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° 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 Warbreck in the parish 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 lyinge & 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[roko]e 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 anye 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 filial & Childs parte of goods w'ch shalbe due and apperteyning [to] Jenett & Margarett 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 & Margarett as aforesaide Then my will & mynde is That the saide Thomas Crokoe shall & will well & trulye, not onlye........satisfie & 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 Englane to be paid to the said Jenett & Margrett or eyth’r of them at such tym[e] or tymes as they or eyth’r of them shalbe p’ferred or advaunced in Mariage or oth’rwyse accomplishe 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 & conventiente for their degrees untill suche tym[e] 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 necessarie busynes of the saide Thomas, And alsoe my will & mynde is and I geue to the said Jenett & Margrett one payre of sheeetes three Coverlettes one Boulster, And that the said Thomas shall permitt & suffer the saide Jennett & Margrett to have one Chamb'r in the Southside of the Weste ende of my howse vntill suche tym[e] as they bothe shalbe p’ferred in [marriage]e Itm. I doe geue to the said Jenett & Margrett eyth’r of them Fortie shillinges to buye eyth’r of them A peticote besides the said somme of .. .. pounds wise geven &............ed. Itm. I doe geue to Alice my daughter fortie shillinges to buye her A Cote And to Margarett [the . . .] daughter of Awarde Singleton Twentie shillinges to be geven to her vse the yeare next ensuing a[fter George] Windresse shall have his mariage porc’on paide to him Itm I do geue to Elizabeth the wief[e] of [the said George] Windresse Twentie
shillinges 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 d a peece Itm. I doe geue to my godchi[ldren . . . .] Itm. I appointe Ellen my wieffe 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 Records, Will’m Dobson, John Anion, and John W[ . . . . ].

Debtes Awinge to mee
Imp’s Rob’t Silcocke of Poulton for Maulte.................xxs
Itm Richard Smythson & John Smythson for.....................
It’m. John Harison of Little Carleton......................xvs
Debtes which I owe
Imp’s George Windresse remayninge for his marriage
porcon as appeareth by specialtie..................xiii ll
Itm. Rob’t Crokoe my brother..............................vs viiid [?] 

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 Maisterson, “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. 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, and thus it became a warship once more.

In the summer of 1558, to quote Froude, "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

1 Clowes, Royal Navy, i., 420.
2 Acts of Privy Council, vi., 247. It will be noticed that Bray's wages began on 27th January.
3 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.¹

“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 faythful memorye and good reason . . . bequeth my sowle unto Almightye 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 receave of the Captayne and owners by the auctorytie of this my will and to make particyon of yt as hereafter folowithe. My wages is xxš the monethe frome the xxvijth of January unto this presente tyme ; and also John Tasye [blank] is deseyved,² also [blank]. I have also ; his wages was xiiijš the moneth, begynnynge the said daye with me and departed the xijth daye of July. Also I have solde to the master gonnei Thomas Rypyn John Tase’s share of the price, being payde unto already. I give unto Henry Bougare vš. I give John White vš, to Richard Pryce vš, to John Graye vš, to Jasper vš, to Lawrence Peterson xiiijš jiijd, viš 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 xiš. I have the somme of xiš 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 Busschoppe and John Cockes. Fraunces George oweth me for my share of

¹ J. A. Twemlow, Liverpool Town Books, i., 104.
² Sic, for deceased.
the prise, as doth appere by a bill indented of eyther partie
to other, the somme of xxxv\textsuperscript{5} . . . I will also you
William Lynse, for charytie and dischardgine of your sole
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 \textit{Minion} was in Elizabeth's reign placed
at the disposal of the Merchant Adventurers to
Guinea, the Queen receiving a third of the
profits.\textsuperscript{1} In 1569 the famous Captain John
Hawkyns announced to Cecil that he had arrived
at Mounts Bay with the \textit{Minion}, which alone was
left of all their fleet.\textsuperscript{2}

\textbf{JOHN MOLYNEUX, OF LIVERPOOL.}

The following is an abstract of the will and
inventory of John Molyneux, of Liverpool, mer­
chant, dated 17 November, 10 William III.
(1698), he being then "sick and weak of body,
but of good and perfect memory."\textsuperscript{3} 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.

\textsuperscript{1} See \textit{Cal. S. P. Dom. Eliz.}, 1547-80, pp. 215, 247.
\textsuperscript{2} Ibid., 329.
\textsuperscript{3} The will is in the Chester Probate Registry. A short note of it
is given in Mr. Peet's \textit{Liverpool in the Time of Queen Anne}, p. 150.
To Richard Holt 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 Liverpool 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. Plumbe

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

1 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.
Some Lancashire Wills.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room Details</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In the garret No. 1: 2 bedsteads, &amp;c.</td>
<td>£14.18.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the garret No. 2: 2 bedsteads, &amp;c.</td>
<td>£10.2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the garret No. 3: 2 saddles, &amp;c. At the head of the stairs, 1 piece of painting: history</td>
<td>£5.10.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rooms of the 2nd storey.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. 4: Bedstead, &amp;c.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grate, clothes press, &amp;c., and toys</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room No. 5: Bedsteads, &amp;c. Chest for linen, one saile skin trunk, &amp;c. A green backstool and 1 grate.</th>
<th>£15.0.0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£1.10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£0.7.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| | £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

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

Mr. Molyneux' Chamber:
1 bedstead, &c. ... ... ... 24 0 0
6 backstools, &c. ... ... ... 9 0 0
1 pr. bellows, &c. ... ... ... 2 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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A dressing box inlaid with mother-of-pearl</td>
<td>1 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 small japan trunk, 6 curtains and rods for the windows</td>
<td>2 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 japan cabinet upon a carved gilt frame</td>
<td>20 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A fila green Table, stands, and looking glass</td>
<td>8 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Indian japan Tea-table and dressing glass, 2 powder boxes, 2 patch boxes, 2</td>
<td>4 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>brushes and 1 pincushion, all black japann</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pieces paints with gilt frames of &quot;fruteradge&quot; and flowers</td>
<td>2 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A stove, grate, fire shovel, tongs, bellows, fender, 2 pieces looking glass.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over the chimney one picture and carved frame, dutch screen</td>
<td>11 10 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walnut-tree chest of drawers and stand, 2 tabaretts</td>
<td>3 15 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Mrs. Hannah’s chamber:
- Bedstead, &c.  9 0 0
- Cabinet, &c.  10 0 0

Closet in same:
- Hangings, &c.  3 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. .............................................. 5116
- 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
- Total ....................................................... 6210 10 4

*Ships at home and beyond the Sea:
- Loyalty, one-third of ship and cargo outwards .......... 660 0 0
- Planter, half of ship and cargo outwards ................ 585 0 0
- Amity, fourth of ship and cargo outwards ............... 386 0 0
- Elizabeth, seven-sixteenths of ship and cargo .......... 650 0 0
- Liverpool Merchant, fourth of ship and cargo ........... 650 0 0
- Hawk, half of ship and cargo ................................ 315 0 0
- Lark, fourth of ship ...................................... 41 0 0
- Total ......................................................... 3287 0 0

*Sundry goods unsold:
- Tobacco of the Amity’s 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
- Lyon’s 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
- Lamb’s 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
- Society’s tobacco to ship off: 3,957 lbs. at 5½d. ........... 90 13 7½
**Concord's 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 Sam and Malaga:**
- 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

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**One-third part of Loyalty's cargo from Norway:**
- 100 0 0

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**£14240 18 5**

**Debts more, owing in the country:**
- 1000 0 0

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**£15240 18 5**

**JOHN FRANKLAND.**

**JOHN COCKSHUTT.**