

III. MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS

A. Account of Expenses Related to Percy Freke's Fatal Illness

[B, fol. 37v, i side]

1712 An accountt of whatt I laid outt on the sickness, death, and buriall of my deer husband, Percy Frek, Esqr; taken outt of the severall bills in my uper closett and paid by me, Elizabeth Frek, his unhappy wife, within the year of 1707'

Butt now comes the dismall and fattasst day of my life, for on the second of June, Sunday, aboutt three a clock (the very day and howre my son was borne, hee being then thirty two years of age), my deer husband, Percy Frek, Esqr, to compleatt all the miseryes of my life, affter seven monthes torture of a dropsey and an astma, in which time I think I never wentt seven nights into a bed butt I were one of the three thatt watched with him nightt and day for fear of him. Eliz Frek

1705, Decembr 25 Christmas Day going to the church att West Billney to the sacramentt with me, hee complained of a shortnes in his breath. l.-s.-d.

27 For which I sentt to Linn to Mr Goodwin to bleed him twice att io s. a time and paid him for it i-0-0

January 3d He still growing worse and worse, January 3d I sentt immediattly to Berry to Doctter Thomas Shortt a horse and man and kept him with me three dayes, every howre expectting his last breath. For which I paid him fowre ginnyes 4-6-0

And io the man and horse. 0-10-0

14 I sentt to Doctter Barker of Lin and to Mr Goodwin the surgion and paid 2-3-0

20 I sentt againe to Doctter Barker of Linn for two days stay with me and paid 2-3-0

23 I paid Mr Goodwin the surgion for three dosen of lemons and oranges 0-12-0

¹ An earlier version, apparently completed by the end of 1709, appears in W, fols. 35v-39r. The later account from the B text is included in this edition because it is the final version and because the tone of the revision expresses the deepening discontent of Freke's last years. Variations in the entries of expenses have not been noted; the notations supplementing the foliation are Freke's.

I paid James Wallbutt and Betty Fox for three weeks attendance on him nightt and day and watching with him	2-0-0
February 4, 1705[/6] I sentt againe a horse and man to Berry to Doctter Thomas Shortt, and I paid him for his fowr days	4-0-0
And the man and horse more	0-10-0
I sentt to Doctter Barker to joyne with Dr Shortt and paid him	2-3-0
February 8 I sentt then to Doctter Jeffryes to Norwich a horse and man for two dayes and paid them for their jorney and the doctter	2-10-0
Who bid me hast away or he would soon dye; which I did.	
9 And I sentt againe to Lin to Mr Goodwin and Doctter Barker and paid them	2-0-0
And by these three doctters advice I bought my deer husband of white Lisbon wine a little vesell cost mee att Linn	3-0-0
And 3 dosen of lemons and oranges which cost me more	0-12-0
12 I paid Mrs Langly for two quarts of old hock, viz., sowl w[hite] wyne,	0-10-0
13 Being Sunday, I paid Mr Towres for drawing Mr Freks will	1-1-6
As I did Mr Godard before of Lin for two or three days ²	1-1-6
15 I sentt againe to Doctter Barker withoutt any hopes and paid him	1-1-6
18 I paid James Wallbutt and Mrs Sad ³ for two week attendance on him	0-16-0
20 I haveing noe quiett in my mind, I sentt againe to Burry to Doctter Thomas Short a horse and man and paid the doctter 4 gyns	4-6-0
And man	0-10-0
21 I sentt to Mr Sheldrick of Saffum and Doctter Barker of Linn and paid them, every momementt expectting my deer husbands death,	2-1-6

² Several Goddards are listed in the Lynn land and poll taxes.

³ Ann, the wife of John Sadd, one of Freke's tenants. She was buried in West Bilney on 3 January 1706/7.

22 When itt was agreed and consented to by my deer husbandt thatt I should send againe presently to Doctter Thomas Shortt of Bery a man and a horse and to Doctter Barker and Shelldrick of Sawfum; which I did. When itt was unanimously agreed thatt my deer husband should goe the nextt day to Saffum to be there murdered, as he was. For which I payd them all for this fattall consultation

7-7-6

Beffor which I sentt againe to Norwich to Doctter [Jeffryes] a horse and man, who sent me word he had very little hopes. And I paid them

i-13-6

23 Thursday, February 23 or theraboutt, in the evening against my sence or consentt he was removed to Saffum, there to dye by artt, in my coach with two servants and a maid servant; wher thatt night he came. These docters with the advice of Doctter Ducked gave him soe strong a purge before I gott to him forced all the humours into his right legg, which Monday 25 broke to my amasmnt.

i-i-6

49-5-6

Eliz Frek

[B, fol. 38r, 2d side]

February 25 Which Monday, the 25, this jorney and his strong phicksick, itt broke in his right legg and soe frightned mee, the runing of itt, thatt I presently sentt away againe a horse and man to Bery to Doctter Thomas Shortt, Doctter Barker of Linn, Doctter Duckett, and Cosens; and I paid them ther severall fees as before to Shortt and the man

4-6-0

And the man and hors two days i2 s. and to Doctter Barker of Lin 2 days

2-12-0

And to Doctter Duckett and Cosines more was All these to consult my deer husbands condition to dye by artt.

2-3-0

March i I haveing noe quiett in me sentt away againe to Bury to Doctter Short and to Doctter Barker of Lin and to Doctter Duckett of []; paid them

3-4-6

And to Cosins and Shelldrick I paid them more

2-3-0

6 For a dosen and half more of whitt Lisbon wine

2-0-0

And for 3 dosen of lemons and oranges, i2 shillings, and severall other things taken up by them

i-6-0

i0 I paid Peeter, Mr Frek man, i-10-0 and two more watchers for a fortnight⁴ 2-18-0

i5 I paid Mr Minican for a chaldron of cole i-15-0 and bring itt to Saffum⁵ 2-7-0

i6 Heer at Saffum I paid for one little roome att Mr Minakins with a pallett for Mr Frek only and the dyett of him and his man for three weeks 8-8-8, and gave her two elder chilldrin 5 shillings. 8-13-8

And I paid James Minacan his brother for a weeks attendance 0-12-0

i7 Then he was advised to goe more into the country ayre to Mr Lifes, a mile from Saffum; where Thursday, the 17, Mr Frek, my selfe, and three of my servants wentt, where wee were barbarously used and staid there butt fowre dayes on a ground flowre. I paide him by Mr Henry Towre, who knew how to be generous with my pockett, 3-10-0

And gave to his servants which deserved nothing of mee 0-5-0

And all this time from New Years Day my deer husband never went into a bed or shutt his eyes to sleep, I watching with him always.

i8 of March, Monday, I came to Mr Ibbotts, the minester of Saffum, where for a little ground room I paid him for three week withoutt bed or any thing; and the worst place of all, yett I paid him for lodg 3-10-0

i9 Heer att Mr Ibott I sentt for my deer husbands own bed and chair to Billney hee used to sitt in, who was very much pleased with itt. And the 19 of March wentt into a bed. When I contracted with Mrs Ibbott to board Mr Frek, my self, and three servants, hoping more for my own ease: Mr Frek and I att ten shillings a week and my three servants att five shillings a week a peice and one shilling a peice for all strangers. Soe I paid two porters for removeing our things from Minakins to Lifes and from Lifes to Mr Ibots, the minester of Saffum, and worst place of all 0-15-0

⁴ Peter Good.

⁵ The remembrances characterize James Minican as one of 'Mr Freks two men'; the surname does not appear in the Swaffham parish register. Chaldron: thirty-two bushels of coal.

22 I sentt againe for the doctters of Bery, Doctter Barker, Doctter Dockett, Cosins the surgion, and Shelldrick to consult together once more. I paid	5-10-0
23 Heer I paid againe for three weeks watchers and attending him	2-10-0
More I paid James Large ⁶ for keeping my coach and three horses a month att stable, every howre expecting my fate,	5-7-6
And more hee brought me in for strangers horses and tenants	0-14-0
24 I paid Mrs Ibott before hand for our boards and lodging	5-0-0
And I gave her daughter and maid more	0-10-0
I sentt againe for a chaldron of coales to Linn	1-15-0
And I paid Sheringham ⁷ for caring of them from Lin to Saffum	0-12-0
1706, March 25 The 25 of March my deer husband sentt Towers to me to goe home immediatly to make him a vault of the north side of Billney chancell and large enough for me to lye by him and his little grandsonn murdered in London.	
26 And sentt againe to Doctter Dockett and paid him more	2-3-0
Errors excepted sume is	68-10-2
	Eliza Freke

[B, fol. 38v, 3 side]

1706, March 26 , Doctter Cosins, Mr Freks surgion, sentt to Mr Frck and mee to pay him in partt for his months attendance by Mr Towrs and for the dresing of his legg, to be paid him in London; for which he demanded twenty pounds, which I imediatly paid him by my cosin John Freke and by my deer husbands order.	20-0-0
More I paid att Mr Bottoms for shop goods I knew nothing of taken up by their order	1-12-0

⁶ Among the Larges in the Swaffham register, a James Large married Ann Moare on 23 May 1685, and James and Alice Large baptized children in 1697 and 1706.

⁷ Possibly Robert Sherringham, who was buried in Pentney on 25 October 1721; an Anne and Robert Sherringham baptized a son in Narford in 1708.

And more I paid Cullum the knacker for six
jorneyes to Raymond and elcewhere for a milch
ass⁸ 0-18-0

25 or 26 I sent Mr Towers aboutt making Mr
Freks vaultt under the north side of Billney chancell,
and Mr Freke was nott easy except I wentt my selfe
and dereicted itt – and 5 men to goe aboute itt as
fast as they could. And I gave them 5 shillings earnest
and was to give them 5 pound whene the wall was
begun. Which I did. 5-5-0

29 I wentt to boarde with Mrs Ibbott and paid
her before hand more, 10-0-0
the other 5 pound being for a little room to dress my
meat in for three weeks and the maid to lye in.

30 And now I paid of all my small bills more att
Saffum 1-5-0

And for a new wicker chaire he could never use
or sitt in 0-10-0

And for a new greatt easy chaire I sentt for from
London 5-0-0

And the carrige of itt to Saffum to Mr Large more
Neither of which could my deer husband sitt in; they
both were too strait for him. The last is in the best
chamber. 0-10-0

1706, April 6 Sunday night late, the sixt of Aprill,
my deer son came from Ireland to see his deer
father, with Thom Crosby. Where in the town I were
faine to gett a room for him and Mr Crosby and his
man att Thomas Cullams, the neerst house to Mr
Frek,⁹ and to board them at Mr Ibotts att ten shillings
a week a peice.

8 of Aprill I paid Mr Penington¹⁰ more for a
challdron of coals 1-15-0

And to Sherringham for the carraige of them from
Lin to Saffum 0-12-0

And for carting of half a hundred of fagots from
Billney 0-7-0

⁸ Several Culhams appear in the Swaffham parish register. The earlier ledger has Raynum: either South or West Raynham.

⁹ Thomas Culham and his wife Elizabeth Thorpe, whom he married on 13 October 1689, had buried in Swaffham two of their four children baptized there.

