

## II. REMEMBRANCES, 1671-1713

[fol. 3v]

Some few remembrances of my misfortunes which have attended me since I were maryed (in my unhappy life), which was 14 of November 1671

**1671, November 14** Thursday, the 14 of November and Childermas or Cross Day and dreadfully rainey, I was in London pryvatly maryed to Mr Percy Freke by Docter Johnson, my Lord Russells chaplin, in Coven Garden Church in London.<sup>1</sup> My husband was the only son liveing of Captaine Aurthur Frek and grandson to Mr William Freke, the only brother of Sir Thomas Frek of Dorshetshire, who was my grandfather, and his son Mr Ralph Freke [was] my own deer father. And my deer mother was Sir Thomas Cullpepers daughter of Hollingburne in Kentt. Her name was Cicelia Cullpeper, who dyed in or about 1649 and left me, the eldest of five daughters, aboutt six or seven years of age and lyes buryed in the chancell att Hollingburne – where lyes six more brothers and sisters of myne which dyed young and my deer sister, the wife of Sir George Choutt, who lived his widow 12 years and dyed of the small pox, as did her only daughter, and are both inter'd in the chancell in Hollingburne.<sup>2</sup> And affter aboutt 6 or seven years being engaged to my deer cosin Mr Percy Frek and all my three surviveing sisters maryed, viz., Cicelia maryed to Sir Georg Choutt in Kentt, Frances marryed to Sir George Norton att Abbots Leigh near Bristoll, and Judith, my youngest sister, marryed Collonell Robertt Austen of Tenterden in Kentt, I, the eldest, Elizabetth, as above, was maryed 14 of November 1671 to Mr Percy Frek withoutt my deer fathers consentt or knowledg in a most dreadfull raynie day (a presager of all my sorrows and misfortunes to mee).

**1672, July 26** Being Thursday, the 26 of July 1672, I wear againe remaryed by my deer father, who then gave me himselfe to Mr Frek by Docter Uttram att St Margaretts Church in Westminster in London in a dreadfull windy day as my other was rainey (by a license keptt in

<sup>1</sup> Cross Day, or the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, is celebrated on 14 September, not 14 November, and is not traditionally associated with Childermas or Innocents Day. See above, p. 37 n 1.

<sup>2</sup> The Hollingbourne parish register indicates Cicely died on 6 January 1650/1; her monument, which adds that she was forty-one years of age at her death, names the five surviving daughters. The burial of the youngest, Philippa, is not recorded in the register, nor are many of the earlier deaths of the other siblings. See Introduction, p. 5 and n. 8.

Mr Freks pocked 4 or 5 years).<sup>3</sup> Both which days of my marriage have bin true prognostications of whatt I have undergone since for full forty years past, being now 1712, Elizabeth Freke. And I look'd on them as dredfull emblems to mee.

**1672, August 26** Mr Freke, coming over St James Park aboutt 12 a clock att nightt, challenged my lord of Roscomon either to fightt him presently or pay him downe a thousand pound my lord owed him;<sup>4</sup> butt the King Charls, being in the park, prevented the presentt quarell. And the next morning by three a clock ten men of the lifeguard seised him in his bed and carryed him away to Whitt Hall immediatly before Secetaory Coventry,<sup>5</sup> I nott knowing whatt it was for more then the loss of my 1000 l., and the begining of my troubles and my disobedience in marrying as I did withoutt my deer fathers knowledg.

**1673, February 14** In or about February 14 my deer father, Mr Ralph Frek, was pleased to bestow on me for a portion a mortgage on Sir Robertt Brooks estate of 500 l. a year neer the Green Man in Epping Forrest, 5 miles from London, thatt I might have a subsistance for my life.<sup>6</sup> Which Mr Frek unknown to me sould to Sir Josias Child, a bruer in London, for (5664 l.) five thousand six hundred sixty fowre pounds or thereabouts.<sup>7</sup>

**Jully 7** Which nither my deer father or my self or any of my 5 trustees knew any thing of till about Jully the 7. This was nott kind done, for by itt I were turned outt of doors and nott a place to put my unfortunatte head in and my mony in a bankers hand, viz., Alderman Forths, who all three brothers soon affter brook for a hundred thousand pounds.<sup>8</sup> But I thank God the little wee had there we gott safe outt two days before they broke, butt my deer father lost by them twelve hundred pounds. This was Gods greatt providence to Eliz Frek.

[fol. 4r]

**1673, September 15** Aboutt the middle of September Mr Frek endeavouring to place the remaineing part of my fortune on an estatt in Hamptshier of one Mr Coopers and trusting to one Mr Worldlyge

<sup>3</sup> William Owtram; 26 June 1673 in the register: above, p. 37 n. 2.

<sup>4</sup> Wentworth Dillon, fourth earl of Roscommon: above, p. 38 n. 3.

<sup>5</sup> Henry Coventry: above, p. 38 n. 4.

<sup>6</sup> See above, p. 38 n. 5.

<sup>7</sup> Josiah Child: above, p. 38 n. 6.

<sup>8</sup> John Forth, a London alderman from Cripplegate (1668–76), and his brother Dannet, an alderman from Cheapside (1669–76), were master brewers with commissions to farm Irish revenues. They were also among the original stockholders in the Royal African Company (Alfred B. Beaven, *The Aldermen of the City of London*, 2 vols. [London, 1908–13], i. 134; ii. 190, 102; J. R. Woodhead, *The Rulers of London, 1660–1689* [London, 1965], 71–2).

as his agentt in itt, wee were cheatted by them both, [so] thatt on his composition my husband was forced to loose att least fifteene hundred pounds as the least loss besids a 3 or fowers [years] law suite, their cheatt being above 25 hundred loss to me and the estate.<sup>9</sup>

Thus was three of my unhappy years spent in a maryed <deleted: several words> lyfs comfortts in London, wher I twice misscarryed, [and] where I lost two thousand five hundred pounds outt of my six thousand seven hundred sixty fowre pounds. And I never had of itt, to my remembrance, five pound of itt and very little of my husbands company, which was no small grieft to mee, I being governed in this my marriag wholly by my affectionns withoutt the consentt or knowledg of any of my friends. And now beeing apprehensive all my fortune would bee thus spentt, I resolved to goe for Ireland and try my fortune there while something was left; which I did attemptt. Eliz Freke

**i674, July 14** Aboutt July i674 my husband and my family wentt downe to Hanington to my deer fathers, Mr Ralfe Freks, to take our leaves of him in my way for Ireland, and wher I staid aboutt a fortnightt. And from thence I wentt to Abbotts Lygh to Sir George Nortons, his lady being my own sister, who was then redy to lye inn.

**Agust 2d** Agust the second I came there. **4** And my deer sister was broughtt to bed Sunday morning, the fourth of Agustt, of a most lovely fine child, butt itt was a daughter. **12** Which on my deer sisters desire I staid and christned itt with my Lady Balldin, the grandmother, the 12 of Agust by the name of Grace.<sup>10</sup> And heer I staid att my deer sisters till the two and twentieth day of Agust lyeing wind-bound for a shipp and a wind.

**22** Aboutt the 22 of Agust I wentt to the Bath with Mr Frek, where I lay for a ship and wind for aboutt a month. In which time my deer father, heering I were nott gone for Ireland and were with child, sentt his coach and horses to fetch me from the Bath to him to Hanington.

**October the 7** Where Mr Freke and I wentt with my little family the 7 of October; who very kindly received mee with my deer auntt Frek and did soe treatt me till I were able to goe for Ireland, which was aboutt ten monthes.<sup>11</sup>

**March 7** Sunday morne, March seventh, i674/5, God took to himself my deer sister Sir George Chouts lady of the small pox, as did her husband aboutt twelve years before of the same distemper, who continued his widdow from two and twenty years of her age to her death. And she left behind her one son and one daughter, viz., Sir George Choute, a barrenett and a fine gentleman now living in 1712

<sup>9</sup> Richard Cooper's manor of Ditcham and Sunworthe: above, p. 39 n. 7.

<sup>10</sup> Ellen Baldwin; Grace was baptized on 10 August (above, p. 39 n. 8).

<sup>11</sup> Frances Freke: above, p. 40 n. 9.

and a single man, and her daughter named Cicelya, her mothers name and mine.<sup>12</sup>

**1675, March 26** Aboutt the 26 of March my deer sister, being imbalmed in London wher shee dyed, was carryed downe to Hol-longburne in Kentt to be there intter'd. Where shee was in the chancell in my deer mothers grave, which was above 20, twenty, years past, when I were butt seven years of age and the eldest of five daughters alive, and nott mist by us, haveing soe indullgent a father and good an aunt in my mothers sister to breed us up.<sup>13</sup> Eliza. Freke

**April 5** God took to himselfe my deer neece Cicelia Choutt of the small pox neer a month affter the death of my deer sister, who lyes buried by her deer mother in Holingburn chancell in Kentt.<sup>14</sup> They both dyed in London to my grieffe.

**June 2d** Wensday, June 2d, my deer son, Ralph Frek, was borne att my deer fathers att Hanington aboutt three in the affternoone (the very same day and hower my deer husband dyed and left mee an unhapy widow in 1706<sup>15</sup>), and I haveing fowre midwifes with me for him, of which one was a man midwife. He was borne soe weak as to bee baptised immediattly by my deer father and Sir Georg Norton for his godfathers and my auntt Frek for his godmother and Lady Thinn.<sup>16</sup> I were 4 or 5 days in labour of him; and all my fowre midwifes affirmed him severall howers dead in mee to my husband and my Lady Thinn and to my deer Lady Norton, all with mee in my extremity severall dayes with my aunt Freke. Att last being allmost spentt and without any further hopes, [fol. 4v] itt was agreed by them all my son should be taken in peices from mee on ther conciderration I cold nott live an howr longer. Butt whilst the man was putting on his butchers habbitt to come aboutt me, my greatt God thatt never failed mee (or denyed me my reasonable request) raised me up a good woman midwife of my Lady Thins acquaintence, one Mrs Mills, who came in att this junture of time and for three howrs in her shiffitt work'd till by Gods providence and mercy to mee I was saffly delivered.<sup>17</sup> And tho of a dead child hurtt with severall great holes in his head, my God raised him up by life to mee soe farr as the same night to babtise him of my deer fathers name (Ralph Freke).

**3** The nextt day I putt him into the hand of a good surgion, who came every day from Highworth to dress him (I being soe weak as nott

<sup>12</sup> George Choute: above, p. 40 n. 10.

<sup>13</sup> Cicely was buried on 12 March (above, p. 40 n. 11). Frances: above, p. 40 n. 9.

<sup>14</sup> Hollingbourne monument: above, p. 41 n. 12.

<sup>15</sup> '1712' in the manuscript.

<sup>16</sup> Mary or Frances Thynne: above, p. 41 n. 14.

<sup>17</sup> The midwife Mrs Mills is not listed in the Wiltshire Articles of Subscription, nor can she be identified with the Anne Milles in the Highworth parish register.

able to stirr); who dayly attended him for six weeks and att last by my Gods greatt goodness and mercy to me recovered him.<sup>18</sup> For which, great God, make me ever thankfull for spareing my child and raiseing up his poor servantt. Eliz Frek

**July 7** My son was taken with a through thrush in his mouth and his head with which he was againe given over for dead and carried from me to be burryed.<sup>19</sup> Butt from this misfortune my God raised him up againe, I hope, to bee his servantt and a comfort to his poor afflicted mother for my deer sister Choutt, whome my God tooke from me about two months before and was to have binn with me in this my extremity. Soe my joy was turn'd to mourning by the loss of my deer sister and her daughter, tho I had my deer sister the Lady Norton soe good to be with mee.

**September 15** Aboutt the midle of September I sett outt againe from Bristoll Faire for Ireland, the first time of my goeing over thither;<sup>20</sup> and I left my only son (with my deer father care over him) att Highworth att nurse, hee being then aboutt ten weeks old. In Ireland att my Lord Inchequeens house I staid aboutt eight monthes.<sup>21</sup>

**December 14** When my deer father sentt for me over to England, my son being cripled by the carelessness of his nurse [who] aboutt 14 of December brok his legg shortt in the hackle bone and keptt itt pryvate for a quarter of a yeare.<sup>22</sup> My deer father and sister Norton took him away from nurse and Hiworth and placed him by my father att nurse Deveralls, wher he lay aboutt a quarter of a year in [her] lapp nott able to move or stirr.<sup>23</sup>

**January 8** Mr Frek and I in Ireland all the whilest knew nothing of itt till aboutt January 8. Dispaireing of his life, my deer father sentt for me in hast againe. Where when I came over aboutt the beginning of Aprill, by Gods blessing I againe recovered him from his cruches with my poor, weak endeavours; and now, I thank my God, is straitt and goes well, and noe signe of these misfortunes, butt is the father of three fine boyes alive now in Ireland, 1712, which God of his infinit mercy spare to Eliz Freke.<sup>24</sup>

**1676, April 14** My deer father sentt for me againe outt of Ireland to my son, he haveing bin given over by the doctters and surjanes.

<sup>18</sup> His name does not appear in the Wiltshire Articles of Subscription.

<sup>19</sup> Thrush: above, p. 41 n. 16.

<sup>20</sup> Bristol Fair is not listed on contemporary maps; the Bristol archivist, J. S. Williams, does not 'know of any name existing in the past'.

<sup>21</sup> Rostellan, the estate of William O'Brien, second earl of Inchiquin: above, p. 42 n. 19.

<sup>22</sup> Hackle-bone: hip bone.

<sup>23</sup> Anne or Jane Deverell: above, p. 42 n. 18.

<sup>24</sup> Percy, age twelve; Ralph, age nine; and John Redman/Redmond, age six.

And aboutt the end of Aprill or the begining of May, I landed att Bristoll, wher I sentt to my deer sister the Lady Norton then att Leigh to come to mee.

**May 7** Which shee did with a sad accountt of my son being a quite cripple. And thatt my father and shee every day expected his death, hee would nott invite me to Hanington to see him.

**June 15** Aboutt the midle of June my deer father came up to London to mee to sattissfie me aboutt my son, whose life he said he dispaired of; and hee advised mee to be contented since all was done for him thatt could be done; and then hee invited me to Hanington from London to see my son.

**Jully 7 or 8** When to the best of my remembrance, aboutt the begining of Jully my deer father sold to my deer husband the estate of West Billney in Norfolk, my brother Austen nott liking of itt for my sisters portion.<sup>25</sup> Hee paid my brother for itt downe in redy mony fowre thousand pounds and to my deer father more, aboutt seven hundred sixtty six pound.

**September 29** For which he made over Billny for itt securty and aboutt the end of September following settled itt on mee and my son, being then little more then a twelve monthes old and in a faire way of recovery. Which bond of Mr Freks to my deer father of 766-14-10 when I came outt of Ireland he was pleased to give me up to pay for my journey and as a helpe to my loses of 2500 l. by Cooper. E Freke

[fol. 5r]

**1676, December 14** Aboutt the midle of December Mr Frek purchased of my deer father Leeds Castle in Kentt for two thousand pound due then to my father on itt. My husband paid my father downe on the bargaine five hundred pound; and hee was to stand outt the law with the Lord Cullpeper in my deer fathers name, which in two years cost my husband neer a thousand pounds in law; and gave my deer father eight hundred bond charged on my West Billney, which my husband was to pay my deer father when we recovered itt by our decree in chancery then depending.

**23** Butt affter all our charge in law and possession given us for 5750 l. and the tennents returned to my deer husband, [by] the base King James the Second and villinaus Lord Cullpeper, my cosin jermine, wee were withoutt our knowledg turned outt of all our posesion and by them; and Chancellour Finch nott alowed or permitted a heering for itt affter itt had cost my husband soe much in law and the shriefe and

<sup>25</sup> The miscellaneous documents (below, p. 320) note that Austen sold the property back to his father-in-law on 30 June 1675.

his twenty fowre baylyes a hundred pound for giveing us the posession.<sup>26</sup>

**24** Aded to this, Mr Frek returned from Leeds Castle in Kent almost dead with his journey to London the Xmas Eve in frost and snow. Eliz Freke

**1676/7, February 12** While King Jams, Lord Cullpeper, and Lord Chancellour [Finch] jugged together with threats to reverse our decree given my husband by actt of parlamtt, which was done by them in Candlemas tearme following, Febuary 12, 1676/7. Soe after our attendance about three month more in London to obtaine a heering from this unjust courtt, wee were denyed itt, tho Mr Frek butt to be cast by law or begin his suit againe.<sup>27</sup> This is true. Eliz Freke

**1677, May 2** Aboutt the second of May I lay in of annother son in South Hamptton Square in London which by hard labour and severall frights was dead borne and lyes buried att the upper end of St Gilles chancell in Londdon with one of my Lord Halifaxes in the same grave.<sup>28</sup> Eliza. Freke

**July 20** I wentt downe with Mr Freke againe to my deer fathers, Mr Ralph Freks, to Hanington to goe for Ireland, England being then full of plots and troubles, where I staid aboutt a month and wentt for Bistoll to gett a shipp for our passage. Butt King Charls and King James had commanded an imbargoe on all ships and passengers nott to cross the seas withoutt their permitt, which was denyed us.<sup>29</sup>

**Agust 25** Wee wentt pryvattly off att Pill<sup>30</sup> in a boatt to a shipp the 25 of Agust, and my second time of goeing for Ireland, on a Satterday, when I left my son att Hanington with my deer father under the care of his dry nurse, Goode Deverall. But wee were by tempestious wynds all like to bee lost thatt day. **26** Att last compased Illford Combe, where I stayed Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday.<sup>31</sup>

**28** And a Wensday by two of the clock in the morn the wind changed, when I wentt with Mr Frek to sea againe and came thatt night within a watch of reaching Watterford. **29** Butt on a suden arose the most hidious tempest of wind and raigne which brought us back againe nextt day att nightt to Lundy, where we with 4 ships more lay dispaireing of life with our mast downe and our cabin shutt upp and

<sup>26</sup> Atturnd: see attornment (above, p. 44 n. 23); Thomas, second Lord Culpeper and Henage Finch: above, p. 44 nn. 22 and 25.

<sup>27</sup> According to Stephen Ellison, Deputy Clerk of the Records, no parliamentary records of the decree exist; nor has the lord chancellor's reversal been documented.

<sup>28</sup> The child of George Savile, first marquess of Halifax (1633–1695), and his second wife, Gertrude Pierrepont, whom he married in 1672. Lord Halifax would become lord privy seal and speaker of the House of Lords as well as the author of *The Character of a Trimmer* (HC, iii. 396–8).

<sup>29</sup> Charles II, France, and Holland: above, p. 45 n. 28.

<sup>30</sup> Cockerne Pill on the River Avon: above, p. 46 n. 29.

<sup>31</sup> Ilfracombe: above, p. 46 n. 29.

our anchors lost, roleing on an anker till nextt day att night.<sup>32</sup> **30** When tho night, dispaireing of life wee attempted the barr of Barstable, in which wee expected our last. Butt by Gods infinite mercy to us wee safe landed att Barstable aboutt sun setting to the amasement of all thatt saw us. Wher with Captaine Jeffryes we staid aboutt a weeke.<sup>33</sup>

**September 5, 6** Wee wentt to sea againe; and by Gods mercy to me wee all landed safe in Cork harbour, tho persued by severall Algeriens, September 6, 1677.<sup>34</sup> For which mercy the greatt God make me ever thankfull and grantt I may never forgett his goodness to me whilst I am, Elizabeth Freke.

**i678, May 10** I wentt againe for England with Mr Frek by the desire of my deer father, Ralph Freke, Esqr. Wher affter a short stay Mr Frek went for London and unknown to my deer father or mee sould outt his right in Leeds Castle to Alexander Cullpeper for (2500 l.) two thousand five hundred pound, tho he had promised my father to settle itt on mee and for which my deer father gave me up my bond my husband owed him of 800 l., eight hundred pounds, as he did another nott long before of 760 l. due to him on our estate in West Billney.<sup>35</sup> Which were then both very wellcome to us [fol. 5v] and done by my Gods dereicttion, who allways provids for. Eliza Freke

**i679, April 3d** Dureing this our stay in England Mr Freks mother dyed Aprill 3d in Ireland. On which news we went up againe for London to endeavour for a pasage over for Ireland; wher Mr Freck fell sick of an ague and feaver to death doore thatt I were forcst affter six weeks stay to hasten downe to my deer fathers againe to Hanington **June 2d**, wher he lay sick of a quinsy and plurisly aboute six weeks more.

**July 23** Affter which, tho he was very ill, wee wentt to Bristoll to my deer sister Nortons.

**i680, Agust 18** Where by Gods mercy to me and my deer sisters kind care of him, he with my son, Ralph Frek, endeavoured our jorney for Ireland and took shipping aboutt the 18 of Agust 1680. **21** Where by Gods greatt mercy to mee my husband, my son, and my selfe were safe landed att the Cove in the Greatt Island neer Cork the 21 – my son then being just five years of age the second of June before and his

<sup>32</sup> Lundy Island: above, p. 46 n. 30.

<sup>33</sup> Barnstaple: above, p. 46 n. 31; since the Frekes left without official permission, the officer would probably not have been John Jefferys, a captain in the royal navy not listed among the fleet during July to November 1677 (*Commissioned Sea Officers*, 243; PRO, ADM 8/1).

<sup>34</sup> Reports from Falmouth and Deal stress the danger the Algerian men of war posed. The *Mary* of Cork and the *Elizabeth* from Falmouth were stopped in August 1677; the *Constance* from Weymouth was boarded in October (*CSPD*, 1677–8, 324–5, 395).

<sup>35</sup> Alexander Culpeper represented Lord Culpeper (above, p. 46 n. 32).



first coming over for Ireland and my 3d time.<sup>36</sup> For which mercy the great God make me ever humbly thankfull. Eliz Freke

**September 16** I came with my husband and son to Rath Barry, where my husbands sister Barnard had cleered my house of every thing good I left in itt, even to seven years letters past between us before I marryed and my cirtificate of my privatt marraige the first time.<sup>37</sup> Besids shee took away from me all my plate and linnen of my own before I marryed her brother to the value of above two hundred pounds, engraven with my own coate of armes in a lozenge. And tho my husband was his mothers executor, yett all was by his kind sister Barnard conveyed away from him and mee thatt I had nott the valuy of five shillings of hers or my own leftit mee, or one scrip of my linnen, or a spoone to eate with, tho I had neer two dosen. Only she sentt my husband a bill of eighty pound for burying his mother.

**November** Butt with much adoe and high words I gott a little of my plate againe. This was the good usuage I had in her family and laying the death of my husbands mother to my doore (for carring away her son) att neer fowrescore years of age.

**1681** However, in Ireland I staid with my son allmost 22 monthes; in which time Mr Freke contracted with the earle of Barrymoor for his estate of Rathbarry, for which we were to pay, as to the best of my remembrance, fowrteen hundred pounds besids our lease of sixty three years due on itt.<sup>38</sup> This being concluded on, Mr Frek made me writ to my deer father to creditt me with a thousand pound on Billney security and to settle itt presenttly on my son; which accordingly I did. And my deer father immedyatly returned itt to mee on my husband and my bond rather then charge my Billney with itt, as he was pleased to say. This mony my husband presenttly drew over, and with some more we had finished his purchas of Rathbary, and has now, I thanke him, settled itt on my son on his marraige with Sir John Meads daughter (in the yeare one thousand six hundred ninety nine).

**November 22** And aboutt November the 22 we paid of all to thatt family and made all the hast we could for England, my deer father haveing sentt for me and my son to come over to him and receive his last blessing.

**1682, April 30** Soe thatt in Aprill I left Rathbarry and wentt to Kingsaile with my son to attend for a shipp for England; wher I attended a fortnight and had the oppertunity of a man of warr in which I putt my selfe and son, I haveing noe friend to take any care for me.

<sup>36</sup> Great Island: above, p. 47 n. 34.

<sup>37</sup> Mary Bernard: above, p. 47 n. 35.

<sup>38</sup> Richard, second earl of Barrymore: above, p. 48 n. 36.

**May 10** And wee went outt to sea, to the best of my remembrance, Sunday morne, the tenth of May. **17** Where by Gods infinite mercy, after strikeing three times on the sands wee landed safely att the Pill att Brisstow with my son and fowre servants.

**22** Att Bristoll I staid till I could send to my deer father to fetch me, who aboutt the 22 of May sentt his servants, coach, and horses to fetch me to him to Hanington. Eliza. Freke

[fol. 6r]

**1682, May 24** The 24 of May I with my sone came to my deer fathers to Hanington safe and all my mony spentt in my travills. Soe soon as I came to my deer fathers, affter he had bid me wellcome, hee made me promise him thatt I would nott leave him while hee lived; which I redily and gladly did. And then he bid me take noe care for I should wantt for nothing his life; who made his words good and treated me and my son with the greatest kindness imaginable. A greatt allterration itt was [from] whatt I found in Ireland from my husband and his friends.

