

wreaths, and running festoons of flowers and foliage. The mouldings, also, exhibit numerous classical devices, amongst which, the rectangular, or intersecting fillets, forming the Greek pattern and fretwork; the two bands intertwining in curves, or the *guilloche*; the flute and fillet; the row of square blocks or dentels; the egg and tongue on the ovolo, are the most common. Finally, since the invention of block printing on paper, and its universal application, the narrow skirting board of the modern house is all that has survived of the ancient wainscot.

M.W.T.

ART. XXIV.—*The Laws of Buck Crag in Cartmel, and of Bampton.* By Wm. JACKSON, Esq.

*Communicated at Buck Crag, May 27th, 1875.*

IN visiting this old farm house, deserted of all inhabitants, and fast degenerating into ruin, without any particular features to distinguish it from many of its neighbours other than its more advanced condition of decay, it may be thought that we are scarcely fulfilling the object for which our society was founded; and, indeed, if we but regard the name under which our investigations are carried on, we might well be accused of travelling out of bounds. If we intend, however, as I presume we do, that our Society should not only foster every enquiry which may bear upon the history of the district, but cherish every effort made to elucidate its topography, all researches into old manners and customs, all investigations into the biographical details recoverable of its eminent natives,—then indeed it is good for us to be here, and to visit similar shrines of genius; to draw attention to and to preserve, at least, the recollections of the homes and haunts of our departed worthies. Indeed, it imparts a charming variety to our excursions to pass from the Castle or Hall, rich with architectural detail and glowing with all the splendours of romantic association, to the poor cottage, where, born in humbleness,

humbleness, and nurtured in carefulness, the child of genius cultivated the talents and energy which were to be the means of advancing himself and his descendants to the front rank amongst his fellow men.

Here, in the very house now before us, was born in June, 1703,—for he was baptized at Cartmel Church, on the 17th of that month,—Edmund Law, subsequently Bishop of Carlisle, who, remarkable as he was for his own powerful intellect, was still more notable as the patriarch of a line eminently illustrating the truth of Galton's theory of hereditary genius. Although Edmund Law was not a native of the valley of the Lowther, where all his fore-elders had lived, yet it was in the grammar school of Bampton that he was educated, and no school can point to richer fruit than, taking all circumstances into consideration, it has produced. The mere enumeration of the eminent men it has influenced, either directly, or through its alumni, would be tantamount to a repetition of the names of almost half the worthies of Westmorland. It is not my intention to repeat to you any details of the life of Bishop Edmund Law, of whom far too little is known; even the immortal Sylvanus Urban does no more than record his death; but had he lived in our day, fertile in books, he would not have lacked a biographer. Some very interesting facts are narrated in Mr. Stockdale's *Annals of Cartmel*, (which I see in the hands of several present, and which ought to be in the possession of all interested in our local history,) respecting the father of the bishop, the Rev. Edmund Law, Vicar of Staveley. My object, however, is rather to trace the stream to the mountain source, and to shew the humble beginnings of the house of Ellenborough, which is, perhaps, not the only representative our "Statesmen" can claim in the British peerage.

A few days ago, I was engaged in some researches in the Will Office at Carlisle, and was struck by the occurrence of the name of Edmund Law, in the year 1644; this, and the  
fact

fact that we were about to visit this old house, led me to investigate further, and I found the same surname and Christian name repeated in combination again and again. I was finally induced to go through the Indices down to about the year 1750, and to copy every will belonging to the name, from the earliest on record, in the year 1570, down to the latest in 1744. They divide themselves into two groups, the members of the one lived and died in the parishes of Bampton, Askham, and Barton; those of the other resided at Appleby, and Asby; and, singularly enough, the name does not occur elsewhere, so far as the records in the Will Office are concerned. I cannot trace any relationship between the two, though there can be little doubt they sprang from one source. I shall therefore only claim to place those of the first before you, as being those of the Bishop's undoubted relations. I have another motive in desiring to place them on record; they are excellent representative wills, of that interesting class, the "Statesmen" of our district; and they afford us, through their appended Inventories, some idea of the extreme simplicity of their furniture, household implements and modes of life.

