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**Selected Wills of West Northamptonshire  
1500-1700AD**

complete text transcriptions of  
a series of 556 wills  
for the neighbouring villages of

**Ashby St Ledger  
Barby (including Onley)  
Braunston  
Crick  
Kilsby**

researched, transcribed and analysed by  
Grenville W. Hatton

including historical contextual notes and cross-references

"Is my team ploughing,  
That I was used to drive  
And hear the harness jingle  
When I was man alive?"

Ay, the horses trample,  
The harness jingles now;  
No change, though you lie under  
The land you used to plough.

From *A Shropshire Lad* by A.E. Houseman

## **Introduction**

The study of will transcripts can provide information of at least four main types:

- Specific details of individual people, their occupations and their family genealogy.
- Evidence of changing patterns of religious belief and religious practice.
- Evidence of friendships and social relationships within the community and between communities
- Evidence of social growth and change, particularly in respect of occupation and disposable wealth (and especially when coupled with the Inventories and Administrations that relate to the wills).

These transcriptions were made as part of a research programme to study the above factors, for a contiguous group of villages in W. Northamptonshire, over the period AD1500-1700.

The choice of a group of contiguous villages was deliberately made. Most existing studies of this type have concentrated either on a single community or on several geographically separated communities – and this has made it difficult to study effects which may relate to factors within the larger community existing between neighbouring villages. It is hoped that this study will overcome such difficulties.

The period is chosen because it encompasses, in religious terms, the original mediaeval English catholic church, the Reformation and Dissolution, the various contrary heretical persecutions under the successive Tudor monarchs, the Gunpowder Plot, the Civil War, the Protectorate, the Restoration, the Purge of Puritans in 1662, and finally the Toleration Act of 1689; and in social terms because it embraces the growth of the weaving trade in this area, and the change in England's social structure, from a land of feudalism, mediaeval religion, illiteracy and magic, to a land where education and literacy had dispelled much mediaeval ignorance, the balance of power had shifted from crown to parliament, and the visionary foreign policies of the Protectorate had provided a solid practical foundation for the revolutions in commerce and industry that were to follow during the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The area is chosen because it appears interesting from the religious point of view – John Wycliffe was rector of Lutterworth some 7-8 miles to the north, his ideas giving rise to long-term Lollard beliefs in this region from the 1380s right up until the Reformation and into the 1540s; Robin Catesby fomented part of the (Catholic recusant) Gunpowder Plot at his mother's manor in Ashby St Ledger in 1604-5; Kilsby was noted for its long-term nonconformist beliefs – as an early Puritan village during the 1580s, as a hotbed of Puritanism in the early days of the Civil War in 1642, and later in 1663 when it set up the first Independent chapel in the area; while William Laud, the noted Anglican scourge of Puritans, was pluralist rector of Crick both during the 1620s and after he became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1633. Braunston and Barby provide a relatively neutral background and a basis for comparison. Finally, the deserted village of Onley lies within Barby parish, and its desertion occurred during this period.

### **Availability of Material**

Over the period 1500-1700, the Northamptonshire Record Office's archive listings for records of wills show that a total of almost 550 wills are listed for the neighbouring villages of:

- Ashby St Ledger      60
- Barby                      94
- Braunston                138
- Crick                        150
- Kilsby                      102

However, NRO's original indices of will records were compiled in 1888, but the wills themselves were not microfilmed until the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. During the intervening century, some of the earliest wills deteriorated irrecoverably – so the present microfilm records have lost one or two of the very earliest 16<sup>th</sup> century wills that are mentioned in the index lists for the chosen villages.

In addition, a number of wills for these communities are kept at the Public Record Office, as follows:

- Ashby St Ledger      5
- Barby                      14

- Braunston 20
- Crick 16
- Kilsby 14

### **Text Transcripts**

The texts are transcribed on the following pages. A total of 2 electronic files is presented, as follows:

- a) MS Word document containing the full text transcripts of all wills (this document). All spellings are preserved exactly as written. The only changes made to the orthography are to add capital letters for names, to rationalise the representation of numbers and cash-sums, so as to make for easier analysis, and to add modern punctuation. Where a probate record is also attached to the will, the Latin text is abbreviated to avoid needless repetition, and only key items are mentioned, such as the probate date and the inventory total cash value (if given).
- b) MS Word document containing a glossary and list of terms used in wills and inventories, as originally compiled by the late Mr. E.W. Timmins in 1997 (with some additions by myself). This document was of assistance in transcribing and understanding some of the terms named among the bequests in the wills, and I am indebted to his estate for permission to use this material.

In document (a), the wills are listed by chronological order of the date at which they were written and witnessed. In most of the earlier cases, probate follows within a few days, weeks or months, but in one or two of the early cases and many of the later cases, there is a significant gap between the date of making the will and the date of proving it (in one case there is an apparent lapse of 21 years – though it is almost certain that this is merely a clerk’s error in transcribing the will).

In one or two key places, short “General Notes” are inserted between the entries, to assist in making historical sense of the records. For example, in the mid-1550s, where successive disastrous periods of heavy rain led to successive failure of the harvest and there was also a subsequent nationwide epidemic – a situation which also arose during the late 1590s – the peaks of will-making and probate records at these points clearly bear a direct relation, not only in terms of their dates but also regarding the nature and quantities of items bequeathed (for instance, in time of famine, a bushel of seed-corn attained a temporary value perhaps greater than coinage).

### **Abbreviations**

For the NRO wills, the numerical references are those given to the folio numbers in the original parchment record books; the following abbreviations are used to distinguish the specific volume of the 1888 index in which the wills are catalogued:

- N1 = Northants Wills 1467-1510
- NR1 = Northants & Rutland Wills 1510-1652
- N2 = Northants Wills 2nd Series 1610-1644
- NR3 = Northants & Rutland Wills 3rd Series 1603-1652
- N4 = Northants Wills 4th Series 1652-1675
- N3 = Northants Wills 3rd Series 1676-1704

- F = Folio number

Wills held at the Public Record Office are referred to by their PRO index reference, which has the following typical format:

PROB 11/xxx, where xxx is a 3-digit number

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**TERMS USED IN INVENTORIES**  
**Glossary compiled by E.W. Timmins, Aug 1997**

**4 suuar** - four-square.

**Almere** - see Aumbry.

**Amere** - see Aumbry.

**Andirons** = firedogs - always in pairs;

1. for an open-hearth fire: two tripods joined by an iron billet bar, each tripod standing on three short legs, one being at the rear, and two at the front at the end of an upright pillar, usually ornamented. Hooks on the uprights supported a spit. The billet bar propped up the burning logs, and hooks on each upright carried the spit. {IEH}
2. For the down wall-hearth, there was no billet bar, and the two end-tripods were placed on each side of the hearth for the spit to span the fire. {Bm,Bk,D,IEH}
3. when singular, see landiron.

