

Be it remembred That one day in the moneth of September
in the yeare of our Lord One thousand six hundred fifty Nyne Jaine
Todd (alias Wintropp) a poore beggar travelling abroad to seeke
her liveing John Hindemers of Melden in the County of Northumberland
found her in the Towne of Melden begging of the Inhabitanes there
And the said John Hindemers goeing into the feilds about his busines
perceived the said Jaine to be sickly and spoke unto her, who answered
him that she was sicke and in feare of death, and desired him to give
her harbour at his house, which he in charitie was content to doe, and
after she had Cortynued [continued] there about twenty daies, She the said
Jaine, <being of perfect memorie> in the presence of dyvers credible witnesses, did
make

and declare her last will nuncupatively in the wordes, followeing, or
to the like effect videlicet She lyeing on her death <bed> did declare That
one George Wilkin did owe her Forty shilliges, and one Michael
Wealands other forty shilliges both of them liveing in Longwitton
which moneys she did freely give and bequeath to the said John Hindemers
seeing he had beene soe charitable in harbouring <her> dureing the tyme of
her sicknes. At the speakeing of which wordes one Christofer Hall and
William Davyson were present and heard the same.

Signum

Christoferi Hall juratus [sworn]

Glossary:

dyvers [divers]

various, several

Inventory of Isabel Humble of Stannington

There was long the superstition that King's evil or scrofula could be cured by the ceremonial touch of an anointed king or queen. Introduced to England by Edward the Confessor, the practice of 'touching the king's evil' continued up until 1714. The monarch would touch the sore with a gold coin, which coin was then given to the sufferer as a dole: after 1626 applicants for the touch were required to be certified by their parish. In this case the journey to London by James Humble, perhaps the husband of Isabel, was in vain: '*what portion was left him was spent and more on him for seeking cure for the King's evil and after his return from London was lame to his death*'. This tuberculous disease is rare today, and is treated with antibiotics or surgery.

1684/H21/1

A true and perfect Inventory
of y^e goods and chattels of Isabel
Humble widow of Stannington
in the County of Northumberland
and Diocess of Durham taken and
apprised by John Hunter and
Edward Browne both of Stannington
and County aforesaid upon the 3^d
day of Septemb^r in y^e xxxvith
year of y^e Kings Reign Be it
Dni^o 1684

Two Kings values at	s.	s.	d.
	03	12	00

How sundry charges

In all with amount to	s.	s.	d.
	04	05	00

John H. Hunter
mark
Edward Browne

As for James Humble of Shotton what filial
portion was left him was spent and more
on him for seeking cure for y^e King's evil and after
his return from London was lame to his death

A true and perfect Inventory
of the goods and chattels of Isabel
Humble widow of Stanington
in the County of Northumberland
and Diocess of Durham taken and
apprised by John Hunter and
Edward Browell both of Stanington
and County aforesaid yeomen the 3^d
day of September in the xxxvith [36th]
year of the Kings Reign &cæ. Annoque
Domini 1684

	l.	s.	d.
Two Kine valued at	03	12	00
Her funerall charges			
In all doth ammount to	04	05	00

John Hunter his mark
Edward Browell

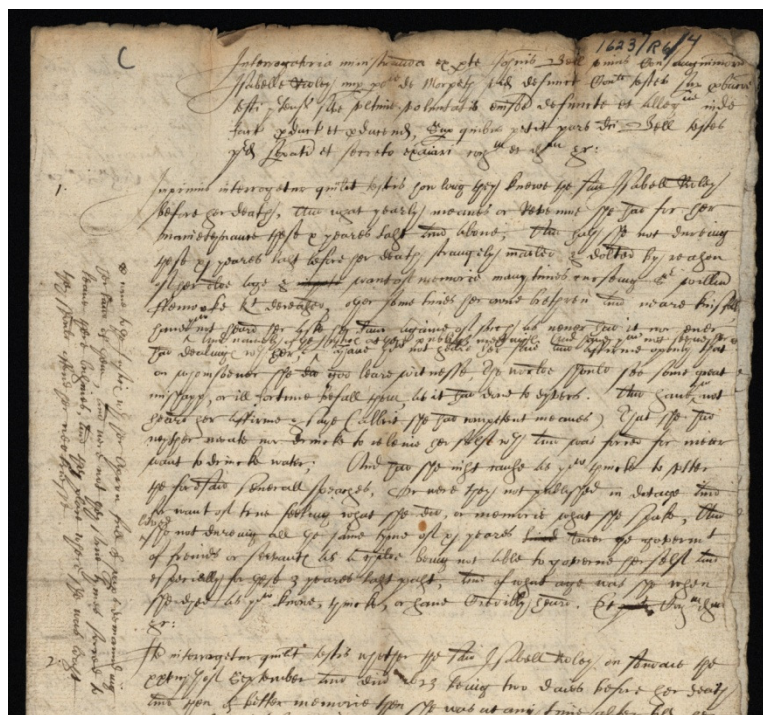
As for James Humble of Shotton what filial
portion was left him was spent and more
on him for seeking cure for the <Kings> evill and after
his return from London was lame to his death

