

The estate of John Wingate Jefferay Saul

Bona Vacantia reference BV962243/1 · died Southend-on-Sea, 27 March 1996 · TIME-BARRED — demonstration only

Conclusion: TIME-BARRED — no claim by anyone is now possible. Demonstration of method only.

HD Genealogy & Technology · 20 August 2026 · claim bar fell 27 March 2026 — expired

Published openly as a demonstration case file: the estate is extinguished and cannot be claimed.

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 as a worked demonstration of 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 case has been removed from the Crown's own published list — checked against the current edition, which still carries 5,478 live cases including seventeen still-live references from later 1996 deaths, so the absence is a removal, not a misread.³ No section 27 notice inviting claimants stands in The Gazette under this reference either.⁴

A live case file is a trade secret. An extinguished one is a specimen — it can show the whole of the method, 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.

Two professional observations attach to that row. First, these 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. Second, the date and place of birth were **removed from the live published list in January 2026** and survive only in archived editions such as the one cited here.

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, which is precisely why a demonstration file was worth writing on an estate this bare: when the instruments are finally put to it, the coincidence problem that dominates common-name work will barely exist.

A WILL EXISTED — AND NOBODY PROVED IT

On **2 July 1997**, some fifteen months after his death, a grant issued at London under probate number 9751103048 — and its type is the whole story: **letters of administration with will annexed**, the form of grant made when a will exists but no executor takes probate.²

So there was a will — made by a bachelor of eighty-nine, which usually means deliberately chosen beneficiaries rather than an assumed family. Yet no executor proved it, and the estate still ended on the unclaimed list. That can happen in several honest ways: the gifts may have lapsed because the beneficiaries died before him, the residue may never have been disposed of, or the people the will named may never have been traced. **The index row does not say which of these happened, and this file does not guess.**

The match between the grant and the case rests on surname, forename and the exact date of death. On a name this rare that basis is strong — but the document behind the index row was not read in this review, so the basis is stated and identity beyond it is not asserted.

WHERE THE WILL WOULD SLOT IN

The digital copy of the grant and the will behind it costs **£1.50** — the cheapest document in the whole method, and on this case the single most valuable one. It would name the executor who never acted, name every beneficiary an eighty-nine-year-old bachelor chose, and state the gross and net estate values. A copy is queued for purchase in this practice's order basket, and when it arrives its contents will slot into this section — the file gains names and loses most of its open points.

THE LADDER, UNTOUCHED — AN HONEST ZERO

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 was searched at all**, and this file says so rather than dressing silence as findings:

- Spouse — the list asserts *bachelor*;¹ asserted only, never tested against the marriage indexes.
- Issue — not searched.
- Parents — not searched (born 1906: both long dead in fact, but recorded here as not-searched, not assumed).
- Brothers and sisters of the whole blood, and their issue — not searched.
- Brothers and sisters of the half blood, and their issue — not searched.
- Grandparents — not searched.
- Uncles and aunts of the whole and half blood, and their issue — not searched.

"Not searched" is not a nil. A nil is a search that ran and returned nothing, carrying a control proving the instrument was answering. This file contains exactly two controlled nils — the Gazette notice⁴ and the case's absence from the live list³ — 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.

This review ran without a browser and bought nothing, which closed most instruments to it: FreeBMD's terms forbid programmatic access, and the GRO index sits behind an account. Those boundaries are stated as boundaries — each search that could not be run lawfully or practically is recorded below as open and priced, because a named pending step is honest and a silently skipped one is not.

WHAT REMAINS OPEN, AND WHAT IT WOULD COST

— **The will and grant** — £1.50, digital order. Names the executor and beneficiaries, states the estate values, and settles how a testate estate ended bona vacantia. First step, and queued.

— **Birth verification** — the list asserts 11 July 1906, Southend-on-Sea. A birth-index lookup is free and minutes of work at a screen; it was not run here because this review ran without a browser and FreeBMD's terms forbid automated access. On a surname this rare the lookup would likely also surface the whole sibling group in the same district — the beginning of the ladder.

— **The death-index join** — post-1969 death entries carry the registered date of birth, so his 1996 entry would tie the asserted birth date to the death on a single instrument. Free at a screen; not run here, for the same reason.

— **The kinship ladder itself** — every class above, worked to evidence. On this estate the work was never needed: the bar fell first. The Schofield file shows what it looks like when it is.

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, and every negative either carries its control or is recorded as not-searched. The honesty is the product — the file is deliberately sold empty of conclusions and full of method.

Please check it. Every reference below is to a public record or a public list that any reader can open 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** — this file demonstrates method, and nothing else.

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 SAUL, John Wingate Jefferay. Unclaimed estate register entry, case BV962243/1, in the archived edition of 8 January 2022. Publication category Historic. Government Legal Department, Bona Vacantia Division. Accessed 20 August 2026. [Archived pre-strip edition of the Unclaimed Estates List, held locally (dev/corpora/bvd-archive/UnclaimedEstatesList_20220108.csv), read 20 August 2026. Row gives date of death 27 March 1996, Southend-on-Sea, Essex; marital status bachelor; date of birth 11 July 1906; place of birth Southend-on-Sea. Every other column — maiden name, spouse, aliases, marriage, nationality, kin or other details, informant, executors — is empty. Date and place of birth were removed from the live published list in January 2026 and survive in archived editions such as this one. Asserted facts from the Crown's own derivative list, not verified against any register in this review].
- 2 SAUL, John Wingate Jefferay. Grant of letters of administration with will annexed indexed, granted 02 July 1997. London. Probate number 9751103048; date of death on the index row 27 March 1996. HM Courts & Tribunals Service. Find a Will. probatesearch.service.gov.uk : accessed 09 August 2026. [Index row only, read in the free digital search results; the grant and the will behind it were not purchased or opened in this review, so this is an index reference and not the document. Matched to the case on surname, forename and exact date of death — a strong basis on a surname this rare, but stated as the full extent of the identification. ADMON/WILL is the form of grant made when a will exists but no executor proves it].
- 3 Presence sought on the live unclaimed estates list, reference BV962243/1. England and Wales. 0 rows in the edition of 20 August 2026; the same edition carries 5,478 live cases and 17 still-live BV96-prefix references from later 1996 deaths. Government Legal Department, Bona Vacantia Division. Accessed 20 August 2026. [Local copies, dev/corpora/bvd-live/ — the case is also absent from the earliest live edition held, 4 August 2026. CONTROL: the era-references leg carries the weight here — no Saul row of any kind appears on the live list, consistent with the surname's rarity, so same-surname presence is not available as a second leg; the 17 same-era BV96 references and the 5,478-row read establish the instrument was answering, and the absence is a removal, not a failure to read].
- 4 S.27 Trustee Act unclaimed-estate notice sought, reference BV962243/1. The Gazette. www.thegazette.co.uk : accessed 20 August 2026. [Explicit zero — the feed states its count rather than falling silent. CONTROL, same session: a known reference (BV22004337/1) returns exactly one notice, Derek Nigel Southgate, and a fabricated reference returns an explicit zero, so the instrument was answering in both directions. Scoped to this reference only: the reference scheme has changed over time and a notice may exist under a superseded form].