



THE MOLYNEUX COMMUNION FLAGON

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THE WILL OF MRS. ANN MOLYNEUX,  
WITH THREE CODICILS

*By Henry Peet, M.A., F.S.A.*

Read 25th February 1915

MRS. ANN MOLYNEUX was a widow at the time she made her will.<sup>1</sup> No mention is made therein of her husband, but a son, Richard, who predeceased her, is incidentally referred to. Her will is dated the 19th of January 1727-8, and it is probable she was then well advanced in years, but who she was and whence she came remains a mystery. At the end of the seventeenth and in the early years of the eighteenth century there were several branches of the Molyneux family living within easy distance of Liverpool. There was Molyneux of Sefton, who removed to Croxteth about 1702; Molyneux of Mosborough Hall, near St. Helens; Molyneux of Alt Grange, Ince Blundell; Molyneux of Formby; Molyneux of Bold; Molyneux of Netherton; and Molyneux of Much Woolton. Some members of the Molyneux family, described as "of the North End,"<sup>2</sup> in Ince Blundell, are commemorated on a stone in the south

<sup>1</sup> The original is at the Probate Registry, Chester.

<sup>2</sup> "1707, July 23. My wife rid behind me to the Grange, but Mrs. Molineux not being at home we went to the North End, but neither Richard nor his wife were at home." See *Blundell's Diary*.

aisle of Sefton Church, which is not entirely legible owing to its partial concealment by a staircase.

Nicholas Blundell of Crosby Hall in his "Diary,"<sup>1</sup> which comprises the period 1702 to the 4th of April 1728, refers frequently to the various families of Molyneux, with whom he was on most neighbourly terms. He also speaks of a "Mr. Richard Molineux, the saylor,"<sup>2</sup> of a "Mr. John Molineux," and of a "Mrs. Molineux of the New Hall."<sup>3</sup> Possibly the husband of Mrs. Ann Molyneux may have been a "Mr. Molineux of Liverpool, the grocer."<sup>4</sup> There is some slight connection in the phrase (which occurs in the will), "James Bold, formerly my son Richard's apprentice," taken in conjunction with the two following entries in the "Diary":—"1704, April 3. I was at the Race on Crosby Marsh between Mr. Harrington's mare and a horse of Mr. Molineux of Liverpool"; "1722, October 10. I bowled at Crosby with Amory [this name occurs several times in the will], John Blansherd, &c. I drank with apothecary Parr, Mr. Molineux of Liverpool, the groser, &c."

The Registers at Sefton Church have been carefully searched from 1650 to 1729, but there is no record of the marriage of Mrs. Ann Molyneux. It is stated in Horley's *Sefton*, p. 108, that during the Civil War and until the Restoration, there were marriages solemnised by the dispossessed Rector of Sefton at Everton Beacon Tower. No trace of these has been found.

It is possible that the "Widow Ann Molyneux" living in Lancelots Hey, Liverpool, in 1708, and referred to in the "Assessment"<sup>5</sup> of that year,

<sup>1</sup> *Blundell's Diary*, 1702-1728, edited by the Rev. T. Ellison Gibson (1895).

<sup>2</sup> 20th March 1720.

<sup>3</sup> 9th April 1723. The New Hall was in Carr Lane, West Derby.

<sup>4</sup> See *Blundell's Diary*, 9th April 1723 and 18th October 1721.

<sup>5</sup> See *Liverpool in the Reign of Queen Anne* (Peet), 1908, p. 67.

may be the lady in question, but no particulars are given by which her identity can be established, or that of the family with which she was connected. This "*Widow Ann Molyneux*" could not, of course, be the wife of "Mr. Molineux, the groser," as the latter was living in 1721.

Mrs. Molyneux was buried at Sefton on the 18th of March 1728-9, and her will was proved in the Consistory Court at Chester on the 8th of May 1729.

