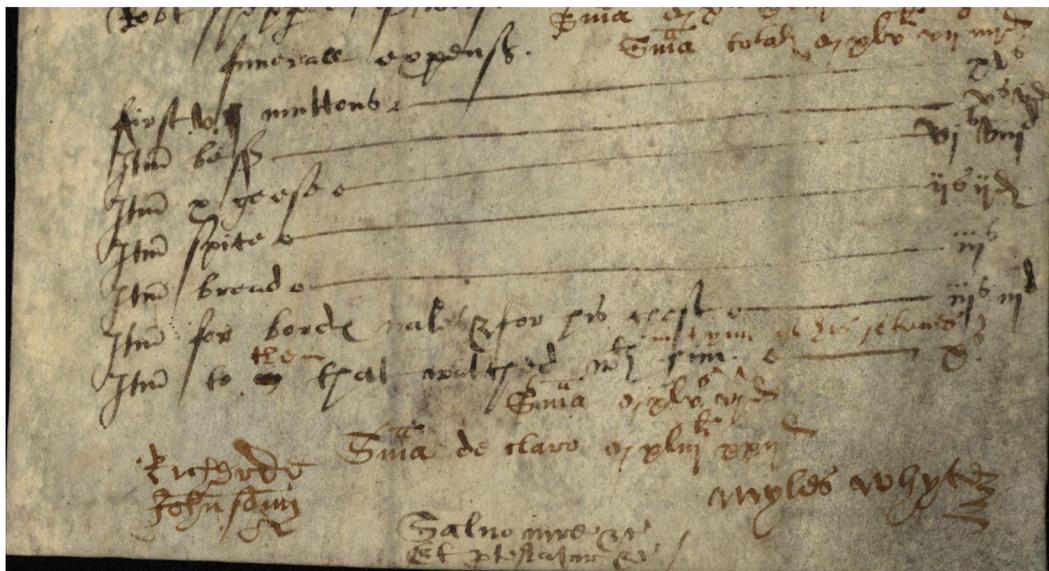




## Death, Dying and Disposal

### Inventory of Robert Crawforth, curate of Whitworth

We can go some way to reconstructing the menu of Crawforth's arval dinner or funeral feast in the summer of 1583 as the inventory contains among the list of funeral expenses six muttuns, beef, ten geese, spice and bread. It appears to have been a temperate affair – no mention of beer or wine. Also included are the 3s 3d paid for boards and nails for his coffin, and 10s paid 'to them that watched with him in tyme of his sekenes'. On the reverse is an unusually full itemised list of the 9s 8d in fees charged by the probate court, and which include payments to the Spiritual Chancellor of Durham, the Registrar, the Apparitor – an officer who summoned people to court – and, to a clerk of the judge of the court that day, 2d 'for wax'. The officials of the bishop of Durham could earn very substantial sums from their offices and their positions were highly prized.



Durham Probate Records DPRI/1/1583/C10/2

#### funerall expenses

first v [5] muttuns

Item beff

Item x [10] geese

Item spice

xv<sup>s</sup>

v<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup>

vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup>

ii<sup>s</sup> ii<sup>d</sup>

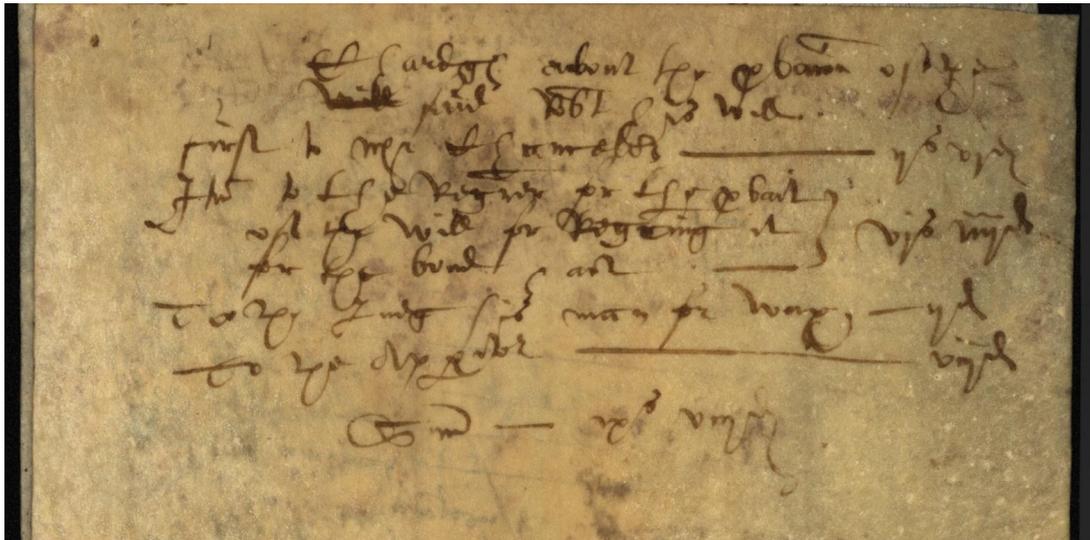
Item bread	iii <sup>s</sup>
Item for bordes nales & for his chest	iii <sup>s</sup> iii <sup>d</sup>
Item to <them> that watched with him <in tyme of his sekenes>	x <sup>s</sup>

Summa xlv<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup>

Summa de claro xliii<sup>li</sup> xxii<sup>d</sup>

Richerde Johnsonn

Myles Whyte  
Salvo iure &c.  
et protestatur &c.



