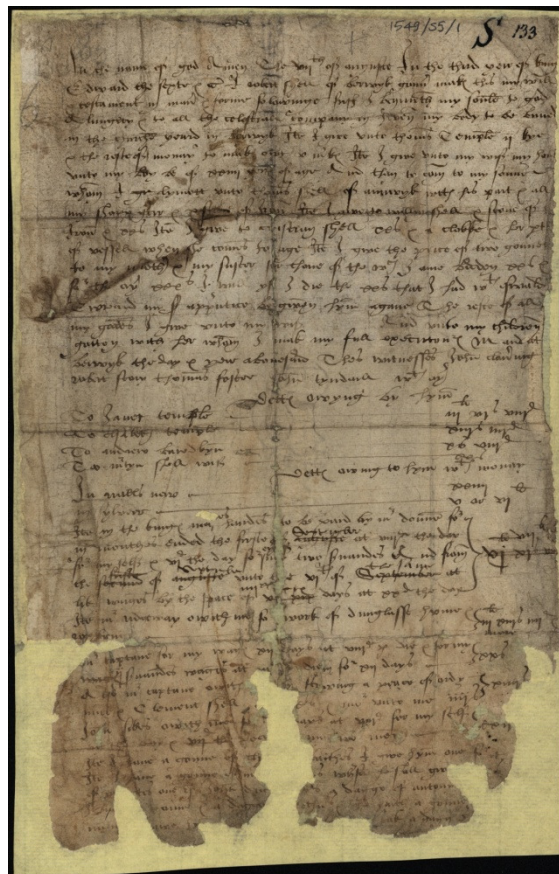




## Enemies Foreign and Domestic

### Will of Robert Shell of Berwick-upon-Tweed, gunner

Shell's will contains a list of debts which reveal that he was owed his wages for campaigning in Scotland between June and September 1548, including monies owed to him for '*work of Dunghasse Hume [and] Roxbrugh*' – all fortifications either captured or repaired by the English during the 1544-1551 wars. This conflict originally sparked from the failure of Henry VIII's plan to unite the kingdoms of England and Scotland through the marriage of his son Edward to Mary Queen of Scots, then aged 5 and 6 months respectively: the pressure ultimately resulted in the betrothal and later marriage of Mary to François II of France. The probate registry contains an unusually high number of Berwick military wills in 1548-49, which probably reflect the Scots' siege of Haddington castle and its eventual evacuation in September 1549.



Durham Probate Records DPRI/1/1549/55/1

In the name of god Amen The viii<sup>th</sup> of auguste In the third yere of king Edward the sexte & c. I robert shell of berwyk gunner makes this my will & testament in maner & forme folowinge first I bequith my soule to god Almighty & to all the celestiall company in heven my body to be buried in the churche yeard of berwyk Item I give unto thomas Temple ii [2] kye & the reste of monay to make owt v [5] markes Item I give unto my wif my hous[e] unto [until] my boy be of xxiiii [24] yeres of age And than to com to my sonne whom I lymett unto thomas shell of annwyk with his part & all my shopp gere & x [10] stone of Ironn Item I give to william shell x [10] stone of Ironn & xx<sup>s</sup> Item I give to cristian shell xx<sup>s</sup> & a clokke & her part of vessell when she comes to age Item I give the price of two gonnes to my mother & my suster for thone of the which I ame bidden xx<sup>s</sup> & for the other xxx<sup>s</sup> I will yf I die the xx<sup>s</sup> that I had with Oswald Eward my s[ervand] apprentice be given hym agane The reste of all my goodes I give unto my wif And unto my children gotten with her whom I mak my full executoures Maid at berwyk the day & yere abovesaid Thes witnesses John clavering robert story thomas foster John tyndaill with other[s]

Detts owyng by hym

To Janet temple	iii <sup>li</sup>	vi <sup>s</sup>	viii <sup>d</sup>
To elsaBeth temple		xiii <sup>s</sup>	iiii <sup>d</sup>
To andrew bawdkyn		x <sup>s</sup>	viii <sup>d</sup>
Too martyn shell wif		xx <sup>s</sup>	