### THE WILL

In the name of God, Amen. I Anne Molyneux of Leverpoole in the county of Lancaster Wid[ow] being weak of body but of sound and perfect mind and memory prais'd be Almighty God for the same, do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following (that is to say) First and principally I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God hoping thro the merits death and passion of my Saviour Jesus Christ to have full and free pardon and forgiveness of all my sins and to inherit everlasting life. And my body I coñit to the earth to be decently buried at the discretion of my Executors hereafter mentioned and as touching the disposal of such temporal estate as it hath pleased God to bestow upon me I give devise and dispose of the same as follows. *Imprimis* I will that all mylawfull debts funeral charge and probate of this my Will [and] Testament shall be first pay'd and discharged *Item* I do hereby give devise and bequeath unto the Mayor of the Burrough of Leverpoole afforesaid and to his successors for the time being And to the Rectors of the Parish Church of St. Peter and Parochial Chappel of St. Nicholas in Leverpoole afforesaid and to their successors for the time being the summ of two hundred pounds lawfull money of Great Brittain to and for the use and benefit of poor prisoners for debt (or otherwise) in the goal or prison in and for the said Burrough of Leverpoole And it is my will and mind that the said Mayor and Rectors and their successors for the time being do place the said summ of two hundred pounds out at interest (upon land<sup>1</sup> security if such may be had) and dispose of the said interest yearly for and towards the maintenance of the said prisoners in the said goal or prison of Lever-

<sup>1</sup> For a plan of the five fields purchased with the money left to the Mayor and Rectors of Liverpool, and for details of the "Molyneux Charity," see *Liverpool Vestry Books* (edited by Henry Peet), vol. ii. pp. civ-cix. See also the Act 9 Geo. IV, cap. 39.

poole *Item* I do hereby give devise and bequeath unto the Church Wardens of the Parish Church of Sefton in the County of Lancaster and to their successors for the time being the summ of fifty two pounds lawfull money as afores<sup>d</sup> to be put out at interest by them (upon land security if such may be had) and the interest thereof to be laid out in penny loaves of bread (provided in the Parish of Sefton if they may conveniently be had) at the discretion of the said Church Wardens and their successors for the time being And the same loaves I do hereby direct to be distributed by equal shares on every Sunday to and amongst the poor of the Townships of Sefton, Netherton and Lunt (all being in the said Parish of Sefton) as the said Church Wardens and their successors for the time being shall think fit to appoint *Item* I do hereby give and bequeath unto the said Rector[s] of the said Parish Church and Parochial Chappel of St. Nicholas in Leverpoole aforesaid and their successors for the time being the summ of three hundred pounds lawfull money And I do hereby will and devise that the said Rectors and their successors for the time being do place the said summ of three hundred pounds out at interest (upon land<sup>1</sup> security if such may be had) and dispose of the said interest yearly to [and] amongst poor old sailors and sailors widdows inhabiting in Leverpoole aforesaid especially to those of them that [dwell]<sup>2</sup> in the Almshouses and in such manner and proportion as the said Rectors and their successors for the time being shall think fit to appoint *Item* I do hereby give and bequeath unto the Trustees in and for the Charity Schoole in Leverpoole aforesaid and for the use and benefit of the said Schoole the summ of sixty pounds lawfull money *Item* I do hereby give devise and bequeath unto my Executors hereafter named the summ of forty pounds lawfull money to be laid out in a Silver Flaggon<sup>3</sup> and I do hereby will and devise that my said Executors do give and present the said Silver Flaggon to the Church Wardens of the said Parish Church and Parochial Chappel of St. Nicholas aforesaid and their successors for the time being for the use and service of the Communion Table of the said Parochial Chappel of St. Nicholas and for the service [of] God there *Item* I do hereby give devise and bequeath unto my said Executors the summ of forty pounds lawfull money to be laid out in such pieces of Silver Plate for the use

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<sup>1</sup> See *Liverpool Vestry Books*, vol. ii. pp. civ-cix.

<sup>2</sup> Original defaced.

