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Frances, wife of David the miller

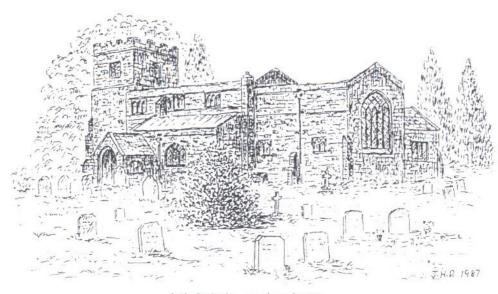
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All Saints, Lubenham

Chapter 1 David and Frances Patrick of Lubenham in the County of Leicester and their descendants

FRANCES, WIFE OF DAVID THE MILLER

In a work where, lest too lengthy and complicated a web should be spun, the distaff has perforce been subordinated to the spear, it may at first seem strange to begin with the wife of our first traceable ancestor. But not only does she possess the deepest detectable roots and bear a name with at least the possibility of romantic associations with the 1605 Gunpowder Plot, but it was through her that we gained important further information concerning David. Busily engaged in the perusal and extraction of a mass of detail from the various parish records held in L.R.O., Geoff was no nearer, after some ten visits, to supplementing the information given in L, register that David died on 1 Nov 1755 that Frances, wife of David died on 3 July 1750 and that the first of three children born to them had been William, son of David (a miller) and Frances, born 19 Dec 1697. The thought finally struck home that one at least of them would have been born in Lubenham. Since there was no David Patrick in the records, it must be someone bearing the name Frances, and born about 1670. Frances is not a common name, so there seemed to be two possible candidates.

Frances Catesby, d. of William and Mary Catesby, born 1 Oct 1668 bap. 29 Oct 1668.

or

Frances, d. of Wm. Waters & Elizabeth bap. 13 March 1672.

The next piece of luck was to spot on the shelves of L.R.O. two dozen volumes of summaries of wills proved from 1563 to 1800 called "Leicester District Probate Registry Abstracts". The magnum opus of a very industrious A.W.Read, the volumes have indexes not only of makers of wills but of recipients of legacies and witnesses and: an absolutely invaluable work, which unfortunately does not exist for Northamptonshire wills. The index revealed that Frances Patrick was a legatee of the will of Richard Catesby of M.H., 'dated 21 May 1700 along with others, including several Catesbys, viz William, Elizabeth, Mary and Ann .Reference to Lubenham. register showed that these were younger sisters and brother of Frances: Elizabeth b 3 May 1674, Mary b 22 Dec 1676; Anna b 28 Sep 1681 1; Willaim b 2 April 1684 . Richard very soon proved to be the uncle and not the father of Frances.

Checking in the previous volume for 1699, for the name Catesby revealed the administration of an intestate William Catesby of Lubenham brother to Richard above. The same William, Elizabeth, Mary and Ann were named. No mention of Frances Patrick but, who should there be for joint surety for £130 for the children during their minorities but a David Gillpatreck called "agricolam", the Latin term for husbandman! Clearly William was the father of Frances her mother was dead; and her uncle Richard was to be executor of the will; while Frances, being married, would be regarded as provided for by her husband. Richard sadly died the next year, but left money to all the children including Frances.

Although an inventory of William's goods was made, in the week following his death, it was apparently not registered properly, since there is another legal document of 1705 requiring son William now come of age, to produce a "true and perfect inventory" within three months. He is one surety, along with David Patrick, miller. David Gillpatreck and David Patrick are obviously the same person, as will be discussed in the next chapter .

The documents are as follows:

1. Administration of Frances' father William, 29 June 1699.

A scruffily written document (see appendix 1): the first part in Latin , committing the two sureties to forfeiture of the huge sum of £130 if they fail to fulfil the conditions given in English in the second paragraph .

Noverint Universi per presentes nos Richard Catesby de Harborough in Comitatu Leics Inkeeper et Davidem Gillpatreck de Lubbenham in Comitatu Leics agricolam teneri et firme obligari... in Centum et triginti libris.

The Condicion of this Obligacion is That if the above bound Richard Catesby the naturall & lawfull brother of Wm Catesby late of Lubnam in the County of Leicester decd. Intestate do well and truly administer of all & Singular the Goods credetts and chattels of the said Intestate to & for the only Use benefitte and behoofe of Elizabeth Catesby, Mary Catesby, Anne Cattsesby & Wm Cattesby by the children of the decd. So farr forth as the Goods credetts & chattels will extend and the law shall charge him. And doe exhibit a true Inventory of the same. And pass a just & true account of his Administracion herein when lawfuly called or warned. Then this pledge and Obligacion to be voyd & and of none effect, or else in full force and virtue.