**1682, July 7** And on my looking a little mallancolly on some past reflections, my deer father fancyed I wanted mony. And my deer father withoutt saying one word to me broughtt me downe presently in two baggs under his coatt two hundred pounds, which 200 l. hee charged me to keep and nott to lett my husband know of itt, to buy mee needles and pins. As this was very kind in my deer father, soe the very nextt post I wrott my husband word of itt to Ireland, hoping itt might be a meanes for my continuance with him; butt Mr Freke presently found outt a use for itt.

**Agust 15** Butt I had the contience to keep itt for my own use (I nott haveing seen two and twenty shillings the two and twenty monthes I were in Ireland). Which with more my deer father had given me att severall times and its intrest made up eightt hundred pounds, which Mr Freke took from mee and soe left me a beger againe.

**1682/3, Febuary 18** Aboutt the middle of Febuary my husband came to my deer fathers to Hanington unknown to me to fetch me for Ireland back with him and my son; which by the ill usage I their received, I positively refused goeing with him ever more (alldging my promise I made to my deer father to stay with him his life). Which when thatt would nott doe, I insisted on the ill usage I received in Ireland from him and his friends. Besids, his parting with me last att Kingsaile stuck deep in my stomock, tho to this day (1712) I never lett my deer father or any friend I had know of the least difference between us or any unkind usage received from my husband or his family in Ireland for fear of grieveing of my deer father, butt with grief of hart

enough [prepared] to take my last leave of him and goe over againe with Mr Frek for Ireland.

**1683, July 24** When att my parting with him, my deer father gave me his blesing and with it the bond of my husbands and mine for a thousand pounds I borrowed of him for the purchass of Rathbarry.

**25** Thus I haveing staid aboutt thirteen monthes with my deer father, with a heavy hartt – being the last time I ever saw him – I left him and Hanington Thursday, the 25 of July, and my son att schoole with Mr Turner att Summerford, aboutt seven milles from him.<sup>39</sup>

**26** I came to Bristoll and took shipping att Pill incognito; **29** and by Gods greatt goodness and mercy to me, tho such turbelentt times wee both came safe to Corke the Satterday following, being both of us garded before the maire there for plotters in England stole over to be searched by the presentt maire; who being one Mr Covett, well known to my family, was over and above civill to us and treated us like a gentleman and bound for our loyallty and commanded all our things on shipp board to be presently delivered to us and the city of Cork to give us the respectt due to our quality, to the amasementt of all beholders.<sup>40</sup>

**1683/4, January the first** Aboutt the first of January, my unhappy birth day, my deer father sentt me over to Ireland a hundred pound for a New Years gift, and dereicted me thatt Mr Frek medled nott with itt, butt bid mee to make hast over to him hee might see me againe before he dyed with my husband, wher I should meett my two sisters, the Lady Norton and my sister Austen.

**February 24** Butt itt being just affter the dreadfull hard winter, I could nott gett a shipp, tho hee said whatt ever itt cost me hee would pay the charge of our jorney and give me his last blessing.

**1684, March 26** In order to itt Mr Freke lett Rathbary to Mr Hull for one and forty years and putt off all his stock to John Hull for the renting of itt the May affter.<sup>41</sup> Unknown to me Rathbary and the land aboutt itt were contracted for by John Hull for two hundred and fiffy pounds a year, and fiffy pound a yeare for Mr Hungerfords farme, and a thousand pounds for our liveing stock of horses, about thirty; cow beast, about three hundred; and sheep, 2500; and lambs, 700.<sup>42</sup>

<sup>39</sup> Somerford Keynes, Gloucestershire; Isaac Turner(?): above, p. 49 n. 38.

<sup>40</sup> Aftermath of the Rye House Plot; Richard Covett: above, p. 50 n. 39.

<sup>41</sup> See above, p. 51 n. 43.

<sup>42</sup> Before his death in 1681 Thomas Hungerford held considerable land in the Rosscarbery area; his heir Richard, who married a daughter of Emanuel Moore, gained further property on Inchedowney Island near Clonakilty; John, another son, came into the holdings at Cahirmore (*A Census of Ireland, Circa 1659*, ed. Séamus Pender [Dublin, 1939], 209; *Clerical and Parochial Records of Cork, Cloyne, and Ross*, ed. W. Maziere Brady, 3 vols. [Dublin, 1863–4], i. xl–xli; Ffolliott, 39, 41).

[fol. 6v]

**1684, March 26** Mr Frek, resolveing I should goe and live with my deer father to satisfye him in his soe earnest desire whilst he lived, contracted with John Hull for the letting of Rathbarry to him for a lease of one and forty years att the yearly rentt of three hundred pounds a yeare including Mr Hungerfords farme of Croneges in itt and took of him twenty ginnaes earnest. And hee was to buy all our liveing stock, viz., aboutt thirty working horses besids coach horses and saddle horses, and aboute three hundred cow beast for the paile and plough oxen besids young stocke, and aboutt two thousand five hundred sheep, and aboutt seven hundred lambes – all goeing away to my greatt joy and satisfaction thatt I myght goe to my deer father, Ralph Frek, Esqr, to Hanington. Elizabeth Frek

**April 24** Butt oh, the sadest of fates thatt ever attended poor mortall was mine, for on the 24 of Aprill my God took to himself by death my deer father to my greatt grieffe and unspeakeable sorrow before I could gett a shipp to see him to receive his last blesing, which of all things in this world I desired. In the eighty ninth yeare of his age hee joyfully gave up his soule into the hands of his God, and his body to bee privattly intered in the chancell att Hanington just affter the hard wintter, and leftt me, his unhappy child, ever to lamentt him.<sup>43</sup> Eliza. Freke

**1684, May i** John Hull, Mr Freks tennantt, came to Rathbarry by six a clock in the morning when my house was full of company and demanded the possession of my house, tho hee had promised me 3 weeks time to remove my goods. Butt nothing would prevaile butt I must be immediattly thrown outt of doors, which I was thatt day with all my goods in my house. Butt this inhumanity the country heering of sentt in all their carts and horses and removed them to Dunowen, aboutt a mile distantt, when I lost almost halfe of them in their removeall.<sup>44</sup> Butt my greatt God revenged my cause on this bruitt Hull, for in the yeare 1688 King James the 2d came for Ireland and by the Irish seised all thatt ever he had in the world and gave away Rathbarry to Owen Maccarty, the loss of which with all his goods and his own estate broke his hartt, he haveing nothing leftt for his wife and family to subsist on.<sup>45</sup> Hee lyes buried there with one of his children in the open partt of the church of Rathbarry amongst the common Irish to his eternall infamy. Elizabeth Freke

**July 7** Being Monday and the 7 of July, Mr Freke and I took

<sup>43</sup> Hannington monument and register: above, p. 51 n. 41.

<sup>44</sup> East or northeast of the castle towards Ardfield or Clonakilty: above, p. 51 n. 44.

<sup>45</sup> Owen MacCarty or Macartie: above, p. 52 n. 45.

shipping att Kingsale in a man of warr with Captain Clemontt and came round to England by longe sea. Thatt nightt wee were grievously stormed and like to be lost on the Goodwin Sands neer Dover.<sup>46</sup> **12** Butt by my Gods greatt mercy to us wee safe landed att Billingsgate the Satterday following. For which greatt mercy greatt God ever make thankfull. Eliz. Freke

**Agust 4** Mr Frek wentt into Norfolk to West Billney, leaveing me in a lodging in London in Brownlow Streett with my cosin Clayton, wher I lay aboutt ten weeks and never had my husbands company ten times.<sup>47</sup>

**17** Hee returned outt of Norfolk to London the seventeenth, wher hee staid with me in London aboutt a month.

**September 17** And then Mr Freke wentt againe for Ireland with the Lord Inchequieen, unknown to mee till the nightt before he wentt.<sup>48</sup> And he leftt me with my son and a man and a maide att lodgings att Mrs Murryes in Brownlow Streett to shifft for my selfe and familly, my husband then declaring before his nephew Barnard and the three Googins this estate of Billney would nott find him in bread and cheese.<sup>49</sup> Boughtt by my deer father for five hundred twenty six pound a yeare of the Lord Richerson and now lett me, Elizabeth Freke, for (476 l.) fowre hundred seventy six pound a yeare besids forty six pound a yeare att Pentney, in all itt [is] lett for five hundred and twenty pounds a year by wretched me, Elizabeth Freke, 1712.

**September 28** Being thus left by my deer husband and nott a place now to putt my unhappy head in either in England or Ireland and butt fifteene pound in the world to shifft for my selfe and familly – being my self and my son, a man and a maid servantt, – all which I laid outt butt 4 pound in a suite of second mourning for my son to were for my deer father, I resolved to try my fortune amongst my own friends.

**Octobr 15** And heering my sister Austin was very ill after her being brought to bed of a dead childe, I wentt downe to Tenterdine to my deer sister Austin, I makeing [fol. 7r] a vertue of nessecity.<sup>50</sup> Where with my sister Austen and my brother I staide with all the kindness they could express to me till the 15 of June followinge.

**November 8** And all this while I heard nott a word from Mr Freke whether he were alive or dead, butt with my Lord Inchequine; when aboutt the 8 of November following I had a letter he was with my lord safe returned to Bristoll, wher he should stay a week to mend up their

<sup>46</sup> Long sea and John Clements(?): above, p. 52 n. 46; Goodwin Sands: above, p. 52 n. 47.

<sup>47</sup> Brownlow Street: above, p. 52 n. 48.

<sup>48</sup> William O'Brien, second earl of Inchiquin: above, p. 42 n. 19.

<sup>49</sup> Francis or Arthur Bernard and the Gookins: above, p. 52 n. 49.

<sup>50</sup> Heronden estate at Tenterden: above, p. 53 n. 50.

ship, which was fiered by green hay and all the pasengers like to be smother'd. Heer in Kentt I staid with my deer sister and my good brother till I feared a trespass on them.

**June 15** When on my earnest entreaty my sister broughtt me up in her own coach to London with my son and my two servants, I now resolving to try for a subsistance in Norfolke after five monthes stay with my deer sister Austen. And being very poore, I presented her in London with six sillver plates cost me thirty six poundes. Eliza Freke

**1685, February 6** Febuary the sixth King Charles the 2d dyed, nott without suspicioned of being poysoned by his French whore, made a little before dutches of Portsmouth and her son duke of Richmond,<sup>51</sup> and by the conivance of King James and his queen, his own brother.

**June 15** I came from my sister Austins att Tenterden, wher I had staid as before. And the times being then very troublesome and I noe place to putt my head in for my selfe and son and three servants by reason of the duke of Monmouth landing in Dorsettsheire all roads being stopt by King James, I sentt downe my son againe to Kentt and with my sister Austen, and Richard Clark to Norfolk, and staid my selfe and my maid with my deer sister the Lady Norton till the rebellion was over.<sup>52</sup>

**Jully 10** The duke of Monmouth was broughtt to London under a greatt gaurd by King James from the west of England, being Fryday, and putt in the Towre. And Wendsday, the 15 of Jully, hee was most barbarously beheaded on Towre Hill, chopping his head, shoulders, and neck in five severall places.<sup>53</sup>

**3i** Then the 3i of Jully I sentt for my son home to me outt of Kentt to goe with me to Linn and shellter my selfe there. When as soon as he came and I had given earnest for fowre places in the stage coach, he fell sick of the small pox, soe thatt I were faine againe to returne to my deer sister the Lady Norton to Brownloe Streett.

**Agust 14** I staid with her there and att Epsome for my son to drinke those watters till the 14 of Agust, a fortnight, till they came outt to my greatt torture and distraction, Mr Frek being then in Irland and my mony bein all gone, I think, butt one three pound peice of gold (given me by my deer father) which my sister would nott lett me have a doctter with.<sup>54</sup> And tho I dispaired of his life, yett then my greatt good God looked on me and spared mee his life by the kindness and care of my deer sister the Lady Norton, with whome I have bin now fifteen weeks with all the kindness and frindship immaginable. E Frek

<sup>51</sup> Louise de Kéroualle and Charles Lennox: above, p. 53 n. 51.

<sup>52</sup> James Scott, first duke of Monmouth: above, p. 54 n. 52; Richard Clark, her servant.

<sup>53</sup> See above, p. 54 n. 54.

<sup>54</sup> Epsom: above, p. 54 n. 56.

**September 29** Thus left, still I attempted againe to seek my fortune for my bread to Billney; wher att last, I humbly thank God, I gott to Linn in the stage coach my self and my son, Ralph Freke, two men and a maid the 29 of September; wher being a stranger I could hardly gett a lodging, where I lay privattly till the eight of Febuary following.

**December 24** Mr Freke came over from Dublin in Ireland by post, I haveing [hardly] heard of him or from him in three quarters of a yeare by reason of the imbargoe of King James. Heer while Mr Frek was in this kingdome, he was dayly importuneing of mee to sell my Billney to Sir Standish Harts Tongue for the like in Ireland;<sup>55</sup> butt my God gave me the resolution and courage to keep whatt I had rather then by parting with itt be keptt by my frinds.

**Febuary the 8** I came to my thacht house in West Billney with Mr Frek from Linn to take possession of thatt estate, and the first time of my coming theither to the estate my deer father settled on me and my son in 1675, and where I have staid, I humbly thank my God, allmost twenty eight years, viz., till 1712. When I came I had nott a bed to lye on, a stoole to sitt on, a dish to eate outt of, or any thing nessesary for a poor mortoll in this world; butt were dayly threatned I should nott nest my selfe ther, for they would starve me out, seing I would nott partt with my estatt.

**13** Affter six weeks stay in Norfolke and fowre days stay in Billney, he took coach heer and wentt for London in order to goe for Ireland againe and left wretched me heer to seek my fortune amongst a pack of brute beast who endeavored my rhuien [fol. 7v] as by their threats to me dayly, and my deer father dead, Mr Freke gone to sea, and my selfe quit a stranger in this country. Leftt with nither mony or bed or the least of goods or credid, I gott into the Wassell Farme house and sett my selfe up to farmeing (whilst my deer husband wentt for Ireland).

**April 4** Which was where att sea hee was twice like to bee cast away; butt by Gods greatt mercy to mee thatt never fail'd me, hee was att last saffly landed in Ireland the fowrth of Aprill 1686. For which mercy God make me ever thankfull, E Freke. Where he staid from me till the 14 of June 1687. Elizabeth Freke

**1687, April 9** Goode Mammons house nextt to mine was aboutt ten a clock att nightt burntt downe to the ground with overheating her oven for Goode Saywells christning, and the poore widdow woman burntt to death in itt by the trechery of Goode Cheny perswading her to fetch outt a dish on Saterdag nightt.<sup>56</sup> And tho I were up my selfe

<sup>55</sup> Standish Hartstonge: above, p. 55 n. 57.

<sup>56</sup> Mary Mammont and Mary Sowell: above, p. 56 n. 58. Edward Cheney's daughter Elizabeth was buried in West Bilney on 19 May 1687; the register does not include his wife's name.

calling, yett nott one of the parish would come to mine or the poor womans releife in this her distress. E Frek

**May 26** My deer sister Austen came to see me in my thach, poor house (with my deerst neece and god-daughter Mrs Grace Norton) in her own coach from London to fetch me up amongst my friends and to give me her husbands credit in my husbands absence. Butt I thank God I had learned the way of shifting better then borrowing and ever esteemed itt more honorable to unhapy me, Eliz Freke.

**June 6** My deer sister Austen and my deer neice left me att Billney, and they both wentt back in their own coach to London.

**14** And then aboutt the 14 of June came over Mr Freke from Ireland very unexpectedt by mee affter he had left mee sixteen monthes and three days.

**September 19** Mr Freke wentt againe for Ireland affter he had staid with me aboutt three monthes and five days, when he took from me neer six hundred pounds. Which with more of mine in London added to itt, hee bought my cobby hold estate in Pentney of forty six pounds a yeare and putt in his own life in itt for wreched me to renew.

**1688, March 27** March 27 Mr Freke came againe to West Billney affter he had staid from mee and his only child neer 19 monthes, he being prosecuted by Captaine Buttler, which had Mr Freks company given him by King James, butt affter halfe a yeares persecution in the wars was by the favour of my Lord Cappell dismiss and sentt for England and came to me to Billney the 29 of March.<sup>57</sup> Eliz Frek

**Aprill 5** Richard Clark, my servantt and friend, dyed with me att Billney of a creek in his neck. Hee lived with me neer 8 years heere and in Ireland, and a good and faithfull servant hee was and a greatt help to me in Mr Freks absence.<sup>58</sup>

**29** My cosin Percy Crosby, my husbands sisters eldest son, dyed att West Billney and lyes burryed in Billney chancell neer the south doore by my vaultt I made for Mr Frek. They both dyed in the compass of a month affter Mr Freke came outt of Ireland. Hee was one of King James marters and was buryed aboutt the 19 of May following.<sup>59</sup>

<sup>57</sup> Edward Butler(?): above, p. 56 n. 59. Henry Capel, Baron Capell of Tewkesbury (1638–1696), would later be a lord justice of Ireland, becoming in 1695 lord deputy. Although his earlier influence on the Irish affairs involving Freke is unknown, he had family links with Ireland: his brother Arthur, first earl of Essex, and his brother-in-law Henry Hyde, second earl of Clarendon, had served as lord lieutenant of Ireland (*HC*, ii, 6–11).

<sup>58</sup> Clark was buried in Bilney on 5 April 1688.

<sup>59</sup> The entry should be for the year 1690, when he was buried on 20 May (above, p. 58 and n. 65). The antecedent of ‘they’ is ambiguous. The death of Percy Freke’s sister Agnes Crosby has not been dated; her son Percy, however, died a month after Percy Freke’s brother-in-law Francis Bernard, who lost his life defending Castle Mahon on 15 April 1690 (Bennett, 289; Ffolliott, 35, 36).



**1688, November 15** The good prince of Orang, King William the Third, came over outt of Hollond to be our deliverer from popery and slavery. God sentt him when wee were just past all hopes to be our hellper and releived us when we were past all hopes. He landed neer Exeter, in the west of Dorsetts hier, with aboutt 12 saile of ships of his own and aboutt 12 thousand men in them. Against whom King James went with neer 60000 to oppose him, butt wantt of courage carryed him back to London, when hee with his queen and pretended prince of Walles run for France.<sup>60</sup>

**1689, February 13** King William and Queen Mary, the daughter of King James the Second, were proclaimed king and queen of England and were both crowned the eleventh of Aprill following, 1689.<sup>61</sup>

**Octobr 25** I wentt to London to see my friends and deer sisters affter I had staid in my thacht house fowre years by my selfe dureing the heatt of the warrs of King James. In London I staid with them aboutt seven weeks; and then I returned home againe to Billney December the 18 most thankfull to God for my poor thacht house, where I did enjoy eight years of quiett and comfourt – more then all my life ever afforded mee.

**1690, March 4** Mr Freke left mee att Billney and wentt againe for Ireland, I nott knowing of itt two days before, to endeavour the getting of his estate there given to Maccarty by King James of 800 l. a yeare and himselfe was outlawed by him [fol. 8r] for an absentee and all his estate and goods given away to Owen Macarty and his greatt house att Rathbary burntt downe by the Irish, which held outt for a garrison for Kinge Charls the First nine monthes under his father, Captaine Arthur Freke, with three hundred Protestants in itt.<sup>62</sup> Eliz Freke

**June 4** King William came over for Ireland to the conquest of itt, where King James the 2d was, to take the posesion of itt for the English Protestants; on which King James soon wentt off. He landed June the 13 and foughtt the battle of the Boyne July the first, where hee was shott through his had and into his shoulder as hee passed the Boyne with the English army, and posest himself of Dublin July the third, and returned againe for England to the greatt joy of all good Protestants in July.<sup>63</sup>

**1691, July 1** My servantt Henry Crutland shott off his hand with killing of a pigeon. He lay under the hand of a surgion fowre monthes in a most sad condition; and then by his importunity and the parishes

<sup>60</sup> William landed in Devon on 5 November (above, p. 57 n. 61); James did not join his wife and son in France until two weeks after they had fled (above, p. 57 n. 63).

<sup>61</sup> See above, p. 57 and n. 64.

<sup>62</sup> The defenders left Rathbary Castle in October 1642; see Introduction, p. 7 and n. 19 and above, p. 58 n. 66.

<sup>63</sup> Had: hat; see her history of the Irish war, above, pp. 145–7.

I took itt to cure, which I humbly thank my God I did – I effectually did itt. He was the patients creture ever I saw. He held his own hatt before his face whilst his fingers and wrist was sawed off and never cryded, oh, or shed one teare.<sup>64</sup>

**2i** I had my last tryall with Captaine Spillman of Norbrow against Doching, who carryed to Norwich councell against me and himselfe rid by my door with sixteen wittneses against me; and Mr Frek in Ireland and I had only my son and good servantt Richard Clark. And yett God gave itt on my side against him in the publick courtte.<sup>65</sup> Eliz. Freke

**1692, March 30** Mr Frek, haveing now left me to shift for my selfe above two yeares, never lett me have any quiett butt commanded me to leave Billney and goe over to Ireland to him there. Wher after half a years considerration I forst my selfe to undertake thatt journey for [Ireland] with a heavy hartt; and in order to itt, March the 30 I went with my son and servants to London in my deer sister Nortons coach and leftt my house and goods with James Wallbutt, my then servantt butt after my cheating tennantt.<sup>66</sup>

**April 2d** I came to my deer sister Austins, who lived then in St James Streett in London, my brother being then one of the lords of the admirallty; wher by reason of the French invation I staid till about July for a shipp.<sup>67</sup>

**May 24** I putt my son, Ralph Freke, being within one week of seventeen yeares of age (viz., the second of June following), to Mr Du Veales, a French Hugonett, to learne French and all other quallifications of a gentleman; and I paid for his dyett and chamber fowre and forty pounds a yeare.<sup>68</sup>

**July 25** And when I had seen my son settled and in my two deer sisters care, I wentt to the Bath July 25; and wher I rested my selfe neer a month for shipping, my hartt allwise failling me in thatt journey. From the Bath I wentt to Bristoll to be more neer the shipping.

**Agust 14** And about the midle of Agustt I took me a lodging on Bristoll Green neer the cathedrall church, where I stayed for feare (and for shipping) till the 2d of October.

**October 2** When on the 2d of October I mustered all my courage and took shipping when I wentt to sea with Captain Poole.<sup>69</sup> **5** And by Gods infinite mercy to mee I came to the Cove in Corke Thursday,

<sup>64</sup> Henry Cruckland was buried in Bilney on 9 November 1693.

<sup>65</sup> Mundeford Spelman and John Dochin: above, p. 59 n. 71. Richard Clark was dead by the time of the trial, which W locates in King's Lynn.

<sup>66</sup> James Wallbut: above, p. 59 n. 72.

<sup>67</sup> See above, p. 60 n. 73.

<sup>68</sup> Du Veil and De Veille: above, p. 60 n. 74.

<sup>69</sup> William or Benjamin Poole(?): above, p. 60 n. 75.

the 5 of October, where thatt morning the French privatteers had taken two ships outt of thatt harbour and kild the captain and stript all the passengers in itt and sett them naked on the shore aboutt two howrs before I landed.

**26** Aboutt Octtoobr the 26 I came into Corke late att nightt, wher in a boatt wee were all like to be lost on the key. Nor could I gett a lodging in the city. Att last Mr Edwards took me in, beleiveing I belonged to Mr Frek (tho I concealed my name).<sup>70</sup> Where next day I fell sick with the hardness of my jorney and coldness of the water and were given over by the docttors there, and Mr Frek gone butt the night before to parliamtt of Dublin.<sup>71</sup>

**November 12** Butt still my God spared my life to know more misery, for on or aboutt the midle of November I came with my servants a horse back to Rathbarry, from whence I had bin absentt eight years. Where when I came, I found my house quit burntt downe: only two litle rooms, and neither chaire or stoole fitt for a Xian to sett on, or a bed to lye on, or meatt or drink to satisfye nature, and noe stock butt two sheep and 2 lambs and 4 litle garrans horses worth aboutt ten shillings a peice.

