

**THE RECORD SOCIETY FOR THE PUBLICATION
OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS REALTING TO
LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE. VOL. XX; AN
INDEX TO THE WILLS AND INVENTORIES NOW
PRESERVED IN THE COURT OF PROBATE, AT
CHESTER, FROM A.D. 1701 TO 1720**

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J. P. EARWAKER

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RELATING TO

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.

VOLUME XX.

1889.

Lancashire
RECORDS
CO

An Index
to the
Wills and Inventories
now preserved in
The Court of Probate,
at
CHESTER,

FROM A.D. 1701 TO 1720;

With an Appendix

containing

THE LIST OF THE "INFRA" WILLS
(OR THOSE IN WHICH THE PERSONALTY WAS UNDER £40),
BETWEEN THE SAME YEARS.

EDITED BY

J. P. EARWAKER, M.A., F.S.A.

PRINTED FOR
THE RECORD SOCIETY.

1889.

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INTRODUCTION.

THIS volume is in continuation of four volumes previously printed by this Society. These are as follows:—Vol. II., Index to the Wills and Inventories at Chester, 1545 to 1620; Vol. IV., Index to the Wills and Inventories at Chester, 1621 to 1650; Vol. XV., Index to the Wills and Inventories at Chester, 1660 to 1680; Vol. XVIII., Index to the Wills and Inventories at Chester, 1681 to 1700. There is no necessity to repeat here the information which is contained in the several introductions to those four volumes, in which a full account of the wills now preserved at Chester will be found.

It will be noticed that this volume, although containing all the wills now extant for a period of twenty years—1701 to 1720—is not so large as the corresponding volume between the years 1681 and 1700. Why this is so is not easy to explain, especially when we consider that the population was increasing, and we can do no more than record the fact. The volume for the next twenty years, 1721 to 1740, will, I think, be found larger than this one and more nearly approaching that for the years 1681 to 1700.

The following is the list of the few wills belonging to the period 1701 to 1720, which have been copied into Volume III. of the "Enrollment Books" preserved in the Bishop's

Registry at Chester. All these wills are still preserved at the Probate Court, and will be found in the accompanying index:—

LIST OF THE WILLS TRANSCRIBED IN VOLUME III. OF THE ENROLLMENT BOOKS IN THE BISHOP'S REGISTRY, CHESTER, RELATING TO THE YEARS 1701 TO 1720.

Aston, Edward, of the City of Chester, skinner, Nunc Will, dated 4 Dec., 1701	p. 257b
Birkenhead, John, of Weston, co. Chester, senior, husbandman, dated 23 April, 1702	p. 257b
Bradshaw, John, of Leigh, co. Lancaster, esquire, dated 7 May, 1703	p. 270
Dod, Thomas, late of Edge, co. Chester, esquire, dated 10 November, 1702, proved 1703	p. 265
Hasler, John, of Great Neston, co. Chester, Nunc. Will, dated 16 May, 1702	p. 258b
Smith, Jonathan, late of Chadderton, co. Lancaster, yeoman, dated 26 Jan., 1701-2	p. 263
Stanley, Elizabeth, of Macclesfield, co. Chester, widow, dated 8 March, 1702-3, codicil dated 2 August, 1703	p. 275

J. P. EARWAKER.

PENSARN, ABERGELLE, NORTH WALES,
OCTOBER, 1889.

THE following points are commended to the attention of those using this book:—

1. *In some cases inventories appear to have become detached from the original wills, and so have been placed in different bundles and indexed under different years. This list, however, being an alphabetical one, such cases will be speedily detected, and it will be easy to replace the inventories in their proper places.*

2. *Where the word "Inv" occurs, it signifies that the deceased had most probably died intestate, and that an inventory of his goods had been filed and administration granted to his representatives. Where the word "Admon" occurs, it shows that an administration bond had been filed as well. In all other cases the wills themselves are extant, either with or without the accompanying inventories.*

3. *It is to be noted that in the Probate Court of Chester the original wills up to 1838 (and not official transcripts, as in many other Probate Courts) are those shown to enquirers.*

4. *Owing to the original spelling of the wills having been followed in the MS. Index, and allowing for possible mis-readings, enquirers are particularly desired to search for any name bearing a resemblance to that they are looking for, as for example Leigh for Legh or Lee, Newall for Nowall, Houghton for Haughton, &c., &c. As far as possible this has been indicated by cross references in this list. Words now spelt with an i then frequently had y.*

5. *This list contains all the wills, inventories, and administration bonds now known to be preserved at the Probate Court, Chester, between the years 1701 and 1720 inclusive. It is in continuation of volumes 2, 4, 15, and 18 (Indices to the Wills and Inventories now preserved at Chester, 1545 to 1620, 1621 to 1650, 1660 to 1680, and 1681 to 1700), and will be followed by others, bringing the lists down to 1760, or possibly 1780.*

6. *In an Appendix will be found the list of all the wills, proved between 1701 and 1720, in which the amount of personalty was less than £40. These wills, which were proved in the Rural Deans Courts, are generally called "INFRA" wills, and there are none known of earlier date than 1660. They are kept distinct from the other wills, and when enquired for it is necessary to clearly describe them as being "Infra" and not ordinary wills.*

7. *This volume alone, including the Appendix, is an Index to nearly twelve thousand five hundred documents.*

List of the Wills

NOW PRESERVED IN THE PROBATE COURT,

CHESTER,

FROM THE YEAR 1701 TO 1720 INCLUSIVE.

A BBEY, Richard, of Liverpool, mariner	1715
Abbiston, Thomas, of Astle, husbandman	1705
Abbott, Alice, of Brindle	Admon 1719
Abbott, Anne, of Livesay, spinster	1720
Abbott, Edward, of Sankey	1710
Abbott, George, of Blackburn, yeoman	1716
Abbott, James, of Whalley, dyer	1708
Abbott, John, of Andlezarch	Admon with Inv 1709
Abbott, John, of Withnell	Admon with Inv 1709
Abbott, Laurence, of Mellor, yeoman... ..	Admon 1716
Abbott, Richard, of Childwall, husbandman	Admon 1712
Abbott, Thomas, of Anlezark	Admon 1704
Abbott, Thomas, of Livesey, husbandman	Admon 1713
Abbott, William, of Houghton, fustian manufacturer... ..	1710
Abbott, William, of Thornton	Admon 1716
Abraham, Jennett and Isabel, minors	Tuition 1719
Abraham, Margery, of Bancks, widow... ..	Admon 1719
Abram, James, of Woodside, gardener	Admon 1713
Abram, Nathan, of Warrington, apothecary	Admon with Inv 1709
Abram, Nicholas, of Thornton, husbandman	1709
Abram, Richard, of Tarbock	Admon 1714
Abram, Robert, senior, of Bancks, yeoman	1715
Abram, William, of North Meols, yeoman	Admon with Inv 1719
Abram, <i>alias</i> Williamson, Mary, of Woodside	Admon 1713
Ackerley, John, of Runcorn, wheelwright	1707
Ackers, Edward, of Liverpool, house carpenter	Admon 1717
Ackers, Edward, of Liverpool, house carpenter	1718
Ackers, Henry, of Cuerdley, yeoman	1704
Ackers, James, of Whiston, husbandman	1717
Ackers, John, of Fernhead, husbandman	1705
Ackers, John, of Liverpool, mariner	1716

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