

Extracts from "Wiltshire Notes & Queries"
by George Simpson & Co. Devizes Wiltshire

Records of Wiltshire Parishes "Bratton"

Before the Precentor or Chantor's Court of Salisbury, Wiltshire

BALLARD – **James Ballard** of Bratton, Co. Wilts, yeoman bequeaths to his wife **Jane** all closes, land and tenements with their appurtenances in Keevil, Co. Wilts lately purchased of **Thomas Lambert** esquire, for the term of her life and after her death, to the heirs of his body, and for the want of such issue to his brother-in-law **William Ballard** the younger, son of **William Ballard** the elder of Steeple Ashton, yeoman, and the heirs male of his body; and for want of such issue to **William Ballard** his brother and heirs male of his body; and for want of such issue to his kinsman **Henry Ballard**, son of his brother **John Ballard** deceased, and his heirs male; and for want of such issue to **John** son of the said **John Ballard** and his heirs male; and for want of such issue to **James**, son of the said brother **John Ballard**, and for want of such issue to the right heirs of himself for ever. He gives to his wife his black mare, the remainder of his goods to his father **Henry Ballard** his executor, in trust for such child as his wife "is now with child withal" either by putting such child's life in his copyhold living in Bratton, or otherwise as he shall think fit; and in case the child dies before the age of eighteen years or day of marriage, he gives the rest of his personal estate to his father. Dated **26th September 1679** proved at Westbury **3^d June 1680**. Inventory of the goods taken **17th December 1679** by **John Croome** and **Richard Tille**, their total value being 504 pounds, three shillings and 4 pence.

BALLARD – **Henry Ballard** of Bratton, yeoman **28th December 1684** leaves to his grandchild **Henry Ballard**, son of **John Ballard** lately deceased, the new end of the house called "Waggens" joining **John Croome's** barn and backside, and that part of the garden that lies on the north side of the house. To his grandchild **John Mervet** that other part of the house and garden "that **Thomas Dew** now dwells in". To his son **William Ballard** the cupboard in parlour, to his daughter **Anne Bayly** five shillings.
Item "I doth owe my daughter **Mabel Mervet** one hundred pounds to be paid to her in two months upon my decease". Henry makes his grandson **Henry Ballard** and his daughter **Mabel Mervet** his executors and appoints his son-in-law **Nathaniel Baily** and his cousin **William Ballard** of Ashton, the overseers of his will. Inventory of his goods, taken **29th March 1688** by **William Aldridge** of Erlestoke and **William Ballard** of Steeple Ashton and **Thomas Taylor** of Bulkington, including furniture, household implements and farm stock and produce amounted to 341 pounds, 18 shillings and six pence.

BIDGARD – **John Bidgard** of Bratton, gardiner **26th March 1710** leaves to his brother **Thomas Bidgard**, and two brothers-in-law **Thomas Wempe** and **William Dredge** his woollen wearing clothes to be divided between them; to his niece **Mary** daughter of his sister **Rebecca Dredge**, deceased, forty shillings; to **Benjamin** son of his sister **Elizabeth Wempe**, forty shillings; to **Mary** daughter of **Mary Dyett** two shillings and six pence; to **George** son of **Mary Dyett** two shillings and six pence; to his brother **Thomas Bidgard** forty shilling; to **John** son of **Thomas Bidgard** his holland shirt, and to his wife **Elizabeth Bidgard** whom he makes his sole executor, the rest and remainder of his goods and chattels. Proved **3^d August 1710**. Inventory of his goods taken **8th June 1710** amounted to 24 pounds, thirteen shillings and six pence.

BLATCH - **Deborah Blatch** of Bratton, **10th June 1730**, son **John Blatch**
130 pounds, various furniture including "the green bed, a silver spoon and the silver whistle, together with the ball'd gelding" daughter **Margaret Blatch**
100 pounds, a silver cup, a silver spoon, daughter **Charity Crosby**, grand-daughter **Elizabeth Gaisford** (under-age), 25 shillings or "scepter piece" of gold. Her freehold at Westbury called Brick Kiln Malting and orchard, with all the rest of her personal estate she leaves to her son **John Blatch** whom she makes her sole executor.