**December 21** In this deplorable condition I staid till neer Christmas the Irish parliamtt adjorned, when Mr Frek came home affter I had bin thus shiftingt aboutt from place to place to hid my wretched head for above three years and a quarter. However, in this misserable place and condition I staide almost frightned outt of my witts for above three years and a halfe and sick all the time with the colick and vapours, and [fol. 8v] thatt I were given over for death, and hardly ever wentt downe the staires all the time I were in Ireland, viz., 4 year and a halfe. And tho I have undergone more then mortoll tongue can speak, I never knew whatt vapours were till this prospectt given me in Ireland, the misfortune of which I expectt to cary with me to my grave. And tho seventeen year pastt, I still labour under all the misfortunes of itt. And thatt with an humble thankfullness too I have seen the fall of most of my enimise and am able to subsistt withoutt the help of my friends. Eliza Freke

**1693, March 29** Att the assises att Corke Mr Freke had a letter to goe for England in hast for my son to goe over for Ireland. When on Easter Munday, Aprill the 17, hee left me att Rathbarry and wentt to Kingsaile for a shipp.

**May 15** And hee landed in England aboutt the midle of May. From thenc hee wentt to London, where he staid (and att Billney) aboutt a month with my son and broughtt away from Billney all my plate, linen,

<sup>70</sup> Dr and not Mr in W, but unidentified (above, p. 61 n. 76).

<sup>71</sup> Percy Freke represented Clonakilty (above, p. 61 n. 77).

and other goods I had bin eight years a getting together of whatt was valluable, and all unknown to mee, in hopes by itt to make me reside in Ireland. This is the hard fate of Elizabeth Freke.

**1693, Agust 16** However, aboutt the midle of Agust my greatt and good God brought both my husband and son saffe home to me to Rathbarry unlooked for and unexpected. For which mercy the Lord make me ever humbly thankfull.

**November 2d** When on November the second a greatt Dutch shipp was cast away and lost with all the pasengers in her on Rathbarry strand by overshoutting his course for the Old Head of Kingsaile.<sup>72</sup> They were dashed to peices amongst our rocks and all there goods and persons lost butt fowrr men Mr Frek took up and buryed in Rathbarry church. This was a sadd sightt to mee that howerly expected my deer husband and onlly son, who came to me home safe to mee. For which mercy the greatt and good God make thankfull Eliz. Frek.

**1694, November 3d** Mr Frek was made shrife doe all I could to the contrary November 1694. Hee kept his first assises in the city of Cork, where I were with him, and had two and twenty handsome proper men in new liveryes to attend him besids those thatt run by his horses side. The two judges were Lord Chiefe Justice Pyne and Sir Richard Cox where thatt assises were condemned twenty eight persons to be hanged and burned – and one young English man, an only son whose life I begged, itt nott being for murder and his father an estated man in Devonshier.<sup>73</sup>

**1695, March 2d** Mr Frek wentt to Dublin to give up his shriefs accounts, wher was by the Lord Drahaday a match proposed to him for his eldest daughter with my son and 3000 l. with her (the Lady Ailce Moore).<sup>74</sup> A fine lady she was, but I cared nott to be a servantt to any one in my old age <deleted: a line and a half>.

**May 28** Mr Frek returned from Dublin from giveing up his accounts of shrivalldry to Rathbarry full of the proposition of this greatt match with this fine lady, which my son was quite smitten with and angry enough with me I would nott be there.

**Agust 22** Mr Freke wentt againe to Dublin to the parliament, where he staid about three months, and had againe this match earnestly againe proposed for his son outt of hand and the mony of her portion to be paid me downe. Butt I could nott think her <deleted: quality> proper for my son, clog'd with seven or 8 brothers and sisters.

**October 22** Mr Freke sentt for my son from Rathbarry to Dublin

<sup>72</sup> Old Head, Kinsale: above, p. 62 n. 78.

<sup>73</sup> Freke was high sheriff of Cork; the other chief justice was Richard Pyne (above, p. 62 n. 79).

<sup>74</sup> Ealce, not Ailce, in W: Alice, the daughter of Henry Moore, third earl of Drogheda (above, p 62 n. 80).

to see this young lady aboutt fifteen years of age, where he was very kindly received and entertained by the Lord Draheada and his lady together with the young lady.

**December 20** Wher my son and Mr Frek staide in Dublin till aboutt the 20 of December, when my husband and sone came from Dublin full freight with letters from Lady Poorscott and there frinds presently to finish the match or my sonn would goe for France.<sup>75</sup> But I cared nott to bee frightened out of my mony nor my son too <deleted: several words>.

**April 14** Mr Freke and my son wentt againe for Dublin to finish this greatt match or break itt quitt off. Which affter aboutt three weeks stay and atendance there was brok quite off, my son being tied to live wholly in thatt parte of the country at above a hundred miles from me, which I thoughtt very hard (and my husband and I to be their pay master) to trust my only son when [fol. 9r] they had ten children might have as well trusted me with one att least to have lived in twenty milles of mee. Butt they found my sons inclinations soe farr fixed towards this lady thatt they resolved to bring me to any tearms. And soe farr they did prevaille on Mr Frek thatt he offered my Lord Droheade and his laddy downe on the naile six thousand pound to by the young lady a joynter any where in the county of Corke of six hundred pounds a year. Besids which I then promised to settle West Billney on them in the county of Norfolk because to oblige my only son and them. But itt nott being then excepted, Mr Frek was offered itt on better tearmes; when I refused itt, tho my son was bitterly angry with me.<sup>76</sup>

**May 28** And on aboutt the 28 of May home came Mr Frek and my son from Dublin. In which jorny my son fell very sick of a high feaver thatt Mr Frek was faine to putt in att Watter Park, the house of Sir Richard Pynes, nott being able to reach further, being given over by all the doctters for death. Butt my greatt God had still mercy on me and restored him to me againe (by the good Lady Pines care), I hope to be his humble servantt and a comfort to his unhappy mother.<sup>77</sup>  
EF

**June 2** My son, Ralph Freke, was of age of one and twenty years when I gave him for a New Years guift two hundred pound, which my deer father sentt me for my birth day for a New Years guift aboutt two monthes before he dyed, and five pounds for a purse to putt itt in.  
Eliz Frek

5 I left Rathbarry in order to goe for England affter I had staid

<sup>75</sup> Elizabeth Powerscourt: above, p. 63 n. 81.

<sup>76</sup> Alice Moore married Sir Gustavus Hume (above, p. 63 n. 82).

<sup>77</sup> Catherine Pyne, mistress of Waterpark: above, p. 63 n. 83.

there aboutt fowre years and a halfe a miserable life, and most of my time ther sick of the distempers then reigning affter King James warrs (questionable whether the plague). From thence I wentt to Corke to try for shiping.

**25** Where and aboutt the country I staid till the 25, 1696, of June; when my impationce of being gone, I venterd my selfe on shipp board a very cracy ship of Captaine Townsend with 2 men and 2 maids and my husbands sisters son Thomas Crosby, who was vexation enough to Eliz Frek.<sup>78</sup>

**Jully i** I landed affter a weeks saile att Plymouth, where I mett Collonel Robertt Frek, my neer kinsman, then govenour of thatt towne, who was extreemely kind and civill to me, and offered twenty pounds for a coach to carry me to Portsmouth and to goe along with me rather then I should goe to sea againe, and had borrowed for me Madam Founds. Butt my small acquaintance there, tho earnestly prest, I denyed itt.<sup>79</sup>

**6** Sunday, the 6 of July, I went to sea againe, where we lay beating up and downe till Thursday in a tempest and mist – I lay nott knowing wher we were. **10** Which forced us to an anker for two days more; soe thatt being in a tirrible storme and the ship and boatt both very crazy, I durst nott venture againe to sea butt ankered on the Goodwin Sands.

**12** I sentt for the queens pillate boatt and putt my selfe and family in att a ginny a person; and tho with greatt hassard, by Gods greatt mercy to me wee landed saffe on the beech att Deale. Where being ill, before I could be taken outt a greatt wave carryed me offt againe to sea thatt every body thought me lost. When on a suden another greatt wave forced my boatt to the beech againe, where abundance of people looking att mee by there strength and graples hall'd her to an anchor. Thus my greatt and good God preserved me round the world in a leaky shipp and boatt.

**13** We landed saffe att Deale when a ship of 300 tun was lostt and all its crue with itt.<sup>80</sup> From thence I hired the Canterbury coach for London and two horses for my servants.

**14** Where att Maudlin in Kent I were besett with 5 highwaymen, one of which told me I would never reach Cittingburne and bid my boy behind the coach drink hartily for itt was his last he should ever drink.<sup>81</sup> And soe we both run for itt and, I doe most humbly thank my God, just gott to the townds end before them to Cittingborn.

**16** From Cittingburne I hired this coach to Rochester, and soe to

<sup>78</sup> Isaac Townshend(?): above, p. 64 n. 85.

<sup>79</sup> Robert Freke: above, p. 64 n. 86; Petronell or Anne Fownes: above, p. 64 n. 87.

<sup>80</sup> Goodwin Sands shipwreck: above, p. 65 n. 88.

<sup>81</sup> Maudlin and Sitingbourne: above, p. 65 n. 89.

Graves End, where I come on the 17 and landed latte att nightt. **i7** Where coming outt of the boatt, a roghy watterman stole every ragg of my clothes from me, one suite of which I would nott have taken thirty pound for them, being sure I shall never have such another. In this pickle with att midnight I gott a coach and came to my deer sister the Lady Nortons.

**July i8** And the next day my deer sister Austen fetched me in her house in Sohoe Square, wher I staid aboutt a week in both places and then wentt to lodgings of my owne neer Sohoe Square neer my deer sisters.<sup>82</sup>

**2i** I gott my usquabath on shore, which cost me six pound the costome of itt; and itt was soe mingled as itt was quitt spoyled by the seamen.<sup>83</sup> [fol. 9v] This was my severall disapoyntmentts when I came for England and noe place to putt my unfortunate head in.

**1696, August 22** And to add to my troubles, in or aboutt the 22 of Agust itt pleased God to take to himselfe my brother Austen a Satterday, about two a clock in the affternoone, and left my deer sister in a greatt deale of trouble. Tho he left her a good joyntter, yett he left her two daughters, women grown, and her youngest son, Thomas Austen, with never a peny provision for them and a considerable debtt for her eldest son to pay.<sup>84</sup> He was just entered the sixth of Agust before the fifty sixth yeare of his age, the goutt breaking in his legg or foott aboutt three weeks before.

**23** Hee was buried in Bexly the next day att night, latte att nightt, in the famyly vault.

**September 5** I came againe to West Billney to bare walles to my thacht house, where every thing of mine thatt was good was taken away from me, even to my very bed to lye on, tho I left 8 good fether beds when I wentt for Ireland and a good stock and all things nesary. And I found nothing butt five farmes in my hand and the tennants of them run away with aboutt 500 l. of my arrears of rentt.

**December 2i** I leftt Billney and wentt to Lin Regis to Mr Benetts to finish my leases and accounts and to endeavour for some new tennants affter James Wallbutt, who had the looking affter this my estate, had fallen the rents of whatt I left itt neer fifty pounds a yeare and lost me above 500 pounds in mony.<sup>85</sup>

**3i** I wentt up againe to London and came to my deer Lady Nortons in Covent Garden, where I staide with her aboutt three days.

**January i** And January the first I wentt to my own lodgings in Red

<sup>82</sup> Soho: above, p. 65 n. 91. 'August' in the manuscript.

<sup>83</sup> Usquebaugh, an aqua vitae: above, p. 66 n. 92.

<sup>84</sup> Robert, Judith, Elizabeth, and Thomas Austen: above, p. 66 n. 93.

<sup>85</sup> An unidentified Lynn attorney: above, p. 67 n. 95.

Lyon Streett very sick, over against my deer sister Austins, very ill and in the doctters hands; where I staid neer five monthes.<sup>86</sup>

**February 16** In which time, viz., Shrove Tuesday, Febuary i6, my deer neece and god-daughter, and my deer sister Nortons only child, was privatly marryed to Sir Richard Gettings, who soon brok her hart and an unspeakable grief to my deer sister, her deer mother, and to me, whom I loved as my own lyfe and would have spared mine to have saved hers.<sup>87</sup> Eliza Freke

**1697, April 17** I came downe againe to my Billney with my deer sister Austen to see and endeavour to gett me a place to putt my unhapy head in by my renting of the Hall in Billney. Butt in this I was likewise disapoynted too by my Lady Richerson, who chose to lett itt to a little Shepherd befor me, tho I offered her the security of my sister Austen, and Sir George Chouts bond and my nephey Austen valued att above ten thousand pounds.<sup>88</sup>

**May 18** I heard of my sons being like againe of a violent feaver in Ireland, which soe tiryfied and frightned me thatt I had noe rest in mee. And affter eleven week stay heer in Billney att my thacht house, the Wassell Farme, I leftt Billney and with my deer sister Austen came for London, the great God having recovered my son. For which I am ever thankfull to him. Eliza. Freke

**1697, June 29** I left Billney and came to London June the 29 in order to goe to Tunbridg to drink the watters for my better health, and I carryed my deer sister Austen along with me affter I had staid with her in Red Lyon Streett till July the 20.

**July 20** Aboutt three week I continued with her very ill, when wee both wentt together to Tunbrige, where I staid very ill till the 24 of Agust.<sup>89</sup>

**Agust 24** When I returned againe and brought her back to her own house in London Barthollmew Day, to her house in Red Lyon Streett, affter five weeks stay att Tunbrig.

**September 15** Where I staid with her very ill, rather worse then better for the watters, with the fright of my sons sickness till September the 15 I fell downe quitt sick att my sister Austins of a malignantt feaver called by the name of the plague feavour, of which rained much in London. And abundance dyed of itt, and my deer neece the Lady Gettings; and those thatt lived were martered by itt.<sup>90</sup> Of which I keptt my bed two month in the hands of docters and appothycaryes, every

<sup>86</sup> Red Lion Street: above, p. 67 n. 96.

<sup>87</sup> Grace and Richard Gethin: above, p. 67 n. 97.

<sup>88</sup> George Choute and Robert Austen: above, p. 68 n. 99; the Shepherds: above, p. 68 n. 100.

<sup>89</sup> Tunbridge Wells: above, p. 68 n. 101.

<sup>90</sup> Malignant fever: above, p. 69 n. 102.



day expecting my last. Which att last fell from my groyne to my ankle of my left legg, wher itt broke when noe surjoin would medle with itt, twas all soe [fol. 10r] black and mortified. Thus I lay for neer three monthes more, all concluding nothing butt my death, and Mr Frek and my son both in Ireland. And att the same time my own maid lay ill of the same, which settled in her back before itt broke. She kept her bed with itt neer six month before itt brok in the same doctters and apothycarys hands I were. Thus we lay and my deer neece for above half a yeare, and affter all my God raised me up againe a miserable specttle (and took my deer neece to himselfe) to receive more of his mercys to unhappy me, Elizabeth Freke.

**1697, Octobr ii** God took to himselfe my deerst neece the Lady Gettings, my deer sister Nortons onlly child, of this feaver, who gave up her pyous soule to God Tuesday, the eleventh day of Octtober. Who as she was used all her life to afflictions bore them to her last and most saintlike gave up her soule to God. And her end was a presidentt for the best of bishops and all the world to immitate, to the griefe of her deer mother, my deer sister, who has inter'd her in my own deer mothers grave att Hollingburne, wher lye seven of my sisters and brothers and is a very fine monementt erved for her, as is likewise in Westminster Abby.<sup>91</sup>

**Febuary 16** I left my deer sister Austins house just recovered of my feaver tho hardly able to goe or stand and **19** came a Satterday, the 19 of Febuary, to my own Billney againe to take in Mr Freks name possession of my house I had bin kept outt of for 28 years by the Lady Ann Richerson, who was burntt to death in her clossett aboutt the Christmas before and concealed itt from me.<sup>92</sup>

**21** Which I took posesion of Munday, the 21. And with itt God gave me a house and place in England to putt my poor unfortunate head in; which is more then I have had or could purchas, tho married above six and twenty years, to rest my wearied carcass in butt tost from place to place and to the trouble of both my deer sisters. And this is, as I remember, the seventh time since I have bin an unfortunatt wife thatt I have come to an empty house with nothing in itt butt bare walles just redy to fall on my head, as was the church and cancell with the rest of the houses in the parrish in the posesion of the Lady Richerson. Elizabeth Freke

**1698, April 8** My husband and son, affter leaveing of me to seek my fortune above three years by shifting for my selfe all alone, both,

<sup>91</sup> Cicely was the seventh sibling buried in Hollingbourne; Grace's monuments are in the chancel of All Saints Church and the South Choir Aisle of Westminster (above, p. 69 n. 103).

<sup>92</sup> Anne Richardson died in Honingham on 31 January 1697/8.

I humbly thank God, landed saffe att Minhead in Devonshieir aboutt two howres before a most dreadfull storme happened.<sup>93</sup>

**13** They came both to London saffe the 13 of Aprill and downe to West Billney the 23 day to mee, which was a greatt mercy in God to mee and unlooked for. Which providentiall mercy God grant may nott be forgotten by me, Eliz Frek.

**May 30** Mr Frek and my son wentt to London aboutt a great match for him severall times proposed to him, and Mr Freke had severall good offers for him; butt none would he see or heer of, I suppose haveing before made his choise where he marryed of Sir John Meads daughter.

**Jully 16** They both returned from London to Billney withoutt satisfying Mr Frek in the seing of any one fortune, tho beg'd by his father to see severall proposed.

**23** My deer sister Norton sentt me towards furnishing my bare walles the fine tortershell cabynett in my best chamber with severall peices of fine china for itt, which are secured in my closett.

**25** My deer sister Austen sentt me downe towards my house furniture a long cane squab,<sup>94</sup> now stands in the parlour, and five greatt jars for my best chamber, now in my closett carefully laid up by Eliz Frek.

**29** I bought my green damask bed and all my tapstry hangings for the two chambers and the parlor and the dineing roome with my two great glasses and new coach lined with a damask and scarlett silke coffoy for my selfe and severall other nessesarys all outt of my own mony, which cost me above three hundred pounds.<sup>95</sup>

**Agust 10** Mr Freke and my son left me heer att Billney all alone againe with two maids and a man and a hundred pound a yeare in my hand and nott one peny to stock itt, he haveing taken the rest of my thousand pound to buy the estatt att Pentney of forty six pounds a yeare of cobby hold in his own name and life putt in itt. Elizabeth Frek

[fol. 10v]

**1698, Agust 15** The 15 of Agust my husband and son came both safe to West Chester from Billney and took shipping the nextt day, butt were tost up and downe by stormes and tempest till the five and twentyeth of September, and were putt into five severall harbours.

**Octobr 1** Att last in an open boatt withoutt any thing of shellter or

<sup>93</sup> Minehead: a Bristol Channel port in Somerset, not Devon.

<sup>94</sup> A couch.

<sup>95</sup> Damask: silk or linen fabric with a figured or patterned weave; glass: mirror; coffoy: caffoy, caffā, an imported fabric or silk cloth comparable to damask.

subsistence, every howre expecting the fate of a mercyless sea, my greatt and good God of his infinite mercy landed them both saffe in Dublin affter haveing bin neer seven weeks cast up and downe the sea to my unspeakable tormentt and torture. For which mercy of God to mee I doe humbly beg I may never forgett to be thankfull. Elizabeth Freke

**November 3d** Affter this through frightt I could nott stay any longer att West Billney nor have any rest day or night in my mind butt left my house and servants and **6** came up to London to try my frinds kindness to me in there company for whatt time they could spare me.

**30** When on the thirtyeth of Novembr my deer sister Austen came downe with mee, which was a greatt kindness and comfourt to me in this my deplorable condition; wher shee staid with mee confined to my chamber in bare walls till the fourth of Aprill following. For which I am ever thankfull to her. Eliza Freke

**1699, March 5** My son, Ralph Frek, was marryed in Ireland to Sir John Meads daughter Mrs Eliza Mead.<sup>96</sup> Hee had with her three hundred pounds a yeare land in Ireland; or iff Mr Frek liked to sell the land, he would give with his daughter fowre thousand pounds in mony. This match my only son never asked my consentt in or my blessing. For which I have and doe forgive and begg of God to doe the like in forgiveing of him too and wish him better fortune then I, who marryed withoutt my deer fathers knowledg or consentt. For perhaps I mightt have opposed this match, I heering my son wish (to cross mee) thatt he mightt never prosper iff hee marryed there to thatt lady fifteen years of age. God forgive him, and [I] doe. Eliza. Freke

**April 4** My deer sister Austen lefft me affter shee had done pennance with mee aboutt fowre month. Itt was a greatt kindness to me then, indeed. And then she returned home againe to her house in Plumtree Streett in Holborn in London.<sup>97</sup>

**June 13** I wentt with Prebend Bradrup and his wife to London affter they had staid a week with me heer att West Billney.<sup>98</sup> I hired a coach to our selves thatt wee mightt travill att ease up to London, where I stayed aboutt a fortnightt.

**Jully i** I returned from London home to West Billney, when I new slatted and made the whole chancell of Billney tightt and glased itt and whited itt together with the church, lefft just redy to fall by the Lady Richerson. And I made the brick and stone pillers in the church yard to support itt, and I boughtt the materialls for itt att Pentney of Mr Carter.<sup>99</sup>

<sup>96</sup> John and Elizabeth Meade: above, p. 72 n. 110.

<sup>97</sup> Plumtree Street: above, p. 72 n. 111.

<sup>98</sup> Richard and Ann Broadrepp: above, p. 70 n. 106.

<sup>99</sup> Anthony Carter, who was buried on 26 September 1713 in Pentney, where he and his wife Ellen had buried at least two children.

**April 23** And aboutt the Easter before I gave to this chancell of mine in West Billney a handsome table cloth for the communion table embrodered of my own and my deer mothers worke and a pullpitt cloth and couchen all embrodered on purple cloth. Elizabeth Freke

**1700, April 30** The thirtyeth of Aprill one thousand seven hundred my son Freks eldest son was borne and christned by the name of Percy Freke, my deer husbands name. Hee was borne two days before the last quarters change of the moone att Castle Mahon in Ireland.<sup>100</sup> And I humbly begg of God to give him his grace, and to blesse him and make him his servantt, and to bless him with a long life and health, and thatt he may be a greater comfortt to his parents then my son Frek has bin to mee, his mother, thatt was borne butt to two hundred pound a yeare and by Gods blesing on my industry has affter my death above two thousand pound a yeare. And I have provided for his two eldest sons. Eliza. Freke

**June 19** I went to London to see my two deer sisters, and I staid att my deer sister the Lady Nortons in Brownloe Streett. I staid till the one and thirtieth of July.

**July 31** I came home from London with my neece Judith Austen to keep me company and Mrs Willis to waite on mee. Where att Billney wee all staide till December the second, when I wentt up to London againe with my neece Judith Austen and Mrs Willis, I haveing lett partt of my house outt to Henry Fish the Michellmas before.<sup>101</sup>

[fol. 11r]

**1700, Decembr 5th** I came to London to my deer Austins in Plumbtree Streett, where the very next day I fell downe rightt sike and soe stuft up with my tisick I could nott fetch my breath or goe cross my chamber butt lay under the hands of doctters and surgions till the middle of Febuary following.<sup>102</sup>

**1701, May 10** I came home againe to Billney with my two maids and a boy.

And aboutt the end of May I had a letter from Bristoll from Mr Freke on his landing there aboutt the 20 of May butt very like to dye of a dropsey and scurvy – distempers hee purchased in Ireland into the bargain of his estate there, hee haveing now this time in Irland from mee allmost three years wanting one quarter. E Frek

**June 17** Tuesday, I heering Mr Frek was like to dye att the Bath,

<sup>100</sup> Freke also says Percy was born on 28 April (above, p. 73 n. 112); Castle Mahon was the Bernard residence (above, p. 64 n. 84).

<sup>101</sup> Judith Austen's older daughter; Freke's maid: above, p. 73, n. 113.

<sup>102</sup> Phthisic, a chronic cough, asthma, or lung disease.

tho nott well able, leftt my house and servants att Billney and came to Bath<sup>103</sup> the 2i of June, above two hundred miles in fowre days. Wher tho I found him very ill, yett I humbly thank God he was well enough to chide me, tho I had nott seen him in neer three years before this. Tho itt was nott kind, yett nott come unexpectedt by me. E Frek

**July 9** I left the Bath and with Mr Freke came to London the 12 of July. **25** And I came home by my selfe to Billney the 25 of July. And I left Mrs Evans my servantt and his man to come home with him the 30 of July, where and in England Mr Freke staid till Agust the 18, 1702.