Glossary:

kine cows
king's evil scrofula

Interrogatories of John Bell, a cousin, to the witnesses of the will of Issabell Rydley of Morpeth, widow

These are questions put to the witnesses to establish or challenge the validity of the will, each interrogatory beginning with a short Latin clause but then continuing in English. Probates of uncontentious wills could be obtained quickly in a 'common form' administrative process often involving surrogates of the bishop's judge (called the 'Official Principal') conveniently located around the diocese; but where a dispute arose then the will required a sterner test of its validity 'in solemn form' and which took place in the consistory court. This process involved the cross-examination of witnesses and the deliberation of the Official Principal, who finally produced 'sentence' (judgment) on the case. Rydley appears to have made on the same day both a written and a nuncupative will. It was alleged that Ridley had for a long time been '*as a childe being not able to governe her self*' and so not capable of making a valid will and testament. In this instance a summary of the nuncupative will was drawn up from the statements of the witnesses by the judge. Officials were often pragmatic and would conscientiously seek to correctly interpret a testator's wishes and, unless perhaps confronted by a person proscribed from making a will, would not void a deceased's final will out of hand. Those persons suffering mental illness, and who were without means, could be cared for in workhouses established under the Poor Law, sometimes in specially designated rooms. Newcastle's first dedicated Lunatic Hospital was opened in 1764, and a private Licensed House was established at Bensham, Gateshead in 1799.



Durham Probate Records DPRI/1/1623/R6/4

Interrogatoria ministranda ex parte Johannis Bell unius Consanguinnorum
Isabelle Ridley nuper parochie de Morpeth vidua defunctus Contra testes super probacione
testamenti pretensis sive ultime voluntatis euisdem defuncte et allegatione inde
factum productum et producend, Super quibus petit pars dicti Bell testes
predictum separati et secreto examinari conjunctim et diversim &c.

*[Questions on behalf of John Bell a cousin of Isabell Ridley formerly of the parish of Morpeth
widow deceased to be administered to the witnesses produced or to be produced upon the
probation of the alleged testament or last will of the same deceased and upon an allegation
in respect thereof, upon which he requests the counsel of the said Bell separately and
privately to examine the aforesaid witnesses jointly and severally etc.]*

1 Imprimis interrogetur quilibet testis *[Firstly let each witness be questioned]* how long
they knewe the said Isabell Ridley
before her death, And what yearly meanes or Reveniuie she had for her
maineteynance these x [10] yeares last and above; And hath she not dureing
these xi [11] yeares last before her death strangely madled & dolted by reason
of her olde age & want of memorie many times curseing Sir William
Fenwicke Knight deceased, other some times her owne brethren and neare kinsfolk,
have yow not heard her aske her land againe [against] of such as never had it nor ever
had dealinges with her; <and namely of the Justices at there publique meetinges And
have yow not seene her> ^e

^e come to the Justices with her Apron full of papers demanning
her land of them, and were not they some tymes forced to
leave there busines, and the place where she was least
they should offend her weaknesse.