Durham Probate Records DPRI/1/1583/C10/2v

Charges about the probacion of the said Robert his will	
first to Mr Chancelor	ii <sup>s</sup> vi <sup>d</sup>
Item to the Register for the probait of the will for Registering it for the bond & act	vi <sup>s</sup> iiiii <sup>d</sup>
To the Judg his man for wax	ii <sup>d</sup>
To the Apparitor	viii <sup>d</sup>
Summa	ix <sup>s</sup> viiii <sup>d</sup>

**Glossary:**

*apparitor*

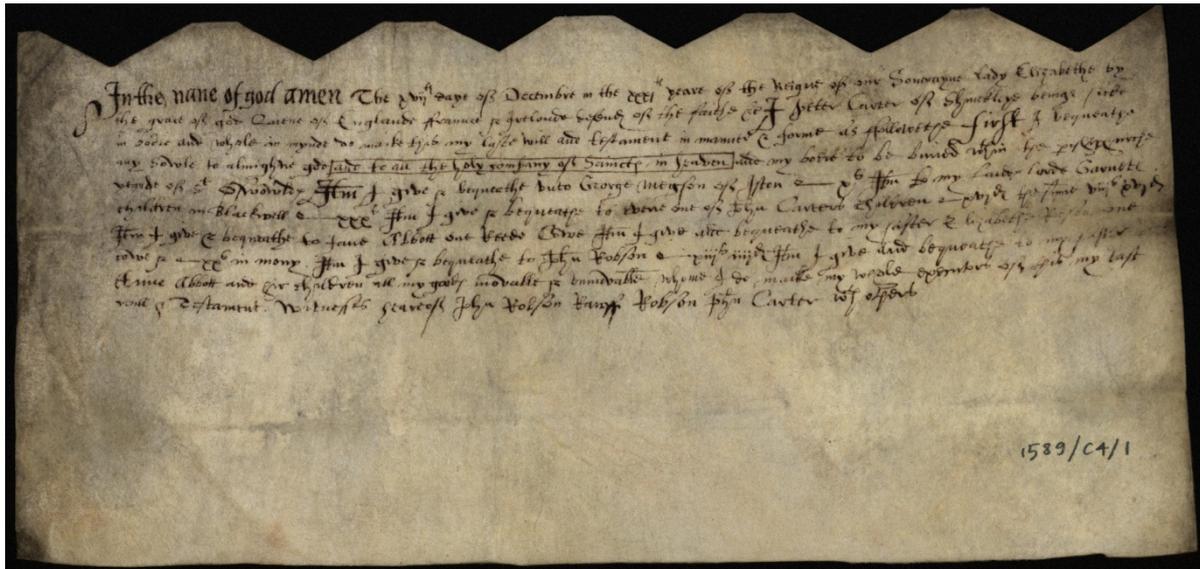
a court officer whose duty it was to summon persons to attend the court, and also on occasion to compell the attendance of interested parties who were too slow to initiate probate and administration proceedings

## Will of Peter Carter of Shincliffe

## Will of Henry Shaftow of Berwick-upon-Tweed

## Will of William Grey, first Baron Grey of Warke

These are three examples of religious preambles that use language characteristic of first a Catholic, second a Protestant, and finally a Presbyterian. We can see from the highlighting of the catholic-styled preamble of Peter Carter that it drew the attention and probably the disapproval of one of the bishop's officers in the registry or court.



Durham Probate Records DPRI/1/1589/C4/1

In the name of god amen The xvii<sup>th</sup> [17<sup>th</sup>] daye of Decembre in the xxxi<sup>th</sup> [31<sup>st</sup>] yeare of the Reigne of our Soverayne Lady Elizabeth by the grace of god Quene of Englande Francke & Irelande defender of the faithe &c. I Peter Carter of Shincliffe beinge sicke in bodie and whole in mynde do maike this my laste will and testament in manner & forme as followethe first I bequeathe my sowle to almightie god and to all the holy company of Sainctes in heaven and my bodie to be buried within the parishe churche yearde of St Oswowldes Item I give & bequeathe unto George Megson of Iston x<sup>s</sup>. Item to my landes lorde Garnetes children in Blackwell xxx<sup>s</sup>. Item I give & bequeathe to everie one of John Carters children xvi<sup>d</sup> the summe viii<sup>s</sup> xvi<sup>d</sup>. Item I give & bequeathe to Jane Abbott one Reede Cowe. Item I give and bequeathe to my sister Elizabeth Robson one cowe & xx<sup>s</sup> in mony. Item I give & bequeathe to John Robson xiii<sup>s</sup> iiiii<sup>d</sup>. Item I give and bequeathe to my sister Anne Abbott and hir children all my goodes movable & unmovable whome I do maike my whole executors of this my last will and Testament. Witnesses heareof John Robson Rawff Robson John Carter with others

### Glossary:

reede cowe            a cow having reddish hair

In the name of the Lord God blessed for ever  
 according to his good providence  
 of his own free will and pleasure upon these matters  
 will and testament as followeth My soule and body are the  
 Lord's over all things whosoever I thrust in gods merits through  
 Christ his will I dispose of them according to his unchangeable purposes  
 and election all befalls of his own free good will appointed  
 to salvation and to be inheritand among his chosen blessed  
 by the Lord electe, blessed be the Redeemer delivering us  
 from all and mortuall stordes life for ever, blessed likewise  
 be the holie ghost who hath given us comfort and hope of  
 the riches of gods merits in Christ. To this blessed  
 Trinity one God for ever be ascribed all honor, glory, and  
 power, with thanksgiving and yet for ever and Amen.

