

The estate of John Wingate Jefferay Saul

STATUS — WILL IDENTIFIED · *Bona Vacantia* reference BV962243/1 · died Southend-on-Sea, 27 March 1996

Conclusion: John Wingate Jefferay Saul died at Southend-on-Sea on 27 March 1996, a bachelor of eighty-nine on the Crown's own row, and his estate passed to the Crown although he left a will. The will, made in September 1968 on a printed form, gives all his property and possessions absolutely to his sister, whom it names by forename and initials and also appoints sole executrix; it names no substitute and has no residuary gift beneath the one gift it makes. Letters of administration with that will annexed issued at the Principal Registry of the Family Division on 2 July 1997 to the Solicitor for the Affairs of Her Majesty's Treasury, for the use of the Crown, which shows that the sister did not prove the will and that its gift did not take effect; the grant does not say why, and this file does not guess. The grant certifies the gross value of the estate as £478,422 and the net value as £475,235, and because the will's one gift failed the Crown's interest is the whole net estate of £475,235 on the intestacy that follows a wholly failed will, not a lapsed share of it. Nothing about his family beyond that one sister is established: no rung of the statutory order above the spouse was searched, her own fate is not stated by any document read, and the two facts the Crown asserts about him, his birth and his death, have not been read against the registers. The thirty-year bar fell on 27 March 2026, the case no longer appears on the Crown's published list, and no claim by anyone is now possible.

HD Genealogy & Technology · 30 September 2026 10:08 BST, second edition · claim bar 27 March 2026, now passed

What this edition adds, and what it corrects. The first edition of 20 August 2026 opened with a conclusion that said only that the estate was time-barred, and described the will as a document not yet read; this edition carries the status on its top line and a conclusion that states the case. The grant and the will annexed to it, both purchased and read on 20 August 2026, are now reported in full: what the will gives, to whom, and what the grant certifies. One sentence of the first edition is withdrawn: that the will "would name the executor who never acted, name every beneficiary ... and state the gross and net estate values" as a document still to be bought — it has been bought, and the values are on the grant, not the will. The first edition's references keep their numbers unchanged and are re-authored to the referencing guide as identifiers; two are added for the two purchased documents. Every other finding of the first edition stands, and the first edition remains on file exactly as issued.

Supplied complete and without restriction on internal circulation. No living person is named in this file.

The thirty-year limit on claims against this estate ran out on 27 March 2026. The case no longer appears on the Crown's list, and no person — heir, firm or stranger — can now claim any part of it. This file is published in full to show how this practice opens a case and what it writes down, including what it does not know. Nothing in it entitles anyone to anything.

WHY THIS FILE CAN BE SHOWN IN FULL

The Crown accepts claims on a bona vacantia estate for at most thirty years from the date of death. John Wingate Jefferay Saul died on 27 March 1996;¹ the bar therefore fell on 27 March 2026, and the current edition of the Crown's published list no longer carries him, while it still carries seventeen references from later 1996 deaths, so the absence is a removal and not a misread.¹ No section 27 notice inviting claimants stands in The Gazette under this reference either: the same search returns the single notice standing under a live case reference tested alongside it, and nothing at all under a reference invented as a test, so the resource answered in both directions.³

A live case file is confidential. An extinguished one is a specimen — it can be shown entire, because the answer no longer matters to anyone's money. That is the only reason this file exists in public.

Stated once more, prominently, because it is the one thing a reader must not mistake: **this estate cannot be claimed, by anyone, on any theory.** Any approach or advertisement inviting claims on it after 27 March 2026 is either mistaken or dishonest.

THE MAN ON THE LIST

The Crown's archived list of 8 January 2022 gives the case its facts: John Wingate Jefferay Saul, died 27 March 1996 at Southend-on-Sea, Essex; a **bachelor**; born **11 July 1906 at Southend-on-Sea**.¹ He died at eighty-nine, a bachelor, in the town where he was born. Every other column of his row — spouse, maiden name, aliases, kin or other details, informant, executors — is empty: the Crown published nothing else, and named nobody. The grant and the will add one fact between them: his address, in Westcliff-on-Sea, the same on both documents twenty-eight years apart.^{4,5}

Those are **asserted facts from a derivative list**, not register entries, and nothing in this file has verified them against the registers — the open-points section says exactly why not.