Mr. R. S. Ferguson has kindly undertaken to elucidate them from a legal point of view, and his valuable comments will supply a want which has been long felt by every reader of old wills, whether perusing them in the original documents themselves, or in the stores furnished to antiquarians in Nicolas's *Testamenta Vetusta*, or in the volumes devoted to that subject by the Surtees and Chetham societies.

## NO. 1.

*Will and Inventory of John Lawe of Yeanwith 1602.*

In the name of God Amen I John Lawe of Yeanwith wthin the prish of Barton seeke in body but whole in mind and in pfect remembrance praised be Almighty god doe make this my last will and testament in manner and forme following first I commit my soale to the tuition of almighty god and my body to be buried within the churchyard of Barton paieing all dewes and services belonging Item

## NOTES TO PEDIGREES.

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It is a matter of great regret to me, that, after devoting much time and thought to the compilation of the foregoing pedigrees, I am unable to fix upon the father of the Bishop of Carlisle. He is named in the Inventory appended to the Will of Anthony Law, as one of the valuers, but nothing is said there to justify a positive statement that he was a younger brother of Anthony, though there can be little doubt that such was the fact.

The Rev. John Hodgson, in his far too brief account of Westmorland, states that he was born at Measand, and upon him I rely; though others name Bomby and Carhullan, both also in Bampton parish, and others again Askham.

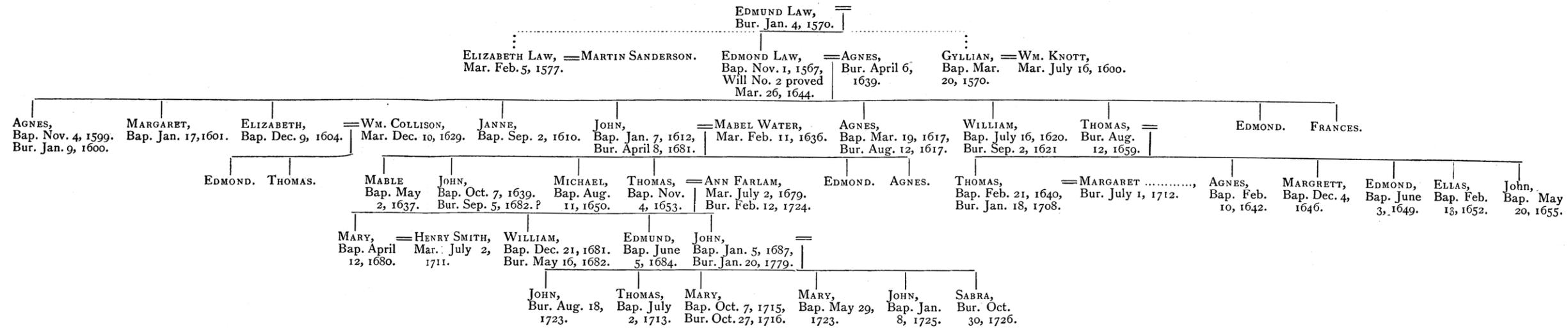
I have given all the members of each branch that I have been able to classify.

I am indebted to the Rev. James Darling for information from the Bampton Register, and other assistance, enabling me to compile the pedigree illustrating Wills Nos. 4, 5, and 6; and to the Rev. C. H. C. Baker for extracts from the Askham Register, embodied in the pedigree appended to Will No. 2.

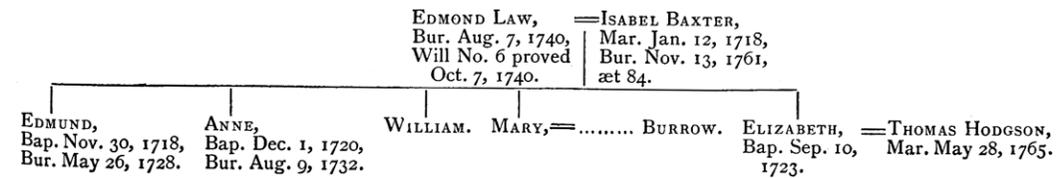
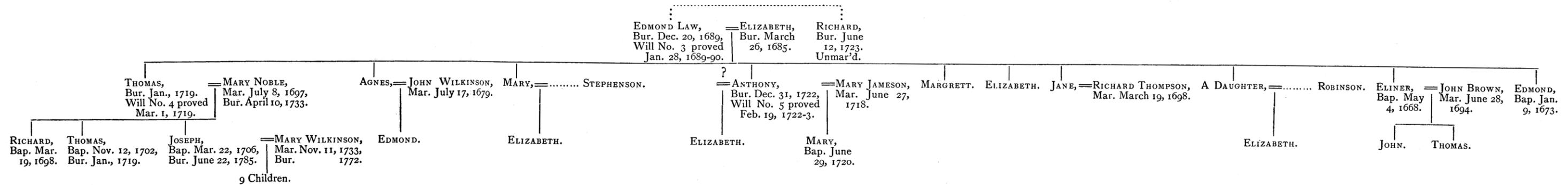
If any errors be detected in either, I hope they will be treated with leniency. Any one accustomed to compiling pedigrees from Registers, with little other assistance, knows how fraught with difficulties his path is.

