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 <u>not</u> 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.
- 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 may 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 presence finise substribed our a famito as 20 fuesses fierero. 97201112110 a sa 1110110 112 11110111 Deli1113. Cas

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