

Prince Charles' House, Brampton. tcwaas_002_1952_vol52_0012

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ART. IX.—Prince Charles Edward's House, Brampton. By C. Roy Hudleston, F.S.A.

Read at Carlisle, July 9th, 1952.

In 1949 there was considerable discussion in the columns of the *Cumberland News* following a statement that members of Brampton Parish Council were anxious to obtain proof that the house in Brampton where Prince Charles Edward Stuart lodged for six days in November 1745 was the one in High Cross Street now owned and occupied by Mr George Couch, boot and shoe dealer.

In 1847 the house was identified as the inn then known as the Freemasons' Arms. Forty years later the Rev. H. Whitehead, in a paper read at Carlisle in March 1887, said that the Prince's house was at that time a draper's shop in the occupation of Mr W. Hetherington.

Documents in the Public Record Office, together with title deeds in Mr Couch's possession, appear to afford satisfactory proof that these statements are correct.

Among the State Papers Domestic³ in the Public Record Office is an affidavit, sworn on 10 March 1745-6, by Leonard Deane of Kirkoswald. Deane's affidavit is as follows:—

"This informant . . . saith that on or about the 15th day of November last he was then at Brampton in the . . . county of Cumberland and the Pretender's son then lodged at his Brother's house in the said town of Brampton and this Informant . . . saith that Mr Backhouse, the Present Mayor of Carlisle, Alderman James Graham and Alderman Richd Coulthard came to the said House, where the Pretender's son then Lodged, and after they were shewed into the Parlour the Pretender's son went to them in the said Parlour but what passed between them this Informant knows not. He . . . also saith that he

¹ Directory of Cumberland (Mannix and Whellan), 592.

² Trans. Cumberland and Westmorland Association xii 47-65.

³ S.P. Dom., 36/82 no. 78.

did not see any Guard come to the House with the said Mayor and Aldermen and also saith that the said Mayor and Aldermen invited this informant to a publick House about Two or three Hundred Yards off and that there was no guard attended them from his Brother's House to the said Publick House but that there was some Hussars came into the Room and further this Informant saith not.

L. Deane.

Sworn 10 March 1745 before Edward Hutchinson, Jerom Tullie."

Two days later an information⁴ was sworn by John Armstrong, who stated that on 15 or 16 November 1745 he met Mr John Backhouse, Mayor of Carlisle, with Aldermen James Graham and Richard Coulthard, in Brampton, and to the best of his belief they were coming from the Pretender's lodging.

Alderman Graham asked Armstrong to go with them to the Red Lyon to drink a glass of wine with them.

"They had no guard with them, but that Sir David Murray came in with four other Rebels who said they was come with an Order from their Prince to wait or attend of them to Carlisle and one of the said Rebels desired the Mayor and Aldermen to make their stay as little as possible."

A third declaration, sworn on 19 May 1746 by Edward Atkinson of Rickergate, without the city of Carlisle, gentleman, does not add any information about the Prince's lodging, but it throws a little light on Alderman Coulthard.

On 15 November 1745 Atkinson called upon the Alderman at his house, and heard him expressing great concern that he, with the Mayor and others, would be obliged to go to Brampton the following morning to the young Pretender with the keys of the town.

In Atkinson's words, Coulthard "with tears in his eyes (which this informant took particular notice of) declared his unwillingness to go, but as the Rebels were in the town it would be for the good of the town to comply and go."

I hope in a future paper to discuss the part played in ⁴ Ibid., 36/83, no. 92.

the surrender of Carlisle by Backhouse, Graham and Coulthard. Meanwhile, I turn to Mr Couch's title deeds. We have seen that the Prince's lodging in Brampton was the house of Leonard Deane's brother. The title deeds show that on 5 May 1674 Ambrose Atkinson and his son Robert sold a piece of land at Brampton to Leonard Dean, yeoman. This conveyance is endorsed: "house & stables & garding at Beckside where John Deane lives." In CWI viii 369 f., 5 the Rev. H. Whitehead has much to say of the purchaser of 1674, Leonard Deane, a member of the Church of England, who became a Presbyterian.

Unfortunately there is a gap in the title deeds and next in date to the 1674 deed is one of 1798. The hiatus between these years is largely bridged, however, by wills of members of the Deane family in Carlisle Probate Registry and by Brampton Parish Register.

The deed of 1798 is a conveyance from John Gill to John Longrigg of two dwelling houses with two stables, yard and garden, lately kept as an inn called the King's Arms in the main or principal street in the town of Brampton, in the occupation of Robert Longrigg and Christopher Merrian, "all which said premises were lately purchased from Mark Deane Buckeridge Esquire."

Mark Deane Buckeridge's descent from Leonard Deane, the purchaser in 1674, is best followed in the accompanying pedigree. Leonard's great-granddaughter, Jane Deane, baptised at Brampton in 1749, married in June 1769 Henry Buckeridge, whose name first appears in the registers of Brampton at the beginning of that year.

On 5 February 1769 George, a negro servant of his, was christened at Brampton, and a month later, on 12 March, another negro servant, John Wilkes, was also baptized.⁶

⁵ Mr Whitehead however, was wrong in suggesting that Leonard Deane was a lawyer. He describes himself in his will as merchant.

⁶ It is to be feared that John Wilkes was not altogether a desirable acquisition in Brampton parish. On 27 January, 1771 a bastard child (Maria) of Elizabeth Langcake of which he was the father, was baptized at Brampton.

Mark Deane, son of Henry and Jane Buckeridge, was baptized at Brampton on 22 June 1772, and on 13 May 1773 his mother was buried there, aged 24.

Mark Deane Buckeridge sold the property, as we have seen, at some date before 1798 to John Gill, who on 12 September of that year sold it to John Longrigg.

When it was sold in 1813 by John Thomas to Robert Barnes it was described as the house formerly known as the King's Arms. By 1829 it was an inn known as the Masons' Arms, in 1839 as the Freemasons' Arms. It was so known in 1861.

The inn is not mentioned in the 1873 directory, and by 1884 it had been converted into a draper's shop in the occupation of Mr William Hetherington. It was sold in 1889 by Mr George Bargate to Mr Joseph Cameron, and in 1903 when Mr J. A. Wheatley published his Bonnie Prince Charlie in Cumberland it had become a china shop. In the following year Mrs Sarah Cameron sold the property to Mr Thomas Couch, grandfather of the present owner, to whose kindness I am greatly indebted, as also to the Leverhulme Research Trustees, without whose financial help I could not have undertaken the necessary research work in London.

⁷ The house is illustrated at page 23.

PEDIGREE OF DEANE.

