

THE WILL OF WILLIAM CROOKALL  
OF BISPHAM.

*By J. Paul Rylands, F.S.A.*

THIS document, which is a contemporary copy of the original will, written on vellum, has been given to the Liverpool Free Library by Mr. Norman Penney, F.S.A. It has at one time served as the cover of a book, and consequently it is mutilated and some parts are illegible. On the back, besides two names of later date, "Benjamin Bispham," and "Wilson Marriott, Kendal," there is the endorsement: "Test' Will'mi Crokoe nuper de Bispham def' probat' apud Garstang ix<sup>o</sup> die mens's Januarii Anno Dni 1603."

In the name of God Amen the three and twentieth daye of Septembr. Ano. Dni. 1603 I Will'm Crokoe [Crookall] of War[breck in] the parishe of Bispham in the Countie of Lancaster beinge visited w'th Gods visitac'on but perfecte in memorye [thanked] be God do make this my last Will & Testam't in manner & forme folowinge Firste and principallie I commende my [soul] into thands of Almightye God my Saviour & Redeemer and my Bodie after Deathe to Xpiane buriall Itm I do geve & [bequeath] to Thomas Crokoe my sonne all my Landes and hereditam'tes w'th thappurtenances scituate lyng & beinge in W[arbreck?] in the saide Countie of Lancaster To have & to houlde the saide Landes & ten'tes to him the saide Thomas C[rokoe] his heires & assignes for Ever accordinge to the Tenure in certayne Conveyaunces heretofore granted from William Fletewoode Esquire to mee the saide

Will'm Crokoe & my heires Itm I do geve and bequeath to my said sonne Thomas...my parte of all suche moveable goodes & Chattels which I the said Will'm Crokoe shall die possessed of or oth'rwyse be ow[ing] to mee by any person or persons Conditionally that he the said Thomas Crokoe shall & will well & truelye, not onlye.....satisfie & paye all suche Legaces geven & bequeathed to any person or persons by this my last Will & Testam't, But also [he] the said Thomas Crokoe shall receyve & take all the filiall & Childs parte of goods w'ch shalbe due and apperteyninge [to] Jenett & Margaret Crokoe my twoe daughters by this my last Will & Testam't. And after the saide Thomas shall re[ceive] and take aswell my parte of the saide moveable goodes & Chattels, as also the said filiall parte & porcones due vnto [the said] Jenett & Margaret as aforesaide Then my will & mynde is That the saide Thomas Crokoe shall & will well & truly make vpp contente & paye to the said Jenett & Margrett & eych of them w'th their said filiall porcons the full somme of For[ty] pounds of lawfull money of Englande to be paid to the saide Jenett & Margrett or eyth'r of them at such tyme [or] tymes as they or eyth'r of them shalbe p'ferred or advanced in Mariage or oth'rwyse accomlishe their lawful yeares And likewise my Mynde & Will is that my said sonne Thomas shall kepe the said Jenett & Margrett wth meate drinke lodginge & apparell meete & conveniente for their degrees untill suche tyme as they & eyther of them shall come to lawfull yeares or otherwise be p'ferred in Mariage They the saide Jenett & Margrett workinge & labouringe in the necessarye busynes of the saide Thomas, And alsoe my will & mynde is and I geue to the said Jenett & Margrett one payre of sheetes three Coverlettes one Boulster, And that the said Thomas shall permitt & suffer the saide Jennett & Margrett to have one Chambr in the Southside of the Weste ende of my howse vntill suche tyme as they bothe shalbe p'ferred in [marria]ge Itm. I doe geue to the saide Jenett & Margrett eyth'r of them Fortie shillings to buye eyth'r of them A peticote . . . . . beside the said somme of . . . . . poundes . . . . . wise geven &.....ed.

Itm. I doe geue to Alice my daughter fortie shillings to buye her A Cote And to Margaret [the . . .] daughter of Awarde Singleton Twentie shillings to be geven to her vse the yeare next ensuinge af[ter George] Windresse shall have his mariage porc'on paid to him Itm I do geue to Elizabeth the wieffe of [the said George] Windresse Twentie

shillings to be paide one year after the saide George shall be paide his said [mariage porcion] Itm. I do geue to everie Brothers and Sisters childe vi<sup>d</sup> a peece Itm. I doe geue to my godchi[l<sup>d</sup>ren . . . .] Itm. I appointe Ellen my wiefte and Thomas my sonne executours of this my last Will & Testam't [to perform the] same accordinge to the true intente and meaninge thereof Itm. I request Roberte Crokoe my broth[er . . . to be] overseers to see the same duely performed These being Recordes, Will'm Dobson, John Anion, and John W[ ] .