**Andorrines** - see Andirons.

**And vill** = anvil.

**Angenees** = hangings.

**Aprie ware** = napery ware - linen

**Ant iron** - see Andiron -3)

**Atre** = axle-tree - the wooden beam fixed to the underside of the frame of a cart, on the ends of which the wheels rotate. {D,O}

**Auger** - a carpenter's wood-bit for boring holes in wood, with a tapered screw point and a cutting edge, turned by a bar fixed at the other end. {D,Lf,O}

**Aule** = hall.

**Aumbry** - a wooden cupboard or locker, with the doors pierced for ventilation, used for the storage of food - usually prepared. {Bm,D,N,O,}

**Avin** - probably = pledged, from ME a<sup>3</sup>en = owe, be under obligation. {SMED}

**Bade** = bed.

**Backstool** - see Bakstole.

**Bakstole** - single chair with a high broad cushioned seat and a sloping padded back, but without arms. It is supposed to have been designed for women wearing dresses having skirts hooped with whalebone, in fashion early in the seventeenth century. {D,JW}

**Bale** = boale - bole - boule - bowl.

**Bankar**

1. a cloth, carpet or tapestry to cover a bench or chair. {B,D,H}
2. a flat squab cushion for a form. {N}
3. an embroidered cushion. {EC}

**Bare (Cart)** - a flat cart without covering or sides, as opposed to a bound cart. {D,N}

**Barrenes** = barns.

**Barialle** = barrel

**Barige** = barren.

**Baron blanket** - a child's or bairn's blanket. {H}

**Barrel of herring** - 30 gallons fully packed. {STM}

**Barrel of salmonde** - 42 gallons fully packed. {STM}

**Barrel of sope** - 280 lbs. of soap; the barrel weighed 32 lbs., the soap 248 lbs. {STM}

**Barrel of vinacre** - 30 gallons. {STM}

**Bassen rope** - rope of plaited straw or rush. {Li}

**Baydstede** - see Bedstead.

**Beak iron** - see Bick horn.

**Bear leep** - an open basket. {Bk,D,N}

**Bed**

1. usually refers to the mattress. {E}
2. may include bedstead with mattress, pillow, bolster, sheets and coverlet. {E}

**Bedstead** - the frame of a bed which supported the mattress and clothes. The sides of the frame were perforated horizontally with holes through which strong cords were laced to and fro, to form a tight

net-like base for a woven rush mat. On this were laid the mattress, flock or feather beds. {D,F,Li,IGS}.

**Bedstick** = bedstead.

**Bedstock** - see Bedstead.

**Bekehorne** - see Bick horn.

**Berils** = barrells.

**Besthe** = beasts

**Beting blocke** = beating block - heavy baulk of wood for beating out metalwork.

**Bick horn** - the anvil with two pointed ends called bicks or beaks. {D,VB}

**Bill** = billhook.

**Bladyren** - ?

**Blether** = bladder. {HI}

**Boddie geares** - the body- or girth-harness of a horse for securing the saddle etc.

**Bolke** = baulk - beam of timber laid horizontally, as in a timber-framed house. {S}

**Bolster**

1. a long stuffed pillow used to support the sleeper's head, or used as an underpillow. {SOED}

2. a heavy block of metal or timber used as a support for bending or beating metal.

**Bolting House** - the room where meal and flour were sifted and prepared. {D,N,}

**Boltinge whiche** = bolting tubbe - a bin for sifting flour or meal {Lf}

**Boltyng howse holle** - the hovel, hutch, bin or whiche for sifting flour or meal {Bk,Lf}

**Bolxstere** - see Bolster.

**Bord**

1. The flat top of a table, always appraised separately from the frame or trestle on which it stood, being fixed with removable wooden pegs. {D,Lf,Li}

2. Removable floor boards in use when first-floors were introduced in the mid-16th. century. {D,F,N,O}

**Bord clothe** - table cloth made from a variety of materials, identical to a carpet; {Bm,D,E,Lf,N,O}

**Borde** - see Bord -2)

**Borded bedes** = borden bedstead - bedstead which had panels or wainscot either at the head or at both ends. {F}

**Bordes** = floor boards, see Bord -2).

**Botanes** = botham = bothom - a skein of wool or yarn. {Lf}

**Bottell** ?

**Boultinge Howse** - see Bolting House.

**Bound (Cart)** - a cart with sides and sometimes covering, as opposed to a bare cart. {D.N}

**Boxter** - see Bolster - 1).

**Boyttes** = boots.

**Brake** - a baker's kneading trough. {H,Lf,SJ}

**Brake** with a yern pyne - an implement with an iron handle used by bakers for kneading bread. {Lf,Li}

**Branders** - see Brandiron.

**Brandiron** - iron grid or trivet with short legs, sometimes with a long handle, for supporting cooking vessels over or in front of an open fire. {D,Lf,F,IEH,Li}

**Brandreth** - see Brandiron.

**Broches** - tools for enlarging holes. {VB}

**Broose** = brass.

**Brundart** - see Brandiron

**Brundord** - see Brandiron.

**Bryssed** - damaged, bruised. {SMED}

**Buffet stooles** - a high stool for use at the long table; a foot stool. {D,Lf,Li}

**Bulck** = baulk.

**Bultyng House** - see Bolting House.

**Burnt iron** - see brandiron.

**Buttres** - farrier's tool used to pare the hooves of horses in farriery. {D,E,H}

**Bwllokis** = bullocks.

**C** = one hundredweight.

1. tallow = 112 lbs.

2. lead = 112 lbs.

3. stockfish = 120 lbs.

4. haberdine = 124 lbs.

