

Will of Dame Elizabeth Freke, 1639.

I Dame Elizabeth Freke, widdow, late wife of Sr Thomas Freke of Iwerne Courtney ats Shroton in the county of Dorsett Knight being aged & now weake of body doe hereby this second day of December 1639 make this my last will. My body to bee buried in the vault of the church of Iwerne Courtney where my late husband Sr Thomas Freke was buried, decently & without pompe. And concerninge my leases plate Jewells goods & chattles wherewith it hath pleased God to bless mee either as executrix vnto my late ffather M^r John Taylor or as executrix vnto my frste husband M^r francis Smith or any wayes by my late husband Sr Thomas Freke I bequeathe the same in manner followinge. I doe give vnto my sonne Francis Smith the sume of three hundred pounds. Vnto my sonne Robt Freke three hundred pounds. I forgive my sonne Raufe his debt of fflower hundred pounds. Vnto my sonne Thomas Freke three hundred pounds. Vnto my sonne William Freke ffive hundred pounds and I forgive him the one hundred pounds hee owes mee. Vnto my daughter Jane Tregonwell my Jewell adorned with a blew Saphire some Rubies & Diamonds & my coach & furniture therevnto belonging, and to my sonne Tregonwell the ffifty pounds which hee oweth mee to buy him coach horses. Vnto my loveing daughter the Lady Covert a ringe of fforty pounds price as a token of my love. Vnto my fflower daughters in lawe twenty pounds apiece. Vnto my grandchild John Horsey one hundred pounds. Twoc hundred pounds to purchase annuity for Elizabeth the daughter of Sr George Horsey K^{nt}. The foresaid John Horsey brother of said Elizabeth. Vnto my grandchildren Mabell Hastings, Frances Hastings and her three brothers, Katherine daughter of my sonne Robert Freke, Francis Smith. Vnto my cousin Christopher Langley one hundred pounds. Vnto Richard Dun my apprentice ffive pounds. I doe forgive my cozen Elizabeth Meggs the ten pounds arrere of her rent. I appointe my Executor to bestowe one hundred pounds in blackes for mourninge to my owne somes and daughter Tregonwell and to such servants as my Executor shall thinke fitt. And I doe ordayne my sonne John Freke executor. And I doe will that my said executor shall sell my chayne of perle consistinge of ffive lincks. And doe make M^r Doctor Wood and Richard Rogers Esq^r overseers, and for their paynes I give them a piece of plate of the value of tenn pounds a piece. Probatum decimo septimo die ffebruarij 1640 Juramento Johannis Freke filij d^{ce} defunet.

P.C.C. 19 Evelyn.

Sir Thomas Freke of Ewern Courtney, son of Robert Freke, Esq., one of the Tellers of the Exchequer in the reigns of Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth, was a person of considerable note in the county of Dorset. The parish church of Ewern Courtney (a place more generally known as Shroton) was rebuilt by him in 1614. It is a typical specimen of the church architecture of the period. The burial place of the Frekes is at the higher end of the north aisle and is enclosed by wooden screens curiously carved with corbel heads and pinnacles and scroll work, the cornice of one of which supports the Arms of Taylor of Lidgate. Within, a stately monument commemorates Sir Thomas, who died in 1633, and Dame Elizabeth. A long and eloquent inscription records their virtues. On their escutcheon—Freke, Sable two bars Or, in chief two mullets of the same, impales Taylor quartering Beniclere and Cely. The Crest is a bull's head couped Sable, horned Or. The matches of their numerous children are indicated by other shields. There is a full pedigree of the Frekes in Hutchins' "History of Dorset," vol. iv. From Ralph Freke, a younger son of Sir Thomas, descend the Hussey-Frekes of Hannington in Wiltshire. It was William Freke, brother of Sir Thomas, who became the ancestor of the Frekes, Baronets of West Bilney in Norfolk, and of the Evans-Frekes, Barons Carbury.