My acknowledgements are also due to the Rev. E. Keating Clay, Vicar of Cartmel, for information kindly conveyed; and if the strenuous endeavours, made by Thomas Willan, Esq., to ascertain the father of Edmund Law of Staveley, have been as vain as my own, none the less are my thanks due to him.

LAWS OF ASKHAM.



LAWS OF COWDALE, BOMBY, CARHULLAN, AND MEASAND? ALL IN BAMPTON PARISH.



I give my tenement which I have in Yeanwith to my daughter Elizabeth Lawe by a coven't made between Robert Meason of Carleton and me by th' arbitrament of Edmond Dudley and Willm Hutton esquires Item I give my tenement in Helton to my youngest sonne Edward Lawe and haith paied iiii lb vis viiij for fyne and gressan to Andrew Hilton esquier which fyne was to the use of my sonne Richard Lawe and my Will is that yf my sonne Edward recover the same tenem't according to my gift that then the said Edward shall pay to the said Richard some reasonable thinge for the same at sight of my master and others the sup'visors Item I give unto Annas my wifone black Copheaded Cowe Item I give to Richard Lawe my sonne v ewes It'm to Windfryd my daughter v ewes Item to my sonne Edward v ewes Item to John Lawe my godsonne one ewe and one lambe the rest of all my goodes moveable and immoveable my debts paied my legases bequeathed and funerall expences discharged I give to Thomas Lawe Richard Lawe Winifred Lawe Ealizabeth Lawe and Edward Lawe whom I make my whole and Joynt executors of this my last will and testament and further give to my daughters in lawe either of them one ewe and one ewe and one lambe and to Katherine Lawe one ewe and one lambe Item if the said Edward Lawe obtaine the tenem't at Hilton then my will is that he shalle none of my executors Item Supervisors of this my last Will and testamet Edmond Dudley esquier Thomas Walker Edmond Tinkler and Edmond Armor and Richard Walker to see this my will pformed and if ane variance or contraversie fall betweene my said wif and children my will is that they shall abyde the order and Judgment of my said supvisors and whosoe refuseth soe to doe shall lose the benefitt of my said will:

Wittnes herof

RICHARD GIBSON

ROBTE ATKINSON

EDMOND COWP

JOHN TODD

wth others

Quinto die mensis Julii Anno Dni 1602 pbtum fuit - - - - ac Admstraco comissa fuit Thome Law Johann Law executoribus &c &c.

Inviory made of all the goodes whiche was John Laws of Yenwth whin the pishe of Barton at the daye of his Deathe psed by this foure sworne men Edmond Armer Rychard Walker Edmond Cowper and Rychard Gybson the vth Daye of October 1601 Ano Elysabethe XLIII

Item foure oxen	-	-	-	-	v lb	vi s	viii d
Item foure kyne	-	-	-	-	iiij lb		
Item foure neat	-	-	-	-		xl s	
Item two nages	-	-	-	-		xl s	
Item in old sheap	-	-	-	-		vii s	
Item in lames	-	-	-	-		xvi s	
Item a swyne hogge	-	-	-	-		xii s	
Item in haver and straye	-	-	-	-			i lb
Item in Bigge and straye	-	-	-	-			iii lb
Item in _____?	-	-	-	-		vi s	vii d
Item in haye	-	-	-	-		xlvi s	viii d
Item in husbandrie geare	-	-	-	-		xiii s	iiii d
					LL		Item

Item two Arkes	- - - - -	xxviii s	
Item Bedstead-	- - - - -	xii s	
Item in wod geare	A binke the house -	xxx s	
Item in Axes womell and in	puder vessell } -	v s	iiii d
Item in fyre vessell	- - - - -	iii lb	v s
Item A ombrie a Cobart	} - - - - -	xxix s	
Two Chests			
Item his Beddinge	- - - - -	xxvis	viii d
Item his Apparell	- - - - -	xx s	
Item in pulture And	other geare -	ix s	
Suma totalis	xi.i lb	xvii s	4 d

*Endorsed* Testamentum et Inventarium Johannis Lawe quod de Barton pbat fuit quinto die Julii 1602

No. 2.

