno dom[ini] 1629. prised by vs Richard Wood, John Smith, and William Bowers.

Fowre oxen

Fowre steares

Tenn kine and one bull

Six Twinters

Six yearlinges

Three mares and Two Coultres

Thertie and eight sheepe

Two stoore swine

All the poultry

Corne in the barne and Corne in ye howse

All the hay

Corne on the ground

All waynes Cartes and plowes w[i]th all other implementes for husbandry

All Chaynes

All the Brasse and pewter

All the beds and all bedding

sheetes and all nappery ware

All Bedstedes, Chestes, Coffers, presses, Cubbordes, Tables, formes, Cheares, stooles, and shelfes,

All Coumpes barrells stundes w[i]th all other Trinen ware

One Iron furnace w[i]th one Iron pott and ketle and all Chaynes grates spites w[i]th all other implementes w[gi]thin the howse

All the meaner

One Chattell

For his wearing apparell and money in his pursse

One Bible w[i]th other bookes

fiat ad[m]i[nistraci]o bonoru[m] que fu[er]unt suprad[i]c[t]i defuncti, M[ar]garete Eardley Reli[ct]e d[i]c[t]i defuncti

Tuic[i]o eidem Margarete pro educaconie Joh[ann]is, Will[iam]i et Sare Eardley liberoru[m] d[i]c[t]i defuncti in minori etate existen[tium] &c

Ob[ligentur] d[i]c[t]a Margareta Eardley de Grubbers hill in Com[itati] Staff[ordi] vidua et Henricus Bourne de le [feld?] in Chesterton in d[i]c[t]o Com[itati] yeoman

113.2 Note

'meaner' = manure.

114 Raphe Robinson of Great Chell, husbandman, will dated 7th July 1628, buried 11th July, inventory taken 11th July, date of probate 15th July.

114.1 Will

Sick in body; I commit my body to the earth from whence it was.

To James Brundley: 10s.

To Anthonie Beech, son of James Beech of Tunstall: a pair of breeches and a pair of stockings.

To the children of Thomas Bealye of Great Chell: 6d each.

To Thomas Bourne, the son of Thomas Bourne of Great Chell: a doublet and a jerkin.

Residuary legatee and executrix: my sister Margrett Robinson.

Overseers: Anthonie Beech, James Beech and John Bourne of Chell.

Witnesses: Anthonie Beech, James Beech, John Bourne.

Debts due to me Raphe Robinson

of Tunstall owes me	£6	10s
Thomas Beech of Houghon	£2	
William Rowley of Brodfeild	£3	
James Brundley	£1	10s
Thomas Smith of Tunstall	£1	
Widow Baggaley	£1	
John Badaley of Tunstall		10s
Jeffrye Bourne of Chell		6s
John Broade of Whitfeilde		8s

114.2 Inventory

A Trwe and p[er]fect Inventorie of all the Goodes Chattells & Som[m]es of money that weare Raphe Robinsons of greate Chell in the countye of Stafford Deceased seene and prayed the Eleventh Daye of Julye in the yeare of ou[r] Lorde God one thowsand sixe hundred twentye and eight in ma[n]ner & forme followinge

one Cowe

one other Cowe

one heafer sterke

one Calfe

c[er]taine Debtes Due to the testator w[hic]h are specfied in the will

c[er]taine mucke or Dunge

all Brasse

Iorn ware

a litle whitmeate

app[ar]ell for his bodie and money in his purs

c[er]tayne litle Coffers

114.3 Note

The appraisers have excluded napperyware, treenware and furniture from the inventory. See his sister's will and inventory two years later (Margaret Robinson, 1630). The cattle are itemised separately as they are to be sold off by his sister. This had happened before she died. Interestingly, the calf may have been sold to John Bourne, who is bequeathed 26s 8d by Margaret Robinson at her death as if cancelling a debt. It is unusual that the appraisers' names are not given. It is also unusual for a husbandman to have no corn growing. John Baggaley of Chell owed Raphe Robinson £3 at the time of his death in 1620. We don't know if the £1 his widow now owes is residual from then.

115 Margaret Robinson of Great Chell, will dated 16th April 1630, buried 2nd May, inventory taken 3rd May, date of probate 14th May 1630.

115.1 Will

Sick in body; to be buried in a Christian manner.

To Antonie Beech of Greate Chell yeoman; all the money that he owes me.

To James Beech of Greate Chell the elder: all the money that he owes me, from which he is to discharge my funeral expenses and prove my will; one chest standing in the house place; my iron grate.

To John Bourne of Litle Chell: 26s 8d.

To James Brundley of Sneyd: 20s that he owes me.

To William Rowley of Brodfield: 5s.

To Alis, Margrett and Anne Baggaley daughters of John Baggaley late of Chell deceased: 13s equally to be divided between them.

To John and Randle Baggaley their brothers: 12d apiece.

To Thomas Bourne of Greate Chell: 5s.

To Thomas Bealye of Chell: 5s.

To Jefferye Bourne of Chell; all the money that he owes me.

My wish is that the dishboard and the partition wall and the door between the chamber and the house shall remain in the house to the use of the said John Bourne.

To Thomas Beech of Houghton: 10s.

To the wife of John Pilsburye of Stanley: my worse blue medley petticoat without lace.

Residuary legatee: Jane my sister Parnell's daughter.

Executor: James Beech.

Witnesses: James Beech the younger, William Beech, Margerye Honsonn.

Debts owing by me Margrett Robinson:

To John Bourne of Litle Chell 6s 8d

Debts owing to me Margrett Robinson:

William Rowley of Brodfield	£3	
James Brundley	£1	
John Baddaley of Tunstall		10s
Thomas Smith		10s
The executors of Elizabeth Baggaley	£1	
John Rowley of Chell		4s 4d

115.2 Inventory

A Trwe and perfecte Inventorie of all the Goodes of Margrett Robinson late of Chell deceased, seene and prayed the the thirde Daye of Mai in the yeare of ou[r] Lorde God one thowsande sixe hundred and thertye, by Antonie Beech John Betson Thomas Bourne and Thomas Bealye prayrsers.

Debtes Due to the Testator and spetified by her last will & Testment

Brasse and Pewter

two payre of Bedstides

c[er]tayne Chestes

one Iron grate

a fryinge pan and other thinges

All man[n]er of Beddinge

c[er]taine stooles and treene ware

A Cubborde and otherbordes

c[er]tayne Iorne ware

Reparrell for her bodie and a purs

115.3 Notes

1. The only definite inference that can be made about the cottage is that the dishboard (which was like a Welsh dresser), partition and door separated two parts of the cottage. The division of the cottage may have dated from when her brother Ralph lived there. As John Bournes's father had previously been the owner of the property, the situation seems to be that she wishes her landlord to receive the benefit of the additions made during the tenancy.

2. Haughton is to the west of Stafford. Both James Brundley (or Bryndley) of Sneyde and Thomas Bealie (or Baylie) had land in Chell.

116 Robert Parker of Tunstall, husbandman, will dated 7th December 1630, buried 20th December, inventory taken 30th December, date of probate 28th January 1630/1.

116.1 Will

Sick in body; to be buried in the parish church of Woolstanton.

To Robert Parker my son: one lease which I hold by the demise and grant of Raphe Sneyde esquire; one pair of bedsteads with the bedding that is on them, one flaxen sheet, one cupboard, one iron grate, two whiches, pot-racks, one brundred with all manner of ironware, meal boards, benches, forms and shelves, ploughs and harrows, and all husbandry ware.

My will is that my son Robert shall pay:

to my daughter Margret: £4 within half a year of my decease.

to my daughter Ann: £4 to be paid within a year of my decease.

to my daughter Alis: £4 to be paid within a year and a half of my decease.

to my daughter Mary: £4 to be paid within two years of my decease.

to my daughter Darrytie: £4 to be paid within two and a half years of my decease.

to my daughter Margret: £4 to be paid within three years of my decease.

Residuary legatees: my five daughters, to be equally divided.

Executors: William Sherrat my brother-in-law, and my son Robert Parker.

My will and mind is that if I overlive the term of two years that this my will and testament shall stand void and of no effect.

Witnesses: Thomas Baddeley the elder, Thomas Baddeley the younger, Richard Baddeley.

116.2 Inventory

A trewe Inventorie of All the goodes Chattells & Cattels of Robert Parker of Tunstall in the p[ar]ish of woolstanton and Countie of Stafford Husbandman taken the Thertithe day December Ano Dom[ini] 1630

The reversion of one Lease houlden by the demise and grant of Raphe Sneyde Esquyre £25

five kyne

one yeare ould beast & two Caulfes

Three mares

Six sheepe

Two Swyne

Cartaine pullen

All husbandrie and Irne ware

Brasse and pewter

Beding and napprie ware

Trine ware

Chestes and Coffars
Tables benches formes and shilfes
Corne and heaye
p[ro]uisioun in the house
his wareing apparell

116.3 Notes

1. The staged payments to the five daughters will be paid out of the annual rent that son Robert will be receiving as a result of sub-letting some of the land leased from Raph Sneyd esquire. The total amounted to 41 acres in Tunstall, almost all pasture. Two of the fields, The Whitteley and Gods Croft, had been part of Tunstall's open fields before they were enclosed by agreement in 1613.

2. Almost certainly he was a widower, and the five daughters were unmarried and living together in the family home. Margaret was the first to leave, after her marriage in January, a week before probate of the will.

117 **Anthonie Colecloughe of Tunstall, husbandman, will dated 22nd January 1630/1, buried 26th January, inventory taken 2nd February[Wed], date of probate 31st March 1631**

117.1 Will

In the name of God Amen the two and twentieth Daye of Januarie in the yeare of ou[r] Lorde God one thowsande sixe hundred and thertye I Anthonie Colecloughe of Tunstall in the p[ar]ish of wolstanton and countie of Stafforde husbandman sicke in bodie but of good and p[er]fecte memorie thanks be to God theirfore Doe make and ordayne this my last will and Testament for the giueinge and Disposeinge of all my worldlie goodes and estate in man[n]er and forme followeing But first before all thinges I freelie Com[m]it And yealde vpp my soule into the handes of Almightye God my maker Trustinge that throwe the merittes of Jesus Christe my Redeemer to be made p[ar]taker of liffe Everlastinge And I Comitt my bodie to the earth of what it is It[e]m I giue and beqweath vnto Marye Colecloughe my wyffe all that my Cottage or tenement wherin I Doe Inhabit and Dwell w[i]th all yarde hempbutes and gardens to the same Cottage belonginge or app[er]tayneinge To have and to houlde the (same) to her the said Marye from the tyme of my Decease for and Dureinge the tearme and space of her naturall liffe shee keepeinge her sealf sole and vnmarried And after the Decease of the said Marye I giue and beqweath the said Cottage and p[re]misses vnto Richard Coleclough my sonne for and Dureinge the rest and Reysidue of the tearme that I have therein yet to come and vnexpyred, It[e]m I giue & beqweath vnto Ellinor Colecloughe Mary Coleclough my Daughter Margrett Colecloughe and Anne Colecloughe

my Daughters to eu[er]ye of them therteene shillinges foure pence apeece And all the rest of my goodes after that my Debtes these Legacees and my fun[er]all expences are paid and Discharged I giue and beqweath vnto the said Marye Colecloughe my wyffe whome I make my sole Executrix to see this my will p[er]formed. In witnes wherof I have h[eervnto] put my [hand ——] and year [——] aboue [——] Seene Read Published and Declared in the p[re]sence of John Gloover William Gloover the yonger John Bourne

117.2 Inventory

A True and p[er]fect Inventorie of all the goodes Cattell Chattells & Debtes whatsoever of Anthonie Colecloughe of Tunstall in the p[ar]ish of wolstanton in the countie of Stafforde Deceased seene and praysed the seconde Daye of Februarie in the yeare of ou[r] Lorde God one thowsande sixe hundred and thertie by Thomas Bourne John Tunstall & John Bourne as followeth

A Lease of a Cottage late in the Testators actuall possession

Three kyne & a Calfe

one sterke

c[er]taine haye

Brasse and Pewter

All Bedinge Bedstides Linons & Nap[er]ie ware

Boardes formes Disbordres shilues cheers stooles & c[er]taine loose boardes

Three Coffers

A Turnell and all treeneware

A Grate a Brundred a spitt a payre of goobertes a potcheane and all other iorne ware

a spinninge wheele a Dishcradle & a backstone

a Debte Due to the Testator by John Earswicke gent[leman] being aboute

App[ar]ell for his bodie and a silver spowne

117.3 Notes

1. The cottage had little land going with it. The hempbutt would be, as its name suggests, a small piece suitable for growing hemp.
2. The bill not yet paid by John Earswicke was for goods or services supplied by the family.
3. Disbordres - shelves for the display of the pewter dishes. A dish cradle must be a container for holding dishes - exactly how is not known. There is one in the inventory of a Derbyshire gentleman in 1664. (Geoffrey Frogat)

118 Raphe Whittle of Chesterton, husbandman, will dated 13th November 1630, buried 6th February 1630/1, inventory taken 11th February.

118.1 Will

Sick in body; to be buried in the parish churchyard of Woolstanton.

To my daughter Ellin Payne: the residue and remainder of the term which I have in a pasture or parcel of ground called Dyllcridding, she paying eighteen shillings yearly to my daughter Catherine two times in the year (nine shillings at the feast of the Annunciation of the the Blessed Virgin Mary and nine shillings at the feast of St Michael the Archangel) during the said term.

To my son Raphe Whittle: a leather doublet, a pair of leather breeches and a canvas overall, and a pair of medley breeches, a fustian doublet and a coat lined with bays, and my best hat and a pair of shoes.

Residuary legatee: my daughter Ellyn Payne (including my blue coat).

Executor: John Payne. + Raphe Whittle his mark

Witnesses: John Bourne, John Willat

118.2 Inventory

A true & perfect Inventory of all & singuler ye goods & Chattles of Raffe Whittle of Chesterton lately deceased as they were prized ye Eleventh day of February Anno d[omi]ni 1630 by vs whose names are subscribed

a lease of one peece of ground	£5	
al his other goods as treeneware bedstockes a brasse		
pan a bakestone & boords	£1	
his waring apparell		13s
Sum[m]a total[is]	£6	13s
John Willat Henrie Colclugh		

118.3 Notes

1. It is likely that the pasture is being sublet to someone at a rent of 36 shillings a year (assuming that the testator wants the daughters to share equally in the income). Using the rate for pasture for Chesterton from an undated but contemporary survey, this means that Dyllcridding is just under 4 customary acres in area (about 8 acres in modern terms). In 1838 Charles Eaton owned 4 acres "in Criddow" (plot no 2283 on the tithe map).

2. His son is to get working clothes and best clothes (bays is one of the more expensive materials).

3. His son-in-law John Payne is in his twenties. There is no record in Wolstanton parish register of his marriage with Ellen, but it does mention the baptisms of at least six of their children up till 1643.
4. The will and inventory are in Francis Capps' writing, who also declares that the will is a copy and agrees with the original.
5. Dorothy Wilton wife of Ralph Wilton died in 1627, which could be his wife.

119 Ellen Bourne of Great Chell, will dated 6th January 1631/2, buried 27th January, inventory taken 31st January, date of probate 14th February 1631/2.

119.1 Will

Sick in body; I commit my body to the earth from whence it is.
 To Marie Bourne my kinswoman and goddaughter: 20s.
 To William Bourne, John Bourne, Thomas Bourne, and Elizabeth Bourne my brother Jefferie's children: 5s each.
 To each of the children of my brother William Bourne recently deceased: 5s each.
 To the three children of Anne Davisson my sister (deceased): 5s each.
 To the four children of Margrett Smalewoodde my deceased sister: 5s each.
 To the three children of Thomas Bourne my brother: 5s each.
 To Anne the wife of my brother Jefferie: 5s.
 To Anne the wife of my brother Thomas: 5s.
 To my brother Jefferie Bourne: £3 6s 8d.
 Residuary legatee and executor: my brother Thomas Bourne.
 Witnesses: James Beeche, Richard Leighe, Thomas Beyle.
 [Signs by mark.]

119.2 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect Inventorie of all the goodes & Chattells of Ellen Bourne of great Chell in the p[ar]ish of wolstanton & dioces of Couentrie & Lichfeild deceased, taken & praissed the last daie of Januarie Anno d[omi]ni 1631 by vs Anthonie Beeche James Beeche Thomas Bourne & William Rowley in man[n]or & forme Followinge.
 all the pewt[e]r
 one fith[e]r bed & Chaffe bed w[i]th Certaine oth[e]r things as one boulst[e]r & one pillowe w[i]th two Cou[e]rlids & one Blankett
 fiew sheets sixe napkins w[i]th one towell w[i]th C[e]rtaine oth[e]r linens
 one Chest
 one lowme
 all the apparell & monie in her purse
 one debte of xixli vjs due by Bounde vnto the aforesayde Ellin from Gefferie Bourne her brother

119.3 Note

The contents of the inventory indicate that she was living in another person's house: by inference, her brother Jefferie's. (Geoffrey Bourne of Great Chell died in 1648.) She is a single person who has earned money, but not from weaving - the lowme is a wooden vessel, not a weaving loom, which would be priced at much more than 4d - and weaving was generally a man's occupation.

120 Thomas Henshaw the elder, date of will 23rd January 1631/2, buried 19th February, inventory taken 22nd February, date of probate 9th March.

120.1 Will

In the name of god Amen The 23 day of January Anno d[omi]ni 163i I Thomas Henshaw of Woolstanton in ye County of Staff[ord] w[i]thin ye diocesse of Coventry & Lichfield yeoman beeing sicke in body but of good & perfect memory (thankes be given to god) Doe here make & ordeyne this my last will & Testament as followeth In primis I bequeeth my soule into ye hands of Jesus christ my saviour through whose merits I beleeeve I am saved: And my body I bequeeth to be buryed in ye church yard of Woolstanton. Item I give and bequeeth to John Henshaw my grandchild one Table standing in ye house one Coffe & one Brasse pan, yet my will is yt my sonne Thomas shall have ye vse of ye same during his life. Item I give vnto my son Thomas all ye rest of my estate whatsoever quicke and dead moveable & im[m]oveable of what nature & condition soever or in whose hands Custody or possession soever the same be or remayne. Item I Doe constitute & appoint my said John son Thomas Henshaw Executor of this my last will & Testament In Witnesse wherof I have herevnto set my hand & seale the day & yeere abovewritten.

Witnesse herevnto

Geo: Hanson Thomas Henshaw his marke

Richard Marsh x

120.2 Inventory

A true & perfect Inventory of all & singuler ye goods Cattels & Chattels w[hi]ch Thomas Henshaw The elder of ye Towne & parish of woolstanton in ye County of Staff[ord] lately deceased dyed possessed of as they were prized ye 22th of February An[n]o d[omi]ni 163i by vs whose names are subscribed.

five kyne

7 yong beasts

one mare
 15 sheepe
 two swyne
 geese & poultry
 Corne and hay
 one Carte one plough & all other husbanderie wares
 some mucke valued att
 Brasse and Pewter
 Three Feather bedds 4 Chaffe beds w[i]th Couerletts blankets and bolsters thereto belonginge
 Sheetes ands other linnens
 bacon butter Cheese & other p[ro]vision in the house
 Tables stooles shelues, bedstades Coffers and all other treene houshold implementes
 one Cubboard
 one grate a fire shouell and a payre of tongues and other Iron wares
 two peeces of Woollen Cloth
 a lease of a peece of ground called Hickfields valued att
 a lease of another peece of ground called Leekes Croft valued att
 the wearinge Apparell of the deceased
 money in his purse att the tyme of his death
 woole tow & yarne
 Summa Totalis huius Invent[orie] George Hanson
 John Patson
 John Morton
 John Turnocke x

120.3 Notes

1. An average farmer in terms of prosperity, Thomas Henshaw the elder was one of the two thirdboroughs for Wolstanton in 1585, 1603, 1608, 1615 and 1620. Henshaws had lived in Wolstanton for at least seventy years, and a Henshaw was living there in 1666 in a one-hearth house.
2. Leekes Croft and Hickfield are both in Wolstanton, on the slopes between the High Street and the D-road. The lease of Hickfield was valued at only £1 because it was right at the end of its term of 21 years. It consisted of 4 customary acres (about 9 acres in modern terms).
 Sir Rowland Cotton leased in 1610 a messuage or tenement in Wolstanton and all houses, edifices, yards, orchards, gardens and pastures etc belonging to it to Thomas Henshaw, Jone his wife and Thomas their son for their respective lives, paying the yearly rent of 26s 8d, plus two capons a year at the feast of the Circumcision of Christ (New Years Day), and a heriot on the death of any of the three of them. We do not know definitely the size or whereabouts of this farm, but at least one of the fields may have been close to May Bank High Street.
3. His wife Joan died in 1628.
4. The rest of the inventory from 'Corne and hay' onwards is in George Hanson's hand.

John Turnock is the only one of the four appraisers to put his mark instead of a signature. Between 1600 and 1650 the wills and inventories show a gain in literacy.

5. Judgment was given against Thomas Henshaw (either this man or his son) when Thomas Wood sued him. The award of damages of 3s 4d against him was made less than two months before his death.

121 William Baddeley of Chatterley, no will, buried 1st December, inventory taken 3rd December 1631, date of admon 15th March 1631/2.

121.1 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect Inventorie of all and Singul[er] the goods & Cattells & Chattells of William Baddeley w[i]thin the p[ar]ish of Woolstonton & County of Staff[ord] dyed possessd &c Prized by vs the Theird day of December A[nn]o D[o]m[ini] 1631. Roger Smyth John Rowley John Broade

Haye & Corne

one Swyne

one peaire of hempton Sheetes

one flaxon Sheete

Hempton Sheete

two Course Table cloaths

Three Napkins

two paire of Hempton Sheets

one feath[er]bed & two boulsters

one Cadwall & one Blanckett w[i]th one Cou[er]let & oth[er] furnituor

four Chafe beds & three boulst[er]s

Tables & bedsteeds w[i]th oth[er] boards

four Chests

Tryne Wares

one Hundred & fiftie Cheess

Three Gallands of butt[er]

the reu[er]sion of one Swyne

one brasse pott

one Brasse pann

four dishes of pewt[er] one Salt one Candlesticke & four Sponnes

Affidavit

I Ellen Baddeley of Chatterley widow Doe by these p[re]sents & vnder my handwriting or marke certifie yt I have always Disclaimed & Doe now vtterly refuse to Administer my late Husband William Baddeley his goods or any part of them his debts beeing so many & vnknown his inventory so small. In witness wherof I doe here put my marke march 9 1631

Ellen Baddaley + her marke

I Fran[cis] Capps vicar of Woolstanton doe certifie yt this is ye marke of Ellen baddeley
Francis Capps
Mr Baxter I have certified you this day yt shee doth vtterly refuse.

121.2 Notes

1. Although, like other debtors, William Baddeley didn't leave a will, the inventory does provide some clues as to his recent situation. The appraisers can be expected to be conscientious. Two of them are well-off farmers living nearby, and it is quite possible that they were creditors.

The dairy cows required by a cheese- and butter-maker must have been sold recently, but the hay needed to feed them through the rest of the winter still remains. The sheets, cloths and napkins would usually be priced under a single heading 'napery ware'; in this inventory they are priced separately - perhaps because not all of them are to be sold. However the dairy equipment (this would include cheese-press, pails and tubs - all made of wood) is put under one heading - 'treenware'.

Few inventories price each item of domestic equipment separately, but this sets down the value of the kettle (an open-top vessel used for boiling food), the value of the grate, and so on. Ellen Baddeley, the widow, would have to decide, item by item, what to hold back for herself, and what to sacrifice. However, after three months, she refused to act as administrator, and thus relinquished control of the disposal of the household possessions. In the end one of the creditors, William Brett of Newcastle, gentleman, undertook the administration, but Ellen Baddeley then disappears from local records.

2. Cadwall - probably this is supposed to be a caddow, a covering for a bed. It is perhaps spelt on the analogy of the spelling of Bradwall (formerly pronounced Bradda).

3. The number of chaff beds suggests that more than two people used to live there, such as servants.

4. 'Three Gallands of butter'. The butter is measured by the capacity of the container - in gallons, in this case.

5. the reversion of one swine - For this to make sense, one has to suppose that one of the swine was in someone else's hands and that William Baddeley raised some money in the short term by letting that person have the use of it - for a certain time period probably, though it could be until William Baddeley's death.

6. 'brundeth' - spelt variously - brundret, brundert, brundred, brunderd etc - this item is an iron framework placed in front of or over the fire, and it supported the cooking utensils. 'Shoofle' =shovel.

7. A press is a chest or cupboard.

8. The inventory was wrongly totalled, perhaps by misreading xvjd for xijd.

122 Thomas Turmer of Wolstanton, yeoman, will dated 6th July 1632, buried 17th July, inventory taken 19th July,[Wed] date of probate 25th July 1632.

122.1 Will

Sick in body.

To son John: 12d for his child's part.

To my loving wife Ales Turmer: the third part of all my goods.

To sons Randle and Thomas: the rest of my goods, two parts to Thomas and a third part to Randle.

To Randle Dakin: 2 shillings.

To my son John's children and to my cousin George Hanson's children: 12d each

To my brother Randle Turmer: my worser suit of apparel.

Executor: son Thomas Turmer.

Signed with a mark.

Witnesses: George Hanson and Henrie Robinson.

122.2 Inventory

A true and perfecte Inventorie Indented of all and sing[u]ler the goods Cattells and Chattells of Thomas Turmer late of Wolstanton in the Countie of Stafford yeoman deceased seene valued and praised by John Addams John Moreton Richard Meare and Richard Marsh the Nineteenth daie of July Anno d[omi]ni 1632.

Foure Kine

Two Mares

Two Stirks

Thirteene Sheepe and Five lambs

Three Calues

Two swine

Geese Ducks hens and all other poultrie ware

Brasse and pewter

Two Feather beddes Four bolsters with)

other beddes blankettes and Couerlettes)

Tenne payre of Sheetes and all other linnens

Wooll valued att

A payre of bedsteaddes and 6 Coffers

Tables Chayres Stooles Shelues and)

all other houshold implementes)

pailles loomes barrells and all other treene wares £2

one Cubboard and a greate Whitch valued att

a Swinetubb and Swine troughs

one grate 3 spitts fire shouell tonges and)

other Ironwares)

Butter Cheese Bacon and other provision)
in the house)
Corne and Meale in the house and)
Corne on the ground)
One Carte one yoake one harrowe and)
all other husbandrie wares)
Two packsaddles valued att
Cushions valued att
certeine Mucke or Dunge valued att
hemp and Flax on the ground
The wearinge Apparell of the deceased
and money in his purse att the time of his death

122.3 Notes

1. Thomas Turner was a copyholder in Wolstanton. The fact that he does not mention land in his will is not significant. In 1618 Thomas Turner and his wife had transferred half of his 40 acres copyhold land to his son John and his wife Margaret, retaining a life interest for himself and his wife in the other half. This transaction was conducted in the manor court. (In the absence of a will or a transfer by the man during his lifetime, the traditional custom of the manor in which the land was held would have come into effect - usually the land went to the oldest son, with a third of it reserved to the widow for her life.)
2. The two mares and two pack saddles together indicate that the horses are work-horses.
3. Swine tubs occur in four of the inventories in this collection [besides this: 1610 Richard Hanson, 1642 William Bourne and 1649 John Rowley]. What are they? If a Banbury inventory item [no.50] 'a hoggeswashe barrell' offers a parallel, then they are for collecting household scraps and the by-products of brewing for feeding to the pigs.
4. 'loomes' in this context must be open vessels rather than weaving s. Some at least are probably ale loomes. (William Jacson of Sutton, Shropshire in 1541 had 3 ale lomes priced at 6d.)
6. The 13 sheep and five lambs inherited by his sons and added to their own flocks meant that they exceeded their stint on Wolstanton Marsh. Thomas and Randall Turner were presented for overcharging the common field in Wolstanton with sheep in October 1632, and were fined 2s 6d each.
7. The will is original (it has a seal at the bottom).

123 Randall Wilkinson of Brerehurst, no will, buried 6th September 1632, administration granted 7th September 1632, inventory taken 10th September 1632.

123.1 Inventory

A true and p[er]fecte Inventorie of all the goodes Cattels & Chatels of Randall wilkinson late of Brerihurst deceased seeine vewed & praised the tente daie September 1632 by John Caulton Richard Gregorie John Vnwyn Richard Colclough & Robert Burslem

one Cowe	£2	16s	8d
one heffer stirke	£2		
one Calffe		13s	4d
one mare	£1	10s	
Corne on the grounde	£3	6s	8d
hey in the barne	£3	10s	
ottes in the house viij mesuers		12s	
one mesver of malt		2s	8d
Cheise	£1		
one stone of woolle		12s	
mele & greetes		1s	4d
ix pere of Sheetes	£2	5s	8d
v naptkins		1s	3d
one flaxon bord Clothe		1s	6d
iiij Course bord Clothes		1s	6d
iiij pilowberes		3s	
ij fetherebedes v boulters & three pillowes	£3	6s	8d
viiij blankettes	£1		
one Flokebed & a chaffebed		5s	
v Cou[er]lides	£1	10s	
one wynow Clothe & iiij bages		3s	
one peece of Bacone		4s	
iiij pere of bedstides	£1		
xj Chestes and boxes	£1	13s	4d
iiij litle tables & iiij formes		7s	
viiij quissions		2s	
two turnils one hopper & a pecke		6s	
iiij bowkes two stoundes one Churne three barils iiii			
Chessefates one Bassen & other treene ware		5s	
one Swyne		17s	
ij hens & xj Chickins		2s	
ij litle brass pans ij kettles two potes i possnet			
two skeletes one Chaffing dish & a Candlestike	£1	13s	4d
vij pewter dishes one bowle ij saltes v sawcers &			
tw Counterfetes		14s	
one litle Cubbord in the butterie		4s	
one Iron pott two bakestons one pere of potthookes			
fyreshoule & tongues		9s	
iiij Cheres & all stoules & tressels		3s	
a skownce a pere of belowes & a hechowe		1s	
one plough with Irons one harrow ij spites iiij nagores			
one sawe with other husbandley furniture		7s	
one grate stidie & vj nele stidies		7s	6d
one hundereth & xj pounce of newe Irone		11s	2d
all ould Iron		14s	8d
ij pere of Smythie belowes		16s	8d
two laders		1s	
his bookes		3s	4d
Slecke & coles		2s	
219 nayles		1s	
one pacsadle with wontey & oreley		3s	
bordes & shulffes & other thinges not praised		1s	
his wearing aparell & all other his furniture bothe			
for horse & foote	£1	6s	8d

Som[m]e £39 2s 8d
[Added by the vicar:]
in debts owing to him by severall persons 40s
a pan 3s 4d
a lease fro[m] one coleclough of Hey Hed of certaine lands lying in Brerehurst wee
can[n]ot value by reasone ye lease is not yet to be found or seene.
exhibitu[m] fuit hoc inventoriu[m] cu[m] protestatione de addend[o] et diminuend[o]
quod fiet quatenusq[ue] cora[m] me
Fran[cisico] Capps.

123.2 Notes

1. 'a skownce a pere of belowes & a hechowe' are listed together and might all have been hanging from the wall in close proximity to each other. Possibly a 'skownce' is a sconce, which could mean a lantern. And a 'hechowe' could be the same as a hetchell which was an implement used in hemp processing. The same explanation could apply to the bracketing together of 'one halfe hoope, one lanthorne and one payre of Belowes' in the 1634 inventory of Alexander Vawdrey of Bowdon, yeoman, in Cheshire.
2. The inventory closely parallels that of Edward Colclough (1633) both in handwriting, content and item order. Incredibly, 'a skownce a pere of belowes & a hechowe' is virtually identical to a line in Edward Colclough's inventory. Randall Wilkinson lived with somebody, but no Act book of this date survives at Lichfield to tell us who administered his estate after his death. However, the similarities of the two inventories strongly suggest that Edward Colclough lived in the house after Randall Wilkinson's death. The house, its outbuildings and some of the contents (eg the brass, pewter and the books) which the appraisers were viewing must be the same.
3. 'oreley' could be an overlay for draping over the horse's back. The wontey is for securing the load.
4. The vicar Francis Capps, acting as the Chancellor's representative, declared in his note in Latin that the inventory with protestation (presumably by all of the appraisers) was exhibited before him.
5. The smithy had anvils ('studies'). It is possible that Randall Wilkinson was a nailer, as his brother had been.
6. In 1681 John Wood held 1 acres of land in Brerehurst, formerly Randall Willkinson's.

124 John Smith of Hey Car, will dated 19th December 1632, buried 1st March 1632/3, date of probate 2nd May 1633, inventory undated

Sick in body.

Body to be buried in the the middle of the parish church of Wolstanton.

To Elizabeth my now wife: all the debts of money owing to me by other men for which I gave specialty either by bill or bond. (If she marries again, she shall pay to my children Roger, Elline, Elizabeth and Anne £60 to be divided equally.) Also the bedding which she brought with her.

To my daughter Margaret : 1s

To my brother Roger Smyth: my new boots

To old William Bell: my buckskin doublet

My debts and funeral expenses disregarded, my mother shall have and enjoy all those goods etc that have usually been occupied and enjoyed between us, in hope that she will provide a good portion for my daughter Margaret.

My wife to dispose all my other wearing apparel as she thinks good.

My wife and children to depart the house where we live within 2 months after my decease.

Executor: my wife, and father-in-law John Wood of Chell.

Witnesses: John Bourne, Roger Smyth

124.1 Inventory

A trew and p[er]fecte Inventory of all the goods Cattles and Chattles of John Smith of Heacarr deceased Valued and praised by John Wood Roger Smith and John Calton as heirafter followeth

one Feather bedd one boulster one

pillow tow Blankettes and one keddow	£2		
one paier of Flaxen sheetes		6s	8d
two paier of hemppen sheetes		5s	
one Table Cloth and fower napkins		3s	4d
the deceasantes weareing apparell	£2		
Thomas hunte of Longton by bond	£10		
Randulph Rode Esquier by Bond	£20		
John Rowley de gill bancke	£4		
Jefferey Bowrne	£13	4s	
William Rowley	£5		
John Bournes Bond for	£17	5s	6d
Walter Homersley	£20		
[Total £94 4s 6d]			

124.2 Notes

1. His daughter Ellin was baptised on 26th March 1626.
2. His wife complied with the requirement to quit the house: she is described when the will was proved as Elizabeth Smith of Olcott. She went to Lichfield to prove the will, accompanied by William Wood of Thursfield, carrier.
3. He was outlived by his mother Ellin Steele who in her will mentions her son's children in the same order as is given here. Evidently daughter Margaret was the eldest

and had still not married over 5 years later, but her grandmother in her will gave her twenty pounds, more than twice what her brother and sisters each received.

4. In the inventory the possessions total £4 15s; the rest (nearly £90) relates to money owed to him. 'keddow' - A caddow was used as a bed covering. The family must have been living in his mother's house - hence the requirement to move out after his death.

5. Walter Hommersley it seems (from Sneyd Mss 2651) occupied Brookhouse.

6 The will is original (it has a seal at the bottom). The probate note refers to the will being on the back of the sheet. At present nothing is on the back, but the sheet in length nearly corresponds to the one that the will is on and could once have been part of it.

125 John Millington alias Bourne of Chesterton, will dated 20th March 1632/3, buried 21st March, inventory undated, date of probate 25th March 1633.

125.1 Will

Being sick in body: to be buried in the churchyard of Wolstanton.

To Raphe Millington: one shilling.

To Joan Boothes: 20s.

Residuary legatee and executor: Henry Collocloughe.

Witnesses: William Wood (his mark), John Marsh (his mark), Randull Boothes.

125.2 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect inventory of all the goodes and cattelles of John Millington al[ia]s Bourne of Chesterton deceased by us John Cowall and John Willatt.

Three kine	£8		
One bed w[i]th yt app[urtena]ntes		10s	
Two Coffers & one boue		2s	
His apparrell & money in his purse w[i]th all other things whatsoever	£6	6s	8d
Totu[m] est	£14	18s	8d

125.3 Notes

1. Alias-names are given for one of several reasons, including illegitimacy, remarriage of the parent, as well as inheritance of the alias-name from the father. In the case of illegitimacy, the mother's surname is placed first and the father's second - as shown in an entry of a baptism in Burslem parish register dated December 6 1646: 'Margaret Fletcher alias Taylor putative daughter of James Taylor and Katherine Fletcher'.

2. It is likely that his wish to be buried in Wolstanton churchyard was complied with -

but there is no record of it.

3. Henry Colclough of Chesterton, yeoman, may have been John Millington's master (employer). F G Emmison, in his analysis of 10,000 wills of Elizabethan Essex, found several instances of a servant making his master the residuary legatee. The reason that he may have been given everything of John Millington's (except for two money bequests) may be that it was all his in the first place.

126 William Brett of Newcastle under Lyme, no will, inventories taken in March 1632/3, no date for grant of administration.