5. salt fish = 124 lbs.
6. lead = 112 lbs.
7. iron = 112 lbs. {STM}

**Cambrell** - a crooked and notched stick or iron upon which a carcass is hung when the butcher cuts it up. The notches receive the sinews of the legs by which the carcass is suspended. {D,HI,Le}

**Candleboxe** - a cylindrical metal box with two lugs for hanging on a wall horizontally. A hinged lid gave access to the candles inside. {HI,IEH}

**Canis**

1. cannes = cans - cylindrical drinking vessels. {D, Lf}
2. canvis = canvas - a fine unbleached cloth made of hemp or flax, used for sheets, clothes, etc. {D,Lf}

**Capcase** - a small travelling case or bandbox. {D}

**Cappysse**

1. capuche = capuchon - a hood;
2. capuchin - a female garment consisting of a pointed hood and cloak; both in imitation of the garb of a Capuchin monk. {EC,SJ,SOED}

**Cardes** - always in pairs; implements similar to wire brushes for separating and combing out the fibres of wool, hemp, etc. They comprised two flat rectangular bats with handles, the surface of each covered with a piece of stretched skin into which an array of iron pins had been inserted. The fibres were fluffed and aligned in one direction by brushing between the bats. {Bm,D,F,Lf,Li,N,O,SW}

**Carpet** - a cloth for covering a cupboard, table, bench, etc. made from a variety of materials; not at this period for a floor covering. {D,Lf,Li,O}

**Carpet cushion** - a thin cushion for chairs, benches or other seating. {D}

**Carpett** - see Carpet.

**Carpitt** - see Carpet

**Carrsye** = Kersey

**Cart** - a two-wheeled horse-drawn farm vehicle with two wheels as opposed to the four-wheeled wagon or wain. {D,N}

**Cartrope** - probably a rope to secure a load on to a cart.

**Caster**

1. A hat originally of best quality beaver fur, or an imitation made of rabbit skin; beaver fur. {Bk,F}
2. A cloak. {HI}

**Cauche** - see Cratche

**Cauldron** - a large metal container, usually of iron or bronze, with three short legs and a pair of handles for liquids, stews, etc. to stand over the fire. {D,F,IEH,Lf,N}

**Cawderne** - see Cauldron

**Cawdle pot** = caudle cup - used for hot drinks of hot milk or gruel, curdled with wine or ale. {F,D}

**Ceiling**

1. oak (wainscot) or other wooden panelling. As in this case, it was used as a screen against draughts or the fire, and sometimes consisted only of a small panel placed behind a chair, bench or form. {O,Lf,D}
2. panelling at the head, foot, or canopy of a tester or four-poster bed. {D,O}

**Cellenge** = hilling

**Certen** = curtain.

**Chafer** - a small enclosed brazier containing hot coals, usually charcoal, on which a chafing dish was set for heating food and drink. {Bk,D,Lf,Li,N,O,}

**Chafing dishe** - a metal dish, often with three short legs, to be placed on a chafer (qv.) for keeping food warm. {F,Lf},

**Chape** = shop.

**Charger** - large platter or dish for meat, the largest in a garnish of pewter. {Bm,D,N,O}

**Cheese cratch** - see Cheese rack.

**Cheese rack** - a wooden rack for the storage of cheeses while curing. {D,F,IPI}.

**Cheese vat** - a metal cauldron or wooden mould or vat with a tap at its base, into which the heated milk was poured and left covered overnight to ripen. Rennet was added to form curds, before being transferred to the cheese press {Bm,F,N}

**Cheffate** - see Chafer.

**Chelffes** = shelves.

**Ches fattes** = cheese vats

**Chettes** = sheets,

**Chize crache** - see Cheese rack.

**Chorne** = churn

**Chosonis** = cushions

**Churpnie** = churn.

**Chusenes** = cushions.

**Civer** = kiving vat

1. a large wooden tub used in dairying for the making of whey.

2. a large wooden tub used in brewing, for cooling the liquor after fermentation before being poured into the cask. {B&B,F}

**Clyng fatt** = cooling vat

**Cobards** - see Cobirons.

**Cobberdes** - see Cobirons.

**Cobbert** = cupboard (usually singular)

**Cobbertes** - cobberds etc. - see Cobirons . Always in pairs, so distinguishing them from cupboards, which often have the same spellings. {Lf,Li}

**Cobirons** - standing spit racks, usually in pairs, consisting of iron bars fitted with regularly spaced hooks to carry the spits over the fire. There were three types; one leaned against the back of the hearth; another had a rear leg for support, and a third stood upright, free-standing on a tripod foot.

{Bm,F,IEH,Li,N,O}

**Coffer** - a wooden box or chest, often covered with leather, used for storing clothes and valuables, including money. {F,N,O}

**Coordes** - leather thongs, from Cordova leather.

**Corne** = querne

**Couch bed** - day bed. {Li}

**Coverhill** - see Hillinge

**Coverlid** - see Hillinge.

**Coverlet** - see Hillinge.

**Coverus** = coffers.

**Cowle** = cooler - a large shallow tub or cask of wood, about 1 ft. deep, in which malt liquor, milk, etc., is left to cool. {Bk,Bm,C,D,F,Lf,O}

**Cownterfet dyshes** - porringers. {D,EC}

**Cowpry ware** - utensils made of copper.

**Cowrese** = cowryse - coarse (cloth)

**Cratche**

1. a rack to hold fodder for horses or cattle; {B,D,Lf,O}

2. a storage rack, eg. for cheese. {Lf}

**Crate** - see Cratche

**Cratt** - see Cratche

**Crocryne** = saffron coloured. Croker is a grower of saffron. {Hl,Lf}

**Crowe of irone** = crowbar, a strong bar of iron used as a lever {Bm,D,F,Lf,N}

**Crowghes** = crowbars.

**Cubberd** - (one) = cupboard.

**Cubberdes** - (a pair) see Cobirons.

**Cuffer**

1. see coffer

2. a template for forming gloves (cuffes) {Hl,PrP}

**Cuppes** = drinking vessels.

**Curbe** - the curved low walling of stone or brick round the head of a well. {SOED}

**Dabnett** = dobnets - a small cooking vessel {D,Lf} Dechese = dishes.

**Dewable** = duable - convenient or proper. {Le}

**Deyhouse** = dairy {B,F,O,Lf}

**Dieaper** = diaper - twilled linen cloth, woven with diamond or other geometrical patterns, and used mainly for napkins, table-cloths or towels. {F,O,Lf,Li,SOED}

**Doecover** - a cover over the kneaded dough, to allow it to rise.

**Disen** = dozen.

**Dog** - iron tyre-dog - a long lever having a hooked end, used to fit a hot iron tyre over the rim of a cart-wheel. {F,VB,VW}

**Dosser** = dorsar - a hanging put on the lower part of a wall behind a seat or bench as a protection against draughts. {O}

**Drage** = a garden or farmyard rake.

**Draschere** - see Dresserboard.

**Draught nett** - woven material used as a curtain against draughts.

**Drawe** - to remove the dishes etc. from a table after a meal. {HI}

**Drawing cupboard** - a small cupboard or hutch pushed under a table, to hold the used dishes etc. after being cleared from the table.

