

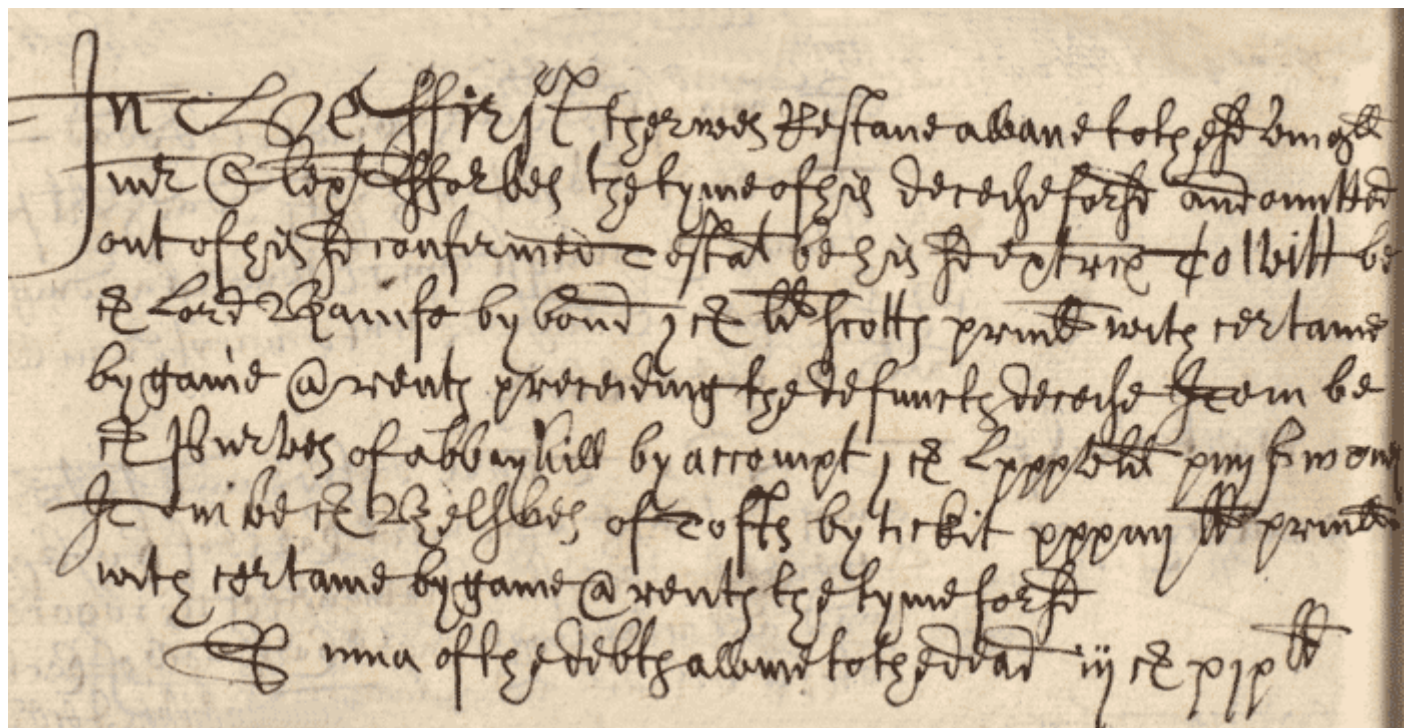
**Weekly Poser (320) – Testament dative, 1700**

This week's poser is taken from the testament dative of Alexander Forbes, writer (or lawyer) in Edinburgh, 22 March 1700 (National Records of Scotland CC8/8/81 page 102).

This part of the testament inventory deals with the debts owed to Mr Alexander Forbes and we have transcribed the first two lines for you.

*In The First ther wes Restane awane to the s[ai]d vmq[ui]ll  
Mr Alex[ande]r Forbes the tyme of his deceise fors[ai]d and omitted*

Look out for the terminal *-is* symbol, for quantities of money and also for fillers like the symbol at the beginning of line 4. There are also lots of abbreviations eg *s[ai]d*, *prin[cipa]ll* and *li-* for pounds. These come about because the clerk is writing a number of stock words and phrases over and over again. To make life easier he contracts them but they are still recognisable by other readers. To find out more about wills and testaments go to our testaments page (<http://www.scottishhandwriting.com/posers/testaments.asp>).



**This week's question:** which three landowners owed Mr Forbes money?

**Weekly Poser (320) – Testament dative, 1700**

**Answer:** Lord Banff (*Lord Bamfe*), Purves of Abbayhill and Belshes of Tofts owed Mr Forbes money.

**Transcription**

*In The First ther wes Restane awane to the s[ai]d vmq[ui]ll  
Mr Alex[ande]r Forbes the tyme of his deceise fors[ai]d and omitted  
out of his s[ai]d confirmed Testa[men]t be his s[ai]d ex[ecu]ture To Witt be  
~ Lord Bamfe by bond jc~li~ scott[is] prin[cipa]ll with certaine  
bygaine a[nnual]rent[is] preceiding the defunct[is] deceise Item be  
~ Purves of abbayhill by accompt jc~Lxxxv li~ xiiij s~ money  
Item be ~ Belshes of Tofts by tickit xxxiiij li~ prin[cipa]ll  
with certaine bygaine a[nnual]rentis the tyme fors[ai]d  
Suma of the debt[is] awine to the dead iijc~xjx li~.*

This week's poser was contributed by 'Fodiator', a researcher from Fife