

Inventory of Weston House in 1811 (TNA PROB 37/135; Langdon v Bartlett Testator or intestate: Stuckey, John of Weston House, Sidmouth, Branscombe, Devon, esq., 1810–1811)

Transcribed with the original spelling, capitalisation and punctuation (very little of the latter), saving only that long 's's are transcribed to modern forms. Uncertain words are queried [?], and unfamiliar words are glossed where possible. What is interesting about this inventory, is that the furnishings and other goods described are recognisably modern in character. Compared to a number of 17th century inventories that I have dealt with recently the furniture, household goods, kitchen utensils and the like are distinctly different and more modern in character. In the kitchen, for example, there is one bronze skillet, but no cauldrons a reflection of the fact that down hearth cooking was no more, but that skillets were retained for the preparation of certain foodstuffs (perhaps milk posset, or similar alcoholic beverages: see Blaylock 2015a, 302–03).

The approximate total of this valuation is £34,937. 6s. 6d., an enormous sum by early 19th century standards.

[fo. 1] In the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, Langdon against Bartlett.

A Declaration instead of a true and perfect Inventory of all and singular of the Goods, Chattels and Credits of John Stuckey, late of Weston House in the Parish of Branscombe in the County of Devon, Esq^r the party in this Cause deceased which since his Death have come to the hands possession or knowledge of Barnaby John Stuckey Bartlett Esquire Party in this Cause the sole executor named in the last Will and Testament of the said Deceased exhibited by virtue of the Corporal Oath of the said Barnaby John Stuckey Bartlett Esquire follows, to wit:

Imprimis This Exhibitant doth declare that there was found in the Deceased's aforesaid House in Branscombe at the time of his Death in Cash and Bank Notes the Sum of £491. 6. 4 or thereabouts.

Item This Exhibitant doth declare that the said Deceased was possessed of a quantity of Old Coins in his aforesaid House and the Exhibitant believes the the [*sic*] sum of £50 to be the utmost value thereof.

Item This Exhibitant doth declare that the said Deceased was at the time of his Death possessed of the following articles of Household Furniture Linen Wearing Apparel Glass China and Horses Carriages Harness and Utensils Implements of Husbandry and Farming Stock in and about his aforesaid Houses viz^t:

[fo. 2] Kitchen

A large Oak Table and Form One Salt Barrel and Cover one P^r Bellowes, One P^r Fire Dogs, two of Tongs and One Fire Pan, One large Iron Back, a D^o. Crane and two back Crooks, a small Jack and Chain. Five turned Chairs a small oak Table and a three Lap Fire Screen, a Brass Warming Pan and Gridiron, five Brass and four Iron Candlesticks, 1 Coffee Mill, one Candle Box and One Ironing Box, one Fowling Piece and one D^o. (no Lock) one Oak Chest and one small Table one flour Dredge one Pepper Castor and one Tea Canister, a Deal Dresser with Frame and four shelves, one tin Chocolate Pot, one Ditto Coffee Pot one Bread Basket, one Round Waiter, Two Cruets and one Stand, Seventeen Pewter Dishes and forty two Plates, one mahogany Knife Box one Brass Boiler, Two Copper Tea Kettles, one Crook and one Skillett, One Tin Saucepan one Copper Ditto, Two spits, one Colinder and two

Roasting Dogs Two Copper Fish Kettles and one Tin Ditto, One square Deal Table and one Meat Safe one Dutch Oven one Dripping Pan and one Wood Bowl One Roasting screen one Brass Skimmer and one Flesh Fork, Twenty four Knives and Forks and one Pair Carvers.