**Dregge corn** = draget - a mixture of oats and barley grown together. {D,EF,H,PrP}

**Dresserboard**

1. a board or table on which food was prepared or laid out. {D,Lf,Li,O,}
2. Dresser - a table or sideboard for the display of plate and other valuables. {F,Lf,O}

**Drinkyn clothes** -

**Dwkis** = ducks.

**Dyschbensch** - see Dresserboard.

**Earelinges** = yearlings.

**Ell** - cloth measurement of length. The English ell was usually 45 inches {STM} but also 42 inches {D}. Flemish 27 inches. {STM}

**Elne** - see Ell.

**Erthen stenne** - see Steane.

**Eyeling House** - aleing house = brewing house.

**Eyrne** = iron.

**Fairing** - fayringe - a present at or from a fair. {HI}

**Falling tabell** - a folding table, a table with a fixed centre board and two hinged drop-down flaps supported on hinged gates, now a gate-legged table. {D, E}

**Farges** = Verjuice

**Fatt** = vat.

**Fatte** - vat, tub, cask {Li,N}

**Fearne** = firing, fire wood.

**Fefer** = feoffer - a trustee. {SOED}

**Fermes** - rents. {PrP,SMED}

**Fether bed** - a mattress stuffed with feathers. {E}

**Finding** - keeping, maintaining or supporting a person. {SOED}

**Fire shovle pane** - a flat spade type of shovel, used particularly to remove ashes from a baking oven; often called a slice. {F,Li}

**Fires** - see Furze.

**Flakes** - wattled hurdles of hazel or osier. {D, L, SOED}

**Flasket**

1. oblong or oval tub for washing clothes. {D}
2. a long oval shallow basket with a handle at each end, for carrying clothes. {F, Lf, Li, O, N}
3. a small bottle or flask. {Lf, Li, O, N}

**Fleakes** - see Flakes.

**Fleeche** = flitch - side of bacon or other meat, cured and commonly hung from hooks in the ceiling. {D, Li}

**Fleexe** - see Flakes

**Flesh shette** - possibly a canvas sheet with handles for carrying a carcass.

**Flesh tree**

1. a cambrell with a cross-piece in place of a crook. {HI}
2. see Tree.Floer = flower - floor. {Lf}

**Flour** = floor

**Flower pots**

1. flower pots {D}
2. vessels for holding flour.

**Focer** - see Forcer {HI}

**Forcer** - a small coffer or chest, usually covered with leather and bound with iron bands, and with a lock, used for safe-keeping of jewellery, documents and other valuables; a strong-box. {D,HA,HI, Lf,O,PH,PrP,SOED}

**Forcerer** - see Forcer {PrP}

**Fores** - see Furze.

**Fornnitughte** - see Furniture.

**Foser** - see Forcer {Lf}

**Fosser** - see Forcer {HA}

**Francke** - an enclosure for feeding hogs; a sty. {SJ,SOED}

**Frankpan** - frying pan. {D,Lf} **Frinte** - possibly from Fent - a remnant of cloth {HI}

**Frinte** - possibly from Fent - a remnant of cloth. {HI}

**Furnace** = fornace - The precise nature is not certain. A vessel or cauldron for heating water for washing, or for boiling the wort in brewing. It was usually made of a brass alloy, but at times was referred to as a "lead", and often had its own fire underneath, rather like the modern "copper".

{Al,Bm,E,HI,Lf,O}

**Furniture** - when unspecified, the bed coverings, hangings with valances, etc.

**Furnitures** = harness and other equipment.

**Furze** - gorse, used in heating bread-ovens; kindling. {D,Li,SOED}

**Fyre staffe** - fire hook for pulling down thatch in the event of a fire.

**Fyrres** - see Furze.

**Fyndeng** = finding.

**Gardner** = garner.

**Garne** = garner.

**Garner** -

1) a chest, ark or bin made of planks of split oak wedged and pegged together, for storage of meal or grain. {D,F,Lf,O}

2) a storeroom. {D}

**Garner witche** - see Garner.

**Garnish** = garniture

1) appurtenances, ie. a full set of harness. {SOED}

2) a complete set of 12 each of platters, dishes, saucers, cups and plates, usually in pewter. {D,N,}

**Geares** = horse harness, especially for the plough, and for carts, etc. {F,N,O}

**Girdle** - a woven belt worn round the waist for securing clothes or to carry a purse, often ornamental. {{D,N,SOED}}

**Gone** = gown

**Grid iron** - a square or circular platform of iron bars, with short feet and a long handle, used for cooking meat over a fire. {Bm,D,FCI,IEH,Lf,Li,N,O}

**Gyedill** see girdle.

**Gyrd yron** = grid iron.

**Gyrkyn** = jerkin.

**Habberdyne** = salted stockfish, a dried salt cod. {SJ,STM}

**Hachamber** = hack hammer

1) pick-axe. {D}

2) a blacksmith's hammer {O}

**Hackel** - see Hatchel

**Hackney saddle** - saddle for a hackney or ordinary riding horse {D,F,LF}

**Hair cloth** - a coarse open fabric made from horse hair, for straining or drying malt. {Lf,Li}

**Haire sieve** - a sieve made of hair cloth.(qv.)

**Halling** - see Paynted Cloithes.

**Handiron** - see Andiron.

**Hangings** - wall hangings of painted cloths (qv.) in imitation of tapestry, or stained canvas, to keep out draughts in the main living and sleeping quarters. {B,E,N,}

