

New Light on Jane Austen's Great-Grandmother: A Complete Transcript of Elizabeth Weller's *Memorandum* and Account Book and Seven Newly Found Letters: Transcript of *Memorandum*

By **Azar Hussain**

Azar Hussain (email: azarmhussain@gmail.com) is an independent researcher based in London. His research focuses on the eighteenth century and specifically Jane Austen. His work has appeared in *Notes & Queries*, *Persuasions*, *Persuasions On-Line*, and the Jane Austen Society *Annual Report*.

Below is the transcript of Elizabeth's *Memorandum*. Richard Arthur Austen-Leigh's transcript in *Austen Papers* omits the detailed figures, although he alludes to them (11). Note that Elizabeth uses monetary units that predate the adoption of decimalization in the U.K. in 1971. The terms employed for these units were Lsd, from the Latin *librae*, *solidi*, and *denarii*. A pound (L or l) was made up of twenty shillings (s), and a shilling contained twelve pence (d), meaning that a pound contained two hundred and forty pence. The three-part monetary sums listed in the *Memorandum* without these terms represent pounds, shillings, and pence, in that order.

Transcript—Elizabeth Weller's Memorandum

[Unnumbered loose leaf providing the birth dates of Elizabeth's children]

Elizabeth Austen born June ye 16th
being Sunday about 4 in the affternoon 1695

John Austen born August ye 14th
being ffriday neer noon 1696

Francis Austen born ffebruary ye 25th
being ffriday about 10 at night 1697/8¹

Thomas Austen born October ye 13th
being ffriday about 10 at Night: 1699

William Austen born ffebruary ye 3rd
being Munday about 8 in y^e Morn: 1700/1

Robert Austen born September 16
being wednesday neer 5 in ye afternoon 1702

Stephen Austen born January y^e 27th
being thursday between 8 & 9 at night 1703/4

[Title page]

Memorandums ffor mine & my
Childrens reading, being my own
tho'ts on our affairs 1706, 1707,
a rough draught in a retired hour

More page 13, 14, 15, 16, For ye years 1708, 1709,

[Verso of title page]²

All ye houshold Goods I have
Sold are these & rec'd yt. & all other moneys³

1

¹ Prior to 1752 and the adoption of the Gregorian calendar in Britain, the calendar year began from 25 March, and dates prior to this could be considered as falling in either year. Thus, Francis's year of birth is given as 1697/8, William's as 1700/1, and Stephen's as 1703/4.

² This page appears out of sequence as page 125 in Robert Weller's copy (hereafter referred to in footnotes as RW). It follows pages nine and ten of Elizabeth's manuscript. Both these pages contain figures, so it is possible that RW thought it belonged here, although this placement seems odd given that the title (which RW also transcribed) is also here. As noted in Part 1, pages eleven and twelve of Elizabeth's manuscript are missing, or may have never existed.

³ Elizabeth entered two columns on this page, but for legibility I have transcribed them as one.

ffor 7 Sacks	0 08 06	
ffor a bridle	0 01 00	
Rec'd a debt due		5
ffrom Jo: Mortar[?] ⁴	1 00 00	
ffor a Cart Saddle	0 2 6	
ffor a Gun	0 15 0	
ffor ye hanging, bed & ye things thereto of my best chamber	21 10 00	10
ffor my Silver Can Stick Tankerd, 2 Salvers, porrenger, Spoon, 2 Salts Sugar-dish, Cup or bowl	23 8 11	15
total	47 05 11	
due more from my Self ffor those out door Goods & Stock my Brothers sold to me at ye day of Sale	5 05 00	20
Rec'd Since my husband dyed for those Rents att Town, ye freehold till my ffathers death & ye Lease hold to ye time Michmas 1706 repairs deduct'd	17 00 0	25
	69 10 11 ⁵	

⁴ Jⁿ Merton[?]-RW.