*Will of Edmond Lawe of Askham 1644.*

In the name of God amen &c. I Edmond Lawe of Askham sicke in body but whole and pfect in mind (thanks be unto God my Creator and redeemer C. J.) do make and ordaine this my last Will and Testam. in manner and forme following. Imps. I bequeathe my soule into ye handes of Almighty God my maker and redeemer and my bodye to be buryed in the parish Churchyarde of Askham. Item I give unto my Daughter Frances Law thirty two poundes; Item I give unto my grandchilde Francs White seven poundes to be payed her by mine exrs out of goods and corne and my will is that if ye said Frances White dye the said seven poundes shall returne unto my sonne Thos Lawe. Item. I give to my sonne Thos Lawe one Bishell of Bigge and two of Oattes. Item I give my sonne John Lawe one blacke Cowe which was boughte of Tho: Collinson one blacke horse, three Ewes, and three hogges one paire of my best Cartwheeles. Item I give to John ye sonne of John Lawe one lambe, to Edmond his son one lambe to Agnes his Daughter one lambe.

Item I give to Edmond sonne of Elisabeth Collinson one lambe and to her sonne Tho; one Lambe. Item I give my sonne Edmond Lawe two bedstockes, two sheetes, two Happins, one Chest, one Arke, one little brassepott.

Item I give to my daughter Frances twenty poundes more to be payed out of goods and corne; Item I give unto her all my dublers, caldrons, potts, pannes, Covrclothes boulsters, and fether bedds and happins, and all the rest of my household stuffe. The rest of all my goods and chattles as well moveable as unmoveable quick as dead (my debts legacies and funerall expences discharged and my body honestly brought unto ye earth) I give and bequeath unto my sonne Edmond Lawe whom I make sole Executr of this my last will and Testament.

Witnesses hereof are

THO: COLLINSON

THO: LAWE

WILLM WALKER

26 die Mensis Martii 1644 pbatu fuit hmoi testament Ac Admstraco comissa executoribus &c.

No. 3.

No. 3.

*Will of Edmond Law of Cowdaill 1689.*

In the name of God amen the sixteenth day of December Anno Dom. 1689 I Edmond Law of Cowdaill in the parrish of Bampton and county of Westmerland husbandman being sick and weake in body but of sound and perfect memory (thanks be to all mighty god for the same) and calling to minde the uncertain state of this Transitory life and that all flesh must yield unto death when it shall please god to call and being desirous to settle things in order do make this my last Will and Testament wherein is contained my last will and Testament in manner and form following; revoking and absolutely unwilling by these presents all and every Testament and Testaments will and wills heretofore by me made and declared either by word or by writing notwithstanding any promise to the contrary or Clause derogatory in the same and this to be taken only for my last Will and Testament and none other first I bequeath my soul to all mighty god my maker and to Jesus Christ my redeemer and to the holy Ghost my Sanctifier and my body to the earth from whence it came to be buried in such decent and Cristian manner as to my Executors shall be thought meet and convenient; their to rest; untill my Soull and body shall meet again and be Joynd together at the Joyful resurrection and be made partaker of the neverfading Joys of imortality which god in mercy through the merits of Jesus Christ alone hath promised and prepared for all those that truly and unfeignedly repent and be live in him and touching such temporal Estate of goods Chattels and debts as the Lord hath been pleased far above my deserts to bestow upon me I doe order give bequeath and dispose the same in manner and forme following. Imprimis I give and bequeath unto my eldist son Thomas Law one Shilling. Item I give unto my eldist daughter Agnes Wilkinson Twenty ewes out of Threscore after five of the worst Ews are cast out which Threscore are to be equally divided by lott Item I give unto my Second daughter Mary Stephenson one gimer hog Item I give unto Elizabeth Stephenson my grand childe one gimer hog Item I give unto my Second son Anthony Law one corded bed stead and beding to it well worth thre pounds or thre pounds in money Item I give unto my daughter Eliner Law my best covering and best Caldron Item I give unto my son Edmond Law my bed stead which I lye on standing on the loft with the beding theiron Item I give unto my son Thomas Law as much of the top of an oake for a Ridge Tre as much as will serve for a mow stead and an outset and the remainder of the said oake to my Executors hereafter named