¹⁰ Probably Francis Penniton, who lived with his wife Mary in East Walton. See above, p. 283 n. 217.

14 I paid for wine and brackfasting for my son and Crosby and Towrs and their servants to Mr Large for eight dayes	3-18-0
And I paid more for drink and lodging for my fowre servants	2-12-0
15 I paid more a shop book for two new wascots for Mr Frek, stockins, shooes, and 4 caps for my deer husband	1-14-10
And for a paire of new cruches for him, the sticks	0-10-0
21 of Aprill I paid Mrs Ibbott more for our months board, viz., my deer husband and my self and my son and Thom Crosby and our 4 or five constantt servants,	10-0-0
22 I paid James Large for a month keeping my three coach horses in oates and hay and stabling and coach house	5-7-0
And more for by horses came to vissett my deer cosin	0-14-0
23 I paid Mr Large more for wyne my son, Towrs, and Crosby had	1-15-0
25 More I paid for two watchers a month and James Minickin a week	1-18-0
And I gave more to Petter and my sons man for there watch	0-10-0
27 I sentt againe to Doctter Duckett, who came againe to him to noe purpose, and I gave him by my deer cosins order	2-3-0
Errors excepted sume is	78-15-10
	Eliza Freke

[B, fol. 39r, 4 sid]

1706, May 5 I paid more to Mr Large severall bills taken up by my son and Thom Crosby, Mr Towers, and Thom Chaffin, and all their gess to my son and there followers for wyne and alle, &c., taken up by his order. Which bill the wretch Towrs brought me to pay from Large of Saffum, being	4-10-0
15 The 15 of May more I paid for them and ther servants in shop bills unknown to me	2-0-0
21 And I paid more for two watchers a month for my deer cosin and husband	1-8-0

22 More I paid Mr Large of Swaffum for keeping my coach and three horses att oatts and hay for a month, coach house and stable 5-7-0

And more for by horses of strangers and tennantts, &c. 0-10-0

1706, June 2d Sunday, the second of June, aboutt three a clock in the affternoon my deer husband departed this life, and noe mortall with mee butt my wretched self till I scrimed them outt of the church, and left miserable me for ever to lamentt him. Hee dyed the same day and howre my son, Ralph Frek, was borne affter he had laine allmost seven month under the hand of fowre doctters and 2 surgions and three apothycaryes who all had the honour of murdering of him. And my self, Eliza Frek, and three other watchers – two men and a woman – every night with him before his death. EF 13-15-0
78-15-10
68-10-2
49-5-6
210-6-6

1706, June 3d I caryed my deer husband away with me to Billney in a hearse I had from Lin with a vast appearence of company – gentry, tennants, and neighbours – which did all attend him to his vault att Billney affter ther brackfast att Saffum att Mr Larges. For which I paid Mr Large that day for itt 5-10-0

And carryed with me in wyne and ale for there suppers 2-14-0

And I paid to three parishes for three pasing bells as I wentt through them thatt day for tolleing them 1-0-0

And I gave the maid of the house and the poore att the door 1-0-0

And to the pasing bell more att Saffum I paid more 0-10-0

June 3 On Monday night my cosin John Frek came downe to me; I sentt for him to inter my deer husband in his vaultt, where I placed him sheetted in lead in a double coffin till I could provide for his buriall. My cosin Frek found me allmost distracted and this my house full of company.

7 Fryday, June the seventh, I inter'd my deer husband, and I had all the gentry in the country of my neighbours with all my other neighbours and tennants, a vast appearance. Which day and soon affter I paid these following bills, taken upp most of them by my cosin John Frek, the day he was buried:

I paid for a falce coffin for him, bays, hapses and henges, and bays	3-12-0
I paid for wyne thatt day taken up att Lin by my cosin John Frek	7-10-0
I paid for macaroons and biskits for this fattall day	4-15-0
I paid Mr Bagg of Lin for two barrels of old beer for that day ¹¹	4-10-0
And the carraige of itt more was	0-5-0
I paid Mr Priest of Lin for the crap suitt and sheet he was laid in ¹²	3-10-0
I paid Mr Priest for scarves and had bands for the parlor	10-0-0
I paid for three dosen and a halfé of scutchens	9-5-0
I paid for two Saffum men for the coffin and lead for the coffin my deer husband now lyes in, being double leaded,	10-15-0
Given to the poor of the three severall parishes and there bell tollers more when I came through them	2-10-0
I gave Mr Adams, the minester, mourning and a had, and making itt cost me, Eliz Frek,	8-10-0
Errors excepted itt comes to	89-11-0
	Eliz Frek

[B, fol. 39v, 5 side]

1706, June 7 Paide Mr Wallgrave of Lin for twenty gold rings for the bearers and minesters and gentry for thatt dismall day ¹³	15-10-0
Paid Mr Scarlett of Saffum for gloves for this my fattall day ¹⁴	15-13-0
More he cheated me of them, two gunyes	2-3-0
Paid James Minakin more for 13 weeks attending my most deere husband (Percy Freke, Esqr)	5-10-0

¹¹ John Bagge, a merchant who was made a freeman of Lynn in 1694-5 and later served as an alderman and mayor, was the 'founder of a family of Lynn merchants and lawyers'. The Bagge family had a brewery in King Street (*Freemen of Lynn*, 205, 218, 225; Rye, i. 19; H. L. Bradferd-Lawrence, 'The Merchants of Lynn', in *A Supplement to Blomefield's Norfolk*, ed. Clement Ingleby [London, 1929], 175).

¹² Timothy Preist is identified as a milliner among the freemen of Lynn and in the 1690 Lynn poll tax; the 1704 land tax indicates he had property in the New Conduit, Sedgford Lane, and Chequer Wards (*Freemen of Lynn*, 186; NRO, KL/C47/12-15 and KL/C47/35-44).

¹³ Charles Waldegrave, a goldsmith who was made a freeman of King's Lynn in 1709-10, resided in the Sedgford Ward (*Freemen of Lynn*, 217; NRO, KL/C47/46).

¹⁴ Thomas Scarlet, who married Elizabeth Caps in Swaffham on 8 February 1707/8.

Paid Mr Sparrow more for black bays for his fallce coffin ¹⁵	i-12-0
Paid Thomas Cullam his bill for my sons lodging, and his man and attendance, and drinking mony brought me by Hary Towrs	8-17-0
Paide Petters jorney to London to fetch my cosin John Frek	i-12-0
More I paid Mr Wallgrave for a vellvett pall and ten black clokes for this my fattall day of entering my husband	4-15-0
June 14 More I paid Mr Larg for wine taken up by my son and the wretch Henry Towers unknown to me till he brought itt's bill	2-18-0
17 More, paid Mr Towrs his cheating bill for my vault brick and for work men for itt and there work of itt	84-5-0
22 I likewise paid him more for the carriag of the brick and frame	ii-5-0
I paid Docett the carver for a white marble scutchen for the vault bespok by my son and Mr Towrs and paid for by me, Eliz Frek,	2-13-0
I paid Mr Clark for his herse from Linn to Saffum ¹⁶	i-15-0
More I paid Mr Robison for painting and leading of this vault ¹⁷	6-16-8
23 More I paid by Mr Adams to Mr Browne for arch and boards for this vault ¹⁸	
The others, Mr Towrs told me, were stole before used whilst Mr Towrs was a week drinking with Thom Crosby att my charge att Saffum att Mr Large.	10-0-0
More I paid Mr Hall the lime burner for eightt chaldron of lime and the carraige of itt to Billney church yard for his vault	17-15-0

¹⁵ Robert Sparrow resided in the Sedgeford Lane Ward; made a freeman as a woollen-draper in 1662-3, he was also mayor in 1687-8 and 1696-7 (NRO, KL/C47/35-44; *Freemen of Lynn*, 172, 198, 206).

¹⁶ Peter Sykes has suggested that William Clark, the innkeeper of the Globe Inn, may have rented horses for hearses.

¹⁷ The W version has 'Robenson the plumer'. John Robinson, a plumber, was made a freeman of King's Lynn in 1685-6 (*Freemen of Lynn*, 197).

¹⁸ Perhaps Oliver Browne, a carpenter whose name appears in the list of those made Lynn freemen in 1680-1 and in the 1704 land tax for the Kettlewell Ward (*Freemen of Lynn*, 191; NRO, KL/C47/35-44).

24 Midsomer Day, being the 24 of June, wentt to London to prove my deer husbands will with my own coach and fowr horses and my son and Thom Crosby and 4 servants and Towrs to Brand, when I gave my son to beare my charges up to London	10-0-0
My expences there and bills paid by me there are as follows:	
29 I gave my son Freke to buy him and his man mourning	100-0-0
I then paid Mr Freks lagacy to my cosin John Freke of	100-0-0
I then gave Mr Freks kinsman Thom Crosby mourning and made itt up all compleat; hatt, stockens, shoos cost mee	13-17-0
And then I gave him, Thomas Crosby, to buy him a horse ten giny.	10-15-0
Jully 4 I more gave my son my two best coach mares and my deer husbands own rideing horse. I were offered for them	55-0-0
And I sentt my daughter, his wife, a new suite of silk closhes trimed with silver lace. I paid my cosin John Freke for it	30-0-0
I then paid my cosin John Frek Mr Chambers bill for fowre gold locketts and ten gould flowered rings for my sisters and frinds in London he gave for me, EF,	14-12-6
14 And I then gave Mr Towers for cheating of me above two hundred pound deep a silver headed cane cost me	2-10-0
And more I gave him a silver tankard, new, cost me	8-5-0
And to him, his son, and wife 3 gold rings and a lockett cost	4-10-0
Errors excepted	532-8-6
	Eliz. Frek

[B, fol. 40r, 6 sid]

1706, Jully 14 More I gave Mr Towrs for his pretended service to me whilst I were a month in London (in a purse) 6 l., which was onlly hee took me in one Whitrig, the greatest rogue in Norfolk, into my Hall House. Which when I came from London cost me above 20 l. to gett off.	6-0-0
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And for goeing 3 miles to the Lord Richersons for me, I gave him more	i-i-6
16 More I paid my Cosin John Frek bill for Mr Ashhurst for cloth for mourning for Sir Georg Norton and my two sisters and himselfe	25-5-0
I paid Mr Ashhurst more for nineteen yards of cloth bays for my self a weed by my cosin John Frek	5-17-0
I payd more to my cosin Gyels for a mourning black crap suite ¹⁹	6-5-0
I paid more to Mr Sparrow of Lin for bays Towrs had taken up and, as he said, forgott to place itt to my accounte, E Frek	i-ii-6
18 or therabouts more I paid my cosin John Frek the probatt of my deer husbands will (Percy Frek, Esq)	4-6-0
More I paid for mourning for my self and two servants	10-12-0
21 I boughtt me a new mourning coach cost me to Mr Shepherd	45-0-0
And fowre new harnesses to itt cost me ten pounds	10-0-0
I staid in London a month att my sister Austins, wher my nesary expences of my selfe and three sarvants and 4 horses cost mee	30-0-0
25 I returned home to Billney in my own coach with my deer sister Austen in a most distracted condition, Elizabeth Freke. Where att Billney I paid more these bills following, which I feard being brok:	
Agust 14 I paid more to Doctter Cosins of Saffum for his paines in the murdering of my deerst cosin and husband forty gynyes.	43-0-0
And I payd more to Mr Sheldrick, his apothycary, for pump watter ²⁰ and his attendance on him these two bills brought me by Henry Towrs	26-16-0
21 More I paide the queens tax for honour or his quallity mony ²¹	5-6-6
I paid more Mr Hall the lime burner for the vault and for the raising of the chancell and painting the rails of itt	5-7-0

¹⁹ Elizabeth Gyles, sister of Freke's attorney John Freke.