⁵ RW has this figure made up of two sums, 22-5-0 and 47-5-11. It is unclear where he would have got this detail.

all moneys disburst		
is	224 01 6 ⁶	
by ye account Recd	069 10 11	30
out of purse	154 10 7	

Page 1⁷

This for my own satisfaction, intended as a help to my memory, & also for ye account I may best give of ye ffollowing concerns if desired by my Children, or any other, whom it may concern. 1

I Labour under ye misfortune of being a Widdow, to J.A. junr. of Broadford⁸ who dyed September ye 21st 1704, of a Consumption, & it was his misfortune to Leave many debts to pay, which was a great trouble to him, ffor all his Lands in Marriage were Settled to his Sons, So that none but personal estate must pay ye debts what Goods & Stock without doors he knew convenient to be sold, but to have all⁹ his houshold Goods sold was a great concern to him, when he knew he Left¹⁰ a Wife & 7 Children, ye eldest about 10 years old, but withall a ffather very rich, & himself his only son, so yt it might be expected natural affection wou'd have open'd his heart, to his only son, who indeed was much concer[n]'d all his Long illness, to think of his affairs, he knew his ffather's temper, & found him loath to part with any thing,¹¹ but ye greatest 15

⁶ RW has a subtotal prior to this figure of

money disburs'd	223 12 3
more do as above	0 9 3

Again, it is unclear how he knew this. Could he have been personally involved in the payments?

⁷ Start of *Memoranda & Family Letters* (119).

⁸ "in Horsmonden"—RW.

⁹ "all" blotted out—RW.

¹⁰ "should leave"—RW.

¹¹ In front of this word, Elizabeth wrote "enough to" and then struck it through.

concern of all his worldly affairs, was for his Children, 20
he knew what Lands he had, was to be equally divided
among his Sons, which parts wou'd be Small, but no
provision for his daughter, So that she was Left to a
Grandfather to portion, as also his 6 Sons, whom he fear'd wou'd be too
partial among ym, as indeed it proved, for my husband on 25
his death bed, desired his ffather to consider one child
was dear to him as another, & tho' he desired his eldest
Son might have a double portion, yet hoped ye others
he wou'd well provide ffor, his ffather seeing ye concern
it was to him, did by a Second hand Lett him know he wou'd 30
consider all his children, & had by will done more for ye

Page 2

younger Children than before he tho't to do, & also did Say 1
he wou'd not have him be troubled about his debts, for
he wou'd See all Shou'd be pd, tho' perhaps not immediately, but
in time it Shou'd be done, & withal promised ye household Goods
Shou'd not be Sold, these things were great Satisfaction to my 5
husband who made his Will, & gave me ye education of my¹²
Children, with ye proffits of ye Land for all their Maintenance, so
Long as I remain'd his Widdow, & made his Sisters Husbands his
executors, with power to demand my yearly accounts for my
children, but if any overplus by their executorship, to come to 10
me, all this was done with ye aprobaton of his ffather, when
my husband was to be buried, my Brothers in Law, ye executors,
advised with my ffather Au: about it, knowing as my husband's
affairs were left, his ffuneral must be very mean (private was
his desire) my ffather aproved of private, & tho't, that mourn- 15
ing must not be allowed in funeral charges to any, not
Children, nor widdow, which I own I took unkind, for att ye
time, I had no Rents, fully due, So no money I cou'd command,
but I were Loathe to appear ridiculous, So did take up Mourning
on trust, for me & my Children, my Brothers¹³ did plead 20

¹² "of all my"—RW.

¹³ "my brothers the executors"—RW.

with my ffather Austen, to allow Something towards ye charg[e]s,
tho' ye ffuneral was private, & no mourning given, on much
intreaty he did then promise to allow them £10 towards ye charges,
So ye ffuneral¹⁴ was performd with a private decency, & my ffather
Austen express'd himself to me, yt he was pleas'd with our
management, next ye executors made an apprizement of
ye Goods & Stock, which when apprised amounted to ye value
of £522.7.11 which we tho't might pay debts & charges, So my
Brothers proceeded to sell all Goods & Stock with-out doors & pd
with ye money Rec'd, some of ye debts which ffirst required paymt¹⁵
but there remained more debts to pay, which they consulted

Page 3

with my ffather about it, to know how he wou'd perform his
promise to his Son, & not Let ye household goods be Sold, to pay ye
remaining debts, but my ffather seem'd to forgett Such promises,
only Said if any off my Relations wou'd Lay down half ye
money, he wou'd Lay down ye other part of what the household
Goods were worth, & have ye Goods made to them for ye money
but I had no Relation to expect this ffavour from, neither
indeed wou'd I desire it of any, for I tho't my ffather Austen
had ye greatest obligation of any person, to Lay down ye money
not only for his promise Sake, but in all other respects ye greatest
obligation to pay his Son's debts, ffor all knew he must have many 100 pounds
by him. At his son's Marriage he promised
to pay all his Son's debts, he then did owe, but I can make
it appear that many debts owing before Marriage
my husband pd afterwards, & I doubt not but more were
pd that I knew not off, for my husband kept all those debts
private from me, & also I know from his ffather, which
might be ye reason as I did since tell my ffather Austen,
that he did not perform his promise at marriage, but
these were ye debts as I Suppose kept my husband in debt,

¹⁴ Omitted by RW.