Dettes owing to hym with monay

In rialls new	xxiiii		
in sylverr	v or vi <sup>li</sup>		
Item in the kinges majesties handes to be paid by M <sup>r</sup> douner for iii monthes ended the firste of <Septembre> at viii <sup>d</sup> the day for my self & vi <sup>d</sup> the day for [<every of> my] two servandes And from the firste of Septembre unto t[h]e vi <sup>th</sup> of <the same> at lik wages by the space of iiiii <sup>xx</sup> ix [89] days at xx <sup>d</sup> the day	vii <sup>li</sup> +		
Item M <sup>r</sup> Ridgeway owith me fo work of Dunlasse Hume Roxbrugh	iii <sup>li</sup>	xiii <sup>s</sup>	iiii <sup>d</sup> & more
M <sup>r</sup> Captane for my wages xii days at viii <sup>d</sup> per die & for my ii servandes wages at [vi <sup>d</sup> ] [per] diem for xii days	xx <sup>s</sup>		
Also M <sup>r</sup> Captane owith [me for] striving a peice of ordnance & Clement Shell ... x <sup>s</sup> & mor unto me iiiii <sup>s</sup>	xiiii <sup>s</sup>		

John Sikes owith me for ... [d]ays at viii<sup>d</sup> for my self  
by the day & vii<sup>d</sup> the pece [for] my two men

xxii<sup>[s]</sup>

Item I have a gonne of th... ..taithes I give hym one for it

Item I have a gonne of m... ..s wherfor he shall giv[e] ...s  
of ...tes one of John duc ... ..es a dagge of antony ...

I [have a] gonne & a dagge ... othus & ... haith a gonne ...  
myn[e] ... ..awe ... .. tak a dagg

<sup>†</sup> the number of days, excluding Sundays, between 1 June and 6 September 1549 was in fact 84, and which, at 20<sup>d</sup> per day, amounts to 7<sup>li</sup> as stated.

**Glossary:**

<i>clokke</i>	probably a cloak rather than a clock
<i>dagge</i> [dag]	a kind of heavy pistol or hand-gun
<i>rial</i> [ryal]	a gold coin, at this date of the value of 15 shillings

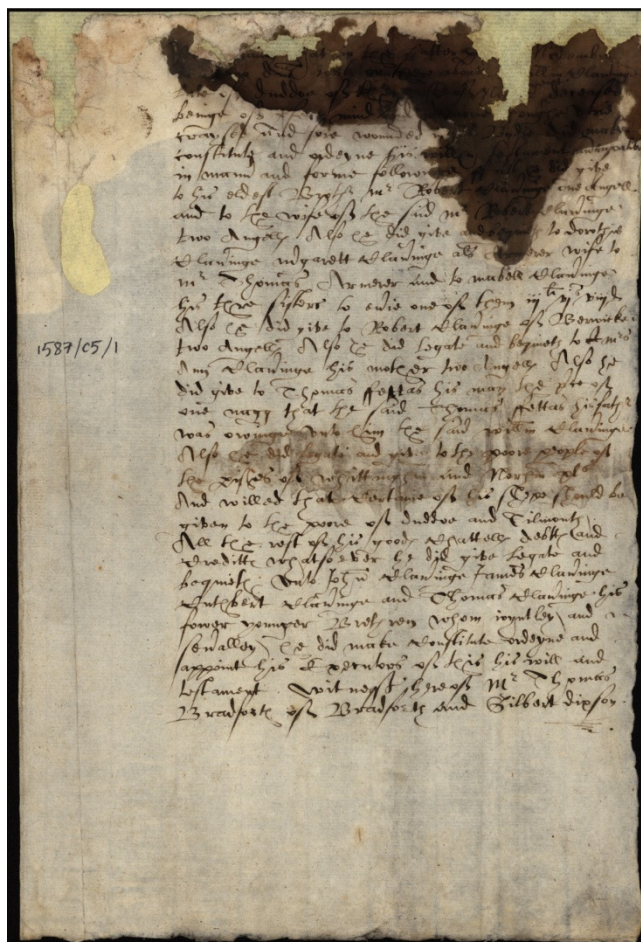
**Historical note:**

A Robert Shell, smith, appears with a John Shell, in a Book of Expenses of Building up the walls of Berwick-upon-Tweed, which work took place in the autumn of 1535. (LPFD, vol. IX, 637; SP 1/98 f.25). The Shells' work comprised working 28 stone of iron into wedges and sharpening tools for the town's masons. The 1583 will of a kinsman named Martine Shell of Berwick-upon-Tweed, 'one of her Majesties canenores of the great ordinance', also survives in the Durham probate collection.

## Nuncupative will of William Claveringe of Duddoe, esquire

Claveringe made his will in his last moments '*sore wounded in his bodie*'.