**1701, July 18** My son Frek had his second son borne, which was babtised by the name of John, the grandfathers name of the mothers side; who in the yeare 1705 hee was shott to death in the head in London in Norfolk Streett on Sunday aboutt two of the clock by the carlessness of my sons servante Peryman.<sup>104</sup>

**September 30** My own son, Ralph Frek, leftt Ireland, given over, as I was informed, by six phissions there, to try for the Bath. And by Gods greatt mercy to him and mee hee landed safe at Minhead, a seaportt in Devonshire, just before a most grievous storme. And hee came to the Bath aboutt the 6 of October and drunk the waters ther and bathed for aboutt 5 weeks, by which he found greatt good.<sup>105</sup> For which mercy the greatt and good God ever make thankfull his humble servant. Eliz Freke

**1701, November 8** I thank God my son was soe well recovered as to come to London with my deer sister the Lady Norton, where they both staid aboutt a fortnight. **22** And then both my son and my deer sister came downe to Billney the 22 of November and staid both with me till the 19 of January following.

**January 19** My sister Norton and my son left Billney, Mr Frek sick in his bed of an ague and the goute; **21** and my selfe was taken with a violent ague for aboutt a fortnight too. Thus when we most wanted our friends, wee had none. Butt my greatt and good God never yett failed me, his child and servant. Eliz. Freke

**29** Aboutt this time my sister and my son leftt London and wentt to Bristol for a shipp for Ireland. Where att Sir George Nortons my son

<sup>103</sup> 'London' in the manuscript.

<sup>104</sup> 'A very pleasant regular and spacious' street on the river side of the Strand between Arundel and Surrey Streets (Hatton, i. 59) 'esteemed the best both for Buildings, and Pleasantness of a Prospect into the *Thames*' (Strype, ii. bk. 4, 118), Norfolk Street no longer exists. John was born in Rathbarry (above, p. 74 n. 116). Richard Peryman: above, p. 82 n. 131.

<sup>105</sup> By the beginning of the eighteenth century the spas of Bath were increasingly popular (above, p. 110 n. 202).

lay wind-bound till the eightt of March, Sunday, remarkable for the death of our good king, William the Third.

**March 8** This our good Protestant king and dellyverer dyed Sunday aboutt ten a clock and on Innocentt Day (as did his good and pious Queene Mary of the small pox), both a loss irrepairable to this nation. And hee was kild by a fall from his horse which broke his coller bone, which being by his surjones ill handled soon ended his days to the sorrow and grife of all good Protestants.<sup>106</sup>

**13** Fryday, I humbly thank my God my son landed saffe in Ireland on his own estate att Balltimoor and came next day to Rathbary and **15**, a Sunday, to Kingsaile to Sir John Meads, wher his wife was, being the 15 of March.<sup>107</sup> For this greatt mercy, good Lord, make me thankfull. Elizabeth Freke

**25** Thom White, my tennantt, stole away from me in the nightt with above threescore pound, and carryed away all his goods, and left his wife and three children to the parish.<sup>108</sup> This was the very next house to me, and by his pretended religion to the church, &c., I could nott have suspected of him.

[fol. 11v]

**1702, June 9** Mr Freke and I wentt up to London to my deer sister Austins, where my husband took up of my mony of East Indy stock a *thousand and fowre pounds to buy Irish debenturs to buy more Irish land with.*<sup>109</sup> I was very unwilling to partt with itt, being my own saveings of 24 years at Billney, all alone by my selfe; butt I was bound and must obey. Att my sister Austins I staid a full month allmost dead with my tisick and could nott fetch my breath or stirr cross my chamber, tho I were blouded above twenty ounces and laid outt for dead.

**July 9** Then by advice I wentt into the country to Abbots Leigh to my deer sister the Lady Norton to accompany Mr Freke to his shipp, where wee both staid till the i8 of Agust. On which day, being Tuesday, hee took shiping att the Pill and carryed with him above a thousand pounds of mine, itt's foundation laid by my deer father, Mr Ralph Frek, and part of the industry of my after life.

**Agust 20** On the 20 of Agust, I thank God, Mr Frek landed safe att Waterford in Ireland. From thence he wentt to Cork, and soe to Rathbarry, where he found, I thank God, all his young family well.

**September 9** On Wensday, the 9 of September, I left Abbots Leigh,

<sup>106</sup> William did not die on Innocents Day (above, p. 75 n. 117).

<sup>107</sup> Ballintubber, near Kinsale.

<sup>108</sup> He rented the White House (above, p. 75 n. 119).

<sup>109</sup> Stock transactions: above, p. 71 n. 109; government debentures: above, p. 75 n. 120.

where I had bin kindly treated by Sir George Norton and my deer sister for two monthes. These two good friends and my neece Betty Austen, whom I brought downe with mee, I left att the Bath.<sup>110</sup>

**12** And I came to London from Bath the 12 of September.

**19** And the 19 I came home to my West Billney very ill with my journey of fourteen weeks runing up and downe and kept my chamber till the end of November. In all which time I never heard from either my husband or son, only by my cosin John Freke thatt Mr Frek [was] goeing for Dublin **25** and thatt I must immediattly returne him fowre hundred pounds to finish his Irish purchas with the Lord Sidney;<sup>111</sup> which I did on my creditt to my cosin John Freke. Thus is above 14, fourteen, hundred pounds of my two thousand gone this yeare in debenters for Ireland.

**October 15** Aboutt the 15 of October I received a letter from my cosin John Frek thatt my son Ralfe Frek [asked him] to begg of me fowre hundred pound to entitle him to his deer fathers trad of purchasing of land which lay neer his house. All which I imediattly did. Soe thatt is gone this yeare (1702) eighteen hundred pound of my mony outt of the Indy trads, for all which I never had soe much as a letter of thanks from either husband or son. This is too true. E Frek

**31** I seised the stock of Goody Fish whatt was nott conveyd away in my absence for fowrscore pounds. Whereof I gott little of money, yett I gott a greatt deale of trouble and three farms in my hand, kept neer a year before I could lett them.<sup>112</sup>

**November 21** The 21 of November I had a letter outt of Ireland from Mr Freke thatt hee had now finished his purchass of my Lord Sidneys land, which he said cost him three thousand pounds. Of which he tooke from me fowrten hundred pound in debentures att aboutt seventy pound, and fowre hundred [given] my son did almost break my trad to sett up theirs in Ireland.

**December 2** I had another letter from Ireland, from Dublin, from Mr Frek, and the first I have had in three months from him, in which he sentt me a fine to levy [and] release my rightt of Rathbary of three hundred pounds a year to settle itt on my son.

**22** Which tho I had severall times deny'd him in, yett being willing to secure itt to my son and his heirs, I now did itt beefore Sir John Turner and his brother Alderman Turner of Lynn on the 22 of December, when I sentt my son fowre hundred pound to purchas Dirryloan with.<sup>113</sup> For which I never had soe much as his thanks for

<sup>110</sup> Elizabeth, the younger daughter of Robert and Judith Austen.

<sup>111</sup> The estates of Justin MacCarthy forfeited to Henry, Viscount Sidney (above, p. 77 n. 123).

<sup>112</sup> Margaret Fish: above, p. 76 n. 122.

<sup>113</sup> John and Charles Turner: above, p. 77 n. 126; Derryloane: above, p. 77 n. 125.

itt. This tis to have butt one child, and him none of the best to me neither. Butt God forgive him and give patience to me, his unhappy mother, Eliz Frek.

**1703, May 8** My deerst sister the Lady Norton came downe to me to Billney outt of her pittty and charity to doe penance with me, who had kept my bed and chamber for seven months beffore. Whose very sight soe revived me thatt I were in a little time most sencible of this her indullgentt kindness to mee.

[fol. 12r]

**1703, May 7** I had a letter from Mr Frek outt of Ireland to desire me on all accounts to meett him att the Bath; and iff I would, he would live comfortably with mee and never more leave.

**June 1** Which tho I fattally knew the strength of his promises, yett thatt nothing might lye att my doore, though I had kept my bed and chamber seven month very ill, my deer Lady Norton being with me I made a hard shift and wentt up to London with her June the first. Affter she had done penance heer with me three weeks, she took the trouble of carring me with her to the Bath. This kind visett God grantt I may never forgett and reward her for itt.

**3 of June** I came to London, where I stopt to make up my accounts with my cosin John Frek. Where outt of my two thousand pound and itt's intrest I found Mr Frek had taken up of itt all butt five hundred pounds; and outt of this 500 pound hee took up of my cosin John Frek a hundred and thirten pounds and nine shillings, which money I were faine to pay for Mr Frek to him. And then being little more then three hundred and sixty pound, I sould itt quite outt of the Bank of England; itt then bearing a greatt price, I thought I could nott doe better, the bank runing high.<sup>14</sup> Thus ended my fifteen hundred pound given me by my deer father with my 18, eighteene, years improvementt and intrest of itt brought to 360. Eliza Freke

**Jully 1** I left London and wentt to the Bath, there to meett Mr Freke; wher I staid of till the thirteenth of Jully.

**13** From thence I went to Leigh with my deer lady and sister Norton; wher I staid with her till September, butt noe Mr Freke came over.

**September 15** Soe like a foole I returned home; as I came to my own house att Billney after runing about for above fowre monthes and to the greatt diseasment of my selfe and vexation of me, to see all I had thus borrowed away by my husband and son and carried for Ireland unknown to mee. Eliza Frek

<sup>14</sup> The *Post-Man* (1134) states that bank stock on Tuesday, 1 June, was 131. The stock, which opened the year at 126½, ranged from 129¼ to 132¾ during the month of June.



**November 26 or 27** was the great hurricane of wind for a whole night and day, being Fryday, thatt was ever known in England since Olliver Cramell dyed.<sup>115</sup> Which wind did blow downe allmost all my houses and putt me to above five hundred pound charge in presentt stopping of gaps. And the Wassell Farme I lived in, both house and barne, quite blown downe besids severall others.<sup>116</sup>

**Decembr 16** Aboutt December the 16 Mr Frek came over from Ireland by Chester full of the goutte; and from thence, ill as he was, he came to London the 23 of December and by my cosin John Frek sentt for me up to London to him. Where in lodgings and att my sister Austins hee kept his bed neer six weeks before I were able to goe to him.

**Febuary 10** However, I came up to him aboutt the tenth of Febuary, when hee was in his second lodgings. Wher when I came, he refused to see me for moveing thatt little remaine of my mony outt of the Bank of England. Butt heering I were on my returne home againe, hee wrott to me to my sister Austins iff I would come to him to his lodgings all should be made up between us and thatt hee would goe downe with me to Billney and live there with me for thatt he found frinds were butt indifferent cemeneters between man and wife. In obedience to this his promise I wentt thatt night in a chaire to my deer husband's lodgings in St Martains Lane, where I received his check for takeing my mony outt of the bank.<sup>117</sup> On which I promised him to make itt fifteen hundred pound and lay itt out for his third grandson bearing my deer fathers name.

**March 3d** Which I did on the 3d of March, I haveing itt my life and the dispos of itt att my death; both which were granted me.

**16** And soe we came both comfortably home together, leaveing London and my two sisters the sixteenth day of March. **18** And by Gods blessing to us wee both reached home to Billney Saterdag night, the 18 of March, after he had left me and this place for neer two years, one year of which I never heard of him or from him whether dead or alive. This has bin the hard and uncomfortable fate of Eliza Freke.

<sup>115</sup> Oliver Cromwell (1599–1658), lord protector of England, died on 3 September 1658; the storm, which occurred on 30 August, was later dated by some to coincide with his death (Evelyn, iii. 219–20 and 220 n. 2).

<sup>116</sup> The storm on the night of 26 November 1703, 'the like not known in the memory of man' (Luttrell, v. 363–4), lasted about four hours and did extensive damage in London and especially the coastal areas of southern England (*London Gazette* [3971], *Daily Courant* [405], and *Post-Man* [1213]). Daniel Defoe's account, *The Storm* (London, 1704), says that seven ships with a value of £3,000 and twenty men were lost at King's Lynn, another ship was missing, and the damage to buildings in the town was £1,000 (174–5). Paul Richards assesses the loss at six ships and thirty sailors in *King's Lynn*, 76.

<sup>117</sup> 'A very great Through-fare both for Foot and Horse, and is well inhabited, having good built Houses, especially the Western Side' (Strype, ii. bk. 6, 68).

**1704, March 25** The 25 of March I received a letter from my daughter out of Ireland how ill my son was of a dropsy and how much his legs pitted. **27** On which I writt to them both to hasten over to me for cure in his own native country, where, I bless God, he was finely recovered, I hope to be a comfortt to mee, his unhappy mother, Elizabeth Frek.

[fol. 12v]

**1704, July 25** Tuesday the 25 and St James Day I went up into my uper classett to fetch down six pound to pay Scerry the mason for new tilling part of the Hall blowne downe by the late hurrycane of wind.<sup>118</sup> Which I coming the second paire of staires, my head was soe taken thatt I fell downe greatt part of them against the stone wall of the window, [which] ston'd me soe thatt I were took up dead. Till Mr Frek, heering that noise of my fall and noe complaintt, made a shift to gett outt of the bed, who had nott bin outt of itt in six weeks before, knocked and caled company to help me upp, and laid mee on a bed allmostt incencible – my head and face soe battered with the wall, and my back almostt brok against the stairs, and both my knees brok. Thus I lay some weeks, and about ten of my uper teeth knoctt outt, of which was fowre of my eye teeth, all fell outt by the roots. And the artt of three blouders could nott make me bled one dropp. About two howrs before I had this dreadfull fall, I were forewarned of itt by my dream and told itt Mr Frek, who chectt my superstition. My dream was, viz., I thought I were up on a long lader in the garden a looking over the house where Skerry had bin att work. Wher affter I had staid a quarter of an houre, I called to my maid and told her my lader was falling; therfore come quickly. Me thought I saw her run, butt before she came to me the lader and I were fallen downe; and thatt I was by a greatt many people taken up dead and ladd on my best chamber bed; and tho I survived this fall, I should live miserably till I dyed. I have found butt too true; for tho I have escaped this greatt fall with my life, yett never have I had one days comfortt or ease since, though now within two monthes of seven yeare since. Eliza. Freke

**May 18 or 19** Mr Frek was taken very ill of a sore throatt of which thatt yeare abundance dyed, which turned him into a violent feaver; when I watched with him 8 nights together every night expecting his last. The violent paine of which turned him into the goute, where itt brok in one of his feett, with which he was for aboutt three monthes

<sup>118</sup> Probably Michael Skerry, who married Lydia Betts in Narford on 16 October 1699. The Pentney register bills record the baptisms of four of their children and the burials of two.

confined to his bed and chaire. And itt being the goutt broke ther, noe docter or surgion would medle with itt. But my God gave me the courage and aded his blessing to my care and skill thatt by Gods greatt mercy to him and me he is now whole and restored to his health againe and this day, being the sixth of Agust, is able with me to goe to church and render my God thanks for his infinite mercy to him and wretched mee.<sup>119</sup> Eliza. Freke

**1704, July 26** My son, Mr Ralph Frek, and his wife and his two eldest sons, Percy and John Frek, took shipp att the Cove in Cork in the Shoram frygate, a man of warr.<sup>120</sup>

**Agust 3d** They sett saile a Wensday in the evening and landed att Minhead the third of Agust in the evening and from thence took a marchantt and came to Pill, where my deer sister the Lady Norton fetched them in her coach to Leigh to Sir George Nortons and presented my daughter Freke with a dymond necklace valluable att a hundred pounds. Att Sir George Nortons they rested themselves about six week, viz., till the 15 of Septembere.

**Agust 30** Then aboutt Wensday, Agust the thirtieth, Mr Frek sitting in a new chaire by my greatt barne doore to see a load of barly goe into the barne – I was butt just gone from him, I think, for a couchin for him; and the horses very gentle, withoutt any provocation the cartt in the twinkling of an eye run itt selfe full against that chaire Mr Freke was setting in and broke itt all to bitts, to the amasementt of all thatt saw itt. And in this distress God lifted my deer husband up for shellter behind the barne doore, thatt had nott rise in a twelve month before withoutt att least one to help him. For which mercy the Lord make me for ever thankfull to him. Eliza Freke

**September 6** Wensday and the 6 of Septembr, about twelve a clock att noone one of my best houses in the parrish, Jams Wallbutt sould ale in, full of company was burntt downe to the ground in the compass of three hours time. And nott one bitt of itt saved. The loss of which was to me neer three hundred pound besids the wantt I have of itt for tennants. EF

[fol. 13r]

**1704, September 18** Monday, the 18 of September, my deer sister the Lady Norton with my son and daughter and my two deer grandchildren Percy and John Frek wentt to the Bath with their three servants, where they all staid till the 26 of October.

**October 28** And Satterday, the 28, they all came safe to London

<sup>119</sup> Freke retains the dating and tense of the passage from W adapted here.

<sup>120</sup> HMS *Shoreham*: above, p. 79 n. 128.

to the fattall lodgings my deer grandchild was kild in in Norfolk Streett. Which beefore they wentt to London, I beged them to leave itt with mee; I would take care of itt. And I did att the same time forewarne these my children of thatt lodging. Butt nothing comes by chance.

**November 16** My son and daughter and my two grandchildren and thyer three servants sett outt of London in a hired coach to themselves towards West Billney, **18** and came down to Mr Freke and mee Satterday, the **18**, affter they had bin in England neer fowre monthes, [my son] loaded with his dropsicall humour and soe bigg and fatt I hardly knew him.

**January 1** The first of January, being my birth day, I beged Mr Freke to give my son Freke a New Years guiftt, which he most kindly did of fifty pounds. And I gave him ten pounds in crown peices, and I paid above thirty pounds for cord for his toyles to catch deer with in his park of Dirryloane.<sup>121</sup>

**2** Mr Freke and I being in my chamber alone, I were saying before my own maide that my deer husband had given my son fifty pounds for a New Years guiftt, which I was glad of. On which my daughter, that allwais stood harkning att her chamber doore, flew into Mr Freks chamber and told him to his face hee might be ashamed to speak of such a tryffle before my servantt, tho itt was more then all the frinds she had ever gave liveing and dyeing butt her bare portion, and further said to me thatt she would kick my maid downe stairs and iff I did nott presently turne her outt of doors shee would be gone her selfe. Thus were I hectored in my own house and forcest immediatly to turne her outt of doors thatt had lived soe many years with me and soe fit for the attendance of my deer husband. This is true. Eliz Frek

**1705, May 7** Monday, the 7 of May, I hired a whole coach att Linn and sentt up all my young familly to London, and I gott Mr Frek to goe with them thatt they mightt be att noe charge with coming to me and to sett them downe where ever they desired except in Norfolk Streett wher they lay last. Butt to cross me, noe place would serve them butt thatt. I likewise desired of them to leave with me both their children; I would take care of them. Butt iff nott, I begg'd of them the youngest, being something like my son. Butt I weer denyed in all.

**10** May the tenth I sentt my daughter up a hundred pounds, unknown to Mr Frek, to ease there expences in London, and then I beg'd her since she had deneyd them to me my grandchildren might be immediatly carryed outt of London for feare I should loose them.

**27** And this I begged by my letters to them the 27 of May, for I had noe quiett in mee. To all which I were nott allowed by them the civility of an answer, tho I had kept them and there familly above six

<sup>121</sup> Near Clonakilty: above, p. 77 n. 125.

months, being eight of them and three pampered horses, att house and [provided] neer two hundred pounds in mony and five fine milch asses and a little horse to little Percy. And while they were heer, I paid above ten pounds in apotharys bills for them besids doctters. For all which I never had soe much as thanks from my undutifull son or his wife. Eliza Freke

**June 10** My deerst grandchild Jack Frek, which I had soe often begg'd, on Sunday aboutt two a clock (in my blind eyes the loveliest child ever I saw and like my son) was by Mr Mullsons his landlords son (and the place I had soe warned them against) shott to death in the eye with my own sons pistolls by his cook Perrymans fault of carlesly laying of them.<sup>122</sup> [fol. 13v] For which I beged my son and his wife hee might be turned away, alleaging here was like to have the same accidentt thatt day hee left my house, being the seventh of May, wher he discharged these very pistols charged with a brace of bullets. He lett them off, and neer twenty in the room come to take there leave of my son, when two persons very hardly escaped itt and left its mark of remembrans in the stone wall of the chimney. Yett for all this, all the intrest I had could nott remove this French beast from my son. This was a faire warning before I lost my deerst grandchild. Butt hee must pay for all there undutifullness and cruellty to me the most fattall'st thing thatt ever hapned to me, for this same shott kild my deer husband.

**13** Wensday, the 13 of June, my deerst grandchild dyed. Aboutt 5 a clock in the morning he gave up his soule to God for there undutifullness to mee, for elce my God would nott have taken from me roott and branch as hee did butt to show his judgments to them. Butt God forgive them both there barbarity to the best of fathers and the indullgents of mothers. Eliz Frek

**18** June the 18 my deerst grandchild was brought downe to Billney to bee intered in my vault there I made for Mr Frek and my selfe under the chancell there. I then paid the herse man for bringing of him six pound. And then I buryed him very handsomly with a greatt appearance of my neighbours, my child being thatt day hee was inter'd just three years and eleven month of age, bein borne the 18 of July, and now lyes att the upper end of the vault with his grandfather Percy Frek, Esqr.

**21** Thursday, the 21 of June, affter my deer grandchild was murdered, my son and his wife wentt to devirtt themselves att the Bath. Shee staid in London six weeks; in all which time tho butt a few doors off, shee, my cruell daughter, had nott the civility to goe once to see Mr Frek, laid up with the goute by the death [of] his deer grandchild, nor would

<sup>122</sup> Mullson or Molson: above, p. 82 n. 130.

soe much as lett her eldest son, Percy Frek, goe to ask his blessing the day they went outt of London, tho Mr Frek lay very ill and never more smiled or enjoyed himselfe affter the murder of this his beloved grandchild. God forgive them.

**July 7** Satterday, the seventh of July, my deerst cosen and husband came home to me to Billney soe altered as to frighten mee. Hee was soe swelled and with grieffe for my child and his childrens cruell usage to him for two monthes together in London, the extreame malloncally of which hee never recovered to his dyeing day, which was the second of June (my sons birth day), little more then eleven monthes, to compleatt all my miseryes together. God forgive them.

**September 19** My son Frek, his son, and his wife took shipping; and his family with his father and mother in law, Sir John Mead, took shipping att Pill from Sir George Nortons on Sunday morning in a man of warr, Sir Charls Rich master, **24** and by Gods blessing arrived safe att Kingsaile a Fryday nightt, the 24.<sup>123</sup> Nor has my son bin soe civill to me to lett me heer one word from him since the murder of his child, tho I buryed itt and heer kept his family above halfe a yeare and gave them two hundred pounds and my daughter a suite of cloths cost me above thirty pounds; and I paid, unknown to Mr Frek, all theire extravagantt bills run in heer. Yett all has nott deserved thanks. For which, good God, lay nott these his cruelties and undutifullness to mee to his charge butt forgive him as I, Elizabeth Frek, his unhappy mother, doe.

**December 25** Mr Freke going to church with me to the sacramentt complained of a shortness of his breath which soe increased on him thatt by New Year Day turned to soe violent an astma I thought he would have died with itt. Every howre [he] was like to be choacked, and I affrighted outt of all my senses. [fol. 14r] And every howre I expected when he should be choaked.

**1705/6** By New Years Day [it] increased soe on him I every day expected his death – and my house full of invited company, all invited his tennants for the New Years. I did immediattly send to Doctter Barker of Lin and to Dr Thomas Shortt of Berry and to Mr Goodwin the surgion, butt all to little or noe purpose.<sup>124</sup> Thus my deer husband lay for two month languishing in the hand of fowr doctters and surgions and never closed his eyes or wentt into a bed to lye downe. Then itt was concluded amongst them he must goe to Saffum.

**Febuary 21** Wher on Thursday, the 21 of Febuary, he went in his own coach against my reason or consentt; which jorney, tho butt 5 miles, stir'd the dropsicall humour soe with a violentt purge he took

<sup>123</sup> Charles Rich: above, p. 83 n. 133.

<sup>124</sup> Robert Barker, Thomas Short, and John Goodwyn: above, p. 84 n. 134.

from Docter Barker as forced his dropsey into his legg.

**25** Wher itt broke Munday, the 25 of Febuary, when I sentt for 4 doctters againe to him, viz., Dr Shortt of Berry, Doctter Barker of Lin, Doctter Duckett, and Doctter Cosins with Sheldrick.<sup>125</sup> Butt all to noe purpose, for by ther computation itt run in his right legg, as I were informed, neer eight gallons, forced downe by a vyollentt purge given him (from these doctters). Which now being surgions worke, they left in the hand of Doctter Cosins of Saffum to compleatt this barbarity, and all withoutt my concentt or approbation forced my stay there to see my deer husband murdered by five doctters, two surgins, and three apothycaryes.