Out of my lands and profits thereof within the County of Kent  
 I will that these payments be made in manner and forme  
 following first to Hugh Dalby xx<sup>th</sup> daye quarter of a  
 yeare in discharge of his debts and Churche charges during  
 his life. Item to my sister Elare Draynes during her life  
 40<sup>th</sup> p<sup>er</sup> annu and 20<sup>th</sup> p<sup>er</sup> annu more, the one being her sisters  
 (my late wifes) legarie and the other an addition of my  
 owne Item to Josue Draynes the some of 20 nobles left  
 to him by my wife and albeit it is not due to be paid till  
 after his mothers decease yet I will it be paid out of the  
 first woods sold or to be sold at Justice John Draynes  
 direction at my last being in Kent

Let this annuity  
 be divided into  
 equal portions  
 and paid halfe  
 yearly

Item whereas I have trusted John Draynes with my business in  
 Kent, let him be allowed five pounds above all charges  
 in his accompt being found faithful as I doubt not but  
 he will. As for my lands of all sorts and houses  
 whatsover in Kent together with all movables in any of  
 the same houses I bequeath them to my brother Thomas  
 during his life (paying the Rent) with all rents due  
 and unpaid murther altho no waist in the wood lands  
 And after my brother Thomas his decease I will that the  
 said lands be charged with ten pounds p<sup>er</sup> annu yearly to his

In the name of the Lord God blessed for ever

<according to his good providence>

I Henry Shaftow of Berwicke upon Tweade made this my will and testament as followeth, My soule and body are the lords workmanship, whereof I trust in gods mercie, through Christ he will dispose of them according to his immutable purpose and eleccion as vessells of his owne free good will appointed to salvation and to an inheritance among his chosen, blessed by the Lord Elector, blessed be the Redeemer, delivering us from evill and meritting eternall life for us, blessed likewise be the holie ghost who hath given us comfort and hope of the riches of Gods mercie in Christ To this blessed trinity one God for ever be ascribed all honour glorie and power, with thanksegiving on our part for ever and ever Amen.

Out of my landes and profittes thereof within the County of Kent

I will that these paymentes be made in manner and forme following First to Heugh Catlin xx<sup>s</sup> [20<sup>s</sup>] every quarter of a yeare in discharge of his uncle and Auntes legacies during his life. Item to my sister Calre Draynor during her life 40<sup>s</sup> per annum and 20<sup>s</sup> per annum more, the one being her sisters (my late wives) legacie and the other an addicion of my owne. Item to Josua Draynor the some of 20 nobles left to him by my wife and albeit is not due to be paid till after his mothers decease yet I will it be paid out of the first woodes solde or to be solde as I gave John Draynor direccion at my last being in Kent.

Item whereas I have trusted John Draynor with my busines in Kent, lett him be allowed five poundes above all Charges in his accompt being found faithfull as I doubt not but he will. As for my landes of all sortes, and houses whatsoever in Kent togeather with all moveables in any of the same houses I bequeath them to my brother Thomas during his life (paying the premisses) with all rentes due and unpaid makeing alsoe no waist in the wood landes. And after my brother Thomas his decease I will that the said landes be Charged with ten poundes per annum yearly to his ...

lett this anuitie  
be devided into  
equall porcions  
and paid halfe  
yearlie



1675/G14/1

# In wayne Men trauell abroad to know new Men and Countrys

to Returne home and here live Ignorant of their owne, and w<sup>th</sup> is most deplorable, strangers to themselves  
 what awayeth it a man to know, Nay to winne the whole World and loose his owne soule. It is the morall man  
 meditation, know thy selfe. But the most incomparable sweet study a Christian can conceive; for by searching  
 of our Joyes and sounding the Depth of our Miseryes, wee are best taught to take the right of Gods mercyes  
 when I looke backe upon my past dangers and view my present estate I cannot but melt in thankfulness  
 before the beams of Gods Divine Majesty. Lord what was I or my fathers Sinne that thou shouldst nabe  
 so regarded mee. My Neeths are fallen farrely thou hast given me a goodly heritage. But because I am here  
 but a learner for life my tenure but dying pleasure, I Desire not to be found like the unwise Virgins  
 to be without Oyle in my lamp therefore in all humilily I bow my selfe unto thee O father of  
 Mercy that thou hast afforded me the leisure w<sup>th</sup> my owne hands to write the thoughts of my heart  
 holding most plentiful thanks for giving me the grace to defend into my selfe velle  
 w<sup>th</sup> Sinne and covered over with shame and Iniquity I consign all my soule into the hands  
 of my Redeemer Christ Jesus who made a sufficient sacrifice once for all promising that who  
 soever believeth in his Name shall not perish but have everlasting life in this present world I hope  
 that the Wall of partition in my Sinne daily built up behyve mee and my Saviour by the precious  
 blood of Christ Jesus shall be thrown downe, soe that when this earthly tabernacle shall bee  
 Dissolved I hope this Mortality shall put on Immortality and this corruption incorruption  
 I give my Body to the grave whole and unopened as it came out of the grave Desiring it may  
 be Buried where my Lady Kath: Wentworth and my wife God I wish my Funeralls may  
 be modest words of charge expense Doynting Rather to live in the Memory of good Men, and  
 leave a good Obedience mee, then to live Ingraven in Marble and Brass January the  
 fourth One thousand six hundred Sixty Eight. W. Grey

Which thou O Lord, who art both Alpha and Omega I must begin and end, thou  
 that wert without beginning and art without end in all humilily, I prostrate my soule & Body  
 before thy mercy Seate sweet Saviour Jesus Christ Jesus thou that humblest off thy selfe beneath  
 man to exalt man above himselfe, thou that art wisdom righteousness and sanctification, Lord,  
 let thy righteousness cover my Sinne; thou sealedst a generall pardon unto all, raist not doubt unto any  
 that search for it with belofe in thy Name; Sinne therefore Deare Jesus thou hast made the  
 w<sup>th</sup> me proper for us, and that by thy stripes wee are healed, Lord of thy Mercy hide my Sinne  
 in thy wounds bury them in thy grave, that they may not rise up here to accuse me, Nor  
 here after to condemn me; Learne me O Lord to be dissolved, and to be w<sup>th</sup> Christ w<sup>th</sup> is best  
 for eye hath not seene, nor Care heard, nor hath it Entered in to the heart of  
 Man, what is layd up in store for true belovard. Come therefore Christ Jesus  
 come quickly. W. Grey: January the fourth 1668. W. witnessor