Contemporary accounts relate that he had been one of a party ambushed on the hills above Stanton in Northumberland returning home from Newcastle where they had been celebrating the anniversary of the accession of Elizabeth I. A retainer of the Collingwood family, Claveringe was a victim of that family's feud with the Selbies. Despite, it was said, Collingwood's wife pleading on her knees that no violence be done, Claveringe was shot and his brother was also wounded. A memorial stone called Clavering's Cross still stands on the hill where this encounter took place. The Clavering family appear to have been satisfied with monetary compensation in this instance, rather than pursuing a feud themselves. Feuding was a common feature of the border community life, 'surnames' acting in mutual solidarity for their own protection and survival. In this instance the Collingwoods and Selbies engaged in a long correspondence defending their actions to Secretary Walsingham at London, and trading accusations of March treason (colluding with the Scots), but their accounts so involved and partial it is hard to know the true cause of the incident. The damage to the document, now repaired, is caused by water rather than blood!



Durham Probate Records DPRI/1/1587/C5/1

Memorandum, that in the latter part [of] Novembre Anno domini 1586 or thereabouts William Claveringe late of Duddoe of the parishe of Norham <gentleman> deceased beinge of perfect mind and memorie though verie craysed and sore wounded in his Bodie did make constitute and ordeyne his will & testament nuncupative in manner and forme followinge First he did give to his eldest Brother Mr Robert Claveringe one Angell and to the wife of the said Mr Robert Claveringe two Angelles Also he did give and bequieith to Dorothie Claveringe Margarett Claveringe alias Armerer wife to Mr Thomas Armerer and to Mabel Claveringe his thre sisters to everie one of them iii<sup>li</sup> vi<sup>s</sup> 8<sup>d</sup> Also he did give to Robert Claveringe of Berwicke two Angelles Also he did legate and bequieith to Mrs Ann Claveringe his mother two Angelles Also he did give to Thomas Fettas his man the price of one nagg that the said Thomas Fettas his father was owinge unto him the said William Claveringe Also he did legate and give to the poore people of the parishes of Whittingham and Norham xl<sup>s</sup> And willed that Certaine of his shepe should be given to the poore of Duddoe and Tilmouth All the rest of his goodes Chattelles Debttes and Credittes whatsoever he did give legate and bequieith unto John Claveringe James Claveringe Cuthbert Claveringe and Thomas Claveringe his fower younger Brethren whom joyntley and severally he did make Constitute ordeyne and appoint his Executors of this his will and testament. Witness hereof Mr Thomas Bradforth of Bradforth and Gilbert Dixson.

**Glossary:**

*angel* a gold coin worth at this date 10 shillings  
*craysed* broken down in health; diseased; infirm

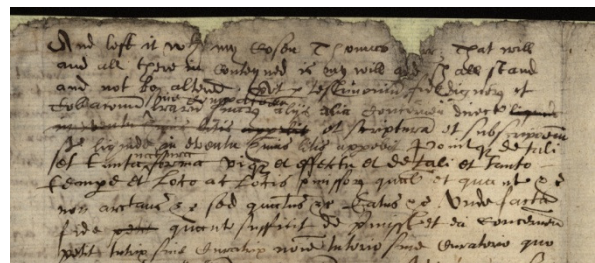
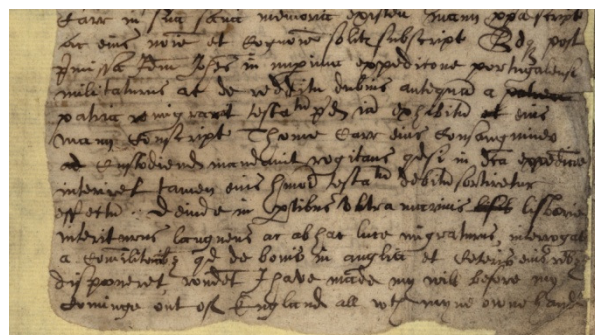
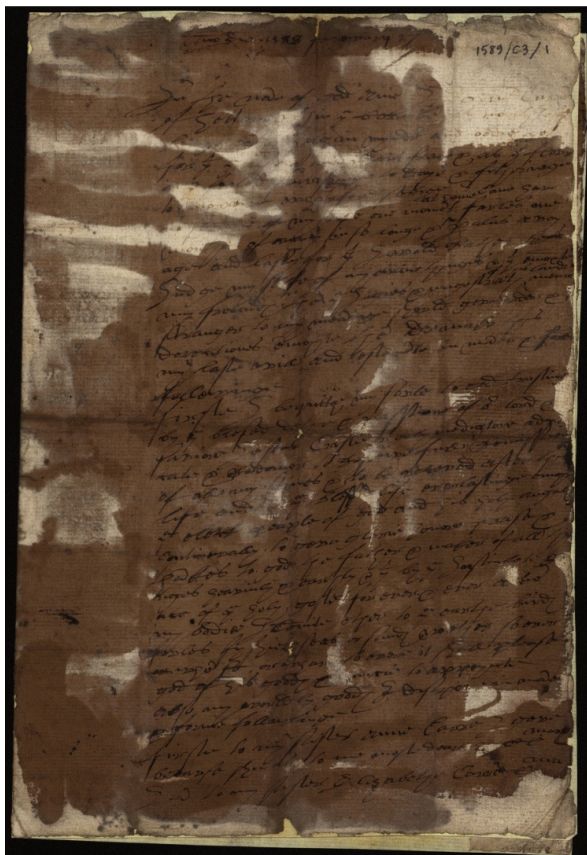
**Historical note:**