**30** February 30 I sentt againe to Berry to Docter Thomas Shortt for all ther consultations together. Mr Frek for all this two months never day or nightt wentt into a bed, I setting up all the while by him, when they all gave me my doome: imposible to save his life to the equanoction.

**1705/6, March 14** I were by these doctters to remove my deer cosin and husband more in the ayre of Saffum; which I did to Mr Life att twenty shillings a week one roome, who was soe cruell to me.<sup>126</sup> Tho I kept them all in meat, drink, and fireing, yett he would nott aford me a bed to rest on for my selfe or deer husband.

**18** Soe thatt the 18 of March, Monday, I were overperswaded by Mr Ebbott, minester of the parrish, to goe to his house and there take a ground roome att twenty shillings a week; and they were to board mee and my husband, son, and cosin Crosby att ten a peice the week and five shillings a week a peice my five servants.<sup>127</sup> Butt this was the barbarous place of all to me, where from Christmas to this time my deer cosin never lay downe in his bed, as I, Eliza Frek, can testifye thatt sett up with him as one of the fowre watchers. I never wentt into my bed six nights in the time of his sicknes.

**24** Sunday, the 24 of March, my deer husband sentt Mr Towrs to me to goe presently and make hime a vaultt under Billney chancell thatt wee mightt rest there with my grandchild John Freke (shott to death in London) together.<sup>128</sup>

**25** Lady Day I sentt for carpenters, massons, and workmen, all I could gett to goe aboutt thatt dreadfull worke, and brought with me from Billney his own bed he used to lye on there greatly to his sattisfaction. And by this time with my setting up with him neer three monthes, I had two greatt holles broke in my left legg, an additionall misery to whatt I daly laboured under I daly reckned would kill mee.

<sup>125</sup> Henry Cozens: above, p. 85 n. 138; Tobias Sheldrake: above, p. 85 n. 136.

<sup>126</sup> Family of Nathaniel Life: above, p. 85 n. 139.

<sup>127</sup> Thomas Ibbot: above, p. 85 n. 140.

<sup>128</sup> Henry Towers: above, p. 86 n. 141.

**1706, March 26** My deer husband wentt into this his own bed and hardly rose outt of itt for six weeks longer with the ullceration of his legg.

[fol. 14v]

**1706, April 28** The 28 of Aprill Sunday nightt latte my son Frek and his nephew Crosby came outt of Ireland to see Mr Freke, who lay in a deplorable condition, hee haveing left his house of Rafebarry the third of Aprill before. Where soon after my son received a letter of his wifes being safe delivered of a son named John Redman Freke (tho my deer husband desired his name might be Arthur, his own fathers name, butt itt was deneyd him and nott to bee purchased by me, his unhappy mother).<sup>129</sup>

**May i** Affter sitting att the table att Mr Ibbotts thinking Mr Frek had bin in a sleepe, Mr England, his curratt, came into the room I were sitting with Mr Life, both of them drunke, and like two beast called mee crassy woman.<sup>130</sup> And Life said hee [had] two pisstolls in his pockett redy charged would soon rid me outt of the way. Butt I did nott mind itt; my troubles were soe grievous on me for him.

**2** of May Mr Freke cal'd his servants and the people of the house to know whatt the matter was his wife was soe abused and thatt before his son and my cosin Crosby, whom he made sett up all night with him, and locked me outt of his chamber hee might send a challeng by him to them by sun rising to fightt them both. And after he would have the law against them.

**3** Unknownne to wretched mee till nextt day they came both on ther knees to mee and offered me whatt satisfacttion I required of them. Soe tender was my deer husband of my honour, tho too true, for my grife had made me very little better then crassed with seeing him lye fowre monthes in thatt misery and my own legg broke in two holes full of pains.

**9** of May 1706, Mr Frek, being very desirous to have his vaultt redy and I being in great torture of my own legg, sentt me to Billney to try to rest my selfe for a few days; when I left him, I thought, in a fine condition and under the care of fowre docters and Doctter Cosins, his surgion, with my own son and cosin and fowre servants to watch with him. And I sentt allmost every day to see him.

**23** Butt by thatt time I had staid att Bilney ten days, he sentt away

<sup>129</sup> John Redman or Redmond was born on 14 April (above, p. 86 n. 142).

<sup>130</sup> Thomas England received a Cambridge MA in 1705, the year before he was ordained a priest and signed the Articles of Subscription (Venn, ii. 104; NRO, DN/Sub 4/2).



for me, for to my sorrow his legg was gangreened all over thatt now I quite dispared of his life by Docter Cosins managementt. Whom I told hee had murdered my deer husband in my little absence by his virdygreass oyntmentt, tho I paid him five pounds a week for neer six monthes together.<sup>131</sup> This is true. Eliz Freke

**1706, June 2d** Sunday, the 2d of June, God took to himselfe my deerst cosin and husband about three a clock in the affternoone, my deer sons birth day and the very howre he was borne in, in a fitt of the astma. They being all att church, noe mortall was with him butt my wretched selfe; [dying] in my armes, which quite distracted me, [he] bid me nott stirr from him. Butt my amased condition was such as my crying outt soon fill'd the house outt of the church to be a wittness of my unhappy and deplorable fatte.

**3** I carryed my deer huband in a herse from Saffum to Billney, to which place he had a greatt appeerance of the country and outt of Saffum; wher I rested him in his vault, being wraped in lead. And I haveing all the bells in the severall parishes tolleing till I came to his own church att Billney, wher in a double leaded coffin I rested him till the 7 of June in the vaultt suiteable to his quality and desertt and my husband. All which cost me with his vault makeing and doctters and surgions and apothycaryes, &c., and buryall above eleven hundred and fifty pounds, as by his bills to show. Eliz Freke

**3d** of June, Monday, my cosin John Frek came from London. I sentt for him to bury my deer husband, I nott being [able] to support my selfe in itt. Which I did.

[fol. 15r]

**1706, June 7** Fryday, the seventh of June, I did inter my deer husband in the vault under Billney chancell with a vast appeerance of, I think, all our part of the country and all the gentry by me invitted, with 8 gentlemen to carry him and eight more to carry up the pall. All had rings, gloves, scarfs, and hattbands; with wine, cakes, and ale, whatt ever they would drinke. He had an appeerance, as I were told, of above seven hundred people att his funarall. And I, his unhappy wife, spar'd noe charge in all his sickness, death, and buryall, which cost me above (ii50 pounds) eleven hundred and fifty pounds, as by my bills above to show. And with my husband I did inter my deer grandchild Mr John Frek, kild by some accidentt with my sons pockett

<sup>131</sup> Verdigris, formed from the exposure of copper to acetic acid or moist air, became the basis of 'fretting' or caustic tinctures and ointments used 'with much discretion' to treat ulcers and postules (Thomas Blount, *Glossographia* [London, 1670], 678; Nicholas Culpeper, *Pharmacopoeia Londinensis* [London, 1683], 105).

pistolls the tenth of June before in London, 1705. After which Mr Freke never enjoy'd himself, butt hee sentt him downe to me in a herse to bury him. Which I did the 18 of June with the appearence of all my neighbours and tennants. Eliz Frek

**24** Midsomer Day, the 24 of June, I were sent for up to London ther to prove my deer husbands will, who made me his executor and gave me all he had both in Ireland for my life, viz., (850 l.) eight hundred and fifty pounds a yeare in Ireland and twelve hundred pound arrears, which my son took from me; and in England this estate of West Billney, which was my owne, for I brought itt to him, and this of Pentney, both now lett in 1712 for above five hundred pound a yeare; and two hundred pounds a yeare in the exchequer for ninty nine years. Soe with my son and family I wentt wher I staid and putt my selfe and family in mourning, and I gave my son a hundred pound to buy him mourning for his father – himself and his man, and I gave my cosin Crosby a whole suite of mourning and ten guinyes to buy him a horse.

**July 4** I did with my cosin John Freke in Doctters Commons prove my deer husbands will, who left me, as above, 850 l. a year in Ireland and 1200 l. in mony there, and 500 l. a yeare heer at Billney and Pentney, and above 200 l. a yeare in the exchequer besids his personall estate there and heere.<sup>132</sup>

**22** July the 22, being Monday, I leftt London and came in my own coach to my Billney with my deer sister Austen, who in pittie came downe with mee; where, I thank God, we both came well home the 24. Twas an unexpected kindness from her to me, her unhapy sister, Eliz Freke.

And now give me leave to recon up the misfortunes I have undergone for this year past, 1705 and six.

**1704, July 25** Saint James Day, 25 of July,<sup>133</sup> I going into my uper closett for five pounds for the masons, coming downe from my closett with the mony in my hand, my head turned and I fell downe severall staires and cryed outt I had broke my back. Butt recovering my selfe in a little time, I stood on my feett againe, when by an unknown hand (or I know nott how) I were thrown downe the rest of the great staires against the stone wall of the window. Which Mr Freke being sicke of the goutt, of which he had keptt his bed six weeks, came hastily and well outt to take me up; butt finding me dead was so affrighted he durst nott move me butt call'd up all the people in the house to take

<sup>132</sup> Doctors' Commons on Knightrider Street was the site of the prerogative court of Canterbury where Freke would have gone to prove the will.

<sup>133</sup> This and the next two entries are misdated in the manuscript 1705.

me up, which fowre of my servants made a shift to doe and in aboutt two howrs broughtt me to my self. And in this condition I lay severall week and were bloded sixteen times butt could nott bleed. And with this fall struck outt ten of my teeth.

**Agust 2i** Then aboutt the one and twentieth of Agust Mr Freke wentt to my great barne to see a load of barley come in. Hee had a new, strong chaire carried outt for him to sett in. And the horses were as gentle as could [fol. 15v] be. When on a suden, sitting in my chamber att work, I heering a greatt outt cry wentt to be satisfied of the occation of itt [and] found the cart horses had turned the taile of the cartt against the chaire Mr Frek was setting in and in the twinkling of an eye or a moment broke itt all to little peices. Butt my God did help my husband off redily from the chaire behind the barne doore or hee had bin broke to peices with itt, thatt had nott rise from such a low chaire by himselfe in above two years before. This was a perticuler providence to me affter my grievous fall downe staires; which fall of mine I were forewarned of in my dreame thatt morning and told Mr Frek of itt nott above an howre before I fell, who begg'd me nott to goe up stairs thatt day. Butt to avoide superstition I wentt. And besids the loss of all my teeth, I shall carry the marks of in my head to my grave by its continuall disorder there. Butt my God has hitherto preserved me from all.

**i704, September 6** Aboutt the sixt of September I had one of my best houses in the parishe burnt downe, Jams Walbutt sold ale inn; which, tho full of company and severall of my servants in itt, none knew itt was on fire till redy to fall. Which I could nott build such another house for three hundred pounds.

**i705, June io** My deer little grandchild John Frek was shott to death on Sunday aboutt two a clock with my sons pockett pistolls by his man Perymans careless leaveing them redy charged. **i3** Mr Mullsons son shott him into his head by one of his eyes; with which he dyed the i3 of June and was sent downe for me to bury the i8 of June. **i8** Which I did in my vault with his grandfather, being thatt day three years and eleven monthes old. This was my fatte, who a month before my son and daughter denyed me this childs company I often beged to be a comfortt to me and my deer husband.

**i706, Sunday 2** Sunday, June 2d, God took from me my deerly beloved husband affter I had bin his wife thirty six years and contracted to him seven years before. He dyed my sons birth day and aboutt the same howre he was borne and in the sixty third yeare of his age, which att last was taken from mee with an astma and dropsey affter seven months labouring under itt.

**Agust 6** I wentt into my uper closett for two bottles of wyne and fell downe the great staires with the two quart bottles in my hand,

when my deer sister Austen runing up against me broke my fall or I must have bin immediatly kild. This was Gods providence to me, Eliza. Freke.

**30** As was Agust the 30. I being in my uper closett Sunday morne, two of my servants told me Mr Adams was come to call me to church. When I makeing hast downe stairs, I fell downe the great staires to the bricks to the parlor doore and were by fowre men taken up dead. And every body concluded all my bones were brok to peices with my head and face, and noe surgion could I gett. Butt my good God thatt never failed me recovered mee of this withoutt the help of mortall man when my house full of company howrely expected my death. This was another peice of providence to Eliz Freke. For which God ever make me thankfull for all these and many more signall mercyes to mee, Elizabeth Frek, and grant I may never forgett them.

**1706, November 14** The 14 of November and my weding day I renewed my cobby hold estate att Pentney by Charles Turner, which Mr Frek gave up to the lord of the maner, Mr Noes, to the use of his will. I call'd a court of copy hold tennants on purpose for itt, and I paid Mr Charles Turner fourteen pound for his renewall of itt besids his fees and engrosing of itt.<sup>134</sup>

[fol. 16r]

**1706, November 23** I had a letter from my cosin John Frek thatt my son was in Dorsettschier with my cosin Robertt Frek att Upway affter I had bin allmost frightned outt of all my sences for fear of his being lost att sea by the late tempestious stormes, for neer fowre monthes in perpetuall feares, he goeing outt of London in greatt hast the 19 of July before to goe home to his famyly from Bristoll Faire.

**25** And I never heard he was alive till November 25 I wrott a letter to him since he did nott goe home to come to me and nott thus to expose himself. My sons answer to me was he would acknowledg the kindness withoutt charging the debt of obligation on mee.

**December 23** I wrott a letter againe to my son as I thought my dutty to admonish him of his errors. I had only as usuall a rude answer for itt. A cobby of [the] letter I wrott is in my whit vellum book of remembrances, 1706.<sup>135</sup> Thus my son and Thom Crosby with three of Mr Freks best horses I gave him run up and downe the country from the death of Mr Frek till the eight of March following to my unspeakable grieffe, a day most remarkable for the death of our good king William

<sup>134</sup> Charles Nowyes, lord of Ashwood Manor, and copyhold: above, p. 89 n. 147.

<sup>135</sup> W, fols. 67r–v: above, pp. 89–90.

the Third. And then, itt being Sunday, hee took shiping in a man of warr, and by Gods greatt mercy to mee and him he came safe over to his family in Ireland affter hee had thus run aboutt exposeing himselfe and me above eleven monthes heer in England to the grieffe of me, his afflicted mother, Eliz Frek.

**1706/7, January ii** Sir John, my daughter in laws father, dyed of an appoplexy, and my son then in England runing aboutt the country. Hee was a greatt loss to me and my family in Ireland.<sup>136</sup>

**Febuary 24** I carryed my deer sister Austen home and her maid in my coach to London, wher I wentt to settle my business in order for my voyage for Ireland, ther to prove my deer husbands will and to take posesion of his bounty to mee. Butt there I were soe afflicted with my asttma thatt I were faine to gett home againe as fast as I could.

**1707, April 15** I came outt of London, being Easter Tuesday, nott able to stirr or goe further with my grievous tissick butt settled my exchecker funds; and I then made my will by Mr Richard Turner.<sup>137</sup>

**16** And the next day came outt of London, wher by Cambrig I had a grievous fall in my new coach, my coachman being drunk. To the amasement of all thatt help'd me up wee were nott kild, being then sixty six years of age; which was seconded by another lifting me outt of my coach.

**19** However, att last by Gods mercy to mee I came alive and safe home to my Billney the ninteenth of Aprill. For which mercy God make me for ever thankfull. Eliz Freke

And I were faine to send my cosin John Frek with my letter of atturny for Ireland to prove my deer husbands will and ther to settle my affairs, and gave him in part for his jorny before I left London a hundred pounds and two hundred pounds more when he returned, tho he ruined me in my estate there by falling all my rents and gave away twelve hundred pounds from me and brought me over nothing butt himselfe.

**1707, April 21** My cosin John Frek sett outt of London for Ireland by way of Chester, before which I paid him Mr Frekes lagacy of a hundred pounds and gave him another in part paymentt for his jorney. Butt God forgive all falce frinds. For this yeare was a dreadfull yeare to me as ever poor mortall ever underwentt, being 1707. My distractions for Mr Freke rendered me a mark for all the rogues and knaves of this country; and those frinds I most trusted most deceived me, besids my own sons undutifullness to me, which affter the loss of Mr Frek was enough to have brok [fol. 16v] the hart of any mortall butt my wretched self. Butt now outt of all I am by my greatt and good God delivered,

<sup>136</sup> John Meade: above, p. 91 n. 150.

<sup>137</sup> Possibly Richard Pyne's trustee.

tho itt has confined me to my chamber by sickness and tisick with an astma for six years past and sencible of noe comfort.

**1707, May ii** I had a letter from my son outt of Ireland and the second I have had since I buiered his son John Frek, which was kild in London, datted from Rathbarry, which was two years wanting one month.

**io** And May io I had a letter of my cosin John Freks landing in Dublin affter he had bin fowr days att sea in the packett boatt and seen eleven ships taken from Hollyhead by privatteers, of which I thank God hee escaped [and] went safe to Rathbarry.<sup>138</sup>

**1707, Agust 2d** My cosin John Frek left Dublin, whither my son wentt with him, and came back in the packett boatt to Chester; **ig** and from thence to London Tuesday, the ig of Agust. From whence hee brought me the dismall account of my affairs in Ireland and my greatt loses there by Mr Jervoyce<sup>139</sup> and nott mended by his jorney thither, which cost me to him three hundred pound thatt ten weeke hee was there besids his fall of my rents 200 l., two hundred pounds, a year and giveing away my arrears of above twelve hundred pounds more. Lett me be a warning to trust friends with letters of aturny.

**3i** Being Sunday, I fell downe the greatt staires by the parlor doore and were taken up dead. A surgion was sentt for to bleed me, who pricked me in both my armes and feett sixteen times withoutt one spoonfull of bloud. All said I must dye, butt outt of this misfortune my God raised me againe. EF

**September 29–30** Munday, September the 30, I discharged Mr Adams from my church for his debauchery affter I had dispenced with his notorious life thirty six years for his wife and childrens sake. Now forced to remove him.<sup>140</sup>

**Octobr i3** Monday, Occtobr i3, I wentt up to London againe to bee satisfiyed how my kinsman John Frek had managed my Irish affaires.

**i6** And the i6 I came to London, whither with my long jorney and the inhuman accountt my kinsman gave me added with itt his managemt thatt the next day I were taken with such a violent asttma and tisick thatt for seventeen weeke I could nott goe outt of my chaire butt lifted to my bed fowrteen weeke of this time. All which time none thatt saw me thought itt imposible for my life. This my foolish jorny to London and my i7 weeke sickness ther cost mee above three hundred pounds, to which aded to the three hundred I gave my cosin John Frek for his jorney and my sons usuage of me in Ireland has rendered mee an example for the trust of frinds and children. Both which my God forgive and grant I

<sup>138</sup> Holyhead: above, p. 92 n. 151.

<sup>139</sup> Joseph Jervois: above, p. 92 n. 152.

<sup>140</sup> William Adams: above, p. 93 n. 153.

may only rely on him who helps the helpless and relieves the oppressed that trust in him as does his humble servant. Eliz Freke

**1707, September 29** And after all these usages to mee in my sick and weak condition, my cosin John Freke never lett me have any rest till I had made a lease to my son of me 850 pound a yeare in Ireland lett by my deer husband in 1703 and reduced by this my trustee with my letter of attorney in the yeare 1707 to the rentt of 664 pound a yeare in order to lease itt to my son for the yearly rentt of 350 pounds a yeare, which he did Michellmas 1707. From which time to this day, being Agust the 22, I never had one peny of rentt butt one half yeares, tho now itt is 1712. Soe thatt there is now due to me from my son above three thousand pound besids my personall estate. Is this kind or faire in my cosin John Freke, whom I made choice of to be a trustee for mee; or is itt faire in him by the powre of my letter of attorney to him to take away my estate from me in Ireland given me by my deer husband of 850 l. and my personall estate of above twelve hundred pounds and give itt [fol. 17r] to my son, who had 800 l. a yeare settled on him to live on? From such friends and friendship, good Lord, deliver mee and forgive my son his undutifullness to mee, his poor unhappy mother, and grant his children may nott pay my debtt by their undutifullness to him is the dayly prayer of Eliz Freke.

**February 14** Vallentines Day, February 14, I came home againe to my Bilney in hopes there to rest my poore, weryed carrkes after I had squandered away neer seven hundred pounds in litle more then a quarter of a yeare besids doctters, meatt, drink, or close in i8 weeks time. Butt this is my least of suffrings, for after I came home I mett with an infinite sortt of loses and troubles from all my tennants and the country. Heer fowre times were I arrested in the hundred court, unknown to me, by Harry Towers and his rogyrue, whom I had bin soe kind to as to lett him cheatt me of above 200 l. besids my guifts to him and lentt him more outt of my pockett thirty pounds. Yett in the hundred court for thirty shillings hee made itt cost me neer a hundred pound. Then came in nextt the attorney Charls Turner of Linn, who arested mee with an execution body and goods for eightt pound from the shriefts courte when I had neer 800 l. in my house and I did nott know I owed a farthing to either. And this Charls Turner cheated me of above two hundred pounds butt few monthes before.

**Jully 20** Then thirdly came in the rogue Thom Garrett, who before ten justices of peace att Saffum swore against me att the sessions of a royett, asault, and battry and for stealling of nine, 9, akers of grass and hay. The grand jury brought itt in ignoramus, and the gentry of the country ashamed of my usage.<sup>141</sup> Butt my help was and is in my God.

<sup>141</sup> Swaffham sessions; ignoramus: above, p. 96 n. 162.

And the shame to my selfe I could very hardly beare. Then came in the rogue Dawson, who cheated me of above a 100 l., hundred pound, with my severall other tennants, all which picked holes in my leases to cheatt me of my rentt.<sup>142</sup> For which I had a tryall att the assises att Norwich against Towre and Thom Garrett for my rentt and cutting downe neer a hundred liveing trees – oke, ash, and elme – and convey[ing] them away the time above I were sicke in London.

**July 22** Where I carryed with mee to Norwich eight wittneses, my tennants, [and] kept them there a week drinking, when all the time I were nott allowed to know when my heering was by the rogue Self, my atorney to whom I then gave five ginyes. When in the compas of a quarter of a houre, Sir John Trever gave the suite against me on the oath of Charls Turner and Henry Towrs withoutt ever axamining one of my witeses, they both swearing I never sued any body butt I cast them and made them begers.<sup>143</sup> This is true and the best of my usage since my widowhood; and tho I have soe often and weekly complained to my kinsman John Freke, yett withoutt releive or help from him or any of my other frinds.

**November 25** Att last to compleate all my misfortunes Charls Turner of Linn, an attorny, early in the morning the 25 of November sentt the shrifes two baylyes to carry me to Norwich Castle for eight pound on my body and good when I had eight hundred pound by me in my house besids plate. Butt to God I made my complaint, who signally lett me see his justice and goodness to mee in the fall of my enimise. For Charls Turner, soon affter he came from the asises, his eye dropt outt of his head on his book and his wife dyed from him; and nott long affter God took him away to accountt for his perjury.<sup>144</sup> And for Henry Towrs, [fol. 17v] soon affiter he came home, viz., aboutt a five or six weeks, hee, Henry Towers, was taken ill of a feavour of which in aboutt three days he dyed. Which tho early in the morning, he was forst to be carryed outt in the garden presently and be next morn privatly laid in the ground for feare of anoyance.<sup>145</sup>

**November 26** And Garrett and Dawson have spentt ther substance in cheating of me [and] are now little wortht, thatt rented above a hundred pounds a yeare of mee.<sup>146</sup>

Besids by my ignorance, cosin John Freks nott letting me know I

<sup>142</sup> John Dawson, the Manor Farm tenant: above, p. 100 n. 176.

<sup>143</sup> Thomas Selfe: above, p. 96 n. 165. Sir John Trevor was master of the rolls (above, p. 144 n. 258); W, however, refers to Lord Chief Justice Trevors, who is Thomas Trevor (above, p. 97 n. 166)

<sup>144</sup> Charles Turner's wife Mary died on 28 December 1708; he died on 11 December 1711 (Carthew, iii. 129).

<sup>145</sup> Henry Towers was buried at North Runcton on 27 May 1709.

<sup>146</sup> The manuscript date in the margin includes the year 1707, an apparent misdating.



oughtt to lease my land in my own name, his leases expiring with him, I lost by these severall tennants:

First by Thom Garrett above a	100 pound
By the rogue John Dawson I lost above a hundred and fifty	150 pound
I lost by John Fish in mony and farms aboutt	57 pound
And by Dick Cross aboutt in mony and farme	60 pounds
And by Towres and Charls Turner I were cheated above	200 pounds
Besids my charge of law in Norwich courte and the county courte and in running up and downe to defend my selfe in six severall suits and with my removeing them cost me	250 pond
In all	880 l.