Debtes Awinge to mee

Imp's Rob'te Silcocke of Poulton for Maulte.....xx<sup>s</sup>

Itm Richarde Smythson & John Smythson for.....

It'm. John Harison of Little Carleton.....xv<sup>s</sup>

Debtes which I owe

Imp's George Windresse remayninge for his marriage

porcon as appearethe by specialtie.....xiii "

Itm. Rob'te Crokoe my brother.....v<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> [?]

The following wills are also of some local interest :

#### A LIVERPOOL MARINER'S WILL.

Four wills proved on 3rd February, 1558-9 are entered one after the other in a register book at Somerset House. The first is that of William Lynse, one of the gunners of the ship *Mynyon*, who asks his executors to receive the wills of Nicholas Bray and John Tarse. Then follows Bray's will, given below, which shows that he was a Liverpool man, and the act book states that it was made at sea on the same ship, and no doubt at the same time, though it is undated. Tarse's will comes next, and it is added that he died on 13th July; he made Bray his executor. The fourth will is that of Philip Maisteron, "minstrel" in the *Mynyon*; he names a brother who lived in Basingstoke.

Now the 13th July, 1558, was the date of the battle of Gravelines, and there can be no doubt

that all four men had been killed in the battle or died of their wounds. The *Minion* seems to have been the warship built in 1523, and rebuilt in 1536, which was given in the time of Edward VI. to Sir Thomas Seymour.<sup>1</sup> On 22nd January, 1557-8, the Privy Council ordered the Mayor of Plymouth to detain the *Minion* and other ships till the Queen's pleasure should be signified,<sup>2</sup> and thus it became a warship once more.

In the summer of 1558, to quote Froude,<sup>3</sup> "England had again a fleet upon the seas which feared no enemy and could even act on the offensive . . . Lord Clinton, who was now admiral in the place of Howard, after an ineffectual cruise in the south of the Channel, returned to Portsmouth on the 8th of July. A few vessels remained in the neighbourhood of Calais," and took their share in the battle of Gravelines, when the Spaniards under Count Egmont cut in between the French force, which had just captured and plundered Dunkirk, and their own frontiers. The French

"had no means of passing, except at low water, between the town of Gravelines and the sea; and the English ships, which were in communication with Egmont, stood in as near as they could venture, so as to command the sands. De Thermes [the French commander], obliged to advance where the tide would permit him, dashed at the dangerous passage; the guns of Gravelines on one side, the guns of the English vessels on the other, tore his ranks to pieces, and Egmont charging when their confusion was at its worst the French were almost annihilated."

The news of Nicholas Bray's death would reach Liverpool about the beginning of August, perhaps a few days earlier. Misfortunes never come

<sup>1</sup> Clowes, *Royal Navy*, i., 420.

<sup>2</sup> *Acts of Privy Council*, vi., 247. It will be noticed that Bray's wages began on 27th January.

<sup>3</sup> *History*, vi., 518.

alone. In that month the plague broke out in Liverpool, and "on 10 August there died a child of Nicholas Braye's at the Pole House, the new house that Robert Corbet made." According to Mr. Twemlow, this was the first building erected on the further side of the Town's End bridge.<sup>1</sup> "At the death of which said Braye's child was great murmur and noise that the plague should be brought in to that house by an Irish man (one John Hughes) coming sickly from Manchester."

The will reads as follows :

(P.C.C. 33 Welles)