I make my five Children Anthony Law Margrett Law Elizabeth Law Eliner Law and Jane Law Joynt Executors and Executrixes of this my last Will and Testament to whome I give and bequeath all the remainder of my goods and chattels moveable and unmoveable and credits after the satisfaction of my debts and payment of the Legacies above by me bequeathed

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year first above written

Published Signed Sealed  
and delivered in the presents  
of us

Lanclot Jackson  
Richard Wright  
Tho. Jackson  
Christi Mounsey

Edmond Law Mark  
and Seal

*The impression on seal (in red wax) is an animal running.*

Apud

Apud Penreth 28 Januarii 1689 pbatu fuit hmodi Testamentu ac adm. bonoru  
comissa fuit Antho Law Margt Law Elizabeth Law Elinora Law Jani Law Execu-  
toribus in dco Testamto &c

No. 4.

*Will of Thomas Law of Cowdale 1719.*

January the 18th Anno 1719

In the name of God Amen, I Thomas Law of Cowdale in the parish of Bampton,  
and County of Westmerland, Being weak in body but of perfect mind and memory  
Praise be God for it, doe make this my last Will and Testament in maner and  
forme following;

Imprimis, I give my son Richard forty pound, ten Meason ewes, Black Mare,  
two Chists, A table, two bed steeds, A dish bink, A long seat under Windows,  
A seat before table, All at Meason,

Item I give unto my son Joseph, Twenty Pound, my Close Chist, five ewes

Item I give unto my Brother Antony five shilling.

Item I give unto my Sister Jane five shilling

Item I give unto my Brother Edmond two shilling Sixpence

Item I give unto my sister Elizabeth two shilling Sixpence

Item I give unto my nephew John Brown one shilling

Item I give unto my nephew Thomas Brown one shilling

Item I give to my nephew Edmond Wilkinson one shilling

Item I give to my nece Elizabeth Robinson one shilling the rest of my goods  
and Credits Moveable and Unmoveable I give and bequeath to  
my wife Mary Law Whom I appointe sole and whole Executrix  
of this my last Will And Testament, As Wittness my hand with  
other Wittnesses

Test.

Thomas Bryan

Anthony Law

Richard Law

William Wilkinson

Thomas Law (no seal)

Apud Penreth primo die mensis Martii Anno Dni 1719 pbat fuit humodi Testam  
ac Adco bonor fuit Extrici in eod noiat jurat

*(The various Laws write very fairly,—Richard well.)*

Brampton in Westmorland

The Inventory of the Goods Credits & Chattels Personal and real of Thomas  
Law of Cowdale als Cowdell Hall made & taken by Thomas Noble of Higs How,  
John Atkinson of Low How, Antony Law of Carhullan, & William Wilkinson of  
Mooras Hill, all in ye Parish aforesaid, Jan 21 A.D. 1719.

Imps Purse & Apparel	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	00	00
Beds & Bedding	-	-	-	-	-	-	01	10	00
A Cuphoard	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	01	00
Arks & Chests	-	-	-	-	-	-	01	15	00
Tables Forms and Chairs	-	-	-	-	-	-	00	10	00
Wooden & Earthen Vessels	-	-	-	-	-	-	00	10	00
									A Crook

Brass & Pewter	-	-	-	-	-	-	02	10	00
A Crook, Tongs & Girdle	-	-	-	-	-	-	00	05	00
Beef, Meal & Malt	-	-	-	-	-	-	03	00	00
Pokes & Sacks-	-	-	-	-	-	-	00	10	00
A Fless Tub & Spinning Wheel	-	-	-	-	-	-	00	06	00
Husbandry Instruments	-	-	-	-	-	-	02	00	00
Loose Wood	-	-	-	-	-	-	03	00	00
Catle	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	00	00
Horses	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	00	00
Sheep	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	00	00
Wool	-	-	-	-	-	-	08	00	00
Hay & Corn	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	00	00
Fewel & Manure	-	-	-	-	-	-	00	13	00
Poultry	-	-	-	-	-	-	00	10	00
Odd Stuff at Measand	-	-	-	-	-	-	01	00	00
Money	-	-	-	-	-	-	80	00	00
							222	19	00
							Funeral Expenses	-	06 04 04
These deducted there remain	-	-	-	-	-	-	216	14	08

Apprs.

