





# The National Archives

## **Transkribus in The Archive**

Source to data workshop

**Chris Day**

9 November 2018

# Prerogative Court of Canterbury – PROB 11:

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C12122>

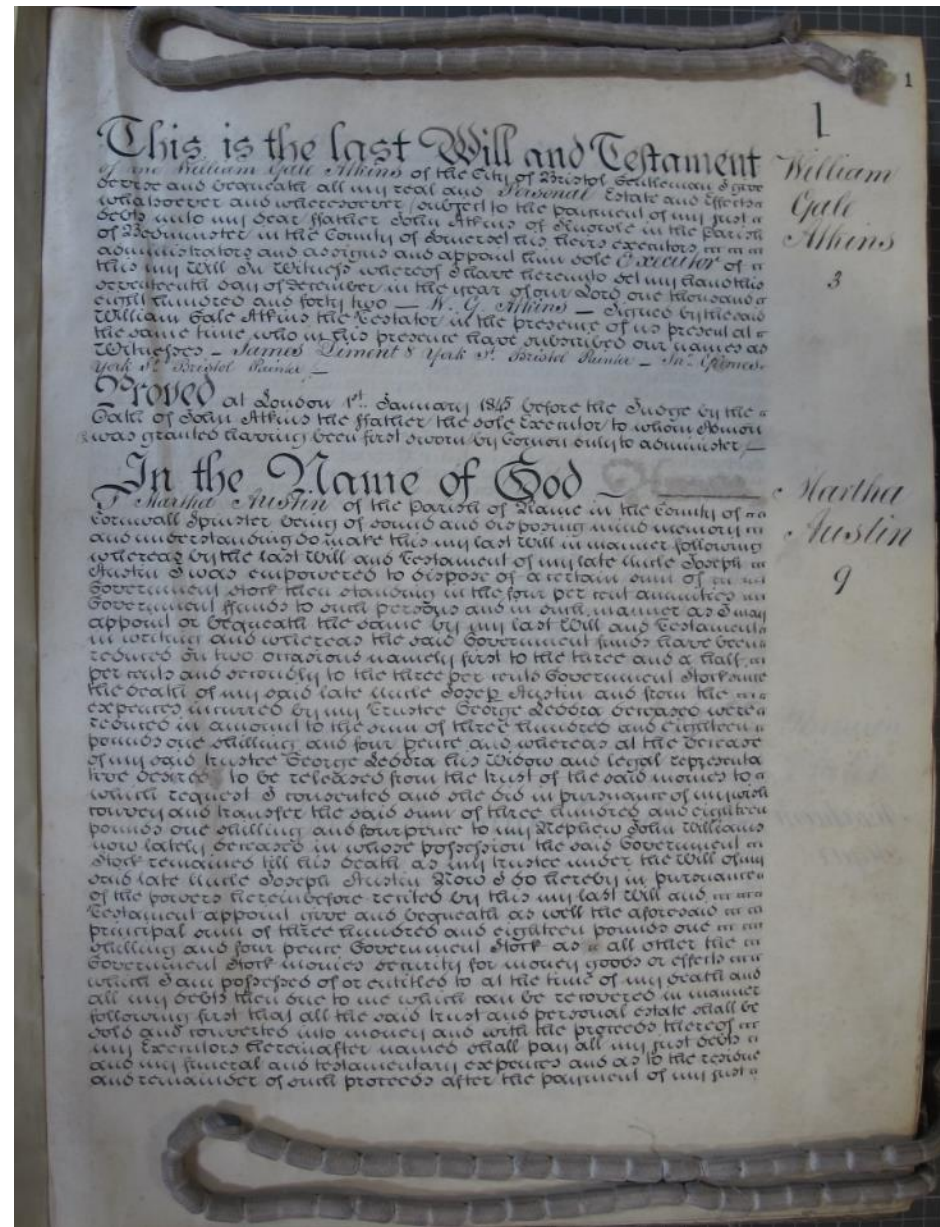
## Facts and figures

Range from 1384 to 1858

2263 physical volumes

Circa 1 million wills

Estimated 10 people per will





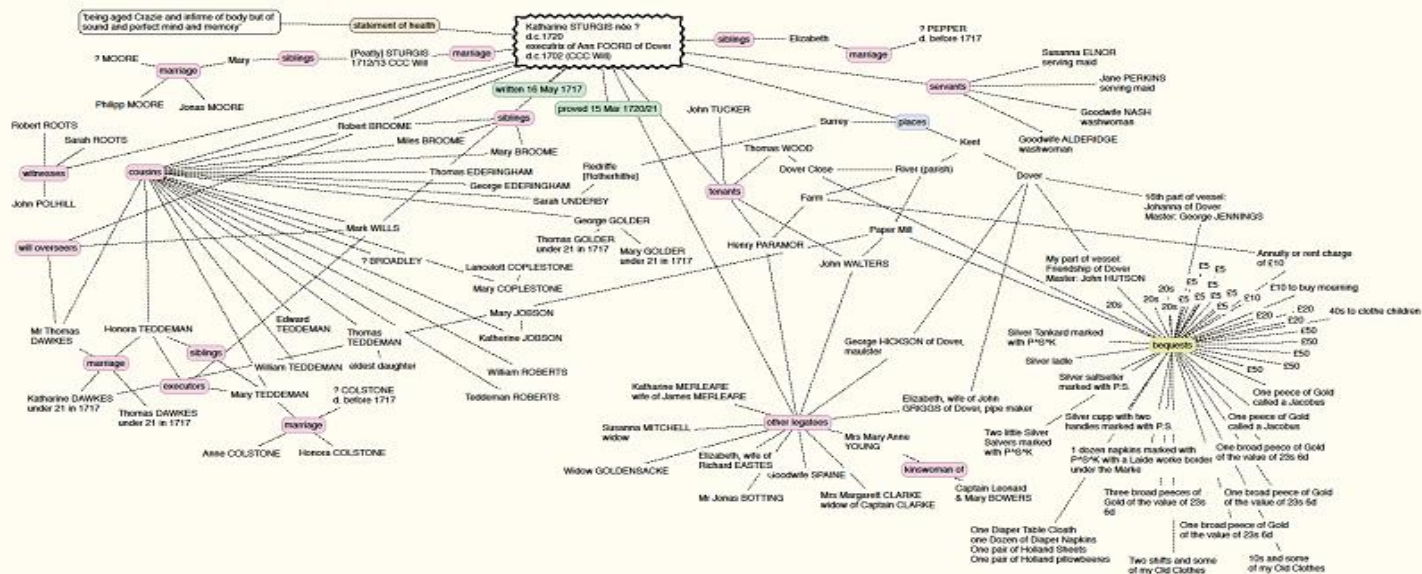
# In the Name of God Amen.