**Harden** - see Hurden

**Hardine** - see Hurden

**Harroe timber** - spare beams for the harrow frame, possibly used as ballast to hold the harrow firmly to the ground. {E}

**Harth hamber** = hearth hammer ?

**Hatchel** - an iron comb for hackling or dressing hemp, ie. to separate the coarse and fine fibres. {Lf,PrP}

**He awter** = high altar.

**Heakle** - see Hatchel

**Heare cloth** - see hair sieve

**Heard** = shepherd

**Heilthin** - see Hilling.

**Hekele** - see Hatchel.

**Helnes** - see Ells.

**Herdyng** - see Hurden.

**Hetchell** - see Hatchell.

**Heward** = heyward.

**Hilling** - covering, mainly applied to beds, but sometimes to tables. {Bm,D,Lf,N,O}

**Hodge** - see Hogg

**Hoffel** - see Hovel.

**Hodge** = pig or hog.

**Hodhstye** = pigstye.

**Hogg**

1) a sheep of either sex from 6 months old to shearing. {D,Lf}

2) a hog or pig {Lf,F}

**Hoggerel** - a sheep of either sex after the first shearing. {Le,SOED}

**Hoggit** - see Hogg.

**Holland** - a fine, high quality linen fabric, originally made in Holland. {Bk,D,Li, SOED}

**Holle** = whole, complete.

**Hoole** = wool.

**Hoope**

1) a quart pot, so-called because it was bound with iron hoops. {D,F}

2) a corn measure of 4 pecks, ie. a fourth of a bushel. {B,D,F}

**Hordelles** = hurdles.

**Hordern** - see Hurden.

**Horse locke**

1) a hobble fetter, or shackle for a horses foot, to prevent it from straying. {D,N}

2) an iron collar marked with the owner's initials, with a lock, to establish identity. {D}

**Hovell** -

1) a wooden frame for drying hay or peas, sometimes with a thatched cover and raised off the ground on stilts or "crotches" against damp and marauding animals. {D,Li,EF}

2) a usually open-sided outhouse, with sufficient protection from the weather, for storing timber or produce. {Li,Lf,D}

**Hovell timber** - wood used in the construction of hovels of either sort.

**Howckes** = hooks

**Howthe** - see Hutch

**Hurden sheetes** - made from hurds, the coarse part of flax or hemp. {D,Lf,Li,O}

**Hurdes** = hyrde - the coarse fibres or tow of flax or hemp, separated out with a hatchel {Lf.PrP}

**Hussel** - see Hovell.

**Huswyff clothe** - linen of rough quality for household use.

**Hutch** - a chest, box, tub or bin. {B,Lf,O} Hwtsch - see Hutch.

**Hwtsch** - see Hutch.

**Hyffes** = bee hives. {N}

**Hyngyng** - see Hangings.

**Implements** - items of use. {Lat. implere = to employ}

**Incle** = inkle - a kind of linen tape. {D,Lf,Li}

**Inkelt** - see Incle.

**Ironbound cart** - a cart with iron tyres to the wheels.. {VW}

**Iron torne** - an iron spindle on which the grindstone rotates. {D,O}

**Joyned** - a quality piece of furniture made by a joiner, of framed construction with mortice and tenon joints fixed with wooden dowels. {Bm,F,IEH,O}

**Joyned bed** - a plain four-poster and tester, having turned posts and made by a joiner. {Lf,Li,O}

**Joyned table** - a board or table-top supported by a joiner-made box frame with turned legs and morticed stretchers.

**Kenefer** - probably Civer or Kiving vat. (qv.)

**Kennell** - see Kimmel -1)

**Kerchyffe** - a cloth used to cover the head; a woman's head-dress; an amice. {SOED}

**Kersey** - coarse narrow cloth woven from long wool, usually ribbed; originally from Kersey in Suffolk.

{SOED,D}

**Kettle** - an open cooking pot or pan with semi-circular handles, one on each side, to suspend it over the fire. The modern type did not come into use until the 18th. century. {D,F, Lf,L}

**Kilne** - a tall wooden frame covered with a hair cloth [see kylne heyre] (D,Lf,O)

**Kimell** - see Kimnel -3)

**Kimnel**

1) a household tub of various sizes and purposes. {Bk,D,HI,O}

2) a large wooden vessel or tub used for whey. {Le}

3) a tub for kneading dough, brewing or salting meat. {Bm,HI}

**Kivar** - see Civer.

**Kiverlid** = coverlet.

**Kye** - cows {D,F,Lf,Li}

**Kylne heyre** = hair cloth, coarse open fabric made from horse hair, used for drying malt or hops over a straw fire. {D,Lf}

**Kymnell** = kimnel

**Landiron** - often confused with andiron, but is invariably singular - it is a pair of andirons connected by a bar.

**Laste** = last - a cobbler's last, the wooden model of a foot, on which footwear was shaped.

{D,Li,O,SOED}

**Lather** = ladder. {Bm,F,Lf}

**Latten** - brass; an alloy of copper and zinc, but it may include tin or lead. {D,Lf}

**Lattist** - lattice frame for a window [D]

**Laundrene** - see Landiron.

**Lavare**

1) a hand-washing basin, used particularly before and after meals, at a time when food was eaten mainly with the fingers.

2) a cistern or trough. {Bm,D,Lf,N,O}

**Lave** - see Laver.

**Lead** - a large leaden vat or cauldron for heating water for brewing. {Lf, D}

**Leade witch** = a malt-bin made of lead rather than wood.

**Leare** - lair, a place for beasts to lie down. {SOED}

**Leed** - see Lead.

**Leide** - see Lead.

**Leis** = leas - a division of a hank of yarn. The number of leas spun from a pound of flax gave the "count number" of the yarn, the greater the number of leas gave the higher count-number, and so the finer the yarn, and the greater the length of thread. Today, in worstead = 80 yards; in cotton and silk = 120 yards; in linen = 300 yards. {B,D,F&L,O}

**Lettes** - see Lead.

**Lime** = Lyme - skins were steeped for months in vats of lime and water to whiten them. {Li}

**Lime House** - the outhouse or room where the liming process was carried out on leather.

**Locker** - a key for the horse lock.

**Lomb** - Lome - loombe - loome - loume - see Loome

**Loome**

1) an open vessel or tub.