In all which troubles and abusses placed on me nott one friend or relation of my ever apeered to my comfortt or asisstance; noe, nott my cosin John Frek, whom I had made choise of to be my truste. And I thoughtt I had obliged him, giving this severall sums of mony as:

First in 1706 I desired Mr Frek to give him a hundred pounds in his will to assistt me, which I paid him July 1706 when I wentt to London to prove my deer husband will in Docters Commons.	100 l. EF
Then March 7, 1707, when he wentt for Ireland to give away my estate there and to reduce itt from 850 l. a year to 664 pounds a yeare, I gave him in gold more for this foolish jorney for me there to file his will a	100 l. EF
Novembr i8 I presented my cosin John Frek more in mony, for I hoped his kindness and friendship to me before I knew whatt was done for me in Ireland. I then presented him with more in redy mony	200 l. EF
1708, July 21 I more gave my cosin John Frek for a gratuity to asist me the intrest of a thousand pound for a year halfe, which was att least	78 l. EF
More I gave to his neece Betty Gilles <sup>47</sup> on his accountt	50 l. EF
Which he said he accepted as to himself, with three years intrest on itt.	
More I gave my cosin John Frek when hee came down to me, 1710, for a week stay and returneing mee 500 l. from Norwich in March 6	32 l. EF

<sup>47</sup> Elizabeth Gyles: above, p. 95 n. 159.

More December 17<sup>ii</sup> when I made up my accounts  
 with him, the intrest of a thousand pound for 9  
 monthes 25 l. EF  
 All this in six years, which comes to the sume of 595 l.  
E Freke

Besids the severall thousand pounds I am a looser by him and was never five pounds to my knowledg the better for his assistance since the death of my deer husband. For all his ill usage of mee God forgive him, and from such friends and frindship, good Lord, deliver. Eliz Freke

**September 29, 30** Being Monday, I discharged Mr Adams from his further attendance on my church att Billney and paid him downe ten pounds affter I had borne with all his debaucharyes of all kinds six and thirty yeares for his wife and childrens sake and placed in Mr Buck in his roome.<sup>148</sup> E Frek

And for all these my civilitys to my cosin John Frek, he wrott me two rough letters March 10, 1708[/9], which I keep in memory of him, which did nott want there answer from me, Eliz. Frek, to be treated by him soe barbarously and soe civilly by strangers. Oh, thatt my God would give me a better health thatt I might nott trouble my frinds. Eliz Frek

[fol. 18r]

**1709, April 25** Mr North wrot to me Garrett had affter neer a 100 l. charge to mee refer'd his differece to him and desired me Mr Hatten Berners might be my refferee and nott Mr Hoste. I presently writt to Mr Berners to oblige me in this refference the 27 instant att Midletowne taverne.<sup>149</sup> **27** Where accordingly both came, butt nothing was done in itt, only forty shillings for me to pay for wyne and our dinner.

**May 13** I sentt to John Dawson for some mony, who owed me above a 100 l. for rent for the Maner Farme; who allwaise promised butt never paid me any, takeing the advantage of my leases want of renewall.

**14** On which the 14 I destrained him, who had drove off all his stock from my land; and on his promise of paying me, I released my distress.<sup>150</sup> Which as soon as done the next day, being Sunday, hee rid into the Hall a horse back by three a clock in the morning and bid me

<sup>148</sup> Charles Buck: above, p. 103 n. 187.

<sup>149</sup> Mr Barnish is the referee in W (above, p. 99 and n. 175); James Hoste: above, p. 100 n. 178; the Crown: above, p. 99 n. 175.

<sup>150</sup> Distrain/distress: above, p. 104 n. 188.

enter for the doors were all open. And every thing was caryed away: locks, keys, gates, &c., to the vallue of a 150 pound lost to mee; briges, fences, and drains, above fifty pounds more loss to mee. E Frek

**1708/9, January 29** John Fish, my tenantt, dyed, who rented Billney Closes; before which his son Thom Fish run away all his stock from my grounds, who owed me by his bills as proved before Messrs Berners and Good neer a hundred pound to be due to me besids my loses of twenty pound alowed Luke Wingfield to take them for the first yeare and all the gates and fences gone, which cost me neer twenty pound more, and the fall of the rent 4 l. a year.<sup>151</sup> Yett Robertt Good, his executor, had the contience to wrong me of fifty seven pounds. Thus am I used.

**1709, May 25** All my six coach horses Mr Frek left me being kild and dead by my servants, I bought mee a paire of coach horses of Mr Berny<sup>152</sup> cost me 35, thirty five, pound, a gelling and a mare, by Mr Buck to goe to London with in order to goe my selfe for Ireland – my self to endeavour to settle my business there before my death and to retrieve my cosin John Freks imprudent bargaine he made for me with my son by my letter of attorney intrusted him with.

**June 21** Tuesday, the 21 of June, I left my house and begun my journey for London, and Mr Buck, my chaplin, rid up with me by the coach side. I was very ill, and I took him with me to make up my accounts with my kinsman before I wentt for Ireland.

**24** Midsomer Day I came into London to my lodgings in Red Lyon Streett; **30** wher Thursday, June the thirtyeth, my great coach mare was stole from me by one George Marillo, who was taken on his back att Barnard. He shoulder shot him and cutt off his taile and his eares.<sup>153</sup>

**Jully 2** Soe thatt I was faine my selfe to hire a coach and horses to goe in persuite of him. In this my cosin John Freke would nott assist me. Ther Mr Berners, my next neighbour, offten offered me to goe and release her and to be bound for my prosecution of itt.<sup>154</sup> Which I did, and after paying all there charges I could nott have her till I were bound over by Justice Hadly to prosecute the man for felony att St Allbons sesions.<sup>155</sup> Thus were I tormented runing aboutt for five days together before I could gett my mare.

**13** Then the 13, Wensday, I went with my cosin Herlackendone<sup>156</sup> in

<sup>151</sup> See above, p. 99 n. 173.

<sup>152</sup> John Berny: above, p. 108 n. 196.

<sup>153</sup> High Barnet or Chipping Barnet: above, p. 108 n. 197; shoulder-shot: archaic term for a shoulder strained or dislocated.

<sup>154</sup> W does not describe Berners as a nearby neighbour; Hatton Berners' will lists no property in the immediate area (PRO, PROB 11/537/269).

<sup>155</sup> George Hadley: above, p. 109 n. 199.

<sup>156</sup> Katherine Harlackenden: above, p. 93 n. 155.

my own coach to St Albons sessions to prosecute this poor roge Morly and to hang him, or I must loose my mare – above twenty miles from London. This was grievous to me, butt goe I must or forfeitt my bonds to the queen and my horse to the lord of the maner, which cost me neer twenty pounds butt a month before. When I came on the sessions bench, I declared I would sooner loose both [horses] in my coach att there doore then hang this poor man, which angered the justices and the bench very much. And the lord of the maner was redy there to demand him iff I would nott except [fol. 18v] the queens bounty of forty pound to convictt this miserable criminall, who stood in iron fetters before me bowing [and] pirced my hartt.<sup>157</sup> Thus in the greatt tavarne in St Allbons I spentt three days more.<sup>158</sup> Att last I were to be bound to the Old Bayly sessions in London; which I utterly refused my further prosecution butt offered to pay all ther full demands, which cost me above ten pounds more then the maire was then worth.

**1709, July 15** To conclude, St Swithins Day, July 15, I left St Allbons and came in my own coach to London griveous ill and tired, allmost outt of my life.

**25** Where I staide till the 25 of July, when thatt day I sett outt in my own coach with my deer sister Austen for the Bath in order for Ireland. Wher, I thank God, I came safe in fowre dayes, butt very ill with my tissick, to try for help of the doctters there.

**Agust 12** Butt finding noe good in them nor their watters, after a fortnight stay there I went on my jorney to Sir George Nortons to see my deer sister there. Where I staid for a man of warr and my Lord Chiefe Justice Pine till September 12, in all which time noe ship to be gott.<sup>159</sup>

**September 12** Soe thatt winter drawing neer and the watters very high, the ways bad, and my selfe very ill, I were forced to returne home againe.

**19** And [with] the help of two of my sisters horses, by the Oxford Road I compased to London to my sister Nortons house in five days time in Ormond Streett in London, where I staid one week very ill of my tisick.<sup>160</sup>

<sup>157</sup> The earlier remembrances note she was bound ‘in a bond of forty pound to the queen to prosecute’. The sum, however, could be related to the ‘parliamentary reward’ of forty pounds given private citizens by 1692 and 1706 statutes for the prosecution and conviction of those accused of various crimes, including theft (Leon Radzinowicz, *A History of English Criminal Law and Its Administration*, 3 vols. [London, 1948–57], ii. 57–9; Elizabeth Wells, Bodleian Law Library).

<sup>158</sup> Among the inns located on Holywell Hill, the Bull Inn was described by a late seventeenth-century visitor to St Albans as ‘the greatest that I have seen in England’ (*History of Hertfordshire*, ed. Page, ii. 474).

<sup>159</sup> George Norton’s brother-in-law Richard Pyne: above, p. 110 n. 204.

<sup>160</sup> From Bristol to Malmsbury, through Purton and Highworth to Faringdon, and via

**26** And the Fryday affter, I humbly thank God, I sett outt for Billney, where I came safe in five days, **29** – time enough to enter my house and fitt my self with servants. Soe thatt in the compas of fourteen weeks I have gone with these my two horses above five hundred miles (and spentt att least three hundred pounds). For which mercy and severall other deliverancyes both by watter and land lett me never forgett to be thankfull to my great and good God whilst I live, Eliza. Freke. And I brought home with me a large sillver flagon for my communion table cost mee above twelve pounds to give to my church there att West Billney affter I had used a pewter pott for 28 years.<sup>161</sup>

**October 20** I discharged Mr Buck, my minester there, the bishop haveing suspended him for preaching withoutt his licence, which I refused to except or take to lessen my wrightt to thatt donative, itt being my peculer and nott his.<sup>162</sup> And I wrott a letter to this presentt bishop of my discharging Mr Buck and thatt I would except none under his licence except he would pay them, my church haveing neither tith or gleab belonging to itt butt my bounty and charryty and which I had maintained thirty six years withoutt the Norwich courte, in whose jurisdiction I would nott come or subjectt my church to withoutt he would please to endow itt.<sup>163</sup>

**1709, November 29** I had a very civill letter from the bishop thatt rather then my church should be vacantt I should fill itt to my pleasure to have devine service in itt, hee being unwilling to contend with me. Butt, however, his chancellour, Doctter Tanner, Gahezy like tormented me with his proctters and baylyes.<sup>164</sup>

**December 19** Soe thatt I wrott againe to the bishop to London thatt I would fill the vacency of West Billney iff my right was allowed by his courts in Norwich. Butt hee haveing placed his displasure on my church doore and in my absence whilst I were att Bristoll goeing for Ireland, my church never haveing had an inquest on itt before for above this forty years by the severall bishops and the minester when I came to itt (Mr Peirce) lived in a little twenty shilling house of mine by selling ale, I beg'd leave of his lordship to defend my right or to

Oxford or Abingdon to London; rather than through Marshfield to Chippenham, Marlborough, and Reading (John Ogilby, *The Traveller's Guide* [London, 1699], 14–15, 20–4). Ormond Street: above, p. 109 n. 201.

<sup>161</sup> Silver flagon: above, p. 110 n. 205.

<sup>162</sup> Donative and peculiar: above, p. 113 n. 209; p. 115 n. 216.

<sup>163</sup> Letter, W, fols. 74v–5r: above, pp. 111–12; glebe: above, p. 115 n. 216.

<sup>164</sup> Thomas Tanner: above, p. 117 n. 222. Gehazi, the servant of Elisha who pushes the Shunammite mother away from his master (2 Kings 4:27), is cursed with leprosy when in his greed he deceives Naaman, compromising the trust of Elisha for money and garments (5:20–27). Proctors were trained in Roman and canon law (above, p. 123 n. 228).

endow itt and dispose of itt as he thought fitt.<sup>165</sup> And whatt ever hee gave I would add as much to itt. Eliza. Freke

[fol. 19r]

**1710, January first** New Years Day and my unhappy birth day I sentt to Mr Smith of East Winch to come and give the sacramentt att West Billney, itt being Sunday, thatt I mightt see my silver flagon consecrated. Where he did come, tho Mr Edgworth forbitt him. For which I gave him twenty shillings, and his two clarks five shillings, and his son and daughter ten shillings.<sup>166</sup>

**4** And I clothed Thomas Betts three children and gave poor Mary Frek five pounds, and to Ann Freke I sentt twenty shillings, and to the parish for Walbutts children I gave them forty shillings for James Wallbutts children; which coms to ten pound, nine shillings.<sup>167</sup> E Freke

**30** of January I sentt John Dawson with two baylyes to Norwich jayle, cost me above five pound, for above a hundred pounds he owed mee, E Frek, for rentt affter I had tryed all faire menes with him till he said he had me in his pocked and iff he had a thousand pounds nott one peny should I have, &c.

**1709/10, February 2d** My honoured good cosin Hamillton dyed of an appoplexy. Shee was taken speechless the Sunday before and on Tuesday nightt dyed of itt. She was my own aunts eldest daughter and my mothers own sister. Shee lyes buried att Hollingburne in the chancell by her father, my Lord Cullpeper, and dyed in the seventy second yeare of her age, leaveing a greatt posterity behind her of grandchildren, whom by her prudence all seventeen shared in her bounty of kindness to them.<sup>168</sup>

**March 2d** Thursday and the second of March my deer sister Austen came downe to me. I fetched her from New Markett in my own coach; who found me alive, I thank God, butt very ill, haveing hardly moved outt of my chaire since last November. And soe I still continue under the hand of a mercyfull God for above this six years past or ever since my unhappy widdowhood. E Frek

**1710, March 25** I entered Mr Smith, vicker of Winch, into my church my curratt, butt hee being a very weak man was nott able to hold itt (or elce afraid to anger the bishop).

<sup>165</sup> Arthur Peirse/Pierce: above, p. 119 n. 225.

<sup>166</sup> Robert Edgworth: above, p. 128 n. 232. Joyce, who was baptized on 23 December 1698, and Thomas, who was baptized on 18 May 1695.

<sup>167</sup> Betts and Wallbut children: above, p. 117 n. 219, p. 59 n. 72; the sisters Mary and Ann Freke are unidentified (above, p. 116 n. 220).

<sup>168</sup> Elizabeth, the daughter of Cicely Freke's sister Judith and her husband, James Hamilton (above, p. 128 n. 233).

**April 25** After a shortt tryall [he] gave itt me up againe Aprill the 25, 1710, soe I paid him for his two sermons twenty shillings and gave his two children a crown a peice. And by the perswation of my deer sister Austen and to oblige the bishop, I were perswaded to except Mr Buck againe, vicker of Gyton, a Kentt man, who entered my curratte dureing my will and pleasure and while he behaved himselfe well to the church and me with a trust on my generosity for his time or subsistance whilst in itt.

**27** On these tearmes he entered my church the 27 Aprill.

**30** Where the 30 of Aprill, bein Sunday, he was sentt for away to bury his own mother in Kentt. Where in London and in Kentt he staide till the 8 of July, soe thatt I had from him butt five sermons this quarter of a yeare or 4 months.

**Agust 9** Mrs Barns husband (Mr Edgwarth) was arrested for fifty pounds hee bought his wife with by nine baylyes att Winch Hall after his greatt brags of her greatt fortune of 12000 l. Wher after the breaking of 9 or 10 locks, [they] found him run up in his own chamber chimney with two pistolls charged in his hand.

**10** Betimes in the morning Mr Edgworth stole outt of this country rather then stand such another shock next day and leftt his daughter married to Mr Thom Langly and the estate of Winch under a mortgage of sale to Mr Cotten while Mrs Barns and Mr Edgworth made the best of their way for Ireland.<sup>169</sup> After all there great brags of two thousand pound a yeare, [they] wentt over in a cole barke and leftt there children to make the best of whatt they could gett for ther subsistance, which he told me this winter was nott thirty pounds a yeare and never a farthing portion with his wife. This is true. Eliz Frek

**22** I received a letter of the death of my deer sister Norton; **24** and from London by the same hand I heard of her recovery and did send to mee to come to her.

**23** The bishop of London (Compton) with a hundred and fifty of his clergy under him subscribed an adress to the queen against the Pretender or prince of Walles and presented itt himselfe, which is printed in this sessions of parliamentt.<sup>170</sup>

<sup>169</sup> Langley marriage: above, p. 164 n. 319. Robert Perryman transferred the 7 March 1708/9 bond secured by the East Winch property to Charles Cotton in trust for John Cotton of Cutler's Hall, London (NRO, 12336 30C4).

<sup>170</sup> Besides the gazettes (above, p. 154 n. 295), the address appears in John Swynfen, *The Objections of the Non-subscribing London Clergy, against the Address from the Bishop of London* (London, 1710), sigs. A2r–v, and Abel Boyer, *The History Of the Reign of Queen Anne . . . Year the Ninth* (London, 1711), 180–2.

[fol. 19v]

**1710, September ii** The eleventh of September my deere sister Austin leftt Billney and me very ill in itt and went for London, where she sentt to her two daughters to meett her, unknown to mee. She hired a coach to her selfe and maide att Lin, tho I offered her mine. Soe when I saw goe she would, I gave her twenty pound to pay for itt I mightt receive noe further pittty or obligation on thatt accountte. Nor would itt have troubled mee soe much had shee gone to a house of her owne to have left me soe; butt itt was to goe and boarde att Wye Colidg, wher in little more then a yeare shee and her daughters both were to seek a new habitation.<sup>171</sup> Which I could nott butt resentt most unkindly from her affter I had pinched my self back and belly these severall yeares in these severall sums to serve her and hers by these guifts to her following, to the uttmost of my memory. Eliz Freke

i When I wentt first for Ireland, i675, I presented l.–s.–d.  
my deer sister with the Imperiall Bible cost me  
outt of my pockett besids the binding to Mr  
Oglyby<sup>172</sup> 50-0-0

2ly When I wentt my second jorney for Ireland,  
being aboutt i677, I then gave my deer sister all I  
were possest of my own in this world, which was  
aboutt, to the best of my memory, 400 l. Which  
against my will she putt outt to Mr Lee;<sup>173</sup> which  
for severall yeares was in danger of itt's being lost,  
butt I saw my brother receive itt when he was in  
the admyrallty office. 400-0-0

3ly In or aboutt the year i682 when I had scraped  
some more mony together and were then goeing  
for Ireland, I gave my deer sister all I had againe  
in the world; and I did returne itt her by my cosin  
John Freke with all thatt my deer father then gave  
me while with him, which my cosin John Frek of  
Bristoll<sup>174</sup> said he paid my deer sister and was 250-0-0

<sup>171</sup> Wye, ten miles southwest of Canterbury, was the site of a school established in 1447 by the archbishop of Canterbury John Kempe 'for the celebrating of divine service, and for the education of youth in this parish'. In the early eighteenth century Lady Joanna Thornhill founded a grammar school for the parish poor (Hasted, vii. 355; Philipot, *Villare Cantianum*, 374).

<sup>172</sup> *The Holy Bible*, illustrated by John Ogilby and printed by John Field, 2 vols. (Cambridge, 1660).

<sup>173</sup> Four Lees are in *A Collection of the Names of the Merchants Living in and about the City of London* (London, 1677), sig. E8v, none by profession and only by address; nor do any appear in the lists of goldsmiths 'that keep Runing Cashes'.

<sup>174</sup> Possibly a mistake for Freke's Middle Temple relative, though the Freke genealogy



- 4ly Then I staid fowre yeare and a halfe in Ireland, all which time my sister and my nephew Austen received my rents of West Billney.<sup>175</sup> When Mr Blith of Linn and James Wallbutt charged my nephew with his receitt of two hundred and fifty pounds, nott one peny had I of this butt one bill Mr Worrell gott me of aboutt twenty pound, which money [he] owned the receitt of in a letter of thanks to mee.<sup>176</sup> 200-0-0
- 5ly Then in or aboutt the yeare i696 when I came last outt of Ireland, when aboutt the 22 of Agust my brother Austin dyed and left his two daughters and youngest son nott one peny butt near 3000 l. debtt to pay, I gave this my sisters two daughters all I were mistress of in the world, viz., 100 l. a peice. 200-0-0
- 6ly Then aboutt the yeare i697 I gave my deer sister to bind outt her youngest son, Thom Austen,<sup>177</sup> to a marchantt in Cork 100-0-0  
And I paid itt to Mr Freke for his master more for him 030-0-0
- 7ly In or aboutt the yeare 1700 when my deer sister lived in her little house in Plumtree Streett, when she putt all her joynter into my nephews hand for portions for her two daughters, I did then furnish her best chamber intirely and gave her in mony besids to her better subsistance 200-0-0  
Then all I had saved att my Billney.
- 8ly Then more I sentt her up to London in a box of suger cakes to buy her something to remember me, Eliz Freke, by when shee lived in Plumetree Streett 030-0-0
- 9ly Then in or aboutt the yeare 1707 the very first mony I saved in my widowhood of my exchecker funds I gave my deer sister Austen more when I came outt of London 100-0-0

indicates a John Freke was born in Bristol on 15 July 1647, the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Freke and the husband of Sarah Wickham, whom he married in 1672.

<sup>175</sup> Robert Austen.

<sup>176</sup> William Blyth, listed in the 1690 Lynn poll tax as a beer brewer residing with his wife in Chequer Ward (NRO, KL/C47/12–15), is taxed for property in Kettlewell and Paradiice Wards as well as Jewes Lane in the 1693 land tax (KL/C47/8). A Francis and Elizabeth Worrell baptized several children in Swaffham, where she died in 1711.

<sup>177</sup> Austen left her younger son only five pounds 'having approved himselfe the whole

And more att the same time, Mr Langly bond of	
London of	050-0-0
Sume is	1610-0-0
	Eliza Freke

[fol. 20r]

And att the same time, 1707, I gave my deer sister my coach, which cost me att second hand fifty five pounds when I went into mourning, lined with a silk cafoy and butt one jorney used, viz., to London.

	1.-ss.-d.
10ly And more in the year 1707 I gave my two neeces, her daughters,	20-0-0
11ly More then I sentt my neece Austen by my sister a silver bason cost mee	25-0-0
And a sute of night close cost me for her to lye inn into Mrs Giels <sup>178</sup>	7-0-0
12ly Then in September 1710 I gave my deer sister to pay for her coach to London	20-0-0
13ly More I gave my neece Betty Austen, 1711, when I brought her down hither for two month. I paid for her jorney back and gave her besids for her to by her some plate to remember me by – tho my sister [sent] for her fowre times in that two months, tho I were soe very ill. I gave her Sume of both is	50-0-0 1732-0-0
	Eliz Freke

This I pincht my selfe every way for, and yett my sister would nott bear my mallonally one winter. My God forgive her and raise her and hers upp better friends then I have bin to her and them is the daily prayer of Eliza Freke.

**1710, June 2d** Whitson Tuesday and the 2d of June, aboutt noon sitting in my sisters chamber, I were on a suden taken allmost blind with vapours in both my eyes thatt I could nott see the meatt on the table. Which have contynued with me in a greatt degree ever since, being now above three years and the first of vapours ever I weer sencible of in my life.

Course of his Life, the worst the most undutifull and unnatrall in all his words and actions to mee' (PRO, PROB 11/560/201).

<sup>178</sup> 'My neece Austen' is described in W as Judith Austen's daughter-in-law (above, p. 95); she was Jane Austen, the wife of Robert and daughter of William Strode (CB, iii. 78-9). Presumably the occasion is the birth of their son Robert, baptized in Tenterden on 11 April 1708. Mrs Giels was Judith Austen's cousin Elizabeth Gyles or one of her daughters, Elizabeth and Anne, to whom Austen bequeathed belongings.

**September 9** Mrs Barns, now Mrs Edgworth, sentt to mee to give her leave to vissett mee affter a twelve month unhandsome usage of mee in plowing up my moire of my five akeres and denyeing me any acquitances of itt, nor paid mee any rentt in almost a dosen years to the forfitture of the land.<sup>179</sup>

**ii** Shee sentt againe to me of the same errantt, which I denyed her both times all correspondency with her and her family, tho great offers of frindship made me.