Em  
Katharine Sturgis

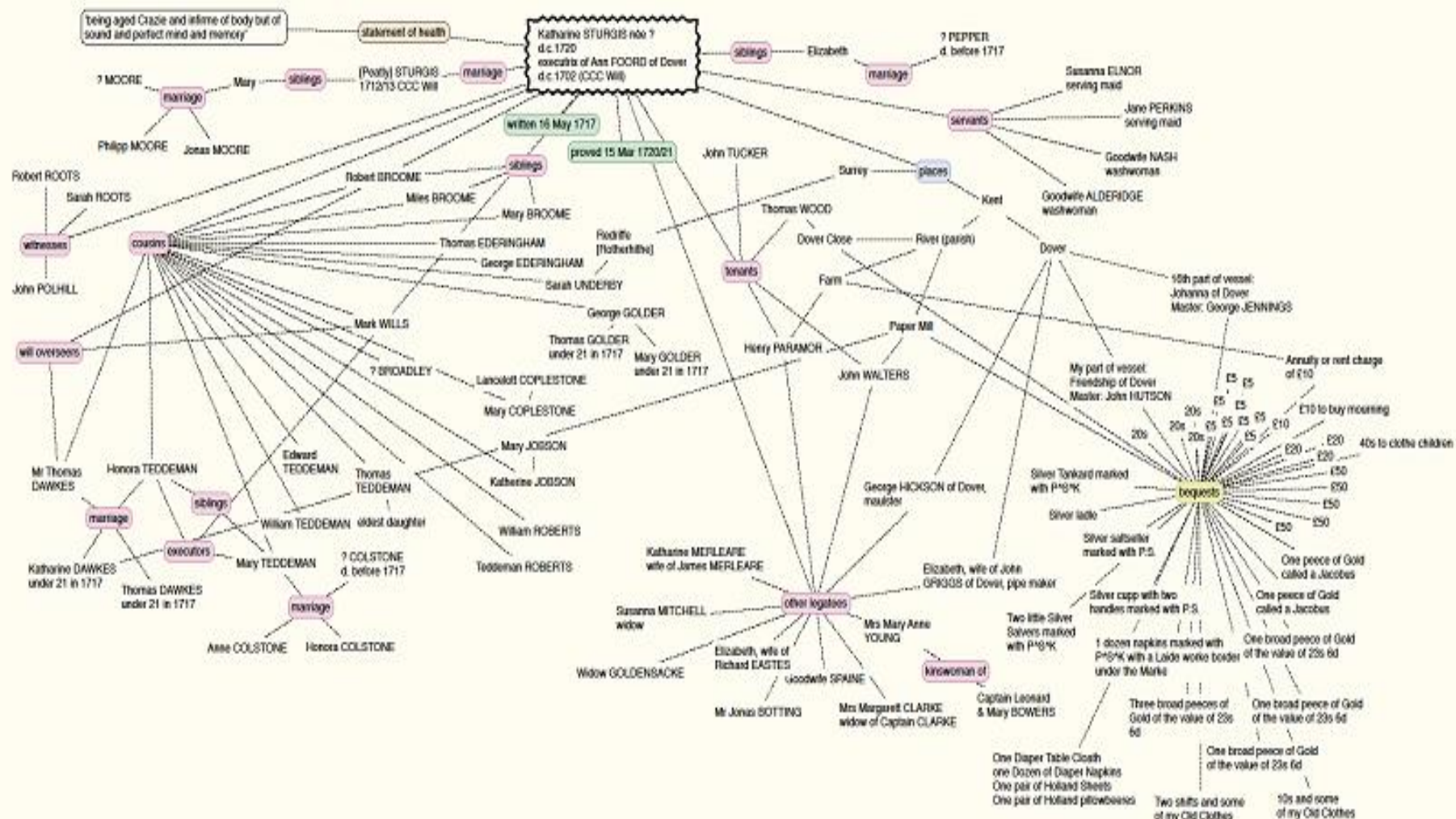
Katharine Sturgis of the Town and Port of Dover in the County of Kent -  
widow being aged, Crazy and infirm of body but of sound and perfect mind  
and memory praiseth God therefore do make and ordain this my last Will  
and Testament in manner and forme following (that is to say) first I commend  
my soul to God who giveth me and my body to the Earth from whence it came  
And as to my worldly Estate I dispose thereof as followeth (that is to say) -  
I give and bequeath unto my sister in Law Mary Shreve widow  
if living at the time of my Death and not otherwise the sum of Ten pounds  
of lawful money of Great Britain out of my Dapkins marked with -  
P.S. with a haide work border under the Mark. Item I give unto her son  
Phillipp Shrove a silver Cupp with two handles marked with P.S. Item I  
give unto her son Jonas Shrove a silver salt seller marked with P.S. Item I  
give unto my Cousin George Ederingham five pounds. Item I do give unto  
my Cousin Thomas Ederingham five pounds. Item I give unto my Cousin  
Sarah Underrey living at Rediffe five pounds. Item I do give unto Mr.



## PCC Will of Katharine Sturgis (PROB 11/579/71)



PCC Will of Katharine Sturgis (PROB 11/579/71)



# THE REALITY



# This is the last Will and Testament

of one William Gale Atkins of the City of Bristol Merchant & free  
 citizen and merchant all my real and personal estate and effects  
 whatsoever and wheresoever / subject to the payment of my just  
 debts unto my dear father John Atkins of Bristol in the County  
 of Gloucester in the County of Gloucester his executors in my  
 administration and assigns and approul this sole executor of it  
 this my Will sheweth witnesseth I have hereunto set my hand this  
 twentieth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand  
 eight hundred and forty two — N. G. Atkins — signed by the said  
 William Gale Atkins the testator in the presence of us present all  
 the same time who in this present paper subscribed our names as  
 witnesses — James Clement & John W. Smith & James — in witness  
 whereof we have signed our names

1  
 William  
 Gale  
 Atkins  
 3

proved at London 1<sup>st</sup> January 1843 before the Judge by the  
 Oath of John Atkins the father the sole executor to whom probate  
 was granted having been first sworn by solemn duty to administer —