Have yow not heard her saie and affirme openly that
on whomsoever she did god beare witnesse, The worlde should see some great
mishapp, or ill fortune befall them, as it had done to dyvers. And have <yow> not
heard her affirme & saye (albeit she had competent meanes) That she had
neyther meate nor drincke to releive her selfe with and was forced for meer
want to drincke water; And had she just cause as yow thincke to utter
the foresaid severall speaches, Or were they not published in dotage and
for want of true feeling what she did, or memorie what she spake, And
<lived> she not dureing all the same tyme of xi [11] yeares under the goverment
of freinds or servantes as a childe being not able to governe her self and
she dyed as yow knowe, thincke, or have Credibly heard. Et Conjunctim diversim
&c. [And jointly and severally etc.]

...

Glossary:

dolted made stupid, inert, as through old age
dotage the state of one who dotes or has the intellect impaired; feebleness or
imbecility of mind or understanding
dyvers [divers] several (of persons)

1605 the xx [20th] of June

A true and perfect Inventory of all the goodes moveable & unmoveable which wedowe Dickson wife was to arche dickson had: when she departed: which goodes she did give & bequeth to Christofo Nicolson glover & to his daughter.

In the presens of Conand Stevenson Jane Hadocke & Doritie Stevenson with otheres. & she had the visitation xi [11] weekes hir goodes being prased by Conand Stevenson & Thomas Stoute

Imprimis one <old> ambre		xviii ^d	
Item iiii paire of old harden shettes	ii ^s		
Item iii Rayles & iii churchers		xviii ^d	
Item iii harden smokes		xx ^d	
Item one harden bed	ii ^s		thes is the 3 slat<s> was at hur bureing
Item ii old aprons		vi ^d	
Item iiii old hapens		xx ^d	
Item a tub & a stand & a kirne & a skele & a trowe stone & a dosen trenchers & a pe<w>der dubler		xxi ^d	
Item iii old Cottess being woman cottess	v ^s		
Item one bed stead & old bordes		vi ^d	
Item one old cloke		vi ^d	
Item one brasse pote & a little pan		xvi ^d	
Item for one paire of peper whernes & a paire of Iron barres		viii ^d	
	Summa	<hr/>	
		xx ^s vii ^d	

Debttes which the sayd Christofo nicolson did paye for the forsayd wedowe Dickson for thinges which was bestowed of hir in hir visitation being xi weekes.

Item for one woman to kepe hir xi [11] weekes at thre shillinges the weeke		xxxiii ^s	
Item for meatt & drinck xi [11] weekes to them		xvi ^s	vi ^d
Item for hir buriall		iiii ^s	
Item for clengen the house ii [2] weekes		viii ^s	
Item for meatt & drinke to the clenger ii [2] weekes		iii ^s	
Item iiii men to carye hir to the church and the bedell			xx ^d
Item a woman to help the keper		iii ^s	
Item for bering water & brume to the clengers			xii ^d
	Summa	<hr/>	
		iii ^l	x ^s ii ^d

So disbursed by christofo nicolson mor then he Reseved

	ii ^l	x ^s	v ^d
--	-----------------	----------------	----------------

Wittnesses hereof: thomas stoute
Conand stevenson Jane hadocke
Doritie stevenson with others.

...

mor bestowed of hir befor she tooke the visitations when
she had the Jaunes sicknes.

for hir to the poticare for poticare ware	iii ^s
for ii [2] pintes of wine	vi ^d
for bread & drink & flech to hir	iii ^s
for a drinke for the Janes to hir	xii ^d
for suger & clovyes	iiii ^d
Summa	<hr/> vii ^s x ^d

being disbursed by Christofo nicolson
for the foresayd wedowe Dickson.

...

Mr Thomas Kynge thes ar to disire you to stande this
pore manes Freande in his Juste accione For of
my knolage this which is set downe one the
other syde is moste Juste for thare is a greate
dette mor in charges then all the tryfell goodes
came too for the pore womane thatt owght thes goodes
dyed in the plage and was one of the pore which was
mantaned of the maidlenes, and the Potte which
is nowe in controverse was geven <to> the pore manes
doughter the bearer hearof, thus disiringe you For
godes sake to stande thare Frende I ende

Your Freande to Comande
in all thinges to his pow[er]
Roger Erringtonn

Glossary:

