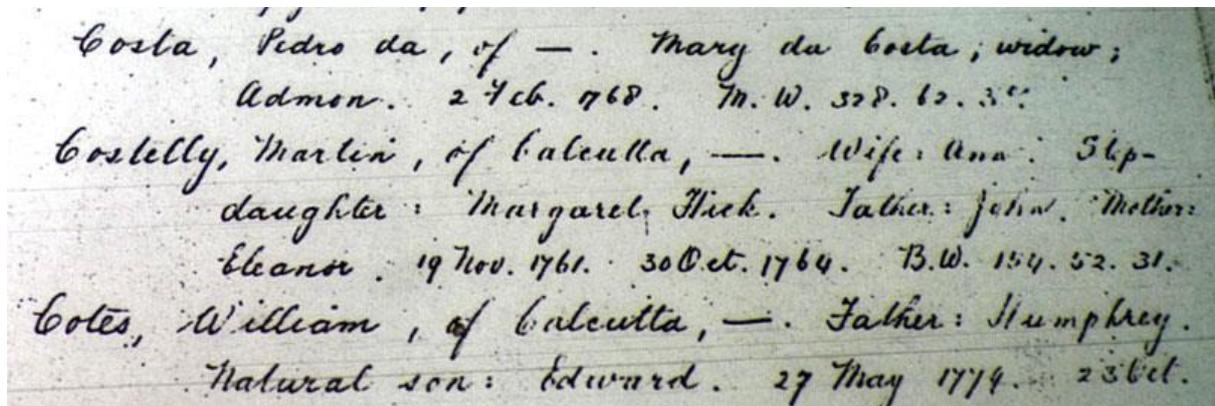


Transcript of Martin Costelly Will, Calcutta 1764

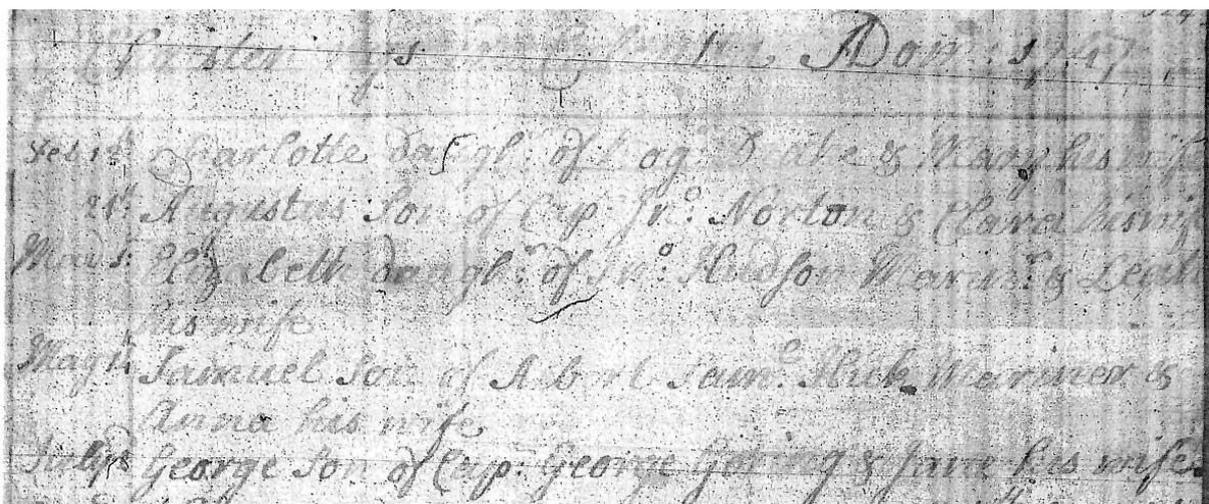
Extract from early Bengal wills index records on lds 2046652



The commentary below relates to lds506794 Bengal Wills rg 154 v47-52 1747-1766

First section of film “Proceedings of the Mayor’s Court of Calcutta December 1747 – December 1748, being the minutes of meetings followed by copies of wills for which the court granted probate”. The latter years in the volume just contain indexes and wills, including the will of Martin Costelly.