Little Hall

One Deal China Closet one Mahogany Chees Board one Ditto Wine Cooler (brass hoops) one Ditto Square Tray, one Wire Coal Sieve and two Japan'd Waiters Thirty six Wine Glasses, Four old Casks, [fo. 3] Image [patterned] Tea China, Eleven Cups, Ten saucers, one spoon Tray, one Tea Pot Cover and Stand, six Coffee Cups and one Milk Jug, Two China Bowls Eleven Red and White China Plates and two Fruit Ditto, one Dish Drain, Three Pickle Shells and one Funnell. One pr[?] Japan Tea Trays 23 In. by 14 In., two Plate Baskets and one Tea Urn, one Bed tick, a pair Feathers, Two Bolsters, Two Pillows, one Quilt and Three Blankets, one large rope, set Deal steps, one Chair, one Stone Jar, one Water Pot and one Copper Coal Box, Half Firkin White Lead, and three Walnut Frames, various Hemp Halters, one round Japan'd Waiter and Clothes Flask[? possibly = Flasket = Clothes Basket: Chinnery 2016, 119].

Little Sitting Room

A two lap Walnut Dining Table, steel fender, set fire irons, P^r Bellows and Brush, a painted Floor Cloth, Eight Walnut Leather Bottom Chairs, one 30 In. mock Register Grate, one Japan'd Tea Chest and China Bowls.

Breakfast Parlour

A Square Chimney Glass, (Walnut Frame) the Plate 51 by 13, one round Mahogany Pillar and Claw Table, one Two lap Mahogany Dining Table, one Ditto Walnut Ditto, one steel Fender, one set Fire Irons, Pr Bellows and one Brush, One 32 In. Bath Stove, five Mahogany Hair Bottom Chairs pines[?] Nails One Walnut Leather Bottom Chair, One round Mahogany Waiter, One Marble slab 4 f^t 1 by 2 f^t, 1 In. and two Iron Brackets, One Axminster [fo. 4] Carpet 11f^t by 9 f^t, Painting of John Stuckey Esquire in a Gold Frame, Ditto of his Father in Ditto, Ditto of his Brother in Ditto, Ditto of his in Ditto [*sic*], Ditto of his Grandfather in Ditto, Five old Decanters, Three Wine Glasses, one Chine Cup, one Milk Jug and sundry other Ware, a drawing of the Eagle ship in a burnished Gold Frame.

Drawing Room

One Square Mahogany Card Table, treble Leaf, one 7 foot Mahogany sofa with loose check covering and covered with Green Damask and seven large Elbow Chairs, one Axminster Floor Carpet 5 yards by 4 y^{ds}, one Pier Glass in Walnut Frame, Plate 5 foot by 1 f^t 8, one 34 In, Pantheon Stove and 1 Hearth Brush, one pr Green woven Window Curtains, four Engravings in black and Gold Frames, A Painting Sea Piece in burnished Frame, Three Gold Head Canes, one Deal Cradle and Pillows one Tea Urn and two China Cups, Twenty seven Pieces China.

Lobby and Staircase

Two Door Matts and Two Glass Lamps one 8 Day Clock in a Walnut Case.

Dining Parlour

One Persian Carpet 6¼ yds by 5 yds, one 6 ft. 6 In. Mahogany Side Board, one Japann'd Card Box, Six Mahogany Chairs Hair Bottoms, one two lap Mahogany Dining Table, one 3 ft. 6 In. Register Grate Brass Moulded one Fender to suit, Set Fire Irons and Brush, one pr Blue Woven Window Curtains, Four China Jars.

[fo. 5] Drawing Room Chamber

One Beach Post Bedstead with Cotton Furniture lin'd and one Pr Window Curtains lined and fringed, one Feather Bed Bolster and two Pillows, one Cranky Mattress, one Bed Carpet, Five Walnut Chairs and one Dressing Table, one Ditto Chest of Drawers, one Sea Piece of Painting in Gilt-Frame, one Brass Fire Pan and Fender, one Set Deal Steps, one Deal Box and Hair Trunk Two old Linen Window Curtains, one Wedding Sheet and Pillow Case.