**18** She sentt to me againe thatt she had business with mee from Ireland to impartt to mee. All which I denyed her in.

**20** Mrs Edgworth supprised me with her vissitt to West Billney.

**21** I writt againe to the chancelour of Norwich, Doctter Thomas Tanir, thatt I did except Mr Buck as curate to my church butt dureing my pleasure and independantt of any sallary from me for his maintenance; and thatt I would be plagued with noe more drunken priest as I had bin with Mr Adams for six and thirty years past for my deer fathers sake, who placed him in Billney and Pentney, and I had soe long bourne with his notorious life for his wife and childrens sake; and thatt since the bishop of Norwich (Doctter Trimnell) gave me soe little thanks for whatt I had done for a church in his dioces (tho my peculer), I did intend to make thatt advantage of itt the queen had given mee by turning itt into a convicttle, soe I sentt the bishop word; and thatt I were in treaty with three desenters of Wisbich aboutt itt,<sup>180</sup> butt my contience would nott permitt my doeing of itt wher I hope to rest my self in with my deer husband, Percy Freke, Esqr, and my deer grandchild kild in London, Mr John Freke, aged 3 years, eleven months.

**17io, September 25** Monday, 25 of September, I were sitting by my selfe in my chamber awrighting with my doore shutt on me when two greatt rogues of baylyes came up into my chamber, one taken outt of Norwich jayle for thatt purpose, the other pretending to be a gentlemans servantt. They both came up to my chamber and arested me [fol. 20v] for an apperance to John Dawsons suite, whom I had putt into the jayle of Norwich for a hundred pound debt due to me, Eliz Freke. These two rogues serched all my papers in my chamber and boxes. Beets kept my chamber doore whilst the other serched my papers, and I all alone the while my servants afrighted went outt of my house. They took whatt papers they thought fitt, amongst which one with my name on itt. Butt I calling outt of my window my servants up, I found there designe was to robb mee by there endeavouring to

<sup>179</sup> Moire or moyre, possibly mere or meare: marsh, bog, or swampy ground; also a boundary.

<sup>180</sup> Conventicle: an assembly or meeting place especially of Protestant Nonconformists gathered for worship. The Cambridgeshire village of Wisbech was not noted as a centre of dissent.

take my gold watch on the table by me. And as soon as they gott my name on a peice of paper I were awrighting, I know nott whatt they did with itt. Butt presently John Dawson, my prisoner, was released outt of Norwich jaile, tho I had paid Mr Warner my attorney ten pounds before hand for my tryall of him att Norwich assises.<sup>181</sup> Thus am I cheated of all hands, for by their rogerly and my inabillity of stiring I lost my debt of above a hundred pound and all my charges from this to Warner and his baylyes; thus am I used by all the rogues of this country since my unhappy widowhood enough to distract any poor mortall did nott my God supportt mee. Since which nor one friend or relation has ever appeered to my assistance in any or all my troubles, butt my dependance is wholly on God.

**26** Mrs Barns, now Edgworth, came againe to me att six a clock in the morn, wher she staid till noon. I told her my business did not admitt of a longer visett.

**November 3d** Fryday nightt I were sitting alone in my chamber reading some partt of my will when on a suden I catcht all a fire and burntt downe to my haire and all my head cloths cleer off, and I nott able to help my self or take them off. Soe thatt itt was only Gods mercy and providence I were preserved from being burntt to death. For [this] mercy God make me ever thankfull. Eliz Freke

**December 2d** Satterday nightt, being December 2d, was a most dreadfull storme almost equall to the greatt storme thatt was the 26 of November 1703 – which storme cost mee in my houses and barns above two hundred pounds. Which tempest continued two or three days to the torture and terror of Eliz Frek as well as charge.<sup>182</sup>

**17io/ii, January first** New Years Day and my unhapy birth day I having all my tennants with me to begin the New Yeare, I were like againe to be burntt to death and kild by the fall of my kiching chimney into my chamber; butt by the mercy of my God and the help of my severall tennants, I were carryed away in my chaire, to which I had bin confined neer fifteen monthes with my tissick and rhumatisme. Butt from this sad misfortune my greatt and good God did still preserve his poor servantt. Eliz Freke

**February 22** Being Thursday, my cosin John Frek came downe to me to Billney, whom I sentt for from London, fowre of my servants conspireing to murder me, viz., my coachman burnt in the hand, and my own maide thatt had lived neer fowre years with me, my cook maid, and Henry Etrige, her rogue; all which had robed me one way and another of above a hundred pounds, and my own maid knew I had five more in my trunk in a sillver chamber pott.

<sup>181</sup> Richard Warner: above, p. 157 n. 300.

<sup>182</sup> Great tempest: above, p. 156 n. 299.

**24** Satterday, 24 of Febuary, my cosin wentt to Linn to returne this mony to London for me by bills.

**27** Tuesday, 27, my cosin in my coach wentt on my desire to Ellman to Mr Warners aboutt my suitt against John Dawson.

**March 2** Fryday my cosin John Frek in my coach carryed with him this my five hundred pounds to Norwich for me to returne to London to compleatt my 3000 l. in his hand of mine.

**5th** Then Monday, the 5 of March, my cosin returned from Norwich and brought with him bills for the returne of my 500 pounds and staid with me one day, for which and his jorney I gave him thirty guinies.

**7** Wensday, the 7 of March, I sentt my maid Sarah [fol. 21r] up to London to waite on my deer sister the Lady Norton downe to me to Billney, from whence I would have brought her in my own coach butt could nott prevaile with her to exceptt itt. And happy itt was for me shee did nott, for next day affter shee came, being Sunday, I would force her to goe to church in itt; my rogue of a coachman John Preston overturned my coach on my sister side by the church yard gate on purpose to murder her. Which the violence of the fall broke the pole and my coach to peices, cost me above twenty shillings the mending. And itt was the greatest mercy in the world my deerst sister was nott killd, tho shee and Mr Buck, my minester, were both very much hurtt.

**24** Satterday, the 24 of March, my deer sister the Lady Norton and her maid with my divell of a servantt came downe to mee on my earnest desire to her affter shee had attended for the stage coach three weeks and allwayes disapoynted by this divell Sarah, thatt had lived neer fowre yeare with me a theiveing life [and] was now with the rogue her husband distrustfull of my deer sisters discovery of itt in them to me.

**25** Soe on the 25, Sunday, they had combined to murder her this way and to kill my horses with itt, which had bin scertainly done had nott the church yard bin full of people to see my deer sister. While I satt a cripple, neer eighteen monthes a cripple, and could nott stirr butt by my fowr servants cheatted me of all the moveables in my house and all my mallitia armer, buff coate, &c., which allone will cost mee neer twenty pounds to recruitt itt. E Frek

**17ii, April 17** The Emperer Joseph, this emperers elder brother, dyed of the small pox att Viena the fifth day of there appeering between eleven and 12 att nightt.<sup>183</sup> And the dauphin was taken ill with them att Parriss Aprill the seventeenth, which likewise proved the small pox and came outt aboutt twelve att nightt the fourteenth day.<sup>184</sup> Att night he

<sup>183</sup> The Holy Roman Emperor Charles VI's older brother Joseph I died on 17 April (NS); see above, p. 158 n. 302.

<sup>184</sup> Louis de France: above, p. 158 n. 303.

lost his speech, and att eleven hee fell into convulltion fitts and departed this life (as did the emperrou, in fitts). The dauphin was aged nine and forty years, 5 monthes, and 14 dayes, being borne att Fountaine Blue the first of November 1661, and was married to Mary Ann of Bavaria, 1680. He left three sons behind him, viz., the duke of Burgundy, the present dauphin; and the duke of Anjow, called kinge of Spaine; and the duke of Berry.

**24** They write from Dublin in Ireland of the 17 of Aprill that the Sunday before that a greatt fire broke outt in the councell chamber which consumed the same as allsoe the treasury, and most of the roles in the master generalls office and books in the surveir generalls office with severall other offices were burnt.<sup>185</sup>

**May i** Resolved thatt itt appeers to this presentt parliamt thatt of the mony granted for the publick service in the last parliamt there are in arrears 35302107, viz., three millions, five hundred and thirty two thousand, one hundred and seven pounds, of which noe accountt has bin given or laid before the auditors.<sup>186</sup>

**7** Munday betimes in the morning my deer sister the Lady Norton came into my chamber and told me she had nott slept thatt nightt for feare of mee; and then shee informed me my coachman was burntt in the hand, John Preston, and the rogerie between him and my maid Sarah Flowre nightt and day, and of the theviryes committed in my house to a greate vallue.

**ii** Fryday, the eleventh of May, I charged her and him with itt, and paid them both the full of there wages and bills, and discharged them both. I saw them goe outt, and att midnightt they were all lett in againe to compleatt their theiveryes. Butt my deer lady, haveing locked the staire head doore by her chamber, disapoynted there further rogerys thatt nightt. This maid Sarah had the command of all my mony and goods in my house, and they both designed as soon as my sister left me to have murdered mee and had fitted for thimselfe two long laders to reach the highest window in my house. All which [fol. 21v] they had made a tryall of the robing of my closett, then warme they said. This all done by a falce cirtificate brought me by my own maid, his whore.

**17ii, May 16** I gott warrants for them, butt they were both fled from Lin affter they had cheated me of above a hundred pounds and above seven dosen of bottles of cordiall watter and wyne in half a yeare besids a great trunk of linen and all the rogues tricks were to bee shown a Christian. For which they endeavoured to murder my deer sister in my coach for making this discovery of them. Butt still my good God

<sup>185</sup> Essex Street fire: above, p. 159 n. 304.

<sup>186</sup> Tax arrears: above, p. 159 n. 305, which correctly cites the figures.

prevents and preserves mee and them thatt trust in him as I, his poor humble servant, doe. Eliz. Freke

**May 20** I had a letter from my son outt of Ireland datted March the 12, 1710[/ii], and I think the first I have had from him this three years. Which letter I transcribed and sentt itt to my cosin John Frek to answer itt.

**23** Wensday, the 23 of May, Spice the bayly came up into my chamber and arrested me att the suite of the rogue John Dawson and William Johnson and Thom Selfe, a cheating attorney of Linn, three [of] the greatest rogues a jayle can afford.<sup>187</sup> Butt Spice, affter he had arrested me, sentt me word iff I would pay his fees his prosecution should cease and he would send mee my warrantt; which for quiett sake I did.

And I being to goe to London next day, **26** of May, I had another letter outt of Ireland from my cosin Arthur Barnard, which I likewise transcribed and sentt to my cosin John Freke to answer.<sup>188</sup>

**28** I sentt a note of fifty pound under Dawsons hand he owed mee by Mr Buck, the minester of the parrish, datted the 22 of June 1706, wherein he ackknowledges to owe me then fifty pounds. Which note I sentt to Mr Warner, the attorney, to gett for me and paid all his bills and gave him ten pounds to try itt and for seventy seven pounds more; all which hee keeps together with Mr Freks will and will returne none of them to me, tho I have often sent for them.

**17ii, June 14** June 14 I paid Mr Berners ten pounds for five thousand of the worst reed I ever used in my life and sentt twenty carts for itt as farr as Laire Brigg, as I did the 19 of October last nine ginyes for fowre thousand, and fetched itt att fifty shillings a thousand.<sup>189</sup> Which was very bad reed; butt since itt is the last mony I will be cheated of att St Marryes, I must own itt a good bargain and witt cheap boughtt by Eliz Freke.

**24** I humbly thank my God I did on Sunday, being Midsomer Day, goe to my church att Billney and his house in my own coach, where I had nott bin in neer a twelve month before, and there with my deer sister the Lady Norton receive the blesed sacramentt with twelve of my neighbours parrish by Mr Buck, my then minester. Where I concerated a large siller cupp and plate cover for the bread; and then I did in thankfullness to God presentt itt att the communion table with a new

<sup>187</sup> William Johnson had baptized a daughter Sarah in Pentney on 10 November 1700 and may be related to Thomas Johnson (above, p. 101).

<sup>188</sup> Arthur Bernard: above, p. 160 n. 306.

<sup>189</sup> Apparently a Berners of Wiggenghall St Mary. Brig is an older form of bridge (*EDD*); P. Mason of the Norfolk Family History Society has no doubt about 'Laire being a Norfolk corruption of Nar'. One possible crossing might be Sechey Bridge. St German's Bridge near the Berners was over the River Great Ouse.

Common Prayer Booke covered with blue russhy leather cost me 23 shilling, as was a large silver flagon I brought downe the Michellmas before.<sup>190</sup> Eliz Frek

**27** Being Wensday, I did in my own coach endeavour to goe up to London to carry up my deer sister the Lady Norton, who had bin soe good and kind to me as to doe pennance with me att Billney a quarter of a yeare, two months of which time I stirr'd nott from my bed. Which kindness and the saveing of my life from fowre ruffin servants in my house I can never forgett. Butt twas God dereicted itt for me.

**29** Fryday, the 29 of June, I humbly thank God I came safe with my sister Norton to London with her and my fowre servants, where I staid and rested my selfe aboutt a fortnightt.

[fol. 22r]

**17ii, July 15** I returned back to my Billney againe tired in my own coach with my two horses and fowre servants and a horseman by. And by Gods greatt mercy to me I came home Wensday, the 18 of Jully, and I left my deer sister att her own house in London. After which itt rained for a fortnight withoutt ceasing, which uncovered all the slats of my own house, being Sunday. I expected its fall.

**August 7** I made an end of new reeding my barne and Taffs back house, both blown downe; and I paid Gibs the reed layer for itt ten pound, fowrteen shillings, and six pence, and for 5000 of reed and its carraige sixteen pound, and for rush rope and rye straw for the rooffe thirty shillings.<sup>191</sup> Soe thatt this my little barne cost me in thaching and reed, rush rope, and straw, with itt carraige above thirty pounds besids the back house of the maner house.

**30** Fryday, the 30 of Agust, I arrested Mr Langlyes cartt loaded with corne on Whittpitt Brack for a dosen years rentt, to pay seven, affter I had tryed all faire means with him and his mother, Mrs Barnes, and ploughing up my moire, concelling my aquittance with a designe to cheatt me of my land as they had done of my other things.<sup>192</sup> Which I released on his promise of coming to an accountt with me att nextt Michellmas.

**September 2 or 3** I were warned in as the head of Billney to appeer att the K[ing]s Head in Sech before nine or ten comisioners for the drains of Sandringham Hey;<sup>193</sup> which presidency I utterly refused and wrott this ensuing letter to them:

<sup>190</sup> Silver cup and cover: above, p. 160 n. 308. A miscellaneous document notes that the chalice and Book of Common Prayer 'cost me allmost eightt pounds' (B, fol. 33v).

<sup>191</sup> Nicholas Gibbs(?): above, p. 161 n. 309; Richard Taff: above, p. 105 n. 192.

<sup>192</sup> Whitpit Brack lease: above, p. 163 n. 319.

<sup>193</sup> General session of sewers: above, p. 162 n. 313 and p. 163 n. 314.



Sirs,

I received your warrant datted the 27 of Agust last in which you are pleased to dereictt itt to me as the cheif inhabitantt of Billney to appeer before you att the K[ing]s Head att Sechy iff I think fitt the 3d instantt. Which tho I am nott concerned in the [effect] of this warrantt, yett, gentlemen, I think fitt to obey authority; and therefore I have sentt two of my tennants to waite on you and receive your commands. Butt for this river neer fowre miles from me, I humbly conceive I am noe way concerned in itt, itt haveing never bin done by me for this thirty seven years past butt once, unknown to me, Mr William Person trickt Mr Frek into itt – he being very ill [and] would nott goe from his word – aboutt the year 1703, a stranger to these matters, in a pretended visitt just as he came outt of Ireland.<sup>194</sup> Nor were I ever ordered my attendance on itt before dureing Mr Freks time or my residence of 29 yeare heer on the spott. Therfore I hope and intreatt you gentlemen comisioners to concider me as I am, a woman ignorantt and helpless and an unhapy widow poore and nessesitous; thatt I may nott have a thing placed on me, I must be forced to oppose in my sons rightt. I am, gentlemen, with all due respect, your humble servant,

Eliza Freke

**September 6** Thursday, the sixth of September, Mr Berners came over to see me with the result of the river and to perswad my compliance, but I utterly refused itt; and I told him I had above a hundred akers now lye under Wormngy watter I durst nott cleer or medle with for fear of presidents and being brought an abbetter to the Sechy River and thatt I would sooner spend a hundred pounds to oppose them then contributte twenty shillings towards itt.<sup>195</sup> Eliz Freke

**17ii, September 4** I had another long letter from my son outt of Ireland dated the tenth of Agust before, which I answered to him the 5 of September and dereictted itt to Dublin.

**30** Dyany Davy and Henry Cross did both pennance in Billney church for adulltrye.<sup>196</sup>

**Octobr i** Monday Mr Buck, my minester, wentt to Norwich to receive institution and induction for a living given him by Madam Branswith, his wifes mistress.<sup>197</sup>

<sup>194</sup> William Pearson/Peirson: above, p. 163 n. 315.

<sup>195</sup> Barnes of St Marys in W (above, p. 163), but Hatton Berners was a commissioner of sewers (above, p. 163 n. 316). The area in question was at the western side of the estate, near what was then called the Wormegay Fen. See also below, p. 314 n. 46.

<sup>196</sup> Diana Thomson and Thomas Davy were married in Bilney on 29 January 1701/2; Henry Cross married Frances Johnson in Pentney on 20 August 1704.

<sup>197</sup> Julian Branthwait: above, p. 164 n. 318; institution and induction: above, p. 114 n. 210.

**i** And the first of October I writt my third letter to Sir George Norton to lend him 1300 l., thirteen hundred pounds, for a yeare, which I did the 20 of November. Eliz Freke

**23** Tuesday, the 23 of Octobber, I wentt to London and left only Mary Ram, my cook maid, in itt.<sup>198</sup>

**25** And Thursday, the 25, I came safe and tired to London with a paire of horses. The 26 I writt to both my deer sisters where my lodgins were.

[fol. 22v]

**17ii, November 2d** I discharged my coachman John Anderson November 2d for runing up and downe a nights with my coach and horses, which hee had in fowre or five places soe galled thatt I could nott use them once in above two monthes and cost me above ten pounds before I could stirr outt in my coach againe. The 4 of November I putt away Bety Hemsell for runing away with thirty shillings from me.

**7** I gave my cosin Mary Lackendane a lottery tickett cost me 12–7–6, twelve pounds, seven shillings, and six pence.<sup>199</sup> I paid my cosin John Frek for itt. Affter I had taken this grievous journey to London, the 7 of November I received a dismall letter from my deer sister and Mr Jones, Sir Georges stuard, thatt in six minits he was taken speechless; and my deer sister wrott to me to come downe to her.

**13** Tuesday, being very ill, I removed my lodgings from Mrs Loyds in New North Streett, wher I were almost dead, and with greatt diffyculty gott to my deer sisters house in St Georges, next door to the chapple; wher I staid aboutt a fortnight.<sup>200</sup>

**14** Wensday, the 14 of November, my weding day, I writt to my cosin John Freke to take my mony outt of the East Indy Company and to place itt in the Bank of England for me in hundred pound ticketts I might command itt, being 3100 l.

**15** My cosin John Frek came very early in the morning very angry with me and brought with him, as he said, the three thousand pounds ticketts, which hee said was as secure in his hand. I told him my reputation was all I had to live on, and I had nothing to show for this my mony butt his memorandum, and thatt hee had refused me his bond which I valled nott att six pence. Twould be beyound all discretion for me to have three thousand two hundred pound in his

<sup>198</sup> Mary Ramm: above, p. 194 n. 493.

<sup>199</sup> Harlackenden and lotteries: above, p. 189 n. 476.

<sup>200</sup> North Street: above, p. 188 n. 474; on Ormond Street near St George the Martyr (above, p. 189 n. 475).

hand thatt had nott a foott of land for the security of, Eliza Frek. Thus angry, away he went out of my dining room, which I took no notice of. Butt I disposed of partt of itt, viz., 1300 to Sir George Norton on his bond and twelve hundred pounds on mortgage to Mr Weston, and left now in my cosin Freks hand 1056 pound of mine on his memorandums.<sup>201</sup> Eliza. Freke, September, 1712

**17ii, November 9** Transcribed from The Hague corrantt (Tournay): On the first instantt the marble statue of the king of France which stood over the Port Royall of our citydal was taken downe and putt on board a vessell to be sentt to England, the same being a presentt to the duke of Marlbro. <sup>202</sup>

**15** Transcribed outt of the gasset from Dublin att the progation of this presentt parliamentt November 10, 1711, these words to September 2d, 1712: A motion was then made and the question putt and resolved thatt whomsoever shall by speaking, writting, or printing arraine or condemne the princeples of the late happy revolution in 1688 is an ennimy to our most gracious queene, and to our constitution in church and state, and to the Hannavour succession and a friend to the Pretender. Taken outt of the Post Man by me, EF, November 15, 1711. <sup>203</sup>

**17 I** was in London November 17. Itt being Queen Elizabeths birth day, ther was like to be an insurrection with the mob there by there burning of the pope, the divell, and the Pretender (called prince of Walles) all together, butt by provyidence was stopt by the queens timely sending of her gardes removed those occations. <sup>204</sup>

**December 7** Fryday, the 7 of December, I signed Sir George Nortons release of errors and took his bond for (1300) thirteen hundred pound and judgmentt to bee paid mee againe in a yeare. <sup>205</sup> And I did the same to Mr Steven Weston, lentt him twelve hundred pound on his mortgage. Both which are now in a trunke in my closett att Billney for saffy, Eliz Freke, 1712. And have now in my cosin John Frek hand of myne a thousand fifty six pound cleere besids from December last the intrest of itt. Eliz Frek

**9** Sunday, Decembr the 9, I left London very ill and with my cosin Betty Austin and my three servants settt outt for Billney, which with

<sup>201</sup> Steven Weston: above, p. 188 n. 478.

<sup>202</sup> The news from the Belgian city of Tournay or Tournai is quoted in the *Evening Post* (353); John Churchill, first duke of Marlborough: above, p. 147 n. 272.

<sup>203</sup> The 1 November 1711 resolution (*CJI*, iii. 931) appeared in the 15-17 November issue of the *Post-Man* (2070).

<sup>204</sup> The procession of effigies included 'a Pope, the Pretender, and the Devil between them'. A detachment of foot guards sent to Drury Lane at two in the morning seized the figures (*Norwich Gazette* [v. 268]; *Protestant Post-Boy* [34]). Elizabeth I was born on 7 September 1533; her accession was on 17 November 1558.

<sup>205</sup> Release: renunciation of a claim or right of action (*Jowitt*, ii. 1,531, 1,532).

being five days and nights on the road did allmost kill mee, tho in my own coach.

[fol. 23r]

**17ii, December 14** Fryday night late, December 14, I gott home againe, I most humbly thank my God, after five days being on the road to my beloved home of Billny, affter my being neer two month confined to my chaire in London. Nor did I in all thatt time stirr outt butt once to gett some mony to pay fourteen pounds for my horses keeping and care. Thus am I used by every body.

**15** of December, Satterday, I had a second letter from my deer sister Austen to send away her daughter to her againe (which was a comfort to me in my sad conditoyon) att the furthest by Candlemas; which I promised to doe. Tho haveing another with her and affter my kind giveing her above fifteene hundred pound, shee might have spared this awhile to me, Eliz Frek; for I had deserved itt and more of her thatt have bin to her like a mother from her childhood. Butt my God forgive her and be my suppartt. Eliz Frek

**24** Munday, Xmas Eve, I had a very kind letter from my deer sister Norton.

**17ii/12, January first** New Years Day, or the 1 of January, my unhappy birth day, I had according to old custom all my tennants dine with mee with neer twenty dishes of meatt and whatt ale and brandy they please to drink, with cards butt noe musicke.

**2d** James Englebright of Pentney came latte att night and broughtt me some mony, and I being very ill gave them an acquittance in my own wrong for 17ii which should have bin for Michellmas 17io.<sup>206</sup> Which they took advantage of me of itt, tho I sentt my servantt Roger Chapman to them the next day for itt. By which I lost a full years rentt, and I allowed him besids two years taxes for one of sixteen pounds besids their bills. This is most barbarous usage of me; butt I must beare itt Gods time, I nott being able to help my selfe.

**January 1** This New Years Day and my unhappy birth day, 17ii and 17i2, I have by my Gods permission and greatt goodness to me by his mercyfull providence fully accomplished this day the seventyeth or threescore and ten year of my age. For which I doe most humbly thank him, and I doe begg of my God whatt time he gives me more of life may be by me spentt and dedicated to his glory in thankfullness for all his greatt mercyes to mee, Eliza. Freke. And tho I have laine above this three monthes in torter and misery night and day with my tisick and cough, yett I had 26 of my tennants dined with me thatt day.

<sup>206</sup> In the other version his wife brings the money; see above, p. 190 and n. 479.

**2nd** I thank God; and by his permission as I have begun a New Yeare, I doe most humbly begg of him on the bended knees and from my hartt he will be pleased to bestow on me, iff my God think fitt, a more moderatte health then I have had this six years past since my deer husband left mee, being June 2d, 1706, having hardly bin downe stairs since six times.