BLATCH - John Blatch of Bratton, yeoman **27th April 1716**, to his sister **Martha Hill**, leasehold estate in Bratton, his sister **Hannah Perry**, brother **Philip Blatch**, brother Philip's wife, **John** son of brother **Philip Blatch**, the rest of Philip's children, poor of Bratton, cousin **John Whitaker** and **John Pryor**, cousin **Ann Taylor**. The value of his goods, according to inventory taken on **11th May 1716** was 71 pounds and 11 shillings

BLATCH – John Blatch the elder of Bratton, gentleman. To son **John Blatch**, amongst other things, black chest of drawers and looking glass in black frame in the parlour chamber, furniture in the little chamber over the cellar next the street, and an eight-day clock, also two family coats of arms in gilt frames and two glazed prints of the King and Queen. To son John's wife **Eleanor Blatch** the mourning ring he had at the funeral of **Mrs. Elizabeth Ballard** late wife to **Mr. John Ballard** of Imber. To grand-son **Philip Blatch** a set of coat and waistcoat silver buttons, his silver watch and shoe buckles and four crown pieces. Whereas by a deed of settlement he made his late wife a reserve of 500 pounds to give by will, he therefore gives the said 500 pounds with 60 pounds more, to be equally divided between his daughters **Deborah** and **Elizabeth Blatch** with the following goods, all gold rings not mentioned, all plate, jewels and china. Also to his said two daughters to reside in his dwelling-house and to have the use of profit of the garden and orchard belonging to Hill's tenement extended to the footpath leading to and from Westbury, to the use of his woodhouse, and to all rents and profits from the orchard belonging to the freehold estate lately purchased by him of **Robert Hooper**, to enjoy the same as long as they remain unmarried; all his bee stocks to be divided between his son and two daughters. All the rest and remainder of his goods and chattels he bequeaths to his son **John Blatch** who he makes his sole executor.
Dated **4th April 1772** proved at Westbury **6th May 1772**

BLATCH – John Blatch of Bratton, gentleman, brother-in-law of **William Aldridge Ballard** of Bratton esquire, and to his relation **Henry Blatch** of Winterbourne Dauncy, gentleman, and their heirs, two freehold messuages at Bratton with their gardens now in the several occupations of **Moses Chapman** and **James Cook**, and all the parcels of arable ground at or near Bratton containing 4 acres, to the use of his wife **Eleanor** for the term of her natural life, then to the use of his son **John Blatch** and his heirs; and in the case that the said son be in his minority on the death of his mother, the trustees are to receive the rents and profits from the said messuage, and apply them for John's benefit as they think fit. Also to the said **William Aldridge Ballard** and **Henry Blatch** and their heirs all messuages held under **Lord Weymouth** in Bratton for life, to hold in trust for his said wife during her life, and then in trust for his son **John**. Whereas by his marriage settlement, he settled certain messuages on his wife for her life, and afterwards to the first and other sons of the marriage, with a power reserved for raising out of the said premises 300 pounds for the benefit of any younger children of the marriage, he bequeaths the said 300 pounds to the trustees for the use of his daughter **Sarah Blatch** to be paid to her at the age of twenty one or upon her marriage if she marry with the approbation of her mother and the said trustees, if she marry without such consent, to the use of his said son **John**. To his said wife he bequeaths all his household goods, which after her decease are to be divided equally amongst his children **Philip Ballard Blatch** and the said **John** and **Sarah Blatch**. To his said trustees, a mourning ring each, the rest of his chattels are to be converted into money and such money to be placed at interest on Government land or security for his wife.
Dated **23rd February 1784** proved at Sarum **4th October 1785**.

BLATCH – Philip Blatch of Bratton yeoman, all messuages and tenements in Bulkington and Keevil to **William Axford** of Erlestoke, **Jeffrey Whittaker** of Bratton and **John Drewett** of Bratton, their heirs for ever; to the use of his wife (and the exix) during her life and after her decease to the sole use of the said **William Axford** and **Jeffrey Whittaker**, their excors, and after the said term to his son **John Blatch**. To his son **James Blatch** 300 pounds to be paid on his majority with interest, to daughter **Margaret Blatch** 300 pounds with like interest, and if **James** or **Margaret** die before attaining twenty one years then the sum of 100 pounds out of 300 pounds to go to the survivor, and the rest not to be due or payable; but if his personal estate be not sufficient to pay his debts and expenses, and the said several sums and the interest thereof, then he will that the deficiency shall, after the death of his wife, be raised as **William Axford** and **Jeffrey Whittaker** think fit out of the said term and the rents and profits thereof. Dated **10th November 1726**

BISHOP - Bond dated **1st March 1773** of Mr. Elias Burbidge of Keevil, yeoman, Edward Doman of New Sarum, painter and John Sanger of the same, cheesemonger, in 100 pounds for the administration of the goods of **Robert Bishop**, late of Bratton, bachelor, intestate, by **Sarah Burbidge** wife of the said **Elias Burbidge**.