¹⁵ Start of *Memoranda & Family Letters* (120).

ffor I think we had no extravagance in affairs after
Marriage, indeed I confess I never proposed ye saving
of Money, knowing my ffather A estate so Large, that
I tho't if we cou'd Live & enjoy our Selves on yt Little he
allowed us, was Sufficient, but I was ever uneasy to
be in debt, which made my husband keep his debts ye
more private, & also was not willing his ffather shoud
know of ym fearing his displeasure, & it seem'd most Likely ye son
to be ye Longest Liver, my Joynture barely answerd my portion,
but it was as ffather A. pleas'd, & all feard to displease him, my
husband proffer'd to give me a Marriage bond privately,
which was all in his power to do, but my ffather Weller
as his ffriend did not think such bonds ffair, so it was

Page 4

not done, but a promise from my husband if ever in his power
to mend my Settlement, he wou'd do it, but it pleas'd God to
take him out of this World as you hear my Condition bare & also
no consideration for many household goods my ffather¹⁶ & ffriends gave me
as almost all my Silver plate, ye best part of all my Linnen, ye
whole furniture of a bed & many other things which on moderate
computation did then amount to ye value of above £50 alltho never recond in part; all these
things I saw inventory'd, ffor I were so just yt I did not keep any
thing private, but were in hopes my ffair dealing wou'd ye more
oblige my ffather A to be kind to us, yett he seem'd unkind &
refus'd to pay ye debts, tho' I with ye executors desired ye goods shou'd
be made over to him for ye money, yet he long denyed it, so yt ye
executors at Last resold¹⁷ to Sell ye household Goods,¹⁸ & fixt a day for Sale,
but at Last by ye intreaty of many ffriends, & I do think his own
secrett inclinations, he orderd ye executors to stop ye Sale, & then came
to my house, & mett ye executors, & discoursed ye matter to know how
many debts there was to pay, & told them if £200 wou'd do they shou'd

¹⁶ "Father W"—RW.

¹⁷ "resolv'd"—RW.

¹⁸ "the goods"—RW.

have it, & Said he did not desire any of ye household goods for his own use,
but wou'd have them settled ffor my eldest Son, tho they were to be
ffor my use as before with my Children. I promised to take ye Same 20
care as my own, & it's Like if ye thing had been done I might been
under some obligation to perform my promise, my brothers told
him they doubted 20 or 30 pound more wou'd be wanted, but he seem¹⁹
not willing to part with more yn £200, so they concluded to sell²⁰ some
off ye Goods to pay what more debts shou'd remaine, my ffather yn 25
had £200 putt out on interest to a Man at Wadhurst, which he order'd
in for this use, & ye time of payment was fixt, but some hinderance
in ye payment hapen'd, in ye mean time I took an oportunity to desire
my ffather to give me Leave to dispose of those goods I brought to
which child I pleas'd, but he seem'd not willing to give me yt Liberty, yn 30
I were telling him, if some of ye Goods must be sold it must be ye
furniture of ye best Chamber, for something of vallue to raise £20 or £30,
we had much discourse on ye matter, but at Length he told me, if there
was not above £20 or £30 more wanted, he thought there wou'd not be
any houshold goods sold for that, thus matters were brought when it pleased 35
God my ffather A was taken ille, but we tho't not dangerous, then notice
was given ye £200 wou'd be brought to Goudhurst ye next day, but my ffather

Page 5²¹

ffather continuing worse he was not capable of receiving ye money, but 1
in a day or two more he dyed, his illness Soon Seiz'd his brains, so yt he never
was sensible of his death, which hapen'd ye 13th day of ye next July after his
Son, his houskeeper inform'd where his Will was, which was open'd in
ye presence of his Daughter & Son Stringer, his daughter and Son Holman 5
& also my Self, we heard it read tho' I think my Self ye only stranger to
any former knowledge of it, my then knowledge I cou'd not bear
but with a great concern, nay yet I can Seldom think on't without a tear,
ffor as to my Self I were never mention'd, unless as it seem'd necessitated to make

¹⁹ "he seem'd" – RW.

²⁰ Start of *Memoranda & Family Letters* (121).