Lumber Room

One Easy Chair and eight other odd chairs, Sundry Old Bedsteads, one Japan'd Table, one Pr Manchester Steps and sundry Curtains &c, one yellow silk Quilt, one Blunderbuss, Ten P[iece?]^s Paper Hanging, one Mahogany night table and two Ditto Wash Stands, one Bed Carpet, Twenty three China plates and 3 other Ditto, one Side model of a Ship of War in Gilt Frame.

Hall Chamber

One Japan table, lap Work Table, one Walnut Chest of Drawers, two Elbow Chairs, one other Ditto, one Dressing Table and one Ditto Glass, two oval Pier Glasses in Gilt Frames, Plates 21 by 15 In., one lofty Mahogany Post Bedstead with Chintz Furniture and window Curtain to suit-lined, one Feather Bed, Bolster and one Pillow, one Green Silk Quilt and one Cotton Ditto, one P^f blankets, one Mahogany Night Table, one Ditto Wash Stand with China Bason and Bottle, one Bed Carpet, Ten P^s China Jars and Beakers, one Hair Mattress, one Pier Glass in Walnut Frame 3 f^t 10 by 1 f^t 7, one Octagon Caddy, Twelve Engravings and Drawings, two Cotton [fo. 6] Counterpanes and one Quilt, one 3 f^t 3 Ins Mock Register Grate and Fender.

Bed Room

Three Large Pewter Dishes. one Mahogany Post Bedstead, Crimson Moreau [moiré] Furniture and One Curtain, Seven Engravings glazed black Frames, one old Pier Glass and one Piece Painting. two Pier Glasses Gilt Frames Plates 31 by 20, four Chairs and one Walnut Table, Two Bed Carpets one Bolster and three Pillows, one Engraving in Gilt Frame.

Passage

Four Engravings in Black Frames (glazed), one Painting of Mrs Stuckey's Mother in a Gilt Frame, two Fowling Pieces, one Bed Carpet, one Elbow Mahogany Chair to match Dining Parlour, one Hair Trunk and Deal Box and one Chair.

Mr Stuckey's Bed Room

Two Drawers of Linen, one Beech Hanging Press, one Walnut Dressing Table and Dressing Glass one Mahogany Night Table D^o: Pot Cupboard and Wash Stand and Mahogany Bureau, one old Chair, one Mahogany Post Bedstead, part Stripe Furniture and Hair Mattress.

Closet

Five China Bowls, one Ditto Bason and Bottle, one round blue and white China Tureen, one China Scent Pot with Lock, three Swords and one Brace Pistols

Green Bed Room or Breakfast Parlour Chamber

One Square Mahogany Wash Stand China Bason and Bottle, one round Walnut Night Table, Five Axminster Bed Carpets, one Bed Carpet and two small Pieces, one Mahogany Fire [fo. 7] Screen [inserted superscript: one Brass Fender, Pair Fire Dogs and Tongs one Chair one

Dressing Table and ditto Glass, one Mahogany Fire Screen] six pieces Painting Gilt Frames and one Engraving black Frame (glazed), one Tester Bedstead with Green Moreau Hangings and one D^o Curtains, one Pier Glass in Gilt Frame the Plate 34 by 20, one Wool Mattress, Feather Bed, Bolster and one Pillow. One Quilt and two Blankets, one Looking Glass 15½ yards 21 In. Stair Carpeting, 16 yds 4/4 Carpeting, Two Green Baize Carpet Coverings, Mahogany Bason Cupboard, one Deal Clothes Press (Head of Back Stairs).

Marys Bed Room

One Four Post Bedstead blue Furniture, One Quilt and two Blankets, one Feather Bed and Bolster, Two Chairs & Pier Glass.

Candle Chamber

Two Pewter Stands, one Soap Chest and Candle Box, Eight Feather Pillows, Nine Pieces Painting, one Trunk and two Boxes, Seven Chairs Seats covered with Green Damask.