Sealed & Delivered in the presence of Richard Stephens Notarius publicus.

Signed Ricd + Catesby

William was aged 63 when he died. Richard is designated innkeeper of Harborough. There were quite a few inns there and regrettably no name is given to the inn. Richard was illiterate and made his mark. By 1699. the sistes of Frances were aged 25, 22, 18 and William was 15. We assume that, in the case of females, minority meant until marriage. David and Frances did not have a batch of young children to look after, apart from their own. Strangely, David does not sign or mark the document at all.

2. Inventory of the goods of Frances' father William, 28 June 1699.

A inventory of ye goods & Chattels of Willm. Catesby of Lubbenham deceased & taken by us this 28th day of June 1699.

	£	s	d
Imprimis in ye parlor one Bed with Bedding & other smale goods	2	0	6
Item in ye Chamber 2 beds with Bedding	0	18	4
Item in ye House 3 tables & 4 puter disis & one pott one pan & 4 cheres with other lumber	0	16	6
Item one horse one Cow	2	11	0
his wearing Apparill	0	10	0
Sume is	6	16	4

Prised by us

William Neal. Tho. Shipely. Samill. Sprigge.

The appraisers would be neighbours, who had to assess the value of the moveable goods of the deceased. Inventories tell us nothing of the value of anyone's land or house, which, had he made a will and if not rented, would have passed to the designated heir. William was certainly not well off, though in those days seven pounds would represent at least half the yearly income of a poor person. Regrettably we do not know his occupation.

3. Will of Frances' uncle Richard, 21 May 1700

In the Name of God Amen the 21 day of May 1700 according to the Computation of the Church of England, I Richard Cathbey of Market Harborow in the County of Lesester- being of perfect

memory and remembrance, praised bee God, do make and ordaine this my last will and testament in manner and forme following viz. First I bequeath my soule into the hands of almighty God my maker hopeing that through the meritorious death and passion of Jesus Christ my only Savior and redeemer to receive free pardon and an forgiveness of all my Sins and as for my body to bee buryed in Christian buryall at the discretion of my Executrix hereafter nominated. Item I give to Elizabeth Pain the summe of five pounds. I give to Frances Churchman the summe of five pounds. Item I give to William Caseby the summe of Twenty pounds. Item I give to Frances Patrick the summe of ten pounds. Item I give to George Howard the summe of five pounds to see that my will may bee done according to my mind. Item all the rest of houses, Leases, lands, tenements and goods whatsoever I giv to Ellin my wife forever upon Condicion that shee shall pay all my debts and Legacyes, and I make here sole Executrix of this my last will and testament revoaking all other wills and testaments. In witnes whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and seale the day and yeare first above written.

Richard Catesbee

Witnesses

Will. Normanton

John Normanton

Thomas Riddington

This will was proved in the prerogative.

A will neatly written in large handwriting (see appendix 2), but the signature is puzzling, since we know that Richard only marked the administration of 1699. Possibly he has too ill even to make a mark.

The legacies add up to £75, and the wording suggests that there was quite a lot of property to pass on to his widow. Richard was obviously a wealthy innkeeper, as the keepers of the bigger inns in Market Harborough often were, and his success may be compared with that of his impoverished father Francis or his brother William.

Apart from his brother's administration, Richard, victualler of Harbourough, was also surety for the administration of Miles Parsons in 1672, an executor of the will of Francis Reeves in 1692, and a witness to the will of Smith, a cordwainer of Market Harborough, also in 1692. In 1671 he had lived in a cottage owned by a gentleman called John Blisse: he seems to have risen in the world.

4. Further administration of Frances' father William, 9 June 1705

A very elegantly written document (appendix 3) which I suspect was engraved, leaving blanks to be filled in with handwriting: an early example, perhaps, of the now ubiquitous official form.

Noverint universi per presentes nos Guilielmum Catesby de Lubenam In Comitatu Leics. Baker & Davidem Patrick de Lubenam praedicti Miller teneri et firmiter obligari... in Triginti [£30] libris...