²⁰ Medicinal water from the pump rooms of spas.

²¹ A tax first imposed in 1695 'according to the rank and condition in life of persons, upon births, marriages, and burials' (Dowell, *A History of Taxation and Taxes in England*, ii. 46).

29 I paide more to Mr Priest of Lin for gloves of kid and cordevan taken up by Henry Towres – I knew nothing of them – by John Frekes order	3-10-0
1706, September 3d I paid more for boards taken up by Henry Towre, who said they with the arch for the vault were most of them stole outt of the church yard, wher he ordered the placing of them, while he sate drinking att Saffum on my account, unknown to me,	8-0-0
I paid Mr Audly the apothicary for goods taken up att his shopp before I wentt to Saffum, unknown to me, Eliz Frek, ²²	3-2-6
15 As I did likewise for things taken up of him in Mr Freks sick[ness]	3-10-0
And I likewise paid the Bery appotycary for things of Doctter Short	0-11-6
I likewise paid Mr Godard, the Lin apothicary, ²³ for severall things taken up by my daughter Frek when shee was att Billney, 1705,	6-10-0
October 14 I likewise paid my deer sister Austen her bill for severall small things taken up by Mr Freks order	8-15-0
And I likewise then paid my sister Austen for the herse thatt brought downe my deer little grandchild shott to death in London, Mr John Freke, who now lyes with my deer husband in the vault,	6-10-0
November 12 When I were allmost broke with paying of all these severall bills, Mr Towrs brought me another long bill from Mr Large of Saffum for wyne, &c., which he said my son and hee knew to be due	15-0-0
14 Mr Towrs brought me severall other bills for drinke and for lodging and shop goods taken up unknown to me, Eliz Frek,	12-0-0
Errors excepted sume is	293-16-6
	Eliza Freke

²² The King's Lynn poll tax of 1690 and 1703 land tax identify John Audley as an apothecary residing in the New Conduit Ward (NRO, KL/C47/12-15 and KL/C47/26-34, 45).

²³ Unidentified by profession in the tax lists and unlisted in Wallis.

[B, fol. 40v, 7 side]

- November the 14** I new took my lease att Pentney Mr Freke gave up to the use of his will before three bond tennants, viz., Mr Adams, John Fish, and Mr Throll, Febuary 21, 1705; and I paid Mr Charls Stuartt of Pentney courte for its renewall and for the new taking of my copy hold estate there²⁴ 14-10-0
- And his clarks fee for engrossing of itt, Mr Ling,²⁵ 1-10-0
- 21** I likewise paid the severall quitt rents att Norwich by Mr Charls Turner, viz., procu[rations] and sinydoll and keks²⁶ and the kings, 13-18-0
- And I gave himself half a guiny for a pair of gloves 0-11-6
- December 2** I likewise paid Mr Turners cooper for wyne taken up by the order of Mr Frek when my son and daughter were heer 7-10-0
- 14** or thereaboutt I likewise paid Mr Finch for nails (1 box), two years nails taken up of him for the tennants, and things of iron work by the tenants his bill of 13-10-0
- I likewise paid John Willson the smith his bill whilst I were att Saffum there fowr months and did nothing 5-8-0
- Decemb 21** I likewise paid Mr Thimblethorbs bill for which he threatened to arrest me in the queens exchecker of 6-14-0
- And I likewise paid the arch deacon of Norwich his seven years bill for quit rents of 4-6-0
- for which Clark threatned mee to putt me in the spirituall courte. Which now I stand outt for in ther defiance. Eliz Freke
- And I likewise paid Mr Demee his bill of quitt rents,²⁷ who said he would putt me presently into the exchecker iff I did nott send itt to Norwich to him. I then paid him 5-8-0

²⁴ Throll is neither in the parish records nor among the tenants on any of Freke's lists. A number of Stewards appear in the archdeacon's transcripts of Pentney, none named Charles. Nor has he been linked with the Charles Stuart who studied law at Middle Temple or who held the advowson in Hillington, Norfolk (*Middle Temple Register*, i. 243; Blomefield, viii. 468).

²⁵ Possibly James Ling, who married Mary Pinchback in Swaffham on 1 April 1680; a Henry Ling and a John Lyng are also listed in the 1689-90 King's Lynn poll taxes (NRO, KL/C47/10 and KL/C47/12-15).

²⁶ Meaning unclear.

²⁷ Most likely James Demee, the owner of Surrey House in Norwich, who died on 11 September 1718 at the age of fifty-nine (Blomefield, iv. 158-9).

Thus were I threatned and torne to peices for mony when first I were a widow allmost to my distraction, soe thatt from December 1705 to December the one and twenty 1706 I have paid in bills

73-5-9

besids my liveing, and travilling, and servants wages, and the minester twenty pounds a yeare, work men, and the plague of law and ther attorneys.

I say I have payde in the seven foregoeing sids in the sickness, death, and buriall of my deer husband, Percy Frek, Esqr, as appeers in the severall bills filed by me in my closett and by me taken outt December 18 and paid by wretched me, Elizabeth Frek, the sume of ii85-18-0, as by ther severall sids may be seen to bee eleven hundred eighty five pounds, eighttean shillings. Which mony ought to have bin all paid by my son, Mr Ralph Freke, and nott to have had me, Elizabeth Frek, threatned with a jayle as I were by these Norfolk rogues; as did Charls Turner of Lin send his two baylyes to my closett (where I were sitting the 25 of November 1707) with the shriefs execution on my body and goods for eight pound of which I knew nott thatt I owed him one farthing. Nor did hee give me warning butt to carry me away to Norwich Castle jayle when att the same time I had in my closett eight hundred pound by me, Eliza. Frek. Affter my haveing paid ii85-18-0. This is the usuage I have had in Norfolk; therefore, son, take heed and beware of my fate. Eliza Freke

The sums on the severall sids are as followeth:

i: 49-5-6
2: 68-10-2
3: 78-15-0
4: 89-ii-0
5: 532-8-6
6: 293-16-6
7: 73-5-9

Errors excepted sume is ii85-ii-0
Elizabeth Freke, 1712, Septembr 29

[B, fol. 41r]

1712, September 14 Besids these severall sumes paid by me, Eliz Frek, and forcst from me the yeare my deer husband dyed and left me, being the second of June 1706 ...²⁸

²⁸ Omitted is a more detailed variation of the legal and financial troubles with tenants Freke recalls in her second remembrance (above, pp. 257-8).

[B, folio 42r]

1712 Thus have I lived neer seven years in my widowhood in a continuall trouble and to see the fall of most of my enimies withoutt the assistance, help, or comfortt of one friend. Tho my cosin John Frek, who pretends to be executor with me to my deer husbands will, tho in my distress I offten complained to him, hee never did me a five shilling curtisy since I were an unhapy widow, though I had obliged him above five hundred pound deep; only on my letter of attorney in the yeare 1707 to him dereicted [he] gave away my estate in Ireland of 850 pounds a year my deer husband left me for three hundred and fifty pounds a yeare. And my arrears then due in 1706 att the death of my husband he told me was above 1200 pound. I never received of itt one peny, tho I paid him 300 pound for his jorney. This is true, as wittness my hand, thatt from such friends and friendship, good Lord, deliver mee. Elizabeth Frek, dated September 14, 1712

B. West Bilney Manor and Tenants

[B, fol. 28r]

A true accountt of the rents of West Billney bought by my deer father of my Lord Thomas Richerson and given to my sister Austen are as followeth, 1672:

The severall akers are, iff right reckned by me,	
Eliza Freke,	2698 akers
Of which in the common is 400 akers and in the warren is	1062 akers
And the tennants enclosed akers are, besids whatt I have bought,	1648-22 r-200 p
In all is bought by my deer father, Ralph Freke, Esqr,	2698 akers
And the rentt of West Billney then was lett tennanted for	557 a yeare
Outt of which to be deducted to the minester	20-0-0 a yeare
And to the Lord Oswellston quitt rentt more	2-10-0 a yeare
And for other small quitt rents is more	2-18-0 a yeare
All which is	25-8-0
Which taken outt of the above 557 l. remains cleer due	532-12-0

An accountt how the rents of West Billney were fallen the fowre years my brother Austen had itt under the managment of Mr Rolf of Lin Regis when I bought itt, Eliza. Freke, i676. Tennants names are as followeth – D signifies the Lady Richerson dowre:

Dowre-	i is Thomas Turner, the Hall	98-0-0
	2 William Bish, Paws Farm	6i-0-0
	3 Robert Ram, the warren	64-0-0
	4 Richard Coe rents	38-0-0
	5 John Plattfoott rentt was	30-0-0
	6 is John Chapman	26-0-0
	7 is John Fish, passture	i7-0-0
Dowr-	8 Parsnage Farme is	28-0-0
	9 Thomas Unkles is	i2-0-0
	io John Plattfoott, meadow	4-0-0
	ii Will Thorpe	4-0-0
	i2 John Benson	4-0-0
	i3 John Greene is	4-0-0
	i4 is Henry Dawdry	4-15-0
	i5 Thomas Day is	2-i2-0
D-	i6 Thomas Shepherd is	2-0-0
D-	i7 Wiliam Walles	i-15-0
D-	i8 John Downing is	2-0-0
	i9 John Green, now Barkam	i-i6-0
	20 Ralph Ram, Barne Meadow	3-5-0
	2i Ralph Ram, Long Close	3-0-0
D-	22 Ralph Ram, Spar Fen, i3 Akers	3-0-0
	23 Rentt hens is	i-0-0
	In all is, iff rightt reckned by mee, Eliza	
	Frek, coms to	4i4-3-0

[W, fol. 41v]

An accountt how Billney stands now lett by me, Eliz. Frek, with itt akers and rentts from Michellmas last, i7o8

The Hall Farme now in the hand of Richard Taff is now lett for by me, Eliz Frek, for containing i76 akers:

		75-10-0
		l.-s.-d.
ii akers	in one ploughed peice just before the house att ten shillings the aker is	5-10-0
5 akers	One peice of hay ground just below itt at io shillings	2-10-0

9 akers	One ploughed peice just below the medow with 2 akers of bordrs	5-0-0
6 akers	of ploughed land att the head of the orchard lett att	3-0-0
9 akers	of hay pasture just nextt to itt lett att	5-0-0
2i akers	of plough land and one of pasture in the same field	10-10-0
6 akers	of pasture or hay land just before the 20 akers	3-0-0
15 akers	of plagh land just by Betts house lett att under rentt	
3 aaker	of pasture just by itt lett for both	9-10-0
4 akers	of courser pasture on the other sid of Betts house lett att	2-0-0
i akers	of plough ground and house in which Sad lives lett att	2-10-0
15 akers	of pasture and plough ground, formerly Jams Wallbutt	7-10-0
2 akers	of pasture just before Betts house lett att with the house	3-0-0
16 akers	of cow pasture called Dyes Close now lett att	8-0-0
24 akers	of fen ground adjoining to the parsnage lett att	12-0-0
5 akers	of carr ground ²⁹ in Dyes Close lett att	1-5-0
	The little house lett for by Dyes Close	2-0-0
i8i akrs	Errors excepted, this coms to just	79-15-0

i708, September 29. The Wassell Farme, wher I lived
in King Jams time 8 years, now lett for by me, Eliz
Freke, for 50-0-0

to Thomas Pamer, I reserving three roomes and the
seller outt of itt with the little house thatt goes to Pentny
by the lane, E Frek, i708

Akers belonging to the Wassell:

2i akers	in the common field by the warren is of ploughed land lett att ten shillings an akere comes to	1.-s.-d. 10-10-0
3 akers	of ploughed in the Clamp just by lett att i3 s.-4 d. the akers	2-0-0
7 akers	of plough land and pasture in Alltus, att i3-4 an akers	4-ii-0
4 akers	of pasture just before the little house, i3- 4 an akers	2-i2-0

²⁹ Carr: boggy land or meadow formed from drained bog.