<i>ambre</i>	a repository or place for keeping things; a storehouse, a treasury; a cupboard (either in the recess of a wall or as a separate article of furniture)
<i>bedell</i>	beadle
<i>brume</i>	brim[stone] [?]; sulphur
<i>churher</i>	kerchief, a cloth used to cover the head, formerly a woman's head-dress
<i>clengen</i>	cleansing: this includes both feeding, watering and caring for the sick, as well as disinfecting the house and goods after the death or recovery of the infected persons
<i>cotte</i>	coat
<i>dubler</i> [doubler]	a large plate or dish
<i>glover</i>	a maker or seller of gloves
<i>hapen</i> [happing]	a coarse covering , a rough rug for a bed
<i>harden</i>	a coarse fabric made from the hards of flax or hemp
<i>jaunes, janes</i>	jaundice
<i>kirne</i>	churn
<i>maidlenes</i>	Magdalenes
<i>rayle</i>	a garment, a cloak; a cloth; (also) clothing
<i>skele</i>	a dish or platter
<i>slat</i> [slate]	a bed sheet
<i>smoke</i>	smock
<i>trencher</i>	a plate or platter made of wood, metal or earthenware
<i>trowe stone</i>	trough stone [?]: grindstone
<i>tryfell</i> [trifle]	trivial, paltry
<i>visitacion</i>	a time of sickness or infection with the plague
<i>peper wherne</i>	pepper quern

Historical note:

The 18th century historian of Newcastle, Henry Bourne, reported that Barras Bridge drew its name from the grave barrows of the hospital of St Mary Magdalen, and which he identified with Sick Man's Close in which he thought many of Newcastle's plague victims were also buried. Eneas Mackenzie, writing a century later, disagrees on the latter point.

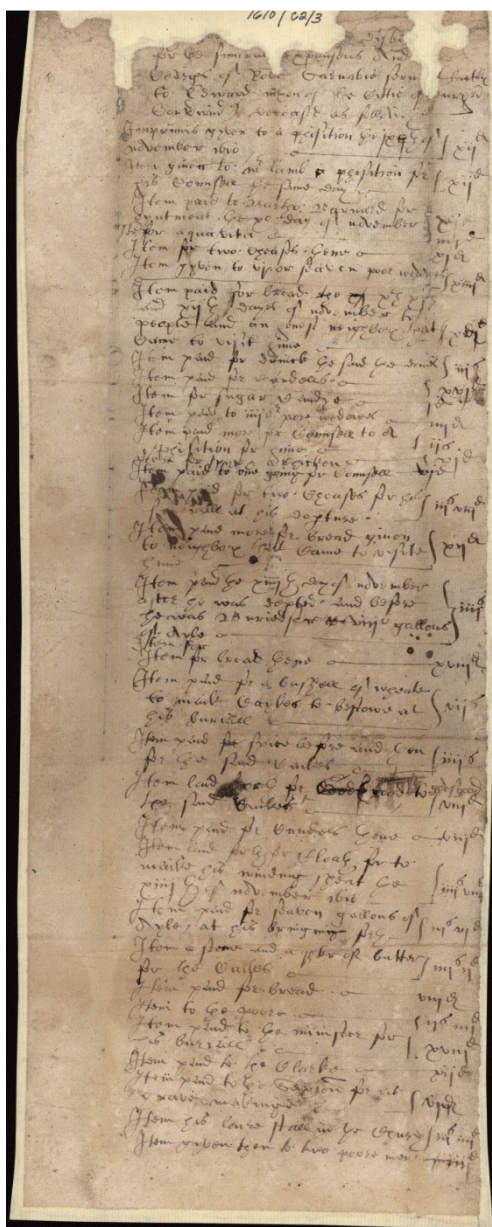
'That the Maudlin Barras was a burying-place has been placed beyond a doubt, by the vast quantities of human bones that were discovered in sinking two wells behind the Sick Man's House, or St. James' Place. Bones have also been found in digging the foundations of new erections in this place. But it is very improbable that the whole of Sick Man's Close, containing about seven acres, was used as a cemetery. There is a tradition that, during the prevalence of the plague in Newcastle, the inhabitants were removed to tents pitched in this place, from which circumstance it acquired the name of Sick-Man's-Close. Those who died were interred in a spot called Dead Men's Graves, in Benton Lane.'