## In the Name of God

Martha Austin of the Parish of St. James in the County of  
 Cornwall Spinster being of sound and disposing mind memory  
 and understanding do make this my last Will in manner following  
 witnesseth by the last Will and Testament of my late dear husband  
 John I was empowered to dispose of a certain sum of £100  
 Government stock then standing in the name of the said late  
 Government funds to such persons and in such manner as I may  
 approul or bequeath the same by my last Will and Testament  
 in witness and whereof the said Government funds have been  
 reduced in two portions namely first to the three and a half  
 per cent and secondly to the three per cent Government stock  
 the value of my said late dear husband John's and from the  
 proceeds thereof by my trustee George Abbott & Co. were  
 received in amount to the sum of three hundred and eighty  
 pounds one shilling and four pence and whereof all the balance  
 of my said late dear husband's debts and legal expenses  
 have been paid to be retained from the first of the said money to a  
 certain request & remainder and the said sum of money was  
 conveyed and transferred the said sum of three hundred and eighty  
 pounds one shilling and four pence to my nephew John William  
 now lately deceased in whose possession the said Government  
 stock remained till his death as my trustee under the Will of my  
 said late dear husband John I do hereby in pursuance  
 of the powers heretofore vested by this my last Will and  
 Testament approul more and bequeath as well the above said sum  
 principal sum of three hundred and eighty pounds one shilling  
 and four pence Government stock as all other the  
 Government stock monies & annuities for money goods or effects  
 which I am possessed of or entitled to at the time of my death and  
 all my debts then due to me which may be received in manner  
 following first that all the said trust and personal estate shall be  
 sold and converted into money and with the proceeds thereof  
 my executor hereinafter named shall pay all my just debts  
 and my funeral and testamentary expenses and as to the residue  
 and remainder of such proceeds after the payment of my just

Martha  
 Austin  
 9

This is the last Will and Testament  
of one William Galt Atkins of the City of Bristol Gentleman I give  
devise and bequeath all my real and Personal Estate and Effects  
whatsoever and wheresoever / subject to the payment of my just  
debts unto my dear Father John Atkins of Bristol in the parish  
of St Edmund in the County of Bristol his heirs executors or  
administrators and assigns and appoint him sole Executor of  
this my Will in which wherof I have hereunto set my hand  
seventeenth day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand  
eight hundred and forty two — W. G. Atkins — signed by the said  
William Galt Atkins the testator in the presence of us present at  
the same time who in his presence have subscribed our names as  
Witnesses — James Diment & York St. Bristol Painter — In Witness  
York St. Bristol Painter —



1 1

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latte of God-

y mnen



3

# Training Data

- 26 images
- 16001 Words
- 1938 Distinct Words

# Test Data

- 10 images
- Automatically generated transcripts
- 6796 Words
- 877 Distinct Words
- 388 Not in training data



# New Words

bodies	42
Lambert	17
Willis	15
support	11
actions	10
issuing	10
defeated	9
contingent	9
preserve	9
destroyed	8
entries	7
bull	7
common	6

## Context

body or **bodies** of any of the same children Then as to the share or shares as well accruing and  
 ~~~~~ **bodies** and if all such children but one shall die without ~~~ ~ one or there shall be but one such child  
 and in cash there shall be a failure of one of the body or **bodies** of any of the ~~~ same children then  
 and of the heirs of their respective **bodies** and if all such children but one shall die without issues  
 several and respective **bodies** ~~~ lawfully issuing and ~~~ one of the  
 ~~~ body or **bodies** of any of the same children the ~~~ as well accruing and  
 respective **bodies** and all such children but one shall ~~~ will be but one such  
 tenants in common and of the several and respect- ~~~ issuing and in case  
 there shall be a failure of issues of the body or **bodies** of any of the same children ~~~ Then as to the  
 common and the heirs of their respective **bodies** and if all such ~~~ children but one shall happen to die  
 heirs of their several and respective **bodies** lawfully issuing And ~~~ case there shall be a failure of  
 respective **bodies** And if ~~~ all such children but one shall die without issue or there shall be ~~~ but one  
 several and respective **bodies** ~~~ ~~~~ lawfully issuing and in case there shall be a failure of issues of  
 the body or **bodies** of any of the same children Then as to the share or shares as well surviving and  
 respective **bodies** And if all such children but one shall die without issue or there shall be but one such