5 akers	of plough land just before the head house, 13-4 an aker	3-5-0
i aker	of plough and pasture called Clamp Aker, 13-0	0-13-0
30 akers	of pasture for cows with Ollivers peice for hay att 6-8 per aker	10-0-0
10 akers	of passture or hay ground call'd Kings Meadow, 10-0 per aker	5-0-0
30 akers	formerly belonging to the Hall Farme in three severall ten aker peices att ten shillings an aker, 10-0,	15-0-0
iii akers	Errors excepted comes to	50-10-0
Luke Wingfield now rents of me in Billney by the yeare the sum of		
	lett by me, Eliz Freke, Michellmas 1708:	62-10-0
100 akers	The Parsnage Farme, containe a hundred akers more or less, is now lett to him for the yearly rentt of	25-0-0
27 akers	now lett to Luke Wingfield for the yearly rentt of	9-10-0
50 akers	Billney Closes, the uper partt, now lett att	20-0-0
70 akers	The lower part of Billney Closes of seventy akers with	
30 akers	lieing nextt to Wallton Common, both lett for	8-0-0
277 akers	Errors excepted, which comes to	62-10-0

Which whole three farms lett att 4-6 pence the aker, one with annother
come to 62-6-6, the land worth half as much more. Besids I give this
years rentt into the bargain. Eliz Frek

[W, fol. 42r]

1708, Michellmas, September 29. Henry Crosse farme, or the White House Farme, lett by me to Henry Cross for the yearly rentt of forty six pound, ten shillings a yeare for the terme of seven years, with itt akers and price,	46-10-0
Eliz Freke	
Imprimus	l.-s.-d.
2i In the field by Saffum rode is 21 akers att 10 shillings an aker is	10-10-0

3	Three akers more in Saffum field, 3, belonging to Dawson, 10 shillings an aker	i-10-0
5	The Horse Close lett att five, 5, shillings the aker	i-5-0
5	akers call'd the Hoppground, 5 shillings the aker	i-5-0
23	akers of pasture for cowes, 23, called Juells, 10	ii-10-0
3	akers of pasture by the Hall, 3, called Billneys, 10	i-10-0
i	aker of plough land in the common field, i, by the warren, 18	0-i8-0
7	akers of wheat land by the common field, 7; by Pentny road, 13	4-ii-0
13	akers withoutt the warren, 13, att five shillings	3-15-0
i8	akers of plough'd ground by the house, i8, att 10 shillings the aker	9-0-0
10	akers call'd Funells Medow, 10, att 10 shillings	4-10-0
3	akers of ploughed land by the house, 3, att 10 shillings	i-10-0
	In all, iff right reckned by me, E Freke, is 107.	
	Errors excepted, the rentt coms to	46-12-0
		Eliz Freke

[W, fol. 43r]

A true accountt how West Billney is now lett by me, Elizabeth Frek, last September 1708, when 5 tennants in my absence run away with my rents and arrears to aboutt my loss of in the compass of a year and half time, as will apper, in my unhapy widowhood and inability of goeing outt of my chamber,³⁰ Eliz. Frek

John Benifield, the warren, lett att	688-0-0
John Benifield his pasture farme	55-0-0
Common Hous, now Wick lives in, lett at	39-0-0
Richard Taff for the Hall Farme	5-0-0
To him for Dyes Close and the fen	45-0-0
To him for Wallbutts grounds, hous burnt	20-0-0
To him for Sads house and Betts pittle ³¹	7-0-0
Luke Wingfield of East Walton, Priers Close	3-10-0
And the Parsnage Farme att	9-10-0
And Billney Closes att	25-0-0
	28-0-0

³⁰ B, fol. 28r, has a variation of this account.

³¹ Pittle: variant of pightle, a small enclosure or field.

William Knopwood, Hoss Paws Farme	60-0-0
Thomass Pallmer, the Wassell Farme	50-0-0
Henry Cros, the White House Farme	46-10-0
The Maner Farme in my hand	48-10-0
Henry Lindo, ³² the Comon Farm	12-10-0
John Bonion of East Wallton	4-0-0
Daniell Coats, the Comon Farme	8-10-0
Sconces house and the Parish House	4-0-0
Maddam Barnes	0-12-0
Rentt hens	0-16-0
	Errors excepted
	472-8-0
More, I lett Mr James Englebright att Pentney a farme I bought of my own mony of copy hold estat	46-0-0
Both which estates coms to, iff noe mistak in the reckon of them, May 28, 1709,	518-8-0
	Eliz Freke
Outt of this is the minester I pay now, Mr Buck,	20-0-0
And the kings rentt	2-10-0
And quitt rents aboutt	1-10-0
	24-0-0
And for this 20 year last past I have paid the parliamtt tax of neer a hundred pounds a year besid my loses this two years past of above five hundred pounds since a widow. E Frek	

[B, fol. 28v]

An accountt how West Billney stands now lett by me this Michellmas
1712, Elizabeth Frek, in my unhapy widowhood, with the severall
tennants names thatt rentt itt att present

Imprymus

1 The Hall Farme now in the hand of John Whitting lett for	48-0-0
2 Richard Tofts, the Maner Farme lett to him for And to him Dyes Close and the two fens lett to him for	48-10-0 20-0-0
And to him more the Alle House Farme burnt down	7-0-0
3 Is the warren to John Benifield for 55 l. and his pasture 39	94-0-0
4 Is the Wassell Farme lett to Thomas Pallmer for	50-0-0
6 [sic] Is Henry Cross Whitt House lett for	46-10-0

³² He lived in East Walton, where he was later a church warden of St Mary the Virgin.

7 Is William Knopwood Paws or Bishops Farme lett to him	60-0-0
8 Is Daniell Coats in the common lett to him for	8-10-0
9 Is Charles Greene in the common	5-10-0
10 Is Luke Wingfield of East Wallton, Pryers Close	9-10-0
To him more is Billney Closes lett at	28-0-0
And more to him is the Parsnage Farme lett att	25-0-0
ii Is Henry Lindo of East Wallton, to 2 Whin Closes and 7 akers	12-10-0
12 Is John Bonion, two peices lett him for	3-10-0
13 Madam Barnes, Whittpitt Brake, 5 akers, 5 perch	0-10-0
14 Is Robertt Wattsons house and pittle	2-10-0
15 Sads house and Sonces house, and both is	3-0-0
Rentt hens att Xmas is i6 shillings	0-i6-0
And Parish House in hand	
Errors excepted, sume is	472-i2-0
i6 Is in Pentney one farme in the hands of James Englebright lett for	46-0-0
Soe thatt both make up the sume of	518-i2-0
	Eliz Freke

[W, fol. 42v]

1713/14, March 4 An accountt of whatt lands belong to the Maner Farme of West Billney, taken outt by mee, Eliz Freke, and lett to

30 akers of mowing fen ground, high land, lett att

50 akers of fen ground lett att

10 akers of high mowing ground lett att

3 akers of fine mowing ground lett at, in Pincens Hill,

4 akers in the pound peice of fine hay

3 akers in the home stall of fine hay

4 akers of fine pasture belonging to the Alle House Farme

2 akers more of mowing ground fine hay, to the Ale House

8 akers of plough ground belonging to the Ale House

i aker more of plough ground call'd Dadrys Ale House

8 akers of plough ground on Pinsons Hill and

3 akers of plough ground att Hamenstad

3½ akers more of plough ground before this house

3 akers more by the warren field plough land

3½ akers more in the waren field plough land by Knop

C. Ownership of West Bilney

[W, fol. 112r]

In 1547 of King Edward the 6th and the 3d year of his reigne³³ I find in a maniscrip amongst my wrightings of Billney the third year of King Edward the Sixth reigne, 1547, thatt this king grants the maner of West Billney in the county of Norfolk and all messagges, tennaments, lands, meddows, pastures, feedings, commons, wasts, warrens, and herrydettremetts, &c.,³⁴ late parcell of the possession of the pryory of Pentney, to Richard Fulcauston.

Febuary 10 and the 3d of Elizabeth³⁵ Fullcauston grants this said maner to Mildmay and to his heires by deed inrolled with a fine betweene the said partyes with all ittys perquisits to him and his heires, as is above mentioned.

Febuary the 22 and the 15 of Queen Elizabeth³⁶ Mildmay bargains and sells by deed inrolled this above estate of the maner of West Billney to Francis Windham and his heires with a fine between the same partties.

1558, the 29 of Juny and 44 of Queen Elizabeth³⁷ Jane Coressly, sister and heire of Francis Windham, covenants with Henry Windham to stand seized to the use of her selfe for her life and affter to Thomas Prand, son of Henry Windham, and to his heires intaile, inrolled the seventh of December and forty seventh of Elizabeth.

1602, the 1 of May and 20 of Jaccobus or James the First³⁸ Henry Windham and Thomas Windham by deed enrolled in Trinytie tearme the 20 of Jacob the First bargaine and sell to Edmond Bullock and Georg Scott and their heires in consideration paid by Sir Edmond Bullock a fine exemplyfied between the parties aforesaid.³⁹

1625, Juny 1 and 7 of Carrolus the First⁴⁰ Sir Edward Bullock

³³ Versions of this history appear in B, fols. 47v–48v, and BL, Add. MS. 45721 A, fols. 11r–v. The third regnal year began on 28 January 1548/9.

³⁴ Messuages: dwelling, nearby buildings, and adjacent land; tenement: land or real property held and in common law 'lands, other inheritances, capable of being held in freehold, and rents' (Black, 1,316); hereditament: inheritable property.