126.1 Inventory

A True and Perfect Inventorie of all and singular the goods Cattells and Chattels which William Brett late defunct of Newcastle vnder Lyme dyed possessed of both in Newcastle aforesaid and Tunstall & els where as the were Appretiated by vs whose names are subscribed the 14 of March An[n]o D[o]m[ini] 1632

Three Kine and one little kench of hay
 One Nagge and one Mare
 all Swine younge and ould
 The Tearme of the house the Backside, the stable, the
 house where one Worrall liveth, & one Croft called by the name of the Milne Croft
 One lease graunted by Mr Sneyde to the defunct and
 his ass[ign]s of one acre and a halfe of land in Norton for one and Twentie yeares whereof remained seauentee
 One paire of Wayne wheeles and a Carts bodie with Thripples
 Waynscott benches & frames standinge in the great Parlor
 in the Parlor Chamber one Rugges
 One Sealed bed w[i]th tester Curteynes and Valens for
 the same
 One feather bed One boulster and Twoo pillowes
 Twoo Blanckets
 One Table & frame & one lyuery table
 One little redd Carpitt for the lyuerye table and A
 window Cushion
 One Chayre and twoo stooles
 his wearinge apparell w[i]th ridinge furniture for
 his bodie
 In the Chamber over the Hall One standinge bed & truckell
 bed
 One ould feather bed one boulster one Chaffe bed 3
 blanketts, one white rugges ould Coull
 in the Truckle bed one Chaffe bed one boulster One
 blankett One ould Couerlett rugges
 in the Pallett one Chaffe bed one boulster One blankett
 One Couerlett
 Twoo ould blanketts
 Lynnen Napperie
 One Chest and Trunke
 One Cradle
 in the Parlor ouer the seller one standinge bed Curteines
 & valens
 one feather bed one boulster 2 pillowes one Couerlett
 2 blanketts one Chaff bedd
 one table and twoo formes
 one seeled Chest & one box
 his books
 wooden ware with Chaires and stooles
 one paire of tables
 Iron ware as brewinge pann spittes Coulberts drippinge
 pannes Iron pottes Chaynes and all other Iron
 all the brasse and Pewter
 One little table in the hall & Cushions
 One great Arke, Twoo odd peeces of Waynscott w[i]th
 some dressers shelues and bordes

Some is [checked] 91 9 4

The goods before menc[i]oned were vewed and priced by vs who in Newcastle
aforesaid the day before menc[i]oned v[i]z
Thomas Fernihaughe The mark of William Brett John Wood Thomas Harison
These followinge goods beinge w[i]thin the Lord[shipp] of Abbie Hulton were vewed
and App[re]ciated by vs whose names are subscribed the 16 of March An[n]o D[o]m[ini]
1632

Thirtene sheepe	3	00	00
one Mare	2	00	00
One Colt	1	5	00
Three little Cuttings of tymbre	00	8	00
Som[m]e	6	13	00

Thomas Mellor his marke
Hugh Eaton his marke

126.2 Inventory

This is ye Inventory et[c] of such goods as ye aforesaid Defunct dyed possessed of
in Tunstall as they were appretiated by vs whose names are subscribed March ye 19th
Anno d[omi]ni L1632

one long table w[i]th a forme standing in ye parlor

two tables of coates of Armes	£1	
one payre of old bedstockes	2	0
3 oxe bowes & a shovell	1	4
a furnace pot pan of yron a payre of yron potchaines		
one payre of plow irons & other yron ware	£1	
one plough & other plowtimber w[i]th waine timbers	£1	
one harrow	3	4
one cheese presse	3	4
sixe yoakes whereof 4 are hanged w[i]th yron	9	0
one Tumbrell one old broken body of a wayne	9	0
one old coffer	5	0
a grindingstone & 3 stone swine trowes	2	6
Some is	£5	3 2

Prizers

Thomas Baddeley his marke
Robert Parker
Raph Baddeley

Som[m]e totall Contayned w[i]thin this p[re]sent Inventory is £103 5s 6d

126.3 Notes

1. Two William Bretts died in 1633. One was buried in Wolstanton on 1st March 1632/3; the other, a burgess of Newcastle, died in autumn later that year. The inventories must refer to the first William Brett because of their dates. This one was identified in 1623 in the borough records as a 'foreign burgess' ie who resided outside the town of Newcastle; in 1624 the borough records identified him as the son of Thomas Brett of Hulton. In 1608 Thomas Brett owned the Mylne Croft in Newcastle, plus a house, stable and croft nearby.

William Brett's grandfather is likely to be Thomas Brett of Wolstanton (as identified in the 1583 Herald's Visitation). If so, his uncle could be the William Brett who was a thirdborough for Wolstanton in 1604, and the William Brett of Wolstanton Marsh, variously called yeoman and husbandman, who in 1608 was accused of stealing a hog. It was probably his uncle, rather than this William Brett who in 1612 was admitted as burgess of Newcastle for life only?

The children's names in the tuition bond (Thomas, Elizabeth, John, Edward and Anne Brett) do not exactly correspond to those recorded in the parish register as the children of William and Elizabeth Brett.

2. All the inventories are on the same sheet, but written by different persons. The figures in the third inventory are expressed as 20s, 2s, 16d etc. The amount of detail in the inventories contrasts with that given in the normal inventories of the period in Wolstanton parish. Note also the signs of urban wealth shown by the household furnishings.

3. Ward's map in his History of Stoke on Trent (1843) shows that the lordship of Abbey Hulton included (besides Abbey Hulton itself) Sneyd green, Birches Head [and Milton, Bucknall and Bagnall? - check] where his brother had a farm with (at his death) a flock of 47 sheep. Thomas Sergeant of Bagnall, gentleman, and William Brett's widow were bound in the administration bond.

4. A kench (of hay) was probably a sheaf, apparently not a precise measure. The OED gives knitch meaning 'a bundle (of wood, hay, corn etc) tied together; a sheaf or fag-got'.

5. 'sealed bed' and 'seeled Chest' - this refers to the panelling on them.

6. Note 'his books'. Usually the only things designated as 'his' in a male's inventory were the purse and apparel. In the case of 'his books', the implication is that there were other books, apparel etc in the house that did not belong to him. Apart from that, all the things in the house were his (even the cradle!), unless omitted from the inventory.

7. Probably not the Thomas Harrison who nearly thirty years later was executed for high treason, being one of the regicides who signed King Charles' death warrant, as he was 16 at the time, and there was another Thomas Harrison who in 1608 or 1612 was a butcher in Newcastle.

8. The coats of arms at Tunstall were on two painted boards. (A cousin, Edward Brett, gentleman, was entitled to a coat of arms.) There is nothing to suggest that the house in Tunstall was lived in, though it may have had a tenant. It may be identified with 'the chief house or hall of Tunstall' William Sneyd had leased to Robert Parker for life in 1547.

9. An ox-bow was part of an ox-yoke. 'sixe yoakes whereof 4 are hanged w[i]th yron' - perhaps the four have an iron hook for attaching a chain. A thrippl was a detachable

cart-ladder.

127 John Broade of Holywall the elder, husbandman, date of will 16th July 1631, buried 1st January 1632/3, inventory taken 9th April 1633, date of probate 10th April 1633.

127.1 Will

Being very old; to be buried in the parish church yard of Woolstantonn.

To my son Thomas Broade, my daughter Ellin Turner, Elizabeth Gloover and Marie Heath, and to Thomas Broade alias Cunye in consideration that everyone of them has received preferment from me already in full satisfaction and discharge of their separate child's portions: 12d each.

Residuary legatee and executor: my son John Broade.

Overseers: William Bourne of Ewtree, gentleman and Anthonye Beech of Great Chell, yeoman.

Witnesses: John Bourne Thomas Broad John Fletcher

Aprill the ixth 1633

127.2 Inventory

A true & p[er]fecte inventorie takenn of suche goodes as John Broade of the Holie well the Elder late deseased had in his owne possessionn at his discease

one bed	£1
his wearinge Apparell and the monye that he had in his purse	13s 4d

The names of them that weare the preaseres of these goodes and therea markes
William Tunstall John Tunstall Thomas Broade John Rowley

Sum[m]a total[is] £1 13s 4d

127.3 Notes

His son John Broad held 47 acres of land as a tenant of Ralph Sneyd esquire, and Holly Wall farm (to give it its modern name) was where father and son lived. It was situated in the township of Tunstall. There was a succession of people called 'John Broad of Hollywall' through the seventeenth century.

128 John Grindley [?of Chesterton], no will, buried 21st May, inventory taken 21st May, administration granted 5th June 1633

128.1 Inventory

A true and perfect Inventorie of the goods cattells and Chattells of John Grindley of the parish of Wolstanton deceased taken the xxjth daye of Maye anno d[o]m[in]i 1633 by John Willatt, Thomas Arnot, and Robert Hanson.

his wearing apparell and money in his purse	13s	4d
three kine	£7	10s
one bullock stirke		10s
three hens		1s
his howse, and ground lyinge to it	£5	
his beddinge and Naprie ware	13s	4d
his bedstockes, quofers and all other trine ware	13s	4d
his brasse and pewter		4s
his Workinge tooles and all other Iron ware		10s
money owing him	£3	
[Total £18 15s 0d]		

128.2 Notes

1. No occupation can be deduced for John Grindley (or Grynley as it is given in the parish register), nor location in parish.
2. It is the lease of the house and the farmland going with it which is valued at £5.

129 William Rowley of the Broadfeelde, yeoman, will dated 6th September, buried 12th November, inventory taken 13th November, date of probate 15th November 1633.

129.1 Will

Sick and weak in body; Christian burial in the church or churchyard of Wolstanton.

To Ann Rowlie my daughter: £20, being the £20 I must receive if it please God to spare me life and health to make partition of my goods between my son William and me.

To my wife: one bed furnished and her coffer.

To Ann Rowlie my daughter: a cow at Gill banke.

Residuary legatees: my son William (half) and my wife Joane (half), to be divided by the overseers of my will.

To my daughter Ann: £10 more.
To my brother Geffrey 10s and my second suit of apparel.
To Richard Henshaw: my third suit.
To my son William: my best suit
Executrix: my wife Joane Rowlie.
I revoke all former wills.
Overseers: William Colclough of Burslem gentleman, and my brother-in-law William Henshawe.
Signs by mark.
Witnesses: John Rowley (signs by mark); William Colcloughe.

129.2 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect Inventorie of all the goodes debtes Cattells & Chattells of william Rowley of the Broadefeelde diseased, had, taken & praysed the 13th daye of November 1633 by vs Robert Burslem Richard Colcloughe William Henshawe, Richard Braddock John Rowley & Randulph Whitehall as followeth

two oxen
eight kine
eight horses & mares w[i]th sadles & furniture to them
one litle Coulte
Three twinter heicfors
Five sterkes
Five Calfes
nyneteene sheepe
Corn & haye at Ramscliffe
Lyme & muck
Three swine
Two trinde of feliiis 4 axelltrees
Waynes Cartes plowes plowirons harrows Chaines yokes, a Copsole, horse gaires & furniture for Carte & plowes
one slaide
Corne & haye at home
Poultre
One table & forme in ye house
one iron pott
Brass & pewter
meale in Tubs
Boukes loomes barels shelfes boords & all other
trine ware
one kowe at hier
Corne meale & malt in ye house
Butter Cheese & provitio[n] of meate for ye house 8 0 0
Bedding & bedsteedes
All Chestes & Coffers & boxes

Sheetes boordeClothes & all napperie ware
 one grate one spit one paire of gobberts, one lantorne [?] brundreds a frine pan & all
 iro[n] ware in ye house
 Chaires stooles tressils formes & Quishons
 Spining wheeles hetthons, & Cardes
 Ladders poules & timber
 monie owing
 monie & stock in William Rowleys handes
 one dett of & fro[m] William Rowley of Whitefield
 all other goods not preysed
 The testators waireing app[ar]el moni in his purse & other furniture for him stable &
 horse

129.3 Notes

1. 'Yeoman' is squeezed in as an after-thought in the will and is not mentioned in the inventory preamble. He was evidently a prosperous farmer, with a barn, or the use of a barn, at Ramscliffe (a mile or so away) and at The Broadfield, a collection of houses whose name is remembered in present-day Broadfield Lane. In the parish register he is referred to as 'William Rowley of Olcot' - which is the township name. The item 'money and stock' (ie raw material) does not give a clue to his business. But the fact that he has more sheep than many other farmers in the parish, taken with the evidence of spinning, suggests that the stock might have included wool.
2. After the inventory was completed, the item 'salte' was added. Salt was normally kept in a salt-box, but the the valuation of £2 suggests sackloads which had been transported by pack-horse. Note the larger-than-usual number of equipped ("furniture to them") horses William Rowley had.
3. The 'one kow at hier' is probably the same as 'a cow at Gill banke', a nearby farm occupied by John Rowley. There is no mention of grandchildren in the will, and Ann Rowlie his daughter is likely to be unmarried. "It was a common practice all through the Middle Ages, and survives in localities to-day, to let out the cows by the year, at from 3s. to 6s. 8d. a head, often to the daya or dairymaid, the owner supplying the food, and the lessee agreeing to restore them in equal number and condition at the end of the term." (Cutler, W.H.R (1909) A Short History of English Agriculture)
4. 'One table & a forme in ye house'. The large table (indicated by the high valuation figure of £1) must have dominated the house-place or hall in which it stood. Another high figure is the £8 for household provision, which suggests a large household (Richard Henshaw is possibly a servant).
5. Farmers in this period sometimes used a sled for transporting loads across the fields, and so it is not surprising to find a 'slaide' following on from mentions of a cart and horse-gear.
6. 'Corne & haye at home' ie stored in a barn. The corn that is actually in the house is referred to later in the inventory.
7. I interpret 'Two trinde of feliiis' as meaning 48 felloes (curved segments of a wheel). (The 1625 roll for Newcastle manor court mentions 'twenty four rods commonly called

a Trined of spokes'.) Six ash felloes would have been used to make the circumference of each wheel. The axles (axletrees) would also have been wooden.

8. 'Spining wheeles hetthons, & Cardes' contains an unknown word, and an unfamiliar one 'card', referring to an iron-toothed instrument for combing wool or flax.

130 Edward Colclough of Brerhurst, collier, date of will 18th September 1633, buried 30th September 1633, inventory taken 14th October, date of probate 19th November 1633.

130.1 Will

Sick in body; to be buried in the earth.

To my wife Ellen: all my household goods within my house, and all my cattle and all my corn and hay except the corn in a pasture called the howstidds which I give to Ellen Colclough my mother and Richard Colclough my brother to be equally divided between them.

To my mother: 40s, a bed and a coffer standing within the house where she now lives.

To William Colclough and Roger Colclough, sons of my brother William Colclough of Sutton, Cheshire: 40s.

To James Colclough my brother: £6.

To my mother and sister: 20s.

To my mother: all the bedding and sheets belonging to the bed mentioned before.

Residuary legatee and executor: Richard Colclough my brother, including all the term of years which I have still in a cottage or tenement in Brerihurste now occupied by Henry Gibbones and all buildings, lands, pastures, closes and meadows belonging to it.

Witnesses: John Burslem William Burslem

130.2 Inventory

A true & p[er]fecte Inventorie of all the goods Catels & Chattels of Edward Colclough late of Brerhurst seine vewed & praised the Fowerteenth daie of october by John Caulton John Vnwyn & Robert Burslem praisers 1633

one Cowe one stirke & a Calfe	£5	10s	
Corne and heay in the barne	£9		
Corne in the house		3s	
Cheeis and whitemet	£1	13s	4d
woll one pound		1s	4d
sheites and all other naperie ware	£2	10s	
three pillowes & pillowe beres		3s	
three fether bedes & six boulsters	£3	6s	8d
x blanketes	£1		
one woolbed & a Chaffebed		5s	
v Cou[er]lides	£1	10s	
two wynowe Clothes and four bagges		5s	
v peare of bedstides	£1		
viiij Chestes & boxes	£1	6s	8d
one table & two Formes		6s	
viiij quissions		2s	
ij turnils one hopper & a pecke		6s	
three barrils ij stoundes one Churne two Clossboukes			
three bowkes iijj Cheeissefates one bassen & other treeine ware		5s	
one Swyne	£1	10s	
puln		2s	
all manor of Brasse	£1	16s	8d
all manor of pewter		14s	
one litle Cupbord in the buterie		4s	
one Iron potte i brundered one pere of potthookes one grate fyreshule & tongues		9s	
v Cheares stoules and tressels		5s	
one skownce i pere of belowes & a hechowe		1s	
one plowe with Irons i harrowe ij spites iij nagores			
one sawe with other husbandlie furniture		7s	
two laders		1s	
bockes [?bookes]		3s	4d
the worthinge or mucke		6s	
bordes and shulffes & other thinges not praised beffore		1s	6d
his weringe Aparrell	£1		
money in his purse	£3		
debtes owinge by specialtie	£23		
debtes owinge without specialte	£5		
the Revesion of on lease	£6	13s	4d
[Total £73 6s 10d]			

130.3 Notes

1. Collier. Occupational terms (like tanner, nailer etc) at this time did not distinguish between the man running the business and the employee. Within the parish colliers are mentioned in this half-century living in Brerehurst, Stodmorelow, Chatterley and

Tunstall; and outside the parish in Lawton (Cheshire) and Shelton. The one in Clayton & Seabridge must have been engaged in charcoal-making. (Colliers are: Richard Wyldblood of Breerehurst collier, Richard Edge junior of Tunstall, collier and Robert Gibson of Lawton, Cheshire, collier (all mentioned in 1608), John Meare of Shelton collier, William Frost late of Stodmerlowe, collier, Thomas Shawe late of Stodmerlowe collier, and Robert Gibson late of Breerehurst collier (all mentioned in 1609), William Annyan of Clayton, collier (mentioned in 1639), John Gater (died 1647), John Hill a collier killed in 1648 by a fall of coal, George Wood of Chatterley (mentioned in 1655) and William Oakes a collier who married in 1656. In the next century, Parrott mentions at least three ground colliers living in cottages in Audley parish.)

2. At his brother Richard's death in 1641, there were about £11 worth of "Coales vpon the Banck"

3. 'corn in a pasture' means literally what it says. Pasture predominated over arable in this part of Staffordshire. (Now there is no arable at all.) Some part of his pasture called 'the howstidds' has been ploughed for growing a cereal crop, perhaps for a few years only.

131 Randle Tunstall, will dated May 14th 1634, buried 1st June, inventory taken 3rd June, proved 4th June.

131.1 Will

In the Name of God Amen I Randle Tunstall in the Countie of Stafford of the towne and parish of Wolstanton parish Clerke sick in body but of p[er]fecte Memorie sence and understandinge doe ordeyne this to be my last will & testament in forme followinge: First I Bequeath my soule into the hands of God and my body to be interred in the Churchyard of Wolstanton: Item I give to my sonne John Tunstall 1s for his Childs portion: Item I give and bequeath to my daughter Margarett my daughter Ellen my sonne Sammuell Twelve pence a yeare for theyre Childs portions: Item all the rest of my goods Chattels whatsoever wheresoever quicke and dead I give and bequeath to my wife Elizabeth Tunstall whom I ordaine and Constitute sole executrix of this my last will and testament (my funerall expenses beinge after deducted first from my goods): In witesse whereof I have subscribed my name and putting seale the daie and yeare above written.

Witnesses to this will The marke of Randle Tunstall

Fran[cis] Capps

vicar of wolstanton:

John Moreton

Thomas Twamloe

131.2 Inventory

A true and p[er]fecte Inventorie indented of all & sing[u]ler the goods Cattells and Chattells of Randle Tunstall late of wolstanton in the Countie of Stafford w[i]thin the diocesse of Coventrie and Litchfield parish clerke deceased taken and apprised the third daie of June Anno d[omi]ni 1634 by George hanson John Moreton and Thomas Henshawe as followeth.

two kine and one stirke
one mare
one Swine
geese and Poulterie
corne on the ground
one Featherbed 3 Chaffe bedds 3 Couerlettes)
2 blankettes and 3 boulsters)
linnens and Nappery
brasse and pewter
Tables Shelves Coffers and)
bedsteads stooles and chayers)
one Cubboard
pailles loomes barrels and other household implements
one grate and other Iron wares
one peece of Woollen Cloth
two peeces of linnen Cloth
Yarne and Towe
The husbandry wares a saddle and horse geeres
one Flitch of bacon and other provision)
in the house)
mucke
the wearinge apparell of the deceased)
and money in his purse att the time of his death)

131.3 Notes

1. There is no specific mention of draught animals. The mare was presumably for riding, but the inventory of Henry Greene of Nethercote, Banbury, husbandman, (1593) shows that she could also be used for ploughing: 'One mare and one colte and certayne plow geres for them.'
2. At the bishop's visitation in 1629, Randle Tunstall the parish clerk of Wolstanton could 'neither write nor read'; while at Stoke, Roger Cotton the parish clerk had been excommunicated, and was faulted for not keeping the church clean.
3. Randle Tunstall was a farmer in a small way. He - or more probably his wife - maintained an ale-house, and this continued after Randall's death. The loomes and barrels are both evidence of brewing. He was fined in the manor court in 1616 for breaking the assize of bread, so his wife also baked bread for sale.
4. The fact that a barn is not mentioned need not mean that he didn't have one. There

are other instances in Wolstanton parish of farmers whose goods were inventoried in June not having hay or corn in the barn. All last year's corn would have been threshed, gone to the mill, and come back to be included in the 'other provision' in the house.

132 John Maxfeild of Thursfield, yeoman, date of will 18th September 1633, buried 22nd May 1634, inventory taken 23rd May, date of probate 26th May.

132.1 Will

Being diseased in body: to be buried in decent manner in the parish church of Wolstanton near to the end of my seat or form.

To Margret my wife: my best brass pan and half the rest of my goods.

To John Maxfeild, son of Richard Maxfeild my deceased brother: my second brass pan.

To Marie my loving sister £3 6s 8d.

To John Lawton of Lawton Esquier my landlord, my landlady his wife, and to Ellenor Lawton his sister: £3 6s 8d each.

To his sons William Lawton and Raphe Lawton: £5.

To William Maxfeild my brother: £3 6s 8d.

To Ellenor Lawton my sister and to Margret Beeche my sister : 40s each.

To Elin Maxfeild my sister-in-law: 53s 4d.

To Joan Beech, Elizabeth Kent and Marie Maxfeild her daughters: £6 13s 4d each.

To the children of Joan Beech: £3 6s 8d to be equally divided.

To John Burslem, my godson, the son of Robert Burslem; and to Margret Burslem daughter of Robert Burslem: 40s.

To the rest of the children of Robert Burslem: £5 to be equally divided.

To John Colton my godson: 40s.

To John Lawton, John Whythaugh, and John Mylnes my godsons: 10s each.

To the rest of my godchildren: 3s 4d.

To my servants dwelling with me at the time of my decease: 6s 8d each.

To the poor of the parish of Wolstanton 40s, and to the poor of the parish of Church Lawton 20s, to be distributed by the oversight and direction of the parishes' churchwardens and overseers of the poor.

To John Maxfeild: the other half of the rest of my goods.

Executors: Margaret Maxfeild and John Maxfeild.

Witnesses: Robert Alsager, Robert Corke.

132.2 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect Inventorie of all the goods Catles Chattels & debts of John Maxfeild of Thursfield in the countie of Stafford yeoman deceased: taken by William Row-

ley James Beeche Robert Alsager & George Stonier the xxiiij th day of Maye Anno
d[omi]ni 1634:

foure oxen & two steyles

Ten kyne & seauen Calves

Three twint[e]r heffers

Five sterkes

One Mare & one Nag

Twentie two sheepe & owne lames

Three swine

In Pullen

Corne in the barne, & maulte

Corne on the ground

Weanes, Carts, plowes, working tooles, & all oth[e]r tooles of & for husbandrie

Mucke & Fuel

a ston tub ston troues & the grinding stone

Taxe of ground

one Wiche

Bedinge Bedstids & naperie ware

Salt meates & wite meates

In woole, & lynen Yorne

Cowperie & Tryneware

Brasse, & Pewter

Cups, glasses, yeren potts, & Candles

Iron ware aboute the fire, & in the howse

Chests, & Coffers,

a Carpet tables, formes, Cheres, quishions, stooles, shilfes, & loose boords

Sackes, Windoe sheetes, siues, wiskets Basketts measures, spinning Weeles, & all oth[e]r

implem[en]tes for huswifrie

all oth[e]r odd things in and about the howse

Monie in his purse, apparell, plate, & one bible,

Monie in his Chest, & debts owinge him

132.3 Notes

1. Although he leased some land (from John Lawton), most of the land he farmed he owned himself, paying a chief rent of 7s a year to the Lord of the Manor around 1620. John Maxfield of Thursfeilde acted as constable in 1619.

2. Evidently he had no children. In 1666 the nephew - called John Macclesfield then - occupied a house with 3 hearths in Thursfield. A few years later he represented 'the house at Trubshaw' as churchwarden and overseer of the poor. Trubshaw Farm (grid ref: 8522/5527) may be the successor and is at the edge of a new housing development stretching from the roundabout at the junction of Newchapel Rd and Pennyfields Rd. Margrett Maxfield of Trubshaw, widow, died in 1670/1.

3. The only connection between the stone tub, stone troughs and grinding stone is the material that they are composed of.

4. 'Taxke' - should be 'Tackes' ie leases.
- 5 'Salt meates & wite meates' - the beef would have been salted to preserve it until required for eating; the whitemeat is the dairy products milk and cheese.
6. As the brewing and cheese-making equipment are not listed, they must be included under 'Cowperie & Tryneware', and would have been items such as barrels, cheese-press, and a lot more besides.
7. The high figure for bedding, besides indicating high standards for the family, may also reflect the number of servants, some of whom would have helped in brewing and making cheese.
8. 'yeren' = iron; quishions = cushions; 'windoe sheets' = winnowing sheets.
9. 'all oth[e]r implem[en]tes for huswifrie' - the split between male and female roles is indicated.
10. His brother may have been the Richard Maxfield of the parish of Wolstanton, whose wife Ellen was granted the administration of his estate 25th May 1608. Ellen Maxfield, widow, was buried in Wolstanton in 1640.
11. Candles were either bought (sold by the pound) or home-made (from tallow).

133 William Cooke of Knutton, yeoman will dated 24th May 1634, buried 4th June, inventory taken 26th June, date of probate 3rd July 1634.

133.1 Will

Sick in body. [burial place not specified] To my son William Coocke: £30; three chests, the best bed and that which belongs to it, one great pan, fire shovel, a pair of tongs, one great brass pan, one brass pot, six of the best pewter dishes, the table in the house with the table cloth and the frame, the implements of husbandry and all shelves and boards in or about the house.

"I geve and bequeath to that Child w[hi]ch Jane Coocke my wife is great w[i]th yf god geve it life the som[m]e of twentye poundes."

To my son Thomas Coocke: all my wearing apparel.

To my godchildren: 12d each.

Residuary legatee and executrix: Jane Coocke my now wife.

Overseers: William Gibson of Knutton, Raphe Corns of Betley.

Renounces all former wills.

"and if it happen that the one Child dye then my will is that the portion of the dead Childs to be equalye devided betweene my said Wife and the living child"

Witnesses: Raphe Corne, Thomas Fenton.

The xxvjth of June 1634

133.2 Inventory

A treue and p[er]fect Inventory of all the goodes and Chattles of William Cook latly decessed praysed by vs William Gibson John Baddeley John Beeche
quicke goodes
tow kine
tow heghfers
sixtine shipe
one swine
sixe Chichins
dead goodes
Corne on the gro[u]nd
Brasse and puter
one great pan[n] geven by will one pott and six puter dishes
the best fether bed w[i]th that belonges to it
one table in the house w[i]th frame and table cloth belonging to the same three chestes
all Implementes of husbandrye w[i]th all shilfes and bordes in or about the house
one grat a fire suvull a peare of tonges
the rest of the beddinge
shites and nappery ware
woodden ware and one trunke
one dripping pan[n] one plate and all the rest of Iron ware
saddles wonteys gerth bridles and pa[n]niers
his wearinge apparell
money in his purse
Corne and malt and dounge
beefe and bacon butter and Cheese
wooll
bees
one heyre Cloth and all other thinges of smale valu
wollen and linen Clothe
in billes and bondes

133.3 Notes

1. He had married Jane in April 1632. William his son was only about a year old. Probably Thomas was his son from a former marriage - his previous wife Ann died in 1630. A few months after his death his posthumous child was born and christened Tobias. If Jane did subsequently remarry, it was not in Wolstanton parish church.
2. The inventory takes account of the bequest in the will by valuing the six best pewter dishes, the great pan and the pot separately.
3. 'a fire suvull a peare of tonges' - in inventories the fire shovel and pair of tongs are always mentioned together.
4. The wonteys and girth are for securing a load on the horse's back.
5. William Cooke is one of the few people in the parish whose inventory mentions bees

- the valuation figure suggests he had two hives.

6. The bills and bonds represent money owing and are included in the estate. Occasionally, as in this case, men in this period were owed more than their goods and chattels were worth. An extreme example is John Danyell of Burslem who died in 1610/11 with goods worth £21, but the debts owing to him amounted to £72.

7. At the time of his death, he was serving as constable. This was a post which was responsible for law enforcement locally, usually on the authority of a J.P.

134 Thomas Cotes of Great Chell, yeoman, date of will 28th October 1634, buried 12th November, inven- tory taken 20th November, date of probate 17th February 1634/5.

Weak in body; to be buried in the parish churchyard of Wolstanton as near as where my wife lies as is convenient.

To Thomas Cootes my son: £10; the bed in the parlour and all that belongs to it; my best cloth suit; ten thraves of my corn; four fitches of bacon.

To John Cootes my grandchild: my best ewe, my great which standing over the parlour, the cupboard standing in the parlour, the great table in the house with the two forms belonging to it, the great pan in the house."Item I give to the said John Cootes a good thing and five pounds of money."

To Katherine Cootes my grandchild: my second-best ewe, the great coffer standing over the house, the great kettle [in] the house, and £5.

To Mary Cootes my grandchild: the lamb of the ewe which I gave to John Cootes her brother, the coffer standing at the foot of the bed(s) over the house next to the window, the little pan in the house and £5.

To Elizabeth Cootes my grandchild daughter of my son Thomas: the best twin lamb, the coffer in the parlour, the best brass pot and £5.

To Mary Cootes my grandchild, daughter of my son Thomas: the other twin lamb, the coffer standing at the foot of the bed(s) over the house furthest from the window, an old hanging kettle, one little kettle and £5.

To Mary Biddulph my grandchild: £3 and a neck cloth which was her mother's.

To my two daughter-in laws, equally to be divided between them: all my pewter, and all my linens (sheets, board-cloths, napkins etc), and the best sheet to wind me in.

To my daughter-in-law Thomas' wife: the broadcloth gown which was my wife's.

To Sara Cootes my daughter-in-law: another gown and petticoat all of one cloth, which was my wife's, and all the rest of my bedding.

To Margarie Betson: a green petticoat and 20s.

My mind is that if I die at this time my son Richard and his and his wife shall take my two kine and 4 twenty-shilling pieces of gold to Keele Hall to my master and let him choose which he will take as his heriot; if he takes one of the kine, my son Thomas shall have [four] pounds to buy him another cow.

To Richard Cootes my son: all livestock not formerly bequeathed - kine, mare, swine and other things; the rest of my corn; all my hay and all the rest of my household provision, towards the bringing up of his children; all the rest of my clothes; the reversion of the lease of my house and grounds.

After my debts have been paid and my funeral expenses have been discharged, I bequeath all the rest of my goods to Richard Cootes my son towards the taking of a new lease from my master. If he does not take a new lease of this house and grounds, I would like my executors to divide the goods equally between the children of Richard Cootes and Thomas Cootes. I would also like my executors to pay Richard Drakeford of Stontrough £3 6s 8d on February 24th next and for the following two years: this is money which I owe him, which Anthoney Beech and John Burne are sureties for.

Executors: Raphe Millington of Keele and Thomas Blythe of Castle, skimmers.

134.1 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect Inventorie of the goodes Cattells & Chattells movable and vnmovable of Thomas Cootes of great Chell in the County of Stafforde yeom[an] veued and prissed by Thomas Seuingent Anthoney Beech William Rowley Thomas Burne and John Bagnald the 20th of November An[n]o d[omi]ni 1634

tow kyne

one mare

three sheepe and three Lambs

one Swine

Seaven geese

all the Corne and Hay in the Barne

brass and pewter in the house

tow Iron Pootes

tow Iron Mourters

one Grate w[i]th Gobats Spits dreping panns, chopping kniues, and other ware belonging to the house

in the Parlor one bed one bed steed and all that belonge to it

one Cubbort in the parlor

in the Parlor one Coffe w[i]th other boxes

over the parlor one w[hi]ch

over the howse three Coffers

tow beds over the house

three fliches of bacon

Hempe and flax

wooll

tow turnells w[i]th Lomes barrells boukes dishes trenchers and other treane ware

in the howse one Table and tow formes

one dishborde and other shilfes in the howse

Cheres and Stoules in the howse

butter and Cheese in the howse

Corne in the howse

sheetes Table Clothes and othr Naparie ware
bills and boundes
money in the howse
tow Gould Rings
one Cart one plowe & other Implem[en]tes belonging to husbandrie
money in his purse
one Bible and one prayer booke
all his wearing apparell

134.2 Notes

1. Cotes' is how the testator spells his name. His wife died in 1633, it seems.
2. His master is Ralph Sneyd of Keele: as lord of the manor (for the heriot) and as the landlord. He owned much land in North Staffordshire, he was lord of eight manors, and his residence Keele Hall was the largest in the district.
3. In 1636/7 Richard Coates of Great Chell was a churchwarden in the parish.
4. No lease of his house and land is mentioned in the inventory; so what he says in his will suggests that the lease that he has is a 'lease for lives', and that his son Richard is the last life. It will cost money to renew the lease.
5. 'ten thraves of corn' ie 240 sheaves - at this time of year his corn (probably oats) is still to be threshed.
6. The value of the corn and hay is £7, and this means an area of arable of, at the very most, 9 acres. The amount of livestock is not large. Yet he has a large sum of money under lock and key in a chest or box - no doubt iron-bound. So did he make his money just from farming? Possibly so: his sons are now established, and he can now attend to the needs of the generation following. Presumably Richard Cotes did not take a new lease, for when the will was proved, the executor, Thomas Blythe of Newcastle, skinner, was given the responsibility for the 'education' (or upbringing) of the six grandchildren named in the will. The degree of control that the testator exerts over his grandchildren is unusual.
10. Thomas Cotes' will is the only one in this collection to make provision for a winding-cloth. Have the remains of any seventeenth-century winding-cloths been excavated?
11. As a widower (perhaps of less than two years), he had his deceased wife's clothing to dispose of. He bequeaths three items that used to belong to his wife; but the inventory only mentions things belonging to him.

135 Margaret Eardley of Grubbers Ash, widow, no will, buried 25th November, inventory taken 26th November, administration granted 4th Dec 1634.

135.1 Inventory

A true & p[er]fect Inventorie of all the goods Cattell and Chattells of Margrett Eardley of Wolstanton & County of Staff[ord] wydowe deceased, taken by Richard Woodd, Thomas Howell, John Beech and Randull Burslem the 26th day of November. A[nn]o D[omi]ni 1634. as followeth
[Tue]

3 oxen	£17		
10 kyne	£33		
5 twynter beastes, & 5 sterkes	£26	13s	4d
6 calves	£8		
2 mares & one Colt	£11	10s	
28 sheepe	£7		
4 Swyne	£2	15s	
Corne in the house & in the barne	£36		
in Haye	£10		
one Chattell	£133	13s	4d
waynes Cartes plowes & other implem[en]tes for husbandry	£5		
in brasse & pewter	£8		
in beds and beddinge	£13	6s	8d
in naperie	£5		
Chestes, Coffers, bedstiddes, presses, tables & formes	£5		
in other treene ware	£2		
one yren furnace, yren pott & other yren ware	£3		
in butter & Cheese	£3		
one bible & other bookes		13s	4d
in poultry		6s	8d
apparell of the dead & money in purse	£5		
Som[m]e	£318	8s	8d

[Recte: £335 18s 4d]

135.2 Notes

1. 'Chattell' - a lease of property to the deceased for a term of years. The value of the lease in her husband's inventory is only £20 - this difference is the biggest single difference between her and her husband's inventory valuation figure. The excessive valuations of livestock in the widow's inventory also contribute eg how can £17 be the valuation for four oxen in 1630, and for three oxen in 1634?
2. The note made by the bishop's court on the bottom of the inventory mentions the eldest son John of Grubbers Hill, yeoman, plus the other children: Mary, Sara and

William. As Mary is not mentioned in her husband's probate records, probably she is her daughter from a previous marriage.

3. The burial record gives her surname as 'Yardley'; and of 'Grobers Ash'. This is a different farm from the one where she was living immediately after her husband's death. On the 19th century Tithe Map, both farms are shown on either side of the road from Knutton to Alsager's Bank, about three-quarters of a mile apart.

136 Joan Leigh of Stodmorelowe, widow, date of will 25th April 1634, burial date not known, no inventory, date of probate 4th May 1636.

Being weak of body; to be buried in the churchyard of Biddulph.