The Condicon of this Obligacion is such that if the abovesd. Wm. Catesby the naturall and lawfull Son and Administrator of all and singular the goods chattels and credits of Wm. Catesby Senr. of Lubnam (not as yet administrated of) deceased doe make or cause to be maid a true and perfect Inventory of all and singular the goods.. of the said deceased, which have or shall come to the hands possession or knowledge of him the said Wm. Catesby... and the same soe mde deo exhibit...into th Registry of this Court at or before the Ninth day of September next ensuing. And the same goods...doe well and truly administer according to law. And further doe make...a true and just accompt of the said Administration at or before the Ninth day of June 1706... and all the rest ... of the said... goods ...which shall be found remaining upon the said Administrators' accompt, the same being first examined and allowed of by the Judge...shall deliver and pay unto such person or persons respectively as th said Judge... by his ... decree...pursuant to...[the] Act for the better settling of Intestates...shall...appoint. And if it shall hereafter appeare that any last will and Testament was made by the said deceased, and the Executortherein named doe exhibit the same into the said court makeing request to have it allowed and approved, ... if the said Wm.

Catesby above bounden...doe render and deliver the said Lettres of Administration ...in the said Court. Then this Obligacion to be void and of none effect, or else to remaine in full force and vertue.

Sealed and delivered in the presence of Richard Stephens.

William Catesby Signed

Davidis Patrick [his mark]

William signed with an extremely shaky signature, David marked. William had three months to make an inventory, and a year in which to produce satisfactory proof of his administration. He would then pay outstanding legacies. If a written will turned up in the mean time, he was required to produce it. We do not know why the why the inventory made at the time of William's death in 1699 had not been produced long ago. Nor do we know how much of the £6/16/4, and of teh land and house, if any, Frances received: if William and 3 sisters all shared equally with her, the legacy was very small. Her uncle Richard's legacy of £10 was more substantial, but it is possible that this too caused problems before it was settled. There are two relevant documents (appendix 4 and 5).

5. Indenture concerning the remarriage of Frances' aunt, Ellinor, 4 June 1701

This is an enormous document of 102 very long lines, from which we see that uncle Richard's widow, who had received the major residue of Richard's presumably extensive estate, had gone to live in Great Glen. It is certainly her, since line 87 mentions the creditors and legatees of Richard Catesby deceased, late husband of the said Elianor Catesby. The gist of the indenture is that our of "Naturall Love & Affection" for a certain William Palmer of Great Glen, and for a 5s payment and for certain obligations he undertook, she surrendered to him all her farm animals and implements, all her money and investments, and all her personal estate, for his "use & behoofe for ever without any manner of reclaime, Challenge or demand whatsoever". For this he took over all her affairs, all collection of rents and debts "in her Name but to his own Use", and in all this she agreed to give him her unconditional backing. He would provide her with "meet, convenient, suitable & Necessary Meat drink washing & lodging and all manner of Apparell of what kind, sort or guality soever" for live "if she... shal so long think fitt and for so long time as she shall think fit to cohabite & dwell with the said William Palmer... But in case the said Elianor Catesby shall be minded to remove from and not cohabite", William undertakes to pay her £5 yearly, in four instalments on the feast days of the Virgin Mary, John the Baptist, St. Michael and St. Thomas [i.e. 25 March, 24 June, 29 September, 21 December]. William also promises to pay what is due to all Elianor's creditors and legatees.

Hopefully Frances would get her £10 legacy, but it was certainly goodbye to any hopes she might well have harboured or receiving further money at the death of her aunt. One certainly suspects that William Palmer was a typical con mand, battening on the wealth of and battering with this overwhelming legalistic barrage of jargon and infatuated or senile widow.

The document is remarkable for its inability to state anything other than in triplicate, and is in its way a real gem to read. It also seems rather unusual for an age where marriage was considered an indissoluble bond (at least officially) to countenance an arrangement of cohabitation with separation by mutual consent.

6. Inventory of the goods of Frances' aunt Elianor

This undated inventory shows that, by the time she died, Elianor's wealth had been reduced to the size of that of Frances' father William. Sucked dry one imagines.

A true and perfect Inventory of all the Goods and Chattells of Elener Catesby of Great Glen Lately Deceased.