as tenants in  
 joint bodies in  
 common of the

## Context

defeated or **destroyed** and for that purpose to make entries or owing as the nature of the case  
 and preserve the contingent uses and estates ~~~ hereinafter limited from being defeated or **destroyed**  
 limited from ~~~ being defeated or **destroyed** and for that purpose to make entries or ~~~ being  
 the contingent uses and estates hereinafter limited from being ~~~ defeated or **destroyed** and for that  
**destroyed** and for that purpose to make entries or being actions as the nature of the case may require  
 estates hereinafter limited from ~~~ being defeated or **destroyed** and for that purpose to make entries and  
 from being defeated or **destroyed** and for that purpose to make entries or bring actions as the nature of  
 ~~~ defeated or **destroyed** and for that purpose to make entries or being actions as the nature of the case may  
 from being defeated or **destroyed** and for that purpose to make entries or being actions as the nature of

## Document

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the contingent  
 uses or destroyed  
 of the nature of the

# New words

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
|                   |   |
| presevve          | 4 |
| conmmmon          | 4 |
| befeated          | 4 |
| conmmimon         | 3 |
| conmmnon          | 3 |
| unpeachment       | 2 |
| saeipttbstot      | 1 |
| eoexcusive        | 1 |
| nstwsithscanoing  | 1 |
| cihtrniaeceori    | 1 |
| ritlrnemeaydsgegn | 1 |

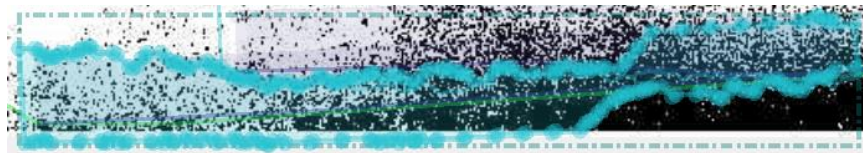
assius to receive and take the rents and profits of the  
the common and premises subject as aforesaid for  
us and profit during the natural life and term a

ahgus to receive and the the rents and prof  
aiestetnas as saepttbtot as aforesaid for a  
isffefrelfel declared me unto as then and a

and if all such children but one shall die without issue  
all be but one such child to the use of such only of  
the said and the said of the said of the said of the said

hill be cihtrniaeceori leases ~

ritlrnemeaydsgegn may and



*Translation*  
 In the Name of God be it Known  
 I the undersigned Jane Destieaux residing in the Town and Parish of  
 St. Heliers in the Island of Jersey finding myself thanks be to God of a  
 sound mind memory and understanding knowing death to be certain  
 and its hour uncertain have deemed it proper to make my Testament  
 therein to declare my last will as follows First and before all things I  
 commend my Soul to God the Father Almighty beseeching him to  
 receive it on parting this life in his holy Paradise through the merits  
 and intercession of his Son Jesus Christ my Saviour and Redeemer  
 And as to the personal property which it has pleased God to favor me  
 in this world I will and dispose of it as follows namely I give and I

also

Pranslallon

Jhe the slae ol Tes thet Whent

I the unaersiened Jane Destieaux resieing in the Town and Parish o  
 St heliers in the hland of Sirsey finding untself thanks be to Go of ~  
 sound uind mimay and undirstanding knowing death to be cirtain  
 and its hour uncirtain have deimed it propir to make my Tistament  
 thirein to detlaie my last Ill as follows just and afore all thines I ~  