³⁵ 10 February 1560/1, in the third of the regnal years beginning on 17 November 1558.

³⁶ 22 February 1572/3.

³⁷ 29 June 1602.

³⁸ 1 May 1624, in the twentieth of the regnal years beginning on 24 March 1602/3.

³⁹ 'Edmund Bullock, of Norfolk, gen., of Furnival's Inn' entered Lincoln's Inn on 14 November 1601 (*The Records of the Honorable Society of Lincoln's Inn*, 2 vols. [Lincoln's Inn, 1896], i. 133). 'George Scott of Essex, gen. of Clifford's Inn', had preceded Bullock at Lincoln's Inn (i. 128); another, the son of William Scott from Conghurst, Kent, matriculated at Queen's College in 1608, entered Gray's Inn the next year, and died in 1633 (*Register of Gray's Inn*, 122; Venn, iv. 31).

⁴⁰ 1 June 1631, in the seventh of the regnal years beginning on 27 March 1625.

and Edmond Bullock and George Scott bargain and sell to Thomas Benyfield all their intrest to Edward Richerson and Ambross Shepherd and their heirs in trust for Sir Thomas Richerson, Lord Cheife Justice Richerson of the common please.⁴¹

[W, fol. 111v]

1634, January 16 of Carrolus the First The Lord Cheife Justice Richerson deviseth the saide maner of West Billney to Sir Thomas Richerson, his son, for life and after to Thomas Richerson intaile, now Lord Thomas Richerson (Baron Gramontt).

1652, October 13, Charls the 2d Sir Thomas Benyfield and his heires (January 7) and Ambross Shepherd leases to Thomas Lord Richerson, Barron Gramontt in Scotland, son and heir of Sir Thomas Richerson and grandson of the lord cheife justice, for a yeare West Billney and after.

1652, Octobr 15, Charls 2d Sir Thomas Benifield and his heires and Ambross Shepherd releases to the said Lord Richerson and his heires West Billney.

1653, Trinyty tearm, Juny 7 The Lord Richerson suffers a recovery to John Tostock, and the seventh of Juny 1653 the lord by deed leases the uses of the saide recovery to him and his heires.⁴²

1659, May 27, Carrolus 2d The Lord Richerson, Barron Gramond in Scotland, mortgages the said maner of West Billney together with the demans and other lands in West Billney to Sir Jacob Garrett for two thousand five hundred pounds for 500 years, and 3000 l. was desired on itt.⁴³ And by his deeds convey'd itt to him May 27, 1659.

1663, June 3d, Carrolus 2d Sir Jacob Garrett with the Lord Thomas Richerson, Barron Gramond, did sell to my deer father, Ralph Frek, Esqr, of Hanington in Wildshier, on his paymentt of a 1000 l.,

⁴¹ Edward Bullock of Faulkbourne Hall, Essex, knighted on 5 July 1609, and the father of Edward Bullock, who resided at Pentney when he entered the Inner Temple in 1628 (William A. Shaw, *The Knights of England*, 2 vols. [1906, reprinted Baltimore, 1971], ii. 148; Blomefield, ix. 40; Venn, i. 252). Thomas Bedingfield or Beddenfield: associated with Gray's Inn; 'Thomas Beddingfield of Holborn, Midds.' was knighted on 23 June 1638 at Greenwich (*Register of Gray's Inn*, 127, 211; Shaw, *Knights of England*, ii. 206). Ambrose Shepherd, the son of Owen Shepherd of Kirby Bedon, matriculated at Caius in 1614; later, an Ambrose Shepherd became lord of the Norfolk manor of Kirby Bedon (Venn, iv. 58; Blomefield, v. 477). Thomas Richardson, a knight and member of parliament from St Albans who became speaker in 1621, served as lord chief justice from 1621 until his death in 1635 (*Scots Peerage*, ii. 579).

⁴² Recovery: restoration or affirmation of right through court judgment (Black, 1,147). John Tostock is unidentified among the Tostocks of Norfolk or at the inns of court.

⁴³ Sir Jacob Garrard (d. 1666), London alderman from Bishopsgate and Candlewick, was knighted on 3 December 1641 and received a baronetcy on 16 August 1662 (Beaven, *Aldermen of the City of London*, ii. 64; *CB*, iii. 255–6).

thousand pound, more to my Lord Richerson, he did sell all his said maner of West Billney with all itt's appurtenances, members, &c., as parcell of the late dissolved monastery of Pentney together with Sir Jacob Garretts mortgage of 500 yeares.

1664, Novembr 28 And took itt up of my Lord Richerson as by his lease appeers and paid of to my lord three thousand one hundred fifty nine pounds **1665, July 5**. Which mony was to bee paid back to my deer father by my Lord Richerson with itt's intrest of seven hundred thirtty seven pounds, fowrteen shillings, and ten pence (737-14-10) the twentieth day of January.

[W, fol. 111r]

1665[/6], January 20 Which failleing of both princeple and intrest, the Lord Thomas Richerson did sell West Billney with Sir Jacob Garretts mortgage by lease to William Coward, Esqr,⁴⁴ viz., all the maner of West Billney with itt's apurtenances and members thereto belonging as partt and parcell of the late desolved monastery of Pentney. And with all his rightt the Lord Richerson did convey to my deer father, Ralph Frek, for (5896-14-10) fyve thousand eight hundred ninety six pounds, fourteen shillings, and ten pence; which sume the Lord Richerson owns to have received from my father as by his deeds mentioned and enroled, &c.

1672, October 5 My deer father gave this estate to my brother Austen for my deer sisters portion for 4000 l. Butt hee nott liking the distance of itt from his own estat in Kentt, my father paid my brother the mony and sould itt to my deer husband, Percy Freke, Esqr, and did then settle itt on me, Eliza Frek, his eldest daughter, and on my heires (as a retreatt from Ireland), my son being then aboutt fowre monthes old. Since which time (1675) to October the 22, 1712, this estate of West Billney has bin in me, his daughter Elizabeth Freke, viz., for thirty eight yeares and upward, and in my deer fathers possession neer fifty three yeares, iff right reckned by me, EF.

1688, the 1 of Queen Mary and William the 3d⁴⁵ My deer husband, Percy Freke, Esqr, boughtt of my Lord Henry Richerson, Barron Gramontt, eldest son to the Lord Thomas Richerson, and of his brother Mr Thomas Richerson their rightt of redemption of West Billney together with Gander Fenn in Wrongy, or Wormongy, abutting

⁴⁴ William Coward (1634-1705), called to the bar from Lincoln's Inn in 1662 and later a sergeant-at-law, was a recorder of Wells, which he represented in a number of parliaments (*HC*, ii. 164-5).

⁴⁵ Regnal year beginning on 13 February 1688/9.

on my Decoy,⁴⁶ and the five aker peice of Mrs Barns in Winch abutting on Billney, or rather in Billney, for a hundred guynes, viz., 107.

1689, King William 3 Which I, Elizabeth Freke, paid him att Pentney and Mr Frek enrolled in chancery by a new decree. And when hee dyed in 1706, June the 2d (and my sons birth day), hee settled itt on my son and his grandchildren successively. Eliza Freke

[W, fol. 110v]

1688, the 1 of Queen Mary and William the Third, 3d And Mr Freke then took a larg deed from the Lord Richerson and his brother Mr Thomas Richerson with Yelverton Payton, Esqr,⁴⁷ and ther bond for performance of covenantts of three hundred pound aboutt July 1688 or 1689. Thus in Queen Mary the first and King William the 3d time I have lived in a quiett possession withoutt the least disturbance for about 38 yeares and my deer father before me for neer fifty yeares, viz., from the 27 of May 1659, the twentieth of King James the First, till the seventh yeare of Queene Ann.⁴⁸

1709, Queen Ann 7 year, July 22 or thereabouts The presentt bishop of Norwich, Doctter Trimnell, did turne outt my minester, Mr Charls Buck, from officiating in my church for nott excepting of his licence and beinge subjectt to his courts. Which I then held outt against, I nott haveing in the three foregoeing bishops ever had my right questioned (viz., in Doctter Sparrows time, Dr Loyds time, and Doctter Moors time). And to make itt the more barbarous, this was done when I were att Bristoll goeing for Ireland, [which] forced me home againe to defend my rightt against this bishop, Doctter Trimnell; Doctter Jeffryes, the arch deacon; and Doctter Thomas Tanner, their chancellor, who threatned me with excomynication.

1709, Michellmas to April 1710 Then I keptt the church seven month vacantt from Michellmas to April to see whatt there tormenting of me with ther letters and proctors would come to and to justifie my right as partt of my estate and itt's head – itt being thus used by the Norwich clargy affter I had outt of my own generossitty for thirty eight yeares maintained a minester heer outt of my own pockett att twenty

⁴⁶ Thomas Richardson, the second of Lord Cramond's three sons, died in 1696 (*Scots Peerage*, ii. 582). The land known as Decoy was on the western side of the estate, west of the area located on the current Ordnance Survey map as Denton's Farm and north of Wormgay, which Freke's transcription of Camden's *Britannia* notes is 'commonly called Wrongey' (BL, Add. MS. 45720, fol. 47r) and Faden's 1797 map of Norfolk depicts as Wormegay Fen.

⁴⁷ Yelverton Peyton, fourth son of Thomas and Elizabeth Peyton of Rougham and husband of Hannah Roberts, matriculated at Caius in 1669 and entered Gray's Inn in 1672 (Blomefield, x. 32; *Register of Gray's Inn*, 315).

⁴⁸ 27 May 1659 was in the tenth regnal year of Charles II.

pounds a yeare besids severall other grattuityes, there being neither gleab or tithes butt whatt my charrity affords to this church of Billney. Butt I, Eliz Frek, refused all theire authority and unjust demands, itt being a peculier since i547, the 3d of Edward the Sixth, and my peculler, neither subjectt to institution, induction, or licence butt an impropiation and my donitive, as is Pentny church, putt in by my father, Ralfe Frek, Esqr, i675. Butt Pentney church has tithes; this has nothing for itts supportt butt my charity and bounty for above thirty eight yeare past, who have allowed Mr Adams and Mr Buck twenty pound a year a peice besids other grattuityes since the yeare i675 to this presentt Lady Day 1712, Eliz Freke. Mr Buck, my minester, was prefered from Gyton and Billney to a better liveing, soe thatt my church is now vacantt againe to see the charyty of the bishop and Norwich clergy now to this church, which has cost mee above eightt hundred pound both itts minesters since I came to Billney (now 29 years agoe). Eliza Freke

[B, fol. 29v]

D. Account of Money Freke Lent and Brought to Her Husband

1712 A true accountte of whatt I have lentt and brought my deer husband, Percy Frek, Esqr, since I were marryed to him, being the fourteenth of November i67i, as I have endorst itt to the best of my memory. And I show'd itt my deer husband, Percy Frek, i705, (when he was angry with me I would nott come up to London) to see iff there were any mistake in; who affter reading of itt said I was true and thatt he could deny noe part of itt butt thatt he had received itt from Eliza Freke.⁴⁹

i67i, November 14 I were privattly marryed to Mr Frek in Coventt Garden by Mr Johnson, then my Lord Russells chaplin, in London.

i672, July 24 I were againe remarryed by my deer father, Ralph Frek, Esqr, to my deer husband, Percy Freke, Esqr, att St Margaretts Church att Westminster in London by Doctter Uttram the 24 of July after I had bin neer eightt years contracted to him, and my licence 4 years taken out. Eliza. Freke

First, whatt I lentt him of my own saveings I hadd his bond for of payment:

l.-s.-d.

i672 I lentt Mr Freke to pay my auntt Frek⁵⁰ his fathers and mothers bond by them contracted aboutt 8 years before, which with itts intrest came to

320-0-0

⁴⁹ W, fol. 40v, has an earlier version ending in 1680.