	£	s	d
Imprimis her purse and Apparell	01	15	4
one Bed and Bedding Belonging to itt	02	00	0

	£	s	d
one Table Three stooles	00	08	0
Two Coffers and one Chaire	00	08	0
Six pare of Sheetes	01	03	4
halfe a Dozen of Napkins	00	04	6
2 Table Clothes	00	03	0
one Cubbard	00	03	0
	06	5	8

Appraised by William Wade. Thomas Hewson

We now move on to the descent of Frances Catesby. The name of course conjoured up the possibility of descent from the family of Robert Catesby, the Gunpowder Plot conspirator, who was killed in a fierce fight (so sparing him execution) after the discovery of the plot. Robert's mother lived at Ashby St. Ledgers in Northants, only some 20 miles from Lubenham. Although Robert had no grandchildren, there was a chance of connection with his unnamed brothers, shown in the Catesby tree in Dugdale's Antiquities of Warwickshire. Research in the N.R.O failed to find any: a previous researcher had in his rough notes picked up the marriage of David and Frances, but they did not appear in his final account of the Catesby family. This was disappointing, especially since a look in the Mormon index soon revealed that Frances' grandfather, who left a will in 1665 and was probably born about 1600, lived in South Kilworth, which is only about 10 miles from Lubenham. He also called himself a gentleman, though the 1636 baptism entry for William, the father of Frances, South Kilworth, describes grandfather Francis as a victualler. Evidently a gentleman victualler! The introduction to the South Kilworth register (ed by W.T. Hall in 1938) lists the 1665 Hearth Tax returns, showing that Francis had one hearth and was among the richer half of the inhabitants. His will (appendix 6) does not suggest great affluence! And he could not sign his name, in spite of his delusions of grandeur.

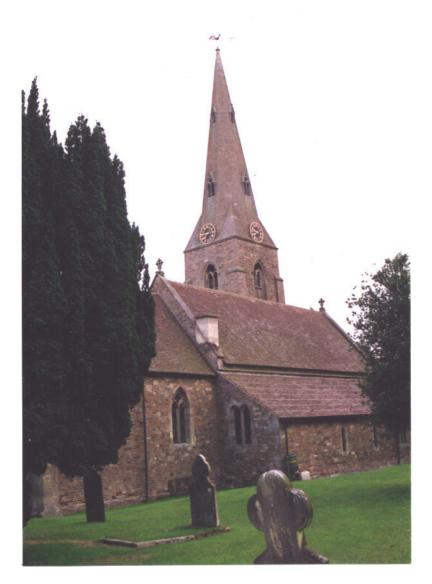


Fig 1: South Kilworth Church in 1994

7. Will of Frances' grandfather, Francis Catesby, 28 March 1665

In the name of God Amen I Francis Catesby of South Kilworth in the county of Leicester gentle[man] doe make this my last will and testament in manner and forme followeing: first I bequeath my soule to Allmighty God truesting in the merrits of Jesus Chris my redeemer to obtaine soulvation [a nice spelling], next my body to bee buried in the churchyard of South Killworth aforesaid. Item I give and bequeath to my sonne Thomas Catesby the sume of foure peence to be paid by my executrixes within one mounth next after my decease. Item I give to my sonns Richard Catesby and William Catesby foure peence a peece. Item I give to my daughters to Lucie to Frances to Ann and to Mary foure peence a peece to bee paid by executrixes within one mounth next after my decease. Item I make my wife Frances Catesby and my daughter Elizabeth Catesby my whole executrixes of all my goods and chattels and my will is that my daughter Elizabeth shall have the house and all her goods after my wifes decease and I desire Richard Banbury and William Gurford to bee overseers of this will, in wittnes hereof I have set my hand and seale the twenty eight day of March in the yeare of our Lord one thousand six hundred sixty and five 1665.

Francis Catesby

his F marke

Richard Banbury

William Gurford

Francis left a total of 2s4d i.e 4 pence, not 4 shillings or 4 pounds, each to 7 of his eight children. Perhaps he could afford no more, but possibly too he thought they were able to look after themselves, for their ages ranged from 28 (William) to 51 (Lucia). One child had died young, but to have 8 out of 9 children surviving into adulthood was remarkable for the seventeenth century. The will also shows that he had a house to pass on, and that he destined his youngest daughter Elizabeth, age 24, to live with and eventually look after his widow Frances. It is possible that Elizabeth married, very late in life, to Henry Paine, at Claybrook Magna on 10 Feb 1699, since an Elizabeth Paine gets £5 in Richard Catesby's will of 1700. If so, it would be a typical fate for a youngest daughter.

The Catesby descent of Frances is as follows. The children of her grandfather Francis and his wife Frances were all baptized at South Kilworth, though none seems to be buried there. All William's children were born at Lubenham.

