

**A COLLECTION OF LANCASHIRE  
AND CHESHIRE WILLS. NOT  
NOW TO BE FOUND IN ANY  
PROBATE REGISTRY. 1301-1752**

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A Collection of Lancashire and Cheshire Wills. Not Now to Be Found in Any Probate Registry.  
1301-1752 by Wm. Fergusson Irvine

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**WM. FERGUSSON IRVINE**

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THE RECORD SOCIETY

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Publication of Original Documents

RELATING TO

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.

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EDITED BY

WM. FERGUSSON IRVINE.

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## Preface.

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IT is with considerable diffidence that I have taken up the task of completing the editing of this volume, upon which the late Mr. Earwaker was engaged at the time of his death. The completion of a half-finished work is always attended with difficulties, and this has been no exception to the rule. Mr. Earwaker had done little more than arrange the transcripts of the first 157 pages of this volume, having in a few instances added those footnotes which he alone was capable of making, and which, if he had been able to complete, would have made this collection of Wills so much more useful and interesting than they will be as now presented to the members. Wherever these notes existed they have been printed, and the fact of their authorship indicated by the addition of J. P. E. in brackets.

One of the main difficulties to be contended with has been that I have had to deal with copies and not with originals, and in some instances these transcripts have evidently been made by a copyist not skilled in mediæval Latin, with the result that occasionally it has been necessary to print an apparently unintelligible passage, and in some cases the transcriber has placed marks of contractions where they are not needed, or written down wrong cases and tenses. My first impulse was to correct these so far as possible, but on consulting with some of the other members of the Council, it was decided to print the transcripts exactly as they had come into our hands, as it would be impossible to decide which were errors of the mediæval and which of the Victorian scribe. For the accuracy of the transcripts of the Wills in the rest of the volume (p. 158 onwards) I can vouch, as here I had the advantage of the originals or contemporary copies.

Except when otherwise stated, all the Wills printed in the Appendix are from The Bishop's Enrollment Books, now at The Diocesan Registry, Chester.

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