⁵⁰ Frances, the wife of William Freke of Hannington.

i673 I lentt him more to pay his own debts for sack and clarrett, &c. 200-0-0

i673 More this yeare I lentt him to pay my brother Austin, who had kindly arested him for itt (tho drinking mony), together with its intrest and charge 150-0-0

i674 More I lentt him when he wentt downe into Kentt to seise Leeds Castle aboutt Xmas with the shrieft and twenty fowre baylyes 100-0-0

i675 More he took up of mine in my aunt Freks hand to buy goods with the first time I wentt for Ireland 150-0-0

Besids a greatt many smaller sumes and aboutt eight or ten dimand rings of myne in his keeping, all lost butt my weding ring, 920-0-0

Eliza. Freke

i674 My deer father gave me then for my portian a morttgage on Sir Robertt Brooks estate neer Eping Forrest, in five miles of London – a mortgage of five hundred pounds a yeare which my deer husband sould to Sir Josias Child, a greatt bruer in the city of London, for Paid him downe in redy mony with its intrest and disposed of greatt part of itt unknown to me or my deer father, Ralph Frek, my trustee. 5664-0-0

i675 I borrowed of my deer father (Ralph Frek, Esqr,) on the purchas of Leeds Castle in Kentt on my husbands and my bond 800-0-0

Which in a little time affter my father gave me upp on Mr Freks promise of settling itt on me, Eliza. Frek. Which i677 or thereabout my deer husband sould this estatt of Leeds Castle to Lord Cullpeper for 2500-0-0 (unknown to my deer father or mee), which he transferred to his beloved Ireland and with itt and its exchange of 300 l. bought part of his west country estate in Ireland and 100 l. a year by Rathbary.

i675 Then presently affter the birth of my son, Ralfe Frek, being June the second, i675, I bought of my deer father this estate of West Billney, which was given to my brother Austen and by him sould to me, then a mortgage to my father for above 5768 l. For which I were faine to borrow of my deer father to compleatt my purchase 768-14-10

And affter my Lord Richersons death I were att the charge of sueing outt my decree in chancery; affter which my Lady Richerson received her thirds or dowre on itt for 28 years or thereaboutt.

i68o When I came into England to see my deer father, he gave mee up this bond of 768 l. ¹⁴–¹⁰ with three years intrist due on itt, for which I had mortgaged to him by bond West Billney, now my own againe.

i68i or there aboutts Mr Freke had contracted with the earle of Barrymoore for the inheritance of Rathbary, of which was and is aboutt 300 l. a yeare, of which his lease of itt for a 100 l. a year for above sixty years. Elce iff not now bought, to be sould from us. When I weere againe forced to borrow of my deer father on Mr Freks and my bond aboutt

i200-0-0

Which he most kindly and redily lentt me soe I came for England.

Errors excepted, sume is, if right reckned by Eliza Frek,

ii852-14-10
Eliza Freke

[B, fol. 30r]

i712 A further accountt of whatt my deer father, Ralph Frek, Esqr, gave me, Elizabeth Frek, his daughter, since I were marryed, i67i, to Mr Percy Freke; which in the yeare 1705 I show'd my deer husband to see iff hee could contradictt any partt of itt or perticuler. All which he was pleas'd to allow to Eliza Freke.⁵¹

i683 My deer father sentt for me outt of Ireland, when he was pleased to give me up this bond of Mr Freks and mine to him for the twelve hundred pounds and the intrist on itt. And with itt he was pleased to give me to buy pins and needles

l.-s.-d.
200-0-0

i684 January the first and my unhappy birth day my deer father sentt me over to Ireland for a New Years guift, and bid mee hasten over to him with all speed to meett my sisters and have his last blesing,

i00-0-0

Which being the hard winter, I could nott gett a shipp; and hee dyed the 24 of Aprill i684; and I never saw him more, tho hee often sentt to me to come to him and have his last blesing. Butt my God prevented me and leftt me ever to lament him. Eliz. Freke

My deer fathers guift

ii232-14

i687 or thereaboutts Mr Frek borrowed of me of my own savings to buy the cobby hold estate in Pentney of forty six pound a yeare, now lett for by me, Eliz Freke, the sume of

700-0-0

⁵¹ An earlier version of this account in W (fol. 41r) ends in 1709.

- i688** More Mr Freke borrowed of me to buy outt the right of redemtion of Henry Lord Richerson on West Billney 107-0-0
- i70i** More my deer husband took up of mine in my cosin John Frek hand of my own proper mony and savings, unknown to me, 500-0-0
For which I was troubled. E Freke
- i702** More my deer husband took up of mine of my Indy stock and of me in mony to cary for Ireland to compleatt his purchas with the Lord Sidney in Ireland my own savings 1004-0-0
Which mony by the unsettled govermentt was great part of itt lost by the Lord Sidney, then deputy of Ireland. E Frek
- i702** Mr Freke writt to me to bestow on my son, Ralph Frek, towards the purchas of Dirralone, which with the 200 l. I gave my son, Ralph Freke, for a New Years giftt the day he came of age he would compleat the rest. Soe I did to teach him his fathers trade of buying Irish land. 407-0-0
- i703** My deer husband lett me have noe quiett till he borrowed of me to buye debenturs to cary for or returne for Ireland. Which I did and paid itt by my cosin John Freke, which he carryed over with for his last purchas he there made in the west of Ireland. And all these severall sums of my own saveings and improvemtt 2020-0-0
- i704** December 1703 Mr Frek came for England. I removed my stock into mony for feare all would be gone from me for Ireland, and I bought an exchecker order of the queen for ninety nine years for my second grandson, Ralph Frek, 103 l.–10 s. a yeare cost me 1560-0-0
- i706** I did then buy another exchecker order of the queen for ninty nine years together with a bankers debtt for my said grandson Ralph Frek, both which cost me, E Frek, 1500-0-0
- i712, September 2** And still I have by me in mony in Sir George Nortons hand on his bond and judgment for my grandson Ralph Frek 1339-0-0
And more on Mr Weston a mortgage⁵² of 1200-0-0
All for Ralph Frek, and my grandson.
And more now, September 2d, in my cosin John Freks hand of mine for my two younger grandchildren 1056-0-0
And more now in my closett above 400-0-0

⁵² The 1711 mortgage is on Steven Weston's Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire property; see above, p. 189 n. 478.

All these severall sums of my own saving and industry. Eliza Freke	
Which iff right reckned and errors excepted comes to	23945-14-10
Of which my deer fattrhs bounty and kindnes to me was	ii232-14-10
And my own industry and savings att Billney, &c., were	i2713-0-0
Both which sumes, iff right reckned by me, comes to totall	23945-14-10 Eliz Frek

E. Account of Documents To Be Given Freke's Executors

[B, fol. 31v]

1712, September the 7 An accountt of whatt parchments and papers I have laid in my uper closett in a black trunk sowed up to be kept by my executors as soon as itt shall please my God to take me, Elizabeth Frek, to himselfe – who brought this estate of West Billney to my deer husband, Percy Freke, Esqr, lett for now by me, E Frek, 1712, 472 pounds a yeare; and more in Pentney, forty six pound a yeare. Both which are now lett for this presentt time 518-10-0 or therabouts.⁵³
Eliz Frek

1 Mr Freks settlemtt of his estate in Ireland upon me, EF

2 The Lord Burlingtons of Garren James in Ireland for 2i years, 1702

3 My decree in chancery against the Lord Henry Richerson and his brothers and Serjantt William Richersons right of redemption fielled i688, for which I paid him a hundred guines, paid by me, Eliz. Freke, viz., a hundred and seven pounds

4 Serjantt William Richersons will⁵⁴

5 The Lord Thomas Richerson lease of 500 years, Barron Gramontt, to Sir Jacob Gerrald for the paymentt of seventy five pounds the 29 day of November 1659 and two thousand five hundred seventy five pounds upon the one and twentyeth of May following, i660

6 Five leases of the Lord Richersons of Billney lett to these severall tennants: the first is Mr Price, the Hall, call'd Billney Hall; 2d is William Bishop or Pawes (now William Knopwood); 3 is Christopher Pery, now Robertt Ram, is the warren; 4th, the Maner Farme, William Fisk, now Richard Tafft; 5th is Thomas Turner, the

⁵³ An earlier version dated 7 January 1709/10 appears in W, fols. 39v-40r.

⁵⁴ William Richardson, serjeant-at-law, was the younger brother of Thomas Richardson, second Baron Cramond. His will was proved on 24 July 1682 (*Scots Peerage*, ii. 581).

White House, now Cross; 6th is the Wassell Farme, formerly Plattfoot, now Pallmer.