Bourne, Henry, *The History of Newcastle upon Tyne* (1736)

Mackenzie, Eneas, *Descriptive and Historical Account of the Town and County of Newcastle-upon-Tyne* (1827)

Inventory of Robert Carnaby of Durham St Nicholas, servant

The medical bill for Robert Carnaby is surprising considering his menial status. He was visited by a physician on 9 November 1610 and another physician named Mr Lamb provided a second opinion the same day: each were paid only a shilling for their pains. Probably at their suggestion an apothecary named Bartholomew Barnard supplied an ointment and some aqua-vitae the following day. When considered against Carnaby's personal estate, there are listed a disproportionately high number of expenses relating to his care, funeral and wake, and his employer Edward Nixon, a wealthy Durham cordwainer, is careful to claim £2 2s against his servant's estate for his other servants watching over him, for spoiled bedding and for the cost of losing these servants' labour during their vigil.



Durham Probate Records DPRI/1/1610/C2/3

... disbu[rse]d]
 for the funeral expensens And [th]e
 Charges of Roberte Carnabie serv[an]t laityly
 to Edward Nixon of the Cittie of Durham
 Cordwiner deceased as followethe

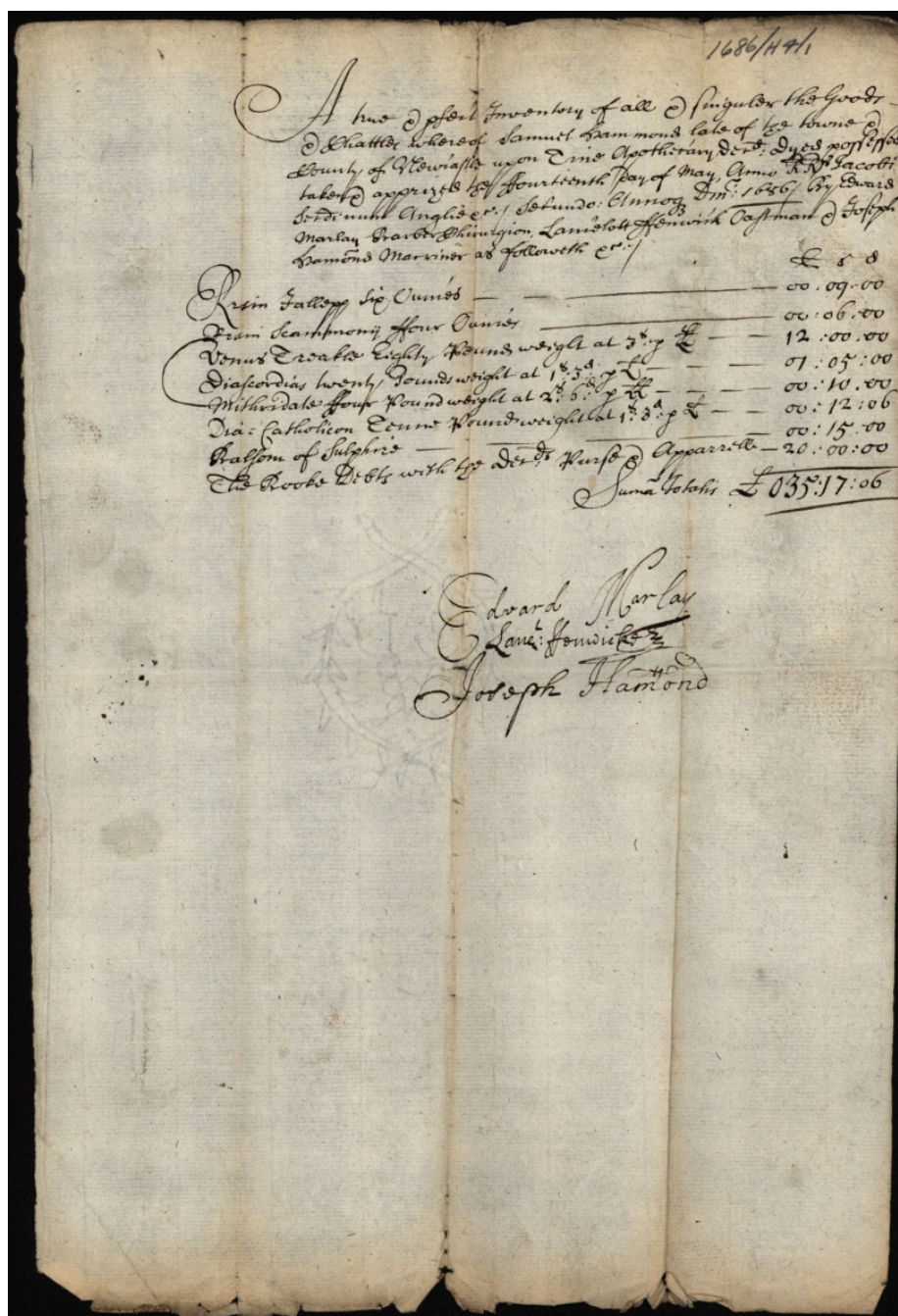
Imprimis gyven to a phisition the ix th [11 th] of november 1610	xii ^d
Item given to Mr Lamb a phisition for his Counsell the same day	xii ^d
Item paid to Bartholomew Barnard for oyntment the x ^o [10 th] day of november	xii ^d
Item for aqua vita	iiii ^d
Item for two Cheases thene	xi ^d
Item gyven to vi [6] or seaven poor wedowes	xiiii ^d
Item paid for bread the x th xi and xii th [10-12 th] dayes of november to people and an honest neighbores that Came to visit hime	x ^d
Item paid for drinck the said thre daies	iii ^s
Item paid for Candells	xvi ^d
Item for sugar Candye	i ^d
Item paid to iiiii [4] other poore wedowes	iiii ^d
Item paid more for Counsell to A phisition for hime	ii ^s
Item for spyce & a Chicken	vi ^d
Item paid to one going for Counsell	vi ^d
Item paid for two Cheases for his funerall at his departure	iii ^s viii ^d
Item paid more for bread given to neighbores that Came to visite hime	xii ^d
Item paid the xiiii th [14 th] day of november after he was departed and before he was Buried for viii ^o [8] gallons of Ayle	iiii ^s
Item for bread thene	xviii ^d
Item paid for a bushell of wheate to maik Caykes to bestowe at his buriall	vii ^s
Item paid for spice before and then for the said Caikes	iiii ^s
Item laid forth for <godsgood> to the said Caikes	viii ^d
Item paid for Candels thene	viii ^d
Item laid forth for Cloath for to maike his winding sheat the	