In the name of God Amen. I Nicholas Braye being in faythfull memorye and good reason . . . bequeth my sowle unto Almighty God and my bodie to his will and pleasure . . . My wif Elizabeth Bray, dwelling in Letherpole, shalbe myn executrix to receyve all suche parcels and duties as belongith unto me by the handes of William Lynse. The said William also to receive of the Captayne and owners by the auctorytie of this my will and to make particyon of yt as hereafter folowithe. My wages is xx<sup>s</sup> the monethe frome the xxvijth of January unto this presente tyme ; and also John Tasye [blank] is deseuyed,<sup>2</sup> also [blank]. I have also ; his wages was xiiijs the moneth, begynnynge the said daye with me and departed the xiiijth daye of July. Also I have solde to the master gonner Thomas Rypyn John Tase's share of the price, being payde unto already. I give unto Henry Bougare v<sup>s</sup>. I give John White v<sup>s</sup>, to Richard Pryce v<sup>s</sup>, to John Graye v<sup>s</sup>, to Jasper v<sup>s</sup>, to Lawrence Peterson xiijs iiij<sup>d</sup>, vjs in part of payment, the rest gifte. I give unto William Lynse for taking chardge of this my will, both receyved of the captayne and owners and depart yt according to my will bothe to my wif and to my frendes xl<sup>s</sup>. I have the somme of xl<sup>s</sup> weight of golde which I desyre the saide William to delyver unto my wif. I have given me by Henrye Stevenson's will a payre of sadde blake breches and ij shirtes and a handkerchere, whiche the said Henrye lefte to kepe in Henrye Mylner's house in Leverpole, as apperith by a bill of his hande at our makinge of his will, with witnes John Busshoppe and John Cockes. Fraunces George oweth me for my share of

<sup>1</sup> J. A. Twemlow, *Liverpool Town Books*, i., 104.

<sup>2</sup> *Sic*, for deceased.

the prise, as doth appere by a bill indented of eyther partie to other, the somme of xxxv<sup>s</sup> . . . I will also you William Lynse, for charytie and discharging of your sowle and myne, to see well to John Tase's will and myne; fulfill yt accordinge to your promyse made to me afore God. Mr. gonner Thomas Ripen witness hereof, Roger Dyvere, Jaspar Vynkye, Henry Bugare.

Proved 3 Feb. 1558-9 by the widow's proctor.

The *Minion* was in Elizabeth's reign placed at the disposal of the Merchant Adventurers to Guinea, the Queen receiving a third of the profits.<sup>1</sup> In 1569 the famous Captain John Hawkyns announced to Cecil that he had arrived at Mounts Bay with the *Minion*, which alone was left of all their fleet.<sup>2</sup>

#### JOHN MOLYNEUX, OF LIVERPOOL.

The following is an abstract of the will and inventory of John Molyneux, of Liverpool, merchant, dated 17 November, 10 William III. (1698), he being then "sick and weak of body, but of good and perfect memory."<sup>3</sup> After bequeathing his soul into the hands of God and his body to be decently buried, he disposed of his temporal estate as follows:

The marriage settlement made at his marriage with his then wife Elizabeth was to be performed. The wife was to have the furniture of his best room.

The children of his brother Richard Mollineux who are unmarried are to have £10 apiece as they attain 21 years or are married. To Hannah Nickholles, daughter to his sister Bridgett, £150, and to the rest of his said sister's children as are unmarried £40 each, to be paid at their several marriages. To every one of the children of his brother Thomas Mollineux £20 apiece at their several marriages.

<sup>1</sup> See *Cal. S. P. Dom. Eliz.*, 1547-80, pp. 215, 247.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 329.

<sup>3</sup> The will is in the Chester Probate Registry. A short note of it is given in Mr. Peet's *Liverpool in the Time of Queen Anne*, p. 150.

To Richard Holt<sup>1</sup> during his continuance as a preaching minister in this town £6 a year. To the preaching minister at Toxteth Park for the time being, till testator's son John should come of age, 20s. a year.

To James Gourdon, son of James Gourdon, mariner, one eighth part of the ship *Elizabeth*, now on a foreign voyage.

To testator's son John his third part of her cargo and also a fourth part of the ship called the *Liverpoole Merchant*, with her tackle and furniture and a fourth part of her cargo; also his three-eighths of the ship *Larke*; also his half part of the ship *Plainter* and the half part of her cargo. To the said John the house testator was then living in, with its appurtenances, during his term therein; also all the furniture and plate there (except as given above and excepting the plate which belonged to his wife before marriage or had been given to her since by any relative, all of which he bequeathed to his said wife). To his son John also his fourth part of the ship *Amity*, with her tackle and furniture and a fourth part of her cargo; also all his debts whether due by bond or otherwise and all goods and chattels and personal estate not already bequeathed; the son to pay all his debts and defray the charges of funeral and probate.

To Mr. Christopher Richardson the yearly sum of 50s., to be paid him half-yearly during his life.

To the said son John all his remainder of the said ship *Elizabeth*, being seven-sixteenths, and seven-sixteenths of her cargo.