To Elizabeth Proctor, daughter of James Proctor, my late brother: £25 out of a debt owing to me by John Bailie of Biddulph, yeoman; and one brass pan.

To William Proctor, Thomas Proctor, and George Proctor, three of my late brother's sons: £20 to be equally divided.

To Sara daughter of Andrew Twemlowe of Norton: 3s 4d to buy her a lamb with. Residuary legatee: James Proctor, eldest son of my late brother, "and also the use and consideration of all money due and owing unto me for one year next after my decease."

Executors: Sir William Bowyer of Knipersley, knight and James Proctor.

Witnesses: Thomas Cliffe, John Chilton, Mary Williams and Jane Bankes.

Signs by mark.

136.1 Notes

1. Charles Twysden, the official at the church court, required an inventory to be produced by Michaelmas; but it is not on file.⁵

2. Her connections are outside the parish. None of the surnames without locations seems to relate to Wolstanton parish.

137 William Clowes of Fowley, husbandman, will dated 25th Feb 1634/5, buried 2nd March 1634/5, inventory taken 9th March 1634/5, date of probate 24th April 1635.

137.1 Will

Being somewhat weak and d[is]eased in body; my body to the earth where it came from.

To Marie my daughter: a cow, a feather-bed, a bolster, a coverlet and blanket, two pairs of sheets, a pillow case [pillow beare] and a pillow,
 To my son-in-law Richard Dennell: one [?corn]stroke which my wife had from him.
 To my daughter Jane: £3 to be paid at the end of two years.
 To my daughter Anne: £8 to be paid at the end of three years after my decease.
 Residuary legatees: Margerie my wife and William my son.
 Executor: William Clowes my son.
 Witnesses: Thomas Bentley Benjamin Clowes.

The debts owing to the testator:

Mr Robert Hommersley	£2	3s
Michell Warde	£1	8s

The debts owing by the testator:

To Thomas Bentley	£5	
Funeral expenses	£1	1s

137.2 Inventory

A true and p[er]fecte Inventorie of all the goodes and Cattels of william Clowes of fowley in the parishe of wolsington in the Countie of Stafford, husbandman deceased taken the ixth day of march 1634 by vs Thomas Bentley James oulsnam Beniamin Clowes

Five kine
 two Incalfe heafers
 sixe sterkes
 two Calfes
 two mares and one horse
 one swine
 Corne and hey
 Husbandrie ware
 Brasse and pewter
 three fetherbeddes Coverlettes blankettes)
 boulsters pillowes and all other beddinge)
 Sheetes and apperie ware
 two Arkes fyve Cofers one boxe one l ittle Cobbord
 one Joynt bedd bedstockes
 one turnell one knedingtubb w[i]th barrells)
 loomes boukes and all other trene ware)
 butter Cheese and fleshe at the Ruffe
 meale and malte
 bordes formes Cheres stooles quishens)
 and all other implementes in the house)
 one grate one fryinge panne and all other)
 Iron ware in the house)
 menor

seckes and window sheetes
pultrie
saddles and brydles
apparell and monie in his purse
cloth yorne and flaxe

137.3 Notes

1. The printed parish register gives the name as Glover
2. Unusually, we know the funeral expenses - £1 1s, and the cost of obtaining probate was 3s 6d.
- 3 'Wolsington' - a pronunciation of Wolstanton at the time.
4. His widow died in 1638.
5. 'Robert Hommersley the son of Ralph Hommersley sold the Ridghouse estate in Shelton to one Mr Eyre' according to John Fenton, a 17th century local historian.
6. 'Sheetes and apperie ware' - the sheets and napery (linen) are often listed together (as in the last inventory).
7. 'corn stroke' - for measuring corn.
8. 'seckes and window sheetes'. The winnowing sheets (used in separating the corn from the chaff) and the empty sacks were stored together in William Clowes' barn.
7. A prosperous man, but probably not just from husbandry. He lived at Fowley which was on the highway going east from Newcastle, he had a large amount of bedding, we know from Yates' map in the last part of the 18th century of a New Inn situated on this road, and there is the origin of Queens Hotel to explain - so could he have been an inn-keeper?

138 John Beech of Knutton, yeoman, will dated 27th August 1635, buried 3rd September 1635, inventory taken 5th September, date of probate 16th September 1635.

138.1 Will

Sick in body; 'my body to the yearth'.

To Elnor my wife: the best bed with all that belongs to it, the second pot, two chargers, one skillet, one cow and wintering for her.

To Elnor my wife for her life: half of all my lands and buildings belonging to them.

To John Beech my eldest son for his heirs and his child's part: two tables and forms, a grate in the house, the best pot, the best iron-bound wain, two yokes, one chain, one plough with plough-irons, one harrow.

My intention is that my wife shall have the joint use of all the husbandry ware during her life.

To Raphe Beeche my second son for his child's part: £10.
 To Thomas Beeche my third son for his child's part: £20.
 To Elnor Patson my elder daughter for her child's part: 20s.
 To Alse Beeche my younger daughter for her child's part: £30.
 To my three grandchildren John Patson, Richard Patson, Phillip Patson: 6s 8d each.
 To my son-in-law Richard Patson, in consideration of all his marriage portion: 12d.
 Residuary legatees: my two younger sons and younger daughter.
 My intention is that my heir, whichever of my children it shall please God to make my heir, shall maintain and keep my brother Raphe Beech with food and drink, clothing, accommodation, woollen linen, hose, shoes, washing fit and convenient for his calling.
 To Raphe Beech my brother: all my wearing apparell except my coat and cloak. And if it happens that my heir refuses to keep and maintain my brother [.....] then my intention is that my brother Raphe shall have and peaceably enjoy a close or pasture called Lower Barcroft for life, paying the yearly rent of a penny at Christmas to my heir, if it be lawfully asked for.
 To my son John Beech: all my lands and my lease of Whitfield on condition that he pays certain sums of money named below within one year viz. to Raphe Beeche my son £16 13s 4d, to Thomas Beeche my son £16 13s 4d, and to Alse Beeche my daughter £36 13s 4d. and if my son John Beeche or whom it shall please God to make my heir refuses to pay these sums of money, then it is my intention that my three younger children shall have and peaceably enjoy the Berch as it is now divided in two parts and the middle Barcrofte for 25 years from my decease paying the yearly rent of a penny at Christmas to my heir, if it be lawfully asked for.
 He revokes all former wills.
 Executors: Elnor my wife and my son John.
 September the vth 1635

138.2 Inventory

A trewe and p[er]fect Inventory of all the goodes and Chattles of John Beeche of Knutton Latly deceased preysed by vs John Clownam John Patson John Baddeley William Gibson

Quicke goodes

fower oxen	£20		
fower keene	£12		
one kowe more	£3	6s	8d
tow nagge and a Coult	£8	13s	4d
sixe twinters	£16		
five sheepe and fower Calves	£4	16s	8d
tow sweene	£2		
henns and geese		7s	8d
Dead good			

three dayes workes of winter Corne	£6	13s	4d
tow dayes workes of barlye	£4		
xij dayes workes of oytes	£16		
Corne in the house malte and heaye	£8	13s	4d
bacon and wheite meate	£3	10s	
the lease of ground in wheete fild	£3	6s	8d
the lease of the milne Crofte	£46		
the best weane one plow w[i]th irons 2 yockes one cheane one harrow	£4		
the rest of the Husbandry wares implementes of husbandry & horse geeres	£4		
weane plowe and milne timb[er] and all other timber	£1		
one tubston[n]e tow swine trowes and a grindinge ston[n]e		5s	
towe great table w[i]th formes the best pott the best grate	£5		
brasse and peuter one silver spo[n]ne tow iron kettles			
a posnet a mort[er] & pistle	£8	18s	4d
the best bedd w[i]th that belongeth to it the second pott one skellet & tow peuter dishes	£5		
the rest of the beddinge and bedstockes aCnd Chestes	£12		
shites table Clothes and nappery ware	£5		
a litle grat bellowes fire suvull tounges pottrackes			
spites & all other iron ware		13s	4d
salt		3s	
woole and tawe		13s	4d
one weetinge Compe		10s	
one barrell lomes peles Cheeres stowls turnells basins			
dishes trenchers and all wooden ware	£2	10s	
sheelfes one hehell & cardes		10s	
one bibell		6s	8d
his wearinge apparell and money in his purse	£5		
one hevrecloth a Cheeseprese seckes one win[n]owschit			
dounge and other thinges of smale value		10s	
Sum[m]e	£212	8s	4d

[Actual £211 7s 4d]

138.3 Notes

1. There were several John Beechs living locally. This is the one whose father (of the same name) died sometime between 1610 and 1614, and whose will and inventory survive. He was not the one living at The Wood, it seems. But of this we can't be sure.
2. The provision for his widow was separately priced in the inventory. A charger was a large dish and a skillet was a cooking utensil with a long handle. The provision of hay for her cow ('wintering') is not separately identified.
3. 'in consideration of all his marriage portion' - Richard Pateson will have received

the marriage portion paid by his father-in-law.

John Beech was also thinking of a marriage portion for his unmarried daughter Else, in giving her £20 more than her brothers.

4. A tithe book for 1735, a hundred years later, gives the number of day works producing wheat, barley and oats in Knutton. It shows the biggest cereal grower that year, Ralph Biddle, being tithed on seventeen and a half day works of crops. This compares with John Beech's seventeen day works a hundred years before (this is 12 statute acres). In both years, oats was by far the biggest crop.

5. The few missing words in the will probably do not affect the sense of the passage.

6. Whitfield (or 'The Whitefeildes') was one of the arable fields in Knutton at the time. A lane now called Lower Milehouse Lane passed near it. Whitfield was reachable by 'all manner of carriages' (according to a declaration in the manor court over a right of way to 'The Whitefeildes' in 1634.)

7. 'The Milne Crofte' presumably lay next to the mill that is known to have existed in Knutton near the junction of Church Lane and Silverdale Road. The inventory of another Knutton man, John Clownam (1648), also lists plough, wain and mill timber - is it a coincidence?

8. The process of converting barley grains to malt involved steeping the grains for about four days in a vat. This must be the 'weetinge Compe' valued at 10 shillings - and at that price, undoubtedly very large. The haircloth (hevre cloth) was for suspending the sprouting grains over the heat of a kiln.

9. A hetchell was for combing coarse fibres of hemp from fine ones. A card had a similar function, being a small wooden instrument for combing wool or flax.

10 'win[n]owschit' - one of the more unusual renderings of 'winnow sheet', used to separate the chaff from the grains of corn.

139 John Unwin, husbandman, date of will 20th December 1634, buried 10th December 1635, inventory taken 11th December 1635, date of probate 2nd January 1635/6

139.1 Will

Sick and weak of body.

[Burial place not specified] To my daughter Mary Unwin: the best pot (of brass), the best pan (of brass), 4 pewter dishes, 1 pewter bowl, 1 chafing dish; and the great chest in the parlour - if my son Rafe wants to have it, he is to pay her what it is worth, after reasonable composition.

To my son Raphe Unwin: 2 pewter dishes, 1 chafing dish, the second brass pan, the great old brass pot, the great table in the house, the dish-board in the house, the iron grate.

To my son John Unwin: 2 pewter dishes, 1 candlestick of brass, the least brass pot, the least brass pan, my coffer.

Residuary legatee: Margaret Unwin my wife, who is to have the use of these gifts given to my children as long as she keeps my name.

Executors: Raphe Unwin my cousin, and Margaret Unwin my wife.

Signs by mark.

Witnesses: Richard Ratcliff, Richard Shawe.

139.2 Inventory

The true and Just Inventorie of all the goodes Cattell and Chattells of John Vnwin Late deceased in the p[ar]ishe of wolstanton and Countie of Stafforde prayed ye eleventh day december by John Rathbon, William Dickenson, Richard Ratcliffe, and Richard Shawe. 1635.

his apparrell and money in his purse

one heffer

two Lames

one swyne

all his Corne and hea

the lease of his house

the Table in the house the dish borde in the house

three brasse pannes; three pottes with other peuter and brasse

all the bedding; withall the napery

the greatest Chest in the parler

three chestes more

two cheres, stooles, bedstockes, boukes shelfes, spinning wheles with other wodden ware, one painted cloth.

one Iren grate two broches, one peare of gobordes, frying pann, tonges, pottrackes with other Iron ware.

one harrow, a ladder, felles with other husbandrie ware

seven pound of wollen yorne

hempe and flaxe

139.3 Notes

1. If correctly identified, he was born around 1580. His step-mother Ann Unwin died in 1602/3, saddled with debts. 'John Unwin of Hardinges Woodd' is mentioned in 1617. His lease of Hardingswood then had less than 10 years to run. The inventory puts a value on 'the lease of his house' but this may or may not be the one at Hardingswood. (The £10 for the lease of the house is probably for house and land.) Do the appraisers all come from Ramscliffe?

2. Chafing dishes are mentioned occasionally - they are for keeping food warm on a small portable grate.

3. 'boukes' - this was a wooden pail with an upright handle and was used in dairy work.

4. The value of hemp and flax is high. It has probably been bought, since the only two

inventories in this parish listing a growing crop of hemp and flax price it at 2s and 1s 8d.

140 Randle Whytall of Olcott, nailer, will dated 20th March 1633/4, buried 27th ?July 1635, inventory taken 30th July 1635, date of probate 4th August 1635.

140.1 Will

Being in good health; to be buried in the parish churchyard of Wollstanton.

To Margaret my wife: the bed in which we lie with everything that goes with it; a coffer or chest at the foot with everything in it.

To Randall Whytall my son: the house in which I live with all buildings, gardens and yards going with it for the life of my wife Margaret, if the term which I have in it continues so long. My wife is to be well kept and maintained by my son Randall with food, drink, lodging and clothing suitable and convenient for her age and status. If she does not like to be kept by my son Randall, then he is to pay her £5 yearly or else she is to take on the tenancy of the property for life, if the term which I have in it continues so long. However if she does accept being kept by my son Randall, then he is to pay her 20s a year in four instalments.

To Richard Whitall, my son: £5.

To John Whitall, my son: £5.

To Thomas Whitall, my son: £5; a grate, a pair of pot racks, a great chest, a cupboard and a stone trough standing in the kitchen.

To Anne Baddely, my daughter: £5.

To Margaret Rowley, my son William's daughter: 5s.

To Elline Baddeley, my son William's daughter: 5s.

To Marie Whitall, my son William's daughter: £10.

To Randle Whitall, my son William's son: 5 marks [£3 6s 8d] To Anne Whitall, my son Richard's daughter: 40s.

Residuary legatee and executor: Randle Whitall, my son.

Revokes other wills.

Signs by mark.

Witnesses: John Bourne Thomas Whitall Andrew Smith Thomas Cowper.

140.2 Inventory

A trew & p[er]fect Inventory of all the goodes Cattels, & Chattels of Randull whytall of Olcott in the countie of Stafford Nailer lately deceased vewed & praised by theise p[er]sons subscribed the thirtith daie of July in the yeare of o[u]r lord god 1635. William Rowley Robert Burslem Thomas Baddely John Cawton & George stonier. Seuventeene Kyne & heffers w[i]th five Calues £58

Fower Oxen £26
 Fower Steeres £18
 Nyne Twinters £25
 Seuen sterrkes £10 10s 0d
 Two Mares £11
 Thurtie nyne ould sheepe £10
 Eleven Lambes £2
 Fower Swyne £5
 Corne on the ground £32
 Haie & Corne in the Barne w[i]th some haye grasse £19
 Beddinge & Bedstockes £14 10s 0d
 Brasse & Pewter £6
 Linnens & Linnen cloth w[i]th napery £9 10s 0d
 Corne in the howse £10 10s 0d
 All man[ner] of husbandry ware as yoakes horsse
 Geares and all other husbandry tooles £10
 All Nailles at home & abroade £18
 Wollen Clothe wollon Yarne and wollens £1 14s 0d
 Chestes and Cupbordes £2 5s 0d
 Tables Formes Cheares Stooles, Shilves &
 Loose bordes £2
 Wolle and Towe £1 10s 0d
 Lyme stone £10
 Powltery 3s 4d
 Smithye tooles. as Bellowes Ham[m]ers. Studdies &c £7 6s 8d
 The Smithye Lease £2 10s 0d
 A Tunn and a Halfe of iron in the Smithye £27
 All other iron at home & in other mens handes £2 18s 0d
 Iron ware . As Grate. fyer Shovell. Tounges
 & other implem[en]tes in the howse £1
 Treene ware £3
 Earthen vessells & glasses 4s 0d
 Sives. Riddles . windowe sheetes.[?Sackkes]
 & measures w[i]th two spinninge wheeles. £1
 Beefe. Bakon. Butter. Cheese & Saulte £8
 Timber 10s 0d
 Woodd and other fuell £1
 Muckk 10s 0d
 Three seu[er]all Leases for c[er]ten yeares £10 10s 0d
 His App[ar]ell monie in his Chest & all other
 odd thinges vnmencio[u]ned about the howse £30
 Sum[ma] £412 11s
 [Actual £407 1s 0d]

140.3 Notes

1. Nailing existed in the 17th century in South Staffordshire and around Wigan in Lancashire. However there are sparse references to it in North Staffordshire too. Randle Whytall was a wealthy man and his estate was comparable in value to that of Lancashire nailers of the 1630's such as John Smith of Atherton, Richard Hampson of Westleigh, Richard Battersby of Shakerley and John Withington of Westhoughton who all left a personal estate in the region of £200.

He had bought the rod iron to make nails from in his own smithy, and given an allowance of rod iron to the local nailers who were too poor to buy their own. This I take to be the significance of 'A Tunn and a Halfe of iron in the Smithye' and 'All other iron at home & in other mens handes'

2. Randle his son was unmarried. His son William (probably deceased) had three daughters: the unmarried daughter, Marie, received a larger sum in the will than her married sisters Margaret and Elline. The marriage of Ellen to William Baddeley had taken place only eight months before Randall Whytall wrote his will.

3. The lease of the house still had another 20 years to run when Randle Whytall's widow Margaret died in 1639.

4. 'Wollens' (woollens) must mean things made of wool, although the OED has no example of this plural usage of the word before 1800.

141 John Milnes of Newchapell, no will, buried 3rd May 1635, inventory taken 5th May[Tue], date of probate 6th May.

141.1 Inventory

A true & p[er]fect Inventorie of all the goodes cattells & Chattells of John Milnes of newchapell in the p[ar]ish of wolstanton & dioces of Couentrie & Lychfeild deceased taken & prayed the fifte daie of Maye by vs William Bourne William Rowley William Henshalle and Randle Withalle as followeth Anno 1635

4 kyne & 3 suckinge calves

two weaned calves

two mares

two yonge bease

4 sterks wherof 3 are heffers & one bullocke

xj Ewes & lames one tup one weath[er] & 3 yonge sheepe

3 yonge swine

all the corne w[i]thin ye barne vnthrust

all the corne w[i]thin ye howse & a wiche in the barne

all meale groats & mault

two wiches the one in the barne & the oth[er] in the howse

3 ould Coffers ouer ye howse & two pare of bedstids

all measures baskets wisketts siue & one hoper

two longe spinning weels & a little weele
 two paire of bedstides ouer the parler
 3 Chests ouer the Parler
 one ould table ouer the parler
 two paire of bedstides ouer the Butterie & one Chest
 two carpets & two peeces of wollen cloath & one remnant of lynen cloath
 hempe flaxe & lynen yorne
 Esvalls
 one cobord in the parler & one low bed one Chest & one highe bed standinge in the
 same
 7 cou[er]beeds xij blanketts 4 feth[er] beds, 8 boulst[er]s, v pillowes beares, 6 Chaf-
 beds, 16 paire of sheetes & 8 pillowbeares
 all the quishions in the howse
 Joyntable & a forme in ye Parler
 all bordclothes, towells napkins & all oth[er] naperie ware not before praissed
 Haye & Strawe
 one longe table in the howse & a forme & two little tables
 4 Cheares loosebordres & stooles
 one kneydng tub
 one grate a paire of tungs a fire showe a brediron

a backstone a brundret pothooks & all iron ware w[i]thin the house	13s	4d
a paire of Gobordes 3 spitts & one dripingpan	10s	
one little salt Coffe & salt in it	3s	4d
one plow one harrow 3 oxe cheynes & all oth[er] thinges belonging to husbandrie	£2	
Brasse & Pewter	£6	
two fryn pans a ould coubord in the Buterie	10s	
two little siluer spoones	7s	
27 tun of Lymston & mucke about the howse	£8	10s 0d
all poulerie ware	13s	4d
Beefe Bacon w[i]th Butt[er] Chese & oth[er] p[ro]uision in the howse	£3	
one remnant of wollen cloth	3s	4d
one tubstone swin trowes & One grindingston	10s	
one Byble & oth[er] bookes	8s	
all classes & earthen vessells	5s	
4 barels v loomes & all oth[er] Couperie ware in the howse		
all dishes trenchers chesfuts & all oth[er] treynware		
all bags secks & winow sheets		
one debt owinge by Thomas wildbloud		
all his wearinge apparell & monie in his purse furniture for his his p[er]son & horse		
all oth[er] thinges not praissed		
Affidavit		
Knowe all men by these p[re]sents that I Joyce mylnes of Thursfeeld in the p[ar]ish		

of woolstanton and Countie of Stafford widdowe late wife vnto John mylnes of Thursfeeld afforesayd latelie deceased beinge at this p[re]sent both in greate age & weakenes doe by these p[re]sents give grante & authorise my loveinge sonne in Lawe Thomas Hildiche all my Right & title to the Administration of all the goods detts Cattels & Chattles of John mylnes my late husband disceased, and to pay detts w[hi]ch my husband owed, as far as the goodes extend accordinge to the true Inventorie of them taken the 5th daye of may 1635, by William Bourne of the yewtry & William Rowley of Turnehurst gentleme[n], William Henshaw of Thursfeeld & Randle whitall of ollcot yeomen. In witnes whereof I have heereto put my hande & seale the sayd fift daye of maye 1635.
 Sealed & delivered in the p[re]sence of
 William Colcloughe
 Robert Burslem X The mark of Joyse miln[es] Alexander milnes

141.2 Notes

1. The total of debts, though not mentioned, must be substantial.
2. 'wiche' - this is a wooden chest holding corn.
3. The rooms are mentioned by name:
 the house would be the main or original room of the house, equivalent to the medieval hall. It could, as in previous centuries, have been open to the rafters, from which the beef and bacon were hanging.
 The parlour is a ground-floor room, a combination of sitting-room and bedroom.
 The buttery was a storeroom for things needed in food preparation and serving. Being not on show, it also tended to be used as a dumping place for old items.
4. The 'measures' were vessels such as a peck- half-bushel- or bushel-measure, and maybe larger ones; they were for measuring the corn. 'sive' = sieve.
5. Spinning wheels are mentioned. F G Emmison (Elizabethan Life: Home, Work and Land p.76) implies that long wheels are for spinning flax for linen cloth. Spinning required quills on which yarn was wound, and these may be the 'esvalls' priced at 6d in the inventory. (Another Staffordshire occurrence of the word tends to confirm this interpretation: 'paid for a hundred of essballs 2s 6d' (Stafford workhouse accounts, entry for 8th November 1742) and 5 days later three hundred of essballs were purchased; presumably it was for the female inmates to do spinning as on December 2nd someone had to be paid to mend the wheels and finally by 14 December the workhouse had 21 yards of hempen cloth in stock which they had paid an outsider to warp and weave.)
6. 'cou[er]beeds' are coverlets.
7. fire showe = fire shovel.
8. The limestone and muck were outside the house. The limestone would need to be burnt in a kiln to convert it to lime. 'Limestone' occurs more often than 'lime' in the inventories - maybe some of the local farmers had their own kilns.
9. The 'chesfuts' were cheese vats, as his widow's inventory later shows.
10. The record of the court was written in Latin - in this case at the bottom of the inventory. Robert Burslem, one of the witnesses of Joyce Milnes' affidavit, is her brother. The record mentions Alexander Milnes of Newchapel and Thomas Hildich of

Alsager who are both husbandmen. John Milnes left a son called John who was still a minor.

142 Roger Smyth of Haykar, yeoman, will dated 4th Aug 1635, buried 9th Feb 1635/6, inventory dated 10th February[Tue], date of probate 17th Feb 1635/6

142.1 Will

Being sick in body.

Body to be buried in the "holly buriall of Woolstanton."

To son James Smith: one great witch standing in the barn; one great coffer; one joined bed and one joined press standing in the parlour.

To Margorie Smith daughter of Robert Smith of Stafford: 5s.

To godsons Roger Smith and Homfrey Cox: 5s each.

If mother Ellen Styll dies before son James reaches 21 years, James, when he enters upon the former's housing and lands, shall pay to Margaret (ie his own mother) 20 nobles yearly until he reaches 21 years. Also son James is to pay Margaret £60 at the day of his marriage or within 4 years after becoming 21. In both cases, this is for the use of the three youngest children, Mary, Margorie, and John Smith.

Residuary legatee and executor: my wife Margaret, who is to bring up James and the other children until my mother Ellen dies (or until James reaches 21 years or the others reach 14 years.)

Witnesses: John Rowley, Robert Cox, James Smith, William Bale, Ales Wilkinson.

142.2 Inventory

A true and p[er]fecte Inventorie of all the Goodes Cattelles and Debtes Whatever of Roger Smyth of Heykar in the p[ar]ishe of Woolstanton deceased seene Vued and praysed the tenth day of Februarie by John Rowley Richard Wooldrich John Benson Robert Smyth and Robert Cox Anno d[omi]ni 1635.

foure Joxen	£22		
six keyne	£21		
foure twinters	£12		
toowe sterkes	£4	10s	
three Caulues	£4	10s	
one Mare	£4		
eighteeine sheepe	£3	12s	
towe Sweine	£1		
all mannor of pooltrey		2s	
tacke grounde	£3	5s	
all corne in the house and barne	£7	6s	8d
corne upon the grounde	£1		
haye and strawe	£4		
all waines plowes yokes chaines and all mannor of husbandrie implementes	£4	13s	8d
foure and twentie tune of Lime stone	£5		
one Joyned bedd and one Joyned Press standing in the Parlore	£2		
Blankites & Coverlets	£5		
all mannor of Linines being sheeites and other Napperie ware	£5		
all mannor of Brasse and Iren	£4	10s	
all Beeife Backon Butter and Cheese w[i]th all other p[ro]vidgion	£3		
al tables formes stoooules chears Coffers w[i]th al other trine ware	£3		
one Ireon grate w[i]th broaches coberdes fires shoouel			
toonges w[i]th al other such implementes		13s	4d
money owing by George Woode		15s	
money owing by Richard Drakefoarde of the Stonnetrooe	£10		
his wearing Apparell	£4		
money in his purse		10s	
for al other thinges if anie be forgott		3s	4d
[Checked] £135 1s 0d]			

142.3 Notes

1. Ellen Stile/Steele (his mother) died 1638, and John Smith (his brother) died 1632/3. Their wills (in summary) and inventories are in this collection.
2. The probate note refers to Robert Coxe of Cowley, Staffs, yeoman. Roger Smyth's father-in-law was Homfrey Cox of Cowley in the parish of Gnosall, Staffs. yeoman.
3. The indenture which is the marriage settlement of Roger Smyth and Margaret Preston (late wife of John Preston) dated 21st May 1617 is in Stafford Record Office (D3534/2/1). His son James Smyth did not reach the age of 21 until 1638/9, when he was deemed old enough to serve as one of the churchwardens of the parish. In 1617 Roger Smyth was described as yeoman 'of Haykar Ridges and Delves'. In 1624 when he served as constable for Tunstall constablewick (which comprised much

of the parish of Wolstanton plus Burslem), he was described as 'of Delfe Ridges.' His son James had a building extension to the house put up, probably in 1647, and in 1666 James Smyth's house was assessed for the Hearth Tax on the basis of having two hearths. The house is probably a predecessor of one of the houses called High Carr, which is reached from a lane running from Red Street. Other papers in Stafford Record Office include a record dated 1678 of 'coales and canill' obtained on the property.

At least one other house stood at High Carr at this time. This was inhabited by the Rowleys (see John Rowley, died 1649, in this collection).

4. tacke grounde' - land leased to him.

spoons.

5. Lime stone' - lime was used for improving the soil.

6. 'one Joyned Press' - a cupboard of joinery work. In this period the parlour was a living room and bedroom and was downstairs.

7. 'one great witch' - a large wooden chest, probably for holding grain.

8. 'all manner of Brasse and Iren'. The latter must be a mistake for pewter. A lot of pewter items at this time were for the table: platters, chargers, drinking pots (ie quart pots and pint pots for ale), cups, bowls, salt cellars (known as 'salts'), saucers (dishes for holding sauce), dishes, candlesticks, spoons - and even chamberpots - were made of pewter. Brass items included many that were used in food preparation: pots, pans, kettles, a posnet (a type of small pot with three legs), skillet (a three-legged pan with a long handle), chafer (a small portable grate, holding heated charcoal), chafing dish (for keeping food warm on a chafer), basin, a small furnace, ladle, pestle - as well as candlesticks and spoons. Examples of woodware or treenware are dishes and spoons.

9. 'one Ireon grate' etc - the normal equipment of the hearth. The broaches are spits for roasting meat, and they rested on the coberdes. These, with the fire shovel and tongs, were made of iron.

10. Richard Drakefoarde of the Stonnetrooe The Stonetrough was and is the name of a farm in Stadmoreslow township.

143 Raphe Barlowe of Bruckhouse, skinner, will dated 10th March 1634/5, buried 24th June 1636, inventory taken 30th June 1636, date of probate 17th August 1636.

143.1 Will

Weak in body; to be buried in Christian burial.

To John Barlowe my son: 12d in the name of his child's part.

To my daughter Issabell Cooke: 12d in the name of her child's part.

To my daughter Anne Barlowe: the third part of my goods.

Residuary legatee and executrix: Alis my wife.

Annuls all former wills.

Witnesses: John Bagnald John Whithall James Tarbucke John Bourne

143.2 Inventory

A true & p[er]fecte Inventorie of all the goodes Cattells and Chattells of Raphe Barlowe w[i]thin the p[ar]ish of wolstanton & doces of Couentrie & lichfeild deceased taken & praissed the thertith daie of June Anno d[omi]ni 1636 by vs whose names are heare aft[er] written William Rowley william Stonier william Badeley Richard Coates

two kyne	£6		
one swine		15s	
brasse & Pewter	£1	6s	8d
bedinge	£2		
one mare		13s	4d
linens & all naperie ware	£1		
tables formes Chaires stooles & oth[er] bords barrells			
loomes & all trineware	£1		
ocker		5s	
one grate fire shew tongs & one drypinge gobertes & broches & all oth[er] Iron ware		13s	4d
bedstids		6s	
one packesadle & all th[a]t belongs to it & one shewel & a ladder		3s	4d
two swinetrouges			8d
two Chestes		13s	4d
bacon Cheeses & all oth[er] househould p[ro]uisioun			
10s two spinninge weeles		2s	
bags		2s	
Cups & glasses		1s	
his wearing aparell & monie in his purse	£1	10s	0d
all oth[er] smalle thinges		1s	
Sum[m]a totalis	£17	16s	0d

143.3 Notes

1. William Rowley and Richard Coates (or someone other than the scribe) wrote their names.

1. The scribe has compressed the list of hearthside items; he mentions the fire shovel (which as usual was put with the tongs) and dripping pan.

2. The 'Cups & glasses' indicate an alehouse. This would have a stable - for the use of guests' horses as well as his own mare. Raffe Barlow in 1611 held a tenement in Wedgwood for three lives (as mentioned in a marriage settlement (Birmingham Archive, Homer Coll., Bundle no 248/2)) from John Rowley of Wedgwood.

3. Ochre has been obtained in Wales, the Isle of Man and Cornwall. In his A Topographical Dictionary of England (1831), Samuel Lewis declared: 'Yellow and red

ochre are also found in Staffordshire', but didn't say where. The two colours were used on painted stone-work.

4. In his will he calls himself a skinner. In 1634 Raphe Millington of Keele and Thomas Blythe of Newcastle, both skimmers, were appointed executors by Thomas Coates in his will, the father of Richard Coates of Great Chell - who is listed among the appraisers of Raphe Barlowe's goods. So there was perhaps some business connection between these men. A Derby skinner in 1620 had dozens of skins of cats (wild and tame), rabbits, squirrels and lambs. It may be that country skimmers obtained supplies of skins for the urban skimmers who sold them.

5. Brookhouse was in Wedgwood township.

144 Alice Hanson of Stonetrough, spinster, no will, buried 28th January 1636/7, inventory taken 2nd February 1636/7, exhibited 11th May 1637.

144.1 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect Inventory of all the goods debtes and Chattells of Alice hanson late of Stonetrough within ye p[ar]ishe of woolstanton in ye Countie of Stafford Spinster deceased seene, valued and taken ye second daie of Februarie Anno d[omi]ni 1636 by John Burslem and John Bourne and John Frost as followeth

one bond from George hanson of Fourescore poundes for ye payment of fortie three pounds three shillings six pence	£43	3s	6d
one Bond from Richard Drakeford of 50l for ye paym[en]t of £31 6s 4d	£31	6s	4d
one Chest one litle Coffe and the wearinge apparell of ye deceased	£2		
monie in her purse at ye tyme of her death		8s	6d
monie owinge from John Burslem ye younger	£1	13s	
So[me] £78 11s 4d			

144.2 Notes

1. George Hanson of Woolstanton, yeoman, brother of the deceased, was granted the administration of her goods. He and Frances Lunt of Audley, husbandman, were bound in the sum of £40.

2. She lived at The Stronetrough, which was Richard Drakeford's house. Virtually the only women in this period who made wills were widows and spinsters.

145 Elizabeth Turnor of Wolstanton, widow buried 26th September 1637, no will, inventory taken 27th September [Wed], administration granted 26th October.

145.1 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect Inventorie of all & singular the goods Cattells of w[hi]ch Elizabeth Turnor widdowe lately Deceased of the Towne and p[ar]ish of Woolstanton dyed possessed of, as they were prized by vs whose names are subscribed the 27th of Septemb[er] A[n]no D[o]m[ini] 1637

One Cowe

in Nappery linnens

Chestes or Coffers

in Yarne

Fower siluer spoones

One lease of fower score yeers in p[re]sent nowe worthe

in money oweinge her viz

From Thomas Clowes

from Richard Perrey

a bed and all things to it belonging

Her weareinge apparell

Money in her purse

money oweing more first from

Elizabeth Tunstall

From Rondle Meare

From Henrie Robinson

moore in houshold stufte & wooden ware

one brasse pot & a chafing dish

a wheele

in money owing fro[m] will[iam] burslam her son owing her

Prizers

William Burslem sen[ior] Rondle Kettell

Thomas Henshawe

Thomas Turm[er] Rondle Burslem

145.2 Notes

1. Her son, William Burslem of Woolstanton, yeoman, was granted the administration of her goods, and was bound in the sum of £169 (double the value of the inventory as calculated by the appraisers). He was by then married, and his wife Alice was still living in 1683. Presumably Richard Meare of Shelton, yeoman, who is mentioned in association with William Burslem, was the pledge or guarantor for him.

2. Her first husband was William Burslem junior (in Wills of Wolstanton III) who died in 1610. She married John Turner (buried 10th June 1628) on 1st March 1618/19, ac-

ording to Percy Adams.

William Turner (who died in Feb 1632/3) is another candidate, but is less likely.

3. The lease of four score years was the original term of the lease.

4. 'a wheele' ie a spinning wheel. (The yarn is not woollen yarn presumably.)

5. We need to assume that she has in her life acquired a set of fine clothes which she has not passed on, in order to account for the comparatively high valuation figure for her apparel.

6. The last four items of the inventory were added after the inventory was totalled, and the new total was inserted after correction.

146 Katherine Prince of Stadmorelow, widow, will dated 26th February 1636/7, buried and inventory taken 29th March 1637, date of probate 1st April, 1637.

146.1 Will

Sick in body; to be buried in the churchyard of Wolstanton, as near to the place where my late husband was buried as may be.

To Raffe Prince my eldest son: 12d.

To William and Kathren his two children: 12d each.

To William Prince my son: one twinter bullock, one sheep, one pewter dish and one pair of bed sheets.

To Thomas Prince my son: my second coverlet, one pair of sheets, one pewter dish and one twinter heifer.

To Elizabeth Prince my daughter: £18, one joined bed, my best feather bed, best bolster, two pillows, one pillowbere [pillowcase], one pair of flaxen sheets, my best bed hilling [covering], two couch cushions, three silver spoons, two pewter dishes, my great coffer, my joined table and the two stools belonging to it, the boarded chair and the pewter flagon.

To Paronell Tylor: 10s and my best petticoat.

To Kathren Tylor her daughter: my best apron.

Residuary legatees: Robert my youngest son (two thirds) and John my son (a third).

Executor: William Prince my son.

Signs by mark

Witnesses: John Hodgkinson, John Burslem, William Burslem.

