

Here's a good reference to the handwriting style used, 'secretary hand':

http://folgerpedia.folger.edu/mediawiki/media/images_pedia_folgerpedia_mw/2/21/Alphabet_Abbreviations.pdf

He was Sir John Jeffrey ('Jefferaye'), 1524-1578. There are memorials in Chiddingly church to him: <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fq.cgi?page=qr&GRid=33450623&ref=acom>

From the dictionary of national biography (thank you Ancestry):

JEFFREY or JEFFERAY, JOHN (d. 1578), judge; barrister, Gray's Inn, 1546; queen's serjeant, 1572; judge of queen's bench, 1576; chief baron of the exchequer, 1577. [xxix. 276]

JEFFREY or JEFFERAY, JOHN (d. 1578), judge, of an old Sussex family, was son of Richard Jeffrey of Chiddingly Manor, by Eliza, daughter of Robert Whitfield of Wadhurst. He was admitted a member of Gray's Inn in 1544, called to the bar in 1546, and was Lent reader there in 1561. In Easter term 1567 he became a serjeant-at-law, and on 15 Oct. 1572 a queen's serjeant. In the same year he represented the borough of Arundel in parliament. On 15 May 1576 he was appointed a judge of the queen's bench, and was promoted on 12 Oct. 1577 to succeed Sir Robert Bell as chief baron of the exchequer. In the autumn of 1578 he died at Coleman Street Ward, London, and was buried under a magnificent tomb in Chiddingly Church. He appears, according to

the character given of him in Lloyd's 'State Worthies,' p. 221, to have been a plodding and studious judge. He was twice married, first to Alice, daughter and heiress of John Apeley, by whom he had one daughter, Elizabeth, who married Edward, first lord Montagu of Boughton; and secondly to Mary, daughter of George Goring.

[Foss's Judges of England; Dugdale's Originies, p. 137, and Chron. Ser.; Register of Gray's Inn; Horsfield's Lewes, ii. 66; Collins's Peerage, ii. 14; Popham's Reports, p. 108; Lower's Worthies of Sussex; Lower in Sussex Arch. Coll. vol. xiv.; Dallaway and Cartwright's Sussex, vol. ii. pt. i. p. 207.] J. A. H.

and also <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/jeffrey-john-1524-78> which corroborates some of the transcription of this will.

The description of the document on the Sussex Records Office page:

Description:

50a upland called Groveland in Hailsham; 40a marsh called Keepings at Horsye in Pevensy; leasehold 100a marsh in Pevensy, once occupied by brother-in-law Robert Havell deceased; leasehold 150a marsh called Lampham in Pevensy, Wartling and Manxey [in Pevensy], granted by Lady Elizabeth Pawlett, late wife of Ralph Scrope esq; 24 Jul 1576, proved by definitive sentence after the revocation of former letters of administration [of 29 May 1578], 9 Jul 1584

--- (top of page 1, which is a different will)

be buried in the parish of Saint Dunstan's in the East in London, whereof I am a pari- /

shioner, And my will and mynde is; that all such debtes and duties that I doe now of right owe /
to any p[er]son or persons shall be first spaide in good ordeir and [forint?] and after my debtes spaide, I /
will that all and singuleir my good, [ch]attells, juelly[jewelry?], plate, and money and substa[nc?]e, shalbe equally /
deuided into three equall and indifferent partes accordinge to the laudable ordeir and custome of this /
Cittie of London, Whereof one Thirde parte I giue and bequeathe fully and wholly unto A[?]ine, my welbe- /
loved wife in full recompense of heir parte and portion as she shoulde oir of right ouyght to have of all /
and singular any goode, [ch]attells, plate, [??]ndy money and substa[nc?]e accordinge to the custome of the said /
Cittie, And one third parte I give and bequeathe to Thomas Allen, John Allen, Abraham / Allen, Marye Allen, and Hester ^{Allen} my childrenn equally and indifferently to be spaide to them at suche /
tyme as they shall severally comme[?] to the age of one and twenty yeares amongst them to be deuided. /
And the other thirde parte I do ins[erbt?] to my selfe towardses and for the performance and fulfillinge /
of my s[eyarits?] and payment of my debtes, no' by m[e?] in this my p[re]sent testament is given and bequeathed:-