Additional transcriptions of records relating to this incident can be found in the State Papers series (CPSD, vols XXIX, 160-163, 165, 168; XXX, 33, 36, 97. Border Papers, vol.1, 521) and Hatfield Manuscripts (Cal. MSS, vols 3, 408; 13, [1013]).



## Will of John Carre of Hetton, Chatton, with an Allegation concerning its validity

Carre had conscientiously made a will prior to his departure on an expedition to Portugal, depositing it safely with a trusted cousin. This adventure was the little known 1589 English Armada, a disastrous counterstroke to the Spanish Armada of 1588. He never returned, and his sisters speedily obtained a grant of administration, rashly as it turned out for the will then came to light, as also a first-hand account of Carre's death in Portugal. With an eye to his '*longe & peralus*' voyage south Carre writes, '*my bodie I comite ether to the earthe birdes foules fyshi[es] seas or sands*'. The document also bears witness to its custodians' changing attitudes towards its preservation. The brown staining was caused by the application of a tannin solution, which by reacting with the iron in the ink brings out the text, so making it more legible. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century the document was professionally conserved. The allegation is written in Latin, but with Carre's words on his deathbed in Lisbon transcribed in the vernacular in which he delivered them: '*I have made my will before my cominge out of England all with my owne hand and left it with my Cosen Thomas Carr; That will and all there in conteyned is my will and shall stand and not be alterd*'.



## Will

Anno Domini 1588 Feveuary 2

In the name of God Amen I John Carre  
of Hetton within the Cowntie of Northomberland  
beinge both whole in mynde and bodie yet  
for that the life of man is but fraile & as the flour  
in the feiled flurishynge to daye & fetheringe [festering?]  
to morrowe wharfore seinge  
no [securitie] of my life one moment <at home cane have> farles one  
monthe of many in so longe & peralus a voy  
age and lastly for that I wold Rather I be  
Judge my selfe of my owine thinges & that emoxte  
my freandes then the Jugies & magestrates <of this lande> meare  
stranger to my meaninge should geve order &  
derectiones emoxte them do make this  
my laste will and testamente in maner & forme  
followinge

Firste I bequethe my soule to god trusting  
by the blesed dethe & passione of our lord &  
saviore Jesus Criste or [our] only mediatore advo  
cate & Redemor to Resceive full Remission  
of all my sines & to be Receved after this  
life end [into] the blessed life everlastinge emoxt  
the elect people of god and his holy angales  
continewally to geve glorie honore prase &  
thanks to god the father & maker of all thi  
nges heavinly & earthly & that by the Justinfete [justified?] gr  
ace of the holy goste for ever & ever Also  
my bodie I Comite ether to the earthe birdes  
foules fyshies seas or sandes wether soever  
when or whar[e] so evere it shall please  
god of his goodes & [m]arcie to appoynte  
Also my worldly goodes I dispose in maner  
& forme followinge

Firste to my sister Anne Carre I geve  
because she is to me most deare ... CC [200] markes  
Item to my sister Elizabethe Carre C [100] markes

...

## Allegation

... I have made my will before my  
Cominge out of England all with myne owne hand  
[*new page*]

And left it with my Cosen Thomas Carr; That will  
and all there in Conteyned is my will and shall stand  
and not be altered. ...