2) a weaver's loom. {D,Lf}

**Lowe bed** - see Truckle bed.

**Lowle** - probably = Loome.

**Lynen while** = linen wheel - spinning wheel for linen. {Lf}

**Malt mill** - a mill for grinding dried malt into grist. {B&B,F}

**Manchester binedinge** - ?

**Marke** = 13s. 4d. = £2/3

**Maschyng fatt** - vat in which malt grist is mixed or mashed in hot water to form malt sugars made in the first stage of brewing, and then to separate the grist from the wort. {B&B,B,D,Li,Lf,O,}

**Mat and cord** - holes were bored horizontally through the frame of a bed, through which strong cords were laced to and fro, to form a net-like base for a woven rush mat. On this were placed mattresses, flock or feather beds. {D,F,Li} See Bedstead]

**Matt** - see Mat and cord.

**Mattirs** = mattress.

**Maule** = meal - ground grain. {Li}

**Maulle** mill = malt mill

**Meale** - mele - a bucket or measure used for milk or meal. {Lf,O}

**Melch beast** - a milking cow. {D,HI}

**Mo** = more

**Moldynbwrde** = moulding board - board on which dough or pastry was kneaded and shaped.

{B,D,F,N,O,}

**Morrycot** = murry - a mulberry or morello coloured coat. {D}

**Moundinge** - an enclosing fence or hedge, which could be of earth, or a dead hedge, or other material to hand.

**Musterd curnes** = querns for grinding mustard seed.

**Myddlynge** - ?

**Nabckekines** = napkins.

**Namberye** -see Aumbry.

**Napery ware** = linen.

**Nayle toyle** = tool or die for forging nails.

**Neather Howse** - smaller or lower house; sometimes an outhouse {O}

**Nobolle** = noble - 6s. 8d. = half a mark

**Ode** = odd. (not "old").

**Oetemeale bassket** - a basket to hold oatmeal

**Ole** = wool. {HI}

**Ooys** = ewes.

**Or cheard** = orchard.

**Ote Landes** - selions or strips of land in the common field, sown with oats.

**Other**

1) (adj. following 'with') - remaining, the rest of; {SOED}

2) (adj. following 'with') - various, of a different kind from those already mentioned. {SOED}

3) (adv. following 'and') - besides, moreover. {SOED}

**Outmarkettes** - shops and stalls in the streets adjacent to the market square.

**Owell tembur** = hovel timber.

**Packe saddle** - saddle with straps for carrying packs or loads. {D,F}

**Pale** = bucket or pail.

**Pales** = pails - posts or stakes for fencing {D,O}

**Pannell** = a cloth under a saddle to prevent galling of the horses back.

**Pannyars** = panniers - a pair of baskets carried by a horse for a variety of goods. {D,F}

**Paynted cloithes** - cloth or canvas sheets, painted with biblical, classical or mythical scenes, patterns of flowers or trees, mottoes or figured designs. A cheap substitute for tapestry, used mainly as wall or bed hangings to keep out draughts, and also for bed covers. {E,D}

**Paynted cloithes in platte** - painted cloths laid flat as floor covering {HI}

**Payre of caubardes** - see Cobirons.

**Pease cloth** - a coarse muslin cloth for straining peas, used as an additive in making strong ("March") beer. {O}

**Peikforkes** = pitchforks.

**Pelle** = peelee - a long-handled wooden or iron shovel with a flat broad blade used to carry bread etc. into or out of the hot oven. {Bk,H,Lf,O}

**Pelo** = pillow.

**Penne - Pen**

1) a barrel kept for making vinegar. {H}

2) a child's pen: a circular frame with closed or railed sides, sometimes running on casters, for confining small children, a fore-runner of the playpen.

3) a pan, especially in a dairy.

**Penes** - sheep pens

**Pentice** = penthouse, a shed attached to the side of a house as an annex, with a sloping roof {D,SOED}

**Pesses of putter** = pieces of pewter.

**Piggen** - a small wooden vessel made in the manner of a half-barrel, with one stave longer than the rest for a handle. {D,HI}

**Piling** = pillion - a light saddle fixed behind the main saddle to carry a second rider, usually a woman. {D,F,Li}

**Pillow drares** - see Pillowbears.

**Pilladrawers** - see Pillowbears.

**Piller berse** - see Pillowbears.

**Pillowbears** - pillow cases or covers. {D,F,Lf,Li}

**Pindetclothes** = Pintado - chintz; a coloured cotton fabric generally used for hangings or cloths. {F}

**Pine** - small cask or keg to hold half a firkin or 4 ½ gallons. {D}

**Pinson** - pincers. {D,HI,N,}

**Plate dripping pannes** - a flat pan placed below the meat on a revolving spit, to catch the drips. {HI,F,D}

**Plewiche** = plough or ploughs.

**Ploonchaes** = planks of wood.

**Plow geares** - the harness, equipment and fittings of a plough. {Bk,

**Plow timber** - a collective term for all parts of a wooden plough, except the iron coulter and share. {Lf, O,

**Pooles** = wooden poles.

**Porket** - a young pig or hog fattened for eating fresh for the table. {B,Le}

**Posnyt** - much the same as a skillet.

**Posset cup** - see Caudle pot.

**Posset bowl** - see Caudle pot.

**Potenchers** = pottingers.

**Pothanggells** = pothangers

**Pothangers** - a length of chain fixed to a chimney breast, on which pot-hooks were hung. {Bm,F,Lf,O}

**Pothooks** - hooks for suspending cooking pots from the pothangles. Some were simple hooks, but most consisted of a hook at the end of an iron ratchet bar for height adjustment, with another hook at the top of the bar for hanging from the pothangle. { IEH}

**Potynting stethes** - a form of anvil, see Bick horn.

**Powdering tub** = Poudringe troughe - a tub in which meat was cured with salt and spice.

{Bk,Bm,D,F,Lf,O}

**Poykforkes** = pitchforks

**Presse**

1) a cupboard for keeping clothes, linen, etc.