-- (bottom of page 1)

In the name of God amen; This is the last will
of me John Jefferaye one of the justices of our sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God
Queen of England France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith ? ⁴¹⁷ of her

pleasure? ^{pleas} before herself

to be holden, made the twentieth and fourth? ^{fourth} day of July in the year of our Lord God, one thousand five hundred seventy and six, and in the eighteenth year of the reign of our said sovereign Lady queen Elizabeth: first I commend my soul to God almighty, trusting assuredly that it hath pleased him of his great merit and goodness to have created me unto old? ^{id.}
lasting salvation, and to have the benefit of the passion of our Saviour Jesus Christ thereby

--- (top page 2)

to be made righteous in his sight: and where it pleased God in the thirtieth year of mine age to grant unto me a loving and virtuous wife as a good portion and great comfort unto me doubling my years and filling the same in grace, and by her, to grant unto me four sons and three daughters, and where in this present three and fifty years of mine age, god for his good will sake hath called unto his merit my said dear wife and before that time my said four

Commented [1]: This word appears in the Latin at the end several times too. I think it might be "etc"?

sons and two of my daughters, leaving unto me a sole man one daughter, my only child in this world: all which good works of God are great calling and warning unto me to prepare my self to follow the course and **face** that my good wife and young innocent children have passed before me, and to leave unto the world all my worldly possessions goods and chattels

which God as his good gift hath mercifully bestowed upon me partly as my patrimony and partly as my purchase by my travail and industry, God grant that I may dispose them and leave them to his true faithful servant and that they and their posterity may long enjoy them and by gods merciful assistance use them to his honour and glory, and to the comfort and

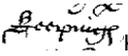
Consolation of his elect and chosen: first I will and bequeath and my intent and meaning is that all my various manors lands, tenements and hereditaments with the apportioning whereof I am

seized in **fee tail** shall descend accordingly: and I will and bequeath to my only daughter Elizabeth

all my Manors, Lands, Tenements and hereditaments with the apportioning whereof I am seized

in fee simple (except all my lands and tenements with their apportioning in the parish of haylsham containing by estimation fifty acres of upland commonly called grove land or by what other

name or names they or any of them be called) And all my lands and Tenements with their apportioning in **Horsye within the sight of Pevensey** containing by estimation forty acres

of marsh land commonly called ?  Keepings, or by what other name or names they or any of them be

called) To have and to hold all my said various manors, Lands, Tenements and hereditaments with the

apportioning whereof I am seized in fee simple (except before excepted) to my said daughter Elizabeth for the term of twenty years next after my decease, and after the end and term of twenty

years to remain to my right heirs according to the Laws of god and of this realm; Also I will and bequeath to my only brother Richard Jefferay and to his heirs all my Lands and Tenements

with their apportioning in the sight of Haylsham and in Horsye within the sight of Pevensey before

excepted. Also I will and bequeath to my said brother Richard Jefferaye all my interest and tenure

of years yet to come of and in all those lands and tenements with their apportioning in the said

Parish of Pevensey sometime in the tenure of my brother in law Robert Havell deceased containing

by estimation one hundred acres of marsh land: Also I will and bequeath to my said brother Richard Jefferay all my interest and tenure of years yet to come of and in all those lands & tenements

with their apportionments in the said sight of Pevensey, Wartling, and Manxey, or in any of them which I late had of the demise of the lady Elizabeth Pawlett late wife of Ralph Scrope

Commented [2]: Strikes me as unlikely. The only thing I can think of is "vate", as in "fate", which I'm not convinced by either.

Commented [3]: <http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/fee+tail>

Commented [4]: i.e. the marsh now spelt "Horse Eye", just SE of Hailsham, but in Pevensey parish: <https://www.google.co.uk/maps/@50.8527313,0.3027011,15z>

