

## Wills Families

- VIII Edward Wills, mariner  
+ Susanna unknown
- VII Mary Wills, bp. 7 Sep 1709 St. Paul's Shadwell
- VII Susanna Wills, b. 18 Nov in Spring Street, bp. 19 Nov 1715 St. Paul's Shadwell, bur. 25 Oct 1719
- VII Sarah Wills, b. 9 Jan 1720 in Spring Street, Shadwell, bp. 9 Jan 1720 St. Paul's Shadwell
- VII Edward Wills, b. 30 Nov in Spring Street, Shadwell, bp. 30 Nov 1722 St. Paul's Shadwell, bur. 18 Dec 1722
- VII Elizabeth Wills, b. 16 Oct in Spring Street, Shadwell, bp. 17 Oct 1723 St. Paul's Shadwell
- VIII **Edward Wills**, ship's captain (mariner) of Ratcliff, d. => 1744  
+ **Sarah unknown**, d. => 1737
- VII Edward Wills, b. c1715, freeman and grocer <sup>1</sup>, bur. 30 Dec 1744 St. Dunstan's Stepney  
+ Rebecca Waskett, of St. Dunstan's Stepney, m. 16 Oct 1740 St. Mary le Bow, Cheapside  
(married John Monroe, shipwright of Ratcliff Cross, on 16 Jul 1745 St. George in the East)
- VI Sarah Wills, bp. 17 Dec 1741 St. Dunstan's, Stepney
- VII **Sarah Wills**, b. 15 Mar 1718/19, bp. 9 Apr 1719 St. Dunstan's, Stepney <sup>2</sup>, m. 15 May 1739 St. Mary le Bow, Cheapside <sup>3</sup>  
+ **John s/o Gideon Williams**, b. 1710 Badon, WIL, grocer of Whitechapel Road, d. 1795 Bancroft's Almshouses, Stepney
- VII Mary Wills, b. 18 Mar 1719/20, bp. 23 Mar 1719/20 St. Dunstan's, Stepney, bur. 2 Apr 1720 Stepney
- VII Elizabeth Wills, b. 11 Sep, bp. 28 Sep 1721 St. Dunstan's, Stepney, bur. 6 Dec 1721 Stepney
- VII Thomas Wills, b. 26 Feb, bp. 28 Feb 1723 St. Dunstan's, Stepney, bur. 3 Oct 1723 Stepney
- VII Thomas Wills, b. 7 Feb, bp. 23 Feb 1726 St. Dunstan's, Stepney, bur. 12 Mar 1727 Stepney
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- VIII Edward Wills, junior  
+ Sarah unknown
- VII Edward Wills, bp. 17 Mar 1714 Poole, DOR
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### The two Edward Wills below can be discarded

- VIII Edward Wills, mariner of Kenton, DEV  
+ Sarah unknown [Cooke, m. 1707 / Callee, m. 13 Feb 1706 Exeter]
- VII Sarah Wills, bap. 6 Jan 1708 Kenton
- 1705 Susanna Davy [of Kenton, near Exmouth, DEV] apprenticed to Edward Wills, mariner
- 1723 Thomas Wills, mariner of Kenton, signed the loyalty oath at Exeter Castle  
Edward Wills of Kenton signed the loyalty oath at Exeter Castle  
Sarah Wills, wife of Peter Wills of Kenton
- 1733 Capt. Peter Wills, freeholder of Kenton (Edward not listed)
- 1740 Elizabeth Wilkins of Kenton [DEV] apprenticed to Capt. Edward Wills, for Morrish's and Luccombe's
- 1741 Edward Wills, mariner, and Peter Wills, mariner, were freeholders in Kenton
- 1747 Will of Edward Wills of Kenton proven
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- VIII Edward Wills, 1747-51 Chief Mate of the East India Company's Ship *Elizabeth*,  
1752/3 Commander for the third voyage of the *Elizabeth* covering the Madras Coast and the Bay of Bengal,  
bur. 5 Mar 1756 churchyard of St. Mary Magdalene, Woolwich <sup>4</sup>  
+ Anne unknown [POSS. Ann Horsnell, m. 15 Dec 1736 St Paul's Cathedral], bur. 11 Jun 1768 churchyard of St. Mary Magdalene, Woolwich
- VIII Anne Wills
- VIII Thomas Wills
- VIII John Wills
- VIII Margaret Wills

<sup>1</sup> Apprenticed to Joshua Harle (b. 1696 South Shields, DUR), wealthy grocer of St. Botolph without Aldgate, on 1 May 1728. Harle had five brothers, most of whom were captains in their 20s of family-owned ships sailing from Wapping.