**3d** Thursday, the 3d of January, I past my accounts with Henry Cross before my neece Austen and Daniell Wallis of Lin, when there apeered due to me on the ballance last Lady Day 1712 eighty three pounds, fifteen shillings and all taxes and charges allowed him to thatt day by me.<sup>207</sup> Eliza Freke

**12** I lett my lands of my Hall Farme to John Whitting with the little house in which John Sad lived in for forty eight pounds a yeare besids my reserves.<sup>208</sup>

**13** I read in the publick newes thatt all the three Lyons in the Towre of London were dead and thatt they bled to death. This is strange tho true.<sup>209</sup>

**19** Satterday I had a third letter from my sister Austen to send her daughter away; she wanted her, tho shee had her eldest then with her and neer forty years of age. And this is the sister thatt has had all the industry of my life.

**21** I writt her word I would doe itt by Candlemas iff posible, as she before dereicted.

**18** of January the prince of Hanavar was by actt of parliamentt made the first peer of this kingdom of England call'd Great Britton, hee being before duke of Cambrigg; which pased the House three times in a day by the House of Lords and Commons, a thing never knowne beffore the same day.<sup>210</sup>

[fol. 23v]

**17ii/12, January 18** January 18 was Mr Robertt Wallpoole expell'd the house for five hundred pounds brybery by the House of Commons and comitted prisoner to the Tower dureing the sesions of parliamentt by the queen and parliamt.<sup>211</sup>

<sup>207</sup> Henry Cross rented the White House in 1708; Daniel Wallis, a vintner, was made a freeman of Lynn in 1709–10 (*Freemen of Lynn*, 217).

<sup>208</sup> John Whiting: above, p. 190 n. 481.

<sup>209</sup> Tower of London lions: above, p. 190 n. 482.

<sup>210</sup> Georg August: above, p. 191 n. 483.

<sup>211</sup> The *Norwich Gazette* (vi. 277) states that on Thursday, 17 January, the House of Commons voted Robert Walpole 'to the Tower, and Expelled him for being Guilty of a High Breach of Trust and Notorious Corruption'. Walpole was charged with using his position as secretary at war to gain a 'Sum of Five hundred Guineas' and a 'Note for Five hundred Pounds more' from forage contracts supplying troops in Scotland (*CJ*, xvii.

The nineteenth the parliamt ordered the bill to repeale the Generrall Naturallyxan to be engrosed.<sup>212</sup>

**26** My neece Austen gave earnest for her coach to goe home to my sister.

**24** I entered my farme att Pentney by putting my padlock on the doore of Englebrights after hee had cheated mee of neer sixty pound besids two years texes of sixteen pound by misdateing my acquittance a yeare in my own wronge.

**February ii** My neece Betty Austin left me and Bilney and came safe to London in three dayes. I gave her five pounds to bear her charges and fifty pounds in London to buy her some plate, and never more will I be troubled with friends paid by my kinsman John Freke.

**14** Thursday I were taken with a violentt plurisy in my left side.

**15** Fryday, 15, I sentt to Mr Smith to bloud me for itt att night in my bed; where before I could have any ease, I lost above threescore ounces of bloud att the age of above seventy years and have labouered ever since under soe violentt a cough and weakness as to bee unculpable of any business or comfortt. And with the violence of my cough for fowre monthes wantt of rest and soe much bleeding, I am allmost tottally deprived of my eye sightt, an insupportable griefe to me. And noe friend neer me, tho I have this fowre monthes every day expected my last summons, which with most humble patience I doe attend till my God shall release his miserable servant out of all my miseryes or raise me as he shall see good and best for Eliza Freke.

**17ii/12, March 2d** The publick newes tells me thatt we have lost by death three daulphin in France of the small pox, &c., and one dauphyness. And March 2d Sir William Windoms house in Allbermalle Streett, being Sunday, was burntt to the ground by the carelessness of two servants, who to scap the fire leapt outt of the window in a garrett [and] were bruised to death.<sup>213</sup>

**Febuary 29** I received of Mr Langly fowre pound for neer twelve years rentt due to mee outt of Whittpitt Brack and gave him an acquittance to last Michellmas. And from thatt day I entered the land in my own right and lett itt to John Whitting this yeare by way of posesion, he haveing plouged up my moire.

**March 14** I had a second letter from my daughter outt of Ireland thatt shee did intend to bring over her two eldest sons this sumer to see mee and to give a name to the child she now goes with and to

30). The imprisoned Walpole was reelected from King's Lynn; the House of Commons, however, declared the election void (*CJ*, xvii. 128-30). Walpole remained in the Tower until 8 July 1712 and would not return to parliament until the next year (J. H. Plumb, *Sir Robert Walpole: The Making of a Statesman*, 2 vols. [London, 1956], i. 178-84).

<sup>212</sup> General Naturalization Act: above, p. 191 n. 484.

<sup>213</sup> Royal deaths: above, p. 192 n. 485. William Wyndham: above, p. 192 n. 485.

signe my sons comision. I answered itt: for the first she was wellcome to me, and for her children the care was too greatt to entrust me with; iff she would stay to take care of them, they are wellcome. And for the child shee now goes with, iff she approve itt, I named itt Arthur, my husbands fathers name. And for my sons commision, I were too old to take jorneyes to London. Nor would I be troubled with them downe to me nor sett my hand to confirme my cosin John Frek follyes with Kelly by givinge away my right which he maintained.

**1712, March 25** Mr Buck, my minester, left my church att West Billney and wentt to his new liveing Mrs Branswith gave him, soe thatt I am now destitute of a minester to my church; for which I hope God will provide me one.<sup>214</sup>

**26** I paid Mrs Farrer for my years news ending Lady Day.<sup>215</sup> E Freke

**16** Sunday morning my tennantt Thomas Pallmer dyed of the small pox. He then owed me three half years rentt of seventy five pounds, which I am in greatt hasard of loosing or I must undoe the poor widdow who lost her husband and her two eldest sons of this fattall distemper.<sup>216</sup> A quiett man he was, and he leftt three children behind him.

[fol. 24r]

**1712, March 30** A cobby of a letter I received from my son outt of Ireland 30 of March:

Deer Madam,

Tho I am butt just now outt of a severe fitt of the goute and hardly able to hold my pen, yett haveing received a letter yesterday from my deer Lady Norton giveing me the ill accountt of your being much outt of order in your health, I cannott butt express the greatt concerne itt is to me, tho I trust in God you have before this recovered itt, which is the ferventt and dayly prayer of me and my family. I have this day writt my deer Lady Norton my thanks for favouring mee with her letter and Sir George and her kind invitation both shee and Sir George give me and my family to Leigh; and I begg, deer madam, you will be pleased to lett me heer as soon as possible how you are, for till then I shall be most uneasy and impatientt. My wife is now very neer her time of lyeing in and presents her humble duty to you. I praise God all my children are well and in the sumer, God willing, shall pay you there duty in England. And I am very sencible how much I am your

<sup>214</sup> Charles Buck became vicar of Bacton on 5 October 1711 (above, p. 192 n. 486).

<sup>215</sup> See above, p. 192 n. 488.

<sup>216</sup> Thomas Palmer was buried on 17 March 1711/2; his widow was Mary Palmer.

debter for rentt besids every way elce in your goodness to me on all occations. I shall trouble you this post with noe more butt thatt I ever am, deerst madam, your most obedientt son. Whilst,

Ralph Freke

**1712, Aprill 1** Mr Langly, being Tuesday, sentt to mee thatt iff I sentt two men to Whittpitt Brack hee would send two more to them and devide Whittpitt Brack. Which I did my servantt Roger Chapman, my tennent John Whiting, and my tenant Henry Cross to see itt devided by Mr Langly, who sentt Mr Wassy and another man who had known this land for thirtty yeare beffore. And in this devition I left land for a new moire to be made againe and then lett itt outt to John Whiting. E Frek

**3d** Thursday, 3d of Aprill, three rogues of baylies came to arest Mr Langly and mising of him violently forced away my coachman and carryed him to Norwich jaile withoutt letting him see me or give me an accountt of any thing of mine in his care, soe thatt by him I am a greatt looser, haveing trusted him above neer five pounds before hand and his wife as much more with the small pox besids the loss of all my own linen and my household linen. E Freke

**4** I sentt Mr Langly of Winch word whatt these rogues of baylyes said att my house (thatt tho they had miss'd him now they would soon have him alive or dead) and invited him to shellter himselfe in my house.

**6** And I writt a letter in his behalfe the sixth and sentt itt open to him to his mother (on his desire). EF

**9** Wensday, the 9 of Aprill, Thomas Pallmer, Junier, dyed of the small pox, as did his father aboutt three week before, viz., the 17 of March; by whom I feare I shall loose neer a hundred pounds and have my farme in my hands.

**1712, April 2** And aboutt the second of Aprill I had another letter outt of Ireland from my cosin John Frek in London to come up and signe my sons commission, thatt have hardly bin cross my chamber this twelve monthes withoutt the asistance of two to help mee, with my astma and very shortt breath with a fixtt plurisy in my left sid. And in shortt, I refused coming up or permitting the commisioners to come downe to mee, E Frek.

**7 or 8** I answered this my cosin John Freks letter and thatt I did thankfully except his release of my trust, assureing him I would never trust him with my grandchildren thatt had wronged me and my deer husband of soe many thousand pounds as he had done by my letter of aturny to him, tho he had bin gratified by me in six years six hundred pounds att least. And from such friends and frindship as to wronge me



of three thousand pounds together, good Lord, deliver mee. Eliza Freke.

**15** Tuesday late att night Mr Langly came to my house (hee and his lady having had a greatt difference the Sunday before, being the 13 instantt, for which his wife and frinds feared some mischiefe might have befallen him). About eleven a clock att night I sent to Mr Smith, vicker of Winch, [fol. 24v] I had him in safty and would keep him my prisoner till he released him.

**1712, April 16** Who came for him the nextt evening, which he did late att nightt, being Wensday, 16 instantt.

**18** And the 18 I wrott a letter of advice to her to be more moderatt with her husband, pattion being seldom the wifes advantage and might force him to bee desperatte. In recompence of this my civillity to them (they selling all the fruite of ther garden to Goode Penington):<sup>217</sup> I sent my maid for aboutt a dosen pound for sirrup for sick people; they both deny'd me a handfull, tho I sentt mony for them.

**1712, April 20** Easter Day and the twentyeth of Aprill, being Sunday, my daughter was brought to bed of a daughter, which my deer sister the Lady Norton and I named Grace, my sisters daughters name and my beloved neece and god-daughter.<sup>218</sup>

**21** Mr Langly wrote to me to christne his second child, which I refused by my inability of being able to stirr besids my resolution fixt against itt att my age to undertake whatt I could nott performe.<sup>219</sup>

Easter Day and the 20 instantt I invited my new tennantt, his wife, and his two children to diner. And the first time I ever saw her, she was full of care aboutt her lyeing in; butt I bid her leave those things to God, for I saw death in her face. Thatt night she rid home to Winch and dyed the nextt day, being Easter Monday.<sup>220</sup>

**27** I wrott to my Lord Richerson aboutt the purchas of High House and Westicar Abby, Mr Jallops estatt by mee; who promised me his service and favoure when come to be sold, who was now outt of England and knew noe time of his re[turn].<sup>221</sup>

**26** Satterday in Easter Week an execution came on Mrs Barns estatt, the impropryations of the church and tithes of Winch, for eight hundred

<sup>217</sup> Probably Mary Penniton of East Walton. Francis Penniton and Mary Carman were married on 19 May 1684 in East Walton, where several of their children were baptized and at least one buried.

<sup>218</sup> See above, p. 193 n. 489.

<sup>219</sup> Susannah Langley: above, p. 193 n. 490.

<sup>220</sup> Catherine Whiting was buried in East Winch on 23 April 1712.

<sup>221</sup> William Richardson: above, p. 114 n. 212. High House Manor, along with Westacre Abby, came into the Yallop family through the marriage of Charles Yallop and Helen/Ellen Barkham. He was the son of Sir Robert Yallop and Dorothy, the daughter of Charles Spelman (Blomefield, ix. 162–3; Clarke and Campling, eds., *Visitation of Norfolk*, 5 [1934], 250).

pound debtt due to Doctter Thomas Shortt of Berry for phisick for her in arrears.

**22** From Parriss the gassett mentions thatt the sister to the Chevillier de St Georg, King Jams son call'd the Prettender, dyed att St Germons aged 19 years and eleven months old of the small pox. Borne in France the 28 of May 1692, [she] was buryed the thirtyeth in the monastry of the English Benedictions neer thatt of her father, the late King James the Second; and her hartte was carryed to the nunery of Chaillott.<sup>222</sup>

**28** The publick news says there are three severall transportt ships arived with about two hundred men prisoners from France which reportt thatt all the prisons in France are now cleere and the prisoners released.<sup>223</sup>

**28** The countiss of Thanett dyed of the small pox very aged, above eighty; and Petter God, a member of this presentt parlimentt for Lewis in Susses, did hang himselfe last Thursday, the 17 of Aprill 1712.<sup>224</sup>

**1712, May ii** By the carelessness of my two maids Mary Chapman and Mary Ram, I lost all my own linnen and all my household linnen left outt a Satterday nightt to whitten, unknown to me; [it] was stole all by sun rise on Sunday morning – I haveing butt about three days before turned outt of my house Diana Davy and Goode Kneevc for stealing of my fences and cutting of my wood, which I proved against them att the justice sitting which was the 15 of May.<sup>225</sup>

**15** With aboundance of ill language the 15 they broughtt a warrantt from Justice Pell against mee; on which att the justice sitting I wrott to the bench my complaintt against Goode Kneevc and Diana Davy, who ordered them both a good whiping and whatt further I pleased.<sup>226</sup>

Which I saw done to them both outt of my window att the carts taile **27** of May, Satterday, till the bloud spun for example sake. And iff further complaintt to be sentt to Bridwell.

**24** of May, Satterday, my own maid Mary Chapman complained of

<sup>222</sup> Louisa Maria Stuart: above, p. 194 n. 491.

<sup>223</sup> The *British-Mercury* (326) carried on 22 April the news from Falmouth 'that the three Transports which exchang'd Prisoners from France, report, that all the English that were Prisoners there, are now cleared'.

<sup>224</sup> Freke apparently misidentifies Catherine, wife of the sixth earl of Thanet (above, p. 194 n. 492). The *Norwich Gazette* (vi. 289) states that on 14 April 'Peter Gott, Esq; Member of Parliament for Lewes, in West Sussex, was found dead in his Bed, having taken a Dose of Liquid Laudanum, and as a finishing Stroak tyed the Tail of his Shirt about his Neck'. Gott represented Sussex from 1708 to 1710 and Lewes, in West Sussex, from 1710 to 1712 (Geoffrey Holmes, *British Politics in the Age of Anne* [New York, 1967], 222, 492 n. 12).

<sup>225</sup> Mary Ramm and Goody Kneevc: above, p. 194 nn. 493 and 494.

<sup>226</sup> John Pell's name appears among the officials who signed the 1704 Pentney land tax as well as among those officiating at the 1708 Swaffham general quarter sessions (NRO, C/S2/6). He was apparently not educated at university or at the Middle Temple, Gray's Inn, or Lincoln's Inn.

her head and back, which I then told her would prove to bee the small pox. Three days she lay very ill, and on Tuesday, the third of June, [fol. 25r] they appeered. Wednesday I removed her outt of my own house into a little house in the parrish and took her a nurse att a crowne a week for neer three weeks besids meatt and drink, doctters, cordials, apothycaries; wher she lay past all recovery neer a fortnight as Mr Smith and all thatt heard of her condition said itt was imposible for her recovery. Besids I am sure forty shillings would nott pay for her cordials shee had outt of my closett besids another nurse for above a week to tend her, Goode Man.<sup>227</sup>

**26** Blind she was the second day, and soe she lay till aboutt the 26.

**30** And affter neer a monthes care and charge of Mary Chappman and the loss of all my clothes and above five pounds in mony I trusted them with as iff my neer relation, up shee gott and run away Thursday, the 30 of June or there after. She had spoyled me a fether bed, two bouldsters, 2 blanketts, two pillows, and a coverlid, and a paire of sheets. And I paid Mr Hogan her apothicarys bill and two and thirty shillings for close for her and her husband, which I were on my word bound for, and part paid her coming downe.<sup>228</sup> Away she run to Norwich jaile to her husband and never soe much as said God buy. And all this I did in pittty to her as a stranger and her faithfull promise of payment.

**Jully 4** Thom Betts dyed, the clark of this parish for above thirty years, of the small pox caughtt of this my servantt; which left three children behind him to the parrish charge, two of them sick of the small pox when he dyed.

**7** of Jully was Dunkirk delivered up to the queen of England, call'd Greatt Brittain, by the king of France for a barrier of the peace, and Major Generall Hill (Mrs Marshams brother) was then made govenor of Dunkirke by the queen and a cesation of arms proclaimed between France and England for two monthes whilst the states and the Dutch and the emperor and all there and our allies kept on the warr with all there vigor against France and Spaine.<sup>229</sup>

**Agust 19** And the news Post Man sayes [England] lost all to the French king in Agust and Jully of those places in France, &c., which the English have bin in three compaines a getting with the loss of soe many thousands of soules and the expence of soe many millions of mony to this nation.<sup>230</sup>

**24** of Agust a suspention of armes was agreed to for fowre monthes,

<sup>227</sup> Mary, the wife of James Mann, whose daughter Sarah was baptized in Pentney on 24 June 1718.

<sup>228</sup> Persivall Hoogan, apothecary, was made a freeman of King's Lynn in 1708-9 (*Freemen of Lynn*, 216).

<sup>229</sup> John Hill and Abigail Hill, *Lady Masham*: above, p. 195 n. 496.

<sup>230</sup> No report has been located among the few July and August issues that exist.

which is to expire the two and twenty of December nextt, between England and France and was there published with the usuall ceremonies.<sup>231</sup>

**September 29** Munday, 29 of September, my deer son and his lady and my three grandchildren Percy, Ralph, and Redman left Corke in Irland and tooke shipping for in Captaine Paule, a man of warr, where they were all fowre dayss att sea till Thursday nightt in a most dreadfull storme and hurrycane of weather till I were allmost frightened outt of my senses.<sup>232</sup>

**October 2d** Butt att last my good God landed them all safe att Bristoll Thursday night, the 2d of Octobr. And Fryday, the 3d of Octobr, Sir George and my deer sister, his lady, sentt her coach and fetched them to Leigh, where they all staid till Satterday, the cleventh of Octobr.

**ii** Then they all wentt in my ladys coach to the Bath, wher they all staide till the 2d of December by reason the high waters were unpassable.

**November 27** Then aboutt the end of Novembr they all came to London with my deer sister the Lady Norton, where they were severall times like to be lost by the high watters.

**December 2d** Att last by Gods greatt mercy to me and them (three coaches being thatt week lost with part of there pasengers), they came all safe to London aboutt the 2d of December to my deer sister Nortons house in Ormond Streett, next doore to St Georges Chaple, wher they staid till aboutt the i8 of December.

**i8** Thursday, the i8, they came from London and came downe to wretched and miserable me the 20, St Thomas Eve, Satterday. I humbly thank my God they came all safe and well to me to West Billney after my frights for them three monthes. E Freke

[fol. 25v]

**i7i2, December 28–3i** Satterday, the 28 of Decembr, my youngest grandson, Redman, after he had bin att Billney aboutt a week complained hee was not well, which to him proved the small pox. Which a Monday, the last of Decembr, came outt full on him and of which he lay dangerously ill for the whole month of January to the dispaire of his life allmost as by the judgmentt of his docter and his two nurses.

**January i5** My maid Martha Coop and Elizabeth Knopwood fell both sick of the small pox, of which my cook maid dyed of itt stark madd in aboutt ten days time by the docters givinge her a vomitt when

<sup>231</sup> Queen's proclamation: above, p. 195 n. 498.

<sup>232</sup> Probably Captain John Paul rather than the ship *Poole* (above, p. 195 n. 499).

they were coming outt.<sup>233</sup> And shee was the first of 14 I had under my perscription. Butt my own maid Martha recovered itt by Gods blessing on my endeavours, as did my deer child.

**February 14** Satterday my man Isack fell sick of the small pox, whom I putt outt of my house, being very ill my selfe and quitt tired with doctters and nurses for above neer two monthes.

**22** Mr Smith, vicker of Winch, being Sunday preached heer, when I desired him to adminester the sacrament att Billney church on Midlentt Sunday, being the 15 of March, and contracted with him to serve the church till nextt Michellmas 1713. E Freke

**23** Monday I wrot to the chancellour of Norwich, Doctter Taner, a complaining letter of the bishops neglectt of this parrish in turning outt Mr Buck, whom I placed into Billney, and to leave the parrish and church now eleven monthes unserved and destitute of a minester as itt has now bin.

**25** The kinge of Prussia dyed the 25 of Febuary between twelve and one of the clock in the 56 yeare of his age much lamented.<sup>234</sup>

**28** Satterday, the 28 of Febuary, Mr Henry, only son and heire to the Lord Chiefe Justice Pine of Ireland, haveing had some words with Mr Theoffhylyus Bidolph (son and heire of Sir Michell Bidolph) (aboutt, as tis said, Dr Sacheverall), foughtt neer the corner of St James Parke; wher Mr Pine was stab'd in his right breast six inches deep and dyed on the spott, and Mr Bidolph was wounded in the belly, of which he lyes very weak iff nott dead March 4, 1712[/3].<sup>235</sup> This Mr Henry Pyne was the only son of the late Lord Chiefe Justice Pine (and neer kinsman to Mr Frek), who dyed att his own house in Surry aboutt the one and twentieth of Aprill 1710 and leftt behind him this his only son heire to neer three thousand pound a yeare in England and in Ireland.<sup>236</sup> (Butt God is just as well as mercyfull). Mr Henry Pyne has leftt three daughters in Ireland all heireses.<sup>237</sup> And this Lord Chiefe Justice Pine when he was a young man unfortunately kild a substantiall citizen in Cheapside for takinge place of him as he was leading att nightt the Lady Brodrick.<sup>238</sup> Butt itt is remarkable how Gods justice [works]: affter forty yeares and a greatt estate aquired of above two thousand pound a yeare, his only

<sup>233</sup> Mary Ramm is earlier identified as her cook-maid; W states Knopwood died (above, p. 196 and n. 500).

<sup>234</sup> Frederick I: above, p. 197 n. 501.

<sup>235</sup> See above, p. 197 n. 502 and Henry Sacheverell, p. 198 n. 504.

<sup>236</sup> Richard Pyne died in December 1709 (above, p. 197 n. 503).

<sup>237</sup> Anne, Catherine, and Elizabeth, none specifically named in his will (above, p. 197 n. 502).

<sup>238</sup> Lady Brodrick was probably Alice, the wife of Sir John Brodrick and mother of Alan Brodrick, Lord Midleton (c. 1656–1728), who succeeded Richard Pyne as chief justice of king's bench (*CP*, viii. 701–2). A Richard Pyne was convicted and then pardoned of manslaughter in 1671 (Morris, 'The Pynes of Co. Cork', 704).

son should bee sudenly taken off by the same unhappy fatte and Mr Bidolph lives.

**March 15** Being Midlentt Sunday I had a sacramentt att Billney church adminestered by Mr Smith, vicker of East Winch, and by my Gods greatt mercy to mee I weare one of the comunicants with my daughter in law. Butt my son went outt of the church where I had nott bin in allmost two years before nor my son with me above this seven yeare. My greatt and good God forgive him this and all his other mistaks to Elizabeth Freke.

[fol. 26r]

**1713, April 26** Sunday, the 26 of Aprill, I leftt Billney and came for London with my son and my daughter and her three sons and their fowr servants.

**29** In my own coach I came to my deer Lady Nortons house on Wensday nightt, the 29 of Aprill, with my two coach horses and five persons in my coach besids lumber and beyound my expectation well, concidering I had hardly moved from my chaire in seventeen monthes before. This was a greatt mercy to mee, and for which my God ever make me humbly thankfull, his servant. Eliz Frek

**May 5** Tuesday, the 5 of May, was the peace proclaimed by the order of the queene and persuantt to the actt of parliamtt, butt such a peace I never heard of in my life. The greatt God send us a good end of soe odd a begining, itt appeering to wiser heads then mine to be a seprate one.<sup>239</sup>

<sup>239</sup> On 5 May 1713 a proclamation of peace between England and France was announced with 'great Solemnity', the gazettes observe, and greeted with 'great Rejoicing' (*Flying-Post* [3371], *Evening Post* [583]).