²¹ The right-hand margin of page five is badly frayed, resulting in some of the text being lost or indistinct. Rather than risk damaging the manuscript further, in these instances I have adopted RW's wording. I believe this practice makes no material difference to Elizabeth's meaning.

me appear as no friend, nay rather an enemy to ye family, but that did not 10
so much concern me, as to See my Children so unkindly, nay I may say unnaturally²²
dealt with, for tho' my eldest Son has so Large a Share, yet is tyed from it
beyond common example, & then my younger Sons are made so much more²³
that indeed I think they have Little reason to Say they have any Gift from
their Grandfather, him who was then in ye room also of a father, & as to 15
my daughter tho' her portion seem'd more Large, yet I think there was
ye most unnatural affection Shew'd thats possible to Conceive, nay I will
own I did not forbear Saying, 'Shure my father takes her for a bastard!'
when I heard how he had cutt her off from any prospect of
future hopes, which I pray God may never happen, now I found my poor 20
husbands fears concerning his children too unhappily come to pass, one a
Large estate, ye others but as if Servants, & tho' as he said they were equally
dear to him, so they are to me, & I can't but be as much concern'd, as I know²⁴
their father wou'd be, were he now alive, if a Son of mine Lives to
enjoy ye Large estate, I hope he will remember he had a father by 25
whose right he now enjoys ye plenty, & a father yt knew some want
of it in his own affairs, by ye concern it was to him to
Leave so many debts to pay, but much Lamented to think how unequally
his children wou'd be dealt with by his father; he often sd in
discourse with me that he tho't £500 per annum was estate enough 30
for his eldest Son, & then ye rest of his Children might have such
portions, as might with good education, & employments, enable ym
to Live in ye world, yt yr eldest brother might not be asham'd
of them, I hope this consideration will open ye heart of ye eldest²⁵
to his brothers & Sister, that in some measure he may perform his 35
poor dear father's desire, but alas before any Son of mine can attain
ye time of age fixt by their Grandfather, my other children must
be dispos'd off in ye world, so yt they may be enabled to gett a Living,

²² "say so unnaturally"—RW.

²³ RAAL in *Austen Papers* transcribed "<?less>" after "more," which does seem the more likely reading (8).

²⁴ "I think"—RW.

²⁵ "eldest son"—RW.

but how I shall dispose of them, with that narrow maintenance ye
Rents of their Lands affords, is now my **great**²⁶ concern, for I am
willing to give them education, that they nor their elder²⁷ brother shou'd
be asham'd off, but how at present I know not, yet I wont distrust
Gods providence, but hope he will give a blessing to all honest endeavours,
I have no prospect of saveing money of ye Childrens towards putting
them out apprentice, what their Grandfather has given them att that
age for ye use, Looks mean & my brother Stringer tells me is £10
Less to each than what my ffather A had given them in his will made
before he promised ye £200 on my houshold Goods, to pay my husbands
debts, but after that money promisd, my ffather said it wou'd be
ye worse for ye eldest son, So wou'd alter his Will to take off £10 from
each younger Son, which wou'd enlarge ye elder, why my ffather
Austen shou'd endeavour so much, for my eldest Son, more than my
other children, I cant well tell. I am Sure he has made his own
daughters portions, answerable to ye other part of his estate, given
to his Sons Children, if neer £4000 each can be accounted So, besides
what my Brothers advantage may be by their executorship to him,
& management of ye estate for my Son, but I have heard
my ffather was very partial to his own when children, & had always
a particular favorite Child, mine being all Children, I think by ye
Charracter, his humour Shew'd ye Same **partially**²⁸ as to his own,
after my ffather's funeral we talkt of ye £200 which was pd to my Bro:
as executors to my ffather, they then seem'd to conclude ye money was
to go as order'd by my ffather, but some time afterwards they sd it
must not be, it was not specified in his Will, nor under his hand for
that use, So they must not perform his promise made by word of
mouth, it could not be answer'd in Law, & they must be just to ye heir.
I think many ffriends endeavour'd to perswade 'em not to fear ye strictness
of ye Law in this case, neither to fear ye heir wou'd think 'em unjust
in performing his Grandfather's promise, by ye paymt of his ffather's
debts, especially where an equivalent of Goods might be answerable for

²⁶ "greatest" –RW.

²⁷ Start of *Memoranda & Family Letters* (122).