2) the upper recessed section of a cupboard. {D,F,Lf,Li}

**Prickelle** = pritchel - a tapered cold chisel for punching nail holes in horseshoes. {O}

**Prychel** - see Prickelle.

**Pullaine** - poultry

**Pullyn** - poultry.

**Pyllowbere** - see Pillowbear

**Pype** - a large cask for beer or wine, normally 126 gallons or 2 hogsheads. {Lf,Li,STM}

**Qwischings** = cushions.

**Racens** - racons - see Rack irons.

**Racken** - rakentine - see Rack irons.

**Rack irons** - rackyrans - vertical iron bars hanging from a fixed bar in the chimney, with holes, hooks or ratchets to take pothooks by which to hang pots and kettles. {D}

**Rayles** - neckerchiefs or shoulder capes worn by women. {D,O}

**Rearer** - ?

**Relis** = reels on which the thread is wound from a distaff; a reel consisted of a stick with two short arms at each end like a capital "I". The yarn was skeined over the two arms. Also the spool of a spinning wheel. {B,F,N,SSW.}

**Resynges** - raisins {D,Lf}

**Rometh** - room, space. {HI}

**Runlet** - a cask of varying capacity for holding liquor. {D,F,Lf,O}

**Safe** - Saffe - a food cupboard with panels of woven hair, for ventilation. {Bm,D,Lf,Li}

**Salfe** - see safe.

**Sallit oile** = salad oil - olive oil. {L}

**Saucer** - see sawcer.

**Sawcer** - a small shallow metal dish in which sauce or condiments were placed on the table; a sauceboat. {Bm,E,Li,N}

**Save** = sieve.

**Say** - a fine serge or silken cloth used for bedcovers, hangings, table covers, etc., often dyed black. {Bk,Bm,D,F,Lf,Li,N,O}

**Scet shelves** - ?

**Schole** = sholle = showle - a shovel or a spit-shovel. {B,D,F,Li,Li,O,}

**Scummer** - see Skimmer.

**Sealynge** - see Ceiling.

**Search** - a fine sieve or strainer. {B,D,Lf,Li,O}

**Seeling** - see Ceiling.

**Sep** = skep = skip - a small willow basket or hamper. {D,Lf,Li,}

**Sesterne** = cistern - a leaden household water-container, kept indoors. {IPI,N}

**Sete** - a mould for casting metal. {Li} - a blacksmith's setting punch. {O}

**Setter** - a knife to cut the dew-lap of an ox or cow, to allow the insertion of a piece of root of the green hellebore as a purgative for infection. {Hl}

**Sevis** = sieves

**Sewter**

- 1) a wooden lid fitting inside the cheese-pan, large enough for two persons to kneel on, to crush the whey out of the curds. {Le}
- 2) a board especially for placing between cheeses in a press. {Bm}

Shakadon - shag, a rough hairy cloth; a shaggy Witney-type of woolen cloth. {F,H,SJ}

**Shakedowne** = Shakadon.

**Shielves** - shelves.

**Shipe** = sheep

**Shodd carte** - a farm cart with iron-tyred wheels. {E}

**Shoppe bord** = shopboard

- 1) a counter or table on which shop business was transacted, or goods displayed {Li}
- 2) a table or raised platform upon which tailors sat when sewing {SOED}

**Shotte** - a young weaned pig {Bm,D,H,N,O}

**Sielde** = a corruption of shield - see Ceiling.

**Sith** = scythe.

**Singulman** = bachelor

**Sivete-** ?

**Skillet** = Skalett = skellet - a cooking vessel of iron or brass, with a long handle and three short legs for standing over a fire. {D,F,Lf,Li,O,}

**Skimer** - see Skimmer.

**Skimmer**

- 1) a perforated circular flat pan of brass, copper or iron, fitted with a long handle, used for skimming off the top layer of cream from milk, or from the liquid in a cooking vessel {F,Li,IEH pl.22}
- 2) similar implement of iron for taking the ash up from the fire {D,Lf}

**Skins drest** - the light skins used for gloves was dressed by soaking them in oil, and then applying a paste of alum mixed with salt, flour and egg yolks. The process took weeks rather than months. {Li}

**Skoles**

- 1) scales: {B,Li,O,N}
- 2) sea-coal. {B,}

**Skuttle**

- 1) a basket for sifting or winnowing corn;
- 2) a large shovel for casting grain in winnowing;
- 3) a large open wickerwork basket for carrying corn, vegetables, or even for earth etc. {D}

**Sleke clothe** - smooth linen of high quality. {SMED}

**Slipe** - a large skein or of wool or yarn. {Bm,D,Lf,N}

**Slippinges** - Skeins or hanks of yarn. {Bm,D,Lf,N}

**Solt** = sollte - sault - salt-cellar {Lf}

**Soorhorse coller** - probably = shire horse collar.

**Sorrell horse** - Horse coloured reddish-brown, ie. between a bright bay and a yellow chestnut, with tail and mane either red or white. {O,SOED}

**Sossaris** = saucers.

**Speep fatt** [mis-spelling] = steep vat.

**Spitallty** = favours; from ME. specialte, ie, partiality. {SMED}

**Spyre** = spear - a peg on which to hang the towells used to wipe the hands at mealtimes. {E,O}

**Stained clothes** - see Hangings or Painted Clothes.

**Stand** - see standing.

**Standing** - stall in a stable. {H1}

**Stawel** = cattle stall.

**Stayers** = stairs

**Steane** = steene - steine - a glazed earthenware vessel with two handles, for storing food and liquids. {Lf,F}

**Steep vat** - steeping vat - a vat used for soaking malt, or in duing, or washing clothes. {D,Lf,Li}

**Stemp** = stamp - a metal-punch. {VB}

**Stethye** - a "steady" ie. an anvil. {D,E,Le,Li,N}

**Stocke**

- 1) the elm block on which an anvil stands. {Lf}
- 2) a die for making nails, screws, etc. {E}

**Stocke card** - a large wool card (see Cardes) fastened to a stock or support, used for separating and combing out fibres of wool or hemp. {D,Lf}

**Stockfysch** - cod or similar fish cured without salt, by splitting open and drying hard in the open air. {SOED}

**Stores** - store animals for fattening. {Lf}

**Stricke** = strike - a dry measure of half a bushel. {Li,Lf,D}

**Stronge water** - alcoholic spirits used as a beverage. {Lf}

**Suyes** = shoes.

**Syf rymmes** - sieve frames.

**Syis** = sieves

**Sylynge** - see Ceiling.

**Table and trestles** - the table in the 16th.century was a loose board supported on trestles, which could be folded up and stowed away to give more room. The trestles were later replaced by a braced frame. {E}