xiiii th [14 th] of november 1610	iiii ^s	viii ^d
Item paid for seaven gallons of Ayle at his bringing forth	iii ^s	vi ^d
Item a stone and a quarter of butter for the Caikes	iiii ^s	ii ^d
Item paid for bread		viii ^d
Item to the poore	ii ^s	iiii ^d
Item paid to the minister for his buriall		xviii ^d
Item paid to the Clarke		xii ^d
Item paid to the Saxtonn for his grave makeinge		vi ^d
Item his laire stall in the Church	iii ^s	iiii ^d
Item gyven then to two poore men		iiii ^d

Glossary:

<i>aqua vita</i>	ardent spirits or unrectified alcohol
<i>bushell</i>	a standard measure of grain and comprising 4 pecks or 8 gallons
<i>godsgood</i>	or God's good: yeast, barm
<i>laire stall</i>	a grave within a church
<i>saxtonn</i>	sexton
<i>winding sheet</i>	a shroud

Inventory of Samuel Hammond of Newcastle upon Tyne, apothecary
 Apothecaries' own inventories are an excellent source for understanding historical medical practice and provide clues to their formularies. Most of the medical compounds listed are no longer in use, having been replaced by safer and more effective alternatives. *Resin of jalap* and *scammony* are purgatives; *diascord* is a herbal medicine; *mithridate* and *Venus (Venice) treacle* are generic terms for electuaries, sweet medicinal paste compounds then valued for their properties as antidotes and preservatives; a *diacatholicon* is a laxative; *balsam of sulphur* is sulphur dissolved in oil or turpentine.