²⁸ "partiality" –RW.

such moneys, but to have those Goods sold oblig'd his Mother to turn out of doors, with her other children, nay Sr Tho: Roberts yn in prospect of being an overseer to their accounts, and by Will was enabled to audit & sign ye accounts, which was to be a full discharge to my Brothers from all persons whatsoever, he did not scruple to tell 'em, there was so much reason for it, that he Shou'd be willing to allow of ye accounts, [if they wou'd do it.](#)²⁹

35

Page 7

all these perswations wou'd not do, my Son might be of an unnatural temper, & they must do what ye Law obliges 'em to do, for their own safety³⁰ then my Brothers also tell me they must take all ye houses in [Go: town](#)³¹ from me, my ffather gave them all by word of mouth to my husband, above 7 years before my husbands death, & also told all ye tennants he had given them to his Son, now he had nothing to do with 'em, & all are of ye opinion it was then his real design for ever after my husband rec'd all Rents, Lett Leases did all repairs, & Some of ye houses were a Colledge Lease, my ffather gave my husband ye Lease, which he renew'd as for him Self, and always acted without any molestation from my ffather, neither did he ever speak of them as his own, but after my husbands death, he was inform'd & might consider they were not given under hand & Seal So wou'd not Stand in Law, but in discourse with him about our affairs which was apt to put him in a peevish humour, he has then told me he cou'd take away ye town houses, but did not intend it, & as Long as he Liv'd after my husband, Sufferd me, to do by them, as by any other estate, my husband enjoyd in Land, yet after my ffathers death my brothers say they are obliged to take these houses from me, for my ffather by Will has given all his estate whatsoever to my eldest Son, that is not otherwise disposed of by Law, these houses they reckon with this power, So must take them from us,³² these things [I did not well take of them,](#)³³ for I tho't they did not perform ye promise made me at my ffather

1

5

10

15

20

²⁹ This is illegible in Elizabeth's manuscript; the text is supplied from RW.

³⁰ Start of omission in *Austen Papers* (11).

³¹ "Goudhurst Town"—RW.

³² End of omission in *Austen Papers* (11).

³³ "I could not well take of them"—RW.

& husbands death to be as kind to me & my children, as ye could yet thus it must be so
I had no pockett to know ye opinion of my Lord chancellour in these cases &
some others in our concern³⁴ but at Last it was considered ye houses in Lease might 25
not come as ye ffreehold, So they had two Lawyours opinions that that was a chattel
of my husbands, So we proceeded to find ye divison of ye ffreehold from ye Lease,
which was made appear, by an old deed, So they took only ye ffree hold
houses for my Son, then I desired that Lease houses might be Sold to pay
some of my husbands debts, So might Save Some of my goods for housekeeping 30
& desire they wou'd by em for my Son, So might be kept all together as used
to be, but they wou'd not have ye trouble of Looking after them, So no
arguments wou'd perswade em to buy em for my Son, but posted it at
ye Markett house that they were to be Sold to any person, in Little
time a Man in ye town bids money for ye Lease but Leaves it 35
which was hinderance to ye Selling, no more of my husbands debts yett pd
which made ye Creditors grumble, then I beg'd my Brothers wou'd buy ye
Lease but in vaine, yet tell me ye Lease & goods will more than pay debts
So woud have me agree with ye creditors & they will assign all ye right by . . .³⁵

Page 8³⁶

have by executors to my husband to me & So be realeased of their trouble 1
this I was willing to do if ye Colledge Lease was Sold, but now no selling
'em, I must take all, & pay all, & gett them released of ye trouble, or they
must Sell, what would Sell, & endeavour to release themselves, thus things continued
ffor two year after my husbands death, ye Creditors more & more grumble &³⁷ 5
I was uneasy not to see my husbands debts pd, So resolved to do my own endeavours
but must first pay all ye Creditors or my Brothers dont think themselves
safe to resign, then I must
find ways to raise money, So were forced to sell what goods I cou'd best
spare, which was almost all my Silver plate, my best bed & hanging, 10

³⁴ Start of omission in *Austen Papers* (11), although RAAL partly summarizes. Start of *Memoranda & Family Letters* (123).

³⁵ The corner of Elizabeth's manuscript is missing, but the text found in RW's copy supports what follows—i.e., RW has “they will assign all the right they have by executors to my husband to me.”

³⁶ As with page 5, the right-hand margin is badly frayed, so again in some cases the text is taken from RW's wording.

³⁷ “grumble”—RW.

& borrowed money on bond & otherwise till I had pd most
of my husbands debts then my brothers were Satisfied to
make an assignment to me of all their right by ye executorship to my
husband, & by reason ye Will did direct if any overplus to come to me,
So now I have taken great trouble on my Self but with a good 15
design, So I hope God will prosper it accordingly, ffor by this assignment
I take ye remainder & oblige my Self to pay all my husbands debts as
ffar as ye executors are obliged to do.