One thing distinguishes this case from almost every neighbour on the list, and it is the name itself. *Johnson* needs a date and a district before a search means anything; **Wingate Jefferay Saul is close to self-identifying** — a rare surname carrying two rare middle names. Every index search on this man starts with discriminating power most cases never get.

THE WILL, MADE IN 1968

He left a will, and it has been read. It is a printed will form completed in manuscript, made in September 1968 — the day and month are manuscript and read at moderate confidence, the year is clear — at his Westcliff-on-Sea address.⁵ It revokes all earlier wills, appoints "my sister", named by a forename and four initials and given an address in Torquay, Devon, as his sole executrix, and gives to her "all my property and possessions absolutely".⁵ It was witnessed by two people at a bank branch in Westcliff-on-Sea, whose stamp stands against both signatures.⁵

Three things about it decide the shape of this case. It is a single gift to a single person, who is also the person appointed to administer it.⁵ It names no substitute if she should fail to take, and it carries no residuary gift beneath the one gift it makes, so if that gift failed nothing in the will caught what fell.⁵ And it stood unrevised for twenty-eight years, from September 1968 to his death in March 1996, a span in which the sole taker could easily have died before him.⁵ Whether she did is not stated by any document read, and it is not inferred here: she is described and not named, because nothing on the record shows her to have died. Her forenames are given on the page as one forename and four initials only, and no document read expands them.⁵

THE GRANT, AND WHAT IT CERTIFIES

On 2 July 1997, some fifteen months after his death, letters of administration with the will annexed were granted at the Principal Registry of the Family Division — the form of grant made when a will exists but no executor takes probate.² The purchased copy of the grant recites that John Wingate Jefferay Saul of Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, died on 27 March 1996 domiciled in England and Wales, having made and duly executed his last will, and that administration with the will annexed was granted to the Solicitor for the Affairs of Her Majesty's Treasury, for the use of Her Majesty.⁴ The court proved the will and still handed the estate to the Crown's own solicitor: the sister the will names as executrix did not prove it.

The grant certifies the value, and it is the only document on this case that does. Its printed ceiling wording is struck through in both places, so the two figures are amounts and not brackets: the gross value of the estate in the United Kingdom amounts to **£478,422** and the net value to **£475,235**.⁴ The digital index of grants prints no value at all.² This is the largest estate this practice has documented from a grant.

WHY A TESTATE ESTATE REACHED THE CROWN

The will put everything on one life and appointed the same person to administer it; the grant shows that she took nothing and the Crown administered instead.^{4,5} The documents establish that much and no more. They do not say whether she died before him, so that the gift lapsed with no substitute to catch it, or whether she survived him and was never traced, so that an estate which was hers went unclaimed; either explanation is consistent with the face of both documents, and this file does not choose between them. What follows from the failure is the same on either reading: the whole net estate of £475,235, and not a share of it, is the interest that passed to the Crown, on the intestacy that follows a will whose only gift did

not take effect.⁴

The match between the grant and the case rests on the full name, the address and the exact date of death, and the purchased grant carries all three.⁴ On a name this rare the basis is strong, and it is stated so that a reader can weigh it.

HOW FAR THE LADDER IS CLIMBED

Spouse open
Issue open
Parents open
Brothers & sisters open
Grandparents open
Aunts & uncles open
BV962243/1 - BV962243/1 solid box: a record states the relationship - dashed: our candidate - a rung with no box carries the reason instead

THE SECTION 46 LADDER, RUNG BY RUNG

For whatever part of the estate the will did not effectively dispose of, section 46 of the Administration of Estates Act 1925 ranks the classes of kin in order. On this case **no class above the spouse was searched at all**, and this file says so rather than dressing silence as findings:

- **Spouse** — CLOSED as a taker: the Crown records him a bachelor, so there is no widow.¹ Asserted only, and never tested against the marriage index.
- **Issue** — UNREACHED. Not searched.
- **Parents** — UNREACHED. Not searched; born in 1906, they would in any case be long dead, but that is recorded here as not searched, not assumed.
- **Brothers and sisters of the whole blood, and their issue** — UNREACHED as a class. The will shows that he had at least one sister, living in 1968;⁵ whether she was of the whole or the half blood, whether she survived him, and whether she left issue are not stated by any document read, and no search was made.
- **Brothers and sisters of the half blood, and their issue** — UNREACHED. Not searched.
- **Grandparents** — UNREACHED. Not searched.
- **Uncles and aunts of the whole blood, and their issue** — UNREACHED. Not searched.
- **Uncles and aunts of the half blood, and their issue** — UNREACHED. Not searched.