Durham Probate Records DPRI/1/1686/H4/1

A true & perfect Inventory of all & singular the Goods
 & Chattles whereof Samuel Hammond late of the towne &
 County of Newcastle upon Tine Apothecary deceased dyed possessed
 taken & apprized the fourteenth day of May, Anno Regni Regis Jacobi
 Secundi nunc Anglie &c. Secundo Annoque Domini 1686. By Edward
 Marlay Barber Chirurgion, Lancelott Fenwick Oastman & Joseph
 Hammond Marriner as followeth &c.

	l	s	d
Resin Jallepp Six Ounces	00	09	00
Resin Scammonii Four Ounces	00	06	00
Venus Treakle Eighty Pound weight at 3 ^s per L [lb]	12	00	00
Diascordias twenty Pounds weight at 1 ^s 3 ^d per l [lb]	01	05	00
Mithridate Four Pound weight at 2 ^s 6 ^d per L [lb]	00	10	00
Dia-Catholicon Tenne Pound weight at 1 ^s 3 ^d per l [lb]	00	12	06
Balsom of Sulphire	00	15	00
The Booke Debts with the deceaseds Purse & Apparrell	20	00	00
Summa Totalis	£	<u>035</u>	<u>17 06</u>

Edward Marlay
 Lancelot Fenwicke
 Joseph Hammond

Glossary:

balsom of sulphire
[balsam of sulphur]

sulphur dissolved in oil or turpentine, usually for external application, for healing wounds or soothing pain

dia-catholicon

a laxative electuary so called from its manifold composition and general usefulness; an 18th-century pharmacopoeia lists as typical ingredients senna leaves, pulp of cassia and tamarinds, roots of male fern, rhubarb, and liquorice, aniseed, sweet fennel, and sugar.

diascordias [diascord]

a medicine made of the dried leaves of *Teucrium Scordium*, and many other herbs

electuary

a sweet medicinal paste compound then valued for its properties as an antidote and preservative

mithridate

a generic term for an electuary

resin jallepp [jalap]

a purgative drug obtained from the tuberous roots of *Exogonium (Ipomæa) Purga*; the active principle is the resin contained in the tubers

resin scammonii
[scammony]

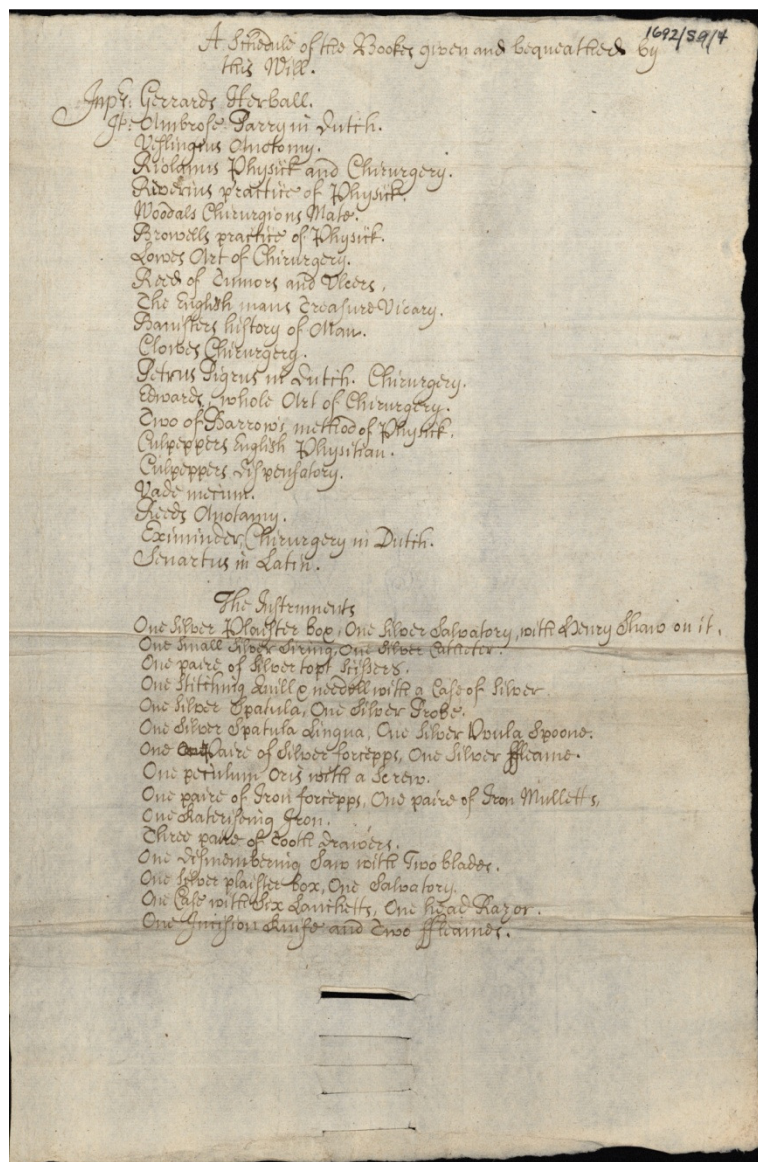
a strong purgative gum-resin obtained from the tuberous roots of *Convolvulus Scammonia*, a plant native in Syria and Asia Minor