The inventory of my husband amounted to ye value of	522 5 11	
Now what is Left as apprised then is to ye value of	182 12 10	20
So what is disposed off in ye inventory was apprised as ye remainder now Shews to ye value of	339 13 1	
my brothers give a fair account of what they have rec'd & how pd, both which I taken copies		
The account of what they rec'd is no more than	298 15 11	25
& ye other account of what pd is for debts & expenses	370 01 00	
So that my brothers are out of purse which I have repaid them ye sum of to ballance	71 05 11	

then I rec'd of them ye £10 promised by my
ffather towards ye ffuneral, & pd them £10 30
which I found they had false cast for I think
the sum £370-01-00 Should be £380-01-00 or I am wrong'd now
I find by these accounts my Brothers give
that what moneys they have rec'd is not to
the value of what they disposed off as aprised 35
if that part of ye inventory fall So short I doubt ye remaining
part more as may be tho't, if examined as its afixed to ye assignmnt.

Page 9

in my husbands Inventory no mention was made of ye Church Lease but 1
in ye assignment made to me it is mention'd as a Chattel,³⁸ & valued to me
as it might be apprised ye value of £150, I know when it was as we
tho't Sold, it was valued at more money which it may be worth, but

³⁸ Start of *Memoranda & Family Letters* (124).

I know it will be some trouble to me, & considering I borrow money
 on Interest for payment of my husbands debts I much desire to see it
 sold for I doubt ye Charges in renewing ye Lease, paying Rent, charge
 of repairs, & Loss by tennants & no tennants, with Taxes
 all these beside my trouble will make return So Small yt I fear I **should**³⁹
 save money out of it to pay ye Interest of what **is**⁴⁰ valued at
 now it must be as it is but Ile examine all particulars, how & what I have
 to pay debts with, & what debts appears to pay

My houshold Goods as the Schedule annexed to ye Assignment is

thus, in ye parlour &c apprired	6-06-0	
In ye hall &c	2-10-0	15
In ye Little parlour &c	4-19-0	
In ye brewhouse &c	8-15-0	
In ye Milk-house &c	3-7-6	
Small beer Cellar	0-13-0	
In ye mens Garrett	1-0-0	20
In ye kitchens &c	11-6-6	
In ye pantry &c	1-5-0	
In ye bake house &c	2-15-0	
In ye Wash-house &c	1-18-6	
In ye best drink Cellar	2-13-0	25
On ye Stair Case &c	3-10-0	
In ye best Chamber &c	36-11-0	
In ye Little parlour Chamber	17-0-0	
Hall Chamber	6-0-0	
Great parlour Chamber	18-4-0	30
In ye brewhouse Chamber	5-19-0	
18 dozen bottles 2-15-2 , ⁴¹ Wine Sery[?] 18s	3-13-0	
In ye Stable &c	4-0-0	
Silver plate 31-12-0, Linnen 29-4-10	60-16-10	

³⁹ “shan’t” –RW.

⁴⁰ “it is” –RW.

⁴¹ RW corrects this to “2-15-0.”

	203-02-4	35
ye Lease value at	150-0-0	
	353-02-4	

Page 10

now I have pd ye most if not all ye debts that appear to pay which were my deceased husbands which are these ⁴²		1
---	--	---

To Mr Fen	00 05 00	
To Cosen Geo: Lake	00 08 08	
To Mr Combs	00 08 04	5
To Sam: Button	34 10 00	
To Mr Streeter	03 07 00	
To Mrs Mapelsden ⁴³	00 10 00	
To Tho: Tourt	00 05 06	
To Peter Hobs	15 04 06	10
To ye heirs of J Willard ⁴⁴	00 17 00	
To Sam: Bridgland	05 14 00	
To Rich. Lockyer	01 07 00	
To Mr Bate	07 00 00	
To Geo. Worsly	06 09 00	15
To Mr. Sevenoke ⁴⁵	00 18 00	
To Bro: Robert	05 08 11	
To Bro: Stringer	61 05 11	
To Jo: Osborn	57 10 00	
	201 08 10	20
more to Bro. Stringer by a mistake in their accounts	10 00 00	

⁴² In the original manuscript the following list appears in two columns side by side, but I have made a continuous list for legibility.

⁴³ “Mapliden”?—RW.

⁴⁴ “John Willard”—RW.