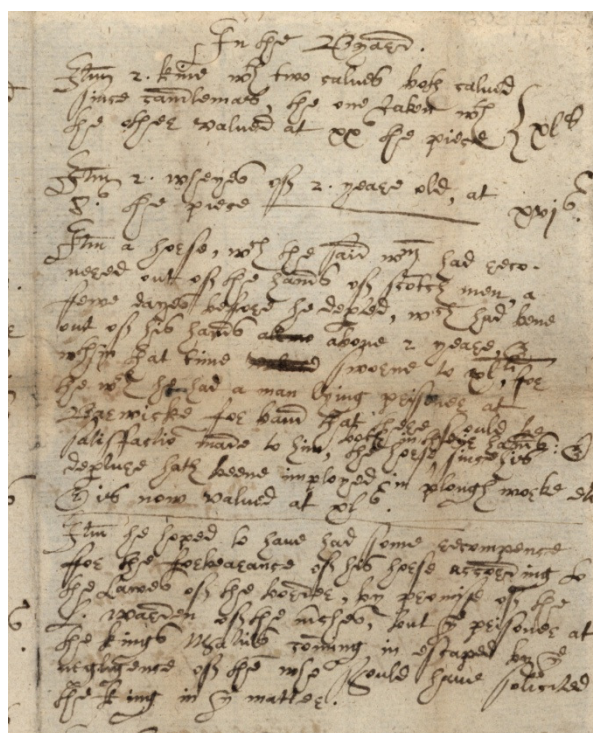
### Glossary:

<i>emoxte</i>	amongst
<i>mark</i>	13 shillings and 4 pence



## Inventory of William Collingwood of Kemerston, Ford

Collingwood's inventory reveals a very late glimpse of the ancient border laws, soon to be abolished by James I in 1605. The border marches on both sides of the English-Scottish border comprised a separate and international jurisdiction under a body of laws first codified by England and Scotland in the mid-13<sup>th</sup> century. In effect a martial law, it provided for the more efficient provision of justice across two national jurisdictions at a time when the marches were in a more or less constant state of violent unrest, and were intended also to prevent such low level violence escalating into international incidents. Collingwood appears to have been the victim of a Scotsman stealing his horse and then using it on his farm over the border. More than a year later Collingwood reports he had succeeded in capturing the thief and recovering his horse, much exhausted from ploughing, and had had the man imprisoned at Berwick. Unfortunately he had escaped before Collingwood succeeded in extracting any recompense '*for the forbearance of his horse according to the laws of the border*'. When such laws were operating properly then reivers in effect farmed the communities they preyed upon, 'borrowing' certain assets like beasts of draught at certain times of the year, and often returning or releasing the animals subsequently so that the cost of feeding and conditioning them was again borne by the owner. Protections from these attacks could be obtained by paying to the reivers a black mail or rent. In bad years, however, there was no law of any kind, and inhabitants of the marches either side of the border lived in constant uncertainty and terror.



Durham Probate Records DPRI/1/1603/C8/1

### In the Byard

Item 2 kine with two calves both calved  
since candlemas, the one taken with  
the other valued at xx<sup>s</sup> the piece xl<sup>s</sup>

Item 2 wheyes of 2 yeare old, at  
8<sup>s</sup> the piece xvi<sup>s</sup>

Item a horse, which the said William had recovered out of the hands of Scotch men, a few dayes before he departed, which had bene out of his hands above 2 yeare, & within that time sworne to xl<sup>li</sup>, for the which he had a man lying prisener at Barwicke for band that there should be satisfaction made to him, the horse <both in theyr hands &> since his departure hath bene bene employed in plough worke etc & is now valued at xl<sup>s</sup>.

---

Item he hoped to have had some recompence for the forbearance of his horse according to the Lawes of the border, by promise of the Lord Warden of the marches, but the prisoner at the kings Majesties comming in escaped by the negligence of them who should have solicited the king in the matter.

#### **Glossary:**

*byard* [byre] a cow-house

*candlemas* February 2<sup>nd</sup>; the feast of the purification of the Virgin Mary (or the presentation of Christ in the Temple) celebrated with a great display of candles

*wheye* [quey or whye] a heifer of any age up to 3 years, or until she has a calf

## Inventory of Sir George Bowes of Wolsingham

Bowes' inventory illustrates the uncertainty and disturbance of the times, the country wracked by civil war. His property was pillaged by both the Marquess of Newcastle's army and the 'Scotch army' some time after the invasion of a Scottish army under the Earl of Leven in January 1644 and before Newcastle's royalist army abandoned County Durham in April. The inventory of items 'forceably taken away' includes grain, hay, a horse, but also a bed and various interior furnishings. A Sedgefield probate account from April that year includes consecutive entries for levies made by the two opposing armies then encamped only five miles apart. The Scots pursued Newcastle's army south into Yorkshire on 13 April 1644 leaving only Newcastle city in royalist hands.