<sup>2</sup> 25-day-old daughter of Capt. Edward Wills of Ratcliff, mariner, and Sarah

<sup>3</sup> Marriage bond signed by her father, Edward Wills of St. Dunstan's Stepney

<sup>4</sup> In his will of 1755, he made bequests to his wife, Anne, and the children of his brothers and sister. No children of his own were mentioned.

## Wills Families

### Ships commanded by an Edward Wills

- 1692 [Valiant Mary](#) under the command of Edward Wills, **privateer** (granted letter of marque and reprisal against France)  
170 tons, 16 guns and 6 pedreros, 18 seamen, 10 landmen  
Lieutenant: Richard Young.  
Master: Robert Dilbridge.  
Gunner: Richard Fass.  
Boatswain: **Benjamin Collins**.  
Carpenter: Elias Dollis.  
Surgeon: Joseph Morter.  
Cook: Robert ?Patcher
- 1695 *Valiant Mary*, Edwd Wills master, 'to give bond to go to Newfoundland and to no other part of America.'  
[1695/96](#) *Trehawke*<sup>5</sup> 400 tons, 24 guns, 100 seamen, **privateer** under the command of Edward Wills (LoM against France)  
Owners: Samuel Kek(e)wich<sup>6</sup>, John Franke, William Hurdes, Edward Wills and John Courtney (Source: TNA).
- 1698 *William and Ann* of London, Edward Wills, Commander, was forced into [Falmouth] port from Waterford bound for Livorno with salmon and herring
- 1710 *Warren Galley* of London, **privateer** under the command of Captain Edward Wills Commander, bound to Scotland, thence to New-England (*Daily Courant*, 23<sup>rd</sup> March)  
[1712](#) *Warren Galley*<sup>7</sup> of London, 150 tons, 12 guns, 40 seamen, **privateer** under the command of Captain Edward Wills  
Owner: Samuel Shephard<sup>8</sup>  
Lieutenant: John Murry.  
Gunner: Edward West.  
Boatswain: **Benjamin Collins**.  
Carpenter: Thomas Clarke.  
Cook: Thomas Pliming.
- 1717 *Warren Galley*, Capt. Wills, from Gallipoli
- 1721 Stangate Creek [in the R. Medway] - *Warren Galley*, Capt. Wills from Venice and Zephalonia [Kefalonia, Greece] (*The Weekly Journal*, dated 19<sup>th</sup> August 1721)
- 1727 The *Warren Galley*, Capt. Willis, arrived yesterday in the Downs came from Gibraltar with Sir Charles Wager, but knew not where he was bound ... (*Ipswich Journal*)
- 1727-31 *Warren Galley*, Capt. Wills (*Daily Journal*, London, 1721-37) [1729 commanded by Charles La Port]
- 1732 *Warren Galley*, 150 tons, 21 crew (List of ships in the General Register at the Customs House, London)
- 1734 *Warren Galley*, Capt. Wills for Dunkirk
- 1735 *Warren Galley*, Capt. Wills from Zante (Zakynthos) / the Straits [his last year in command of the ship<sup>9</sup>]
- 1741 *Warren Galley*, privateer, Capt. John Huddy, took French ship *La Marie* off the Isle of Wight
- 1744 *Warren Galley*, privateer, Capt. John Huddy, took French ship *Les Deux Frères et la Soeur* off the Lizard
- 1745 *Grand Duke* taken by the privateers *Warren Galley* (Christopher Huddy commanding) and *Saltash* (John Huddy commanding)
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- 1737 Jane Clark, of St. Paul's Shadwell, former servant of 'Capt. Wills of Ratcliff Cross', acquitted of breaking and entry due, in part, to the testimony of Mrs Wills, who had known her for 12 years.

<sup>5</sup> A place in the parish of Menheniot, Cornwall.