Esquire deceased, commonly called Lampham and containing by estimation one hundred and fifty Acres of marsh land: Also I will and bequeath to John Apsley gent my father in law for The term of his life one yearly rent of six pounds thirteen shillings four pence of lawful English money issuing out of all my said Manors Lands and Tenements before bequeathed To my said daughter Elizabeth for the term of twenty years at the Feast of St Michael The archangel and the annunciation of our blessed Lady by even portions yearly to be paid. And for the lack of payment, the said John Apsley into the same Manors Lands and Tenements

to distraight? *distraigt* and the distress to defray, until he hath satisfied of all the arrearages of the said

yearly rent: Also I will and bequeath to Agnes Motte, my sister for the term of her life one yearly rent of Six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence of Lawful English money issuing out of the said Manors, Lands and Tenements at the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel and the Annunciation of our blessed Lady by even portions yearly to be paid, and for lack of payment, the said Agnes Mott in the said

Manors Lands and Tenements to distraight? *distraigt*, and the same distress to defray until the said

Agnes shall be fully satisfied (of all the arrearages of the said yearly) rent: Also I will and

bequeath to Thomas ? *Underdone* my nephew for the team of his life one yearly rent of six pounds

thirteen shillings and four pence of lawful English money issuing and out of the same Manors

--- (top page 3)

Lands and Tenements at the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel and the annunciation of our blessed Lady by even portions yearly to be paid, and for lack of payment the said Thomas ?

Underdone

in the same Manors Lands and Tenements to distraight? *distraigt* and the same distress to defray until

the said Thomas shall fully satisfied of all the arrearages of the said yearly rent And I will and bequeath unto my niece Dorothe Shelley Six pounds thirteen shillings and four

pence: And I will and bequeath that all gifts legacies and bequeaths [bequests] made by my

said ? *deare wief*

which at the time of her death shall be fully satisfied contented and paid: Also I will and bequeath

to the poor inhabitants of Chittingley and Hillyngleigh (Hellingly) Ten pounds, to the poor inhabitants of Ripe and Westfield five pounds, To the poor inhabitants of Pevensey, Hailsham,

Waldron, East Hoathly and Chalvington Five pounds; And of this my last will &

Commented [5]: "distraiyn", modern sp "distrain": <http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/distrain> (passim)

Commented [6]: In this sense, related to "distrain" (passim): <http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/distress>

Commented [7]: I think "detayne" (detain), so the sentence means: If payment is lacking, J.A. can distraint (=confiscate) the lands, and keep hold of them until he has received all the rent. (passim)

Commented [8]: Underdo...?

Commented [9]: deare wief (dear wife), i.e. the one who predeceased him

testament I make Mary my wife and my said Daughter Elizabeth my sole Executrices, and my said brother Richard Jeffery and my Cousin George May Overseers of my said will and testament, to the which said George may I will and bequeath for his pains to be taken in the execution of my said will and testament ten pounds; And all the residue of my goods chattels and debts to me due (my debts paid and legacies performed) I give and bequeath unto the said Mary my wife and Elizabeth my daughter, they to use them and dispose them by gods merciful assistance to his honor and glory and to the comfortable which relief of his elect and chosen. In witness whereof to these six sheets of paper written in mine own hand I have set my seal. 26 July 1576.

Probatum ? per Sniand[?!] diffi..? approbatum et insinatum apud fuit suprascriptum testamentum apud London. Coram venerabili viro iuro Willuo? Drury Legum Doctore curie prerogative cantuarien[sis] commissario, etc. Nono die mensys Julii

Anno Domini millimo quingentesimo octagesimo quarto. Juramento praepositi Smith notarii publici procuratoris Elizabeth Jeffrey executricis etc sui? comissa fuit administratis ?

? ? ? / ? Maria Jeffrey etiam executrice etc demortua. /

???... *The above testament was approved? and signed before the venerable and just man, William Drury, LL.D., Commissioner of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, etc. On 9 July 1584 ... ?? [something about a notary public called Smith?] ... of Elizabeth Jeffrey, his exectutrix, etc., ...??... Mary Jeffrey, executrix, etc. being already dead.*

Commented [10]: Sorry, I don't understand all of it.

In dei nomine Amen: Auditis visis et intellect-
... per nos William Drury legum doctorem curie prerogative Cantuarien[sis]
magistrum ...

In the name of God, Amen. Having been heard, seen and understood...

...by us, William Drury, LL.D., Master of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury...

Commented [11]: This chap:
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Drury_\(lawyer\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Drury_(lawyer))

[The long Latin bit, extending onto page 4, looks like it might be relevant; it seems to mention John, Mary and Elizabeth Jeffrey throughout.]