Andrew Harrington: James Sharber: Roger Wentworth

consordat nuni Registre Curia Diocesana  
 authenticus facta Caprono p me. Mar 28th 1671

## In vayne Men travell abroad to know new Men and Countrys

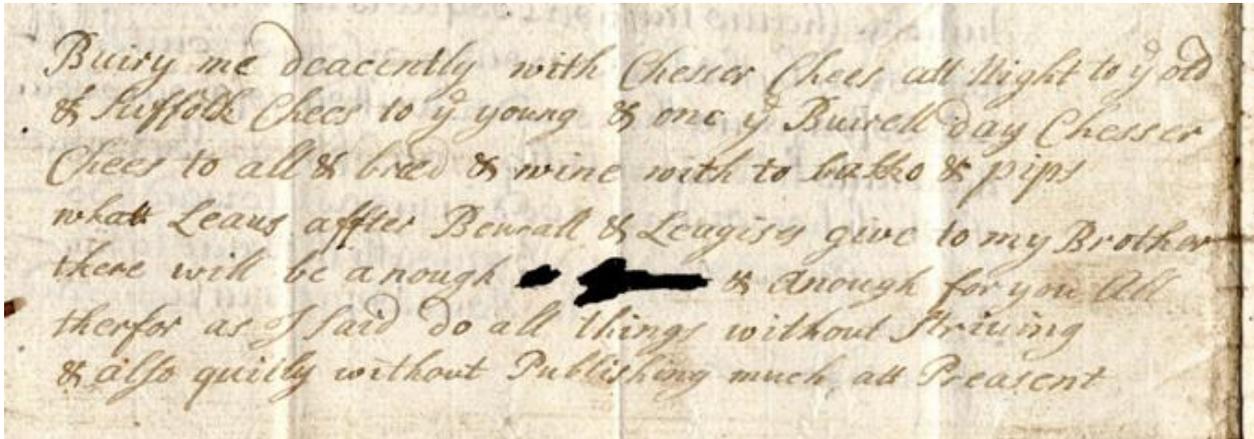
to Returne home and here live Ignorant of their owne, and which is most deplorable, strangers to themselves. What avayleth it a man to know, Nay to winn the whole World and loose his owne Soule. It is the morall mans meditacion, Know thy Selfe. But the most incomparable Sweet Study a Christian can conceive; for by searching of our Joyes and sounding the Depth of our Misseryes, wee are truelyest taught to take the height of Gods mercyes When I looke backe upon my past dangers and view my present estate I cannot but melt in thankfullnes before the beames of Gods Divine Majesty. Lord what was I or my fathers Sonne that thou shouldest have soe regarded mee My Netts are fallen fairely thou hast given me a goodly Heritage But because I am here but a termer for life my tenure but duering pleasure, I Desire not to be found like the unwise Virgins to be without Oyle in my lamp therefore in all Humility I bow my selfe unto thee O father of Mercy that thou hast afforded me the leasure with my owne Hands to write the thoughts of my Hart yeilding most plentifull thanks for giveing me the grace to discend into my selfe sullyed with sinne and covered over with shame and Inquity I bequeath my Soule into the Hands of my Redeemer Christ Jesus who made a sufficient sacrifice once for all promising that whosoever beleiveth in his Name shall not perish but have everlasting life in this assuerance I hope that the Wall of partition in my Sinns dayly built up betwixt mee and my Saviour by the pretious Blood of Christ Jesus shall be throwen downe, soe that when this earthly tabernacle shall bee Disolved: I hope this Mortallity shall put on Immortallity and this corrupcion incorruption I yeild my Body to the grave whole and un opened as it came out of the grave Desiring it may be Buryed where my Lady Katherine Wentworth and my Wife lyes I wish my funeralls may be modest voyd of vayne expence Coveting Rather to live in the Memory of good Men, and leave a good Odor behind mee, then to Lye Ingraven in Marble and Brass. January fourth One thousand Six Hundred Sixty Eight. W Grey.

**With** thee O Lord, who art both Alpha and Omega I must begin and end thou that wert without begining and art without end in all humility I prostrate my Soule & Body before thy mercy Seate Sweet Saviour Jesus Christ Jesus thou that Humbledst thy selfe beneath man to exalt man above himselfe, thou that art Wisdome righteousness and sanctificacion, Lord, let thy Righteousnes cover my Sins; thou Sealedst a generall pardon unto all, canst not deny unto any that Search for it with beleefe in thy Name; Since therefore Deare Jesus thou hast trode the Wine presse for us, and that by thy stripes wee are healed, Lord of thy Mercy hide my Sinns in thy Wounds bury them in thy grave, that they may not rise up here to accuse me, Nor hereafter to condemne me; Learne me O Lord to be dissolved, and to be with Christ which is best for eye hath not seene, nor Eare heard, nor hath it Entered into the Heart of Man, what is lay'd up in store for true beleivers. Come therefore Christ Jesus come quickly. W Grey: January the fourth 1668. Wittnesses  
Andrea Harrington : James Chartier : Roger Wentworth.