<sup>6</sup> Samuel Kekewich of Hackney and Spain (1657-c1700) was the fifth son of Peter Kekewich of Trehawke, Sheriff of Cornwall (1605-1680)

<sup>7</sup> Declaration for a [Letter of Marque](#) against France and other Enemies made on 29<sup>th</sup> Feb 1712.

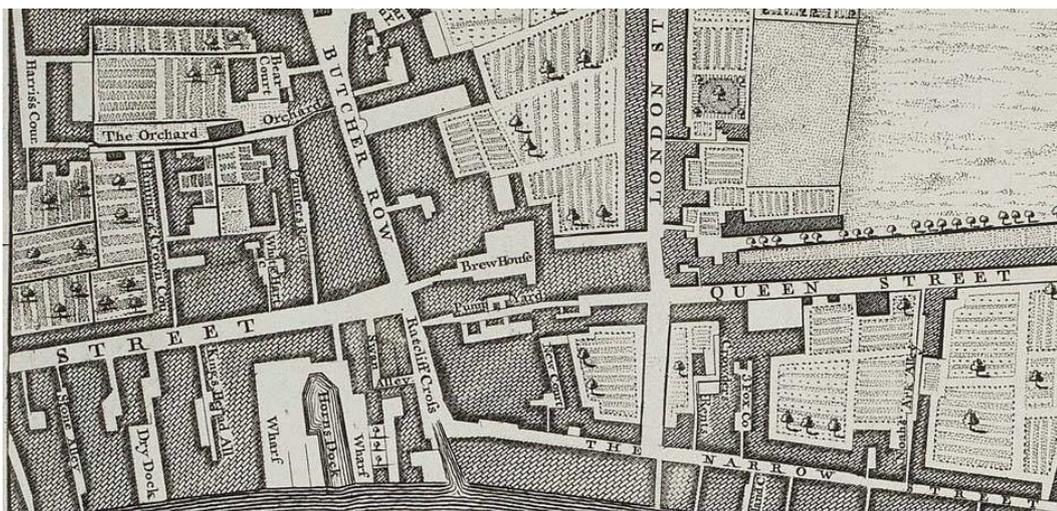
<sup>8</sup> [Shephard](#) (c1647-1719) of Bishopsgate, London, built up an immense fortune after initial success in the Mediterranean wine trade. He was a co-founder of New East India Company and subsequently played a prominent role in the South Sea Company, a slave-trading company.

<sup>9</sup> From 1736, the *Warren Galley* was under the command of Capt. John Huddy, who married Jane, daughter of Capt. Watkinson of Narrow Street, Ratcliff in 1738.

## Wills Families

### Land Tax paid by Edward Wills of Ratcliff

Year	Owner/Tenant <sup>10</sup>	Street (page no. in file)	Assessed Value (£)	Land Tax		Personal Estate	
				Payable	Rate per £1	Value Class <sup>11</sup>	Tax Payable
1730 May	Edward Wills	Narrow Street	7	14s	2s	[£50]	5s
1732 & 33	Edward Wills	Narrow Street	7	7s	1s	[£25]	2s 6d
1734	Edward Wills	Narrow Street	7	14s	2s	£50	5s
1735 Jun	Edward Wills	Narrow Street (p11)	7	14s	2s	£50	5s
1735	Edward Wills,	newly inhabited quarters (1) in an unspecified tenement in Ratcliff	17	8s 6d	6d		
1736 Mar	Edward Wills	Narrow Street (p57)	4	1s	6d		
	Edward Wills Edward Wills, sen.	Narrow Street (p61)	17	4s 3d	3d		
1736 Jun	Edward Wills Edward Wills, sen.	Narrow Street (p15)	17	£1 14s	2s	[£100] [£50]	10s 5s
1738 Feb	Edward Wills	Narrow Street (p12)	4	2s	6d		
		Narrow Street (p16)	17	8s 6d			
1738 Jun	Edward Wills	Narrow Street (p104)	4	12s	3s	-	-
		Narrow Street (p105)	4	8s	2s	-	-
		Narrow Street (p109)	17	£1 14s	2s	£100	10s
1739	Edward Wills	Ratcliff Cross [west side]	17	£1 14s	2s	£100	10s
1740 Feb 1740 Jun	Edward Wills	Ratcliff Cross, St. Dunstan (p65) Ratcliff Cross, St. Dunstan (p17)	17	17s £3 8s	1s 4s	£100	£1
1741 Feb 1741 Apr	Edward Wills	Ratcliff Cross, St. Dunstan (p162) Ratcliff Cross, St. Dunstan (p114)	17	12s 9d £3 8s	9d 4s	£100	£1
1742 Mar 1742 Jun	Edward Wills	Ratcliff Cross, St. Dunstan (p212) Ratcliff Cross, St. Dunstan (p262)	17	17s £3 8s	1s 4s	£100	£1
1743 May	Edward Wills	Ratcliff Cross, St. Dunstan (p310)	18	£3 12s	4s		
1744 Jan	Edward Wills	Ratcliff Cross, St. Dunstan (p17)	18	12s	8d		
1745 Feb 1745 Apr	John Munroe <sup>12</sup> Rebecca Wills	Ratcliff Cross, St. Dunstan (p16) Ratcliff Cross, St. Dunstan (p68)	18	9s £3 12s	6d 4s		