BROWN- Bond for the administration of the goods of **John Brown** of Bratton, yeoman, by his widow **Jane Brown** dated **4th May 1721**, with inventory of his goods amounting to 29 pounds 15 shillings.

BROWN - Bond of **John Brown**, of Bratton yeoman, **Samuel Sweetland** of Bratton, yeoman and **James Rendall** of West Harnham, in 100 pounds dated **8th May 1750**, for the administration by **John Brown** of the goods of his sister **Ann Brown**, late of Bratton, spinster.

BURGESS – **Harry Burgess** of Bratton leaves his body to be buried in the churchyard of Bratton. To his six grand-children, ten shillings each; to his son **Henry Burgess** a horse, to his son **John Burgess** a horse, a pot and a trendle; to his grand-child **Mary Hodges** a bed and bedstead; to **Robert Hodges** his best hat. He appoints **Mary Hodges** his sole executrix. He appoints that an obligation due from **Henry Gaske** be equally divided between his sons **Henry** and **John** and his daughter **Mary**, his executrix; also four heifers, one great kettle, one middle kettle, one little pot, three pewter platters, three barrels, two cowels, two trendles, a table-board and frame, and a pair of milking tankards to be equally divided between the two sons and **Mary Hodges**. To his daughter **Elizabeth**, two shirts, one coffer, to **Henry** and **John** his sons, and **Mary Hodges** to be equally divided, two pounds, twelve shillings and six pence due from **John Rodway**. Dated **1st March 1692**. Witnesses **John Causeway** and **John Whittaker**. Proved **27th June 1693**

The bond of **Robert Hodges** to administer the goods during the minority of **Mary Hodges** dated **27th June 1693** and the inventory of his goods dated **8th March 1692** is with this will; the inventory is witnessed by **Thomas Coles** and **William Tucker** Preachers.

COLE - Bond of **Elizabeth Cole** widow of Bratton and **Jonathan Hillman** of Edington in 100 pounds for the due administration of the goods of **Thomas Cole** yeoman late of Bratton, deceased, by the said **Elizabeth Cole** dated **7th June 1711**. From the Inventory taken on **6th June 1711**, **Thomas Cole's** goods amounted to 25 pounds and 10 shillings.

COLE - Nuncupative will of **Elizabeth Cole widow** of Bratton, who died **19th June 1718**. **Elizabeth Newman** wife of **Naish Newman**, hearing **Elizabeth Cole** was sick went to her on **23rd April** last and asked her if she had made her will. **Elizabeth Cole** replied that she had not, but she intended to give what she had to **Henry Swaine** and **Thomas Swaine** of Hilperton and **Coxe's** children, except a table-board and bedstead which she wanted to give to **Jonathan Bayly**. Afterwards of **27th April** **Elizabeth Cole** declared to several persons who asked her that this was her will, and **Elizabeth Newman** asking her on **18th June** if she were in the same mind, **Elizabeth Cole** declared again that this was her will. Witnessed on **24th June** to be the words of **Elizabeth Cole** by **Elizabeth Newman**, **Ann Sharchfield** and **Margery Shrackly**
Proved on **24th July 1718**. Two inventories of her goods were drawn up on **23rd June**, one giving the value 42 pounds, 17 shillings and 1 pence and the other giving the value 50 pounds, 13 shillings and 1 pence.