Franciscus (will 8 March 1665) married Francisca about 1622. Their children were:

- Lucia. Born 17 May 1623
- ▶ Thomas. Born 16 May 1625
- ▶ Francisca . Born15 Nov 1628. Perhaps married a Mr Churchman and so got £5 in Richard's will
- William. Born 14 Feb 1629, but presumably died young and was replaced in 1636 by Frances' father William
- Anna. Born 5 Feb 1632. Married Joseph Williams on 1 Nov 1663 at South Kilworth. Probably dead by 1700
- Maria. Born 21 Sep 1633. Probably dead by 1700
- Richard . Birth date unknown. Will 1700
- William. Born 17 April 1636
- ▶ Elizabeth. Born 14 April 1640

William married Mary Boddyle at Foxton on 21 Nov 1667. Their children were:

- Frances. Born 1 Oct 1668. m. David Patrick 1693. d 3 July 1750.
- ▶ Elizabeth. Born 3 June 1674
- Mary. Born 2 Feb 1677
- Anna. Born 5 Oct 1681. m. John Smith 24 Dec 1704
- William. Born 18 April 1684. Baker.

Frances' maternal grandfather also left a will (appendix 7).

8. Will of Frances' grandfather Richard Bodele, 9 Oct 1681

In the name of God Amen I Richard Boddily of Lubnam in the County of Leicester Sheepheard being sicke & weake of body but of good sound and disposing mynde and memory, the Lord be praised, but calling to mynde the mortality of all men liveing and that the tyme of death is onely known to God, doe make this my last will & Testament in manner and forme following - First and principally I bequeath my soul into the hands of God Almighty my Creator and of Jesus Christ my only savior & redeemer by whose alone meritts through God's mercy I trust to enjoy eternall happines. And as concerning such temporall estate as the Lord in mercy lent me. I give devise and

bequeath as herein after followeth, that is to say, I give to my sonne Richard Boddily five shillings of lawful money of England in lieu of what he shall or might claim either as heire or as a Child's porcion. Also I give & bequeath to my daughter Anne one shilling of like lawfull money. Also I give & bequeath unto my daughter Mary my little close I purchased of Jill & should to her & her heires assign for ever. Also I give & bequeath unto my three children of my daughter Catesby [i.e. Frances, Elizabeth and Mary. Anna had been born four days before on 5 October, but news might not have reached the aged grandfather] five pounds to be equally parted among them. And if any of these happen to dye before six monethes after my death then to be payed to the survivor or survivors of them. Item I give & bequeath unto my sonne Richard's children Two shillings & six pence apeece.

All the rest of my Lands Estates goods Cattle and Chattells, my debts legacies & funerall expences being fully payd, I give and bequeath unto my son Joseph Boddily his heires & executors, whom I make Executor of this my last will & Testament. In witness whereof I have hereto sett my hand & Seale th nynth day of October in Two & Thirtieth year of the raigne of our soveraigne Lord King Charles the second of England.

Recd Sealed & published in the presence of John Payne R Mayes his marke Wm Brice Rich Bodele.

Richard the shepherd in fact lived a further two years and died 7 July 1683, aged "above 84 years", an exceptional age for thos times and specially noted in the parish register. His wife Elizabeth had died on 27 May 1677. their children, born at Lubenham were:

- ▶ William. Born 13 Sep 1630 and presumably dead by 1681.
- Anne. Born 30 Sep 1632 and still alive with children in 1681
- Elizabeth. Born 12 June 1635 and presumably dead by 1681.
- ▶ Richard. Born 28 Feb 1639. Alive with children.
- Mary. Born 23 July 1644. Mother to Frances.
- Joseph. Birth unknown. Heir.

Richard had his favourites, leaving the main inheritance to the younger son, and the close to the younger daughter. The children of Mary got £1/13/4 each, those of Richard and Anne only 2s6d.

Frances was neither poor nor rich on either side of the family, apart from an uncle, whose wealth ws lost to a trickster. Healthwise a good inheritance: grandpa Richard died at 84, Francis had 8 out of 9 children reach adulthood. She herself reached 81, dying 3 July 1750. Husband David about the same. For their descendants, both health and wealth were to prove somewhat elusive.