Concordat cum Registro Curiae Praerogativae  
Cantuariensis facta Collacione per me Mark Cottle Registrum  
[Concords with the Register of the Prerogative Court  
of Canterbury, collated by me Mark Cottle Registrar]

## Will of Nicholas Chance of Greenside, yeoman

Chance made his will between June and October 1740, leaving strict instructions for the distribution of cheese, bread, wine, 'to bakko' and pipes to the young and old.



Durham Probate Records DPRI/1/1740/C2/1

Buiry me deacently with Chesser Chees att Night to the old  
& Suffolk Chees to the young & one the Buirell day Chesser  
Chees to all & breed & wine with to bakko & pips  
whatt leaus affter Beurall & Leagises give to my Brother  
there will be a nough & enough for you All  
therefor as I said do all things without striving  
& also quitly without Publishing much, att Preasent

### Glossary:

<i>chesser</i>	chedder [?]
<i>to bakko</i>	tobacco
<i>pips</i>	pipes

## Account of Cuthbert Ellyson of Newcastle upon Tyne

The account reveals that Ellyson died at Heworth, and lists the sums paid for the coffin, his widow's mourning gown, the sweetmeats, cakes, cheese and candle, church charges, and the wine given to the gravediggers.

Durham Probate Records DPRI/1/1632/E3/4

[1626]

[January]

28	For the proxse and to Gabriell Jackson is	000	05	06
	For showing horses for our Journey to Durham with the children	000	00	09
	For spent at Raphe Kympes in charges of our selves and horses a night and a day given to the people in the house & to the poore	000	18	06
	For paper for two bookes is	000	00	04
	paid Bulmer Ile for Comfits &c. for the buriall of Cuthbert	006	17	00
	paid for a mourning gowne his widdow had is	003	12	04
	For given the poore at his buriall is	002	00	00
	For the Church charges is	000	15	06
	For whirrie hier bringing up his body from Heworth	000	02	06
	For a Chest for the Corps is	000	14	00
	For wine and Cakes, Cheese and Candle the first night is	000	11	10
	For scutions 12 shillings and for his funerall sermond xi [11] <sup>s</sup> both is	001	03	00
	For suger for wine 22 <sup>d</sup> and to Mr Astell for counsell at first	000	06	10
	For given Robert Hull for warning the company to the buriall	000	01	00
	For waying the plat 6 <sup>d</sup> and for wine that day the goods was praised	000	02	05
	For Charges that day the goodes was praised at Heworth	000	01	09
	For caring of wood of the ground at Heworth is	000	02	06
	For Roberts entring money and to the children on collipe monday	000	01	02
	For mending the three childrens clothes and showes is	000	02	00
	For an Appen for Alice Ellison is	000	02	06
	For wages paid for keeping the Cattle is	000	14	00
	For candles to looke to the cattle is	000	01	00
	For 2 gades 3 <sup>d</sup> and buring 1 daye	000	01	01
	For buring 11 days and filling 2 pites is	000	05	05
	For a man 5 days following the plowe is	000	01	08

**Glossary:**

<i>appen</i>	happing [?]: a coarse covering , a rough rug for a bed
<i>buring</i>	boring, to sink a bore-hole (in mining)
<i>collipe</i> [Collop] <i>munday</i>	the day before Shrove Tuesday, on which fried bacon and eggs still form the appropriate dish in many places
<i>comfit</i>	a sweetmeat made of some fruit, root, etc., preserved with sugar
<i>gade</i> [gad]	a pointed tool of iron or steel, used in mining
<i>plat</i> [plate]	gold, gilt or silver vessels and utensils
<i>proxse</i> [proxy]	a legal instrument or document appointing, in this case, a proctor (attorney) to represent and act for his client
<i>scutions</i> [escutcheons]	funeral escutcheons or hatchments were shield-shaped, usually wooden, boards on which a coat of arms was painted, and which were displayed at the funeral
<i>whirrie</i> [wherry]	a light rowing-boat used chiefly on rivers to carry passengers and goods

## Will of Peter Bowlby of Durham City, gentleman

Bowlby begins his will with a wish to 'promote the interests of science' by ordering his dissection by either Mr Clifton or Mr William Green 'as soon after my death as conveniently may be'. Such a request is unusual, even today: it is estimated medical students in the UK require about 1,000 cadavers for study purposes each year, but generally can obtain only two-thirds of that number. By current law testators must specifically bequeath their bodies to scientific research, and a witness must be present when they do so.

1825/B19/1

This is the last will and testament of me Peter Bowlby of the City of Durham gentleman. — In order to promote the interests of science I direct that as soon after my death as conveniently may be, my body be delivered to Mr Clifton or Mr William Green for the purpose of being dissected. I direct that the remains may afterwards be interred beside the body of my deceased wife; and that my funeral shall be as private as my wife's was.

2<sup>d</sup> ¶ On the death of the Reverend John Bacon, I or my personal representatives will be entitled to receive the distributive share to which my deceased wife as the widow of the late Mr George Bacon was entitled in the monies which have arisen from certain leasehold lands, in which lands the said George Bacon at the time of his death had a vested interest: Now, in case my step-sons John Bacon and William Bacon or either of them shall attain the age of twenty one year, I do hereby renounce and disclaim in favor of my said sons or the survivor of them all my right and interest in the aforementioned distributive share; But in case neither of them shall attain the age of twenty one year, then I direct Rufus Bowlby and Julia Bowlby my brother and sister hereinafter named as executor of this my will, to receive payment of the said distributive share and to stand possessed thereof in trust for my daughter Mary Bowlby, the same to be paid to her at her age of twenty one years or day of marriage which may first happen, provided that her marriage be with the consent of her guardians hereinafter named, the interest in the mean time to be applied for her maintenance and education: And if my daughter shall die before the time appointed for payment, then I direct that the said distributive share be divided amongst all my brothers and sisters in equal shares.