Debts owing to me

Richard Houlme	£4	
Richard Cartright	£2	19s
Raffe Baker	£1	3s
William Burslem		15s
John Burslem		5s
Robert Scott		6s 8d

146.2 Inventory

A trew and p[er]fect Inventory of all the goodes Cattles and Chattles of kathren Prince late of Stadmorlow in the County of Stafford Widdow deceased Valued and praised the nyne and twentieth day of March in the sixteenth year of the raigne of our Sou[er]aigne lord Charles by the grace of god of England Scotland France and Ireland kinge defender of the faith, by William Rowley John Burslem William Henshaw John Rathbone Richard Podmore John Hodgkinson and William Burslem as hereafter Followeth.

Fower kine

three hefferes

two twinters and one Calfe

a nagge and a mare

eighteene sheepe

two Swine

heay and Corne in the Barne

Corne in the howse

Ote mele in the howse

Husbandrey Ware

Brasse and pewter

three silu[e]r Spoones

Bedinge

Sheetes and napp[er]yeware

two Cofferes

one bord and the tresles it standeth vpon

one Joyned Bedd and one Bordered Chere

two paire of Bedstiddes

one Joyned table two formes and a truckle bedd

one Chere and two Coffres more

Beeffe and Bacon

Woll and toe

Iron ware in the howse

trine ware

one Dish bord and certaine Chilfes

quoishions

Pultereware

mannure

one turnell

two spinning wheles and two Swinetroes

certaine bulding and seu[er]all p[ar]celles of landes for the tearme of one year and a quarter or theirabouts

the Deceasantes weareing app[ar]jell and money in her purse

Debtes owing to the deceasant by Specialty

William Dall jun	£5	10s	
William Podmore and Richard Podmore	£3	4s	9d
Richard Podmore	£3	4s	9d
John Lawton	£2	3s	2d
William Dall afforsaid	£2	10s	4d

Debtes owing to the said decesant w[i]thout Specialty

Richard Houlme	£3		
Richard Cartright	£2	19s	
Raffe Baker	£1	3s	
William Burslem		15s	
John Burslem		5s	
Robert Scott		6s	6d
Thomas Prince	£1	12s	
Richard Podmore sen		10s	

Praisers [signatures] William Rowley John Burslem William Henshawe
 John Rathbone Richard Podmore John Hodgkinson William Burslem

146.3 Notes

1. Raffe, William, Thomas, John, Robert and Elizabeth are the children of Raph (died 1629) and Katherine Prince. Robert is aged 11. John Hodgkinson of Bryriehurst is a husbandman. The latter and William Prince had to enter into a bond of £200 (double the value of the estate) to bring up the children and pay them their legacies.

2. Nail-making is not particularly associated with North Staffordshire so it is interesting that in the grant of probate (which is written on the bottom of the will) William Prince of Stadmerlowe is described as a nailer. As a young man he is likely to have been an employee not long out of his apprenticeship. An earlier nailer in the parish was Raphe Smith of Ramscliffe in 1576. Though nail making is not particularly associated with North Staffordshire, other local nailers were Raphe Smith of Ramscliffe in 1576, a succession of nailers in Audley parish between 1582 and 1638, all called Smithe, John Hancocke, naylor, in 1611, Henry Wilkinson of Kidcrew in 1623, and the very prosperous Randall Whytall of Olcott who died a few years before Katherine Prince. Also, in 1417 John Asteley, nailer owned a cottage in Wolstanton.

Nail-making was a cottage industry which was practised on a considerable scale in South Staffordshire and Worcestershire - nailers occur in 34 Worcestershire inventories between 1601 and 1650. Concentrations of nailers in particular areas might survive for centuries. For example, down to the 19th century each nailer in Halesowen still had his own cottage with a workshop - despite competition from factories making nails.

Nailers used iron rod cut into suitable lengths to make different sorts of nails - for tiling, shoeing, cobbling, fixing laths etc.

3. The 'two spinning wheles and two Swinetroes' (swinetroughs) probably are grouped together as all being wooden.

4. Judging solely by their valuations, the turnell (tub) is somewhat smaller than a pair of bedsteads. John Caulton in 1649 had two turnells valued at 5s; and Thomas Frost

in 1641 had one valued at 3s. Pairs of bedsteads seem to become more highly priced with each decade of this century - compare the rise in price between William Burslem (1609) and Randle Patteson (1623).

147 John Rowley of Turnehurst, will dated 6th October 1633, buried 9th May 1637, inventory taken 11th May 1637[Thur], date of probate 17th May 1637

147.1 Will

Being in health of body.

To be buried amongst my ancestors at the discretion of my executor and other friends.

To Anne my very loving wife (if she overlive me): two of the best kyne I shall have at my decease such as she shall make choice of; and the use of one half of my household stuff and goods in my house; and one half of my wains, carts and other implements of husbandry, provided she leave them to remain to my son William Rowley and his heirs to whom I give the same after her decease.

To my son-in-law John Rowley of Ridgway, gentleman: 20s.

To my daughter Anne, his wife: £3.

To their two sons and daughter: 5 marks each (in total £10).

To the nine children of my said son William Rowley: 5 marks each (in total £30)

Residuary legatee and executor: William Rowley.

[Signs by mark] Witnesses: Fra[ncis] Bowyer, W. Bourne, Alexander Milnes, William Henshall (own signatures).

Julie the 3 1636 This day I Rede this will vnto the testator John Rowley and he confessed it was made according to his mynd.

By me John Bentley

147.2 Inventory

A true & p[er]fect Inventorie of all the goods Chattells & Cattell of John Rowley of Rowley al[ia]s Turnehurst in the countie of Stafford gent[leman] deceased, seene Valued and praissed the eleauenth daie of maye: one Thousand sixe hundred thertie & seauen: By William Bourne Anthonie Beech, Thomas Bourne, Robert

Burslem & John Bourne as followeth

Tenn kyne and tenn calues

one oxe

Fiue Twint[er]s

Sixe sterkes

Two sheepe & a lambe

Foure swine

Fiue feth[er]beds, eight boulst[er]s, tenn pillowes neene Cou[er]lids two paire of Cur-

taines, sixtene blanketts & fiue matterres
 All sheets lin[n]ons & nap[er]ie ware
 All man[n]er of brasse & pewt[er] All beds and bedstides
 All Tables formes bordes frames Cheres & stooles & all oth[er] maner of wooden &
 treene ware
 All chests & coffers
 All grats Brunderts pottracks goberts broches, & all oth[er] Iron ware in the house
 All waines & plowes harrowes yoaks Chenes & all oth[er] implementes of husbandrie
 meale mault & oth[er] houshold p[ro]uision
 Corne in the barne & corn vpon the ground
 one tubstone & c[er]ttaine stone troues
 Certaine geese & pullen
 The testators wearinge aparell and monie in his purse
 all oth[er] thinges not before valued

147.3 Notes

1. The note at the bottom of the will was made because John Rowley's wife Anne had been buried a fortnight previously. (confessed = acknowledged). His wife in her last years had lived with her daughter 'within two or three miles' of her husband. (Ridgway Hall is two or three miles to the east of Turnhurst.) The vicar Francis Capps complained that the churchwardens had failed to present John Rowley for living apart from his wife "to the great offence of the ... congregation and parishioners of Wolstanton". A churchwarden (when the case against the churchwardens was heard at Lichfield in 1631) explained that John Rowley was aged about 80 and his wife was about the same age; that their living apart was not through any dislike or discontent but through mutual consent; that he often frequented his wife's company in loving manner; and that he gave her a yearly maintenance.
2. The attribution in the inventory preamble to 'John Rowley of Rowley alias Turnhurst' follows the wording in the will. A John Rowley of Rowley is mentioned in 1569 (Tunstall manor court roll), so it looks as if the family was well-established in Turnhurst. The natural implication is that the Rowley surname - prevalent in the area at this time - ultimately derived from this place-name, though there is another Rowley west of Leek. In the Herald's visitation in 1664, the right of William Rowley of Rowley alias Turnhurst to be styled gentleman was turned down. John Bentley of Ashes, gentleman is mentioned in 1631 as paying a fine for not taking up a knighthood.
3. For information about later Rowleys and the construction of Turnhurst Hall see Klemperer W D & Sillitoe P J (1995) James Brindley at Turnhurst Hall in Staffs. Arch. Studies No. 6. [Check if this article takes account of the 1719 perambulation which refers to a pool (or watering hole) on Turnhurst Green.] 4. In 1666 the house that John Rowley of Turnhurst (his grandson) lived in had 7 hearths; and possibly there were 9 hearths in total, if one is to include the 2 hearths that William Rowley was assessed for. The house may not have been so large in 1637, although the five featherbeds and 5 mattresses indicate provision for 10 people. John Rowley in 1681 held 27 customary acres (57 acres) of freehold land in the town-

ships of Wedgwood, Thursfield (where Turnhurst was situated) and Oldcott, and there is documentary evidence that this was the same in his grandfather's day.

148 Richard Wood of the Wood, will dated 26th May 1628, buried 20th May 1637, inventory taken 25th May 1637, date of probate 26th May 1637.

148.1 Will

My body to the earth.

To mLy brother Esau Wood: one suit of apparel

To my brother John Wood 12d and to his children: 12d each.

To Sara Bowyer my god daughter: 6s 8d.

To Dorothy Beech of Hammer end: 5s.

To Mary Bret the younger of Dimsdale: 5s.

To all my godchildren: 12d each.

To Richard Beech the son of John Beech of the Wood my god son: 5s.

To John Beech the younger of the wood: 5s.

To Joane Beech daughter of John Beech my son in law: one silver spoon.

To William Sherrat son of William Sherrat of Clay Lake in the parish of Leek: one silver spoon.

To Jane Beech daughter of Jane Beech widow of Newcastle: one silver spoon.

To Agnes Wood my wife: 5 acres of copyhold land with all buildings, orchards, and gardens with the appurtenances in the township of Audley which I lately purchased from John Shaw of the Crosse House, to her and her heirs for ever. Also, one messuage or cottage with a parcel of land called Holgh Way More lying near to Holgh Way Hill in Audley for the residue of years unexpired viz. 18 years. Also, the Wheat Croft and the croft adjoining for 12 years next following.

Residuary legatee and executrix: my wife.

Signed Richard Wood his mark

Witnesses: Edw[ard] Mainwaring, Richard Orme, Richard Beech

148.2 Inventory

An Inventorie of all the goodes, debts, Vtinsills, houshold implem[en]ts, Cattalls and Chattalls, of Richard Wood of the Wood in the Parishe of Wolstanton in the Countie of Staff[or]d yeom[an] taken at his houses in the Parishes of Audley & Wolstanton and prised by John Beech John Cowall William Gibson and John Morton yeom[an] the 25th of May 1637

In Corne & Cattell

Foure oxen two steeres, three steirkes, eight kine, £s d
three Calues, two Mares, three Colts thirteene sheep

and two swine	89	10	0
In Wheat, Rie, Barley, oates all growinge Corne	34	13	4
In linnen	12	15	0
Houshold implem[en]ts In Brasse, Pewter, & Iron Ware	15	10	4
In Beding, Carpets, & Chushions	19	4	4
Tables, Bedsteeds, Chaires Forms, stooles presses,			
Chests, pr[e]sses Cupboards, shelues, plankes tubbs, together w[i]th other Lumber ware	19	13	10
Houshold p[ro]vision In Butter Cheese, bacon, Mault,			
Corne threashed & vnthreashed & Fewell	25	6	8
Plate readie money together w[i]th his Apparell	19	5	4
Husbandry implem[en]ts as ploughs Carts e[t] c[etera]	11	0	0
Leases			

Three, one a Life & two for yeares 94 0 0
340 8 10

Sum[m]a totalis Three hundred fortie [pounds] eight [actually eighteen] shillings & tenpence
[.....] vnprised at the first prising

one two yeare ould heifer	2	10	0
one table leafe & a bible w[i]th some Boardes	16	8	
	3	6	8

148.3 Notes

1. The witnesses: Richard Orme is the scribe and Edward Mainwaring writes his own name.
2. 'The Wood' is shown on the first edition OS map (sheet 41) in a position by a brook a few hundred yards north of Blackbank Rd. The will suggests there were at least two houses there. There is reason to believe it was counted as being within Apedale.
3. The livestock seem to be overvalued by 204. There are more bequests to Beeches than Woods, suggesting he has more than one family connection with them. From the will we gather that John Beech married his daughter (?now dead) and may or may not have an address in The Wood. There is another (perhaps two!) John Beeches occurring in the will. From the parish register we find a John Beech of Knutton was buried on Sept 3rd 1635 - some years after this will was written. Also, a John Beech of Wood was buried on 17th February 1647/8. It is possible there is a third John Beech still to account for!
5. The grant of probate relates to a copy of this will, which seems to be identical to this, except for a non-significant difference in word-order at one point.

149 William Stonier of Wedgwood, yeoman, will dated 16th May 1637, buried 1637, inventory taken 2nd June 1637, date of probate 28th June.

149.1 Will

Weak in body; to be buried in Christian burial 'at the discretion of my executor and other friends'.

To John Hodgkinson: £1

To William Hodgkinson: 2s

To Cathrin Hodgkinson: 2s.

To Anne Hodgkinson: 2s.

To Margrett Kettle: 2s.

To Margrett Drakeford: 2s.

To Ellen Withalle: 2s.

To Cathrin Heyes: 2s.

To Richard Keelinge: 1s.

To Randle Kettle: 5s.

To Mary Gibson: 5s.

Residuary legatee and executor: William Stonier, my son.

Witnesses: William Rowley James Beeche.

[Signs by mark]

149.2 Inventory

A trie & p[er]fect Inventorie of all the goodes Cattells & Chattells of william Stonier in the p[ar]ish of wolstanton & Countie of Stafford yeoman deceased, Seene Valued & praissed the second of June in the teenth yeare of the raigne of our sou[er]aigne Lord Kinge Charles of England Scotland France & Ireland, &c. Anno d[omi]ni 1637: by vs James Beeche, Thomas Keelinge Raphe Newton William Rowley Richard withalle as followeth:

sixe Steeres	£30		
sixe kyne & sixe calues	£24		
one twint[e]r heffer, & 3 sterks	£7	10s	
21 sheepe & xi lambs	£7		
two mares	£10		
two swine	£1	10s	
all bedinge	£5	6s	8d
all brasse & Pewter	£5		
all linons & nap[er]ie ware	£5		
corne in the house & haye & Corne in the barne	£10		
Corne growinge in the feild	£12		
xx tun of lymston	£5		
all bedstids, tables & formes shilfes stooles & all tryne & woden ware	£5		
all weynes harrowes plowes yokes & all husbandrie ware	£3		
grate brundret broches goberts & all man[n]er of Iron ware		10s	
meale mault & all oth[e]r househould p[ro]uision	£6		
Certaine wollen Cloath	£1	10s	
all seckes wino sheets baskets & siues		10s	
one Tubstone & c[e]rtaine stone trowes		3s	
geese & poultrie ware		6s	8d
the manure about the house		10s	
Arks Chests or Coffers	£1	10s	
his purse & aparell & monie in the house	£40		
all oth[e]r things not form[e]rlie Valued	£1		
Sum[m]a totalis £181 6s 4d [checked]			

149.3 Notes

1. William Stonier had probably been a widower from before 1624, the year the records of burials in Wolstanton survive from.
2. Of the beneficiaries: John Hodgkinson, William Hodgkinson, Cathrin Hodgkinson and Anne Hodgkinson were his nephews and nieces; Margrett Drakeford, Ellen Withalle and Cathrin Heyes were his sisters. The friends to whom he entrusted the sharing of the decision about his funeral arrangements would normally have been named in the will as overseers; they were in all likelihood his neighbours, Richard Keelinge and Randle Kettle.
3. William Stonier had about 17 day works (that is about 25 acres) of land devoted to corn-growing - most of it would be oats. We don't know if his land was wholly within the township of Wedgwood, but for comparison nearly a century later, in 1734 John Mare was assessed for tithes on 18 day works of oats, wheat and barley growing in Wedgwood. (Interestingly, in 1625 William Stonier of Wedgwood served as constable - an addition (later?) says 'now John Mares'.)
4. The sacks, winnowing sheets, baskets and sieves used by his employees would be stored in the barn.

150 Thomas Baddeley of Pale, yeoman, date of will 13th September 1637, buried 17th September, inventory taken 21st September 1637, date of probate 5th October 1637

150.1 Will

Sick in body; to be buried at Wolstanton.

To Richard Baddeley, my son: for the remaining term my tenement wherein I dwell; all my wains, ploughs, yokes, harrows and other husbandry ware; one great ark standing in the backhouse; the bed whereon I now lie with everything belonging to it.

To William Baddeley my son: the bed whereon Richard my son now lies with everything belonging to it (except the bedsteads); one pair of bedsteads standing in the house where Thomas Cowper dwells; one pair of hempen sheets, one middling brass pot and one coffer standing in the lower chamber.

To Anne Bo[one](?) my grandchild: my great brass pan.

To Raphe Baddeley, John Baddeley, James Baddeley and Robarte Baddeley, my sons: all my pewter.

To Thomas Baddeley, my grandchild: my best sheep.

To each of the children of my son Thomas: 12d.

To my oldest son Thomas Baddeley: 2s.

To Mary Parker, my late servant: one sheep.

To the said Robarte Baddeley, my youngest son: 40s.

Residuary legatees: Raphe Baddeley, John Baddeley, James Baddeley and Robarte Baddeley. (And my mind is that if any of them fall sick, they are to have free liberty to my house until they recover.)

Executor: Raphe Baddeley, my son.

Witnesses: John Bourne; John Baddeley senior; Raphe Baddeley senior; Robarte Baddeley senior.

150.2 Inventory

A True and p[er]fect Inventorie of all the goodes Chattells and Cattell of Thomas Baddeley late of Tunstall in the p[ar]ish of Wolstanton and countye of Stafforde yeoman Deceased seene Valued and prayed the one and Twentieth daye of September in the yeare of ou[r] Lord God one thowsande sixe hundred twenty and seaven by William Sherratt John Woode Henrye Woode Raphe Baddaley thelder and John Bourne as followeth

two oxon one Cowe and three twynter Heafers £25 6s 8d

one Mare £3

Eleaven sheepe £3 10s 0d

one Swyne £1 13s 4d

Brasse and Pewter £8 2s 8d

All man[n]er of Beddinge and Bedstides £11

All Lyn[n]ons and Nap[er]ie Ware £4
 All Chestes and Coffers w[i]th two Arkes £4
 All Boardes formes shilfes frames Sawed Boardes and tresles 18s 4d
 All Broches Gowberttes brundreds pott Cheanes and all other Iron Ware in the house
 16s 6d
 Woll 15s
 Corne and haye £10
 c[er]tayne Manure or Dunge £1
 Corne in the house and oate Meale £5 16s 8d
 waynes plowes yoaks harrowes Cheines plow Irons
 And all other Implementes of husbandrie ware £7
 Two Turnells one greate Lowme and all other wooden and treene ware 10s 0d
 one winnowe sheete and c[er]tayne sacks 12s 0d
 geese and pullen 8s 0d
 Lymestone £2 10s 0d
 a Debte Due to the testator by specaltie £30
 another Debt w[i]thoute specaltie of £30
 another Debt w[i]thoute specaltie of £3 12s 4d
 another Debt w[i]thout specaltie of 10s [?] a Debte Due to the testator for carriing of
 Stone £2 14s 0d
 In Readie money £14
 the Testators wearinge app[ar]ell £2

[Total £173 15s 6d]

150.3 Notes

1. The burial entry in the parish register, both for himself and his wife, refers to Thomas Baddeley of Pale, which was in the township of Tunstall, perhaps in or near Newfield.
2. The Thomas Baddeley who was one of the parties to the agreement for enclosure of the fields of Tunstall in 1613, in which he held 14 customary acres (almost 30 statutory acres) and who was still living in 1656 when there was a dispute over repair of a highway adjoining his enclosed land, evidently was the more important Baddeley in Tunstall and was referred to as 'Thomas Baddeley of Newfylde, gentleman' when he acted as churchwarden in 1631. In 1627 he was one of the constables for Tunstall Court (which embraced Burslem, Chell, Tunstall, Oldcott, Ramscliffe, Bemersley, Wedgwood, Thursfield, Stadmorlowe and Chatterley). Ward said that the Baddeleys had been resident in Tunstall for four centuries at least, and at the time that he wrote, the inheritor of their estates was Smith Child Esq of Newfield.
3. The cereal crop has been harvested, the inventory having been taken towards the end of September. The arable was land enclosed in the 1613 agreement and was part of a 39-acre farm, which according to records in the Sneyd archive, his son Richard Badley was later leasing from Ralph Sneyd esquire.
4. 'Two Turnells'- oval tubs that would be big enough to hold a slaughtered pig; 'Lowme'- a vessel used in the dairy or for brewing.
5. No winnow sheet is priced separately in this collection, but, for comparison, 3 win-

nowing sheets were valued at 12s 0d in a Welsh inventory of 1652.

6. Limestone.. £2 10s. For comparison, in 1629 William Addams had 19 tons of limestone worth £2 16s 0d.

7. The carriage charge of £2 14s 0d for transporting stone seems high - but I would need to compare with the costs in contemporary churchwardens accounts or elsewhere. It may not be a coincidence that a Thomas Baddeley (died 1694) and his son John Baddeley (died 1701) had a carrying business based in Newcastle under Lyme.

8. The valuation of brass and pewter at £8 2s 8d is one of the highest in the parish.

9. His wife Margery had died in 1632, and at the time of writing his will he had seven sons. Thomas, his eldest son, had married and set up home elsewhere; Richard had the family farm-house and would be staying there. William was likely to be already married. The other sons (Raphe, John, James and Robert) were perhaps in service or travelling, and with no real home of their own yet - hence their father's concern that Richard should allow any of them to stay.

151 Thomas Burslem of Brownlees, will dated 27th July 1637, buried 29th July 1637, inventory taken 13th August, date of probate 5th October.

151.1 Will

Vicissimo Septimo die Julij Anno R[egis] Charoli decimo tercio

Memorandu[m] that the day and yeare afforsaid Thomas Burslem of Brownelees in the county of Stafford yoman beinge Sicke in body: butt of good and p[er]fecte memmory did in these wordes Followinge ordaine and make his last Will and Testament: For the disposinge of all his goode Cattales and Chattles in maner and forme as heire after is declared and Expressed: that is to sey:-

Imprimis Did giue and bequeth vnto John Burslem Nephew vnto the said Thomas tenn poundes: It[e]m to Margrete Drakford twenty shillings: It[e]m all the reste Resedewe and remainder of all his goodes Cattles and Chattles whatsoever: this Testator did giue and Bequeth vnto John Burslem Father of the said testator: to Dispose of as he should thinke Fitt and requesett: It[e]m Finally and lastly the said testator did ordayne and make the said John Burslem to be Sole Executor of this his said last Will and Testamente.

Test[ibus] Will[iam]o Burslem et Joh[ann]i Burslem

151.2 Inventory

A trew and p[er]fect Inuenty of all the goodes and Cattales of Thomas Burslem late of Browne lees in the county of Stafford yoman deceased valued and praised the xiiijth day of August in the yeare of our lord god one thovsant Six hundreth theirty and Seuen by William Burslem and John Burslem as heire after Followeth.

the deceasantes wearinge app[ar]ell w[i]th certain Beddinge togeath[e]r w[i]th money
 in his purse
 one Cowe £3
 one paier of ould Bedstidds and a cuffer [coffer] Sum is
 Debtes oweing vnto the said deceaseant by Specialty
 Sir William Bowyer knight and Richard Drakford
 yoman by obligaci[on] of Centum libris w[i]th condicion for the paym[en]t of liiiijli
 the said Richard Drakford and William Burslem by obligacion of decem libris w[i]th
 condicio[n] for the payment of vli viijs
 John Hodgkinson by obligacion of decem libris for the payment of vli viijs
 Thomas Rooker and William Whillocke by obligacio[n] of decem libris w[i]th condi-
 cio[n] for the payment of vli viijs
 Richard Parker and John Parker by obligacion of Sex libris w[i]th condicio[n] for the
 payment of three poundes Fower shillinges nyne pence
 John Burslem
 Debtes oweinge vnto the said deceasant w[i]thout Specialty
 William Burslem
 Margery Drakford
 John Meare
 William Dall Jun
 William Wood
 Richard Colclough
 Ann Froste
 John Burslem

151.3 Note

He was the unmarried grandson of William Burslem of Brownlees whose will and in-
 ventory are in this collection (dated 1609). He was aged 50 or thereabouts, and was
 probably living under the parental roof.

152 John Marsh of Chesterton, no will, buried 4th December 1637, inventory taken 9th December, administration granted 14th December 1637.

152.1 Inventory

A true and perfect Inventorie of all the goodes Cattells and Chattells of John Marsh
 of Chesterton w[i]thin the County of Stafford taken by John Cowall Richard Marshe
 Henry Colcloughe and William Wood the 9th Day of December Anno D[omi]ni 1637.
 Sixe Kine
 One Mare

One Swyne
Corne and Hay
Butter Cheese beefe and Bacon
Two Cupholdes
Tables Formes Chaires and stooles
Brasse and pewter
Bedstades and Beddinge
Napperie Ware
Wooll and Toe
Oatmeale
Coffers and Chests
Iron Ware
Wooden Ware
Mucke
Anvill and bellowes
Money owinge to hym
More due to be paid Ao 1642
Saddles wounties Treases and all other
houshold and husbandrie ware or
Implements whatsoeuer

152.2 Notes

1. The parish register says 'John Marsh of Chesterton' - so there was another one in the parish. He left a wife Sarah and four children, Thomas, Elizabeth, Ellen and Moses. Not included was a son John who was baptised in 1629. There were definite Burslem connections. The couple had got married at Burslem church in 1615, and their son Moses was living in Burslem in 1666 (and also Thomas Marsh). Sarah Marsh, widow, married again in 1638.
2. The court rolls for Newcastle supply additional information. At his death he owned a cottage in Wolstanton with only a garden and backside. His heir was his son William.
3. 'Saddles wounties Treases' - the wounties were straps for securing the load (such as loaded panniers) on the horse's back; the traces were attached to the vehicle drawn by the horse.
4. John Marsh could have had connections with the textile industry through his wife. After his death, Sarah asked Thomas Hunter of Newcastle, weaver, to act as surety when she was granted the administration of her deceased husband's estate. Spinning wheels could be included in the 'wooden ware' valued at 10s.

153 Richard Gregory [?of Brerehurst], no will, buried 9th September 1637, inventory taken 11th September, administration granted 26th December 1637.

153.1 Inventory

A true & p[er]fecte inuentorie of all the goods cattells & Chattels of Richard Gregorie in the p[ar]ish of wolstanton & Countie of Stafford deceased seene valued & praissed the xi daye of Septemb[er] Anno d[omi]ni 1637 by vs William Rowley John Calton, Richard withalle, John Drakefford & Thomas Rowley as followeth.

all his bedinge	£3	1s	
a little peece of wollen cloth		4s	
all his linen & nap[er]ie ware	£1	18s	
brasse & pewter	£1	1s	10d
one grate fire shew & oth[er] iron implementes		8s	4d
two little Coffers		8s	
borde shilfes & a forme & sheore [?chair]		2s	6d
his wearinge aparell & monie in his purse	£4	10s	
all oth[er] smalle thinges not before valued		1s	

Debts owing to the said Richard Gregorie deceased

Thomas Rowley of Derihouse in Biddulphe the sume of £3 6s 8d due at Martlemas next.

Margerie Hulme 5s
S[u]m[m]a £15 6s 4d [Checked]

153.2 Notes

1. The administration of Richard Gregory's goods was granted to his nephew John Gregory of Moore Lane, Staffs, nailer. James Walker of Lichfield, bridlemaker was his surety, so perhaps the nephew lived in that area. In fact there still exists a Moor Lane between Shenstone and Aldridge, a part of Staffordshire where nail-making was common.

Richard Gregory was not a recent newcomer to Wolstanton parish. The Tunstall manor court records associate him with Brerehurst from 1603 onwards. His wife had died at the start of the year 1637. He was evidently still living in the same house but "all his bedinge" at the start of the inventory suggests the presence of a house-keeper or relative.

2. fire shew = fire shovel; Martlemas = Martinmas, 11th November.

154 Raphe Abney of Chesterton, no will, buried 3rd January, date of inventory 20th January, administration granted 16th March 1637/8

154.1 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect Inventorie of all the goods Cattells and Chattells of Raphe Abney of Chesterton taken by John Willatt Raphe Bourne and Henry Colcloughe the 20 Day of Januarie. tertis decimo An[n]o Regia Regis Caroli A[nn]oq[ue] D[omi]ni 1637.

Foure Kine	£13	6s	8d
Three sterkes	£4	10s	
One horse & one mare	£4	6s	8d
Corne and Hay	£5		
Brasse and pewter	£1	10s	
Beddsteads and beddinge	£5		
Napperie ware	£2	13s	4d
Butter Cheese and Bacon	£2	10s	0d
One peece of woollen Cloath		6s	
Yarne & Hempe and rest	£1	6s	8d
Tables Coffers and Formes	£1	10s	
Iron ware		13s	4d
Treene and wooden ware	£2		
His wearinge Apparrell & money in his purse	£2	10s	
One stone troughe and all other Implements		10s	
Sum[m]a totalis est	£47	12s	8d

Nou[er]int uniu[er]si p[er] p[rese]ntes nos Anna[m] Abney de Chesterton in Com[itat]us Stafford vidua et Johannem Abney de eisdem villa et Com[itat]us yeoman teneri et obligari Carolo T Twysdem tagn' drri Com[m]issae gen[er]ali Cove et Lich' dioc' per tpdm Christophero pr em dum' dum' lobentie d[i]c[t]a Coven' et Lich' ltim e futeit in Nouaginta lib[er]is bone legalis monete Anglie solvend eidm Carolo Twysden antsno certo Attornato Ex,ecutor[is]. Exentor' Admin[is]trator vel Assignat[es] stirs Ad q[ue]m quid m quid m solucoe m b[e]ne et fidel[it]er faciend obligamus nos et vetruq n[ost]rum p[er] se pro toto et in solido hereds Executores et Admi[ni]stratores n[ost]res firmiter per p[rese]ntes Sigillis n[ost]ris sigillat dat xvj die Martij Ano regni [dni -torn] Caroli dei gr[ati]a Anglie Scotie Fran[cie] et Hib[er]nie Regis fidei defensor Decimo Tertio. 1637

The Condi[i]on of this p[rese]nt obligac[i]on is such that if thabove bounde Anne Abney Relict of Ralph Abney late whilst hee lived of the p[ar]ish of Woolstanton deceased to whom thadmin[is]trac[i]on of all and singuler the good[es] and Chattells of the said deceased together w[i]th the Tuic[i]on of William, Thomas, Margery, and Anne Abney naturall & lawfull Children of the said deceased being in their minority ys by the above named Charles Twysden co[m]mitted & granted to Admin[is]ter the same good[es] and Chattells And make exhibite and yeald vp vnto the sayd CharlesTwys-

den or any other competent iudge in th[eir] behalfe when she shalbe called and warned a true & p[er]fecte Inventorie accompt pay[men]t and deliu[er]y of all and singuler such good[es] and Chattells of the sa[i]d deceased as she the said Admi[ni]stratrix shall haue receive & Admi[ni]ster or may Lawfully come by, by vertue of the sayd l[ette]res of Admi[ni]strac[i]on to be devided ordered and Admi[ni]stered as by the sayd Charles Twysden or any other competent iudge in that behalfe shall be appoynted w[i]th deliv[er]y also of the sayd l[ette]res of Admin[is]trac[i]on ready to be cancelled or otherwise ordered as shall seame to the sayd Charles Twysden or any other competent iudge in that behalfe to stand w[i]th equitie and iustice And moreover yf the said Admi[ni]stratrix do well and conveniently educate foster and bring vp the said Children & eu[er]y of them w[i]th sufficient and convenient meate drink lodging and Apparell mete and decent for their estate and calling during their minority And do also well and trulie content and pay vnto the sayd Children all such sumes of money duties and porc[i]ons of good[es] as to them & eu[er]y of them shall app[er]tayne and be due when they shall come to their full age And lastlie do vpon her owne prop[er] costs and charges save defende and keepe harmeles the sayd Charles Twysdewn and all other officers and ministers in that behalfe authorized for comitting and granting of the sayd l[ette]res of Admin[is]trac[i]on and Tuic[i]on Then the above written obligac[i]on to be voyd and of none effect or els to stand in full power strength and vertue.
 Sigillat[um] et delibat[um] in p[rese]ntia mei Simonis Marten
 Anna Abney [mark] Jo[hann]is Abney [mark]

154.2 Notes

1. Anne Abney (Anne Abney was the daughter of John Stubbes - Stafford Record Office 3859/1/1), widow, entered into a bond to administer the estate of Raphe Abney. and bring up his children, William, Thomas, Marjorie and Anne; and pay their legacies when they came of age. There were probably older children: John Abney, yeoman, also of Chesterton, was bound too, and he appears to have been the heir. And in November 1638 Elizabeth Abney got married to William Marsh.
2. In 1629 Ralph Abney and his wife at the Bishop's visitation of 1629 were presented as excommunicated for not attending church, possibly because they were Catholics. Besides the fact that Catholics were one category of non-attenders at the time, two other things point in the same direction; one is Richard Parrott's assertion in 1733 that the Abnets of Audley parish were said to have been Catholics until about 65 years previously; secondly there is the fact that the Macclesfield family - one of whom was lord of the manor of Chesterton - was a Catholic one during the life-time of Ralph Abney.

155 Ellen Stile, widow, will dated March 1st 1637/8, buried 3rd December 1638, inventory taken 4th December 1638, date of probate 14thm December 1638.

155.1 Will

In the name of god Amen, the first daye of March in the yeare of our lord 1637: I Ellen Stile of the p[ar]ish of Wolstanton in the Countie of Stafford Widdowe being in good & p[er]fect health & memorie thankes be to god, yet knowing that nothing is more ceartene then death, and nothings more uncertene then the houre of death Doe ordaine and make this my last will & testament in mann[e]r & forme as followeth, First I comitt & yeald vp my sole vnto almightie god of whom I receaued the same, & my bodie to be buried in the church of Wolstanton neare to the place wheare my eldest sonne was buried. It[e]m I giue & bequeath vnto Ellen Ridgway my seruant if shee continue my seruant till my death fortie shillings. It[e]m I giue & bequeath vnto William Bale sonne of John Bale fiue shillings It[e]m I giue & bequeath vnto Margrit Smyth dought[e]r of John Smyth my sonne lately deceased twentie pound. It[e]m I giue vnto Margerie Smyth dought[e]r of Robert Smyth tenn shillings. It[e]m aft[e]r my debts & funerall expences, mortuarie & p[ro]batt of my will are all payd & discharged I giue & bequeath all the rest, & residue of my goods cattels & chattels in three p[ar]tes to be devoyded: two p[ar]ts there of I giue & bequeath vnto Roger Ellen Elizabeth & Anne Smyth fore of the cheldren of the saide John Smyth my sonne deceased, & the oth[e]r third p[ar]te thereof I giue & bequeath vnto John Marie & Margerie Smyth three of the cheldren of Roger Smyth my sonne allsoe deceased. And for the p[er]formeing and true execution of this my last will & testament I doe ordaine & make Anthonie Beech of Ramsclife my sole execut[o]r. In wittnes where of I haue here vnto putt my hand & seale the day & yeare aboue named in the p[re]sence & wittnes of
John & Rowley
William Bale
Ellen Ridgwaye

155.2 Inventory

A true & p[er]fect Inuentorie of all the goods Cattells and Chattells of Ellen Steele widowe in the p[ar]ish of Wolstanton and Countie of Stafford deceased, Seene valued & praissed the fourth daie of Decemb[e]r Anno dm 1638 by vs whose names are hervnd[e]r written:
William Rowley James Beeche John Rowley John Benson & John Wood as followeth
Sixe kine
one twint[e]r heffer
one Calfe
two Swine
all the hey & Corne in the barne
all the Brasse in the house

all the Pewter
 all the Bedinge
 3 yeard of wollen Cloath
 all the linens & nap[er]ie ware
 Butt[e]r and Chese
 all the Chests
 all the Bedstids
 one Barrell & Bottle of vergis
 tow & yearne
 3 Picles
 one Coffe in the vper Chamb[e]r
 all the Cop[er]ie ware
 all bords and Sheelfs
 one grate, two brundreds goberts broches
 & all Iron ware
 one harrowe Mattocke & shewe [shovel] all Cheres stooles Cubert & Churne
 all poultrie ware
 meale & greats in the house
 one Bond due in Septemb[e]r last
 one lader
 all the manuringe aboute the house
 the wearinge aparell & monie in the Chest
 all oth[e]r things not form[e]rlye praissed
 [in a different hand, added after all the above had been written] a debt of xxs lent by
 the testator to Mr Bourne
 of the broade gate

155.3 Notes

1. Ellen Stile's husband died nearly 20 years previously. (See Richard Still in this collection.)
2. 'Mr Bourne of the broade gate' is to be identified with Henry Bourne of Broadyates, gentleman, who died in 1639. The Broad Gates estate was mentioned in 1789 in connection with the perambulation of the boundaries of the Manor of Chesterton, and it seems to be placed adjacent to Bradwell estate. The name does not appear on the 1st edition of the Ordnance Survey one-inch map, but the house probably lay somewhere near the present line of the A34.
3. 'vergis' - verjuice is a sharp cider, evidently used in large quantities in this household. (Tusser (Five Hundred Points of Good Husbandrie) recommends having a gallon at least. It is made from crushed crab apples. As well as having a culinary use, it could also be used to treat sick cows.)
4. 'meale & greats' - the meal is the flour; the greats (or groats) are the hulled grains.