 canmend my Sail to bod the ffather Almighty Geseeching him to ~  
 receive it on paiting this life in his holy Paradise throigh the unrits  
 and inteyession of his Son Sisus Chust my Savidi and Eedirryer



*Translation*

# In the Name of God be it Remembered

*I the undersigned Jane Torricaux residing in the Town and Parish of ... of ... to God of ...*

☒ Keyword Spotting Results

"nephew" (11 hits)

| Confidence ^ | Page Nr. | Line transcription                                                        | Previ... |
|--------------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 0.4895       | 2        | I ades with thirr sival a ppintirnancis unto my nephiw John Prtt          | nepha    |
| 0.4100       | 2        | sacd to my said nephiw urlliam Pratt with the sival ledacus jellew        | nepha    |
| 0.2348       | 2        | Nirde Tratt Jat of my eephiw Sehn Platt his herrs and adsigns for ~~      | nepha    |
| 0.2061       | 2        | lawful for my sacs Nephiw Wiliam Pratt and I do hireby gur hung           | nepha    |
| 0.1731       | 2        | by my said oephiw illiam Pratt a by the pirson who shall be en-           | nepha    |
| 0.1565       | 2        | the dody of my said Nephiwd Milliam Pratt and of the hires of the ~~      | nepha    |
| 0.1520       | 2        | such issue To the use and eheof of my Niat oephiw William Twobirt         | nepha    |
| 0.1509       | 1        | aftr mentioned that is to say To the use of my Rephiws William ~ ~        | nepha    |
| 0.0811       | 1        | phiw John white And I do hireby declare that all the sacs sival ~         | nepha    |
| 0.0748       | 2        | sacd eephiw may thint propir so as that such woman as may be ~            | nepha    |
| 0.0639       | 1        | drephew ffrancis Pratt of Tivirton in the said County Grocir and Dinggist | nepha    |

# IMPROVING THE TRANSCRIPTION

# Finding spelling errors

|      |      |       |     |
|------|------|-------|-----|
| of   | the  | said  | 609 |
|      |      | sacd  | 3   |
|      |      | sais  | 14  |
| of   | my   | said  | 375 |
|      |      | sais  | 2   |
|      |      | saib  | 1   |
|      |      | sard  | 6   |
|      |      | sid   | 2   |
|      |      | sacd  | 13  |
|      |      | sand  | 1   |
|      |      | sai   | 1   |
| this | my   | will  | 262 |
|      |      | woill | 1   |
|      |      | wll   | 5   |
|      |      | will) | 1   |
|      |      | lill  | 2   |
|      |      | rill  | 2   |
| the  | sum  | of    | 259 |
|      |      | or    | 1   |
| last | will | and   | 237 |
|      |      | an    | 1   |
|      |      | ond   | 1   |
|      |      | nd    | 1   |
| of   | this | my    | 230 |
|      |      | m     | 2   |

|      |          |            |     |
|------|----------|------------|-----|
| will | and      | testament  | 191 |
|      |          | trstament  | 2   |
|      |          | testument  | 3   |
|      |          | lestament  | 2   |
|      |          | testamen   | 1   |
|      |          | tostament  | 1   |
|      |          | tetament   | 1   |
|      |          | tistament  | 2   |
|      |          | testamet   | 2   |
|      |          | eestament  | 4   |
|      |          | testement  | 2   |
|      |          | estament   | 3   |
|      |          | testamente | 1   |