3<sup>d</sup> ¶ In case of the death of both my said sons under the age of twenty one year, I will as the executor named in the will of my late wife be entitled to the sum of one thousand pounds, the portion advanced by Mrs Darwell the mother of my said wife on the marriage of the latter to Mr George Bacon, which sum is now secured on mortgage of an estate belonging to the Reverend John Bacon: Now I give and bequeath all my contingent interest in the said sum of one thousand pounds unto the said Mrs Darwell to and for her

- 1<sup>st</sup> This is the last will and testament of me Peter Bowlby of Old Elvet near the city of Durham gentleman. In order to promote the interests of science I direct that as soon after my death as conveniently may be, my body be delivered to Mr Clifton or Mr William Green for the purpose of being dissected. I desire that the remains may afterwards be interred beside the body of my deceased wife; and that my funeral shall be as private as my wife's was.
- 2<sup>d</sup> On the death of the Reverend John Bacon, I or my personal representatives will be entitled to receive the distributive share to which my deceased wife as the widow of the late Mr George Bacon was entitled in the monies which have arisen from certain leasehold lands, in which lands the said George Bacon at the time of his death had a vested interest: Now, in case my step-sons John Bacon and William Bacon or either of them shall attain the age of twenty one years, I do hereby renounce and disclaim in favor of my said sons or the survivor of them all my right and interest in the beforementioned distributive share; But in case neither of them shall attain the age of twenty one years, then I direct Russell Bowlby and Julia Bowlby my brother and sister hereinafter named as two of the executors of this my will, to recover payment of the said distributive share and to stand possessed <thereof> in trust for my daughter Mary Bowlby, the same to be paid to her at her age of twenty one years or day of marriage which may first happen, provided that her marriage be with the consent of her guardians hereinafter named, the interest in the mean time to be applied for her maintenance and education: And if my daughter shall die before the time appointed for payment, then I direct that the said distributive share be divided amongst all my brothers and sisters in equal shares.
- 3<sup>d</sup> In case of the death of both my said sons under the age of twenty one years, I will as the executor named in the will of my late wife be entitled to the sum of one thousand pounds, the portion advanced by Mrs Darnell the mother of my said wife on the marriage of the latter to Mr George Bacon, which sum is now secured on mortgage of an estate belonging to the Reverend John Bacon: Now I give and bequeath all my contingent interest in the said sum of one thousand pounds unto the said Mrs Darnell to and for her ...

### Codicil of Steven Wright of Dockwray Square, Tynemouth

Stephen Wright's second codicil provides elaborate arrangements for his coffin and burial, including an insistence that his body '*shall not be opened nor anything done by Surgeons*'. This codicil was written in 1831, six years after the Burke and Hare scandal in Edinburgh and one year before the Anatomy Act was passed. Leaving nothing to chance, he suggests that if he is to have a lead coffin, '*it would be advisable to move my body down stairs, to avoid any accident to the stair case &c.*' Such concerns were not uncommon: Hannah Landell a spinster of Newcastle upon Tyne requested in her 1821 will her body should remain in bed undisturbed and the coffin left open '*until a change takes place*'.

Christ. Reed Surgeon 1834/10/21/7  
In the Name of God Amen.  
Whereas it has pleased the Almighty up  
to this Time to grant me a life clear  
from any very violent Sickness, for which  
I am truly grateful. But a dissolution  
is sure to take place & remove us all,  
& may I hope & trust from this to another  
& better world & when that Event takes  
place, my wish is that my Ex<sup>ts</sup> Friends  
will observe as follows.  
1 That my Body be kept untill every  
appearance of Life is gone, if it happen  
in the Winter, the Interment should be early  
as the Tomb will take up some time.  
2 That my Body shall not be opened nor  
any thing done by Surgeons &c. &c.  
3 That there be no Bearers, nor any of my  
second Nephews (they being very nume-  
rous) <sup>except such as live near</sup> nor any Nephews from a Distance  
only those in the immediate Neighbour-  
hood. And as the Distance to the Church  
is short, that there be only two Hearers to the

Christopher Reed Surrogate

In the Name of God Amen.

Whereas it has pleased the Almighty up to this Time to grant me a Life clear from any very violent Sickness, for which I am truly grateful. But a dissolution is sure to take place & remove us all, & may I hope & trust from this to another & better world & when that Event takes place, my wish is that my Executors & Friends will observe as follows.

1 That my Body be kept untill every appearance of Life is gone, if it happen in the Winter, the Interment should be early as the Tomb will take up some time.

2 That my Body shall not be opened nor anything done by Surgeons &c.&.

3 That there be no Bearers, nor any of my second Nephews (they being very numerous) <except S. Kelso Junior> nor any Nephews from a Distance only those in the immediate Neighbourhood. And as the Distance to the Church is short, that there be only two Horses to the ...



The true and perfect declaracion of the Accompt of Robert Bell of Beall within the Chappellry of Lowicke, the Administrator of the goodes chatles debtes and credittes of Thomas Bell his late father deceased, in manner and forme following.

Inprimis the said Administrator and accomptant, doth charge himselfe with the goods chatles debtes & creditts of the said deceased, as appereth by the Inventory therof made, which in all Amounteth to the somme of xix<sup>li</sup> xviii<sup>s</sup> ii<sup>d</sup>

Whereof the said Accomptant craveth Allowance as followeth.