Of those afore mentioned specified particulars  
now forceably taken away by the Lord of  
Newcastle's army & by y<sup>e</sup> Scotch army the  
following particulars vizt

	to	sh	d
Two stots	03	10	0
Done 2 yeares old bay filly	01	00	0
Five frowns & harvests of oats	07	10	0
one bowse bowls 2 wine bowles & 11 frames	05	10	0
one fether bed. 1 bolster. 2 blankets. 1 old red rugg. & 5 red & white taffety countings with aye of sugar taffety wallans	04	10	0
one canopy with two countings suitable to the bed	00	10	0
4 great embroidered chairs	00	12	0
4 little embroidered chairs	00	08	0
one red rusbord cloath	00	04	0
2 old fether beds. 2 bolsters. 4 willows. 4 blankets. 2 old green ruggs. 5 old green & white faronot countings w <sup>th</sup> wallans & 1 rusbord cloath l <sup>in</sup> countings fowled w <sup>th</sup> ruffles & wallans suitable	03	10	0
3 great old chairs. 2 leysse & 6 old stools	00	05	0
one green cloath ruggat. 1 green cloath rusbord cloath & an old Scotch work rusbord cloath	00	06	0
18 pair of l <sup>in</sup> sheets. 10 pair of l <sup>in</sup> willowbs 1 dip table & cloath. 1 dip rusbord cloath 2 dozen of napkins. 4 l <sup>in</sup> table cloaths 2 rusbord cloaths. 4 towels. & 3 dozen of l <sup>in</sup> napkins	09	05	0

Of these afore mencioned apprised particulars  
 were forceably taken away by the Lord of  
 Newcastle's army & by the Scotch army these  
 ensuing particulars videlicet

	li	s	d
Inprimis Two stots	03	10	0
Item one 2 yeares old bay filly	01	00	0
Item six score thraves of oates	07	10	0
Item one beare bowle, 2 wine bowles & 11 spoones	05	10	0
Item one fether bed, 1 bolster, 2 blankets, 1 old red rugg & 5 red & white taffaty courtings with a par of fugar [?sugar] taffaty vallans	04	10	0
Item one cannopy with two courtings suteable to the bed	00	10	0
Item 4 great imbrodered chaires	00	12	0
Item 4 litle imbrodered chaires	00	08	0
Item one red cupbord cloath	00	04	0
Item 2 old fether beds, 2 bolsters, 4 pillows, 4 blankets, 2 old green ruggs, 5 old green & white sarcenet courtings with vallans & cruiles & vallans suitable	03	10	0
Item 3 great old chaires, 2 lesser & 6 old stooles	00	05	0
Item one green cloath carpet, 1 green cloath cupbord cloath & an old Scotch worke cupbord cloath	00	06	0
Item 18 pair on lin sheets, 10 pair of lin pillowbers, 1 diper table cloath, 1 diper cupbord cloath, 2 dozen of napkins, 4 lin table cloath's, 2 cupbord cloaths, 4 towels & 3 dozen of lin napkins	09	05	0