7 One larg deed datted the 3d of June i663 to Sir Jacob Gerrard by the Lord Thomas Richerson, Barron Gramountt, who did sell to him all his maner of West Billney with all its appurtenances as parcell of the latte desolved monastery of Pentney

8 And one large lease of the Lord Richersons conveying of itt to Sir Jacob Gerrerd May the twenty seventh, i659, and from Sir Jacob sould to my father, Ralph Freke, Esqr

9 In i664, the 28 of November, my deer father, Ralph Frek, Esqr, lentt the Lord Richerson, Barron Gramond, a thousand pound on Sir Jacob Gerrards mortgage.

io, i665, July 5 My father laid downe more on this mortgage 3i59 pounds, which mony was to bee paid to my deer father with its intrest of 737–i4–io January the twentyeth, i665, who took up Sir Jacob Gerrards mortgage.

ii, i665 Which faileing of both princeple and intrest, the Lord Thomas Richerson did sell West Billney by a lease to William Coward, Esqr, for my deer father, viz., all the manner with the appurtenancies, parcell of the late desolved monastery of Pentney, with all its rights, members, and appurtenancies belonging to the said maner of Billney (and the donitive of Pentney).

i2, i672 One deed in which my deer father sues outt a decree for his princeple and intrest mony to be paide him in, being 4896–i4–io, which was passed and fielled i672

i3, i672 Two deeds of my fathers conveyance of West Billney to my brother Austen for my deer sisters portion for fowre thousand pound – **i675, June 30**, which my brother not likeing its distance from his estate in Kentt sould itt backe againe to my deer father for 4000 l. Which mony my father had of mee, and I did purchass itt of my brother Austen.

i4 And my father and I gave him Mr Freks and my bond for whatt was more due, being 896–i4–io, and my only son being then aboutt a month old the 2d June. Hee did then settle itt on me and my children just before I wentt for Ireland the first time of my goeing over there, Elizabeth Freke – my husband then having all my fathers and Sir Jacob Gerrards intrest conveyed to him [B, fol. 32r] with its perquisits and appurtenancies as parcell of the late desolved monastery of Pentney and settled on me and my children June i676.

i4–i5 Two deeds of the sale of West Billney by my deer father to Sir John Earnly and Goreing Ball, Esq, in trust for me, Eliza Freke, aboutt i676⁵⁵

⁵⁵ John Ernle or Earnley (c. 1620–1697), a Wiltshire justice of peace and militia

16 One deed more in trust for me to Sir John Earnly and Goring Ball, Esqr

17 One large deed of trust of my deer fathers and my husbands, Percy Freke, Esqr, to Sir John Earnley and Mr Goreing Ball in trust for mee

18 Two deeds of dowre to the Lady Ann Richerson wherin she releases to my deer father, Ralph Frek, Esqr, all her right and claime to the maner of West Billney with its appurtenancies, parcell of the late desolved monastery of Pentney

19 One larg deed of the sale of West Billney to William Coward, Esqr, for my deer father with all its appurtenancies of the late desolved monastery of Pentney

20 One larg deed of the settlementt of West Billney on my deer husband, Percy Freke, Esqr; and me, Elizabeth Frek, his wife; and our son, Mr Ralph Freke

21, i688 One large deed tryperly⁵⁶ of release of West Billney to my deer husband by the Lord Henery Richerson (son to the Lord Thomas Richerson) and Mr Thomas Richerson and Yelverton Payton, Esqrs, with their bond of 300 l. iff either of them intrude on oure estate of West Billney

22 One parcell of deeds tyed upp of the estate Pentney bought of Yelverton Payton, Esqr, bought by my deer husband, Percy Frek, Esqr, butt with my own proper mony, i689, Eliza. Freke

23 One parcell of deeds tyed up of my seven akers peice I bought to enclose the whole estatt of Billney in or aboutt Michellmas i686 of Goodman Curttaine; and I paid for itt, unknown to Mr Frek, with my own mony. Itt being free land, I gave itt my son for a vote in the parliament with. E Freke

24 One deed or lease of my five aker peice and 5 perch in Winch field called Whittpitt Brack bought by Mr Freke in i688 and lett by the late Lord Henry Richerson to Mrs Barns, a lease of 83 years for twelve shillings a yeare with powre of reentry. Which land shee enjoyed of mine twenty four years and ploughed up my myore withoutt ever paying me any rentt. Att last being like to loose itt by Mrs Barns and her son Thomas Langly affter they had enjoy'd itt 24 years for 4 l., I

commander knighted by Charles II, was a member of parliament, chancellor of the exchequer, and lord of the admiralty. Freke's recipes and remedies include several from Lord and Lady Earnley (*HC*, ii. 271–4). But conceivably Freke could intend his son, Sir John Ernle of Calne, Wiltshire (1647–1686), who was knighted in 1673 and was later a member of parliament (*HC*, ii. 274). Goringe Ball, the second son of the knight and master of the bench Peter Ball, entered the Middle Temple in 1652 and was called to the bar in 1657 (*Middle Temple Records*, iii. 1,033, 1,108).

⁵⁶ A tripartite indenture or deed: three copies of an agreement made on a sheet cut on indented lines (Jowitt, i. 960).

then entered on itt by seising the corne in the cartt for the rentt which they promised me att Michellmas. Which faileing of I did in my own right enter on itt the Lady Day affter, 1712. Soe thatt this estate of West Billney has bin in my deer fathers possession and mortgage and me, his daughter, from the 30 of June one thousand six hundred sixty fowre to this 7 of September 1712; I then transcribed itt. Which, iff right reckned, is forty eight years; of which time the Lady An Richerson enjoyed her dowre on itt neer eight and twenty years with the head house and the best of the land and then by some fattall accident was burntt to death all alone in or aboutt Xmas in her closett att Honingham, my lord her son and daughter being att Norwich – hapned thatt day 1696.⁵⁷ Eliz Freke

September 7, 1712 In the same trunk is putt in more by me

i In a plod bagg, more, two deeds of trust to me for my hundred and three pound a yeare for 99, ninety nine, years in the exchecker for my grandson Ralph Freke. The third parchmენტt of itt is in my cosin John Freks hand as my trustee.

2 And the tallyes are in the same trunk in my closet.

3 Together with the tallys for my bankers debt for 34-10-0 a year and for 66 pound a yeare I bought since my deer husbands death, 1706, for ninety nine years for my grandchildren succesively, and first to my grandson Ralfe Freke

4 More is my renewall of my estate att Pentney, which Mr Freke [B, fol. 32v] surrendered att his death, June 2d, to the use of his will made in Febuary 1705 and renewed by me, Elizabeth Freke, November 14, 1706.

5 More is my deer husbands last will and mine.

6 More is in a little red trunk roled up my sons, Ralph Freks, lease to pay mee three hundred and fifty pound a year outt of (850 l.) eight hundred and fifty pounds a yeare my deer husband att his death left me in Ireland for my life. All which my son has bin soe unkind to me as to receive all of itt for aboutt six yeare past and never paid me butt one half yeares rentt of 170. This is too true. E Frek

7 More is my purchas deeds of Pentney, purchased 1688, of forty six pound a yeare.

8 And more is my bankers debtt by actt of parliamentt for thirty fowre pound a yeare for ninety nine years in the exchecker.

9 More is in this little red trunk Sir George Nortons bond and judgmentt for thirteen hundred pounds borrowed of me November 20 for one yeare.

io And more is there my cosin John Freks note and letter wherin he owns to owe me cleere nine hundred and twenty pounds last Xmas 1711

⁵⁷ Anne Richardson died on 31 January 1697/8.

besids the fifty pound I gave my neece Betty Austen last Febuary. Since which my Cosin John Frek has received of mine a hundred pound more outt of the exchecker due to me last Lady Day 1712 and thirty six pound intrest mony for half a years intrest due to me from Mr Steven Weston on his mortgage. Soe thatt my cosin John Frek has of mine now in his hand 1056 pound. Eliz Frek

ii More is in the biger black trunk Mr Stephen Westons mortgage deeds for twelve hundred pounds lentt him the first of December 1711. Eliz Frek

13 [*sic*] And more is an appoynttmentt of maintenance for my two elder grandchildren affter my death till they shall come of age. E Frek

14 Besids there is severall other letters and papers of my concerns in the little red trunk.

15 Besids I forgott amongst Billney deeds is the old regester of Billney datted 1562 to be keptt by which I defend my self in the right of my church against the bishop and chancellour of Norwich.

16 Is the field book of Billney and Pentney transcribed by Mr Brockett.⁵⁸ EF

F. Account of Freke's Personal Estate

[B, fol. 35v]

September the 29, 1712 A true accountt of my personall estate belonging to me, Eliz Freke, widdow and rellictt of Percy Freke deceased, late of West Billney in the county of Norfolk, Esqr, in my powre to dispose of in my will and given me by my deere husband att his death in his will made Febuary 21, 1705,⁵⁹ and confirmed att his death, June the second, Sunday, 1706 – the very day and hower my son Ralph Frek was borne thirty years before (hee being now, 1712, seven and thirty years of age the second of June, last 1712, Eliza. Frek)
l.–s.–d.

One annuity of fifty pounds a yeare perr anum issuing from the exchecker for the residue of a tearme of ninety nine years, att first purchased in the name of Sir Joseph Jekill, knightt, and by him assigned to my cosin John Frek of the Midle Temple in London in trust

⁵⁸ A John Brockett resided in the Sedgeford Lane Ward according to the 1705 Lynn land tax (NRO, KL/C47/46); the Gayton parish register records the marriage of a John Brockett and Mary Chambers, widow, in November 1709.

⁵⁹ Freke signed his will on 3 February 1705/6 (PRO, PROB 11/489/145).

for mee and such of my grandchildren as I shall dereict, ⁶⁰ Eli. Frek	50-0-0
One other annuety of twenty pound perr anum issuing from the exchecker for the residue of a tearme of ninety nine yeares purchased by the said John Freke, Esqr, on the trust above mentyoned for me and such of my grandchildren as I shall dereictt, E Frek	20-0-0
One other annuety of thirtty three pounds, six shilling, and eight pence issueing outt of the exchecker for the residue of a tearme of ninety nine yeares, att first purchased by Charls Bluntt and by him assigned to the above saide John Freke on the trust above mentioned for Elizabeth Freke; ⁶¹ all bought in 1703	33-6-8
One other annuety of sixtty six pounds a yeare issuing from the exchecker for the residue of a tearme of ninety nine yeares att first purchased in the name of my said husband, Percy Freke, Esqr, and me, Elizabeth Frek, his said wife,	66-0-0
One other annuety or pention of thirty fowre pounds, ten shillings a yeare payable att the exchecker in leiw of a goldsmith or bankers debtt, purchased by my husband and the order for the paymentt made to my said deceased husband, Percy Freke, Esqr. This hundred pound a yeare was purchased in the year 1705, E Frek.	34-10-0
And my cosin John Frek, my truste, has the orders of them all in his keeping for mee and my disposall, Elizabeth Frek.	
Sume of both is two hundred and three pounds, ten shillings per anum.	203-10-0 Eliz Freke

[B, fol. 36r]

17ii, November 2i More aded by me of my own
saveings since my six yeares widowhood is lentt to Sir
George Norton of Abots Leigh in November on his
bond and warantt till Aprill the 2i, half a yeare, 1339-00-00

⁶⁰ A member of Middle Temple called to the bar in 1687, Joseph Jekyll (c. 1662-1738) received a knighthood following his appointments as chief justice of Chester and serjeant-at-law. He succeeded John Trevor as master of the rolls and long served as a member of parliament (*The History of Parliament. The House of Commons, 1715-1754*, ed. Romney Sedgwick, 2 vols. [New York, 1970], ii. 174-6).

⁶¹ John Freke's will mentions a Charles Blunt, his sister-in-law's husband (PRO, PROB 11/559/154).