<sup>3</sup> For an illustration of this Communion Flagon, see p. 7, and for an account of its loss and subsequent recovery after 164 years, see *Liverpool Vestry Books* (edited by Henry Peet), vol. ii. pp. 503-4.

of the Parish Church of Sefton<sup>1</sup> aforesaid as shall be wanting or necessary at the Communion Service there And I hereby will and devise that my said Executors do present and give the same unto the Church Wardens of the said Parish Church and their successors for the time being for the use of the said Church and the service of God there And the rest residue and remainder of the said sum of forty pounds after such plate is bought as aforesaid I will and devise that my said Executors lay out the same in beautifying the Communion Table<sup>2</sup> of the said Parish Church and the places adjacent to the same according to the discretion of my said Executors *Item* I do hereby give devise and bequeath unto the Rector of Sefton aforesaid and to the Master of the Free Schoole off (*sic*) and in Great Crosbie in the said Parish of Sefton and their successors for the time being the sum of ten pounds lawfull money which said sum of ten pounds I doe hereby devise may be put out at interest upon land security (if such may conveniently be had) by the said Rector and Schoole Master and their successors for the time being And the said interest I will that they shall lay out yearly in Church Catechisms and other good books which shall be distributed yearly to and amongst the poor children that shall come to the said schoole at the discretion of the said Rector and Schoole Master and their successors for the time being *Item* I give devise and bequeath unto the Minister of West Derby Chappel in the county of Lancaster and to the School Master of the Free Schoole of and in West Derby aforesaid and their successors for the time being the sum of ten pounds lawfull money which said sum of ten pounds I do hereby devise may be put or placed out upon interest (on land security if such may conveniently be had) by the said Minister and Schoole Master and their successors for [the] time being and the said interest I will that they shall lay out yearly in Church Catechisms and other good books which shall be distributed yearly to and amongst the poor children that shall come to the said schoole of West Derby at the discretion of the said Minister and Schoole Master and their successors for the time being *Item* I doe hereby give devise and bequeath unto M<sup>r</sup> Richard Carter of Blacklow in the county [of] Lancaster, gent and to his wife each the sum of one pound one shilling lawfull

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<sup>1</sup> Amongst the Communion Plate now at Sefton Church is a plain, flat-bottomed silver cup, 10 inches in height, with nearly upright sides. It was made by Benjamin Branker, of Liverpool, and has his initials (B.B.) stamped on, with the following engraved inscription, "The Gift of Mrs. Ann Molyneux to the Parish Church of Sephton, 1729."

<sup>2</sup> The oak Reredos designed in the classical Jacobean style, now in Sefton Church, was purchased with the residue of Mrs. Ann Molyneux's bequest.

money to buy 'em each a gol[d ring]<sup>1</sup> *Item* I do hereby give devise and bequeath unto M<sup>r</sup> John Smarley, attorney-at-law in Leverpoole aforesaid the sum of five shillings la[w]ful money as aforesaid *Item* I do hereby give devise and bequeath unto the two Rectors of the Parish Church and the Parochial Chappel in Leverpoole aforesaid and to both their Curats and also to the Curat at Sefton Church aforesaid and to M<sup>rs</sup> Christian Sharples of Eccleston each the sum of one pound one shilling lawfull money to buy each of 'em a gold ring *Item* I give and bequeath unto Madam Tyrer wife of Alderman George Tyrer the sum of ten pounds lawfull money *Item* I give and bequeath to Doctor Dickens of this town the sum of two pound two shillings to buy him a gold ring and to John and William sons of M<sup>r</sup> Ralph Williamson each the sum of one pound one shilling *Item* I give and bequeath unto William, Richard and Elizabeth sons and daughter of Richard Dickinson, watch-maker, and to John son of David Almond, mariner, each the sum of five pounds lawfull money *Item* I give and bequeath unto M<sup>rs</sup> Margaret Barrow, wid[ow] of M<sup>r</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Barrow, apoth[ecary] the sum of five pounds lawfull money besides the four pounds I formerly lent to her (as by her note appears) which note I hereby will my Executors to cancel and make void *Item* I do hereby give and bequeath unto Thomas Amory formerly grocer the sum of two pounds ten shillings and to Alice the daughter of James Gregson late of West Derby dec<sup>d</sup> (which daughter is now living) the sum of five pounds and also to the children of John Gore, mariner, I give the sum of ten pounds towards their maintenance and bringing up and to Mary Beesley and to Franck Hartley and to Ann Walsh the sum of ten shillings a piece all of lawfull money *Item* I give to Rebecca Boulton, wid[ow] the sum of two pounds *Item* I give and bequeath unto William Tarleton of Oral, yeaman,<sup>2</sup> and to Thomas Pert, mariner, and to John Wright, taylor, and to John son of John Christian, mariner, dec<sup>d</sup>, and to William Neal and to M<sup>rs</sup> Bold mother of James Bold formerly my son Rich<sup>ds</sup> apprentice the sum of five pounds apiece lawfull money *Item* I do hereby give and bequeath unto M<sup>rs</sup> Amelia Stubbs, wid[ow] and to Elizabeth Rose in Hackens hey and to Thomas Harrison, Clerk at Sefton, and to Thomas Barnett and to Jacob Stringer and to Wid[ow] Fleetwood, glazier, and to the wid[ow] of M<sup>r</sup> Richard late of Sefton and to Ellen wife of William Oldham and to Cathrine Brown, wid[ow] the sum of one pound (lawfull money) apiece *Item* I give devise and bequeath unto M<sup>r</sup> John Pemberton, sen<sup>r</sup>, merchant, the sum of five pounds

