

Transcription of the Last Will and Testament of Captain John Balchen.

The original appears immediately below this transcription.

For genealogical purposes this will is very useful as it clearly indicates that this Captain John Balchen is the uncle of Elizabeth Cumberland and Mary Man and not Admiral Sir John Balchen whose will does not mention either lady. The Captain's relationships are clearly stated in the will as follows:

1. Nephews William and James Balchen.
2. Nieces Susannah [Thompson], Elizabeth [Cumberland], Mary [Man], and Anne Balchen .
3. Brother Henry.

John's nephews and nieces were all the children of his brother Richard. As far as we know the admiral had neither nieces nor nephews.

What is also of interest is the executor Abraham Cropp who is connected to the Balchen family thus: the mother of Captain John Balchen was Susannah Barnes who married John Balchen. Susannah (Barnes) Balchen's mother was Susannah (Craddock) Barnes whose brother was Richard Craddock. Richard's daughter Susannah married John Banner and their daughter Susannah Banner married Abraham Cropp.

Thus the wife of Abraham Cropp (Susannah (Banner) Cropp) and Captain John Balchen were second cousins. Abraham and Susannah Cropp's daughter Sarah Cropp married Beeston Long who together, in their turn, were progenitors of a fairly renowned family.

Some passages from the original will have not been deciphered and as a result some passages remain blank.

In the name of God. Amen. I John Balchen of London, Mariner Commander of the ship Onslow bound for the East Indies and Back and being in Good Health of Body and of perfect Mind and Memory praised be God or the same so make so publish and declare this to be my last Will and Testament in \_\_\_\_\_ and found following that is to say first and principally I commend my soul unto the hands of almighty God and my body I submit to the earth or seas as it shall

please God to dispose of the same and as to my worldly estate I give order and dispose of the same in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ following that is to say \_\_\_\_\_ I do hereby order and direct that all and every of my just debts be well and truly paid and satisfied as soon as reasonably may be after my disease and the rest residue and remainder of my estate both real and personal of what nature kind \_\_\_\_\_ the said shall be that I shall be possessed of \_\_\_\_\_ at the time of my decease after my debts and funeral expenses shall be paid and satisfied. I do hereby order and direct that the same be divided into four equal parts or shares two of which said equal parts or shares I do hereby give devise and bequeath unto my loving brother Henry Balchen and other equal quarter or fourth part thereof I do hereby give devise and bequeath unto my nephew William Balchen son of my late brother Richard Balchen deceased and the remaining quarter and fourth part I do hereby give devise and bequeath unto and amongst my Nephew James Balchen and Nieces Susannah, Elizabeth, Mary, and Anne Balchen the children of my said brother Richard Balchen deceased to be equally divided amongst them share and share alike and to be paid to them as they shall respectively attain the age or ages of twenty one years or be married and in case of the decease of my said Brother Henry Balchen leaving no issue I hereby give devise and bequeath the part or parts so given to him as aforesaid unto and amongst my said Nephews and Nieces to be equally divided amongst them and in case of the decease of any of my said Nephews and Nieces before their parts or shares shall be \_\_\_\_\_ and payable as aforesaid that I give devise and bequeath the part or share of him or her or them so dying unto amongst the survivors of my said Nephews and Nieces to be equally divided amongst them and I do hereby make order \_\_\_\_\_ and appoint my said Bother Henry Balchen and Abraham Cropp of London Esquire Joint Executors of this my will. Lastly I do hereby revoke dis\_\_\_\_\_ and make void all kinds and other wills by me at any time heretofore made and do publish and declare these present to be and contain my last will and testament in witness whereof I have here unto set my hand and seal the sixteenth day of January in the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Forty John Balchen Signed sealed and published and declared by the said Testator John Balchen as and for his last will and testament in the presence of us two who here inscribe our hands 2 hands as Witnesses William Cato Council John Vaughan Lombard Street

This Will was proved at London before the Lordships --  
Robert Chapman doctor of Law surrogate of the right  
Worshipful John Bosworth doctor of law Master Keeper  
Commissary of Prerogative Court of Canterbury lawfully  
constituted this 18th day of August in the year of our Lord  
One Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Three by the Oaths of  
Henry Balchen the brother of the deceased and Abraham Cropp  
Esquire The Executors named in the said Will to whom  
administration was granted of all and singularly the goods  
and Chattels and credits of the said deceased being first  
sworn well and truly to administer for the same  
administration was granted.

his present have subscribed our names as witnesses thereto.  
Matthias & William Dennis. Esq.