<sup>10</sup> TNA guide states: Local assessments are not always straightforward to interpret. It is not always clear from those listed who are landowners or proprietors, and who are tenants or occupiers. Although landowners were liable to pay the tax, in many parishes the tenants may have actually paid the tax and claimed the money back from their landlord in the form of a rebate.

<sup>11</sup> [Derek Morris](#), author of many books and papers on the history of East London, commented on the subject of personal estate in the context of the land tax records, 'It must be remembered, however, that the levels of *personal estate*, sometimes recorded as *stock*, were not an attempt to exactly identify a person's total wealth. They were a device used to assist in the raising of a precise sum of money every year, as demanded by the Land Tax Commissioners. For the tax collectors it was sufficient to place a person's *personal estate* into categories such as £25, £50, £75, £100 up to £200, and these amounts were taxed at 1s in £10 up to 1739. [The rate was doubled in 1740] ... Detailed studies of merchants living in London's eastern parishes have shown that a *personal estate* of £100 or more represented a man or woman of considerable wealth.'

<sup>12</sup> From his position in the list of tax payers, it is clear that John Munroe paid the first instalment of land tax due on the late Edward Wills' house in Ratcliff Cross, whereas Rebecca Wills (Edward Wills' widowed daughter-in-law) paid the larger second instalment. John and Rebecca married in Jul 1745.

## Wills Families

From "*The Copartnership Herald*", Vol. V, no. 58 (December 1935)

Ratcliff Cross was already a rallying-place for master mariners and their crews. From the Stairs nearby they went on board their ships wherever they might be in the Thames. In the neighbourhood abounded inns and taverns, and in those of the better sort a good deal of business was transacted with conviviality and profit.

In **1794** a great fire destroyed most of Ratcliff in a few hours. Some curiosity may be excited as to the appearance of the streets which were so quickly swept away. It is possible that a few of the houses were old timber-framed structures which had escaped previous lesser conflagrations. From time to time many had so perished of which there is no record. There was an earlier fire in 1765, when between twenty and thirty old wooden houses were burnt and ten damaged, the loss being valued at £19,000, a remarkable sum, if true. In the eighteenth century many of the ancient properties had disappeared and commodious houses took their place, occupied by merchants, captains, and master craftsmen. The ease with which the great fire made its progress was principally due to the presence of a large number of wooden workshops and warehouses containing inflammable goods, and, of course, the difficulty of obtaining water.

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Order of the King in Council, dated Kensington, March 21 last [1695], granting leave to several merchants using the Newfoundland trade to send out four ships, the

*Elizabeth*, Thomas Parsons master, 70 tons, four seamen, three landmen;

*Joseph*, Jo[h]n Sharp master, 100 tons, six seamen, three landmen;

*James* frigate, Jer[emiah] Peirce master, 80 tons, six seamen, four landmen; and

*Valiant Mary*, Edwd. Wills master, 170 tons, 18 seamen, 10 landmen,

on April 1 inst.: this being the only time to send out such ships to fish. They are to give bond to go to Newfoundland and to no other part of America. (1695)

Capt Jeremiah Peirce appears in Land Tax Records for Farringdon Without in 1692, 1702 and 1706