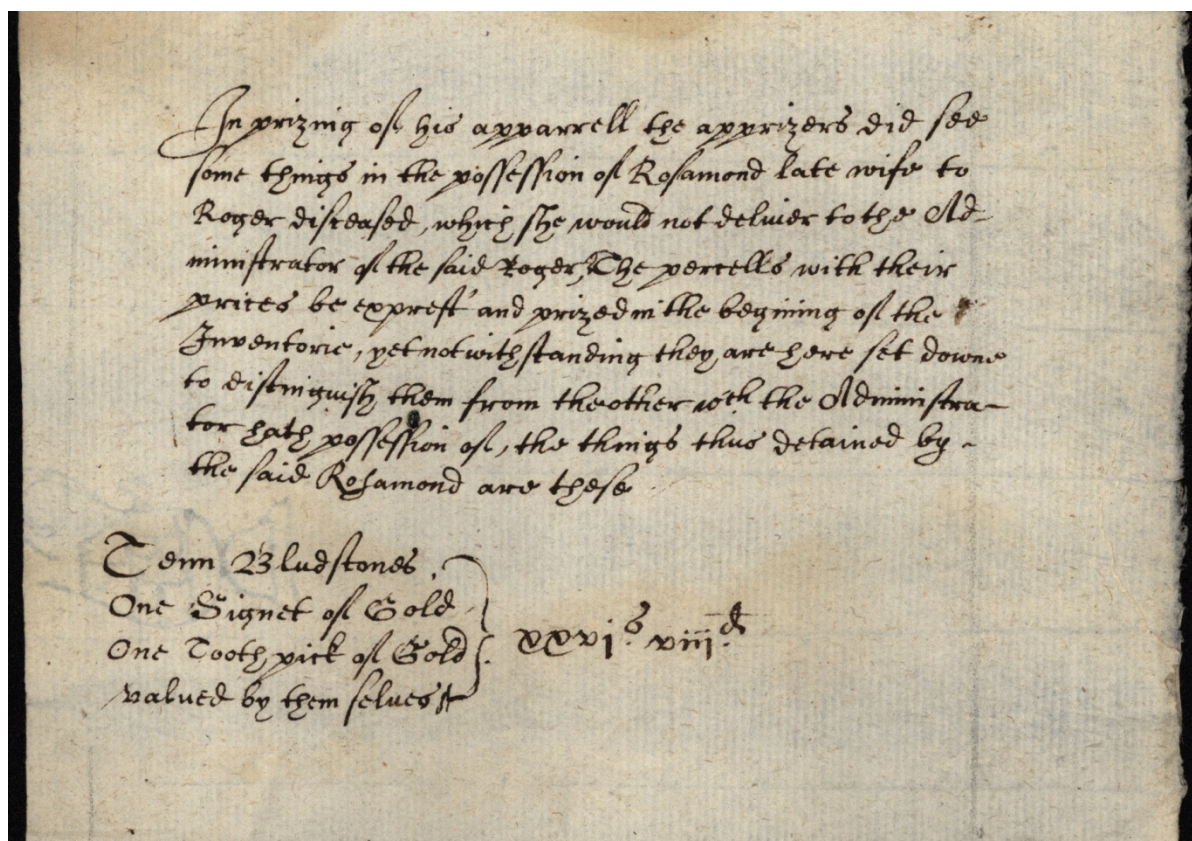
**Glossary:**

<i>diper</i> [diaper]	a fabric woven with a small and simple pattern, formed by the different directions of the thread, with the different reflexions of light from its surface, and consisting of lines crossing diamond-wise, with the spaces variously filled up by parallel lines, a central leaf or dot, etc.
<i>sarcenet</i>	a very fine and soft silk material made both plain and twilled
<i>stot</i>	a young castrated ox
<i>taffaty</i> [taffeta]	a plain-wove glossy silk
<i>thrave</i>	two stooks of corn (or pulse) containing twenty-four sheaves



## Inventory of Roger Widdrington of Harbottle, esquire

Widdrington and his wife were notorious recusant Catholics in a time when the laws of England penalised them heavily in both fines and forfeiture of lands for holding to their faith and refusing to attend the services of the established church of England. At one time Widdrington had been suspected of involvement in the Gunpowder Plot. Widow Rosamund Widdrington had a strong incentive not to cooperate with the appraisers and to hide what wealth the government had not already succeeded in confiscating during her husband's lifetime. Her efforts appear to have been only partially successful: the appraisers here are careful to note even Widdrington's signet ring and gold toothpick that his widow had refused to part with. This time was a particularly tense one for English Catholics due to Charles I's rumoured plan to deploy an Irish army in England. Roger's heir was later heavily penalised for his and his father's support for the king in the civil war, Cartington Hall being seized in May 1648 by Major Sanderson, copies of whose will and diary are also held in the library's collections.



Durham Probate Records DPRI/1/1641/W8/1-5

In prizing of his apparrell the apprizers did see some things in the possession of Rosamond late wife to Roger disceased, which she would not deliver to the Administrator of the said Roger, The percels with their prices be exprest and prized in the begining of the Inventorie, yet not withstanding they are here set downe to distinguish them from the other which the Adminitratour hath possession of, the things thus detained by the said Rosamond are these

Tenn Bludstones

One Signet of Gold

One Toothpick of Gold

valued by them selves at

xxvi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup>

**Glossary:**

*bludstone*

A name applied to certain precious stones spotted or streaked with red, supposed in former times to have the power of staunching bleeding, when worn as amulets.



