



NCHT Bursary Research Proposals

1. Clapham Parish wills

Currently we have collections of wills and some inventories for

- Giggleswick 1390 to 1703 (697) plus some to 1750.
- Horton in Ribblesdale 1418 to 1603 (117) plus some to 1703
- Ingleton 1548 to 1700 (over 400)

Initial analysis has been carried out for these sets by local history groups from whom support will be available.

Thus we lack the wills for Clapham parish, constituting Clapham, Newby, Lawkland and Austwick. It is required to make a list of wills up to 1603 using the YAS Record Series (searchable online, free), the Lancashire and Cheshire Record Society (perhaps most conveniently at Preston, Lancashire Record Office) and any other sources that can be found since we are not sure where these wills are held. We suggest photocopying and transcribing as many wills (and inventories if available) as practicable starting with the earliest and doing an initial analysis of content and comparison with the other local wills, perhaps aided by information in Parish Registers.

The long-term objective is to carry out a comparative study of all these wills up to 1703. The academic value lies in the procedure involved in locating the wills, in learning how to read early writing and how to transcribe (various booklets available on these topics). Help can be given if any are written in Latin.

(For YASRS online Google - 'wills in York registry dcms lds' and go to FHLC CD catalog – Family Search, vols. 6, 11, 14, 19, 22, 24)

2. Giggleswick inventories

There is a period between the end of 1704 and 1750 for which there is no easy way to check for inventories and this is because the original probate bundles have not been filmed and the Probate Act Books and Probate Registers do not contain copies of inventories. As a general rule, Borthwick do not fetch up original probate bundles unless absolutely necessary - this is for the items' long term preservation as they are often fragile, but also because the vast majority of original probate bundles have not yet been flattened and require several days' conservation work before they can be viewed or reproduced. Original probate bundles up to Feb 1723 have been flattened. Beyond this, the majority are unflattened. We would have to check the condition of each file requested and estimate a time frame for supplying the documents.

Stage 1. Request photographing the documents from 1704 - Feb. 1723, which is the period already flattened and so presumably ready to be photographed.

Stage 2. Examination of the documents from 1723 - 1750 at Borthwick's discretion. A project then would be to transcribe and analyse available inventories post 1703 and undertake comparison with those already considered (118 inventories for 1679 – 1702).

3. Long Preston Parish wills

The project will be as for Clapham but it will only be necessary to use the YAS Record Series searchable online to make a list, ideally up to 1703. The Prerogative Court of Canterbury list (PCC wills) will have to be consulted online for the Commonwealth period (TNA, but seems nothing there for Long Preston parish). The wills and any inventories are held at the University of York Borthwick Institute of Historical Research and two or three consecutive full days will be needed at the Borthwick (open at the weekend) to locate the microfilms from Borthwick catalogues and obtain copies from the microfilm. It may only be possible to find and copy say 20 to 30 wills per full day. The earliest documents should take priority.

(For YASRS online Google - 'wills in York registry dcms lds' and go to FHLC CD catalog – Family Search, vols. 6, 11, 14, 19, 22, 24)

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/wills.htm

3. Pre-Conquest North-West England

A critical review of 20thC and current thinking about the presence and influences in North-West England of Anglo-Saxons, Vikings, Angles, Anglo-Scandinavians, Hiberno-Norse, Gaels and Britons and the impact on settlement and agricultural practice would be helpful in view of recent archaeological work. Prof. Richard Morris has recently challenged many aspects of our understanding of the extent of tree-cover of the Dales, the continuity of farming practice from Bronze Age times, and the size and nature of 'invasions' of peoples from Northern Europe. This project would be linked to the continuing work of the Ingleborough Archaeology Group (Dr David Johnson).

(Morris, R., 2012. Time's anvil – England, archaeology and the imagination. Publ. Weidenfeld and Nicolson)

(see the Ingleborough Archaeology Group website, in particular

<http://www.ingleborougharchaeologygroup.org.uk/pdfs/UP11web.pdf> - further reports are available for work done in 2012 and 2013)

4. The Museum of North Craven Life, Settle

(Hon. Curator Mrs Anne Read)

The museum is linked with and housed in the Folly, a Grade I listed building in Settle. The items in the museum are being catalogued gradually using Modes software. A photographic record of each item is loaded into the catalogue.

One collection that needs sorting, cataloguing and analysing is that of the Riley family who have deposited 20th century family ephemera. The collection could form the basis of a social history of the time.

The Bentham pottery collection has been catalogued and sorted but could be analysed in terms of the industrial history of Bentham.