⁴⁵ “Swinnock”—RW.

& by him pd to Will. Greybond	00 11 11	
& pd to Mrs Tayler	00 10 00	
& pd to Dct Groombridge	02 09 00	25
pd to Widdow Packam ⁴⁶	03 00 00	
repaid my bro: Stringer		
a ffee to Councillour Lake	01 01 06	
given a nother Fee	00 10 00	
given for a Coppy taken		30
out of ye Chapter book of		
ye Church of Rochester con-		
cerning my husbands Lease	00 10 00	
pd for charge of		
Indentures, Schedules, bonds		35
&c: concerning ye assignment		
& remainder granted to me	01 03 00	
a debt pd to Ro: Sammon	2 00 00	
& pd to Edward S phillips	0 08 00	
	22 03 05	40
	201 08 10	
	22 03 05	
So ye ffull of all debts & expenses now pd.	223 12 03	
ye ⁴⁷ Lease & houshold goods are valued to me at ye sum off	353 02 04	
what moneys I have pd is	223 12 03	45
so remains more in value	129 10 01	

now all ye Goods valued to me is a dead Stock I gaine nothing by it
but am enabled to continue houskeeping if I can keep ye Goods
but my paying So much ready money obliges me to borrow ye money
on Interest which Interest yearly pd makes ye expences greater 50

⁴⁶ "Packham"—RW.

⁴⁷ Start of *Memoranda & Family Letters* (125).

its true ye Church Lease Rents may amount to Satisfie some expenses
but I doubt not ye Interest of ye Moneys I have disbursed
so I am willing to Sell what household goods I can best spare to raise
moneys, that I may not borrow so much money as I have disburst.

pd another debt since to Dean ye Smith 0 9 3⁴⁸ 55

[Pages 11 and 12 missing]

Page 13

1708. 1

Thus I settled all matters with my Brothers, pd all my husbands
debts yt appear'd, & Liv'd at Broadford with my Children 4
years, after my husbands death. I managed all my affairs
to ye best of my Judgment, but my boys grew older, & my
care must be for their education, which is all I can do 5
for 'em, no Schools at Horsmonden, most of my ffriends
especially Bro: Holman advis'd me to go live in a Town, where I might have ye
opportunity of a good School for my Children, which I confess
was my husbands thots to me, before he dyed, & my ffather 10
Austen always Seem'd to like best off itt, & I will own was
my own inclination, but I cou'd not resolve what to do
till I cou'd see my household goods secure from Sale, &
my husbands debts all pd, which I thank God I hope I have
discharg'd, & what remains of my household goods is 15
my own, So yt I were willing now, only, to wait some
good opportunity, of removing to a Town with my dear
Children, which as they encrease in years hasten my removal
after many considerations, I found ye Maintenance for
my⁴⁹ Children So Small (ye Less by reason of Taxes, Scots etc) yt 20
I feard it wou'd not maintain them in a Town, where
house Rent, Schooling, & provision, wou'd be much more

⁴⁸ End of omission in *Austen Papers* (12).

⁴⁹ Start of *Memoranda & Family Letters* (126).

Charge to me than at Broadford, & every year encreases
ye charge of cloaths & pocket money, So yt I were in many
fears Lest I shou'd go beyond our maintenance. I tho't then 25
if I cou'd keep house in a Town to make some advantage, yt
might be a help in my houskeeping, as Boarders, or some
Such way, it might do well. I enquired, & advis'd with my
ffriends, of many places, but did not fix, till at Last I
heard ye School-house at Sen'nock, was to be Lett, to any that 30

Page 14

wou'd Board ye Master, & be oblig'd to Board boys, as 1
Soon as I heard of this, I confess I tho't it Seem'd very propper
ffor my curcumstances, So yt I made farther enquiry off
the matter, & advis'd with most of my ffriends, who Seem'd
to Like well off it, & tho't, if I wou'd take yt trouble of Boarding 5
boys, more then my own, I cou'd not do a better thing,
then I resolv'd to go, with my ffamily, to Sen'nock, & agreed
with ye Master, to outsett his Board, for ye Rent of ye house,
& gardens, & Something was agreed, to allow out of boys
board to ye Master, but it not answering, afterwards, he did 10
release me of yt promise my own boys Schooling with him
was to be gratis, which made me think my Rent ye easier,
& I were in hopes boarding other boys wou'd be Some advan-
tage, these considerations, with ye tho'ts of haveing my own
boys in ye house, with a good Master (as all represented him 15
to be) were ye inducements yt brought me to Sen'nock, for
it Seem'd to me, as if I cou'd not do a better thing for my
Childrens good, their education being my great care, & indeed
all I think, I were capable of doing for 'em, for I always
tho't if they had Learning, they might ye better Shift in ye 20
world, with yt small fortune was allotted 'em, I was also
in hopes, it might be an inducement for my Brothers, to
Let my eldest Son Live with me, as they pd for his board,
I tho't it might be a help in my houskeeping, which wou'd
have been a great kindess, my Brothers at first did seem 25
to say it might be so, but afterwards resolv'd to put him
to another place, which I confess I took unkindly of 'em,