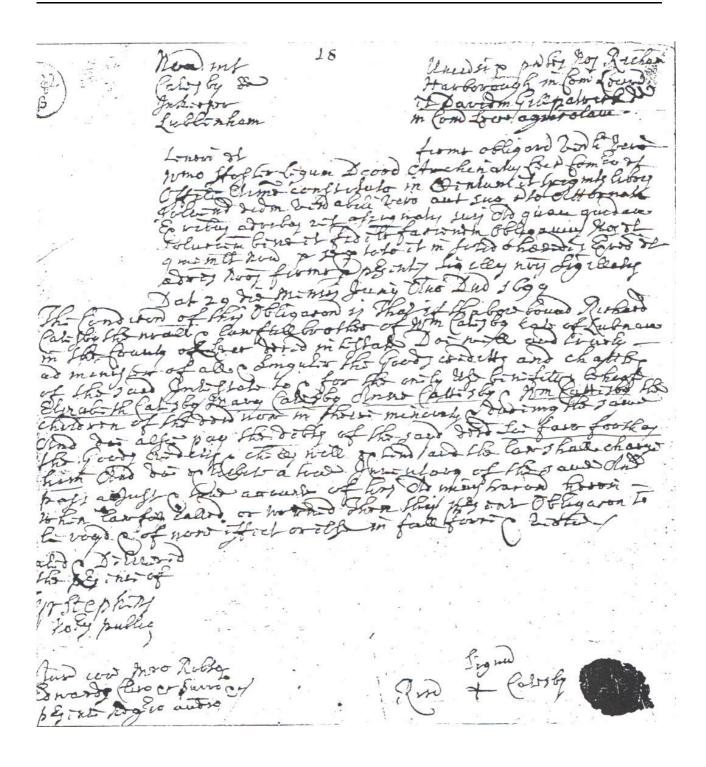


Fig 2: Administration of Frances' father William; 29th June 1699

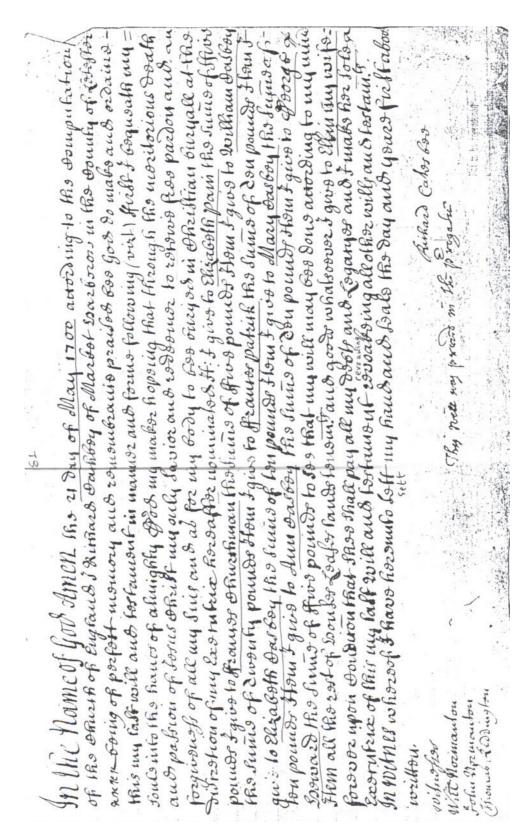


Fig 3: Will of Frances' Uncle Richard; 21st May 1700

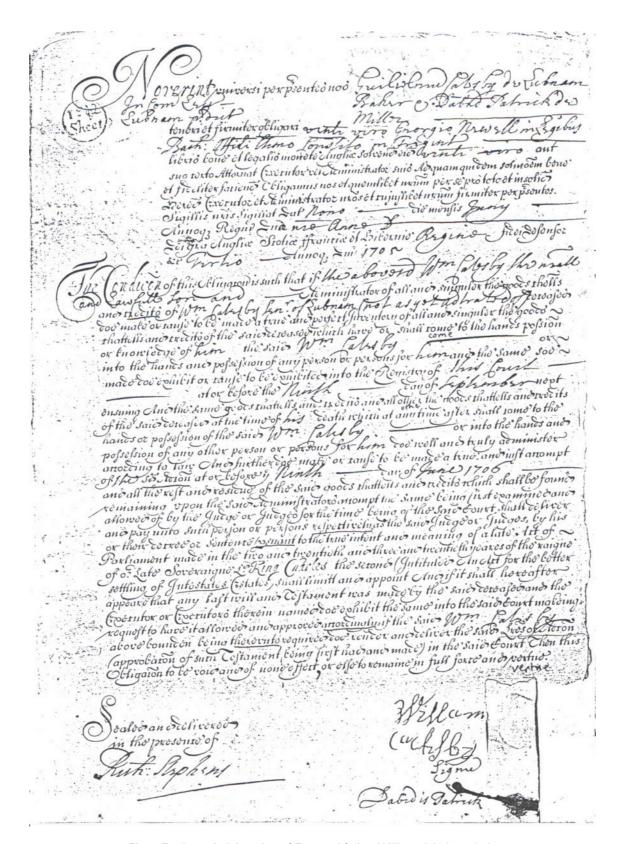


Fig 4: Further administration of Frances' father William; 9th June 1705

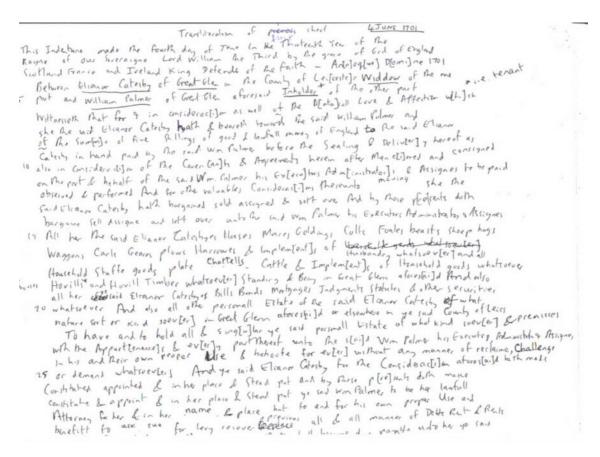


Fig 5: Indenture concerning the remarriage of Frances' aunt, Ellinor; 4th June 1701. Lines 1 to 29

Eleanor Catelly now all or any security or security of what quality Sort or kind sorter coeffet servered by any present whatsoeveles for any matter or thirty whatsoeveles are provided in her mane to give one or more discharges or discharges for his same ATM also for many also to make any thirty or takeny play any the Lands Tenogreaty or thirty shall be due also be made any that content of which any let Lands Tenogreaty for thirty shall be due and there or into any Cards Tenogreaty for the rolliance of Money due or to be due to the present of the Prepayment of any Sunfane or Sunfane of Money due or to be due to the present of the Prepayment of any Sunfane or Sunfane of Money due or to be due to the present of the present of the present of the sun to be due to the present of th

Fig 6: Indenture concerning the remarriage of Frances' aunt, Ellinor; 4th June 1701. Lines 30 to 58

Fig 7: Indenture concerning the remarriage of Frances' aunt, Ellinor; 4th June 1701. Lines 59 to 84