156 Margerie Twemlo, widow, of Brerehurst, will dated 30th May 1633, inventory taken 24th August 1638, date of probate 4th October 1638.

156.1 Will

Being of sound body and in good health; to be buried in churchyard of Lawton.
 To my eldest son John Twemlowe: all the iron ware belonging to the fire ie a grate with tongs, fire shovel, pot-racks, gobberts and broch.
 To Margrett Halle my daughter: my best suit of clothing.
 To William Unwine: 1s.
 To John Twemlowe the younger, John Twemlo son of Andrwe Twemloo, John Twemlo son of William Twemloe, John Halle son of William Halle: 1s each.
 To George Palle: 6d.
 To Richard Drakeforde: 6d.
 To Richard Poddmore: 6d.
 To Richard Fallowes of Lawton.
 To Margrie Twemloe of Sinderhill: 6d.
 To Margrie Twemloe of the Hallegreene: 6d.
 To Eline Cartwright of Lawton: 6d.
 To Margrett Halle the younger: a brass candlestick.
 Residuary legatees and executors: Andrewe Twemloe and William Twemloe my younger sons.
 Signs by mark.
 Witnesses: R Evans John Twemlowe John Kentt

156.2 Inventory

A Treue and p[er]fect Inventory taken the xxiiijth daye of August In the year of our lord god one Thousand Sixe hundred thertie and eight of all the goodes Chattle and Chattles moueable and Unmoueable of margery Twemloe of the Hamlet of Brearyhurst in the p[ar]ishe of wollstonton in the Countie of Stafford widdow Lately deceased. Seene and praysed by nicholas Horson and Thomas Hulme

beddinge And bestckes	43s	
Linnens and nappery ware	10s	
Irne ware	6s	8d
brase and pewter	10s	8d
one knedinge Tro[ugh] Chestes Shilftes And other Implementes		
	14s	6d
her apparell and monny in her purse	13s	4d
Sum[ma] totali[s]	£4	16s 10d

1. As with inventories written a hundred years previously, this inventory is written with the values in words.

2. Her Cheshire connections are evident: eg Eline Cartwright of Lawton, Margrie Twemloe of Sinderhill (Cinder Hill Lane is now a back lane in Scholar Green, Cheshire), Margrie Twemloe of the Hallegreene (which is on the Congleton Rd just into Cheshire, before Scholar Green), and the witness John Kentt may be the John Kent who lived in Odd Rode.
3. The kneading trough stands out in her inventory. Her husband's inventory (1620/21) mentions bellows and two of the three mentions of bellows in this collection of inventories are in connection with a smithy and bakery.

157 Thomas Harvey of Bradwall, buried 23rd December 1638, no will, inventory taken 26th December 1638, administration granted 3rd Jan 1638/9.

157.1 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect Inventory of all the goodes Cattells and Chattells of Thomas Harvey late of Bradwall w[i]thin the County of Stafford deceased taken by John Cowall Thomas Beech Henry Wood and Thomas Liversage the 26 of December
£s d

One geldinge saddle and bridle 5 0 0
 One Crossebowe and the Racke eight arrowes & their Case w[i]th one Hanger 0 15 0
 One Morter & a Pestill or pownder 0 3 0
 Iron ware, as one pott, two ladles one plate, two Axes, one hatchett, three Augers, one Iron Crowe, one Framinge Sawe one fire shovell one Pitch forke, one shovell one spitt, one Fryinge Panne, 2 Round hoopcs. one Shooe horne 0 16 0
 One Water Paile, one Piggin one bottle. 0 1 0
 Two Coffers & a little boxe 0 6 0
 Two Pewt[er] Dishes & foure pannes, two wooden Dishes & a little Piggin 0 2 6
 One Chayre 0 3 0
 His Apparrell and money in his purse 7 18 1
 Tallowe, oates, greates & all other Implementes 0 3 0
 15 7 7

[Appraisers: John Cowell Thomas Beeche Thomas Leuersage Henric[us] Wood]

157.2 Notes

1. Bradwell Hall, which is still in use (as a nursing home), occupies a prominent position when seen from Parkhouse Road West. It had been owned for a long time by the Sneyd family, together with the adjoining park (much of it wooded) and nearly all

of present-day Bradwell. Thomas Harvey could well have been an employee of the Sneyds, but it is not clear what his occupation was. The inventory suggests that he did some carpentry and travelled.

He was not married and was responsible for his own cooking. Only one item of furniture is mentioned in the inventory, which suggests his bed and bedding were provided by someone else. There is a strong likelihood that his accommodation was in Bradwell Hall (it being a large house with 14 hearths). He served as churchwarden in 1633/4 "for the house of Hayhouse", which was a property of Ralph Sneyd's in Bradwell, and we know that he was Sneyd's tenant in 1620, before Sneyd acquired the Hayhouse, and at a guess he held then the capital mansion in Chatterley. It looks as though Thomas Harvey's lease of Hayhouse had ended by the time he died.

2. He appears to be the only Harvey in the parish around this date [but Harvey Walklate occurs in Chatterley later in the 17th century.] Administration was granted to Richard Baylie of Uttoxeter who was nephew to Thomas Harvey on his mother's side, and John Stubbs from Lichfield.

3. A gelding is a horse used for riding, and perhaps the crossbow was used in shooting birds or hunting. Arrows could be used with a crossbow. The rack is, I imagine, the ratchet used for pulling back the string. George Bowdon of Bowdon, gentleman, in 1625 had 'one crosbowe 6 boulttes'. (Visit to Manchester Museum on 6.5.04. fletchings = feathers on arrow. Unfletched arrow not so accurate. What is difference between unfletched arrow and a bolt? The museum display showed a detail of a painting by a Portuguese painter of St Sebastian. It shows a crossbow in use, but the man operating the crossbow seems to have a quiverful of arrows!) A picture by Cranach the Elder in the Prado, Madrid, dated 1545, shows hunters ready to fire with crossbows at stags driven into the river; there are two sorts of arrow shown, one conventionally pointed, the other two-pronged. The huntmen are not shown equipped with a quiver.

John Hull of Hambledon, Surrey, gentleman, (1563) had 'A lytle Crosbowe with a bender' worth 3s 4d in the chamber over his new parlour. His inventory is the only one of 445 Surrey inventories in Elizabeth's reign to mention a crossbow. (Herridge, D.M. transcr Surrey Probate Inventories 1558-1603)

"Two fields from the house [of Huntingfield] stood a great oak tree, in whose broad low branches Elizabeth had perched with her crossbow, shooting as the park deer were driven by." (Bowen, C.D.(1957) *The Lion and the Throne* p64)

A connection between crossbow and park is given in the will of an Essex man John Andrewes who in 1598 directed in his will that 'my horse which my master, his worship, gave me, with my crossbow, arrows and other furniture and implements belonging to the use of the park, do return again to my master' (Emmison, F.G.(1991) *Elizabethan Life: Home, Work & Land*)

Did Thomas Harvey use his bow for shooting deer Ralph Sneyd was lord of the manor of Tunstall including Bradwell where Harvey lived and where there was a park.

4. Piggin = a pail used for carrying milk. (Note that a bottle was not necessarily made of glass; it was a small cask used for carrying drink.)[when on the move?]

5 'Tallowe, oates, groates' - supplies for himself and his horse.

6. His shoe horn was made of iron. Ben Jonson's play *The Alchemist* also mentions an iron shoeing horn (Act 2 scene ii, line 13)

158 John Morton the elder of Wolstanton, husbandman, will dated 16th Dec 1637, buried 6th April 1638, date of inventory 7th April 1638, date of probate 1st May 1638.

158.1 Will

To be buried in the parish church of Wolstanton.

To Andrew Twamlow and his wife: 2 shillings as child's part.

To Humfrey Walter and his wife: 2 shillings as child's part.

To son Henry: £10.

To my two daughters Ellen and Elizabeth: £100 to be equally divided (but if either prove wilful or wanton or otherwise miscarry or misbehave herself, then only part of the £100 at executor's and overseers' discretion.)

To Richard Baddeley and his wife: 2 shillings as child's part.

To my wife: all those grounds which I hold of Randle Meare for and during her natural life; one of the best beds, one bolster, one pillow, two pairs of linen sheets (one pair of flax and another of hemp), one of the best coverlets, one blanket and a coffer which she brought with her.

To Andrew Twamlow's children: 10 shillings.

To Humfrey Walter's children: 10 shillings.

To son Raph: the reversion and remainder of the said lease of grounds which I hold of Randle Meare after the death and decease of my wife for and during the natural life of Margrett Twamlow my daughter (if still living.)

Residuary legatee and sole executor: son Raph.

Overseers: Andrew Twamlow and Humfrey Walter.

If my son Raph marries within 2 years of my death, he shall pay the legacies and portions of this will. But if he lives still unmarried, then he shall pay them at the end of 3 years.

Debts owing to me by Randle Meare: 53 shillings and 2 pence.

Witnesses: George Hanson, Thomas Henshawe.

158.2 Inventory

A true and p[er]fecte Inventorie indented of all the goodes Cattels and Chattels of John Morton the elder late of Wolstanton in the Countie of Stafford deceased seene valued and appraised by George Hanson Thomas henshawe and John Morton the Seventh daie of Aprill Anno d[omi]ni 1638 Anno regni Regis Car[oli] Anglie etc decimo quarto

Foure Oxen two bullockes

eight kine and three Calues

two heffers

Six Twinters

Six Stirkes

Two meares & two Coultres

Ten Ewes and lambs
 Three swine
 Poultrie duckes & geese
 corne & hay in the Barne & corne on the ground
 two waynes plowes yokes & all oth[er] husbandry wares
 brasse & pewter
 3 Featherbeddes 6 Chaffe bedds with Coverlettes) blanckettes bolsters & all thereto
 belonginge)
 Ten pare of flaxen she etes 12 pare of hempen)
 with all other linen & nappery wares)
 one peece of woolin Cloth & one peece of linin cloth
 one Joyned bed & 5 pare of beddstiddes
 one presse one Cubbord & 6 chestes
 Tables Stoules formes Chayres Shelues)
 and oth[er] household implem[en]ts)
 seelinge vpon the benche in the house
 payles barreles loomes & all other treene or Coopery wares
 hemp flax woolen & linin yarne
 woole & feath[e]rs
 butter Cheese beefe bacon mault & other p[ro]vision in ye house
 one grate fire shoule tounges spittes pottrackes)
 & other Iron wares)
 one great arke in the barne
 one swine tubb & swine troughes
 lyme stone & mucke
 the wearinge Apparell of the deceased and money)
 in his purse at the tyme of his death)
 oweinge by Thomas harrison to the deceased at the tyme)
 of his death)
 money oweinge by Randle meare to the deceased at his death
 oweinge by George hanson to the deceased
 one bond from Randle Meare of £40 for the paym[en]t of
 Due from Jo Eaton by bound
 a bible & other small books
 [Actual total = £184 18s 8d]

158.3 Notes

1. John Moreton had a lease for three lives of the land of Randle Meare, the three named lives in the lease being (in order): the testator, the testator's wife, and the testator's daughter Margaret. His son Raph will have the use of the land during the term of the lease from the death of his wife to the death of his daughter.
2. The unmarried daughters were given a larger sum than the rest - their marriage portion was dependent on their making a suitable match. The overseers would have an advisory role. His daughter Mary had married Richard Baddaley in July 1637.
3. 'Lymestone & muck' - both are for spreading on the soil.

4. John Moreton was one of the more substantial farmers in the village, and was engaged in sheep, beef and dairy farming. The number of his oxen and the value of his ploughs and other equipment both show a substantial investment in arable farming too, though it is not matched by a high valuation for his growing corn, though this was perhaps winter corn only. The sheep priced at £3 6s 8d must be ten ewes and ten lambs, though the valuation of all his animals is on the high side.
5. John Moreton was farming part of the Colclough estate in Wolstanton in 1615.
6. John Moreton signs the will himself, which was written by George Hanson.
7. 'seelinge vpon the benche'. In the main room of the house, John Moreton has a high-backed bench with a canopy, probably of elaborate workmanship.
8. Ralph Meare of Wolstanton parish died 1624 (parish register) - no will or inventory.
9. John Meare was witness of Thomas Bourne's will of 1640.

159 George Hanson of Woolstanton yeoman, will dated 13th December 1637, buried 2nd November 1638, inventory taken 10th November, [Fri] date of probate 22nd Feb 1638/9.

159.1 Will

Sick and weak in body.

To be buried in the churchyard of Woolstanton.

To my son George: the great table in the house, the best joined bed in the parlour, my great trunk, the great ark in the barn, my desk and all my books and my gun. If he dies before the age of 21 or is married, then my son John to have them.

To my wife: the third part of all my goods.

My three younger children, John, Elizabeth and Sarah: the remainder of my goods; and one close or pasture called Trumpers field and two day-math of meadowing in Woolstanton Meadows - which I lately purchased from James Golborne for his term therein - for and during the term of 14 years from my decease, to be divided as follows: to my daughter Elizabeth the first three years' profits; to my son John two years after that, and to my daughter Sarah the next three after that; the benefits and profits for the other six years remaining to be equally divided between them.

Executors: my wife and John Murrhall of Bagnall.

Signed by George Hanson.

Witnesses: Isaac Keeling, John Turner (signs by mark)

159.2 Inventory

A true & p[er]fect Inventorie of all and singular the goods and Cattells and Chattells quicke & dead which George Hanson late of the p[ar]ishe of Woolstanton dyed possessed of as they weare praized by vs whose names are vnderwritten the tenth day

of Nouemb[er] [and other times - inserted] Anno D[omi]ni 1638 viz of the p[re]misses which he dyed possessed of in the county of Stafford. and elsewhere

Fower oxen	£24		
seauen kyne	£24		
one twinter hayfor, twoe sterkes & fower calues	£11	10s	
one mare	£4		
three and twentye sheepe	£5	10s	
one swyne		16s	
geese and poultry		2s	
Corne and haye in the barne and elsewhere	£36		
Goods in the house			
twoe Joyned beds & fower paire of bedstockes	£2		
one trunke one Chest & ten other	£1	10s	
twoe feather bedds & seauen blanketts	£2	14s	
Cou[er]letts twoe one Cadowe 3 chaffe beds	£1	6s	4d
Twoe wooll beds one feather boulster, twoe Flocke boulsters		11s	8d
Three pillowes, and three paire of Flaxen sheetes			
Nine paire of hempton sheetes	£2	15s	6d
Three table Cloathes		5s	
Napkins and pillowe beares		13s	
wooll & yarne		10s	
Carsey Cloathe	£1	6s	
Pewter and brasse	£2	10s	
Iron ware in the house		10s	
wooden ware		10s	
yarne and towe	£1	10s	
In cheese and butter	£2	13s	4d
Twoe Fitches of bacon		13s	4d
A table & a forme in the house	£1		
Tables more, & formes shelues chaires & stooles		13s	4d
Stone troughes and a Cheese presse		2s	6d
Waynes ploughes, harrowes, yokes, iron chaines	£1	10s	
horse gaires, plowe irons and all husbandrie ware Twoe ladders and twoe peices of timber		6s	8d
Burnt lyme and dunge or meanor	£2		
In books		6s	
A birdinge peice		5s	
His apparell & money in his purse	£2	10s	
In cushions & a paire of bellowes		5s	
A bakstone and a spinninge wheele and a hayre for the kilne		5s	
whele timber and fellyes & other Implements not befor expressed		10s	

[Actual total is £147 11s 4d]

one band from William Gleadenhurst & William Thornberie bearing date decimo

sexto die Januariae Anno d[omi]ni, 1636 for the pay[men]t of £20 9s wherof £4 was paid in the lyffe tyme of the same George Honson deceased one other bond from Ottowell Jollye of £80 for saving harmlesse the afors[ai]d George Honson from one bonde bond wherin he stood bound unto William Kelsall of Audaley for £10

[Appraisers:] Richard Drakeford Jun[ior] Thomas Henshaw his mark
Richard Marshe his mark

159.3 Notes

1. It looks as if George Hanson wrote his own will. The witness Isaac Keeling, who became vicar nine years later, was curate of Burlem church.
2. The preamble to the inventory suggests it was carried out not only at his home in the parish but also involved at least one visit outside the county. The will describes him as 'of Woolstanton' and we know that in 1615 he owned a house there. At that time he owned 20 customary acres in different parts of the township.
3. 'Joined beds' are four-poster beds.
4. 'Hempton' ie hempen.
5. 'Carsey cloathe' - kersey cloth was a lightweight woollen cloth of narrow width, usually ribbed.
6. 'Burnt lime' - limestone was burnt in a lime kiln to produce a powder used in mortar, or in this case, like the manure, for spreading on the fields.
7. The gun ('birding piece') and books are mentioned one after the other - maybe they were in the study.
8. The bakestone could be used for making oatcakes.
9. 'and a hayre for the kilne' - the hair-cloth was to hold malt suspended over the kiln.

160 Henrie Colcloughe of Chesterton, yeoman, will dated 12th March 1638/9, buried 21st March, inventory taken 27th March 1639, date of probate/admon 6th March 1639/40.

160.1 Will

To be buried in such place and in such manner as my executor shall think fit and convenient.

To [left blank]: two thirds of all my goods (except my great brass pan, the table and cupboard in the house, the grate, one great coffer in the parlour having two locks and my little coffer in the parlour chamber, which I give to my son John Colcloughe to remain with the house as heirs, and my wife to have the usage of them all as long as she lives as a widow and unmarried, otherwise to my son John to use and dispose at his pleasure.)

To my three younger children: the third part of my goods, to be equally divided between them.

To my son John Colcloughe and his heirs: the land of Thomas Thurston that I purchased, on condition that he pay £40 to his two sisters Anna and Ellen, and twenty marks to his brother Thomas Colcloughe within a year of my wife's death. If he fails in payment of the moneys, then I give the lands to my son Thomas Colcloughe and his heirs, and if he fail then I give the lands to my two daughters and their heirs.

Executor: my loving wife Joan.

Overseers: my brother Trinkett and my brother George Butter.

Witnesses: William Colcloughe, Randall Boothes, John Bourne.

Debts owing by him: £46 5s 3d.

160.2 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect Inventorie of all the goods debts Cattells & chattells of Henry Colcloughe of Chesterton deceased taken the 27. day of March A[nn]o d[omi]ni 1639 by us John Willatt Richard Colcloughe Raphe Bourne and John Bourne

One Cow & one Calfe seized by the L[o]rd of the s[ai]d mannor

One other Calfe

One swine

Poultre ware

Corne and Hay

Husbandrie ware w[i]th bills axes & one hatchett, as allsoe other p[ro]vision for husbandrie

mucke

Foure Featherbeds 6 coverletts 10 bolsters and pillowes, two paire of blanketts

Eight paire of sheetes 2 Dozen of Napkins w[i]th all other napperie ware & linnen

Cloth vncutt

Bedsteades, Coffers & Chestes

Brasse and Pewter

Yarne Toe & woollen Cloath vncutt

Treene ware woodden ware & wheeles

Chaires, Cushions, stooles, Formes, shelues and other vticenses

Iron ware

Houshold p[ro]vision

Bookes, Bees w[i]th all other Implements & vticenses

either forgotten or not expressed

The testators wearinge apparrell money in his purse w[i]th other Furniture for his person

One brasse pann, one Cuphoulde one Table one grate and two Coffers given vnto John Colcloughe

sonne to the testator.

160.3 Notes

1. The heriot (the animal or animals seized by the lord of the manor) is due from a tenant upon his death. In this case the manor is Chesterton, of which no contemporary manorial records are known.
2. Anne, Ellen and Thomas Colclough were minors, and a tuition bond relating to their upbringing had to be sworn to by the widow and a male (in this case William Wood of Chesterton, yeoman). They were bound in the sum of £90 to bring up the children "with sufficient and convenient meat drink lodging and apparel meet and decent for their estate and calling during their minority".
3. 'the table and cupboard in the house' is not as vague as it sounds today. In this context 'house' refers to the main room of the house, otherwise known as the hall.
4. The only Colclough mentioned in the list of Hearth Tax payers in 1666 in Chesterton is John Coleclough, who had a dwelling with two hearths.
5. 'vticenses' - evidently 'utensils'; 'Cuphoulde' is 'cupboard'.
6. 'my brother Trickett' - In 1627 John Trickett had married Elizabeth Colclough.
7. The total of the inventory is less than the total of debts.
8. The significance of the uncut linen cloth and woollen cloth?

161 John Baddeley of Holditch, gentleman, will dated 24th April 1628, buried ?22nd April 1639, inventory taken 13th May 1639, date of probate 12th June 1639.

161.1 Will

Aprill the 24th. Anno do[min]i. 1628

In the name of God Amen, I John Badeley of Holditch in the Parish of wolstanton, being weake in body, but of good and p[er]fect memory thanks bee to god for it, Doe ordayne, Constitute & make this my last will & Testament In man[n]er & forme following.

First I Commend my soule into the hands of god my maker, trusting to be saved by the mediation of Christ my savio[u]r & Redeemer, & my body to the earth whereof which it is made; & for my worldly goods I dispose of them as followeth, That is to say I giue & bequeath to Alice Badeley my wife all my lands, watermilne & hereditaments goods, Cattells, & Chattells mooveable & vnmooveable for the education & bringing vp of my children

Item I giue & bequeath to my said wife, all my lands, Water milne & hereditaments to the intent & purpose following

First that my debts be paid & discharged, as my wife Can raise them out of my said lands, and after the paym[en]t of my debts, & funerall expences discharged, my will is, that every one of my daughters, begining at the eldest, & so to the youngest according to their seniority, shalbe paid three score pounds a peece, as it shalbe⁷ raised out of

my said lands: But if it happen that any of my Daughters dy before th[ei]r portion be rased, & paid (as aforesaid) that then my will is, that the said summe so raised, shall be paid to my next daughter according to her seniority, for & in the name of her portion. Item after my said debts & legacies paid, as aforesaid, I giue & bequeath vnto William Badiley my son, all my aforesaid Lands, & watermilne, to him & his heirs for ever. Lastly I ordayne & make Alice Badiley my said wife sole Executrix of this my last will & testament, & my brother Burne & my Cosen John Cowall overseers thereof. In witnesse whereof I the said John Badiley haue herevnto put my seale, the day & yeare first aboue written.

Sealed & delivered in the p[re]sence of.

Richard Orme John Bourne John Cowell William Baddily Ellinor Beech [signs by mark] Joane Wood [signs by mark]

John Baddle

161.2 Inventory

An Inventory of all the goods debts vtensills, houshold implem[en]ts Cattalls & Chattalls of John Badeley of Holditch in the parish of Wolstanton and Countie of Staff[or]d Gentlem[an] late deceased taken & prysed by Thomas Bourne John Cowall and John Beech yeomen May the 13th 1639

In Corne and Cattell

Sixe kine, foure Calues one Bull four Twinters
five stirkes foure Swine one Gelding one Mare £65 00 00
a Twinter fillie w[i]th Corne & Haye

Household Implem[en]tes

In linnen, Brasse Pewter Iron ware, Bedding,
Carpetts Chusions Tables Bedsteads, Chaires 34 7 4
Formes stooles Chests Shelues Tubbs together
w[i]th other lumbar ware

Houshold prouision

As butter Cheese Beefe Bacon together w[i]th 7 18 4
his money a Apparell

Poultrey

As Turkies Hens Geese &c 00 5 00

Husbandary Implem[en]tes

As waynes, Carts, plowes Yoakes, Harrowes,
Hattchetts & Hammers 2 15 00

Summa totalis £110 5 8

161.3 Notes

1. John Baddeley the elder was buried in Newcastle on the date given above. No John Baddeley was buried at Wolstanton at this time. He was born at Holditch and was aged about 62 when he died. The information comes from cases heard at Lichfield at

which he testified. About 1610 he was riding towards London in the company of the then vicar of Wolstanton and one of the parishioners who were in dispute over tithes. "Hearing that that the said Mr Stevenson had commenced a suit against the said Hughe Sheratt for some tithes [he] wished them to forebear suits and let [him] end the matters and controversies betwixt them. Whereupon they both consented to this motion. And so [he] ordered and set down that the said Sherratt should pay to the said Mr Stephenson five shillings for all tithes due to him the said Mr Stephenson at that day and time. And afterwards should pay yearly to the said Mr Stevenson 6s 8d for all his tithes happening within Wolstanton parish; which the said parties willingly agreed and condescended unto. And at the same time the said Sherratt paid and satisfied to the said Mr Stephenson the said sum of five shillings for all tithes past and so became coates [?] and friends."

Unfortunately the agreement broke down, and the vicar pursued his legal action.

2. The youngest daughters were Mary, and Margaret (14 years).

3. The earliest representation of Holditch Hall is a sepia-wash picture by J. C. Buckler in (1841). It shows a good-sized three-storey house with gables. John Badeley's inventory provides no indication of the house's size in 1639, but in 1666 it had 3 hearths and in 1690 at the death of Thomas Wattson it had: a hall, two parlours (one called 'old'), 7 chambers in the first storey (over the hall, parlours, buttery, kitchen, dairy and stable) and one chamber and garrets in the top storey.

4. How much land did he own? In 1619 John Baddaley of Holdich owned a messuage and about 50 acres within the manor of Tunstall. Then there is the Holditch estate - in 1839 it consisted of 125 acres, plus a ten-acre holding which went with the water-mill; but it is unlikely to have been anything like that big in 1639. An impoverished gentleman - it is significant that the will he wrote in 1628 with its references to debts did not need revising, even though it was another 11 years before he died. Neither had his marital status changed - Alice Baddeley of Holditch, widow survived until 1649. In 1631 he is recorded as having compounded with the Commission for not taking up a knighthood. Most, like him, compounded for £10.

162 Margaret Whytall of Olcott, widow, date of will 26th March 1635, buried 6th June 1639, inventory taken 11th June, date of probate 5th July 1639.

162.1 Will

Weak in body; to be buried in the parish churchyard of Woolstanton.

To Jone Whytall, my daughter-in-law: my best gown.

To An Whytall, my daughter-in-law: my best gown but one.

To my daughter An Baddelie: my best petticoat.

To Ellin Whytall my daughter-in-law: my best hat.

To Katherin Whytall my daughter-in-law: a chest.

To my son Richard: my best band, all the bed on which I lie, except for a black-and-

white caddow.

To my son Thomas: the caddow.

To Margaret Rowley: my best girdle and purse.

To Ellin Baddelie, wife of William Baddelie: my best gown but two.

To Marie Whytall: my second petticoat.

To An Baddelie of Newfeilde, [the] younger: my second ruff band.

To Margaret Rowley: my black apron.

To Randle Whytall, my son Richard's son: 2s 6d.

To Richard Whytall, my son Richard's son: 2s 6d.

To An Whytall, my son William's daughter: a green apron and a handkerchief.

To Sara Whytall, my son William's daughter: a handkerchief.

Residuary legatees: my sons William Whytall, Richard Whytall, John Whytall, Thomas Whytall, Randle Whytall and my daughter An Baddelie.

Executor: William Baddelie.

Signs by mark.

Witnesses: Thomas Baddeley William Whytall Randle Whytall

162.2 Inventory

A true & p[er]fecte Inventorie of all the goodes of margarett Whiteall of Oulcott within the p[ar]ishe of Woolstanton and countie of Stafford widowe latelie deceased, seene, vewed & praised the Eleuenth daie of June in the yeare of o[u]r Lord god 1639.

The bed wheron shee Vsualle did lye	£4
one chest, w[i]th monie & other smale thinges therein	£9 4s
all hir Wearinge Apparell linnens & Woollens	£4 3s 4d
the Su[m]me totall is seauenteene Pounds se[u]ane shillinges foure pence	

by Vs whose names are Vnderwritten.

Thomas Baddeley Richard Whytall Richard Baddelie William Whiteall John Whiteall
Thomas Whiteall Randle Whiteall

162.3 Notes

1. She composed her will six days after her husband Randle composed his ie in her husband's lifetime - so she must have obtained her husband's permission to make her will, as she was legally required to do. In his will he made her an allowance of £1 a year, plus food, drink, lodging and clothing to be provided by son Randle.
2. 'daughter in law' means stepdaughter.
3. A band went round the neck. A girdle was worn round the waist; memorial brasses of ladies and men in the late medieval period show the girdle with purse attached, and sometimes with one end hanging down almost to the ground.

163 Ann Drakeford of Wedgwood, spinster, will dated 10th September 1639, buried 13th September, inventory taken 16th September, date of probate 8th October 1639.

163.1 Will

[No burial place mentioned] To Margrett Drakeford, my sister-in-law: my best bed hilling, my best petticoat, my best ruff and my coffer in the high chamber and all my tow in it.

To Margrett Henshall, my sister, wife of Raphe Henshall of Audley, Staffs, yeoman: my best gown, my best hat, my second ruff and my best coffer.

To Thomas Henshall, son of Raphe Henshall: £5, all my wool and my best coffer not bequeathed before.

To Anne Henshall, daughter of Raphe Henshall: £5, my third petticoat and a ruff.

To Margrett Henshall, daughter of Raphe Henshall: £5 and a ruff.

To Ann and Margrett Henshall each: one of my best coffers not before bequeathed, and all the tow that is in the lower room in my coffer.

To Ann Tonstall: 50s.

To Mary Tonstall: 10s.

To John Whisher, my godson: £3.

To Barbara Horderne: 5s.

To Ann Hodgkinson: 5s and my second petticoat and waistcoat.

To little Randle Kettle: 10s.

To all the rest of my godchildren: 2s each.

Residuary legatees and executors: John Drakeford, my brother and Raphe Henshall.

(Revokes all former wills)

Witnesses: Thomas Henshall Ann Hodgkinson

A true and p[er]fect Inuentorie of all the goodes and Chattelles of Anne Drakesford of wedgwood in the p[ar]ishe of wolstanton and dioces of Couentrie and lichfield [torn] taken and prayssaid the sixeteenth day of September 1639 by Hughe Wishall John Galimore and William Stonier

beding	£5		
seven Chest	£1	15s	
wole and toye	£1	0s	
napp[er]rie wayre and cloth vncutt	£1	13s	4d
pewter		17s	4d
brasse and pewter	£3	7s	4d
one saddle and furnitude		7s	
money in her purse and wayreing app[ar]ell	£10		
moneys owinge the Testato[r] w[i]th specialtie & w[i]thout specialtie	£30		
£53 12s 8d			

163.2 Notes

1. John Stonier's sister married John Drakeford. This is implied in his will of 1626. He is distinguished there from the John Drakeford of Whitfield. Seemingly from what Ann Drakeford doesn't say in her will John Drakeford's marriage to Margrett had not produced any surviving children. It is a surmise but plausible that Ann Drakeford was living at her brother's house in Wedgwood.

2. The form which the textile business in this area in the 17th century took as far as processing of hemp and flax was concerned has not yet been worked out. The involvement of Ann Drakeford in the textile business is a case in point. Although a spinster, she didn't own any spinning wheel or weaving loom. Perhaps a clue lies in the saddle and horse gear ('furnitude') in her inventory, suggesting that there was another half of the business partnership which provided the horse for her to deliver to, and collect from, textile workers doing farmed-out work in their homes. The chests of tow that she had at her death contained the fibres of hemp and/or flax which were ready for carding and spinning and were bequeathed to women who she knew would make use of them.

164 John Greenwood of Heath End, husbandman, will dated 30th July 1640, date of inventory 18th August, date of probate 3rd September.

164.1 Will

Sick in body.

[No mention of burial place] Residuary legatees: wife Ales Greenwood and daughter Ann Greenwood if Ann marries with the liking and consent of her mother, otherwise wholly to my wife.

Executor: wife Ales Greenwood.

Sealed and delivered unto Ann Joynson in the presence of and for the use of Ales Greenwood my wife.

Witnesses: John Beeche, Symon Fernihaughe, Richard Greenwood.

[Signs with mark]

164.2 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect Inventorie of all the goodes Cattells & Chattells of John Greenwood of ye heathend w[i]thin the p[ar]ish of wolstonton & Countie of Staff: husbandman: deceased: Taken & praised the 18th day of August Anno Domini 1640.

Fowre kyne	£12		
Two twinter heifers	£6		
Two stirkes	£3		
Two calues	£1	6s	8d
Three horses prysed w[i]th ther geares	£8		
one Swyne & one pigg		14s	
Hennes & geese		4s	
Six day workes of winter corne & lent corne	£6		
Haye in the barne & in Cock	£4		
Mowinge grasse growinge	£1		
Brasse and pewter	£2		
Two Broches w[i]th gobertes, mortar & pestle w[i]th all other Iron ware		13s	4d
one Cupbord one Table w[i]th] formes & stoles	£1		
one Joynde bedd w[i]th other bedstiddes	£1		
Bedinge and napperie as one fether bed w[i]th bouldsters			
xj paire of sheetes ij bedd coveringes iij blanketes & other beddinge	£6	13s	4d
Five Cofares & one box		10s	
woolle yearne and towe, and hempe on the grounde	£1		
Butter and cheese & corne & malt in the house	£2		
Tubbes loomes barrelles bouckes & all other treene ware & shelfes		12s	
one Axe one shoole & all other implementes for husbandrie		2s	
Quishens Bagges & all other little implementes in the house		4s	
his aparrell & monie in his purse	£2		
Sum[m]a heireof.. £59 19s 4d [checked]			
The praisers names: William Gibbson, William Salle, John Beech, Richard Gree- newood			

164.3 Notes

1. The inventory shows seven amendments, all of them additions in the same hand.
2. 'Shoole' = shovel. 'loomes' = open vessels. 'bouckes' are vessels: Sir Edward Littleton in 1586 had 2 close books of six gallons a payre to put salt butter in'. (West J Village Records)
3. At this time of year, some of the hay was standing in cocks (temporary stands of hay) in the field to dry before being taken to the barn.

165 Thomas Bourne the elder of Dimsdale, yeoman, will dated 3rd October 1639, buried 7th September 1640, inventory taken 10th Sept,[Wed] date of probate 15th Sept.

165.1 Will

Being in good health.

To be buried in the parish church of Wolstanton.

(Refers to an indented deed dated 28th February 8 Charles [1633] which enfeoffed to certain uses Thomas Bourne of Little Chell, and Richard Leighe of Sneyde, yeomen, of and in property in Oulcote and Ramscliffe (or in either of them), being once copyhold lands as parcels of the manor of Tunstall.)

To Margrett Bourne my wife:

i) the annual rent of £26 13s 4d from this property, which is now in the occupation of Thomas Bourne my son, for the term of her natural life. And after her death, to Margrett my daughter for three years; if she marries... And after, over five years, in turn to Henry Bourne and Joshua Bourne, my sons, Alice Leighe and Elizabeth Allen, my daughters, and Richard Bourne my son.

ii) the annual rent of 12s from a tenement or cottage and lands now in the holding of James Rathbone; if she is still living at the end of James Rathbone's term, the annual rent of £3 6s 8d.

iii) the annual rent of 8s from one close or pasture called the great Bath during the term that Randle Whytehall still has; if she is still living at the end of Randle Whytehall's term, the annual rent of £6 13s 4d. After her death, to Henry Bourne, my son, and to Joshua Bourne, my youngest son the annual rent £3 6s 8d each.

To Richard Bourne my son the bed on which he now lies in Shelfcroft.

To William Bourne my son the great brass pot that came from Shelfcroft.

To every one of my grandchildren, 10s each.

The joined bed that stands in the parlour here in Dymisdall to remain here for the use of my eldest son Thomas.

Executrix: Margrett my wife.

Witnesses: Richard Bourne of Chell, John Bourne of Chell, John Meare

165.2 Notes

1. 'Sheild Croft' is shown on Yates map of 1775 and in the same position 'Sealscroft' on the 19th century OS map. In Birmingham City archives is a lease for life: Sir Richard Hussey of Adbright Hussey, co. Salop., knt., and Robert Hussey, gent., younger brother of the said Sir Richard leases to William Burne of Shellescrofte in the lordship of Norton upon the Moores, co. Staff., yoman a messuage with appurtenances called Shellescrofte in Norton. (Reference MS 917/1699 5 March 1606/7)

Richard Bourne with his bed in Shelfcroft is not Richard Bourne of Chell who witnesses the will. The latter is likely to be the Richard Bourne of Chell who is on a 1640

subsidy roll (and therefore one of the leading tax-payers in the area), and possibly was the Richard Bourne of Little Chell on a rental of around 1620.

2. The will is lengthy, but he bequeaths little in the way of goods; there is not even a reference to the disposal of the remainder of his goods. He is in all probability a tenant of part of Dimsdale Hall.

