

Wills in Black Box 7

This page is an explanation by Caroline Dalton

Caroline Dalton's note.

The originals of all the documents I have displayed here are in the care of Oxfordshire County Record Office. They are part of the archives of the diocese of Oxford. They were created to show either in the ecclesiastical courts of the Bishops or of the Archdeacons of Oxford Diocese, as part of the process executors used to apply for probate of wills. Civil probate courts in England were set up by act of parliament in 1858. Before that date all such cases were handled in ecclesiastical courts.

My source for the document reference numbers was 'Probate Records of the Courts of the Bishop and Archdeacon of Oxford 1516-1732' edited by E Cheyne and DM Barratt, and published in two volumes by the British Record Society in 1985. Without the existence of this reference book, it would never have occurred to me to begin what has become an absorbing interest.

I started to investigate what documents survived for Wheatley and Holton and what these told us about the level of material prosperity in the two communities. I also have two ring binders full of transcriptions of Holton wills and inventories, which are not relevant today. I hope eventually to make them and a complete set of Wheatley wills and inventories available to users of Wheatley archive room.

I have not yet transcribed every single relevant document on my list for Wheatley. A few of the later ones in Oxfordshire Record Office remain to be completed. Nor have I yet been to the Family Record Centre in Chancery Lane, London to see the microfilms of wills and inventories from Wheatley and Holton in the National Archives, formerly the Public Record Office. These will include the will of anyone who died at sea, an unlikely category in Wheatley, and anyone who had property in more than one diocese. All such wills and inventories from Oxfordshire families were processed in the courts of the Archbishops of Canterbury. They, along with a mass of other wills and inventories from the south of England, became part of the National Archives in the 19th century. (Corresponding documents written in the north of England went to the Archbishop of York's court.)

Finally, all testamentary documents written during the Commonwealth period, between 1648 and 1660 were dealt with centrally by a court sitting in Canterbury, although it was not styled a Bishop's court. These therefore are also in the National Archives and are on my list of sources to examine.

Another publication of the British Record Society, in the same series as my reference book for Oxfordshire has already been published. In due course it will help me identify all the microfilms I need to see in London. The only problem therefore is setting aside a block of time to complete the task!

CMD 4.03.05.

List of Wills in chronological order

Coles	John	[farmer]	1530
Dormer	John	[farmer]	1543
Wright	William	[farmer]	1545
King	Edward	yeoman	1550
Gadbury	James	husbandman	1558
Howell	William	husbandman	1558
Marten	Edward	[farmer]	1558
Pullen	Richard	[farmer]	1558
Syms	John	unknown	1559
Gorden	Robert	[landlord]	1560
Webbe	Thomas	innholder	1565
Barnarde	John	[householder]	1569
Stowell	John	husbandman	1573
Duke	Marianne	widow	1576
Archdale	Richard	gentleman	1577
Howse	Thomas	yeoman	1578
Newe	Nicholas	tailor	1579
Bennett	William	blacksmith	1580
Page	Nicholas	[farmer]	1580
Rason	Richard	[householder]	1580
Muchell	Robert	labourer	15'81
Day	Richard	[farmer]	1585
Carpinter	Walter	[householder]	1586
Cobbett	John sen	veoman	1587
Gorden	John	[farmer]	1587
Charesley	George	[farmer]	1588
Scutter	William	labourer	1591
Howse	Elin	[householder]	1592
Franklyn	Peter	husbandman	1598
Gorden	Katherine	[householder]	1598
Latham	Persevall	husbandman	1601
Fletcher	John	maltster	1602
Latham	Thomas	shoemaker	1602
Sidnall	John	[creditor]	1602
Hurst	Richard	blacksmith	1604
Barratt	Henry	unknown	1605
Reynoles	John	yeoman	1606
Shepton	Thomas	husbandman	1606
Bennett	William	labourer	1607
Bennett	William	labourer	1609
Howldesworth	Richard	[farmer]	1611
George	Lawrence	unknown	1612
Martyn	George	tailor	1614
Aldridge	Thomas	labourer	1616
Spenser	John	unknown	1619
Mount	Thomas	labourer	1620
Webb	Thomas	fuller	1620
Spenser	Mary	[farmer]	1621
Robbinson	William	yeoman	1622
Robinson	William	yeoman	1622

Ardington	Thomas sen	cooper	1626
Gadbury	John	unknown	1626
Bentlee	Ann	[moneylender]	1627
Symes	Thomas	widower	1628
Gadbury	John	gentleman	1629
Archdale	Abraham	esquire	1631
Gibbs	Parnell	[householder]	1631
Horsman	Elizabeth	[householder]	1631
Sparrucke	John	[landowner]	1631
Woborne	Richard	labourer	1631
Baker	Eustace	brewer	1632
Gadbury	Frideswide	widow	1632
Stiles	William	[householder]	1632
Polkins	William	yeoman	1633
Beake	William	[householder]	1634
Simson	Richard	labourer	1636
Chayre	Thomas	husbandman	1637
Syms	John	yeoman	1638
Price	Richard	labourer	1639
Syms	Elizabeth	yeoman	1639
Harper	Henry	[leaseholder]	1640
Clifton	William	labourer	1642
Polkins	Richard	yeoman	1642
Sheene	Sampson	baker	1644
Gadbury	John	gentleman	1661
Moores	Sibble	[householder]	1664
Simson	Edward	shepherd	1664
Darby	Thomas	husbandman	1666
Darby	Thomas	victualler	1666
Day	Thomas	yeoman	1666
Darby	Margery	widow	1670
Smart	William	yeoman	1670
Barnes	Robert	shepherd	1671
Cox	Robert	sawyer	1676
Costard	Thomas	wheelwright	1683
Munt	Henry	labourer	1687
Quaterman	Thomas	innkeeper	1687
Quaterman	Thomas	yeoman	1687
Barker	Peter	[farmer]	1692
Temple	Thomas	grocer	1692
Simmes	Ralph	labourer	1693
Brock	Richard	husbandman	1697
Chancellor	William	yeoman	1697
Temple	Elizabeth	[householder]	1698
Bridgman	Edward	innholder	1700

Transcript of Wills in Black box 7
In alphabetical order

Abraham Archdale
Richard Archdale
Mary Andrews
Ann Bentlee
Thomas Dormer
Elin House
George Martin
Sibble Moore
Johannis Mountes (John Mount)
Thomas Mount
Mary Russel
Marie Spencer
William Smart
Thomas Temple
Elizabeth Temple
Edmund Whorwood
Jane Whorwood
Thomas Whorwood
Thomas Whorwood III