|      |          | testiment  | 1   |
| i    | give     | and        | 183 |
|      |          | und        | 2   |
|      |          | ane        | 2   |
| in   | the      | presence   | 179 |
|      |          | presenje   | 2   |
|      |          | presnce    | 1   |
|      |          | presencr   | 1   |
|      |          | presente   | 4   |
|      |          | prisence   | 12  |
| the  | presence | of         | 179 |
|      |          | o          | 1   |



# Building a language model

the said ...

|          |     |
|----------|-----|
| forename | 630 |
| trust    | 75  |
| will     | 71  |
| last     | 45  |
| sum      | 42  |
| trustees | 41  |
| testator | 39  |
| deceased | 30  |
| county   | 28  |

my said ...

|           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| wife      | 194 |
| trustees  | 154 |
| daughter  | 52  |
| will      | 50  |
| son       | 44  |
| executors | 42  |
| niece     | 40  |
| nephew    | 24  |
| brother   | 20  |

# Using a language model for corrections

said nephew ...

forename

15

and

3

should

2

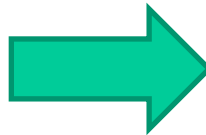
the

2

all

1

My said Nephiw urlliam Pratt  
My sacs Nephiw Wiliam Pratt  
My said oephiw illiam Pratt  
My said Nephiwd Milliam Pratt



My said nephew William Pratt

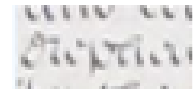
“ “ “ “ “  
“ “ “ “ “  
“ “ “ “ “

# Keeping the alternatives

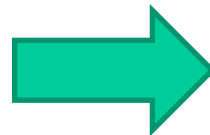
I ades with thirr siviral a ppintirnancis unto my nephiw John Prtt



Nirde Tratt Jat of my eephiw Sehn Platt his herrs and adsigns for ~~



My eephiw Sehn Platt



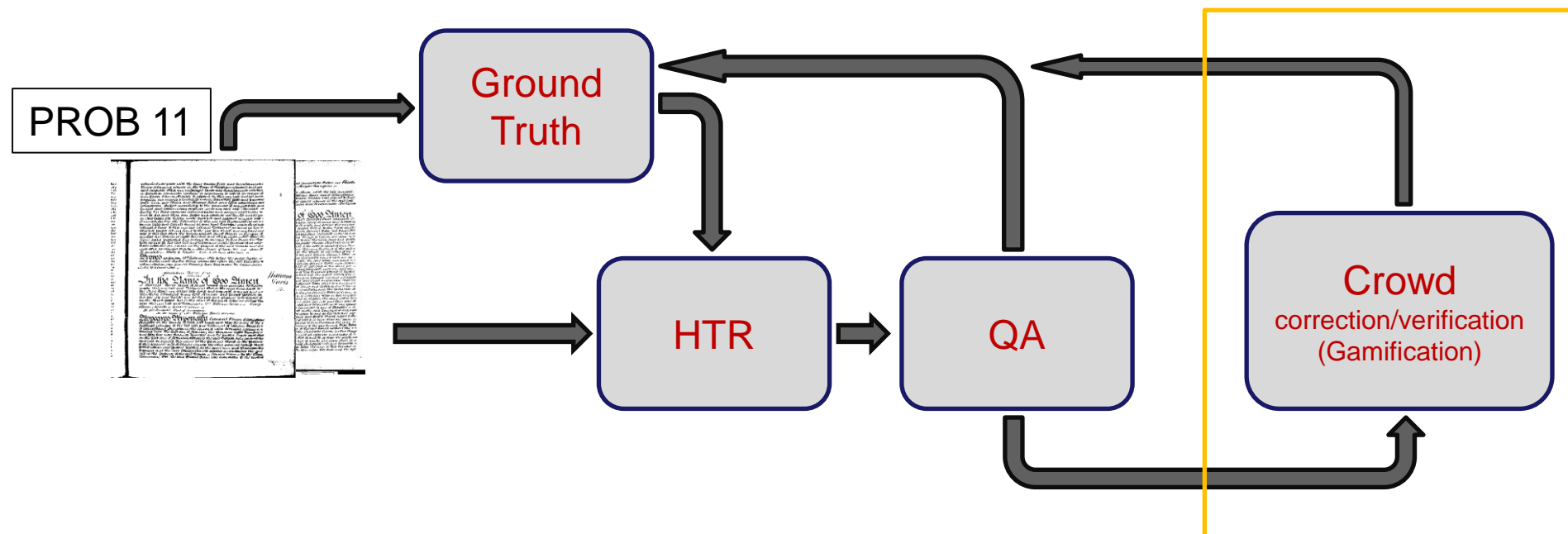
My said nephew John Platt  
My said nephew Sean Platt  
My said nephew John Pratt  
My said nephew Sean Pratt



# NEXT STEPS

- Interviews with historians
  - Capturing requirements
  - Identifying themes
- Network grant proposal
  - Multi-faceted problem
  - Bring together users of records and technologists
- Research Fellowship
  - Sponsored by FTNA
  - Student to look at mixing HTR with crowdsourcing

# HTR Workflow



George A.

Jane Graham

Free Pardon

Whereas Jane Graham was at a Session holden at the old Bailey tried and convicted of uttering Bank Notes, and received Sentence of Death for the said Crime; and Whereas some favorable Circumstances have been humbly represented unto Us in her behalf, inducing Us to extend Our Grace and Mercy unto her, and to grant her Our Free Pardon for her said Crime: Our Will and Pleasure therefore is, that you cause her the said Jane Graham, to be inserted for her said Crime in Our First and next general Pardon that shall come out for the poor Convicts in Newgate, without any Condition whatsoever; and that in the mean time you take Bail for her appearance, in order to plead Our said Pardon. And for so doing this shall be your Warrant. Given at Our Court at St James's the 28<sup>th</sup> day of November 1782. In the Twenty Third Year of Our Reign.

To Our Trusty and Wellbelov'd  
James Adair Esq<sup>r</sup> Recorder of  
Our City of London, the Sheriffs  
of Our said City and County of  
Middlesex, the Keeper of the  
Goal of Newgate, and all others  
whom it may concern.

By His Majesty's Command

J. Townshend.



**Thank you**  
**Christopher.Day@nationalarchives.gov.uk**