December 7 And more lentt to Mr Steven Weston
on his mortgagge December 7 1200-00-00

And then more left of my mony in my cosin John
Freks hand 970-00-00

And more my cosin John Frek has received of mine
halfe a years intrest outt of the exchecker funds of mine
last Lady Day 101-10-00

1712, May And more by cosin John Frek received of
mine half a years intrest due last May from Mr Westons
mortgagge mony 36-00-00

And more my cosin John Frek receives of mine half
a years intrestt outt of my exchecker funds September
29, 1712, 101-10-00

More is now in my closett in my greatt haire trunk
neer 400-00-00

In all, iff right reckned by mee, Elizabeth Frek, is
September 29, 1712, of mony, bonds, and bills of my
own to dispose of at my death 4148-00-00

Of this (4148) fowr thousand one hundred forty eight
pounds my cosin John Freke owes me last Xmas 1711
nine hundred and seventy pounds, for which I have his
note. And September 29, 1712, is a years intrest from
the exchecker of 203 pounds and half a years intrest of
Mr Westons last May 1712 is 36 pounds. In all is 1208
pound; outt of which my cosin Frek gave my neece
Betty Austen by my order last Febuary fifty pounds.
Which taken outt of a hundred remaines cleere due to
me from my kinsman 1158 pounds, September 29. 1158-00-00
Eliz. Freke

1712, September 29 Besids this is more due to me
from my son, Ralph Frek, of my arears of rentt due to
me in Ireland from Joseph Jervoise three years charged
on my son, 1706, by him and the account brought me
by my cosin John Frek when he wentt over for me 1707,
April 21, 1200-00-00

Then there was then due to me from my sone, above,
took up of mine 1920-00-00
3120-00-00

And more my son owes me. Mr Freke gave me in
Ireland att his death, 1706, by his will dated Febuary
21, 1705, eight hundred pound and fifty pound a yeare
lett by my deer husband, 1703, when he leftt Ireland.
Which was by my cosen John Frek when he wentt over
for me April 21, 1707, to take my accounts and arrears

of rentt hee reduced this my 850 pounds a year to 664 pounds a yeare and the Michellmass affter leased this my 850 l. a yeare to my son for 350 pounds a yeare in Michellmas 1707 for my life. Which is now this Michellmas five years rentt due to me cleere and a halfe besids the half years rentt he paid my cosin John Freke, 1707.

7268-00-00

G. 21 May 1712 Letter to Archdeacon John Jeffery

[B, fol. 51r]

A letter I wrote to the arch deacon of Norwich, Doctter Jeffryes, May the 21, 1712, Elizabeth Freke:

Reverentt Sir,

Being warned by your procter Clark for my appeerance att your courte amongst all your rable and crue, I did desire Mr Smith, vicker of Winch, by my letter to appeere for me. Butt hee, judging itt more proper for me to trouble you with this my complaint under my own hand, suppress thatt of his.

Sir, I need nott informe you thatt aboutt two years past the severty of the bishop of Norwich in my absence did me in displacing my chaplin att West Billney church, tho coalatted under his own dereiction to Gyton; which is more then the bishop can answer or the chancellour the trouble given me in itt to force mee to his licence and jurisdiction of Norwich courtte, my church being nott only a peculer butt my perticuler peculer subjectt nither to licence, institution, or induction and noe tithes belonging to itt. Butt the church of Pentney, tho under my church and my donitive, has tithes (or is tributary) both in my challenge. Which by the barbarous usuage I have lately received from Norwich has forced me to take a veiw of my rightt in the head of the spirituall courte, where tho in the arch bishops jurisdiction, yett under noe command from him as to my tittle, I holding my right of this church and the donitive of Pentney (viz., Billney-come-Pentney) only from a crowned head. Nor doe I owe any suite or service or rentt butt thatt which I dully pay to the queen or king in my Lord Oswellstons rentt, who bought itt of King Charls the Second.

Now, sir, amongst the severall other mistakes I have as a woman comitted by my ignorrance is in my payments to you of procurations

and sinodalls, which I finde are nott your due since the desolution of the latte dissollved monastery of Pentney, viz., my register says since 1560. However, sir, I question nott your honer and justice in takeing an advantage of an unhappy widow. And iff you thinke, sir, my stopp of my just due any wronge to you, be pleased to convince me from above, and I shall submit to the queens authority, my pattron. Sir, I have within these few yeares suppressst severall of these sorts of quitt rentts, which I by my ignorance, folly, and womanhood have unjustly paid, and challenged their redress for itt. Which rather then oppose itt, they submitted to. And grievous itt was and is to mee, tho in my own wrong, to contend with the church and your selfe, perticularly in itt. And now knowing my errors in whatt is past, iff I should committ the same againe, mightt perhaps be registered against mee. Which tho itt may nott breake mee, soe itt cannott be of thatt conveniency to you for mee to doe actt unjustly to the church and my predicessours in itt.

Sir, I am now soe unhappy againe as to be withoutt a minester to serve my cure heer; and I must be forced to keep itt soe thatt I may have a testemony of the bishops generossity and rightt to itt, which as I am very ill and infirme is most grieveous to mee. And tho I am offered the advantage the queen now allowes mee of liberty of contience and could partt with my church to a conciderrable advantage, yett being bred and borne of the Protestant church and for which I am for my husbands being soe above fifteene thousand pounds a sufferer, itt would bee cruell in your courte for to force my contience from the Church of England. Therefore, honred sir, be pleased to side with me a little that I may fill my vacancy by sending me a generall release outt of your courts or thatt the bishop and you will maintaine your right against me. Sir, I had nott the confidence of addressing my selfe to you in this butt by the encouragmentt of Mr Smith brought me from you. And, sir, itt is nott derogatory from your quallity or funtion, tho a woman, to help and assist me as I am a widow who plead for the rightt of the church and humbly begg your pardon for this scrole and thatt I may continue, sir,

Your obliged, humble servant Eliz. Frek,
parson, vicker, and curratt of West Billney
and donative of Pentny

H. Inventories of Household Goods

[W, fol. 44r]

December the 7, 1710 An accountt of whatt bottles I have now in my

uper closetts of cordiall watters and sirrups putt in by me, Eliz Frek, for my own use⁶²

In the great cubbard by the bed side is
54 quartt bottles of hott cordiall watter of several sorts (first watter).

In the little cuberd just over itt is
i8 pints of stronge aquamirabolus.

In the little open cubord by it is
9 pints of severall sirrups.

In the first cubard of the pewter cases is
34 quarts, of which 6 of aquamy[rabolus].

In the 2d cubard of this case is
24 bottles, all strong watters of there severall sorts.

And on the shelf of the same cubbord is aloft
9 quarts of sirrup of gullyflowrs.

In the long chest by the window is
34 bottles, quarts and pints, of cordiall watter, of which
8 pints of aquamirabolus in the cold still.

In the little cubberd under the window is
i6 of cordiall watter.

In all, if right reckned by mee, is aboutt two hundred bottles of quarts and pints putt in by me, of which 24 pints and 6 quarts is the best aquamirabolus. E Frek

More on the shelves is
5 quarts of buck thorn sirrup⁶³
2 quarts of sirrup of bulles⁶⁴
3 quarts of sirrup of damsons
3 quarts of sirrup of elderburyes
i quart of sirrup of issop⁶⁵
i quart of sirrup of baume,
i quart of sirrup of purslan⁶⁶
i quart of Eliza sallutas, i708
i quart of sirrup of turnaps, i7io
3 quarts of catrick watter, eyes

⁶² Variations of the first and last of the following three inventories appear in W, fol. 3r, dated 5 December 1710.

⁶³ Buckthorn berries are purgative.

⁶⁴ Bullace: 'The Bullesse ... wilde kindes of Plums' that 'do stay and binde the belly' (Gerard, *The Herball*, 1,498, 1,499).

⁶⁵ Isop, isope: hyssop-aromatic herb; mixed with water, honey and rue for inflamed lungs, 'the old cough, and shortnesse of breath' (Gerard, *The Herball*, 580; Pechey, *The Compleat Herbal*, 107).

⁶⁶ Purslane: a succulent herb recommended for, among other ills, 'Coughs, and Shortness of Breath' (Pechey, *The Compleat Herbal*, 155).

3 quarts of surffit or popy watter, 1710
 i quarte of celeistill for eyes
 4 quarts of rosemary water
 i quartt of popy water, cold still

In my further litle closett is December the seventh, 1710, putt in by me, Eliz Freke,

32 quarts of red strek cider
 9 quarts of cowslip wyne, 1709
 3 stone bottles of damson wine, hold two quarts a peice, 1709
 3 quart bottles of damson wyne, 1709
 9 quarts of white meade
 i three gallon bottle of ellder vinegar, 1708

[B, fol. 52r]

1713/14 14 of March, a note of whatt I putt into the high long chest in my closett above by me, Eliz Freke

5 peices of printed paper to hang a roome with, yard wide
 2 gild boys for a bed and there tops to them; six couchins
 i yellow cloth counterpoyne, worne; i paire of fine blanketts
 i old cloth cloke of Mr Freks; i other counterpoyne, worne
 i new grey cloth coat and wascote livery; 5 tassells and some patterns
 i new black livery and breeches to itt of shamy; 2 little pillows

March 14. In the deep narrow deale box is 4 blue curtaines, i paire of vallence to them, 2 new blanketts, and i new blu counterpoyne and one coverlid and i other blankett to them.

I. Recipe for Laudanum

[W, fol. 122r]

To make lodynum. The Lady Powells receitt sentt me by my deer sister Austen in my distress; of which she has taken of itt neer two years her selfe. September 20. Sent 1712. For the collicke, &c.

Take two ounces of the best opium and one ounce of fine saffron. Cutt the opium very thinn and small, and pull the saffron into small peices; then infuse them in a quarte of the best sack in a deep earthen pott covered with a blader pricked full of pin holles. And then sett itt in a kettle or skillitt of boyleing watter till the quantitey in the pott bee halfe wasted. Lett itt infuse, still keeping the vessell conveniently filld

up as itt wasts; and when itt is done enough (which will be a great while first), iff you please, deer Madam, to straine itt and squeeze itt hard outt and keep itt close stoopt for your use. The dereictions follow how to use this ladynum.

I have sentt my deer sister the receitt of the ladynum as I make itt puntially, and I have taken itt once a day for almost a yeare and halfe. And I begin with itt att twenty drops att a time, butt by uscing of itt itt must be increased soe thatt now I take five and twenty drops in a day in a spoonfull of wyne or beere or coffy. And in any violentt fitt of the colicke you must double the proportion of drops for itt to master the humour (which I hope my deer sister itt will doe) both in your head and back. My Lady Powell, who gave me this receitt, says she had bin dead many years since butt for itt – shee haveing tryed all the conciderable phisitions in London and by them brought to a skellitton in weakness and to noe effectt. Shee has since taken for severall years fifty drops a day and by soe doeing keeps her selfe in a moderatte degree of ease. And my daughter Judith when shee takes itt has often the benefitt of putting her into a sleep for six or eightt howers together tho in the collick. And tho itt has nott that good effectt on me, yett itt composes my rest the better in the nightt. And to give me thatt effectt I take itt aboutt two or three a clock in the affternoone. And I have a neighbour by me tells me she takes itt twice a day thirty drops att a time. All these informations I give my deerst sister thatt you may see itt is a safe thinge and nott be affraid of itt otherwise then to have itt carefully droptt. Whatt ever is taken itt sometimes flyes to the head, as perhaps you may find, [W, fol. 121v] and to the frightning of you; butt for all thatt I wrightt itt, my deer sister, with pleasure hopeing itt may doe you good. And then itt is butt a small penance to purchas to our selves a little ease whilst we live in this world. God send you a suden and joyfull meeting of your deer family outt of Ireland is the dayly prayer of, &c.,

Judith Austen