3. The 1615 survey of the Manor of Newcastle shows him to be the owner of freehold lands in Wolstanton and Dimsdale. In the 1666 Hearth Tax list, William Bourne was assessed for two hearths at Dimsdale; the part occupied by the owner Edward Brett was assessed for nine hearths.

4. Richard Bourne of Chell was a gentleman who in 1631 compounded with a Commission for not taking up a knighthood.

165.3 Inventory

A True inventorye of all & singular the good[es] Cattels & Chattels w[hi]ch Thomas Bourne in the Countye of Staff[ord] yeoman of Dimsdale w[i]thin the Parish of Woolstanton latly deceased dyed possessed of, as they were app[re]tiated by us whose names are subscribed Anno D[omi]ni 1640:

foure bullocks

for a colt sould

for a yong bull and foure kyne

three stirks

two mares one Colt

foure weyned Calves

6 sheepe and two swine

seaven day work of winter corne)

& eleaven day work of Oates)

Haye

all implement[es] of husbandry)

as waines plowes yokes chaynes etc)

in poultrye

In Timber

In compost or mucke

In Swine troughes

all bedding & bedclothes

all napp[er]y & Linnens & wollen clothe

all bedstocks & bedsteads coffers & chest[es] Tables Formes and Chayres

in brass & pewter & seething pott[es] broaches gobbert[es] tongues & other iron ware

in bacon & cheese & butter

wodden ware as barrells etc

His wearinge apparell and mony in his purse

In debts owing

166 Thomas Fenton of Knutton, yeoman, will dated 8th November 1638, buried 5th April 1640, inventory undated, date of probate 26th May 1640.

166.1 Will

In good and perfect health; [burial place not specified.] To Anne Lowe my grandchild, or her first or second son, or first, second or third daughter; or Henry Stiles my grandchild or his first or second son, or first or second daughter; or Elizabeth Stiles my grandchild or heirs; or Ellen Stiles my grandchild or heirs: my messuage and lands in Knutton, after the expiration in 1640 of a lease of 14 years from the feast of the Annunciation of the blessed Mary.

To the heir, whoever it is: one iron grate, all tables, forms, bedstocks, shelves and painted cloths.

The first year's rent to Elin Stiles my daughter for her child's portion; the second year's to Anne Lowe for her child's portion; third to Henry Stiles; fourth to Anne Lowe my grandchild; fifth to Elizabeth Lowe; sixth to Elizabeth Stiles; seventh to daughter Stiles; eighth to Elin Stiles above-named. The rent for the rest of the years is to be paid in order as before expressed to my six grandchildren.

Residuary legatee: my daughters Elin Stiles and Anne Lowe equally.

My will is that my executor shall not be prejudiced any way but saved harmless from any charges or expenses out of my estate.

[Written later:]

Executor: my true and faithful friend John Beech.

Witnesses: Richard Clownam, Thomas Laton, John Baddeley the younger.

166.2 Inventory

The true and p[er]fect Invention of all the goodes and chattells of Thomas Fenton of Knutton deceased

one featherbed one fether boulder one Bedhillinge thre Coverlettes one Bedhillinge Chares Blanckttes Two Woll beddes Twoo Woll boulders

Two Payre of Shelves one Table Cloth

All his Books

Brasse and Pewter

one Payre of the beste Twoo Broches and all other Iron Ware and all Implem[en]tes of Husbandrie

Barrells Turnells standes Cheres and all other Woden Wares [&]

Chestes

Tables formes bedstides paynted Clothes shilfes

and grate

one Carte one Muck Carte & lathers)

all Timber)

one daie worke of Corne £1

Two hackney Saddells one Packe saddle
Wearing Apparrell and money in his Purse
Dunge and all other thinges forgott

Praised by vs Roger Lowe
John Baddeley Thomas [?Lawton]

166.3 Notes

1. Thomas Fenton had lived in Wolstanton. Then his brother John Fenton, yeoman, died childless in 1624. According to the will he was to inherit the house in Knutton after the death of his brother's wife. It is not known when she died, but Thomas Fenton had evidently moved to Knutton before 1625. He commenced a lease of land in 1626. His wife died in 1626. He is probably the same person as the Thomas Fenton, tailor, who was summoned to appear at Stafford Quarter Sessions for assault and battery on William Prynce at Wolstanton in 1598. He was still described as a tailor in 1620.

He is probably not the same as the Thomas Fenton who held copyhold land in Penkhull in 1615.

2. The value given for 'Two Payre of Shelves one Table Cloth' is a squiggle. I have put this as 2s so as to make the stated total correct. However it probably means that it was not to be reckoned separately. He shared the house, as indicated by 'his books'; also, the 'one pair of the best two broches' indicates that the appraisers were distinguishing Thomas Fenton's goods from those of others in the house.

3. The inventory total is small for someone of yeoman status. The items that one would expect to have been included in his inventory are: livestock, linen and household provision. The items that are mentioned have a low value, probably due to their age; perhaps, out of his possessions, it is only the 'one iron grate, all tables, forms, bedstocks, shelves and painted cloths' that are worth bequeathing.

4. A hackney saddle would be used for ordinary riding; the pack saddle would be used for a pack horse.

167 Thomas Wood of Chesterton, yeoman, date of will 28th December 1638, buried 30th July 1640, inven- tory taken 4th August 1640, date of probate 17th August 1640

167.1 Will

Weak in body; to be buried in the parish church of Woolstanton.

To my son-in-law William Childe: £20 which he owes me.

To my daughter Elizabeth Childe: 40s for her child's portion.

To each of her children: 20s.

To my daughter Joane Beech: 40s for her child's portion.

To Dorothy Brodfould: 40s.
 To Richard Wood, my brother's son: 10s.
 To each of the servants that shall be living at my son's house at my decease: 2s.
 Residuary legatee and executor: my son John.
 Witnesses: William Mansfeild, Randall Boothes

167.2 Inventory

A true and perfecte Inventorie of all the goods and chattells of Thomas Wood of Chesterton yoman deceased taken by John Bourne and John Cowall the fourth daye of August anno. d[omi]ni 1640

his bed wherein he did lye w[i]thall thinges belonginge to it	5	0	0
debts owinge to him			
his chest w[i]th money and oth[e]r things therein	72	9	4
his wearinge apparell and money in his purse	8	2	6
The whole sum is	105	11	10

167.3 Notes

1. The bequest to the servants suggests that for at least the last 18 months of his life he was living at his son's house. His wife Margaret had died in 1631.
2. William Child and Elizabeth Wood were married on Dec 21st 1629.

168 Edward Unwyn, will dated 13th April 1641, buried 25th April, will proved at London 23rd July 1641.

168.1 Will

In the name of god amen I Edward Vnwyn brother of John Vnwyn late of Hardingswood in the County of Staff[ord] deceased being sicke in body yet nevertheless of good & perfect remembrance thanks be given to Almighty God for the same doe make my last will in manner followinge First I give & bequeath my Soule to Almighty God my Creator and to Jesus Christ my Redeemer hopeing & steadfastly beleevinge that through his merittes I shall live with him eternally And my body to Christian buriall in ye parish Church of Wolstanton. And as Concerninge all my goodes & Cattells Chattells bondes bills specialties Debtes to mee owinge & other my goodes whatsoever I give & bequeath the same in manner & forme following. First I give & bequeath to John Colcloughe sonne of William Colclough & of my Sister Anne his wife the som[m]e of Fortie poundes to be payd him after the decease of the said William & Anne And in the

mean tyme the said William & Anne to have the vse money payd them by my Executor hereafter herein named for the said Fortie poundes according to the Statute during both their lives. Item I give & bequeath to my sister Elizabeth and to my Sister Marie five poundes. Item I give to my Sister in law Margarett Vnwyn Tenn poundes And to her eldest sonne Raphe Vnwyn Fifteene poundes And to her younger sonne John Vnwyn Twenty poundes and to her daughter Marie Vnwyn Twentie poundes. And to my executor herein named & his heirs the som[m]e of Thirtie poundes vpon trust & confidence that they and everie of them shall yeerlie for ever hereafter deale & give vnto the pooreste Householders of the parish of Wolstanton that are not beggars the some of Thirtie shillings amongst Twenty of them at the discrec[i]on of my said Executor & his heires And further my will & mynd is that as Concerninge the Legacies aforesaid payable to the said Raph & John Unwyn sonnes of my said Sister in law Margarett aforesaid & to Marie her daughter shalbe ymployed & bestowed to & for their best vse & benefitt at the Judgement and discrec[i]on of my Cosen Thomas Bourne of Little Chell & John Bourne his brother & not otherwise. And all the rest & residue of my goodes, Cattells Chattells Debtes bondes specialties vse [?] my debtes to mee owinge & other goodes whatsoever I give & bequeath the same to John Vnwyn of Clough within the County of Stafford gentleman discharging & payeinge my debtes (if any be) my funerall expenses p[ro]batt of this my will & for defrayeinge of all other necessarie Charges touching my estate And I ordaine & make the said John Vnwyn of Clough aforesaid my true & lawfull Executor of this my last will And I doe hereby revoke & call backe all former Wills & Testamentes by mee formerly made. In Wittnes whereof I the said Edward Vnwyn haue herevnto put my seale & marke the Thirteenth day of Aprill in the Seaventeenth yeere of the Raigne of o[u]r Sovraigne Lord Charles by the grace of God of England, Scotland France & Ireland King Defender of the faith &c Anno d[omi]ni 1641 The marke of Edward Vnwyn Sealed Deliuered in the p[re]sence of Richard Bagnall Phillipp Kinsey. The marke of William Taylor.

168.2 Notes

1. John Unwyn his brother had been dead for over five years when Edward composed his last will, so it is curious how Edward Unwyn refers to himself at the start of it. He was, it seems, unmarried and living at Hardingswood. The most straightforward explanation is that he uses this form of wording to distinguish himself from another Edward Unwyn, especially if that person was living at Hardingswood too.
2. The snub to his nephew Raphe Unwyn (given £5 less than his brother and sister) is to be explained by the fact that Raphe had fathered illegitimate twins just over a year previously.
3. 'Fortie poundes according to the Statute' - The legal maximum for what could be charged on a loan was 10% interest.
4. John Unwyn of Clough was a gentleman and his branch of the family appears in the Herald's Visitations. He died in the same year as Edward Unwyn and 'The Clough' (later, Clough Hall), which was just outside the boundary of Wolstanton parish, was inherited by a distant relative who fell into debt. The bequest of £30 for the benefit of the poor householders of Wolstanton parish does not appear on a later list of benefactions

put up in Wolstanton church, indicating that Edward Unwyn's charitable intentions were thwarted. However, "in returns of 26 Geo III, the sum of 30s is stated to have been then a rent charge vested in or paid by John Gilbert. Mr Gilbert was the proprietor of an estate at Clough upon which he built Clough Hall, now the property of Mr. Kinnersley, banker, of Newcastle, whose father bought it from Mr Gilbert". (Further Report of the Commissioners for Inquiry concerning Charities (1829) pp 324-30)

169 William Merriman of Chesterton, husbandman, will dated 18th May 1641, buried 21st May, inventory taken 25th May 1641, date of admon 29th June 1641

169.1 Will

Weak in body; to be buried in the parish churchyard of Wolstanton.

To my daughter Elizabeth: £7.

To my daughter Margery: £5.

To Raphe my son: £5

All the rest of my goods etc to my executors for the use of all my children equally to be divided among them to provide trades for them and bind them thereto for their education and benefit.

My will is that my executors shall allow to Margerie Abney my mother-in-law all my household goods as they now stand, four cows and as much corn as my executors shall think fit and convenient, for the maintenance of my children, so long as she shall keep and maintain them; and when she shall refuse to continue, she shall return my goods to my executors, without any wilful waste of them. If any of my children die.....

Executors: John Wood of Chesterton, yeoman, Robert Whitoughe of Bignall Hill, yeoman, Roger Dale of the Wood, yeoman, and Raphe Bourne of Chesterton.

Overseers: John Cowell of Chesterton, Thomas Merriman of Church Hoolme and William Wood of Chesterton.

Witnesses: John Cowell, John Willat his marke, Randull Bootes

William Merriman [signs by mark]

169.2 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect Inventorie of all the goods, debts cattells and Chattells moueable and vnmoueable of william Merriman of Chesterton husbandman deceased taken by John Cowall Thomas Turner and Raphe Bourne the 25.th of May A[nn]o D[omi]ni 1641.

Corne vpon the ground & in the house

Five kine

Two steeres

three twint[e]r heiffers

Foure stirkes
One Calfe
Foure Carryinge horses w[i]th their saddles & other furniture
Three and twentie sheepe
Poultry as hens and geese
Two Feather beds, two chaffbeds w[i]th their boulst[e]rs & coverings
Bed steads
Napperie ware
Tables, Frames, Formes, Chests coffers and Chaires
Brasse and pewter £1 8s 0d
Treene ware 15s 0d
Husbandrie ware £2 16s 2d
Loose boardes and shelues
Iron ware
Mucke
Bacon, and Malt
His wearinge Aparrell and monie in his purse
All other vtensills what soever
Right wo[rshippfu]ll

I p[re]sent vnto you a strange, but lamentable case concerninge a testato[r]s will lately defunct in my parish: And thus it is

One William Merriman of Chesterton lately deceased made his will, instituted and appointed foure executors, viz: John Wood Robert Whitough Roger Dale and Raphe Bourne, w[hi]ch executo[r]s vpon reasons did vtterly renounce to execute the said will before me and other witnesses, the coppie of whose renunciation I haue here sent vnto you. Now thaforsaid testato[r] Merriman hath left seaven small children behinde him, his wife being dead before him the Inventorie is but threescore and ten poundes at most or thereabout the children, being all in their minoritye savinge one wench. I and my neighbo[r]s haue consulted diverse tymes what course to take to haue freed your wo[rshi]pp from the administration: but it is beyond our powers to coclude of anie thinge, for we want a sufficient administrato[r], yet if it please your wo[rshi]pp: we haue thought the eldest wench fittest, because she is of full age, her name is Elizabeth Merriman: I and my neighbours desire you therefore to admit her as administratrix, and that you would be pleased to send me and my paishioners worde by this bearer what course we may take concerninge the orphants goods and that you will be pleased to view the will. Thus com[m]endinge our service to your wo[rshi]pp and you to gods sacred protection we rest.

Wolstanton June 24 1641 Your dutifull freinds to com[m]and

Fran[cis] Capps
John Bourne Churchwarden
John Cowell

169.3 Notes

1. The affidavit is scrawled illegibly on a scrap of paper - a contrast with the elegantly penned letter that accompanied it. The meetings the vicar had with the 'neighbours' would have been official ones at an inn or alehouse, with expenses charged to the churchwardens' account, similar to the occasion(s) referred to in the account of the Overseers of the Poor in 1690 in Napton-on-the-Hill, Warwickshire:

Spent when ye Neighbours met to provide a House for
ye Widd 1s 6d

2. His wife Susan died in 1638.

170 Edward Erdswick, gentleman, no will, grant of administration 17th February 1640/1, inventory taken 10th February 1640/1, exhibited at Lichfield 29th March 1641, account accepted 5th April 1642.

170.1 Inventory

An Inventorie of ye debts goodes cattell, and Chattells of Edward Erdeswicke of ye p[ar]ishe of Wolstanton in ye Covntie of Stafford gent[leman] late deceased had, and taken ye tenth day of Februarie. annoq[ue] D[omi]ni. 1640

his wearing apparell, and readie moneye in his purse
 ij siluar canns, and seven siluar spoenes
 ij pewter canns
 on fetherbed in ye Chamber over the parler, w[i]th curtaines, blankets, coverlets theretoe belonging ij bolsters,
 fetherbolsters
 on bedsteed in ye same Chamber
 bunkes theree
 on cheste, & three boxes
 sheetes, table clothes, and other naperie, & linnens
 in ye littele chamber on bedsteede a fetherbed curtaines
 blankets, & coverlets thertoe belonginge
 in ye Chamber over ye hall on bedsteede a fetherbed
 w[i]th ye app[ur]tena[n]ces
 on truckle bed theree
 some Englishe bookes
 foure Ashen Chests
 corne threshed, & vnthreshed at Harteleye greene, & malte
 brasse, and pewter frijng panns and ij iron kettells
 ij mares, and on sucking colte
 table boordes, on presse, a cubbard Joynestoesles, &
 cheeres, and on greene carpett
 olde cuschions
 bacon
 barrells tubbes & other coeperie ware
 on other meane fetherbed
 grates firehovells spitts, tonges loose boordes, tooles
 belonging to the Colepitts, & other trumperie
 [Checked] Som totall £56 4 2

william dickenson william unwin Richard Ratcliff Robbert Whadcocke
 An addition to the Inventory of Edward Erdswicke Late of the p[ar]ish of Woolstanton
 deceased made by Mary Erdswicke his Relict of Such thinges as since the taking of the
 said Inventory haue com[m]en to her hands and possession
 a debt of 15li 10s due to the said deceased before his deathe

since received by her the said Mary £15 10s
 a debt of 4li due to the said deceased before his death

from Mr George Digby, & since likewise by her received £4
 a foulinge peece w[hi]ch (being then at mending) was
 left vnprized 6s 8d
 S[u]mma omnia £19 6s 8d

Computus Calculus sive Racociniu' omni' et singlor' bonor' Iuriu' et Creditor' Ed-
 wardi Erdswicke gen' nup' du' vixit p'ochie de Wolstanton defuncti, Queq' venerunt
 ad manus et poss'ionem Marie Erdswick Relictoe et Admi'stratricis bonor' eiusdem

defuncti fact' et reddit' apud Lich'am die Martis Quinto viz die Aprilis Anno d'ni 1642.

Onus

Imprimis this Accomptant chardgeth her self w[i]th the some of lvjli iiijs ijd being the true value of such goods of the said deceased as are apprized in an Inventory thereof taken & exhibited into this Court, as also the some of 19li 16s 8d w[hi]ch the said Accomptant hath by way of addition to the Inventory this day likewise exhibited into this Court - in toto lxxvjli xd

Item this Accomptant hath necessarily paid & exposed diu[er]s sumes of money w[hi]ch shee craveth allowance of as followeth viz

Exonerac[i]o

Imprimis for the funerall expenses of the said deceased ixli xs

Item paid to Mr Capps vicar of Wolstanton for a mortuary xs

Item paid servants wages w[hi]ch was vnsatisfied by him before his death iiijli

Item paid to one Hollis a debt due by the deceased by bond xli xvjs

Item paid to Mr Davenport of Stafford a debt due by the said deceased by bond viijli

Item paid to Mr Thomas Wareing a debt due by the said deceased by bond lli

Item to the said] Mr Thomas Wareing a debt due by the said deceased vpon another bond lli

Item paid to Mr Sampson Coyney a debt due by the said deceased w[i]thout specialty xxxli

Item paid for letters of Admi[ni]strac[i]on of the said deceaseds goods and for travelling chardges w[i]th her suertie about the same xxS

Item for drawing the addition and exhibiting the addition to the Inventory & engrossing this Accompt for l[ette]res of Queta est therevpon and for travelling chardges about the same xxxiis iiijd

Sum[m]a expo[s]ita 9s 4d

Et sic deduct[i]s deducendis et allocatis allocand[i]s

huioi' Comp'tans exposuit vltra vires Inven[tar]ij et additionis eulem 8s 6d

Quo comp'o p[er] nos viso et inspecto eund[em] admittimus quat[en]us de iure &c Et quia sup[er] huc'o in specco'e niseuimus Compotan' exposuisse lxxxvli viijs vjd vltra vires Inventarij bonorum d[i]c[t]i defuncti, decerimus l[itte]ras acquietan' sup[er] d[i]c[t]o Comp'o eid[em] Comp'tant concedend' fore et concedimus &c.

170.2 Notes

1. Edward Erdeswick, cousin of the celebrated author Sampson Erdeswick, was the son of Walter Erdeswick of Hartley Green in Gayton parish, Staffordshire. His mother was Ursula the daughter of Edward, Lord Stafford. There is no record of his burial at Wolstanton or Audley, so perhaps he joined his ancestors at Sandon church. The mortuary was a fixed payment to the vicar on the death of a parishioner.

The Hearth Tax list of 1662 for Knowle End (a township of Audley parish) was headed by Mr Richard Earswicke, occupying a house with three hearths, situated, as Richard

Parrott reported in 1733, below Heighley Castle. This house, he explains "has many generations ... bin inhabited by the family of Eardswicks ... It is now held by one Samson Eardswige. he is a Catholick and soe have all the family bin time out of mind."

2. Record offices in England hold at least 27,000 probate accounts, but very few survive in the Lichfield diocesan records.

The fact that Edward Erdeswick's estate is worth a minus figure of £89 8s 6d. illustrates forcefully the point that the inventory total on its own is not the same as the value of the estate.

Margaret Spufford analysed probate accounts surviving in Lincolnshire and found that it was not unusual for yeomen (and presumably gentlemen) to owe wages (sometimes for a whole year) to the labourers or servants.

3. 'paid and exposed' = paid and laid out.

4. The letters of administration were granted to the widow (or whoever), and there was invariably a second person (the surety) accompanying the administrator to the court who had to enter into a bond. In this case, exhibiting the main inventory cost Mary Erdeswick 10d, and obtaining letters of acquittance cost her 6s 8d.

5. A petition in 1655 throws some extra light on the situation. The petition was from William Lawton, esq who said that his father purchased from Sampson Coyney of Weston, Staffs, gentleman, the reversion of the third part of a messuage, mill, cottage and several closes and parcels of land in Brerehurst and Talke. (This must be Hardingswood.) His complaint to the Commissioners responsible for managing the estates under sequestration was that the third part of the estate was still under sequestration for the recusancy of Mary Erdwick, widow, who held it for her life but had now died. (His father had put a value of £8 10s a year on this third part.)

At the bishop's visitation in 1633, Edward Erdeswick of Wolstanton parish, his wife Mary and daughter Ellen were presented as Catholics and were excommunicated. Were the appraisers in 1641 non-Catholics? In pricing his goods, did the appraisers come across books in Latin (which had Romish associations)? And is this their reason for putting in the inventory: 'some Englishe bookes' ?

Sampson Coyney's connection with the parish is shown by the burial of a daughter of his in February 1634/5 recorded in the parish register. The family also had a Catholic connection. In 1643 Thomas Coyney of Weston Coyney was reported to be a Papist.

171 Richard Dickenson of Ramscliffe, tanner, nuncupative will dated 20th February 1640/1, buried 27th February, inventory taken 1st March, date of probate 19th March 1640/1.

Richard Dickenson of ye County of Staff[ord] & parish of Woolstanton Tan[n]er did declare in words beeing in perfect memory this to be his last will & Testament. first he com[m]ended his soule to god & his body to be buried in ye churchyard of Wool-

stanton. Item he gave all his goods moveable & vnmouable vnto Alice Dickenson his wife & Alice & Alice & Elizabeth this two Daughters to be equally Divided among them. Item he did Constitute his brother in law Philipp Presbury his executor to see & performe this his last will (his funeral expences & Debts first Discharged) in ye confidence he reposeth in him February ye twenty etc etc 1640

Witnesses to his Nuncupative will

Willia[m] Dickenson ye Father

Willia[m] Dickenson ye son

w[i]th others

171.1 Inventory

A True and perfect Inventorie of all the goodes Catalles & Chatteles of William Richard Dickenson of Ramsecliffe in the parish of Wolstandston in the Count[ie] of Stafford latte desesed March the ferste Ann[o] Dom[ini] 1640

preased By Richard Leies Richard Harden

Brasse & Puter	£1	15s	
for all Trine wares		10s	
Bedstokes		8s	
Iron ware		2s	6d
Bedinge	£2		
for Linons	£1	15s	
ii Coufors		6s	
Tables Bordes & Chears		13s	4d
for Hea	£2		
for Corne	£3		
for Ledder & Barke	£13	6s	8d
for a Cowe	£2	13s	4d
for a filde for fuife yeares	£14		
for wearinge apperell & money	£2	10s	
for a swine henes & Coke		18s	
owinge of seuerall men	£12		
Totalis £59 17s 10d [Actual £57 17s 10d]			

Preased By us

Richard Leighe [signs by mark] Richard Marden

171.2 Notes

1. The tanning of leather was a smelly process. A tanning business, once established with its tan-house and tan pits, tended to remain on the same site, often in the ownership of the same families over the generations. Richard Dickenson, judging by the leather and bark which he had, ran a tanning business. The bark was used in the soaking of hides in tan pits to make leather.

2. 'for a filde for fuife yeares' - a lease of a field for five years.
3. The will is in the handwriting of the vicar, Francis Capps.
4. 'februarie the' was deleted in the inventory heading.

172 Richard Podmore of Moule [Mow Cop], will undated, buried 11th April 1641, inventory taken 16th April, exhibited 2nd September, date of probate 16th September 1641.

172.1 Will

Sick of body. [No burial instructions] To Margaret Podmore, my wife: all my houses, lands and tenements for 8 years towards the payment of my funeral expenses and towards the bringing up and maintaining of all my children until they reach the age of 21 years, doing as children ought to do to their parents. And after 8 years my intention is that if Margaret my present wife is living, she is to have half of all my houses, lands and tenements during her life instead of her jointure.

To Richard my son: my intention is that he should have the other half (to him and his heirs for ever), paying the sum of £140 to his brother and sisters: to his sister Margaret within two years of his entering the property £40; to Thomas Podmore his brother within 3 years of his entering the property £20; to Marie his second sister within five years of his entering the property £40; and to Ann his third sister within eight years of his entering the property £40.

If it please God that any of my children should die before their day of payment, it should be equally divided among the rest.

If my wife dies before any of my children reach 21 years, then my son is to enter the other half of my property, and keep it until he becomes 21.

If my wife marries, then my intention is that Richard Podmore my heir shall have two-thirds of my houses, lands and tenements.

Executors: Margaret Podmore my wife and William Podmore of Moule, my brother.

Witnesses: Thomas Cartright, John Lawton, John Rowley.

Debts which he owes:

to William Michell	£5	16s	0d
John Cauton	£9		
John Cauton younger	£3		
Richard Drakeford	£3		
John	£9		
John Cartright	£6	3s	8d
Thomas Rowley	£3	4s	0d
Raphe Baddeley	£2	4s	0d
John Rowley	£3	4s	0d

Decimo sexto die April[is] Anno dom[ini] 1641

172.2 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect Inventorie of all the goods of Richard Podmore lately deceased
Valued and presed by John Commerbache James Rowley and John Rowley

three fallowe kyne
tow kyne w[i]thcaulfe
tow twinter heffers
three sterkes
eight sheepe
one swine
heay
poultre ware
one harrow
all the Iorne ware
all the beddinge
naperie ware
brasse and pewter
the treene ware
the bedstockes
three tables
one Cubbard a[nd] silinge
all the bords and shilues
three wheelles
woolland Cloth
one millstone a[nd] one houpe
meale and otts [oats] one arke and two Coffers
one handmill
tow fliches of bacon
foure quichcions two Cheires
Fiue bagges and all the rest of his goods not seene
all the bookes
his apparell and monie in his purse

172.3 Notes

1. Podmores lived at Mow Cop over a long period. From 1583 (when Richard Podmore was recorded as having a pew in Wolstanton church) surviving records show that there was a succession of men of this name, sometimes explicitly linked with Moll/Mole/Moule/ Mow. In 1619 Richard Podmore's messuage and 11 customary acres were converted from copyhold to freehold tenure. In 1666 Richard Podmore of the township of Stodmorlowe lived in a house with two hearths. In 1719, the description of the boundary of part of the manor of Tunstall shows that the head of Richard Podmore's land reached as far as present-day Mow Cop Road at the junction with Castle

Road.

2. The baptisms of his children Richard (1625), Margrett (1626), Mary (1629), Thomas (1631) and Ann (1635) are recorded in Biddulph and Wolstanton parish registers. The baptism (1634) and burial of a son John are also recorded.

3. The value of his brass and pewter is lower than that of yeomen. Also, one would have expected him to have a horse.

4. To obtain probate, Margaret Podmore, the widow, and Thomas Rowley of Biddulph (Biddull), described as a husbandman, had to enter into a bond.

173 Richard Coleclough of Hayhed, no will, buried 25th December 1641, inventory taken 29th December 1641, date of probate 19th January 1641/2

173.1 Inventory

A trewe and p[er]fect Inventory of all the goodes Cattles and Chattles of Richard Coleclough late of heyhed in the Cownty of Stafford yeoman deceased valued and praised the nyne and Twenteeth day of december in the seaventeenth yeare of the raigne of our sou[er]aigne Lord Charles by the grace of god of England Scotland France and Ireland Kinge defender of the faith &c By William Burslem Richard Whytall John Caulton Thomas Baddeley and Thomas Lawton as hereafter Followeth

Fiue kine one heffer and two sterkes

Hey and corne in the Barne

one Mare valued to

Corne vppon the grownd

two Swine

two sheepe

All Pultrey

all Husbandrey Ware

Iron ware

Brasse and pewter

all the trine ware

Corne and Maulte in the howse £2

Butter Cheese and oth[er] p[ro]uisioun in the howse

Beddstiddes and Beddinge

Sheetes and Napp[er]eware

all Tables Cheres Bordes and Shilfes

all Coffers and Chestes

quishenes Bagges Sackes and such licke

all hempe Flax wollen yarne and linon yarne

Lyme

Coales vppon the Banck w[i]th the delph tooles and other Implementes there vnto Be-

longeing
Honey
Burslem Ware
the deceasantes weareing Apparell w[i]th money in his purse
mannure swintroes and oth[e]r Odd Implementes formerly Vnvalued
more in ready money in his Chest
Wollen Cloth
Bees

173.2 Notes

1. Attending the probate court are the widow (Mary), who now has to bring up their children Ellen and John, and Thomas Baddiley of Church house of the parish of Bid-dulph.
2. The first one-inch OS map shows Hayhead on the slopes overlooking the expanding town of Kidsgrove. In the seventeenth century, it probably consisted of more than one house, as three different people (Richard Coleclough, William Hancocke and Randel Pool) are said to be 'of Hayhead' in the 1640's. Hayhead House is mentioned in the Tunstall court roll in April 1618: it states that John Burslem of Brownlees surrendered half a messuage called Heyhead house and meadow containing one acre in Brerehurst to the use of John Colclough of Heyhead ie it was rented to him.
(The John Gibson occupying a two-hearth house in Rainscliff or Brerehurst in 1666 may have been John Gibson's 18-year old son.)
3. 'swintroes' are the swine troughs for feeding the pigs - wooden ones probably.
'an ax and a nadz, to make troffe for thy hogs' - as Tusser says (Five Hundred Points of Good Husbandry, 1984 p32). As a beekeeper, Richard Colclough had 2s 6d worth of honey.
4. At a date in the 1580's or 1590's a Richard Colcloughe and John Gibson jointly held three messuages, one cottage and 57 customary acres (121 acres) of land, paying 25s 6d in rent annually to the lord of the manor of Tunstall. Interestingly, both names in the next century are linked with coal-mining: the testator, and the John Gibson killed in a coal pit in 1663, leaving a wife and three children. (This is one of three coal-mining fatalities in Wolstanton parish recorded between 1648 and 1663.)
5. In the survey dating from the 1590's, Richard Colcloughe the younger owned half one messuage, two cottages and just over 13 acres.
Richard Colcoughe of Hea head was churchwarden in 1635/6
6. 'Coales vppon the Banck' ie coal at the pithead waiting to be sold and taken away.

174 Thomas Henshaw of Woolstanton, nuncupative will dated 11th April 1641, buried 13th April, inventory dated 16th April, administration granted 16th September

Nuncupative will

Memorandu[m] yt Thomas Henshawe of ye towne and parish of Woolstanton in ye County of Staff[ord] sicke in body but perfect in memory & understanding did one ye eleventh day of Aprill An[n]o d[omi]ni 1641 did declare in words before vs witnesses (whose names are subscribed) this to bee his last will and Testament as followes. Imprimis he did give and bequeath to his two daug[hters] Joane and Margaret Henshaw all his goods and Cattels to bee equally divided be[t]weene them excepting beneath excepted. Item he did give and bequeath by his will, two bedds vnto his wife Jocasta Henshaw with all things belonging to them. Item he did give and bequeath vnto his son Thomas £5 a yeere to keepe him by caus he is a simple child, During his life, or in default of payment he did give and bequeath to him a field called ye High field situated & lying w[i]thin ye Towne of Woolstanton during ye sayd Thomas his [soul - in margin] life naturall. Item he did constitute & ordayne John Pateson of Knutton & Raphe Moreton of Woolstanton ye Executors of his last Will & Testament.

Witnesses to this will

Randle Meare his marke

John Turnocke his marke

with others

174.1 Inventory

A true & perfect Inventory of all and singular ye goods Chattels & Cattells w[hi]ch Thomas Henshaw of ye towne & parish of Woolstanton lately deceased dyed possessed of, as they were app[r]etiated by vs whose names are subscribed April ye 16th A[n]no d[omi]ni 1641

sixe kyne & calves
 3 twinters
 3 stirks
 one mare bridle girts and saddle
 13 sheepe 3 lambs
 4 swine
 hay & corne in ye barne
 in pullen
 one plough, one harrow, one Cart, horsegeares, & a
 tunbrell
 4 day worke of Oates new sowen
 3 fitches of bacon
 in cheese
 of meale & greats
 in woole
 3 feather beds & blanckets & coverlets 2 pillowes
 and a chaffe bed
 5 flaxen sheets 9 payre of Hempen sheetes 2 pillow
 beares 1 dozen & 5 napkins 1 Towel, 3 board cloathes
 in brasse viz 4 old pans, 2 bottles i skymer, i chaffing
 dishe 4 candlesticks 4 old pots
 in pewter viz 15 dishes i salt 1 pewter candlestick
 2 dozen of spones 4 sawcers
 in woolen cloth 6 yards
 14 slippings of flaxen yarne 26 slippings of flax Hempen
 yarne
 in treenware 4 coffers 3 chaires 4 pales, 5 loomes
 3 churnes 8 wooden dishes a cloosebouke 1 litle Table 2 whitches and other treenware woodenware 3 payre of
 2 winnowing sheets
 two mucke hils
 in Timber 4 peeces 3 swine troughs boords 2 yron wedges
 on Iron grate 1 payre of Tongs 1 fireshowel a payre of Gobbets two spits one brundret
 4 Cushions
 in bands & bils
 in a lease of some few yeares
 (in money
 his wearing apparel
 in debts w[i]thout specialty
 Sum[m]a totalis £107 5s [Actual total: £98 11s 2d]
 Willia[m] Burslem

Randle Meare
 John Turnocke
 Richard Beech
 prisers

174.2 Notes

1. The total of his inventory comes to £35 more than that of his father who died ten years previously, the main difference being the money owing to him (bonds, bills and debts without speciality).
2. The two executors are called yeomen in the grant of probate, and his widow Jocasta is called (in Latin) Jocosca [ie Joyce]. In the parish register she appears as Jocosca in connection with the death of a new-born son (died 1632) and daughter (died 1633) of her and Thomas.
3. Thomas, the simple child, was aged 12 and survived for another 22 years. Not mentioned in the will are his other sons: John the heir of 9 customary acres of copyhold land in Wolstanton who was aged 15, and William aged 4. John was to serve on Parliament's side in the Civil War, and in 1666 was married with five children and living in a one-hearth house in Wolstanton.
4. As usual in this period, 'town' means 'township' and could apply to villages, as in the United States.
5. There is in Stafford Record Office a deed of surrender of a messuage and curtilage in Wolstanton to the use of Jocosca Henshaw, dated 1641. [Check the item and include if relevant]
6. In 1632 he was presented, together with two others, with "overcharging the commons" - presumably by putting too many sheep to graze on Wolstanton Marsh. He was fined 2s 6d.
7. in meal and grats - ie oatmeal and groats (crushed oats).
8. Both the inventory and the will are in the writing of the vicar, Francis Capps. He may have missed a line or two out of the inventory. On the other hand, he has given the useful detail of the different yarn.

175 Thomas Frost of Newchappell, blacksmith, will dated 5th June, buried 1st June [?7th June], inventory taken 8th June, date of probate 16th September 1641.

175.1 Will

Weak in body; to be buried in the parish churchyard of Wolstanton.

"All my debts paid & funerall expenses discharged I giue and bequeath all my goodes moueable & vnmoueable vnto Anne Frost my nowe wiffe towardses the bringing vp of my children."

Executor: Anne Frost.