yet I will be content, & hope it may be all for ye best,⁵⁰
after I resolv'd for Sen'nock, it was my great care to
Sell those Lease houses I enjoy'd at Goudhurst. I had renewed 30

Page 15

the Lease Michmas 1707, in hopes it might be ye better for 1
Sale, ye trouble, & Charge, I found in renewing ye Lease, was
much more, than formerly, by reason of some Strict examinations
more than usual, so yt I believe I had not renew'd, were it not
in hopes to Sell ye better, ffor I found ye repairs troublesome & 5
chargable, So yt I had Little remains, to pay ye Interest of ye
moneys I borrowed, these things with my going to Sen'nock
urged ye Sale, that I might not only be free from ye
trouble of ye houses, but have money to pay off my debts
which wou'd be a Satisfaction to me. Mr Paris at Last 10
did buy ye Lease of me, Michmas 1708, ffor £150, which
I think was worth more at yt time, by reason ye Lease
was so Lately renewed, & I had Laid out So much money
on repairs, but all knew I was earnest to Sell, So yt I
must take what I cou'd gett, it enabled me to pay off 15
all my debts, which made me ye more easy,⁵¹ So I moved
from Broadford to Sen'nock, June ye 27th, 1708 & ye
Michmas following Let ye Land with ye house viz:
Broadford, ffor £36 per annum, to Tho: Yorkton. I
much endeavour'd for £40, as I tho't it might be worth, 20
but cou'd not have So much, ye Lease was made as
brother Stringer agreed; I found ye Charge of moving
my goods & ffamily to Sen'nock very chargable,⁵² with other
expences in fixing & placeing my goods for my conveniency,
all provision grows very dear, So yt I find my houskeeping 25
wont afford me to board my Children So cheap, as when att
Broadford, & their expences for Cloaths &c encrease, with their
age, So yt I fear what I receive for my Childrens use wont

⁵⁰ Start of omission in *Austen Papers* (14).

⁵¹ End of omission in *Austen Papers* (14).

⁵² Start of *Memoranda & Family Letters* (127).

Page 16

wont answer ye Charge they are to me. I hope God will prosper my endeavours, that I may Spare a little, to help, if my Children want what is necessary for 'em. I take God to wittness that my removing to Sen'nock was in hopes to make it for my Childrens benefitt, & beg his assisting Grace in all our affairs, that we may enjoy ye conveniencys of this Life, but how'ere a Contented mind, in this Life, & ye enjoyment of eternal Bliss in heaven.—⁵³

I am willing to mention one thing yet forgotten, that is my Brothers are by my husbands Will, to inspect my accounts, ffor my Children every year, ye sd Will directs me to receive all that remaind for my Children's use, & with it educate, & bring up all my Sons, & one daughter, as ye sd Will directs, I did make up my accounts, & shew'd them to my Brothers, who perus'd them, & found no fault, only they Said, what Rents I rec'd, was Settled in Marriage for my Sons, my husband had no power to dispose of it, for his daughters maintenance I told them I tho't I did as ye Will directed me, but desired to know then, where She was to be maintained, they wou'd not determine yt, but Said ye Land was settled for ye Sons, & they Shou'd be accounted ffools, to sign yt account, ye Law wou'd not allow, I found then, if So, there was no maintenance for her, unless out of my Joynture, which they knew was bare enough for my Self, yet at my death it wou'd all be my Sons, then She might come to ye Parish, if ye Law wou'd allow no maintenance, out ye Land her ffather Left, all things considered, I told 'em I tho't I must do as my husbands will directed me, & if they wou'd not Sign ye account, I must run ye hasard [hazzard] of the Law, or my Childrens kindness hereafter,

[No more survives.]

⁵³ The rest of Elizabeth's manuscript is omitted in *Austen Papers* (14). RAAL concludes her account by selectively quoting from her account book (14–16).