## Deposition concerning the will of John Prest of Black Horse near Tudhoe, yeoman

A strong motivation for a testator to leave a final will and testament is to provide the next of kin with clear instructions so that any later controversy might be prevented. Publication of a final will being required it is understandable that a testator usually made a will when close to death. But when the family were already alienated from each other then the making of the will itself could be a pressured or resisted act; wills might be suppressed; or a more favourable codicil fortuitously discovered later. Alice Prest did her utmost to prevent her dying but clearly estranged husband from bequeathing his property away from her and her family, refusing to leave the room and then tearing up two drafts so that his attorney had to send to his office for more paper. It is this attorney, Ralph Harrison of Durham, whose testimony is contained in this document.

The Morning of the same Day I found the said John Prest in Bed Sick & asked him if he sent for this Depo<sup>t</sup> for, who answered to make his best that the reason Alice his then wife & now widow the Party deposed in this Cause fell into a great Passion & said there was no occasion for any But w<sup>ch</sup> he had made wishing our Damnation & Invoking Saints & Angels not to forgive him if he made any Alteration therein That this Depo<sup>t</sup> Indevoured to appease her & gave her to understand that it was Best for all parties to withdraw & as to w<sup>ch</sup> he had to Dispute of the might make a will thereof If it was in her favor it should be done the same Accord? to the Testators Intention & Direction But if of Decree could not be a free Agent in that Respect while she or they were there present All the Company upon this Depo<sup>t</sup> Giving their Reasons, then withdrew Except the said Alice who would not leave the Room where the Decree then lay lock in his Bed and the Daughter of the said John Prest on my Friend was called in to wait upon him the said second Testator that there upon this Depo<sup>t</sup> at last not prevailing with the said Alice to go out of the Room the said John Prest gave this Depo<sup>t</sup> Direction for his Will & this Depo<sup>t</sup> Got Pen Ink & paper & began to commit the same to Writing but this Depo<sup>t</sup> had scarce wrote above or two when she the said Alice came & with Violence snatched the paper out of his this Depo<sup>t</sup> Hand & carryt it away This Depo<sup>t</sup> had more paper took another piece & drew & signed his will record? to his Direction which when he had done forthwith he was going to put a Seal to the same the said Alice again snatched away & last time she intended well with Violence from this Depo<sup>t</sup> & carryt it out of the House This Depo<sup>t</sup> then went out & David Thomas Prest who was then in Bed Room to Lind Lane to Tudhoe & got him more paper than in the Interval the said John Prest fell into a Slumber & so on &c

Durham Probate Records DPRI/1/1750/P9/5-6

... the Morning of the Same Day I found the said John Prest in Bed sick & asked him what he sent for this Deponent for, who answerd to make his Will that thereupon Alice his then wife & now widow the Party Defendant in this Cause fell into a Great Passion & said there was no occasion for any But what he Had made wishing him Damnation & Invoking Saints & Angells not to forgive him if he made any alteration therein. That this Deponent Indeavord to appease her & Gave her to understand that it was Best for all parties to withdraw & as to what he had to Dispose of He might make a will therof. If it was in her favor it should be Honestly Done according to the Testators Intentions & Direceons, But that the Deceased Could not be a free agent in that Respect while she or they were there present. All the Company upon this Deponents Giving these Reasons then withdrew Except the said Alice who would not leave the Room where the Deceased then lay sick in his Bed and the Daughter of the said John Prest one Mary Friend was Called in to waite upon him the said Testator that there upon this Deponent at last not prevailing with the said Alice to go out of the Room the said John Prest Gave this Deponent Direcions for his Will & this Deponent Got Pen Ink & paper & Began to Commit the same to writing but this Deponent had seaven wrote a line or two when she the said Alice came & with Violence snatched the paper out of this Deponents Hands & Carryed it away. This Deponent Having more paper took another piece Drew & Ingrossed his will according to his Direcions while when he had Done & while he was Going to put a seal to the same the said Alice again snatched away the last menciond Intended will with Violence from this Deponent & Carryed it out of the House. This Deponent then went out & Desird Thomas Prest who was then in Another Room to send Down to Tudhoe & Gett him More paper ...

**Glossary:**

*ingross* [engross] to write in large letters; to write out formally, in legal form  
*seaven* just, just then