Venus treacle [Venice treacle]

an electuary or salve

A schedule of books and surgical instruments bequeathed by the will of Henry Shaw of Newcastle upon Tyne, barber surgeon

Working alongside apothecaries were surgeons and physicians, together forming the chief medical professions. In the earlier period there are instances of witchcraft, particularly in the rewarding area of animal practice (both curing and blighting); latterly the probate records of veterinarians begin to occur, and specialisations in medical practice multiply. Such practitioners' probate records can include inventories of their instruments and books, as in this case. Many of the surgical instruments are made of silver as the metal has antibiotic properties. The number of Dutch texts in this inventory may reflect the health of the book trade across the North Sea, but equally Shaw may have trained at Leiden or Utrecht or another of the great medical schools in Holland, then the most advanced in Europe.



Durham Probate Records DPRI/1/1692/S9/4

A Schedule of the Bookes given and bequeathed by
this Will.

Inprimis Gerrards Herball.
Item Ambrose Parry in Dutch.
Veslingius Anotomy.
Riolanus Physick and Chirurgery.
Riverius practice of Physick.
Woodals Chirurgions Mate.
Browells practice of Physick.
Lowses Art of Chirurgery.
Reed of Tumors and Ulcers.
The English mans Treasure Vicary.
Banisters history of Man.
Clowes Chirurgery.
Petrus Pigrus in Dutch. Chirurgery.
Edwards. whole Art of Chirurgery.
Two of Barrow's method of Physick.
Culpeppers English Physitian.
Culpeppers Dispensatory.
Vade mecum.
Reeds Anotomy.
Eximinder, Chirurgery in Dutch.
Senartus in Latin.

The Instruments

One Silver Plaister box, One Silver Salvatory, with Henry Shaw on it.
One Small Silver Siring, One Silver Catheter.
One paire of Silver topt Scissers.
One Stitching Quill & needell with a Case of Silver
One Silver Spatula, One Silver Probe.
One Silver Spatula Lingua, One Silver Uvula Spooone.
One Paire of Silver forcepps, One Silver Fleame.
One peculum Oris with a Screw.
One paire of Iron forcepps, One paire of Iron Mulletts.
One Kateriseing Iron.
Three paire of Tooth Drawers.
One Dismembering Saw with Two blades.
One Silver plaister box, One Salvatory.
One Case with Six Lanchetts, One head Razor.
One Incision Knife and Two Fleames.

List of Authors:

John Gerard
Ambroise Paré
Johann Vesling
Jean Riolan
Lazarus Riverius
John Woodall
Walter Broue
Peter Lowe
Alexander Reid
Thomas Vicary
John Banister
William Clowe.
Pierre Pigray
Edward Edwards
Philip Barrough
Nicholas Culpeper.
Thomas Brugis [?] [*Vade Mecum: or, a Companion for a chyrurgion*]
Daniel Sennertus

Glossary:

<i>catheter</i>	a long tubular instrument, of metal, more or less curved at the end, for passing into the bladder in order to draw off urine, etc.;
	a similar tube for use with other canals
<i>fleame</i>	a surgical instrument for letting blood or for lancing the gums; a lancet
<i>kateriseing</i>	cauterizing
<i>lanchetts</i>	lancets
<i>mulletts</i>	a kind of pincers or tweezers
[s] <i>peculum oris</i>	a surgical instrument of various forms, used for dilating the mouth so as to facilitate examination or operations
<i>plaister</i> [plaster]	at this time a solid medicinal or emollient substance spread on a bandage or dressing and applied to the skin, often becoming adhesive at body temperature
<i>salvatory</i>	a box for holding ointment
<i>siring</i>	syringe