Witnesses: William Rowley John Froste John Millnes

[Signs by mark]

175.2 Inventory

A true and p[er]fectt inventorie of all the goods cattells and chattells of Thomas Frost in the p[ar]ish of wolstanton & Countie of Stafford blacksmith deceased Seene Valued & praissed the 8th daie of June Anno d[omi]ni 1641 by vs whose names are hervnto written subscribed

William Rowley John Frost John cumb[e]rbache John Burslem John Burslem

5 kine	15	0	0
two twint[e]r heffers	3	13	4
two sterks	2	0	0
7 sheepe & 4 lames	1	15	0
one yong mare	3	13	4
all the bedinge	3	6	8
i iont bed i cubford & one low bed	1	8	8
all the naperie ware	1	6	8
8 slipinges of yorne			3 4
i Turnell			3 0
3 frine ponnes			6 8
all the brasse 1 15 0			
all the Petwer			11 0
3 formes in the parlowe			1 6
6 chests	1	0	0
barvells & all maner of trene ware	1	0	0
grate fire showle tonges & pothooks			7 0
one iron visse w[i]th c[er]taine oth[er] new ware in ye house			19 0
i paire of Tables			3 0
7 cheeses			2 6
one iron furnace 1 5 0			
one sowe & fue bigs			15 0
one Brundred & Goberts			3 0
all the mucke aboute the house	1	6	8
i tubstone & 6 oth[er] stonetroues	3	8	6
4 grindle stones	0	2	6
2 paire of balles i stidie w[i]th oth[er] smithie tooles	6	0	0
all the poultrie ware	0	6	8
Iron, Axes & steele	3	0	0
ballis bore[s]	0	6	8
2 day worke & halfe of ground for 3 yeares	3	0	0
his wearinge aparell & monie in his purse	2	10	0
all oth[er] small thinges not Form[er]lie praissed	0	2	0
Debts owinge to the deceasent by specialtie and w[i]thout	51	0	0
Sum[m]a 109 - 13 - 0 [checked]			

175.3 Notes

1. At the ecclesiastical court both Anne Frost the widow and Richard Drakford of Stontrough, yeoman, were bound by oath to undertake the bringing up of the children: Richard (probably over 17 years), Thomas (nearly 14), John (8 years) and William (aged 5). Anne Frost would have faced a difficult time, with no-one old enough to take over the running of the smithy, and would have had to rely on the farming side of the business.
2. Burial instructions: 'yard' was interlined in the will.
3. The reference to 'my nowe wife' is odd, seeing that his marriage to Ann Podmore took place in 1623, according to Biddulph's parish register.
4. 'i iont bed i cubford' - one joined bed (ie a four-poster) and one cupboard.
5. In Thomas Henshaw of Wolstanton's inventory, dated a few months earlier, there were 14 slippings of flaxen yarn and 26 slippings of hempen yarn valued at £1. According to a writer in 1688, a slipping 'is as much as is wound upon the reel at a time, which is generally about a pound of yarn.'
6. 'frine pones' = frying pans. The writer puts 'b' for 'p', and doesn't always correct it (as in 'big's' for 'pig's').
7. The smithy tools include an anvil ('i stidie'), bellows [balles/ballis], and vice ('visse'); and maybe some of the grinding stones ('grindle stones'), which a smith making edge tools would have needed. The tubstone and six stone troughs were probably for sale, the precise-looking figure for their valuation being the total of their retail prices as new. In 1671 Thomas Frost (the testator's son?) was fined 2s 6d in Tunstall manor court for illicit quarrying 'uppon Moule' (Mow Cop) for stone for troughs and tub stones. He had obtained eight tub stones in that way.
8. A day-work is less than one statutory acre.
9. The amount of money owing to him is staggering. The money owing to him without speciality could be for goods sold by him on credit.
- 10 Later history - 'Frosts house at Chappell' is mentioned in 1660, but the only Frost mentioned locally in the 1666 Hearth Tax record is a Richard Frost living in the township of Bemersley.
11. A turnell was a type of tub with a capacity of less than half a barrel. The inventory of Hew Ridgwaye (1602) of Stockport, Cheshire, who had a smithy, had one turnell worth 2s 6d. John Kelsall, a butcher of Stockport (1606), had a turnell in the kitchen along with brewing equipment. An alternative use is indicated in the 'salting turnell' of Alexander Torkinton (1605) of Stockport.

176 Thomas Kent of Brerehurst, webster, will dated 25th February, buried 7th August 1642, inventory taken 17th August,[Tue] date of probate 29th August

176.1 Will

Being in good health.

My body to be buried in the churchyard of Woulstanton.

To my cousin William Kente living in parish of Samb[ac]h 20s.

To my cousin John Kente living in Odd Roade 20s.

To my cousin Margery Oustenon living in the parish of Asburie 20s.

To Thomas Boughey living in the parish of Woulstanton 10 groats.

To my cousin Margery Hulme living in the parish of Woulstanton 10 groats.

To Elizabeth Hancocke living in the parish of Woulstanton 10 groats.

To William Wieldebloode 10 groats.

To my cousin Richard Wioldblood 10 groats.

To my three godchildren, Thomas Boughey, Richard Pickrine and Mary Hulme 12d each.

Executor and residuary legatee: my wife Elizabeth Kente (inc. my dwelling house, yards, gardens, intacks). Legacies to be paid within three years.

Thomas Kent his mark.

Witnesses: Richard Whytall, Raphe Madew

176.2 Inventory

two kine

Eight She[e]pe

two hens

two Chattels of ground & howsinge

Brasse & pewter

one Iron kettell

two fether bedes two wolbedes & bouldsters

with such Coveringes as belonge to them

fower Bedstides

Tenn pere of Sheeites with other linon & naperie

ware

Five quoffers and one ould Trunke

Two litele tabels with a Cubbord dish bord

formes shulffes & all other louse bordes

all woden trine ware & Burslem ware

one grate fyershoule tongues two spites &

other Iron Implementes belonginge to husbandrie

all quissions Cheres & stoules

Three weavunge lomes with two pere of
 Sheres tennters Reeides and all other toules
 belonginge to a Sharman
 heay in the Barne
 flesh at the roffe & whitmet in the house
 with mele and greates
 woll in the house
 his wering app[ar]ell & money in his pvrse
 S[um]m[a] totalis £35 10s 8d [checked] Robert Burslem, John Alsager, William Beech,
 Richard Whytall

176.3 Notes

1. A groat was a small silver coin, value 4d.
2. Was he a shearman or webster? The shearman cut the finished cloth, so as to produce a flat surface. The Manchester shearman had for a long time complained that clothiers were doing this work themselves, and had even in 1595 petitioned the Privy Council to stop it. But there were a number of stages in cloth-making, and in the countryside - outside the restrictive influence of the trade guilds - specialisation was not so rigid. In his will (and lease of 1636) Thomas Kent is called a webster ie a weaver, who used a loom to convert the spun yarn to cloth. For many types of cloth, the next stage would be fulling, in which the cloth was soaked to thicken it. In order to dry it uniformly, the cloth was stretched on frames (called tenters) in a large yard or field. The nap of the cloth was then raised using the heads of teasels. The shearman's task was to use his shears to cut the nap of the cloth as it lay on a board. This was one of the trades requiring an apprenticeship, according to the Statute of Artificers of 1563. 'Reeides' are a loom's chief accessories; they separate the threads of the warp and beat up the weft.
3. The kettle was an open vessel used for boiling food, suspended over the fire by the looped handle called a bail. In this collection, only Thomas Kent and Isaac Keeling had an iron kettle; the kettles of the others are likely to have been of brass, hammered into shape.
4. Burslem ware ie local earthenware.
5. Thomas Kent's dwelling house and other buildings had been erected on the waste and had an intake of one [?customary] acre of land going with it. In his will he reaffirms what is stated in his lease of 1636 that his wife is to have it after his death. A herriot of 2s 6d was due to be paid to William Bowyer of Knypersley. The rent payable was 6d per year.

177 Thomas Bullock, buried 7th May 1642, no will, inventory taken 18th May 1642, [Tue]date of admon 19th May.

177.1 Inventory

A true & p[er]fect Inventory of all the good[es] cattells & chattells of Thomas Bullocke deceased late of the Hamlett of Brerehurst in ye Parish of Woolstanton & County of Staffs: husbandman taken & prised ye Eighteenth day of May Ao dom': 1642 taken & prised by us whose Names are under written as followeth viz.

- Apparell for his body & money in his purse
- One ould paire of sheetes & an ould covering
- Two little Coffers
- One ould shovell an old Mattocke an axe and)
two ould crakt sythes)
- one bond of sixteene poundes from John Bourne of Chesterton gent: to ye said Thomas Bullocke for paym[en]t of
- one other bond wherein the said John Bourne and Edward Bourne his sonne stands bound to the said Thomas Bullocke in the some of twelve powndes for the paymt of
- another bond wherein John Coleclough John Bourne & Joanne Coleclough Widdow stands bound to ye decedant in ye some
- another bond wherein John Rowley & Richard Ratclyffe stands bound to ye decedant in ten poundes for paymt of
- another bond wherein Robert Sneyde & Richard Sneyde stands bound to ye decedt in eight powndes for the paymt of
- another bond wherein William Bagnall standes bound to the decedant in sixe poundes for the paymt of
- another bond wherein Richard Glover standes bound to the decedant in fowre powndes for the paydmt of
- another bond wherein John Sneyde & Robert Sneyde his brother standes bound to ye decedt in forty shillings: for the paymt of
- one bill wherein John Gibson & William Gibson stands bound to ye decedant for payment of
- a debt w[i]thout specialty to ye decedt from James Booth of
- another debt wthout specialty to ye decedt from John Turnocke of
- another debt wthout specialty to ye decedt from Francis Hancock of

Sum[m]a total[is] [recte £44 11s 4d] Pracers: hereof: The m[ar]ke of John Alsager X
Richard Bagnall

177.2 Notes

1. Administration was granted to Richard Whytall and John Caulton "two of the next and only kinsmen of Thomas Bullock"

2. The John Bourne of Chesterton is perhaps to be identified with the 'Mr. Bourne of the broad gate' in the probate inventory (in this collection) of Ellin Steele, who was buried in 1638.

178 William Bourne of Ewtree the elder, gentleman, will dated 8th August 1642, buried 7th Sept 1642, inventory taken 7th Sept, date of probate 13th December

178.1 Will

Weak in body.

To be buried in the church of Wolstanton, as near to one of my wives as may conveniently be.

My executors to pay yearly to my son Thomas Bourne: £6 (viz 25s a quarter for his diet and 20s a year for apparel).

To my grandchild Margrett Bourne daughter of my son Thomas Bourne: £5.

To my grandchild Richard Bourne son of the said Thomas Bourne: £3 if he be bound apprentice and 13s 4d to buy him a cloak with.

To William Bourne son of my grandchild William Bourne: £20 .

[Inserted] To all my grandchildren and great grandchildren: 6s 8d each, except such as have legacies herein given them.

To Richard Broad and Dorothe Lawton servants at Ewtree: 3s 4d each.

To my executors: 10s each to buy them rings with.

My will is if Mr Capps now vicar of Woolstanton will give licence that another man shall preach at my funeral then I do bequeath unto him 5s.

Whereas my son John Bourne stands bound to me in an obligation of £20 with condition of payment of £10 after the decease of the said John Bourne, I devise the said obligation and money therein contained to my grandchild Raphe Bourne, son of the said John Bourne.

To the children of my son-in-law Richard Davenport and Ales his wife my daughter: all my goods now remaining at Wheltrough in Cheshire, to be disposed by Ales; otherwise to my grandchild Richard Davenport, one of the said children.

To my daughter Ales: my late wife's best suit of apparel viz her silk gown, kirtle, silk petticoat and the rest; also one tiffany or lawn ruff of hers, now starched and ready to wear.

To Marie Bourne, daughter of my grandchild William Bourne: one trunk in the parlour chamber and two best suits of apparel of my wives (gowns, kirtles, petticoats and all things belonging to them) and one new riding suit (hood, cloak, safoyard, saddle cloth, and the rest of the furnishings of a woman's horse).

To my grandchild Richard Davenport: one new suit of cloth, doublet, breeches and riding-coat which now remain at Wheltrough.

To Anne Davenport (daughter of my daughter Ales): my late wife's worse riding suit

(hood, cloak and safoyard).

To my daughter Ales Davenport: two gowns (one frieze gown and one stuff gown) which were my late wife's.

Executors and residuary legatees: William Rode of Rushton James, gentleman, William Beresford of Gatham, gentleman (sons of my late dear beloved wives) and William Rowlie of Turnehurst, gentleman.

The testator refers to a feofment dated two days earlier which grants lands etc in Bucknall (including a messuage where John Beech now lives) to the first and third of the executors. They are to pay a third each:

- to Ales Davenport; but if her husband 'shall go about to call for any of this legacy contrary to my will', then it shall go to the use of Richard, William, Anne and Ursula Davenport, her children.

- to Prudence Bourne, a grandchild;

- to Marie Bourne, daughter of the grandchild, William Bourne.

Overseer: William Bourne, one of the reverent fellows of the College of Manchester.

Signed by himself.

Witnesses: W. Bourne, Tho. Bagnall, John Beech.

178.2 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect Inventorie of all the goods chatls and Cattells of William Bourne of Ewtree thelder w[i]thin the p[ar]ish of Woolstanton and Countie of Staf[ford] gent[leman] deceased valued and praised by Robert Burslem John Woode and Robert Blawes the seaventh day of September An[n]o D[omi]ni 1642

Trinware 2 paire of Iron bounde whiles one axeltree one
ould Tumbrill one wains bodie one paire vnbound whils
one Drag 2 swintubs one grindlestone

one stone to press Chees 2 swintroughs
 one stone trough att draw well
 In the Kilnhouse one hand milne
 In the same place 2 Comps one harrow
 Halfe Inch bords and railes
 in the Barne ould hay one Lather one brak
 in the portch 2 bords one tressell one harrow
 in the hall one table and frame one forme
 one Coslett
 one Cloke
 one longe pickell one bill one holbeard
 six Joint stools one Cheare
 in the parler one long table frame & forms
 In the same place one liu[er]je table and 3 Chires
 Iron ware 4 Broches one paire of gobberts one drypingbann
 2 pair of horrgairs one Clevor one haking knife one hachett
 one Cressett one gratt in kitchin 2 pott raks w[i]th pott hooks

2 fire shouls 2 paire of tungs one brundred one backstone
 one oxe Chine one Copsole and pin one mortar and pestell
 and [?] plough shares one musterd ball
 in the Dayhouse one Iron lever 3 bords
 in the brewehouse 2 Comps 2 Turnells one dat[i]on
 one ishin one kunnell one wodden bottell one Tundish one hoope and halfe hoope one Chees press one woodd
 in the Larder 2 Tubs 2 Turnells one Churne one
 safe 3 shilfs one pair of wights 2 shilfs
 in the Buttree 2 great Barrells 4 little Barrells
 one little table
 Two Cart ropps
 in the p[ar]lor Chamb[e]r one high bed one low bed
 one liu[er]je Table
 Two Fether beds 5 boulsters 3 pillows 2 vnder blanktts
 one flockbed
 2 Blanketts 2 Å Caddowes one bedhilling one tressle
 one looking glass
 one Trunke
 In the Buttree Chamb[e]r one high bed one low bed
 one press 3 Coffers
 one Closstoole
 3 Cou[er]lidds 5 Blanketts 2 fetherbeds 4 boulsters
 2 pillowes one mattress one Chaff bed Curtains and Valents
 Cushons
 in the hall Chamb[e]r

one high bed one low bed one joynt Coffe window Curtains	£2		
one Fether bed one mattress 2 pillows one blanktt,			
21 boulsters.	£2		
one flockbed one Blankett and Ruge		9s	
in the Closett 4 bords one ould Rug one boxe		6s	6d
in the Dayhouse Chamb[e]r 12 pair of sheets one			
ould sheete	£4	8s	
7 Pillow bears 2 Cubbord Cloths 3 napkins		12s	
6 Towells 2 bordcloths		10s	
one high bed one low bed one Coffe 2 Shilfs		18s	
Two Mares	£6	6s	8d
in the servants Chamb[e]r 2 bedstids 2 bed Cloths		9s	
in the Cheeschamber 5 Potts one Posnett	£1	16s	8d
four Panns 2 Cettles 2 skelletts one bras ladle	£2	2s	
goods att wheltrough	£3		
2 Brass kandlesticks 2 Tin platts one Brass ladle		7s	
one stone bottell one wooden Bottell w[i]th other trinwar		3s	6d
Ejght Bords one winn[o]ing sheet		10s	
one Arke one Turnell one spinning while one hop[er]			
one pair of bedstids		12s	
in another Chamb[e]r 4 sacks and sives		2s	6d
in the studie 2 bibles		10s	
the rest of the books	£1	10s	
one Chest one Barrell one Table one box one shilfe		10s	
one style bou		3s	
Peaiuter one flagon one bacon and vre 22 Peaiuter			
dishes 2 bowels and saucers one Red Caddow and Trenchers	£2	6s	6d
4 salts 3 Chamber Potts		10s	
two Carpetts	£1		
Platt	£9		
one Rounde peece of Linin Cloth		2s	
His wearing apparell and monie			
in his purse	£20		
Some	£94	7s	8d

[Actual sum: £93 8s 4d]

178.3 Notes

1. 'Yew Tree' is a common name for a farm, but this one is likely to be the one shown (on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map) in what became Goldenhill. This is borne out by its position opposite the end of Colclough Lane. (An entry in the list of Overseers of the poor for the parish for the date 1681/2 reads: 'James Telwright, for Bournes message of ye Yew Tree, near Colclough Lane.') It is not named on the large-scale map of the last quarter of the 19th century - this shows a farm with buildings on three sides of a yard, together with a pond and an orchard.

In the 17th century Ewetree was a substantial house. Described in 1619 as 'the man-

sion and dwelling house of William Bourne', it was already in his son John's name, together with most or all of the 38 acres (presumably customary acres) belonging to it. In this probate inventory 17 rooms are mentioned, not counting the barn and stabling for the mares. Despite this, the grate in the kitchen is the only reference to heating. This, plus the large fireplace we can expect in the hall, would make the house match the household with two hearths mentioned as Mr Bourne's in the Hearth Tax list for Tunstall in 1666. The porch at the front of the house was presumably two-storey, the upper part serving as a junk room: it contained a dismantled trestle-table and a harrow.

2. Ursula, wife of William Bourne of Ewetre, died in 1630 and had been married to him for at least 20 years. Mary, wife of William Bourne, senior, of Ewetre, died in 1640/41. In summarising the will (which has no apostrophes) I have had to resolve the ambiguity over wife's, wives' and wives, but the reader may choose different interpretations!

3. He has outlived some of his children; his will concentrates on the next generation. His grandson William was probably the heir of the property. He married Prudence Berishford in 1635, and their son William was baptised in 1640.

4. A safegard was an outer skirt worn to protect the dress when riding. A petticoat was a skirt or underskirt and, being richly decorated usually, was intended to be seen. It might seem unusual to give a great-grandchild clothes of a different generation, but the material was valuable and far outweighed the cost of making alterations to suit the current fashion. The clothes of his wife Mary form a significant proportion of the bequests, though they do not feature in the inventory. Perhaps the unusual feature is that they were still in the house. She died March 1640/1 - nearly 18 months before William Bourne drew up his last will. Married woman in this period could not make a will - unless the husband gave his consent - and very few such wills occur.

5. William Bourne's implied difference with Francis Capps the vicar of Wolstanton has a history to it that we can only guess at. What we do know is that William Bourne was in dispute with a body of his fellow parishioners in 1618 over his right to be churchwarden. If the established system for selection had been adhered to, he would have had to wait for another 10 years. William Bourne took his case to the episcopal consistory court. The vicar at the time was Henry Stevenson, who died before the hearing was complete, and was succeeded by Francis Capps, who no doubt was faced with two opposing parties in the parish, each expecting his support. In the course of the dispute William Bourne was excommunicated, but seems to have been successful against the archdeacon of Stafford. At any rate, he was awarded £5 of the £9 14s 8d costs he incurred as a result of taking up the case.

Francis Capps' refusal to wear a surplice and his toleration of a parishioner's standing to receive communion instead of kneeling at the altar rail indicate Puritan sympathies which may not have been to William Bourne's taste. (For a price comparison, a Banbury will of 1597 of Elizabeth Goodryche bequeaths 3s 4d for a funeral sermon.)

William Bourne's namesake, who was to act as overseer of the will, is called a reverent fellow of the college of Manchester. This is interesting, as the college, though dissolved at the Reformation, was superseded by a school, founded in the seventeenth century by a wealthy merchant. [Check for more detail (ie date of foundation, and the nature of the 'college' in the seventeenth century); also for meaning of 'fellow' - does it imply he was in holy orders?] He may be the same as the William Bourne, clerk, whose son

Timothy was baptised in 1626, as he is the only William Bourne known locally at this time to be in holy orders.

6. A drag is a harrow. lather = ladder.

7. 'one stone trough att draw well'. The word 'well' could also at this time mean 'spring', so the sort with bucket and chain was referred to as a 'draw well'. The stone trough might have been used for holding water, for cattle or for human use.

8. 'Coslett' - The corslet provided armour protection; and at least one of the items in the next line but one is a weapon. He could have served in the wars in Elizabeth's reign (in Ireland and Holland). In 1614 he was one of the victims of a 'name and shame' policy, designed to expose those who 'took on the titles of Esquire or Gentleman without just right.' Despite this, he assumes the title of 'gentleman' in his will. And so does his descendant in ?1664

9. The inventory shows that two of the rooms had a livery table, on which food and drink were set, apparently for consumption at night. (See Gloag J (1966) A Short Dictionary of Furniture)

10. 'horgairs' - augers (for drilling into wood).

11. 'one Clevor one haking knife' - Although the word 'cleaver' refers nowadays only to meat-cutting, this and the next item, the hacking knife, probably refer to cutting wood - unless they were used in hunting. [However, their location in the kitchen suggests their use in the dressing of meat] 12. 'Dayhouse' - the dairy.

13. 'datn' - a word that occurs in a variety of spellings. Dashins were vessels in which oatmeal was prepared.

14. 'one ishin one kunnell' Their location in the brewhouse may not mean they are brewing vessels.

An ishen/ashin/eshen is probably a wooden pail: Thomas Pitchford of the Dayrie House, Market Drayton in 1648 had, according to the inventory of his goods: 'Trynnen ware as Eshens or payles and other like vessels';

'one kunnell' - this is the only instance in these Wolstanton wills and inventories. If it is the same as kimmel then it is an oval tub, often used to hold a side of bacon while it is being cured.

15. a 'hoop' was a measure of capacity for meal, and contained a quart. (TBC)

16. Tundish - This fitted into a tun (barrel) and was a shallow wooden vessel acting in the same way as a funnel. It was used in brewing.

17. 'Caddow' - a coarse woollen covering. In most of these wills and inventories it is a bed covering, though some contexts suggest a use in covering a coffer.

18. The line 'goods at Wheltrough' occurs at the bottom of the inventory page and was added afterwards. 'Wheltrough', where Richard Davenport his son-in-law lived, is in Cheshire. (Welltrough Hall Farm is between Congleton and Knutsford.) The significance of this entry is that the goods lay in another diocese, and if they had exceeded £5 in value, the executors would have been obliged to have had the will proved in a higher court than the bishop's court at Lichfield. They had to swear an oath declaring whether there were any goods or debts in any other diocese, which perhaps led to the "goods at Wheltrough" being inserted later than the other items in the inventory.

19. 'one style bou' - one steel bow.

20. 'Posnett' - a small metal pot with a handle and legs.

21. An enigmatic order of the Staffordshire County Committee dated 8th November

1644 refers to the Bourne family two years after William Bourne's death: "Whereas Mr John Burne receives Mr. William Bourne his son £20 yearly forth of his estate at Ewtree It is ordered that the said Mr John Burne shall pay forth of his said annuity the weekly pay that shall be payable for the same."

22. 'one Rounde peece of Linin Cloth'. Of course the cloth could have been round in shape eg for a round table. But 'round' applied to cloth occurs in other contexts which suggest a meaning 'plain, unadorned'.

179 Antony Moore of Wolstanton, husbandman, will dated 6th June 1644, buried 9th June, inventory taken 22nd June, date of probate 7th January 1644/5.

179.1 Will

In the name of God Amen. The 6 day of June, In ye nineteene Twentieth yeare of the raigne of our soueraigne Lord Charles by the grace of god of England Sotland France & Irland king defender of the faith &c: Anno Dom[ini] 1644: I Antony More of Wolstanton in the County of Staff[ord]: husbandman, being somewhat weake and sicke in my body, by reason of my great age & other infirmities with the w[hi]ch it hath pleased god to visit mee withall but of perfect memory thanks be giuen to god therefore doe make my last will & testament here in maner and forme Following: And first I giue and bequeath my soule into the hands of my heauenly father god almighty not doubting but that hee for Jesus Christ sake my onely sauour & redeemer will forgiue me all my sinnes, & make me one of the number of his elect, & chosen Children, and inheritor of his euer lasting kingdom of heauen for euer. Item I giue & bequeath my body vnto the earth from whence it came and to be buried in the church yard att wolstanton afore said: Item I bequeath 40s to be bestowed of a diner for my neighbours yt goe with me to the church: Item I giue bequeath my house and liuing w[i]th al my goods to my brother Steuen more in behalfe of my wife that hee shall see her maintained well soe long as shee shall liue and to pay all rents and duties belonging vnto it: Item I bequeath to my sister katherne key and to my sister Elizabeth doncaster 20s apeece if so bee my wife and I be diseased before the lease of my house be ended, Item I make my brother Steuen my true and lawfull executor to discharge & pay all my legacies & debts herein expressed & to see this my last will & testament be truly performed & kept according to the tenour & true meaning hereof

witnesse to my last will & testement

Antony more his marke

Margret mare her marke

Thomas Eldershawe

Richard Baddeley his marke

179.2 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect inventory of all the goodes moveable and vnmoveable catteals and chatteals of antoney more lately deceased taken and prised by thomas beeche John wright nicolas Cooke and John Eaton the twoo and twentithe day of June in the yeare of the Raigne of our soveraigne lord Charles by the grace of god king of great britaine france and Ireland defender of the faith the sixth and in the yeare of our Lord god 1644.

two kyne	£4	10s	
for corne groing		13s	4d
for brasse & pewter		6s	8d
for beddinge and bedstockes	£1	3s	4d
for one cupboard		6s	8d
for thre coffers		6s	8d
for one table and disboard formes & shilves		3s	4d
for one chaier and all other treene ware & earthen vessells		8s	
for two spinninge wheels		2s	
for all Iron ware and husbandry ware		5s	
for butter and cheese		3s	4d
for iij measures of otemeale		6s	
for yarne		12s	
for a reversion of lease of his howse	£10		
debts owing vnto him		15s	
for his wearing apparell		10s	
for all other things vnmentioned			8d
for manure of donge		4s	
The Som[m]e is	£21	3s	4d
[Actual sum	£20	16s	0d]
where there is to be abated for a heriot	£2	13s	4d
Thomas Beech John Wright Nycholas Cooke John Eaton prisers			

179.3 Notes

1. The burial of his widow Margrett Moore occurred in August 1658. Long before that, there had been a new tenant of Antony Moore's house, The Pear Tree. The scribe of his will, Thomas Eldershawe, may have been his next-door neighbour. (In 1670 Thomas Ellershaw was churchwarden "for his house next the pear tree".)
2. The landlord Ralph Sneyd esquire had made the payment of a heriot on the death of any tenant or assignee a condition of the lease. The value of the milch cow (£2 13s 4d) is more than ten per cent of the value of the inventory total.
3. His wife's sisters, Katherine and Elizabeth, were also mentioned in the will of his father-in-law William Alcock (will dated 1620) who was tenant of the property before him.
4. The head of the household would have sat at table on the only chair. The rest of the

household would have sat on forms. Vessels used in cheese making would be included under treen ware and earthen ware.

5. The probate note illustrates the troublesome times. On 7th December 1643 the County Committee at Stafford (in effect the new local government body for the county, set up by Parliament) had ordered that Isaac Keeling should take the place of Richard Shelley as vicar of Wolstanton. More than a year later, the note of probate dated 7th January 1644/5 shows that Richard Shelley was still the vicar there.

6. Thomas Rowley was the next tenant, who left a widow Sarah in the 1650's (Newcastle manor court rolls).

180 Francis Bristoe of the Red Street, broad glass maker, date of will 15th January 1644/5, buried 24th January 1644/5, inventory taken 22nd February 1644/5, date of probate 30th Oct 1648.

180.1 Will

Weak in body; to be buried in such manner as my executrix shall think fit.

To Joshua Bristoe my son: all my best wearing apparel.

To him and his son: all my claim, right, title, property and interest etc in the Glassehouse at Red streete (for the term of their natural lives); and all the tools and implements which are mine and belonging to the Glassehouse.

My will is that my wife Elizabeth Bristoe should have and enjoy a third of the benefit of all the work during the time of the first fire, she paying her part of building the Glassehouse and all other charges belonging to the same work.

To my daughter Margaret Elkin: £10, to be put into the hands of Raphe Bourne of Chesterton to buy iron with from time to time, and to pass after his death to Margaret for the maintenance of herself and her children.

To my daughter Sarah Taylor: £10.

To my daughter Anne Lowe: £10.

Residuary legatee and executrix: my true and loving wife. Three trunks are to go to each of my daughters when my wife dies, to be divided as my wife thinks fit.

Overseers: my loving friends and neighbours, John Bourne of the Fould and Raphe Bourne, both of Chesterton.

Witnesses: Coulton Whytough, John Payne and Randull Boothes.

180.2 Inventory

A true Inventorie of the goods Cattls & Chattles of Francis Bristoe late of the parish of Woolstandstone & County of Stafford Broadglasmaker deceased, taken by Randull Bristoe & John Hatton the twenty second day of February 1644.

Six kyne

Three beds w[i]th bouldsters & bed hillinge belonging unto them
 Three paire of Bedstides
 Sheetes tableclothes & Nappery Wares
 B[r]asse & Pewter
 Eight silver spones
 Tables Formes Cheres Stoles Boardes and dressers
 loomes & Barrells & all other treene Wares
 One grate fire shove[l] and tonges
 And all other Iron Wares
 Four Trunckes
 Corne in the house & Barnes
 Hay
 Apparrell of the dead & money in his purse
 Debtes owinge &c
 John Loe oweth
 Robert Baddeley oweth
 All else not praised

180.3 Note

1. At the beginning of the 20th century, there was still a gravestone in Wolstanton churchyard on which the inscription could be read: "Heare lyeth the body of Randull Bristall Broad Glasse Maker who died in the year of our Lord God 1668" The name ('Briscoe', 'Bristoe' or 'Bristall') varies in the parish register and evidently refers to the same family. The 1662 Hearth Tax list for Chesterton calls him 'Mr', indicating his status as gentleman.
3. One of his sons-in-law was Roger Elkin, a blacksmith in Chesterton - which helps to explain the arrangement the testator made for enabling his daughter Margaret to buy supplies of iron. Ralph Bourne may be the same as a carrier of the same place and name mentioned in a deed of 1640. Ralph Bourne appears to be acting as a bank.
4. David Dyble (2002) A History of Apedale and Chesterton has done a lot of research on Francis Bristoe. He says that he was probably born in the south of England. He was known as a glassmaker in Southwark by 1620. An order was made (?by the Privy Council) in 1621 that all illegal glassmaking should cease. This meant any that infringed Mansell's monopoly, and included Bristow's business at Wigan. He continued to make glass at various places, sometimes with a licence from Mansell, as at Coventry. He probably did not arrive at Red Street until around 1640. But he was again operating illegally, which led to his imprisonment for contempt of court in 1642. "The uncertainties of the Civil War situation enabled him to continue at the Glasshouse until the Parliamentary committee at Stafford decided to raise some taxes upon his dubiously legal, but very profitable, industry. On 9th November they ordered that 'Francis Bristow shall have liberty to quietly make glass there and sell the same ... paying to the Treasurer at Stafford 5 pounds for the glass already made ... and henceforth (he) is to pay 3 pounds every fortnight ... as long as he shall continue to make glass there.' "

5. Nearly a hundred years later, Parrot in his *An Accountt Who Hath Enjoyed the Severall Estates in the Parish of Audley and Hamlett of Talk in the County of Stafford for 200 Years last past* briefly alludes to John Loe: "His father John Loe was a nailer by trade. He stole a wife from the Bristols who came out of Worcestershire and made glass at Glasshouse near Red Street." It suggests that John Loe married Anne against parental opposition. This may or may not be true, but the will does not provide evidence of any estrangement between father and daughter. (John Loe lived in a cottage at Eardley End in the neighbouring parish of Audley.)

181 Joyce Burslem of Parkehouse, widow, will dated 27th Jan 1643/4, inventory taken 20th April 1645, date of probate 10th Dec 1646.

181.1 Will

Being weak in body.

To be buried in decent manner within the parish church of Wolstanton.

To Margret Maxffe[ld], Katherin Whytall and Marie Caulton, my three daughters: 40s each.

To Marie Beech of Gilbanke, Katherin Burslem the daughter of John Burslem of Brownlees and John Mynes my godson: 10s each.

To Randle Whytall my grandchild: £30 and one chest standing over the buttery.

To John Caulton's children not before named: 40s each.

To John Whytall's children not before named: 40s each.

To Robert Burslem's children: 40s each.

Residuary legatee: Robert Burslem, my son.

Executors: John Caulton and Robert Burslem.

Witnesses: William Cooke (signs with mark), John Caulton.

181.2 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect Inventorie of all the goods cattells and Chattells of Joyce Burslem of the parke in the p[ar]ish of wolstanton and Countie of Stafford widowe deceased, Seene Valued and praissed the Sixe & twentieth daie of Aprill Anno d[omi]ni 1645 by vs whose names are herevnBeexd[e]r written.

4 oxen	£20		
six kyne and calues	£18		
4 heffers	£9	6s	8d
7 twint[e]rs	£11		
5 sterkes	£4		
two mares	£5		
13 sheepe & 7 lambs	£3	10s	
4 swine	£1	13s	4d
all the corne & heay in the barne	£2	13s	4d
weanes plowes yokes Harrowes) & all implem[en]tes of husbandrie)	£2		
all the corne growing vpon the land	£8		
4 feth[e]r beds, 9 blankets, 4 Coueringes) 4 boulst[e]rs 2 pillowes)	£6		
all the pewt[e]r	£1	6s	8d
all the brasse	£1	13s	4d
two Chestes giuen to Elizabeth Calton) and all yt weare [in] them)	£6		
one chest giuen to Randle whithalle		12s	
all the linen & naperie ware	£1		
two ioynt beds one Table & a forme &) two oth[e]r course beds)	£1	10s	
one ould wich & a ould coffer		3s	4d
corne and mault in the house	£1		
Beefe and Bacon	£2		
all the trynware		10s	
all the iron ware in the house as grats broch fire sheule & tonges & all oth[e]r iron ware)		13s	4d
all the chares & stooles & sixe quishion & oth[e]r) thinges not form[er]lie praissed)		6s	8d
all the poultrie		3s	4d
all the aparell not form[e]rlie praissed &) monie in the purse)	£4	3s	6d

[Total £112 5s 6d] [checked]

[Signatures:] Richard Whytall Randle Whytall John Rowley [the latter signs by mark (his initials)]

181.3 Notes

1. Percy Adams (A History of the Adams family of North Staffs) and J C Wedgwood (A History of the Wedgwood family) provide additional information about this family. Joyce was the widow of James Swynnerton of Oldcott, whose will was proved in 1583. She became a widow again when Thomas Burslem (in this collection) died in 1619. She and her son Robert Burslem then had the Oldcott Park estate. Robert's daughter married Thomas Kent (in this collection).

2. The parish records do not show the lady's burial. (There is a 'Geza Burslem' burial

date 25th April 1645.)

182 Joyce Mylnes of Newchapell, widow, will dated 26th February 1645/6, buried 1st March 1645/6, inventory taken 2nd March 1645/6, date of probate 17th Oct 1650.

182.1 Will

Sick in body.

To be buried in decent manner within the parish church of Wolstanton.

To my daughter Elizabeth Barker: one featherbed, a bolster, two pillows, a pair of sheets, two blankets and one bed hilling.

Residuary legatees: half to my son John Mylnes; and half to my grandchildren equally.

Executors: my son Alexander Mylnes, and Thomas Hilding my son-in-law.

Witnesses: Joseffe Mumford, Robert Burslem with others.