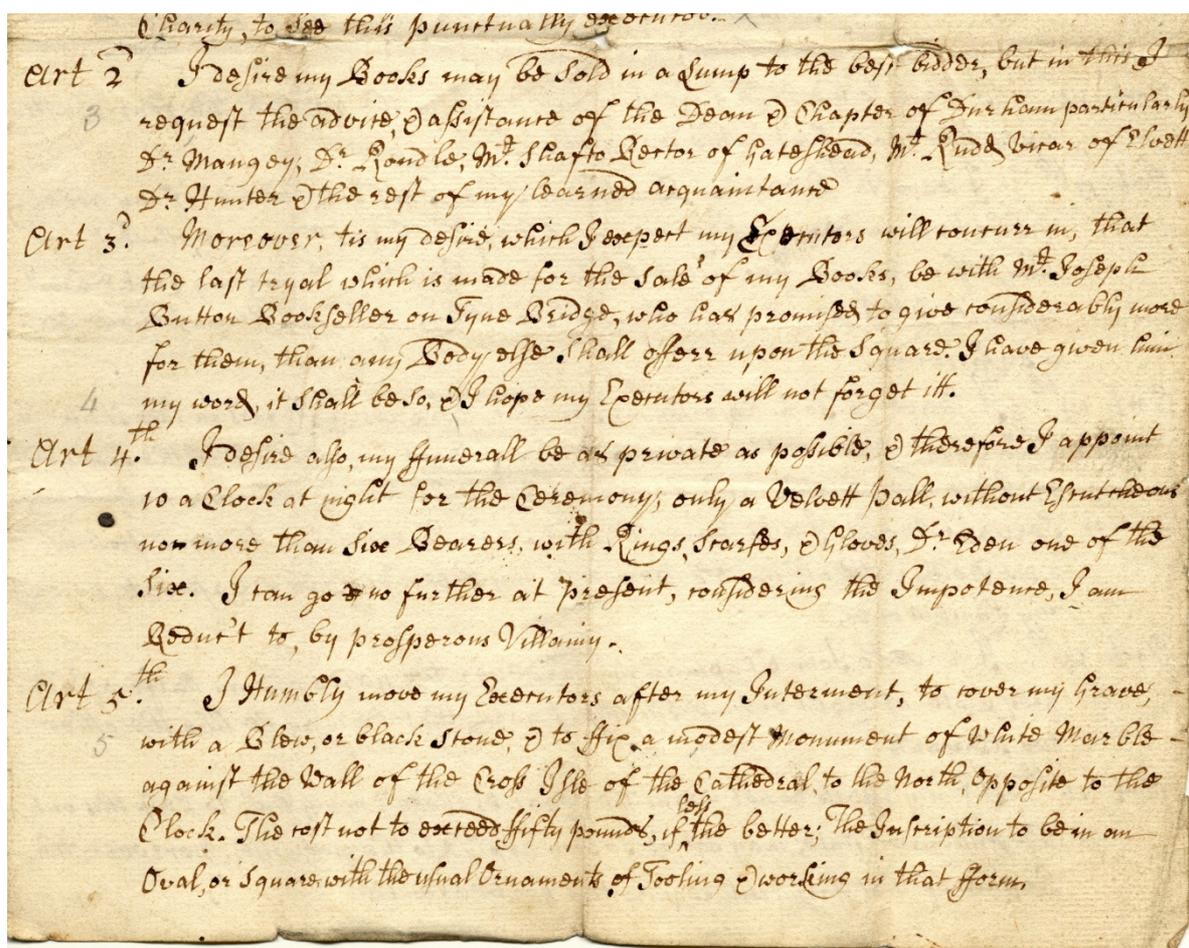
First for the Fee of Raph Reveley gentleman Coroner upon view of the said deceasedes body being accidentally drowned the somme of	xiii <sup>s</sup> iii <sup>d</sup>
Item to sundrie people who made search in the water for the corps of the said deceased & caried him to the place of his buriall, which was payd by this accomptant	vi <sup>s</sup> viii <sup>d</sup>
Item paid by the said Accomptant for the funerall charges of the said deceased	x <sup>s</sup>
Item paid by the accomptant to John Orde of Barwick Alderman for the said deceasedes debt due for arrerages of rent the somme of	xlvii <sup>s</sup> i <sup>d</sup>
Item Paid by the said accomptant for the deceased his debt, to Ellener Smith of Beall widdow for moneyes borrowed & corne taken to a day	xl <sup>s</sup>
Item payd by this accomptant to William Selby of Beall gentleman, for the debt of the said deceased, due for arrerage of rentes	xvi <sup>s</sup>
Item paid by the accomptant for the said deceasedes debt, to William Archbald of Bowsden for an oxe	xlvi <sup>s</sup>
Item paid for the debt of the said deceased to Thomas Collingwood of Buckton gentleman for a paire of waine wheeles, which was satisfied by this accomptant	xxi <sup>s</sup>

**Glossary:**

*wain*                      A large open vehicle or wagon, drawn by horses or oxen, for carrying heavy loads, especially of agricultural produce

## Codicil of William Hartwell, prebendary of Durham Cathedral

An extract from a codicil to the will of William Hartwell, prebendary of Durham Cathedral, who died in 1725. By his will, he left money to a range of charitable causes, including 20 pounds yearly 'to the Jayl of Durham, for the use and benefitt of Insolvent Debtors there' and 6 pounds for a schoolmaster in Stanhope, 'provided he Teach nothing but to read and write in the English Tongue, without any Greek or Latin.' In this extract, he sets out arrangements for the sale of his books, his funeral arrangements, gravestone and memorial tablet in the cathedral.



Durham Probate Records: DPR I/1/1725/H6/3-4

Article 2<sup>d</sup> I desire my Books may be sold in a Lump to the best bidder, but in this I request the advice, & assistance of the Dean & Chapter of Durham particularly Dr Mangey; Dr Randle, Mr Shafto Rector of Gateshead, Mr Rudd Vicar of Elvett Dr Hunter & the rest of my learned acquaintance

Article 3<sup>d</sup> Moreover, tis my desire, which I expect my Executors will concur in, that the last tryal which is made for the sale of my Books, be with Mr Joseph Button Bookseller on Tyne Bridge, who has promised to give considerably more for them, than any Body else shall offerr upon the Square. I have given him my word, it shall be so, & I hope my Executors will not forget itt.