On the fifth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and forty three administration with the will of the good & charitable and deceased of James the deceased of the parish of Saint Paul Covent Garden in the County of Middlesex & London. Deceased was granted to Richard Gore the principal creditor of the said deceased for satisfaction of the debt of the said deceased and his executor named in the said will hath executed the said will according to the first and only well and duly to administer the same (the said Thomas & James the guardian lawfully assigned to and named by the said deceased and his executor named in the said will) also first renouncing the administration with the said will in respect of the goods chattels and credits of the said deceased.

John Balthien  
x or a Voyage

In the Name of God Amen  
I John Balthien of London Merchant and Governor of the Ship Discovery bound to the East Indies and back and being in good health of body and of perfect mind and memory praised be God for the same do make publish and declare this to be my last will and testament in manner and form following that is to say first and principally I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God and my body I commit to the earth or sea as it shall please God to dispose of the same and as to my worldly estate I give order and dispose of the same in manner and form following that is to say I do hereby order and direct that all and every my just debts be well and truly paid and satisfied as soon as conveniently may be after my decease and all the rest residue and remainder of my estate both real and personal of what nature kind or quality soever the same shall be that I shall be possessed of or entitled unto at the time of my decease after my debts and expenses shall be paid and satisfied I do hereby order and direct that the same be divided into four equal parts or shares two of which said equal parts or shares I do hereby give devise and bequeath unto my loving & brother Henry Balthien one other equal quarter or fourth part thereof I do hereby give devise and bequeath unto my nephew William Balthien son of my late brother Richard Balthien deceased and the remaining quarter and fourth part I do hereby give devise and bequeath unto and amongst my nephews James Balthien and Lewis Susannah Elizabeth Mary and Anne Balthien the children of my said brother Richard Balthien deceased to be equally divided amongst them share and share alike and to be paid to them as they shall respectively attain the age or ages of six and twenty years or be married and in case of the decease of my said brother Henry Balthien leaving no issue then I do hereby give devise and bequeath the part or parts so given to him or

aforsaid unto and amongst my said & beloved and heirs to be  
equally divided amongst them and in case of the decease of any  
of my said & beloved and heirs before their parts or shares shall  
become due and payable as aforsaid then I give devise and be-  
queath the part or share of him her or them so dying unto  
amongst the survivors of my said & beloved and heirs to be  
equally divided amongst them and I do hereby make ordain toucheth  
and appoint my said & beloved & heirs and Abraham & Joseph  
Esquire joint & several executors of this my will and lastly I do hereby revoke annul  
and make void all former and other wills by me or any mine heirs before  
made and do publish and declare these presents to be and contain my  
last will and testament in witness whereof I have hereunto set my  
hand and seal the sixteenth day of January in the year of our lord  
and thousand seven hundred and forty John & William signed sealed  
published and declared by the said testator John & William and  
for his last will and testament in the presence of us who are  
subscribed our names as witnesses. Will. J. Esq. Chamberlain  
William Esq. and Corneil John Langham Lombard Street Esq.

# This Will

was proved at London before the doctershipful  
Robert Chapman Doctor of Law surrogate of the right doctershipful  
John & Bellsworth Doctor of Law and also dispenser or commissary of the  
prerogative court of Canterbury lawfully toucheth the eighteenth  
day of August in the year of our lord and thousand seven hundred  
and forty three by the callis of Henry & Abraham the Esquires of  
the deceased and Abraham Esquire Esquires the executors named in  
the said will to whom admittance was granted of all and singular  
the goods chattells and credits of the said deceased being first  
sworn well and truly to administer the same. /- Esq.

# In the Name of God Amen

I John Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells being awake in body and sound  
in mind do make and ordain this my last will and testament in the  
manner and form following first and principally I recommend my soul to  
Almighty God hoping for the pardon and forgiveness of my sins through the  
merits of my blessed Redeemer Jesus Christ and for my body my desire is that  
buried wheresoever I die with as little ceremony and formality as may  
be and as to my temporal estate I give and bequeath unto my son  
George Esquire four thousand pounds and the like summe I give and  
bequeath to my youngest son William with summe I desire may be  
paid both of them by my executors hereafter named as soon as they  
shall attain to the age of four and twenty years respectively or at the  
time of marriage provided they marry with the consent of their Mother  
and of the Deceased to this my will and if it is my intent that these  
summes be paid out of the money I have out of use and in case that  
should not be sufficient that the deficiency may be levied upon my  
estate by virtue of a power reserved in the deed of conveyance  
from George and bequeath to my servants who shall be with me at the  
time of my death half a years wages over and above what shall be

The Right Reverend  
Father in God  
John Lord Bishop  
of Bath and Wells