ges fuller that he the said Wm. Palme has Execus or Redountertum shall devill well detruly year or cause he be graind auto sall deverty. The Greditor and Greditors Legalore & Legalore, of Richtard Catesty Doctors and Legalores & Legalores as he has said Elementally said and his life time owne and Debts Legalores as he he said Rubiner Paltally add in his life time owne and bequeally and such such such said such said such some standy.

90 indulated he any person or person whatsoevies.] It safe harders to know indemnitive the said Eleminar Palety form to Execute Administrate the Reigness to the the Maintands Tenenates goods and Chlottfell.

91 from the against the such Artifons to the had country erect or presented against he or them or her at their lands Tenenate grows or Chlottfells for or he grains of and Debt at Belts tegaly or Legalores an Assessed to mittiesse where of the prestages fruit where marred he have present amount interpretably have self their lands I sealed to delivite the peace cable quiet the possession by the Pelivite by of one preview quart parcell of the good Chalttells to personal Estate named Charace Cateshy he Market? Sealed to delivite within written by the within the house Cateshy he within several William Holyaake Tunior.

100 Intuited to be bargained to sold by the Indentices within written by the within Deeph Marsh Robert Chambelyce William Holyaake Tunior.

101 Charlet, Wm Calmer, for 5s, tukes over all her preservings to deal with all his more matter, and they agree to live tryellier: if the lake develop not to cerain within him, he will prop her for year instead.]

