

## **Clapham Wills and Inventories 1603-1858**

A collection of wills and inventories from the Lancashire Record Office, the Borthwick Institute for Historical Research and The National Archives has been accumulated piecemeal over many years. A systematic listing process has not been carried out. Some of the wills were already printed (but without source reference), some were transcripts, and some were copyright original material. The task of filling in the gaps and locating the sources remains to be done and awaits volunteers!

The late Stan Lawrence provided some items, Reg Postlethwaite contributed many transcripts, Sheila Gordon obtained items from the Borthwick while carrying out other work, Rosemary Jenkins obtained many Farrer family wills, Mary Slater and Ken Pearce transcribed various wills. The presentation of the material in hand is somewhat variable since many items had to be scanned from printed material (in the absence of digital versions), and too much work was involved in transcription of these items.

What has been done so far is therefore here preserved and made public but the task of finding the missing wills and inventories remains. It is suggested that an ultimate date limit of 1750 is accepted, as for other parishes, but even this involves a very large number of documents. A shorter term objective is to fill in the gaps up to 1640 when the Civil War started. About 20 wills out of about 200 have been transcribed so far for this interesting period.

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