<sup>1</sup> Original damaged. Enough remains to enable the words to be supplied with certainty.

<sup>2</sup> Orrel, yeoman.

lawful money in trust nevertheless to and for the use of John Hamblet son of Thomas Hamblet, mariner, dec<sup>d</sup> for and towards his maintenance and education And I will and devise that the said M<sup>r</sup> John Pemberton dispose of the said sum of five pounds as he shall think most proper for and towards the maintenance and education of the said John Hamblet *Item* I give and bequeath to George Bradley of Melling and to his eldest son each the sum of ten shillings lawfull money and to the wid[ow] of David Almond aforesaid the sum of five pounds and to my godson John Letherland the sum of one pound and to Ellen Simner ten shillings all of like lawfull money *Item* I give to Robert Whittle my scruton<sup>1</sup> in the parlor *Item* It is my will and mind and I do hereby give and bequeath unto my Executors hereafter mentioned the sum of four hundred pounds lawfull money in trust nevertheless that my said Executors and the survivor of them and the executors or administrators of such survivor sho'd dispose of the same four hundred pounds and the interest thereof in and for the maintenance education and preferment of Samuel Amory reputed son of Thomas Amory aforesaid by Margaret his wife formerly Margaret Ireland now deceased untill such time as he the said Samuel Amory shall attain to the age of twenty one years and then I do hereby will and devise that my said executors pay the said sum of four hundred pounds or such part thereof as shall be then remaining and not expended unto the said Samuel Amory his executors or administrators But in case the said Samuel Amory shall happen to die before he attain to the age of twenty one years without lawfull issue then it is my will and mind that one moiety or half part of the said four hundred pounds or so much thereof as shall be then unexpended and not laid out be expended or distributed among the poor of Leverpoole in such manner and form as my Executors shall think fit and as to the other half part thereof I give and bequeath the same to my Executors or such of them as shall be then living to divide amongst or betwixt them share and share alike *Item* I do hereby give devise and bequeath unto the said Samuel Amory all that my messuage and tenement scituate lying and being in Jack Lane in West Derby with its appurtenances with all my right title term and interest therein and thereto *Item* I give and bequeath to my Executors hereafter named the sum of forty pounds in trust nevertheless that they dispose of the said sum of forty pounds in putting out poor boys apprentice according to their discretions only I will that they may be children of sailors *Item* In case any of the money which I have now out at interest or the debts due and owing to me shall happen to be lost or to become not recoverable by my Executors hereafter named it is my will and

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<sup>1</sup> Scrutoir, or escritoir.