ANTHONY LAW.  
 THOMAS NOBLE.  
 JOHN ATKINSON.  
 WILLIAM WILKINSON.

Jan. 21, A.D. 1719 Then Recd of Mary Law Extri<sup>x</sup> of Tho Law within mentioned The Sum of 10s. Mortuary by ye Statute ois. o8d. customarily due for Writing & Inventory & o8d. for ye Funeral, by me

T. Wearing Vicar of Bampton.

*(This Inventory and the foregoing receipt are beautifully written, and are no doubt in the handwriting of this locally celebrated man.)*

No. 5.

*Will and Inventory of Anthony Law of Carhullon, 1722.*

In the name of God Amen, July the 30th 1722 I Anthony Law of Carhullon within the prsh of Bampton & County of West<sup>d</sup> yeoman being weak in body but of perfect memory praisd be God doe make this my last Will & testament in maner And form following

Imps I bequeath my Soul into the hands of God my Creator & Redeemer and my body to be buried at the descretion of my Executors hereafter nominated

Item I give unto my daughter Elizabeth Law one wainscott bed: one meal chist, one wainscot chist and the chist my writings are kept in, one fether bed the best fether bolster two tables one cubard, A dish bink And A Covercloth, and all the timber and Slate and Stones provided for the building & repairing my houses at hiltondale head.

Item I give unto my Nephew John Browne the Sume of twenty five pounds & one coat cloth or part of a web of dyed cloth

MM

Item

Item the Rest of all my Goods and Chattles Moveable and Imoveable of What Nature or quality Soever I give and bequeath unto my Wife Mary Law and my daughter Elizabeth Law Whom I doe Make joynt Executors of this my Last Will and testament my said Executors discharginge all my Debts and Legaces Within twelve months after my Decease

In Witness whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and seale the Day and year first above written

Signed Sealed & Delivered  
in the presnts of us &c

JOHN HUDSON  
RICHD LAW  
LEONARD MOUNSEY

ANTHONY LAW L.S.

*Seal in red wax, but no distinct impression, the signature that of a sick man, but otherwise identical with the signature of the Anthony who witnessed the preceding will.*

Apud Penreth 19<sup>o</sup> die mensis Febr<sup>ii</sup> Anno Dni 1722 Probatum fuit humod Testam ac Adco bonor com fuit Mariæ Law Vidua Coextrix in eod noiat jurat &c . . . Reservata potestate Constem Adconem comittend Elizabethæ Law al. coextrix dum ad plenam ætatem suam prenerit Tai co humodi Testamti inse susceptur vel refutatur et onus psonæ & porconis dcœ Elizabethæ Law Impuber Com fuit dcœ Mariæ Law &c &c

Bampton January the 4th 1722

A true and perfect Inventory of the goods Chattles & credits of Anthony Law of Carhullon and prsh aforesd And County of Westmrland made and Aprised by Edmund Law of Staveley Leonard Mounsey of Widewath John Hudson of Carhullon And Michaell Noble of high Roughill all in the said County & ye Day and year first written.

Purse and Apparrell	-	-	-	-	06	00	00
Crook, tongs girdle & Brand Iron	-	-	-	-	00	10	00
Brass Pewther & fire vessell	-	-	-	-	03	12	00
Wood Vessell & Earthen Potts	-	-	-	-	00	10	00
Bed Steads & Bedding	-	-	-	-	02	12	00
Chists, Chars and Stools	-	-	-	-	00	15	00
Beef Meal Malt & and other provision	-	-	-	-	02	00	00
Swine poultry & Bees	-	-	-	-	01	08	00
Poaks, Sacks & Windeing cloth	-	-	-	-	00	14	00
Husbandry gear	-	-	-	-	04	03	00
Corne and hay	-	-	-	-	16	00	00
Wool	-	-	-	-	32	00	00
Horses and Mares	-	-	-	-	09	00	00
Cows, heffers and Stears	-	-	-	-	44	00	00
Sheep of all Sorts	-	-	-	-	49	00	00
				in all	170	12	04
Wood of all sorts & other Nessessarys for Building Given to his Daughter	-	-	-	-	03	10	00