"Not searched" is not a nil. A nil is a search that ran and returned nothing, carrying a control proving the resource was answering. This file contains exactly two controlled nils — the Gazette notice³ and the case's absence from the live list¹ — and neither is a kinship fact. The kinship work this file does not contain is shown, done in full, in this practice's published Schofield file (BV966153/1), where every one of the classes above is closed by evidence or priced as open.

WHAT REMAINS OPEN, AND WHAT IT WOULD COST

— **Whether the sister survived him.** The national death index, read for her name across the whole span from September 1968 to March 1996 and anchored first on Devon, would show whether the gift lapsed before he died; if she died before him, her own issue, if any, would stand on the sibling rung

above. A free index read; not made in this account.⁵

— **Birth verification** — the list asserts 11 July 1906, Southend-on-Sea, and no register entry

has been read against it. The national birth index was not read for him in this account, so the point is recorded as open rather than as a negative. On a surname this rare a read of it would likely also surface the whole sibling group in the same district — the beginning of the ladder.

— **The death-index join** — death entries registered from 1969 carry the registered date of

birth, so his 1996 entry would tie the asserted birth date to the death on a single index. Unreached, and not a nil.

— **The kinship ladder itself** — every class above, worked to evidence. On this estate the work was never needed: the bar fell first.

THE DECISIVE DOCUMENTS

The two documents that decide the shape of this estate have been bought and read: the will, which names the one person it gives to, and the grant, which shows that she did not take and states what the estate was worth.⁴⁵ The document that would settle how the gift failed is the sister's own death entry, if there is one before March 1996; its index reference is not known, because the index has not been read for her, and the search above is what would find it. Nothing was ordered on this case beyond the two documents named.

ABOUT THIS ACCOUNT

This file cites everything it asserts, states every search it did not run, and records its two nils with their controls. It is prepared to the shape of the Genealogical Proof Standard in one specific sense: nothing is inferred, index entries are described as index entries and never as certificates, the two purchased documents are described as the documents they are, and every negative either carries its control or is recorded as not searched. The honesty is the product — the file is deliberately full of what was read and empty of conclusions it has not earned.

Please check it. Every reference below is to a public record, a public list or a document any reader can order independently, and the archived list edition is a fixed, citable document.

This is genealogical research and **not legal advice**. No living person is named, none has been approached, and no contact details are supplied. And once more: **this estate is time-barred and cannot be claimed**.

REFERENCES

References follow the University of Strathclyde standard. Where one records a negative, the control search proving the instrument was answering is stated with it.

- 1 Unclaimed estates list, live list and archived edition of 8 January 2022. Southend-on-Sea, Essex. SAUL, John Wingate Jefferay. 27 March 1996. BV962243/1. Government Legal Department, Bona Vacantia Division. Collection: Unclaimed Estates list. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/unclaimed-estates-list> : accessed 20 August 2026.
- 2 Testamentary records. England and Wales. 02 July 1997. SAUL, John Wingate Jefferay. Probate no. 9751103048. Collection: Find a Will. probatesearch.service.gov.uk : accessed 09 August 2026.
- 3 The Gazette, deceased estates notices. England and Wales. SAUL, John Wingate Jefferay. His Majesty's Stationery Office. Collection: The Gazette. www.thegazette.co.uk : accessed 20 August 2026.
- 4 Testamentary records. England. 02 July 1997. SAUL, John Wingate Jefferay. Grant of letters of administration with will annexed, purchased digital copy. Probate no. 9751103048. HM Courts and Tribunals Service. Collection: Find a Will, digital index of grants issued from 1 January 1996. probatesearch.service.gov.uk : accessed 20 August 2026.
- 5 Testamentary records. England. 16 September 1968. SAUL, John Wingate Jefferay. Will, the copy annexed to the grant, purchased digital copy. Annexed to probate no. 9751103048. HM Courts and Tribunals Service. Collection: Find a Will, digital index of grants issued from 1 January 1996. probatesearch.service.gov.uk : accessed 20 August 2026.