**Tack** = household furniture

**Takes** - leases, income or receipts. {PrP,SMED}

**Taloowe** = candle tallow.

**Tester** - the canopy over a bed, made of wood, often carved, or of fabric of various kinds. It could be supported on bed-posts, or suspended from the ceiling of the room {Bm,D,N,O}

**Theale** - see Thrall.

**Thilhankes**

- 1) the shafts of a horse-drawn cart or carriage. {O,SOED}
- 2) leather thongs fastened into the hames of the horse-collar. {H}

**Thole** - see Thrall.

**Thoule** - see Thrall. Thrall - stand or frame for beer barrels, milk-pans etc. {D,Lf,Li}

**Throwthe** = trough.

**Thythes** = tithes.

**Tick** - strong linen or cotton cloth to make the cases of feather- or flock-beds, bolsters or mattresses. {Bm, Bk, F, Li, O}

**Ticks** - cases in which feathers or flock were stuffed to make a feather- or a flock-bed, bolsters or mattresses. {Lf}

**Tostinge iron** - an iron frame with prongs or hoops to hold the bread, either fixed to the front bars of a fire-grate, or free standing on three legs. {D,HI}

**Tode** - a bundle or pack of wool, weighing 28 lb. {Bk,D,O,STM}

**Tollyes** = towells.

**Trace geares** - long leather straps or chains of the horse-harness connecting the collar by the hames with the cart at the swingletrees or shaft-hooks. {F,HH,SOED}

**Trappyte** - ?

**Trashes** - Trifles. {H1}

**Traule** - see Thrall.

**Trea** - a sieve, see trye.

**Tree** - a frame for tethering an animal for slaughter. {Li}

**Trencher** - - a plate of wood, either round or square in shape, on which food was served. It often had a depression for salt. (B,D,Lf,Li,N,St,)

**Trene ware** - vessels, generally bowls, dishes or platters, made of wood (ie. made from trees)  
{D,F,O,Li,Lf}

**Tronsur** = trencher Trousoures = trussers - strong heavy benches or tables. {F}

**Truckle bed** - a low bed frame running on truckles or castors, which could be pushed under an ordinary standing bed when not in use in the daytime. {F,H,Lf,Li,O}

**Trye** - a sieve or screen for sifting. {Lf,O}

**Trystyllez** = trestles, always in pairs; the wooden support for a table top or board. {D}

**Tubes** = tubs

**Tuffold** - a small outhouse, {Hl}

**Turners ware** - ?

**Turkbed** = truckle bed.

**Twiggen chayre** - a chair made of wicker- or rush-work. {Bk,F,H,Lf}

**Twylley** - see Twille.

**Twille**

1) a bed covering made of twill, a coarse linen fabric in which the weft threads pass alternately over one warp thread, and then under two or more, producing diagonal lines or ribs.  
{B,D,Lf,O,}

2) = Twilt - a quilt. {D,H,N}

**Twillie** - see Twille.

**Tysches** = dishes.

**Vallance** - a deep frill or border of drapery hanging from either the canopy over a bed or from the mattress down to the floor. {D,F,Li,O}

**Vallans tester facyon** - in the fashion of a vallance attached to a cloth tester or ceiling of a four-poster bed; ie. a vallance hanging from a sheet over the mattress, to hang down to the floor. {Bk,Lf,Li,O,}

**Varges** - see Verjuice {D}

**Verges** - see Verjuice {N}

**Verges baryl** = verjuice barrel.

**Vergys** - see Verjuice {HA}

**Verjes** - see Verjuice {N}

**Vergis** - see Verjuice {TT}

**Verjuice** - a vinegary acid juice of crab-apples or other unripe fruit, expressed to form a liquor, much used in the household for cooking and as a medicine. {Bk,D,N,O}

**Verjoynse** - see Verjuice.

**Veryous** = various, divers, odd, different.

**Vinacre** = vinegar.

**Ure** = ewer.

**Wanties** - long ropes for a large girth = surcingles, for tying the pack-saddle to the back of a horse. {D,O,SOED}

**Wayner** = weanel - a young beast newly weaned. {EC,H}

**Wayning** = weaning.

**Week yarne** = wick yarn - candlewicks made of tow. {Li}

**Wegges** = wedges.

**Wessinge lom** = washing tub. {D,F}

**Westwbe** = washtub.

**Wewynge** = weaving.

**Whiche** = which - bin, usually made of planks of split oak wedged and pegged together for storing meal; sometimes made of metal. {F,Lf}

**While** = spinning wheel {F,Lf,N}

**Whiskett** - Wiskett - a straw basket in which provender was taken to cattle. It had no handle, but had a hole at each end for the hands. {D,Hl,Lf,Li} Whitt = white

**Winow cloth** - see Winnow sheet.

**Window shutell** = window shutter.

**Winnow Sheet**

1) when it occurs in a chamber, it refers to a window-sheet or oiled cloth for covering windows instead of glass. {Lf,O}

2) amongst farm equipment, it is a cloth used in winnowing to separate husk and chaff from the grain. The grain was blown by a winnowing fan or in a wind to blow away the chaff,

while the grain fell on the winnowing sheet. {O}

**Wol bed**

- 1) a mattress stuffed with wool. {E}
- 2) wheel bed - another name for trundle bed.

**Wollow whelle** = wool (spinning) wheel. {D,O}

**Woolet** - ?

**Wooll beame and Scoales** - a transverse beam with scale-pans suspended at each end, for weighing quantities of wool. {D,F,N,O}

**Wort** - unfermented beer in the form of a sugary liquid. {B&B,Bk}

**Wort lede** - a leaded cauldron or vat for the fermentation of beer after the malt has been added. {B&B,Bk,D,N,}

**Wrought** - embroidered, worked, ornamented; applied especially to chairs. {D,F,SMED}

**Wynow clothe** = wyndow sheet - a cloth or sheet over an unglazed window to keep out cold and draughts. {D,Lf}

**Yeates** - gates {D,Le}

**Yerys** = heirs.

**Yern** = iron

**Yolinge Howse** = brewing house. {Bm,Lf,O}

**Yow** = ewe.

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