Cubard

Cubard tables Chists fether bed and bolster	-	-	-	05	00	00
Bed Steads dish bink and Covercloth	-	-	-	179	02	04
			in all			
Money oweing to the Deceased	-	-	-	23	00	00
			in all	202	02	04
Debts of the Deceased	-	-	-	68	14	00
funerall Expences	-	-	-	03	02	4
Debts in all	-	-	-	71	16	4
Totall Inventory	-	-	-	202	02	04
Debitory in all	-	-	-	71	16	4
Difference	-	-	-	130	06	00
Apprisers						
EDMUND LAW						
LEONARD MOUNSEY						
JOHN HUDSON						
MICHAELL NOBLE						

Then Received for the funeral 8d.  
for writing this 1s. 8d. for the  
Mortuary 10s. by me

T. Wearing Vicar of Bampton

(This Inventory and Receipt, as the preceding ones, are in the handwriting of T. Wearing.)

No. 6.

*Will and Inventory of Edmond Law of Bomby, 1739.*

In the name of God Amen I Edmond Law of Bomby in the Parish of Bampton and County of Westmerland Yeoman being of a sound mind and memory (praised be God for the same) and calling to mind the uncertain state of this transitory life and that all Fflesh must yield unto Death when it shall please God to call, do make, constitute and ordaine this my last Will and Testament in manner and forme as followeth, Ffirst of all I bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God my maker hoping through the meritorious Death and passion of my Saviour Jesus Christ to have full and free pardon and forgiveness of all my sins and to inherit Everlasting Life, and as for my Body I commit to the Earth to be decently buried at the discession of my Executrixes hereafter named

Ffirst I give unto my son William Law the sum of three shillings

Allso I give unto my daughter Mary Burrow the sum of three pounds

Allso I give unto my Daughter Elizabeth Law the sum of Ten pounds

Lastly all the rest of my Goods Chattles and Credits whatsoever not above bequeathed I give unto my Wife Isabel Law and my Daughter Elizabeth Law whome I make joynt Executrixes of this my last Will and Testament they paying and discharging all my just Debts Legacies and Ffuneral Expences and I do hereby revoak dissannul and make void all other Wills and Testaments this only taken for my Last In Witness whereof I the said Edmond Law have hereunto set my hand and Seal this fourth Day of January in the year of Christ One Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty nine

Signed Sealed Published and declared  
in the presence of

JOHN BAXTER

MATTHEW WRIGHT

mrk.

EDMOND LAW

L L.S.

(Seal in red wax without any impression.)

*Endorsement* The Seventh day of October 1740 This Will of Edmund Law deceased was proved and Administration of the Goods of the said deceased was granted to Isabel Law Widow and Relict of the said Deceased and one of the joint Executrixes therein named A power being reserved to grant the Like Administration to Elizabeth Law the daughter of the said Deceased and the other joint Executrix named in the same Will now in her minority when she shall attain to her full age to accept the same And the said Isabel Law was sworn as Executrix and to the truth of the inventory and so forth

Before me

John Waugh

A true and perfect Inventory of all and singular the Goods Chattels and Credits that Edmund Law late of the parish of Bampton died possessed of as they were apprizd on the 9th day of August 1740 By William Tinckler John James John Baxter and Thomas Brown.

	lb	s	d
His purse and Apparell	-	-	-
Household Goods	--	-	-
Husbandry Gear	-	-	-
Hay	-	-	-
Cattle	-	-	-
Poultry	-	-	-
Elding	-	-	-
Money at Interest	-	--	-
			24 12 0
			Funeral Expenses - 2 0 0
			Remains £22 12 0

Apprizd by

JOHN BAXTER

JOHN JAMES

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*Notes on the above Wills, by the Editor.*

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WILL No. I. NOTE A.