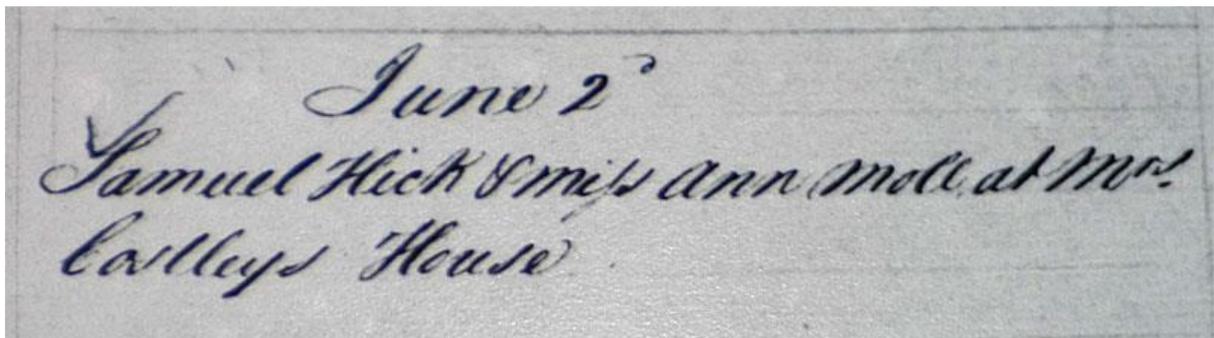
Martin Costelly married widow Ann Hick (Adrian’s 6xgrt grandmother) in February 1749 in Calcutta. Ann(a)’s first husband (and my 6xgrt grandfather) Albert Samuel Hick (Mariner) had died a couple of weeks’ earlier. Albert and Ann(a) had two children - Margaret to be Hampton (my 5xgrt grandmother) (1748 – 1784 (36)) and Samuel Hick (1747 – 1797 (50)). The christening record for Samuel Hick is one of very few we have from this period.



Ann’s new husband, Martin Costelly, was a mariner, having captained his sloop “London” before it sank in the fight to regain Calcutta in 1756/57.

By the late 1750s Martin Costelly was running the Calcutta (gun)powder works. Early in 1760 he persuaded the Council that the Powder Works were dangerous and needed replacement / relocation, and was asked to produce a plan. When Martin came back with his plan the Council could not believe their eyes witness the following minute on January 28: *"The Board taking into account the ruinous Expence (sic) this Work will be attended with if carried on according to Mr Costelly's plan, RESOLVED that a stop be put immediately to removing the materials of the Powder Works"*

Martin Costelly died in 1764. Ann Costelly ("Mrs Costelly") hosted son Samuel Hick's wedding at her Calcutta house on 2 June 1768,



and was still living in Calcutta when her friend Mary Chapman (Samuel Hampton's sister) (1784), her daughter Margaret Hampton (1784), her son-in-law Colonel Samuel Hampton (1786) and her son Samuel Hick (1797) died. We have not yet located her death or burial records.

Adrian Fletcher – Sydney, August 2011

DRAFT TRANSCRIPTION

MARTIN COSTELLY'S WILL
NOVEMBER 1761, PROBATE OCTOBER 1764
(Transcription August 2011)

Underlining = my uncertainty or inability to read! Capitalization & punctuation largely ignored.

In the name of God Amen. I Martin Costelly of the town of Calcutta in the Kingdom of Bengal, inhabitant, being of sound mind and memory, considering the uncertainty of this transitory life and for avoiding controversies after my decease do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following.

I recommend my Soul to Almighty God who gave it hoping for remission and forgiveness of my transgressions through the mercy and ? intercession of my redeemer Jesus Christ. My body I commit to the earth to be decently interred and the expenses for the said interment I leave to the discretion of my Executors thereafter nominated and my just debts to be discharged.

Item

My will is that my Lower roomed Brick House with all its ? appurtenances adjoining to my Upper roomed Brick House to be given to my step daughter Margaret Hick some time after her marriage* provided ~~that~~ they live an honest life but if contrary and her husband proves to be a dishonest man then the said Lower roomed House to be at the disposal of my beloved wife Ann Costelly.

Item

My Upper roomed Brick House and my garden house with its ? appurtenances commonly known by the name of £? Swess? ess garden I leave to my step son Samuel Hick to be given to him after the death of my beloved wife Ann Costelly.

Item

If my honoured father John Costelly and my mother Eleanor Costelly or either of them be living I desire the sum of one thousand Arcot Rupees be remitted to them in as many times as my executors shall think proper. And if my honoured father or mother be not alive and my brother Richard Costelly living I desire the sum of five hundred Arcot Rupees to be remitted to him by degrees as my executors will think proper but in case my father mother or brother are dead then the aforesaid legacy ceases.

Item

I give and bequeath unto Mrs John May the sum of fifty Arcot Rupees. The rest and residue of my fortune I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Ann Costelly and after her decease if there remains any part thereof I desire it may be equally divided between Samuel Hick and Margaret Hick

Item

I desire nothing of my worldly effects to be exposed to sale without the approbation of my beloved wife Ann Costelly.

Item

Money belonging to the estate of Michael Osborn deceased ~~to~~ (whose estate I administered) ~~I~~ now _____ the Company cash may be paid to his proper heirs.

Item

I give and bequeath unto Mr William Elliot the sum of one hundred Arcot Rupees for his trouble in _____ciating my affairs and to him the said William Elliot I nominate and appoint Executor and my beloved wife Ann Costelly Executrix to this my last will and testament hereby revoking all former will and wills by me heretofore made. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal in Calcutta aforesaid _____this, Nineteenth day of November in the year of Our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty one.

* Margaret Hick married Captain Samuel Hampton in Calcutta on 1 September 1765.