182.2 Inventory

A true & p[er]fect inventory of all the goodes debts Cattell & chattells of Joyce Milnes of newchappell in the County of Stafford widdow late deceased taken vallued & praised by vs will[ia]m Rowley Richard whitall John Caulton John Maxfeild John Colclough the 2d day of March an[n]o dom[ini] 1645 as followeth

Sixe kine

Three horses

Fifteene Sheepe

Two sterkes

Two Swine

Corne in the barne vnthreshed

Corne w[i]thin the house and barne already threshed

Hay in the barne

One witch in the barne

In the parlor

One cupboord one loe bed one chest & one high bed

standing in the same

One Joyned Table & forme

One longe table in the house & a forme

together with 2 little tables

In the chamber ou[er] the parlor

2 pare of bedsteds three chests together w[i]th an ould table

In the chamber over the buttery

one bedsted w[i]th two chests & a turnell

All the brasse & pewter
 An ould Cupboord in the butterey w[i]th 2 frying pans
 In the Chamber over the house
 one bedsted 4 ould chests & one whitch or arke
 Meale & Malt in the house
 Beef Bacon butter cheese w[i]th all other p[ro]vision in the house
 One Haire cloath one hop[per] one cart rope
 two spin[n]ing wheeles together with sives wisketts & all other things in the chamber
 ou[er] the house not p[ar]ticularly prayed
 All bedding in the house
 Two peeces of woollen cloath
 Three peeces of Linon cloath
 Two Carpetts
 Shetes table cloathes napkins & all other nappery ware
 One byble
 wol & toe
 Bottells Ironware & other things in the cockloft
 One Taffity Apron 5s 0d
 Foure cheares loose boordes & stooles
 One plough one harrow one ox chaine & other
 husbandry ware w[i]th 2 packsaddles & horse geares
 One grate one paire of tunnges a fire shoovel,
 a bread Iron one brundred pottracckes & hooks
 one paire of gobertes 2 spitts one dreepingpan
 and all other Iron ware w[i]thin the house vnpraised
 One salt Coffe w[i]th salt in it.
 One Tubstone & swinetroughes
 All glasses & Earthen vessells
 Barrells loomes, & all Coop[er]ly ware in ye house
 Dishes trenchers cheese-fates & all other treein ware
 Baggs & sakes
 All quishions in the house
 Muck Mannure & poultry ware
 The Testatrix weareing apparrell & monie in her purse
 All other thinges not formerly praised
 Sum[m]a total[is] £90 9s 6d

182.3 Notes

1. loose boordes - In the Banbury inventories of Elizabethan and Jacobean times, loose boards can be floor boards and treated as moveables. However a Shropshire inventory of the second half of the 17th century includes the item 'table boards', and the context of chairs and stools in this inventory makes this a feasible interpretation here.
2. 'Taffity apron'. Taffeta was an imported textile which was copied by English producers in the 17th century. It was highly fashionable and used to make all types of

- clothing. Five shillings sounds a lot to pay for an apron.
3. Her husband, John Millnes, had been buried on 3 May 1635. At the time, Joyce Milnes pleaded 'great age and weakness' and authorised her son-in-law Thomas Hildiche to act as administrator of her deceased husband's estate.
 4. The burial entry in the parish records refers to 'Jocasta Mills'.
 5. Her son Alexander died later in the year; so by the time the will was proved, probate was given only to her son-in-law, Thomas Hildich. Her young son John survived and became one of the four John Mills living in the township of Thursfield in the 1670's.

183 John Barlow, will dated 24th March 1645/6, buried 6th May, no inventory, administration granted 10th December 1646.

183.1 Will

For the education and bringing up of my two children John and Margratt Barlowe, I nominate as my executor Thomas Dawson of Dales Green, webster, my brother-in-law, and as overseers John Cowall of Chesterton, yeoman and Belshaser Bell of the Ridg-house, gentleman.

Witnesses: Robert Homersley Thomas Homersley.

183.2 Note

The parish register says he was a widower. He made his will the day his wife was buried. Thomas Dawson subsequently refused to act as executor, and administration was granted to John Poulson of Poulson (?in Botteslow), Staffordshire, yeoman. The children probably were aged 6 and less than a year.

184 Ann Machen of Foule leye (Fowlea), widow, will dated 24th June 1634, buried, inventory taken 8th December 1646, date of probate 10th December 1646.

184.1 Will

To be buried in the church or churchyard of Stoke upon Trent.

To my son Roger's children (ie the child or children of Roger begotten of Elizabeth, his wife): £30. My intention is that Roger shall have the use of the £30 while he is alive; and after his decease to pass it to his child (or if there is more than one, then to

be equally divided between them.)

To John Machen, son of Roger Machen: one great pan (or to John Pillsburie son of Raphe Pillsburie, if John Machen does not reach the age of 21)

To John Pillsburie, Thomas Pillsburie, Raphe Pillsburie and Marie Pillsburie: 20s each (the £4 which I lent their father Raphe Pillsburie for the building of his house).

To Margrett Boughie: all of my wearing apparell, both linen and woollen.

Residuary legatees: my three daughters, Margret, Kathren and Ellin.

My will is that everyone that owes me shall have one year's use batted [interest abated].

Executors: Raphe Pillsburie and John Machen.

184.2 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect Invetorie of all the goods and Cattels of ann machin late deseased in the p[ar]ish of Leeke and Countie of Stafford & taken and praysed in the 8th of d[e]cem[ber] Anno dom[ini] 1646 by vs Will[iam] Mollott and Gorge dennell as followeth

her apparell and money in her purse	£5		
nappery wares	[£]1		
Couerlides and blankets and tow fetherbeds	£2		
one greate panne	£1	6s	8d
bills bonds and money oweing	£53		
one Coffer	£2		
Sum taken	£62	11s	8d

184.3 Notes

1. Despite her declaring in her will that she is of Wolstanton parish, there is nothing else to connect her. And the burial date for Anne Machin in Stoke parish register (1st March 1646/7) does not match the details of this testator.

2. There are two references, one in 1668 and one in 1669, to a messuage called Fowlea. In the absence of contemporary maps, it can't be said whether Fowlea consisted of more than this in the seventeenth century. It lay on the highway from Newcastle under Lyme to Leek, on the hill (now called Basford Bank) above the crossing of the Fowlea Brook. There may have been houses on the other side of the highway, lying in Stoke upon Trent parish.

3. The inventory is on a scrap of ruled paper. At the time of her death she had, it seems, moved to Leek.

185 Elizabeth Whillocke buried 23rd July 1646, no inventory, administration granted 10th December 1646.

Affidavit

Know all men by this p[re]sents that I Joane Cowell of meare Heath in the County of Stafford doe renounce the ad[mini]stration of the goods of Elizabeth Whillocks & doe desiar yt Mary Daniell my daughter shall take the Ad[mini]stration Shee beeing my child & next of kin December 10 1646

[Signs by mark] [Witnesses:] Richard Hopkins Margery Barnes, widow [signs by mark]

185.1 Note

The parish register states that she was the wife of Ralph Wheelock, but the probate documents do not mention him. Ralph Wheelocke of Wolstanton parish, whose will was proved on 22nd November 1615, had a wife Elizabeth whom he made his executrix. This lady might be the widow. Elizabeth Wheelocke, widow, or her assigns, occupied a messuage in Chesterton in 1626. If she was the daughter of John Baddeley of Holditch, then she was likely to be in her early eighties when she died.

The only other information given by the probate records at Lichfield in connection with Elizabeth Whillocke is: that Joan Cowell was Elizabeth's sister; that John Daniel of Meare Heath, Staffs, potter was bound; and that an inventory had to be produced before next Whitsun; Dr Littleton ordered the charge was to be 2s only

186 Antony Beech of Great Chell, yeoman, will dated 25th November 1643, buried 3rd March 1644, no inventory, proved in London 5th May 1646.

In the name of God Amen The five and twentieth day of November in the yeare of our Lord God one Thovsaud six hundred Forty and three. I Anthony Beech of Great Chell in the County of Stafford yeoman beinge in good health in body and in good and perfect memorie thanks be to god therefore yet consideringe that nothinge is more certain then death and the tyme thereof vncertaine vnto all men Doe make and ordaine this my last will and Testament herein writeing Conteyninge herein my last will and minde for the giveinge establishinge and disposeinge of a certaine Tenement Lands and premisses hereafter expressed. But first and principally before All thinges I freely com[m]itt and yeild vp my soule into the hands of Almightye God my maker trusting that through the merittes of Jesus Christ my Redeemer to be made partaker of life everlastinge And I com[m]itt my body to the Earth of what it was made. Item I give and bequeath vnto William Beech my sonne and his assigns all that Messuage or Tenement called or knowne by the name of the Gilbanke wherein the said William now dwelleth with all edifices buildings Lands Meadows and pastures to the same Messuage belonged vsed or apperteyninge and now in the ocupacion of the said William Beech or his Assignes To have and to hold the foresaid Messuage lands and premisses vnto the said William Beech his Executors Administrators or assignes from the tyme of my decease for and dureinge the terme and space of threescore yeares if that John Rowley sonne of William Rowley of the Turnehurst James Beech of Tunstall and Thomas Daniell of

the Berch in Burslem they or any of them doe live soe longe hee yeilding and payinge doeing and p[er]formeinge All rentes heriottes and sevices due and payable vnto mr Raphe Adderley gentleman beinge Landlord of the said Messuage and premisses. Item I giue and bequeath vnto James Beech my sonne Forty poundes. Item I give and bequeath vnto Mary Beech my Daughter thirty poundes which she oweth mee and tenn poundes more. Item I give and bequeath vnto Anne Daniell my Daughter seaven and thirty poundes w[hi]ch she oweth me and three pounds more. Item I give and bequeath vnto John Beech Joyce Beech Jane Beech and Margerie Beech Children of my sonne Thomas Beech the sume of nyneteene poundes which Anne Beech their mother oweth mee And alsoe I give vnto the said Children five poundes more equallie to be divided amongst them and likewise I give vnto the said William Beech my sonne six poundes. And alsoe I give vnto Jane Beech Daughter of my sonne William Twenty shillings. And I give and bequeath vnto Thomas Bourne six shillings eight pence. And to Anne Bourne his Daughter three shillings fower pence. Item I give vnto every one of my Godchildren twelve pence. Item I give and bequeath All the rest of my goods not before bequeathed after my Funerall expences are dyscharged and my Will proued I give to the said James Beech, Mary Beech and Anne Daniell equallie to be divided amonst them. And for the true [?meaning] hereof I have ordained and made and by this my present last will and Testament Doe ordaine and make the said James Beech Mary Beech and Anne Daniell my Executors In witnes whereof I haue herevnto put my hand and seale the day and yeare first aboue written. Item I give and bequeath vnto Anne Burslem my sister tenn shillings. The marke of Anthony Beech. The marke of William Beech, Thomas Beech.

Probatum fuit Testamentum suprascriptum Apud London coram dilectus subdito mro Nathanaele Brent Milite legum Doctor Curioe Prerogative Cont Mag'ro sive Custode l'time constituto Quinto die Mensis Maij Anno Dominj Mill'iu sequentesimo quadragesimo sexto Iurament' Jacobi Beech Marie Beech et Anne Daniel Executr.....
in huius Testamento nominat' Quibus Com[m]issi fuit Administraco omni' et singuloen' bonoru' iurium et creditorum dict' defunct' de bene et fidel[ite]r administrand' eadem Ad sancta Dej Evangeliu coram Isaaco Kelingo Cl'ico vigore Commissiomis in ea parte al's omonat' iurat.

186.1 Notes

1. There are lots of references to him in other wills of the parish. He was probably about 80 when he died, having lived in Great Chell since 1600 at least. Although he refers to himself as a yeoman, he is referred to as a gentleman in the list of those in 1631 who had to pay a fine for not taking up a knighthood, as he had £40 or more in lands or rent.
2. No inventory - but we know that he had an ark (for grain storage).
3. His son William's farm was probably in Olcott. William was married to Margaret who bore him two daughters, Mary and Anne [It looks just like 'Jade' but must be 'Jane' with a mark over it]. William Beech of Great Chell died in 1663.

187 Raphe Bourne [of Chesterton], yeoman, date of will 12th August 1647, buried 8th October 1647, inventory taken 12th October 1647, date of probate 13th October.

187.1 Will

Being sick in body: Christian burial at the discretion of my executrix.

To Randull Smyth my son-in-law: a joined bed and a cupboard standing in the upper parlour, and the table and frame standing in the upper house and the forms belonging to it.

To Mary Smyth my daughter: 5s to be paid her within one year of my decease, as her child's part.

To Jhon Smyth my grandchild, after the decease of my wife: my hand-mill standing in the barn.

To Mary Smyth my grandchild: one weaning calf or 30 shillings.

To Mergerie my wife (for her full dowry of all my goods) and, after her death, to Ales Bourne my daughter: a third of my household goods.

Residuary legatee and executrix: Ales Bourne my daughter.

Signs by mark.

Witnesses: An Lovat, Alies Boulton, Robert Whytall.

187.2 Inventory

A true Inventory of the goods Cattels & Chattles of Raphe Bourne of the parrish of Woolstandstone & County of Staff[ord] deceased taken by Humphery Smyth John Wood & Robert Whytall the twelff day of October 1647

£s d

Two Oxen 16 00 00

ten kyne 43 06 08

five heiffer sterkes 16 13 04

six calves 09 00 00

twenty five sheepe 10 10 00

three hogges & three yong swine 07 16 00

Poultry Ware 00 13 04

for corne & heay in the Barnes 25 00 00

corne & malt in the hovse 03 00 00

one paire of bound wheeles & other husbandry ware 05 00 00

Brasse & Pewter 08 00 00

eight feather beds 10 00 00

six bed hillings 06 00 00

all Coverletes Blancketes & Boulsters 05 05 00

thirty yards of flaxen cloth 02 15 00

fourty yards of round flaxen cloth 01 13 04

sheetes table clothes & other napp[er]ie Ware 13 06 08
 two joynd beds 02 00 00
 six paire of bedstedes 01 00 00
 two long tables w[i]th frames & formes belonging to them 02 00 00
 four short tables 01 00 00
 one Truncke one Chest three Coffers & three boxes 02 00 00
 boardes shilefes cheeres stooles & Dressers 01 03 04
 one Cubboard & one Presse 00 13 04
 two Turnells all Barrels loomes & other treene ware 03 05 00
 Grates Broches Dreeping pans & all other Iron Ware 02 10 00
 wooll Yarne & tow in the house 06 00 00
 p[ro]vision in the house 03 06 08
 in ready money and specialty 139 00 00
 the apparrell of the dead & money in his purse 03 06 08
 all things else not praised 00 06 08
 Sum[m]a totalis 351 11 06

187.3 Notes

1. Raphe Bourne was a tenant of Raphe Sneyd esq and farmed 50 statute acres in Chesterton. Most of the land was pasture. Only 8 acres was arable, dispersed in butts lying in several open fields, the largest of which was Church Field, which was still open field in 1839.
2. one paire of bound wheeles ie iron-bound wheels, belonging to a wain or cart.
3. In the lease dated 1640 he was described as 'carrier'. There is no sign of this in the inventory (not even a horse), and he must have given up the haulage business and settled down to farming.
4. flaxen cloth - The round cloth (whatever this means) is cheaper per yard than the other flaxen cloth. Thomas Brett's inventory of 1589 explains: vij paire of co[ar]se or round sheetes for s[er]uantes . £2
5. in ready money and specialty - look up about bonds in mid -seventeenth century (See Emmison)

188 William Shaw of Great Chell, yeoman, date of will 3rd October 1648, buried 30th January 1648/9, in- ventory taken 2nd February 1648/9, date of pro- bate 2nd May 1649.

188.1 Will

Sick in body; to be buried in the parish church or churchyard of Wolstanton.

To Mary Shaw, my wife and her assigns: my messuage and the edifices, lands, meadows and pastures belonging to it for a term of 21 years from my death, she paying all my debts and funeral expenses and keeping my daughter Mary in food, drink and clothing during that time.

To Mary my daughter: a joined bed and meal ark both standing in parlour, with [my] a board and frame standing in the house.

Residuary legatee and executor: Mary my wife.

My intention is that if my wife Mary is still living after the term of 21 years is complete then she is to have it for a further term of 26 years as³ her jointure or dower.

To Mary my daughter, and the lawfully begotten heirs of her body: the said messuage, lands and premises. If she dies without such heirs, then it is to go to John Shaw (and his heirs), the eldest son of my uncle James Shaw, on the following conditions: that the said John Shaw delivers to Mary my wife a bond or bill obligatory, in which my father Thomas Shaw stood bound to the said James, and cancels it before 1st December next; that John Shaw pays £70 to Raphe Unwyn, William Unwyn, John Unwyn, Margrett Unwyn, Ellen Unwyn, Mary Unwyn, Ursula Unwyn, my sister's children (£10 each) within a year of the property coming into John's hands; that he pays £15

within the same period to John Cole, Richard Cole and Mary Cole, children of my brother-in-law Simyon Cole; and that he pays £5 each within the same period to Roger Cole of Newcastle, Susana Cole and Margerie Estopp. If any of these die before the payment is made then there is to be no substitute. If John Shaw refuses to deliver the bond and the money in accordance with my will, then he will not benefit from this will. If my daughter Mary dies without lawful heirs, then the property is to go to William Unwyn and his heirs for ever on condition that he makes the payments stipulated in this will.

Overseers: my loving friends John Bourne of Little Chell and Simeon Cole my brother-in-law.

Witnesses: Simyon Cole, John Bourne.

188.2 Inventory

A true and p[er]fecte Inventorie of all the goods of William Shaw of greate Chell lately deceased taken the second day of February 1648 valued and praised by William Bourne Simian Cole and Thomas Beech as followeth

£s d

all the Cattell 14 0 0

hey 1 0 0

all the bedding with sheets and
naprie ware 6 0 0

all the brasse and puter 4 0 0

all the treene ware 1 0 0

all the quofers and bords 1 0 0

two bibles 0 13 4

all the Corne 1 0 0

all the meate ware 0 13 4

all the implements of husbandrie
ware 1 0 0
all the iron ware 1 0 0
one Cubbert with cheares and stooles 10 0
one peece of sea [say] 1 0 0
his apparrell and money in his perse 2 0 0
pultrie 5 0
35 1 8

188.3 Notes

1. Say is cloth of fine texture resembling serge. In the 16th century sometimes partly of silk, subsequently entirely of wool. A definition of 1728 says it is a very slight crossed stuff, all wool used in this country by quakers for aprons and dyed green. Uses of the material: curtains (1531); bed hanging at Dieulacres Abbey (1539); petticoat (1636); apron (1724) His grandmother also had a piece of cloth worth £1 at her death, and his grandfather had a weaving. A Banbury mercer had 'fustian sayes' at his death. Thomas Gent of Leek, Staffs, in 1631 had a yard and a half of green say valued at 2s. Green was the usual colour that it was dyed.

2. 'meate ware' (not encountered before) - must be food provisions in the house.

3. The cattle are all lumped together in the inventory. I am inclined to think no sheep are included, despite his father and grandfather having some at their deaths.

4. The wording of the oath that John Stevenson, vicar of Burslem, had to put to the executrix at Great Chell was:

You shall swear that this is the true and last will and testament of William Shaw lately deceased & that you will faithfully execute and perform the same by paying his debts and legacies so far as by law you are bound And the Inventory of the goods will thereto extend; you shall also make or cause to be made a true and perfect Inventory thereof And a just account thereupon when you shall be thereto lawfully called; so help you God and by the contents of these Books.

189 John Rowley of Haycarre, yeoman, will dated 13th March 1648/9, buried 30th May 1649, inventory taken 1st June, date of probate 7th July 1649

189.1 Will

Being weak in body.

My body to be buried in the parish church of Woolstonton.

To Ellen Rowley my wife for her life: my messuage house and outbuildings with all my lands, both arable pasture and meadow, lying together unto my house in my own holding and occupation; and for one year after the next feast day of the Annunciation

of Mary the blessed virgin, a parcel of land lying beyond the lane near Green Delves called The Stockinges; and for certain years upon redemption, one bargain of the New Meadow with George Wood of Chatterley.

To my brother William Rowley for his life, then to his son John afterwards and his heirs: all my lands lying beyond the lane (except The Stockinges) and the lands bequeathed to my wife for her life; he paying £6 13s 4d to each of his younger children.

To Ellen the wife of Richarde Wyldbloode eldest daughter of William Rowley: 20s yearly, to be paid by her father; or, in default, she to enter on and enjoy The Sterretes Field.

To John Rowley son of William Rowley: £5; and to each of his brethren and sisters: £10.

To each of William Whytall's four sons: £3 6s 8d.

To John Burslem and his children: £2.

To John Sneyde my godson £2.

To each of my other two godchildren: 2s 6d.

If my brother (or his heirs etc) get coals on the land bequeathed, they are to allow my wife two horse loads every week for as long as any is got there.

Residuary legatee and executrix: my wife Ellen.

Signs by mark.

Witnesses: William Whytall, George Alsager, Raphe Alsager.

189.2 Inventory

A true and perfect Inventory of all the goods cattells chattells and debts, of John Rowley of Haycarre in the parrish of Wolstonton in the county of Stafforde yeoma[n] deceased, prysed and taken the first day of June Anno D[omi]ni 1649 by Raph Alsager, James Smyth, George Alsager, William Hurbutt, William Rowley and William Whytall as followeth viz.

Four Oxen	£30		
Eight kyne	£32		
Three twinters	£10		
Three sterks and one twinter	£9		
One Mare	£7	10s	
Three weaninge Calues	£3		
Twoe swyne	£1	13s	4d
Pullen		6s	8d
Corne on the grounde	£18		
Corne in the barne		13s	4d
Weanes, plowes, harrowes, yokes, chaines & other implements of and for husbandry	£5		
Weane timber plowe timber loose boards and planks	£3		
One grindlestone & trowe for the same		3s	6d
Mucke and Fewell	£2	10s	
One small gun and twoe swords		13s	4d
Hempe on the grounde		2s	
Two beds in the parlor with furniture to the same, & the bedstocks next the doore	£6	13s	4d
One presse in the parlor	£1		
One greene cloth bedhillinge	£1		
One bed beneath the entry with furniture to the same	£2		
Two high beds ou[er] the parlor and one truckle bed w[i]th furniture therto	£13	6s	8d
Nappery ware & cloth vncutt	£13	6s	8d
Coffers and Chests	£1	10s	
Wool, Teere of flax and yarne		16s	8d
Corne and malt	£5		
Loose boards and sheelues	£3		
Brasse and pewter	£8		
Tables, formes, cheares stooles & quishins	£1	8s	
Iron ware in ye house & about the fyer	£1	3s	4d
A Cheese presse, a swyne tub & swyne trowes		8s	
Coopery and treene ware	£2		
Sacks, Shoues, measures, spinninge wheelles windowing sheets & the implements of huswyfry.	£2		
Earthen potts and glasse		10s	
Cheese, butter, & other houshold p[ro]vision	£4		
Books		10s	
Bees		5s	
A hayre cloth		10s	
Reparrell of the dead, & money in his purse	£26	13s	4d
The new meadowe for twoe yeares from George Wood	£5		
Some small thinges w[hi]ch may be forgotten		2s	
Debts owinge by specialties as followeth viz.			

William Dickinson of Ranscliffe	£5
John Rowley of Jilbanke	5s
A lease of one meadowe from George Wood al[ia]s Flynt of Chatterley for certeyne yeares vpon redemption	£20

Debts owinge without specialties as follow viz.

John Sneyde	£2	18s
Robert Sneyde	£1	16s
Richarde Sneyde & the sayd John for a Cow	£4	5s
John Rowley my brothers sonne	£2	10s
George Wood al[ia]s Flynt for cloth	£1	12s
John Poole		10s
Edward Allen thelder	£2	

George Wood al[ia]s Flynt hath in his

hands for 40 tunne of Lyme stone £9
Sum[m]a £275 6s 0d
[Actual total: £273 8s 2d]

189.3 Notes

1. See Ellin Rowley (his widow) in this collection.
2. The coal was conveyed by pack horse in sacks - though 'horse loads' might be just a measure. The large hearths in dwellings of the period suggest a fire requiring plenty of coals or billets (wood), for the daily cooking and, especially in winter, for heating the house.
A measure of coal was the chaldron (John Burnet History of the Cost of Living p136) put at 26-27 cwt. However Emmison (Elizabethan Life: Home Work and Land p56) says it varied between 32 and 64 bushels. He also mentions that the Act of 7 Edw., c.7 (1553), known as the Assize of Fuel, laid down the sizes and prices of 'talwood, billet, faggot and coals' (charcoal), which the author of a work on weights and measures dated 1682 probably refers to [see my IV 71].
Westminster School paid 15s per chaldron in 1585) The widow will be occupying a one-hearth dwelling, ('about the fyer' as the inventory says) and this could well be the one occupied by William Rowley of Heycarr listed in the 1666 Hearth Tax list for Chatterley township.
Stafford Record Office possesses an agreement dated 1678 for getting coal under High Carr Ridges: this is associated with the Smiths of High Carr, who occupied a two-hearth dwelling in 1666. High Carr gave its name to a colliery, which was in operation in the 19th century.
3. The mare at £7 10s is pricey, but possibly the reading is £4 10s.
4. 'Pullen' is poultry.
4. 'One grindlestone & trowe for the same' - a grinding stone and a trough going with it, either for collecting or delivering the barley. The malt suggests he (or his wife) brewed.
5. A truckle bed is one which was slid under the bed when not in use.

6. 'cloth vncutt' - still awaiting the attention of the sheerman. George Wood still owed him for cloth supplied.
7. Teere of flax - an eighteenth century definition of tear of flax is that it is the finest, dressed part of flax, made ready for the spinner.
8. 'A hayre cloth'. The cloth made of hair was used in brewing, and, judging by the valuation, was presumably a big one.
9. John Rowley had a large amount of ready money in the house. In the absence of banks, when there was money spare, it was usually lent to neighbours. But perhaps the uncertain times of the Civil War accounted for this hoard, as for the husbandman John Crosse of Biddulph's £34 in cash that he had at his death in 1647.

190 John Clownam of Knutton, yeoman, date of will 18th December 1644, buried 1st February 1647/8, inventory taken 3rd February, date of probate 15 June 1648

190.1 Will

Being weak in body; "my body to the earth whereof it was made".

Whereas I have conveyed my messuage in Knutton with the lands belonging to it to Richard Harrison of Newcastle under Lyme, alderman and Thomas Bagnall of Newcastle under Lyme, yeoman and their heirs to several uses, amongst which it is provided that £150 shall be raised out of the said messuage and lands to be paid to me and after my decease to Richard Harrison and Thomas Bagnall to be disposed to the uses declared in my last will (by an indenture dated 20th November 17 Chas I [1641] between me of the one part, and Richard Harrison and Thomas Bagnall of the other part). As my son Richard has not paid me the £150, my will is that it shall be raised according to the indenture and used for paying my debts. Also, my will is that if my son John pays within six months of my death £60 towards paying the residue of my debts, then I give to my executors the messuage in Handford inhabited by one John Fisher with the lands belonging to it (for which James Toyld has a lease for lives) so that they can sell them to the said John Clownam and his heirs for ever if he pays the money within the six months, or sold to someone else and the money received to be employed towards satisfaction of my debts.

Residuary legatees: my wife [not named], my daughter Margerie and my son Gyles Clownam (except the table in the house, the wainscot and the bedstead where my son Richard lies, all which I give to him).

Executors: Gyles Clownam and my cousin Roger Elkyn.

Witnesses: Richard Harrison, Thomas Bagnall, Richard Clownam, Thomas Ball. John Clownam signs by mark.

190.2 Inventory

A true & p[er]fect Inventory of all the goods Cattells & Chattells of John Clownam late of knutton in the countie of Staff[ord] yeoman deceased taken & apprized the Third day of February Anno D[omi]ni 1647 by Richard Harrison John Cowall William Gibson John Baddiley prayzers.

Three kine Two Bullockes one heffer, One Bullocke & Three calves
seaven sheepe

Corne & hay in ye barne

Corne uppon the ground

a wayne Tumbrell yoakes plow chaines & other implemen[en]tes of husbandry

In ye kilne house

One Cowmpe & a hand Mill

plow Timber, wayne Timber

Mill timber, loose boardes

rayles & other broken Tymber

Charcole

In the house place

One longe Table one forme

& a little table

One Bedstidd in the Upp[er] p[ar]lor

In the Chamber over the house

One Bedstidd One Coverlett One Blankett a Fether bed & boulster

One Coffe

Lynine & Nappery ware

In the Lower p[ar]lor

One Cupboard, a Forme a little table, one grate, an Iron plate, Fire shovell Tonges & pottrackes Three Cushions & a chaire

In the Chamber over ye lower Parlor

Two Bedstidds One Fether bedd One Flock bedd, Three Blanketts, Two Coverletts

Three Boulsters & a Coffe

In the Chamber over the kitchen

loose boards & an Arke

Two Tubbs, One Coffe shelves

& other lumber

Trenchers Bowkes Churnes

Tubbs Barrells Turnells

& other Treene ware 6s 8d

Apparrell of the deceased

& money in his purse

Brasse & Pewtar

Cobertes, Broaches & dreepingpan & other Iron ware

Manure

Provision in the house

Pannell boards & things not prized

One Swyne & Two bibles

190.3 Notes

1. It seems from this that his son Richard was living with him - and had been doing so in 1632 when his selection as churchwarden was made on the basis of the house where he was living. Richard died in 1661 and it may be his widow ('Mrs Clownam') who was living in the house with three hearths in Knutton in 1666.
2. John Clownam's widow is quite likely to be the Anne Clownam, widow, who was buried 4th March 1648.
3. The bishop made an order dated 27th November 1635 addressed to the vicar of Wolstanton and the churchwardens that a vacant place should be assigned to John Clownam and John Cowall in the church so that they could see divine service and hear more. Pews were allocated to the tenement, and John Clownam's uncle Richard Glover (from whom he inherited the tenement in Knutton) had not been entitled to a pew either.
4. The kiln house has a malt kiln for converting barley into malt. The charcoal was used for fuel.
5. If the writer of the inventory hadn't been running out of room at the bottom of the sheet, the swine and bibles might have been separately valued.

191 John Caulton of Stadmoreslow, will dated 21st February 1648/9, buried 4th March 1647/8, inventory undated, date of probate 17th May 1649.

191.1 Will

Sick in body; to be buried at the parish church of Wolstanton.

To Francis Caulton my daughter: one featherbed in the chamber with everything belonging to it; and one joined bed standing in the parlour after the decease of my wife.

To Lawrence Caulton my son: 12d; (and one long table standing in the parlour after the decease of my wife [added after])

To Joane Cartwright my daughter: 12d

To Francis Caulton my daughter: £30

To every one of my grandchildren: 12d

Executors: Anne Caulton my wife and Lawrence my son.

Residuary legatee: Anne Caulton my wife.

Witnesses: William Burslem, Margery Drakeford, John Burslem.

Debts owing to me: Mr Raph Caulton my landlord..£3;

Mrs Francis Caulton my landlady ..£2 13s 4d.

191.2 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect Inventorie of all the goodes Cattells and Chattels of John Caulton of Stadmorlowe in the p[ar]ish of Wolstanton and Countie of Stafford late deceased.

5 kine and one calfe

the one halfe of 4 Bullockes

2 Stirkes

2 horses 2 saddels w[i]th girthes & all that belongeth vnto them

Corne And heay

3 Fetterbedes & boulsters 2 pillowes

2 bed coveringes

7 blanckets

6 poundes of wooll

yorne & Towe

one Joynd bed and 1 paire of bedstockes

one Wich & 6 coffers

Boardes ouer the parler and Butterie

15 Sheepe

one longe Table and forme

2 Chaires & stoules

9 shilfes

4 stoundes 2 barrels one Cheese tub one Churne

2 Turnells

Boukes w[i]th other treene ware 13s 4d

2 Cubboardes

6 paire of [s]heetes

one dossen of napkins 2 table cloathes 2 towels

3 yardes of new cloath 4 pewter and one dreepinge pan

3 pannes Brasse

one grate w[i]th other Iron Ware

one waine & waines body w[i]th 4 yoakes 3 chaines

w[i]th other husbandry ware

2 ladders

one swine

one goose & gander & twoo hennes

one side saddle one pillion & saddle Cloath

Bookes

his wareinge Apparell

Bagges & winow sheetes 3s 4d

Meale & groates £1 6s 8d

money in his purse

Lymestone

moneyes oweinge By Lawrence Caulton

Mr Caulton

Ms Caulton

henry Baker
John Meare w[i]th others stand bound in a band w[hi]ch all is payd
John Swaine

191.3 Notes

1. The burial date in the parish register is 1647/8 - a year too early.
2. 'stoundes' - these are stands for the barrels. 'Turnells' are large ovals tubs which could be used in meat preparation eg salting the meat.
3. 'Boukes w[i]th other treene ware' = pails and other wooden items.
4. 'Meale & groates' - the meal is the flour; the groats are the hulled grains.
5. The bond ('band') is a written agreement which the appraisers found among the testator's papers. The words 'w[hi]ch all is payd' look as if they were added after. The £3 should have been deleted, so I have left it out of the calculation of the total.
4. Ann Caulton, widow, was buried 6th March 1651/2. Lawrence Caulton was the occupier of a one-hearth house in Stadmorlow in 1666.
5. This John Caulton is to be distinguished from the several instances of John Caulton of the Whitehill (in Brerehurst). This line of Caultons owned 25 customary acres (54 acres) in Brerehurst, and perhaps 'Mr Raph Caulton my landlord' is related to them.
6. It is a pity there is confusion over his date of burial and that the inventory is undated, because it looks as if a son of his died after his death - yet there is no mention in the will. The printed copy of the register reads: 1649 Apr 28 ———s. of John Caulton of Stodmorelow.

192 Robert Parker of Tunstall, yeoman, will dated 31st March 1649, buried 1st April 1649, inventory taken 5th April, date of probate 17th May.

192.1 Will

To be buried in the Christian burial,
To my four sisters Margrett, Alce, Mary, and Dorritie: 12d each.
To Sara Sherratt and William Sherratt my sister Alce's children: 5s each.
To my sister Mary's son: 5s.
To my sister Dorritie's two children: 5s.
To Elizabeth Stevenson the daughter of William Stevenson my brother-in-law: 40s.
Residuary legatee and executor: my loving wife Mary, to whom I assign all my living during her life, which was my promise.
Overseer: William Stevenson my brother-in-law.
[Signs by mark] Witnesses: William Stevenson, Frances Brett, Mary Perry.
Aprill the 5th Ann[o] Dom[ini] 1649

192.2 Inventory

A true and p[er]fect Inventory of Robert Parker deceased taken by vs whose names subscribed the day and yeare aboue written.

Thomas Breett Richard Baddeley Samuell Terricke

four e kine one twinter heyfer & three sterkes

Three horses

Nine sheepe

One gilt

for Poultry

for Beddinge and bedstedes

for all Linnens & nappery ware

for brasse & pewter

for one chest & three coffers

One Cubbord & tow Tables

Tow arkes

for Formes Cheares stooles and all other wooden ware

One grate one fireshoole & tonges tow spites one paire of goberts backstone & brundret & pottchaines

for one carte ploughes & all other husbandry ware

for hay & corne

for the corne w[hi]ch is sowne £7 6s 8d

for all maner of victualls

for quishons

for menor

boardes & plankes

for his wearinge apparell & mony in his purse

192.3 Notes

1. The inventory does not mention the lease included in his father's inventory (1630). If he did have the lease of the 41 -acre-holding (mostly pasture), then he must have sublet much of it to others, judging by the size of his cattle herd.

2. 'One gilt' - a young pig.

3. Not to be confused with a Robert Parker in Burslem parish who in 1648 was already married and had a wife called Elizabeth.

4. 'for the corne w[hi]ch is sowne £7 6s 8d' This is quite a high price. The wording indicates that the corn had been sown not long before, but was not showing above ground.

5. The name Frances Brett is confirmed as a woman's name in the Tunstall manor court roll for October 1666. She was referred to as Frances Brett, widow, and was presented for an encroachment. She had been a widow since at least 1641 and died in 1676. (Her burial record refers to her as 'of Tunstall' to distinguish her from Thomas Brett's wife Frances who lived elsewhere.)

193 William Burslem, no will, buried Nov 23rd 1648, inventory taken 11th May 1649,[Wed] date of probate 17th May.

193.1 Inventory

A true & p[er]fect Inventorie of all goods chattells & cattell of William Burslem Late of Woolstanton in the County of Stafford yeoma[n] Late deceased taken prayesd & Valued the eleaventh daye of May An[n]o Dom[ini] 1649 by John Bourne & John Robinson in manner & forme followinge.

One bed boulster & Coverlid	7s	8d
One Chayre	1s	
One lease in p[ar]te of a Roche or Rowe of Coles Comonly called the greate Rowe alias the gutter delfe lying in the Hamlett of Sneyd in the county aforesaid	10s	
The [deceased] weareing apparrell	6s	8d
[Sum total] £1 5s 4d		

193.2 Notes

1. The burial entry in the parish register describes him as an old man.
 2. Administration was granted to his son James Burslem of Wolstanton, husbandman. James Burslem was buried Aug 7th 1661.
 3. Provisional conclusions about the Burslems of Wolstanton. There is a mention of William Burslem dwelling in Wolstanton in 1581. He is presumed to be the William Burslem who died a little before April 1605 (Both mentions are in Newcastle manor rolls.) The next William Burslem mentioned is presumably this one who was buried in November 1648. He had a son William who died early. (The Newcastle manor court roll for October 1610 records that William Burslem junior owned at his death half of a messuage and lands in Wolstanton; the heriot was a gelding worth £3; and his heir was his son aged 1 year.)
There is a series of brewers of ale in Wolstanton called William Burslem - perhaps the mentions between 1610 and (say) 1639 refer to our William Burslem, with his son James taking over in the 1640's. The court held at Wolstanton in the house of William Burslem on 28th October 1629 was likely to be the establishment of this William Burslem.
By the early 1630's his grandson William had come of age, and acquired some land from his grandfather, namely Wood Hey, Wood Meadow and 1 day math of meadow. He married Alice and predeceased her, before he reached the age of 52. Some of the ale-brewing references to William Burslem are likely to refer to him - certainly the 1649 one!
3. Sneyd (a hamlet of 15 houses in 1666) lay on rising ground just to the east of

Burslem.