Man Servant's Bed Room

Two Stump Bedsteads, Two Feather Beds and one Bolster, Two Chairs and two Chests, one Rug, one old Counterpane and one Blanket.

Yellow Attic

One Four Post Bedstead with Yellow Furniture, One Feather Bed and Bolster, Rug and two Blankets and two Winsor Chairs.

Passage in Attic

Three old Chairs and one Bridle, one Wainscot Bureau Bedstead and one Walnut Chest of Drawers.

Check Bed Room

One Bedstead Check Furniture, Feather Bed Bolsters and two Pillows One Spruce Chest and two Chairs and four Blankets.

[fo. 8] Green Bed Room

One old Bedstead Green Furniture, one Steel Fender and two Sets Fire Irons, Twelve Pewter Dishes and Twenty eight Plates, one Oak Chest and one Box.

Lumber Rooms

One old Bedstead, Twelve old Chairs, two Night Stools, one Writing Desk and three Boxes, one Pewter Bed Pan, one Side Saddle.

Drawing Room Cupboards

Five China Bowls and five Basons, two blue and white Tea Pots, Six handle Tea Cups, Five Saucers, one Cake Plate one Sugar Bason and Cover, sundry old china and Glass one pr Patent Snuffers with Silver Bows, one Cruet Stand. Seven Glasses (Silver Mounted), Twelve Silver Haft Table Knives and twelve Forks, Twelve Desert ditto and Twelve Forks, Twelve Ivory Haft Silver Ferril Table Knives and Forks, Three Shagreen Knife Cases.

Back Kitchen

One Beam, Scales and non Leadweights, one Chees Press and Lead Bed, one Seed lip [?], Seven Tubs and two Buckets, one Table, two Jebbs, Two Stools one old Cask and three Sieves, one Brass Kettle, one Iron Crook and one back Crook, one Pr Brand Irons and one

Frying Pan, one Fowling Piece, one Brass Hogshead Furnace, one Iron Bar, One Shovel and Pick Axe.

Back House Lumber Room

One Water Carriage and Cask, one Drag Chain and one Mill Ditto, Two Cider Pipers and Brewing Sieve one Iron Plate Warmer and sundry old Iron, one Handsaw and [fo. 9] three old Wheels, one Jeb and sundry Lumber, one Brick mould and one Hook.

Dairy

Six Brass Pans and one old Ditto, three Jeps and five Butter Crooks, one Pair Scales, one Cream Skimmer and three Cheese Vats, three Dry Casks two Oval T[r]undles one Salting Stand and Cover, one Tub one Jeb and Chopping Block.

Cellar

Seven Cider Hogsheads, one Tub one Funnell and one Barrel four Jeps.

Tool House

Three old Casks and one Tub, one old Brass Kettle and Wire Sieve one Iron Frame for Roler [?] and three Iron Casements, Iron Kettle, Pewter Bason X Cut Saw and a Bell Metal Mortar, one Grinding Stone, one Rake and Hoe one Cart Lifter.

Coach House

One Chariot with Harness for two Horses, one old Ditto Ditto one New Gate and one Drag Chain.

House adjoining

A Quantity of Sand and Freestone, four Doz. round Hoops, Two Chinese Gates, Two round Hales[?] two Pieces of Oak and one Piece of Ash.

Stable

Two Hackney Saddles and 2 Bridles, one Drag Chin, one Pick.

Lower House

Four Hogsheads Cyder and Casks, two Tubs, a Quantity of Brick and Rag Slate, Fifty five empty Hogsheads Four old Ditto Ditto, Three 12 f^t 3 and 2 4 f^t 3 In. Deals, Old Roasting Jack and Mill, Iron Back, one \Stone Jar [fo. 10] Three Oars and one Outrigger, Sundry Deal Boxes and other Board &c, Lambs Wool 450lb, Fleece Ditto 108lb, one ½ Hogshead and one Chair.

