

Marion and John had two sons who survived into adulthood, and one of them, Thomas, was bequeathed his father's house by the castle. Thomas' health was probably poor, because his sister Colett was to inherit after his death. Friar John Buckle, the other son, was left nine marks, and asked to pray for his father's soul and those of his father's friends for the space of two years.

Various religious institutions were also beneficiaries, Orford Church was left five pounds, Our Lady's Chantry within the church 3s 4d, and the same amount to St. Leonard's Chapel. This was the chapel attached to the Hospital, founded in the mid-thirteenth century for lepers (see Orford & District Local History Bulletin No 6, p 9). The Austin Friars in Broad Street received 6s 8d.

The will of Robert Bookill 1539

John Buckle's brother Robert died some six years later and in his will he asked to be buried in the church, beside his wife. His executors were his son-in-law Robert Cooke and Robert Pawling². He left £3 6s 8d for the church, asking for a priest to pray for his soul for a year, and 6s 8d for the repair of Bridge Way (today's Quay Street). The remainder of his will was concerned with the disposal of his properties, goods and chattels. As will be seen, he clearly was one of those who benefited from the dissolution of the friaries and smaller monasteries that had taken place a couple of years previously.

He had no surviving sons, but his two daughters were married to Robert Jacob and Robert Cooke respectively, and they both had young sons. Robert Jacob (junior) and his brother John were bequeathed houses, one the house where Robert Buckle himself lived, and the other a house which he had purchased from his father. Perhaps these are the two houses shown on the plot named *Buckles* on Norden's map of c1601 (see p 6 above). His house 'at the church gate' was left to Robert Cooke (junior), the son of Robert Cooke, who was one of the executors. All three grandsons were under 21 years old and Robert Cooke was to have the profits (ie, rents) of the houses until the boys came of age.

The Jacob menfolk (son-in-law Robert and his two sons Robert and John) were to have all his household stuff, but there was a stern warning that the executor Robert Pawling '*should not meddle with my salt and wood, nor anything within my house*'. However, Pawling was not excluded from the will, because he received 20 of the deceased's best sheep in the Chantry flock and a share in one of his boats. The other half-share in his '*havyn cocke*' went to Robert Cooke, who also received his stallboat and '*splyng bote*'. Robert Jacob had another cock boat.

Robert Buckle's executors were asked to sell the marsh held of Sir Anthony Wingfield, the rest of his sheep, and two great anchors. John Clobbard was to have the remaining years of his lease in Havergate Marsh.

It was the practice for the Commissioners who arranged the dissolution of monastic houses to have the roofs removed and the walls left to fall or be taken down for building materials. Where there was lead to be had, this was taken away for the benefit of the Crown. Thus it is interesting to read in Robert Buckle's will that, not only did he have a share in the Friars' Houses, but possessed tiles from the roofs, enough to repair his grandchildren's houses. The share he bequeathed to Robert Cook, who was given responsibility for the repairs. He also gave Syr George Goore, the Chantry priest, '*a thousand thacke tiles to his reparation*', and the priest was asked to pray for his soul. This priest would within nine years be deprived of his calling when chantries were abolished early in the reign of Edward VI (1547-1553). The tiles were re-used as directed and the main friary building is depicted as a roofless ruin on Norden's map.