mind that such sum or sums of money so lost or not recoverable as afforesaid shall be made up and deducted out of the respective legacies before bequeathed unto or for the use and benefit of the prisoners for debt or otherwise in the goal or prison in and for the Burrough of Leverpoole and also out of that before bequeathed unto or to be disposed of amongst poor old sailors and sailors widdows inhabiting in Leverpool aforesaid (equally betwixt them share and share alike) anything to the contrary before mentioned notwithstanding except or unless the s<sup>d</sup> sum or sums collectively or altogether so lost as afforesaid shall happen not to exceed the summ of fifteen pounds then and in such case it is my will and mind the s<sup>d</sup> sum or sums (not exceeding fifteen pounds as affores<sup>d</sup>) shall be deducted or paid by my Executors out of the legacy left to them hereunder Lastly I do hereby nominate constitute and appoint M<sup>r</sup> Ralph Williamson merchant in Leverpoole and Robert Whittle in the same town schoolmaster to be Executors of this my last Will and Testament to whom I give the residue of my estate real and personal debts credits and money whatsoever (to be equally shared betwixt them) in case I shall not before my decease make some further disposal of them in the same paper or sheet And I do hereby disanul revoke and make void all former Wills and Testaments whatsoever by me heretofore made In witness whereof I the said Ann Mollineux have hereunto set my hand and seal this nineteenth day of January in the year of our Lord God one thousand seven hundred and twenty seven [1727-8].

ANN MOLYNEUX

Seal<sup>1</sup>

Published and declared to be the last Will and Testament of the said Ann Mollineux and signed and sealed by her we having subscribed our names as witnesses in presence of Testator the words *so lost as afforesaid, not*, also three cross<sup>es</sup> out and several razes being first noticed by us

Dorothy Abram.  
Margaret Griffis.  
Eliner Sumner.

## 1ST CODICIL

Meñ. this thirty-first day of Aug<sup>st</sup> Anno Dom. 1728 I Ann Mollineux make the following additions to my above written Will (that is to say) First I give to Elisa Smith Wid[ow] of Doct<sup>r</sup> Smith the sum of ten pounds and to John son of David Almonds the sum of five pounds more than I left him before

<sup>1</sup> Seal broken. This and the other seals are not decipherable.

and to Thomas Barnett's wife one pound and to Jas. Bennett one pound and I hereby make void and null Jacob Stringer's legacy of one pound and I give to the servant that happens to live w<sup>th</sup> me at my death five pound and I do hereby make void and null the legacy of fifty two pounds before given to the Church Wardens of the Parish Church of Sefton having already paid them the said sum myself Witness my hand the day and year above written and also my seal.

ANN MOLYNEUX

Seal.

Witness present with the Testator  
John Segar.  
Mary Segar.

## 2nd CODICIL

Memorandum this second day of October Anno Domini 1728 I Ann Mollineux afforesaid do make the following alterations and additions in and to my above written Will whereunto this codic<sup>l</sup> is annexed or joyn'd That is to say Whereas I had in my above Will left or gave to the children of John Goore mariner the sum of ten pounds and to John Wright taylor I also had given the sum of five pounds I do hereby disanull and make void both those legacys And also I had thereby bequeathed to the presant maid that happen'd to live with me at my death the sum of five pounds I hereby make void that legacy *Item* I do hereby give and bequeath unto the wid[ow] of Doctor Rich<sup>d</sup> Smith the sum of eight pounds more than I had before left to her also to the wid[ow] of David Almond mariner dec<sup>d</sup> the sum of five pounds more And I wo'd have the sum of seven pounds given to the poor at Sefton immediately after my burial there according to the discretion of my executors Witness my hand the day and year next above written

ANN MOLYNEUX her × mark.

Witness present with the Testatrix when she published seal'd and signed the above also the word (those) was first interlined in presence of us

Mary Segar.  
Wm Oldham.

## 3rd CODICIL

Meñ. this tenth day of October Anno Domini 1728 I Ann Mollineux of Leverpoole affores<sup>d</sup> do make these further additions and alterations to my above written Will Whereas I had

therein given to Ellen the wife of William Oldham the sum of one pound I do hereby disanull and make void that said legacy and do give the same to James Lygo's children equally to be shar'd amongst them and to Tho<sup>s</sup> Barnet I give the sum of one pound and to M<sup>rs</sup> Almond wid[ow] I give the sum of five pounds more than I had left her before As witness my hand the day and year next above written

ANN MOLYNEUX her × mark.

Witness present w<sup>th</sup> the Testatrix when she sign'd seal'd published and declared the above the razour at five pounds to Mrs Almond being first made in presence of us

Ann Whithead.

Mary Segar.