IN this will the testator appoints, in addition to executors of his will, supervisors thereof. The appointment of coadjutors, overseers, or supervisors, distinct from the executors, was once not unusual. The coadjutor, overseer, or supervisor had no power to administer or intermeddle otherwise than to counsel, persuade, and advise; he could complain to the Spiritual Court of misconduct by the executors, and have his costs. His position hath been defined as that of a candle-holder, "having no power to do anything but hold the candle, while the executors tell the deceased's money." Sir Thomas Ridley. Ridley, Pt. 4, c. 2.

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For instances of the appointment of such officials, see the will of Christopher Richmond of Fedden Well, *supra*. pp. 125 and 126, and of Christopher Richmond of Catterlen, *supra* pp. 127 and 128. In each case the testator appoints the wife executrix, and certain of his friends as coadjutors.

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WILL No. I. NOTE B.

“This will has neither signature nor mark to it, and must therefore be of the class called nuncupative.” Such was my first impression on looking at this will, but a perusal of it convinces me that it is not a nuncupative will at all, but a carefully and deliberately drawn will of the usual character.

A Nuncupative will is so called, says Swinburne, a nuncupando, *i.e.* nominando, of naming; because when a man maketh a nuncupative testament, he must name his executor and declare his whole mind before witnesses. A Nuncupative Testament is defined to be when the testator, *without any writing*, doth declare his will before a sufficient number of witnesses. 1 Williams on Exors. p. 111. Before the Statute of Frauds it was of as great force and efficacy (except for lands, tenements, and hereditaments) as a written Testament.

Now no conveyancer can read this will of John Lawe of Yeanwith without seeing that it is no hastily drawn document, but one which has been carefully prepared by a competent lawyer, and written out in the testator's lifetime and intended for him to sign. It runs throughout in the first person, a form in which it would not have been cast, had it been the reduction into writing, after the death of the testator, of his will expressed by him verbally, prior to his death. It has been carefully drawn by a competent lawyer, for it deals with real property, which has been subject to a fine levied, and is in settlement. Now no nuncupative testament could possibly deal with such, and had the testator attempted to do so *nuncupatively*, it would have been worth no one's while to reduce his attempt into writing.

Dates will however prove conclusively this will not to be nuncupative. The inventory gives the date “5th October, 1601,” as that of, either the testator's death, or the making of the inventory. Yet the will was not proved until the 5th of July, 1602, exactly eight months later. Now says Mr. Justice Blackstone (2 Black: Com: 501) inspeaking of nuncupative wills and the train of requisites necessary to them; “it must not be proved at too long a distance from the testator's death, lest the words should escape the memory of the witnesses.”

We may, I think, take it as certain, that this will is not a nuncupative will, but was drawn up in writing by a competent lawyer during

during the testator's life. Why then has the Bishop's official admitted this will to proof, if it is neither signed (by autograph or mark) nor nuncupative in character? Because, prior to January 1st, 1838, it was not at all necessary that a will of personal estate should be signed. Decisions of even modern date to this effect are plenty, and will be found in Williams on Exors. p. 67. In Queen Elizabeth's day (of whose time this will is) the law required no formalities whatever to render valid a will of personal estate. By the names of the witnesses being given, it is evident that the testator published or acknowledged the document as his will, and nothing more was wanted to make it a good will of personality.

With its validity as a will of real estate, the Bishop would have nothing to do. It may be a good will as to personal estate and invalid as to real. But in this case the actual legal estates of the realty attempted to be dealt with are passed by separate assurances, (by covenant and fine) and the directions of this will as to them would, probably, by an Elizabethan Chancellor be considered valid as trusts.

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WILL No. 2

Is a will solely of personal estate; it has no signature, and no signature or mark whatever was necessary to its validity.

A will is not necessarily nuncupative because unsigned.

R. S. F.

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ART. XXV.—*Bolton Church.* By the Rev. T. LEES, M.A.  
*Read at Bolton July 29, 1875.*

**B**OLTON is an ancient chapelry in the parish of Morland. Like the mother church it was attached to the Priory of Wetheral; for from the register of Wetheral quoted N. & B., vol. I., p. 455), we find that in the year 1326, "an inquisition was taken in St. Lawrence's Church, in Appleby, before Robert de Sothaic, official of Bishop Ross, upon this question, who ought to furnish the chantry in the chapel of Bolton. The substance of the evidence was that the ancestors of Sir John de Derwentwater founded the said chantry, and when there wanted