Executors: his son John, John Pemberton the elder, merchant, and Daniel Danvers, merchant.

Overseers: Mr. Pemberton the younger and Mr. John Hopkin, who are to receive £10 a piece.

To the said Richard Holt a further sum of £10, and to the next preaching minister that shall succeed Mr. Holt, and his successors the yearly sum of £6 so long as the executors shall think meet and convenient.

(sd.) JNO. MOLYNEUX.

Witnesses: John Tarleton  
Peter Summers  
Jo<sup>a</sup>. Plumbe

Proved by John Pemberton and Daniel Danvers, two of the executors (with reservation for John

<sup>1</sup> Minister till his death in 1718 at Castle Hey Nonconformist Chapel, now represented by Ullet Road Unitarian Chapel. The testator was no doubt a Nonconformist.

Molyneux, son of the deceased), 5 April 1699, before Thomas Wainwright.

9 February 1704(-5) the said John Molyneux the son made oath, etc., before Arth. Fogge.

The armorial seal attached to the will appears to have been borrowed. It shows in the 1st and 4th quarters three roundels between bendlets, in the 2nd quarter three mullets on a bend, and in the 3rd quarter a chevron between three charges not now distinguishable.

With the will is the inventory, taken 1 March, 1698-9. In the following abstract of it all the rooms described in the complete document are mentioned, but only a few items of the contents are printed except in those marked with an asterisk, which are given in full. The whole affords a good idea of the size and furnishing of a wealthy merchant's house in the Liverpool of 1698.

In the garret No. 1 :					
2 bedsteads, &c. ....	....	....	....	....	14 18 0
In the garret No. 2 :					
2 bedsteads, &c.....	....	....	....	....	10 2 0
In the garret No. 3 :					
2 saddles, &c. ....	....	....	....	....	£5 10 0
At the head of the stairs, 1 piece of painting : history ....	....	....	....	....	0 12 0
					<hr/> 6 2 0
Rooms of the 2nd storey.					
No. 4 :					
Bedstead, &c. ....	....	....	....	....	11 0 0
Grate, clothes press, &c., and toys ....	....	....	....	....	3 5 0
					<hr/> 14 5 0
Room No. 5 :					
Bedsteads, &c. ....	....	....	....	....	15 0 0
Chest for linen, one saile skin trunk, &c. ....	....	....	....	....	1 10 0
A green backstool and 1 grate....	....	....	....	....	0 7 0
					<hr/> 16 17 0

Closet within No. 5 :

9 baskets, 4 pewter candlesticks, &c. .... 4 0 0

\*Brown Chamber :

Bedstead and furniture, feather  
bed, bolster, 1 down pillow,  
3 blankets and 1 calico  
quilt, hanging of the room 28 0 0  
12 cane chairs, 1 walnut tree  
table, 2 stands and 1 looking  
glass, 1 chest of drawers, 1  
dressing glass and a box .... 13 0 0  
1 piece painting over chimney  
and toys, grate, fender, fire-  
shovel and tongs, 6 window  
curtains and rods .... 3 19 0  

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44 19 0

Blue Chamber :

Bedstead, &c. .... 30 5 0  
Hangings, &c. .... 9 10 0  
Walnut tree chest of drawers, 2  
powder and 2 patch boxes,  
&c. .... 9 0 0  
1 picture for chimney piece, &c. 4 10 0  

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53 5 0

Mr. Molyneux' Chamber :

1 bedstead, &c. .... 24 0 0  
6 backstools, &c. .... 9 0 0  
1 pr. bellows, &c. .... 2 16 0  

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35 16 0

Closet within :

Library of books of several sorts, hanging of  
baize, 2 trunks and 1 box .... 21 10 0

\*In Madame Molyneux' Chamber :

Sundry goods left her by will :  
A bedstead, curtains, "vallyons"  
and bases of silk damask and  
case, curtains, feather bed,  
bolster, quilt and 3 blankets 60 0 0  
6 chairs and one easy chair same  
of the bed .... 17 10 0  
5 pieces damask hangings and  
curtains, and "vallyance"  
for doors .... 14 10 0  
A cradle quilted with damask  
and furniture .... 6 10 0  
A side saddle of velvet and bridle 8 0 0

