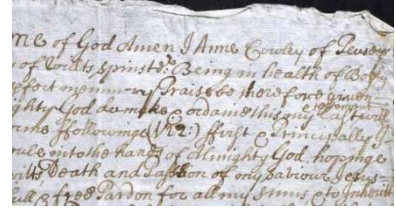


Wills and their Whereabouts

Rachael Mellen

April 2026



Resources

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/Default.aspx>

<https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/#wills>

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

<https://www.york.ac.uk/borthwick/holdings/how-to-search/other-resources/#tab-2>

www.findmypast.co.uk – Borthwick Institute wills

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C12122> -PCC wills

<https://www.findmypast.com/articles/glossary-of-probate-terms>

Raymond, Stuart A. *The Wills of Our Ancestors: A Guide for Family & Local Historians*. United Kingdom, Pen & Sword Books, 2013.

Grannum, Karen, and Taylor, Nigel. *Wills & probate records: a guide for family historians*. United Kingdom, Bloomsbury Academic, 2009.

Basic Terminology

'Admon' = Administration (no will) ➡ letters of Administration

Abstract

Archdeaconry court- lowest level of court jurisdiction

Consistory court- bishop's court

National Probate Calendar- published abstracts of probates after 1858

Non-cupative will- oral will written down after death and witnessed

Peculiars- outside usual jurisdictions

Prerogative Courts of Canterbury and York

Probate bond- sum of money deposited with court by executors

Probate inventory

A note on dates

In 1752 Britain adopted the Gregorian calendar:

- skipping 11 days (Sept 2 was followed by September 14).
- New Year's Day was changed from March 25 to January 1
- 1751 was shortened- it ran from March 25 to December 31.

Date calculator:

http://aulis.org/Calendar/Old_%26_New_Style_Dates.html