Pound House

One double Screw Cyder Press and Apple Engine, Two Tubs, one oak Jib, Two Hay Slides, String Harness for three Horses complete, Two under Horse Ditto, Three Pr Harnes and Ropes, Madam Mare six years, Jewel Ditto six years, Rock Horse sixteen Ditto, Smart D^o. 18 Ditto, Tarter Ditto, One Waggon, Two old Wheels, one Wheel Barrow, one Cart Rope and Harness Rakes, one Timber Crane and one Drag Past[?], Three Ladders, Six Sheep Troughs, one Dray, two Sulls, Two double Drafts and four Chains, one Pr Harrows, one Pr. Drags and one Roler, one Putt and wheels (Iron Axles), One M[ow? (illegible)] for Oats - 80 Bushels, one Ditto Wheat - sixty Bushels One Ditto Ditto Sixteen Bushels One Ditto Barley 20 Bushels, one Winnowing Fan and Stand, one Ditto Sheet, one old Cask, one Barn Rake one Barley Stamp and three Sieves, About Thirty Bushels of Oats in Barn. Seventy two Weather

and Ewe Hogs, Three Heifer yearlings, one Bay brood Mare with Foal, one two year old Mare Colt, one 1 year old Mare Colt, One one Ditto Horse Ditto, Thirty three two year Weathers, Four old and one Hog Ram, Part of a Rick of Hay in Stone Horse Field, Nine Hurdle Gates, Three Sheep Racks [fo. 11] Eighty five Ewes and Seventy four Lambs, Cherry Cow with Calf, Brown Ditto , Spark Ditto, Three two year old Heifers.

Broad Park

Part of Rick of Hay not prime, Ditto Ditto very bad.

Morris Park

Part of a Rick of Hay, Seven Hurdle Gates, four Ditto Ditto, Seven Pieces Ash, two Elms, one Oak, Seven Pieces Fir and four Pieces Cherry Wood, one Stone Roler, about five thousand Bricks, Wearing Apparel, Linen, Poultry, A Tea Service of China consisting of One Tea Pot Cover and Stand, Six Coffee Cups, Nine Tea Cups, Twelve Saucers, Two Bread and Butter Plates, and one Slop Bason in all Thirty Three Pieces marked with Mr Stuckey's arms, One Dinner Service of China consisting of One Soup Tourin Cover and Stand, two Sauce Ditto with Covers and Stands, Nineteen Octagon Dishes, Twenty four Dinner Plates, Twelve Desert Ditto, Two Pint Cups and one Quart Do. being Sixty Seven Pieces marked with arms.

Item this Exhibitant doth declare that all the aforementioned articles of Household Furniture Linen Wearing Apparel Glass China Horses Carriages Harness & Utensils and Implements of Husbandry and farming Stock were on or about the Sixth and Seventh Days of February One thousand eight hundred and ten valued and appraised by John Tooze the Younger of Honiton in the County of Devon Appraiser [fo. 12] and Auctioneer at the sum of £1281. - 18. - __. being as the Exhibitant believes the value thereof.

Item this Exhibitant doth declare that the said Deceased was at the time of his Death possessed of the following articles of Plate in his aforesaid House, Viz^t
Fifteen Table Spoons marked Crest and one Desert Spoon not marked, Twenty two old Fashion Table Spoons, Two Gravy Spoons Crest, Ten Tea and two Pap Spoons, Six Dinner Forks, six Childs Ditto and one other Ditto, one Marrow Spoon and two Pr Sugar Tongs, two P^r. Salts and one P^r. Spoons, Three Pepper and two Sugar Castors, Two Tea Canisters, one Tea Pot and Stand, P^r. Snuffers and Stand, one Dram Bottle, One ten In. Waiter, One ten In. Stand, one ten and a half In. Ditto, , Two eight and a quarter In. Ditto, One Seven and three quarter In. Ditto, One five In. Ditto, One Pair Candlesticks, one Ditto square bottom Ditto, One pair high Ditto, One small Ditto, One new Night Ditto and Extinguisher, One Ditto Ditto, Two Ditto Ditto, one half Pint Cup, One Tankard with Cover, One Ditto Ditto, Three Butter Boats, One Pap Dish, One Lamp, Five Broth Dishes, One Cream Jug, Two Tobacco Dishes, One Coffee Pot and Stand, One Ditto Ditto, One Snuffer Tray, One Ink Stand, ONE Bread Basket, One Fish Slice, One Punch Ladle.