Article 4<sup>th</sup> I desire also, my funerall be as private as possible, & therefore I appoint 10 a Clock at night for the Ceremony; only a Velvett Pall, without Escutcheons no more than Six Bearers, with Rings, Scarfes, & Gloves, Dr Eden one of the Six. I can go no further at present, considering the Impotence, I am Reduc't to, by prosperous Villainy.

Article 5<sup>th</sup> I Humbly move my Executors after my Interment, to cover my Grave, with a Blew, or black stone, & to Fix a modest Monument of White Marble against the Wall of the Cross Isle of the Cathedral to the North, opposite to the Clock. The rest not to exceed Fifty pounds, if <less> the better; The Inscription to be in an Oval, or Square with the usual Ornaments of Tooling & working in that Form.

**Glossary:**

<i>escutcheon</i>	funeral escutcheons or hatchments were shield-shaped, usually wooden, boards on which a coat of arms was painted, and which was displayed at the funeral
<i>pall</i>	a cloth, usually of black, purple, or white velvet, spread over a coffin, hearse, or tomb
<i>tryal</i>	attempt



A Robert Green, Surrogate

I Reginald Little being of Sound mind & judgement  
but very much impaired in Bodily Health & Strength and  
knowing the uncertainty of this transitory existance  
do make this my last will & testament to say in the  
first place I would wish my body to be opened & inspected  
by <Mr Bennett Surgeon or> some medical man and also  
Dr Headlam && Dr White> (provided they  
think it worth the trouble <without pay>) as my disease has baffeled  
the most skilful men, and the only illness I had was  
a most severe pain in <my> Chest, & a burning heat  
in the Stomach & which has continued about 3 ½ years  
previous to this date, & my reason for being opened is  
that it may throw some light on medical science &  
ultimately may prove a benefit to my fellow creatures  
similarly held – this is only if I should die in NewCastle  
or within two or 3 miles from it – and I give & bequeath  
unto my Godson Henry Waters <Seven> Pounds to be paid  
him out of the £47 promissory note which I hold on  
his father Cuthbert Waters - & I also give & bequeathe  
unto my Godson Joseph Jordon Five Pounds.  
<This to be free of duty / Legacy)>  
& my Gold Watch I give unto Mrs Jordon as a  
mark of respect && Gratitude> for her kind attention while ...

**Inventory of John Douglas of Harbottle in Alwinton, servant and shepherd**  
 Douglas was employed by Sir Edward Widdrington of Harbottle, and in his will he makes Lady Widdrington his universal legatrix, noting gratefully that most of what he had he had earned in their service anyway. She appears to have ensured that his funeral passed with proper ceremony, the bill for a 'crooner' appearing in the inventory. Crooner is a northern and Scottish word, and in this context probably means a person who was paid to lead the laments.

Debts owing by the said John Douglas  
 at the house of his Dealy

Item owing to John Tolson of the Leigh	iii s
Item more owing for Graze meale	xxxi s viij d
Item owing to Willm Johnston	xxvi s viij d
Item owing to Robert Burkyam	iiii s xiiij d
Item owing to Henry Browns wife of Harbottle	xxxi s
Item owing to Anne Cott	xx s
Item owing to Willm Todd	xxvi s viij d
Item to George Hogg	xiiij s
Item owing to Thomas Davison of Howton	v s
Item owing to Thomas Brown of the Newgate	xxxi s viij d
Item owing to George Pott of Northerton	v s
Item owing to my Lady Widdrington for rent	xiiij s
Item more owing to Holland Tolson	v s
Item disbursed to the Crooner and for his fundrall the whole and just sum of	viiij s iiiij d
<b>Sum: Totall</b>	<b>xxxiij s viij d</b>

mark Cott  
 Willm Pott  
 Henry Browns  
 Sir H marks  
 George Davison  
 Sir F marks

Debts owing by the said John Dowgloss  
at the houre of his death

Item owing to John Robson of the Heigh	iiii <sup>s</sup>	
Item more owing for Grasse meale	xxx <sup>s</sup>	vi <sup>d</sup>
Item owing to William Johnston	xx <sup>s</sup>	vi <sup>d</sup>
Item owing to Robert Buckham	iiii <sup>s</sup>	viii <sup>d</sup>
Item owing to Henry Brownes wife of Harbottle	xvi <sup>s</sup>	
Item owing to Anne Scott	v <sup>s</sup>	
Item owing to William Todd	xx <sup>s</sup>	
Item owing to George Hogg	viii <sup>s</sup>	
Item owing to Thomas Davison of Newton	x <sup>s</sup>	
Item owing to Thomas Browne of the Newhall	ix <sup>s</sup>	vi <sup>d</sup>
Item owing to George Pott of Netherton	v <sup>s</sup>	
Item owing to my Ladie Widdrington for rent	viii <sup>li</sup>	
Item more owing to Rolland Robson	v <sup>li</sup>	
Item disbursed to the Crooner and for his funerall <the whole and just summ of>	viii <sup>li</sup>	iii <sup>d</sup>
Summa Totalis	xxviii <sup>li</sup>	ix <sup>s</sup> iii <sup>d</sup>

Mark Scott  
William Potts

Henry Browne  
his marke  
George Davison  
his marke

**Glossary:**

*crooner*                      a Scots or Northern dialect word for a singer who makes a  
murmuring lament or moan