A dressing box inlaid with mother-of-pearl .....	1 0 0
1 small japan trunk, 6 curtains and rods for the windows	2 5 0
1 japan cabinet upon a carved gilt frame .....	20 0 0
A fila green Table, stands, and looking glass .....	8 0 0
An Indian japan Tea-table and dressing glass, 2 powder boxes, 2 patch boxes, 2 brushes and 1 pincushion, all black japann .....	4 0 0
2 pieces paints with gilt frames of " fruteradge " and flowers	2 0 0
A stove, grate, fire shovel, tongs, bellows, fender, 2 pieces looking glass. Over the chimney one picture and carved frame, dutch screen	11 10 0
Walnut-tree chest of drawers and stand, 2 tabarets .....	3 15 0
	<hr/> 159 0 0
Plate in Madame Molyneux' room :	
2 porringers, 2 tumblers, 1 jug, 2 cups, 1 candlestick, 2 spoons, 1 basin, and 1 tea pot : qt. 107 oz. 7 dwt. at 5s. per oz. ....	26 16 9
Dining room :	
Tapestry, pictures, &c. ....	28 0 0
Chairs, &c. ....	7 0 0
Walnut oval table, &c. ....	11 0 0
	<hr/> 46 0 0
Mrs. Hannah's chamber :	
Bedstead, &c. ....	9 0 0
Cabinet, &c. ....	10 0 0
Closet in same :	
Hangings, &c. ....	3 0 0
	<hr/> 22 0 0
Par'or below :	
Chairs, tables, fire-irons, &c. ....	8 10 0
Passage below :	
Napkin press, 2 case of pistols, &c.....	4 14 0
Kitchen (long list including) :	
Clock, chocolate mill .....	30 8 0

Back Kitchen :

2 boilers, &c. ....	5	11	6
In the yard or backside ....	25	0	0
In the Plate case, plate :			
2 tankards, &c. ....	64	13	6
Wearing apparel ....	55	2	0
Dwelling-house ....	400	0	0
Garden in John Street ....	20	0	0
Two horses &c. ....	12	15	0
Transport money due from the king for sundry ships ....	600	0	0
Debts and goods beyond the seas	100	0	0
Debts owing at home and abroad	4338	5	6
Cash or money remaining ....	696	9	10
Deals unsold ....	43	0	0
	<hr/>		
	6210	10	4

\*Ships at home and beyond the Sea :

<i>Loyalty</i> , one-third of ship and cargo outwards ....	660	0	0
<i>Planter</i> , half of ship and cargo outwards ....	585	0	0
<i>Amity</i> fourth of ship and cargo outwards ....	386	0	0
<i>Elizabeth</i> , seven-sixteenths of ship and cargo ....	650	0	0
<i>Liverpool Merchant</i> , fourth of ship and cargo ....	650	0	0
<i>Hawk</i> , half of ship and cargo....	315	0	0
<i>Lark</i> , fourth of ship ....	41	0	0
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	3287	0	0

\*Sundry goods unsold :

Tobacco of the <i>Amity's</i> cargo to ship off : 5898 lbs. at 4½d. ....	110	11	9
Of ditto, tobacco to sell in the country : 13,422 lbs. at 8½d. ....	475	7	3
<i>Lyon's</i> tobacco, to ship off : 3,300 lbs. at 4½d. ....	61	17	6
More to sell in the country : 14,470 lbs. at 8½d. ....	512	9	7
<i>Lamb's</i> tobacco, to ship off : 22,477 lbs. at 4½d. ....	421	8	7½
Ditto tobacco, more to sell in the country : 7,807 lbs. at 8½d. ....	276	9	11½
<i>Society's</i> tobacco to ship off : 3,957 lbs. at 5½d. ....	90	13	7½

<i>Concord's</i> tobacco to ship off :			
14,900 lbs. at 4½d. ....	279	7	6
More to sell in the country :			
10,973 lbs. at 8½d. ....	388	12	6½
Bulk tobacco unsold at his death,			
but since sold for ....	190	0	0
Raisins of the <i>Sam</i> and <i>Malago</i>	100	0	0
Ginger, black and white ....	6	0	0
Indigo, 3 pr. hand screws, sieves,			
and tobacco cask ....	5	0	0
Goods for Virginia not sent, and			
calve-skins ....	126	0	0
Exchequer notes....	930	0	0
			3973 18 4
One-third part of <i>Loyalty's</i> cargo from Norway	100	0	0
			£14240 18 5
Debts more, owing in the country			1000 0 0
			£15240 18 5

JOHN FRANKLAND.  
JOHN COCKSHUTT.