Fig 8: Indenture concerning the remarriage of Frances' aunt, Ellinor; 4th June 1701. Lines 85 to end

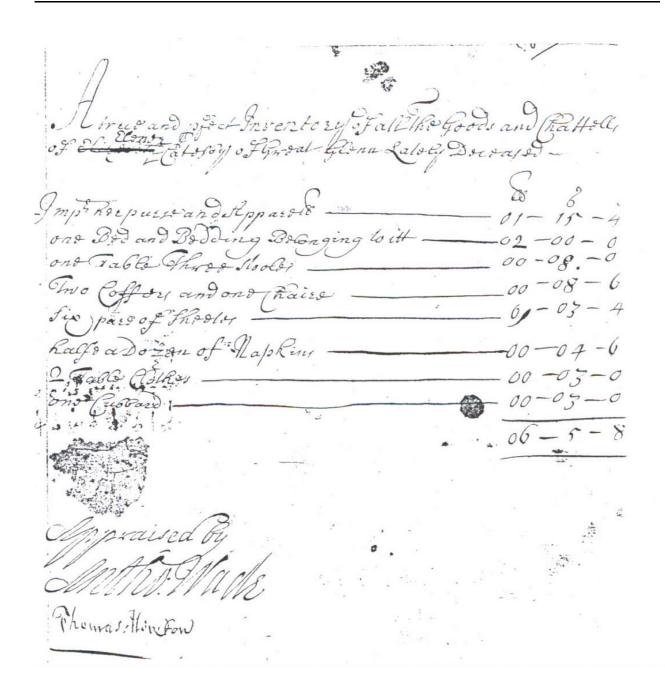


Fig 9: Inventory of Frances' aunt Ellinor

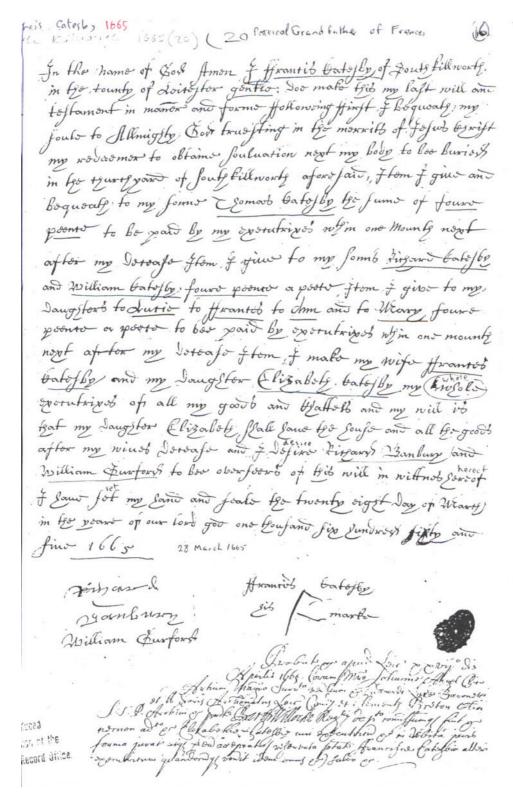
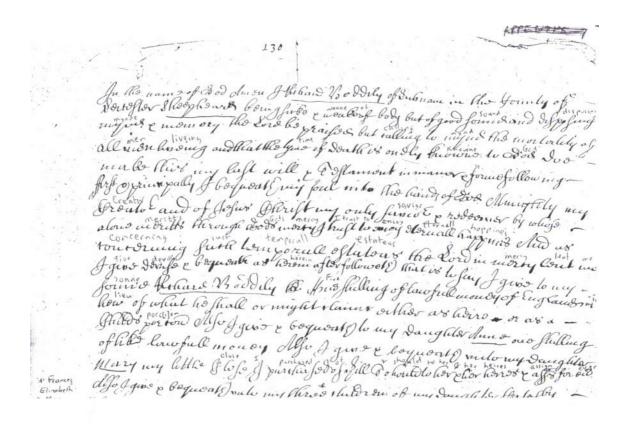


Fig 10: Will of Francis Catesby; 28th March 1665



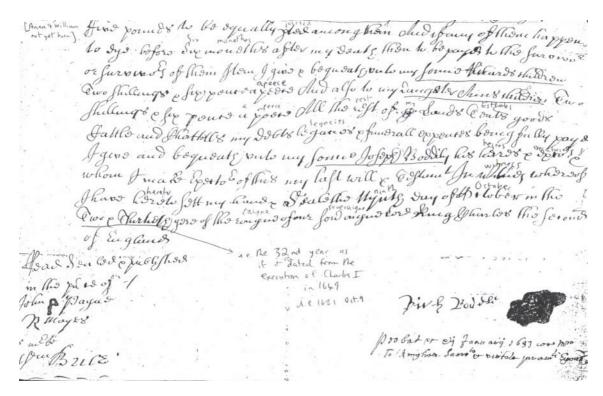


Fig 11: Will of Frances' grandfather Richard Bodele; 9th October 1681