Item this Exhibitant doth declare that the said articles of Plate were at the aforesaid [fo. 13] time valued and appraised by the said John Tooze the Younger at the sum of £191. 3. 5.

Item this Exhibitant doth declare that the said Deceased was also at the time of his Death possessed of the following articles of Plate, Jewelry &c in his aforesaid House which were omitted to be valued by the said John Tooze the Younger on the said Sixth and Seventh days of February One thousand eight hundred and ten but which were valued by him on the eighteenth of January last at the Sum of £44.- 8.- __, viz:

Four Silver and Gold Watches, one Silver Case of Instruments, one Case of Razors, one Horn and Silver Snuff Box, Two and a half Pair Gold Sleeve Buttons, Silver Scent Bottle, Gold Shirt Buckle, Two Silver Stock Buckles, One Pair Hose Ditto, One Pair Slive Ditto and one Shirt D^o all set in stone, One Pair Earrings and Necklace to suit, One Silver Snuff Box, Twenty eight Gold Rings (various), a Childs Coral set in Gold with a Chain, Twelve Silvee Tea Spoons and one pair Sugar Tongs.

~~Item This Exhibitant doth declare that the said articles of Plate [erased thus]~~

Item this Exhibitant doth declare that the said Deceased was at the time of his Death possessed of and entitled to a few articles of old Furniture in a House belonging to him situate at Compton in the County of Somerset and the Exhibitant [fo. 14] verily believes that the sum of £30 was the utmost value thereof.

[The remaining 13 folios of the inventory, ff 14–26, are filled with details of lands, property and debts owing to Stuckey, and are of lesser interest for present purposes than the inventory, they are summarised only, with the value assigned to them, hereafter; the listing does not name the mortgagees or debtors, perhaps because this is itself seen as a summary]

Two-thirds of the Manor of Branscombe, held of the Dean and Chapter on a twenty-one year lease dated 29th March 1800	£9000
Lower House Estate, Branscombe, held of the Dean and Chapter on a twenty-one year lease dated 20th July 1804	£1050
Wood House Estate, Branscombe, held of the Dean and Chapter on a twenty-one year lease dated 20th July 1804	£682
Northern Edge Estate, Branscombe, held of the Dean and Chapter on a twenty-one year lease dated 20th July 1804	£210
Hole Meadow, Branscombe, held of the Dean and Chapter on a twenty-one year lease dated 20th July 1804	£84
Dawes Estate, Branscombe, held of the Dean and Chapter on a twenty-one year lease dated 11th November 1806	£345
Five-twelfths of Lands and Premises known as Pool Lands at Branscombe, held of the Dean and Chapter on a twenty-one year lease dated 8th January 1807	£143-15-00
Mortgage of 23rd May 1807	£4000
Interest due on the above mortgage	£150
Mortgage of 2nd September 1807	£2000
Interest due on the above mortgage	£106
Mortgage of 2nd November 1781	£2691
Interest due on the above mortgage	£148-6-1¾
Bond of 26th August 1795	£200
Interest due on the above bond	£3-9-9
Bond of 7th September 1798	£700
Interest due on the above bond	£12-3-4¾
Bond of 26th September 1806	£950
Interest due on the above bond	£46-7-7¾
Bond of 4th April 1789	£200
Interest due on the above bond	£7-6-8¼
Bond of 15th December 1789	£100
Interest due on the above bond	£4-10-6