COOK - Bond of **Robert Cook** of Bratton, agricultural labourer and **Roger Snelgrove** of Bratton, in 40 pounds for the due administration of the goods of **Robert Cook** late of Bratton, deceased by the said **Robert Cook** second son of the deceased, dated **2nd June 1690**. The goods of **Robert Cook** taken by inventory on **19th May 1690** amounted to 17 pounds, 13 shillings and 4 pence

CROOME (or CROME) - **John Croome(or Crome)** of Bratton, yeoman **25th August 1703**, wife **Elizabeth**, grand-child **Sarah Pryor**, daughter **Margaret Pryor**, two leases under the Earl of Abingdon in the manors of Sturton and Arundel, four grand-children **Elizabeth**, **Margaret**, **Sarah** and **Mary Pryor** (under age) The remainder of his

goods, lands and tenements he gives to his daughter **Margaret Pryor** whom he makes sole executor, and 12 pounds a piece to his brother and sister and cousin **John Croome** and his four children.

CALEWAY – **Roger Caleyway** of Bratton, Brood weaver, to son **John Caleyway** his dwelling house, to son **William Caleyway** his loom and one of his coats, to his daughters **Jane** and **Elizabeth**, sons **John** and **James** and daughter **Mabel**, the shop joining his house and the rest and remainder of his goods, he makes his daughter **Mabel** his sole executrix. Signed **19th April 1719**, proved **15th July 1719**. Inventory of his goods amounted to 12 pounds and 11 shillings, taken on **3^d August 1719**

DOWDEN (or DOWDING)- **Anne Dowden (or Dowding)** widow of Bratton, **2nd Jan 1685**, her body to be buried in the churchyard at Bratton as near her husband as may be. Her sister **Elizabeth Howell** of Edington, **Peter Townhend's** three children, **Thomas Townhend's** four children, **Robert Huntley's** six children, **William Tray's** two children; to **Alice Rayman**, **John Dowden** for his children, cousin **Mary Swetland**; **William Hayman**, **George Walter**, **William Baucher** and **Edith Sweat**; cousin **Alice Haynes** of Warminster, a bond of 15 pounds due from **Francis Gerard**, blacksmith, living at North Bruham, Co. Somerset. To **Steven Houell** the rest of her goods and chattels and 13 pounds due rent from **Francis Gerard**, blacksmith at North Bruham.

DREWETT – **William Drewett** of Bratton yeoman, **27th April 1706**, daughter **Ann Drewett** 120 pounds to be paid when she is twenty two years old, to his son **John Drewett** his leasehold known by the name of "Franklins" which leasehold his mother is to put in or add his life, upon consideration he shall pay his mother 100 pounds when he shall come to the age of twenty four years, also 4 ½ acres of freehold land. To son **William Drewett** the leasehold of "Lowbreath" to which his mother is to add his life, for which he is to pay her 20 pounds when he reaches the age of twenty four years. To son **Henry Drewett** 60 pounds to be paid to him when he is twenty four years old and the seventy sheep and thirty lambs "that he is now possessed with". To son **Edward Drewett** 100 pounds when he comes to the age of twenty four years, to son **James Drewett** 100 pounds when he is twenty four years old. To his daughter **Luce**, when she is twenty two years old, 100 pounds, and the same to his daughters **Margaret** and **Joan** to be paid when they are twenty two years old. If any of the aforesaid children die, their legacy or legacies shall remain to their mother for the better provision of "the child she now goeth with if it lives" Wife **Anne Drewett** residuary legatee and executrix. By the inventory taken **15th May 1706**, his good including corn and livestock amounted to one thousand, three hundred and fifty three pounds.

DYETT- **George Dyett** of Bratton, yeoman, **22nd May 1707**, to his wife **Mary Dyett** as long as she remains a widow, all his household goods and stock, which after her widowhood are to equally divided amongst his children **George Dyett**, **Nicholas Dyett** and **Mary Dyett** the said three children to be joint executors and executrix, and "to go equally alike in all things" He entreats his uncle **Anthony Bell** of Upton Scudamore, yeoman and **Stephen Clarke** of Whitbourne in the parish of Corsley, clothier, to take the trouble and care upon them of being executors in trust to see his will performed, giving them full power to do anything as they think fitting for the good of his wife and children.

Please Note :

Wiltshire Notes & Queries was published over several volumes by **G. Simpson & Co. Devizes, Wiltshire**, between 1893 and 1916 as an **Antiquarian and Genealogical journal**, the volumes cover many parishes within the county, all volumes are freely available to search on-line. I have chosen to concentrate on **Bratton parish** for the purposes of producing this transcript.