

Derby Borough Rental, 1540.

By F. WILLIAMSON.

IN the Town Clerk's muniment room at Derby were several old borough rentals ranging in date from 1540 to 1806, all of which appear to have been lost in the great flood of May, 1932, it is therefore fortunate that a transcript of the earliest of these rentals happens to be in possession of the writer. I have no information as to who made the transcript so that it is not possible to make due acknowledgement, nor in the circumstances has it been possible to collate the transcript with the original with a view to filling the few blanks, or of checking one or two doubtful readings.

In *D.A.J.*, vol. 36, 1914, Mr. H. E. Currey published a similar rental for 1611, which is useful for comparison. The 1540 rental is interesting from the fact that it shows the position as it existed just about the time of the dissolution of the religious houses, and about fourteen years before Queen Mary made an extensive gift of property to the bailiffs and burgesses of Derby out of the sequestered estates of Darley Abbey and other local religious houses. At this date Darley Abbey, Burton Abbey, the Friary, Derby, All Saints' Collegiate Church, and the Nunnery of King's Mead all appear on the borough rental.

Among those paying rents in 1540 are many whose descendants were still holding the same property seventy years later, and the following list is by no means exhaustive; Parker, Ilsley, Bradshaw, Walker, Francis,

Smyth, Bingham, Collier and Stringer. At least two important men appear on the roll, Sir John Porte, founder of Repton School, and Robert Liversage, founder of the Liversage Charity, the greatest of all Derby charities.

A few surnames occur of a type which has now almost disappeared. Thomas Clakhades and Nicholas Certilmedes derived their surnames from field-names. 'Hades,' which always appears in the plural, is the equivalent of headlands, the strips of ground at the end of the furrows where the plough turns round, 'clak' or 'clag' must be descriptive of the hades, and probably refers to its 'claggy' nature. Certylmedes is from 'curtil,' the immediate surrounding court or yard of a house or farm, and survives as curtilage. The curtil-medes or meadows are therefore those adjacent to the farm buildings. Thomas Longbacke rejoiced in a nickname of a kind now almost extinct. 'Alice in the Leapes' seems to have been in the unfortunate position of not having a family name at all, and was known only from the street in which she lived, the Breadlepes. There is one name difficult to explain, Ex' or Ux' Brydde. The surname is, of course, a variant of Bird, and John Bird was one of the members for Derby in the last parliaments of Henry VI. Ex' is hardly likely to mean executors as the list renders this as 'the heyrez of,' 'theyres of,' so perhaps we should read ex' as ux', uxor, wife used instead of widow.

The names of the streets and fields, have some interest, many of them having disappeared, and I have thought it convenient for readers to arrange them in alphabetical order, giving a brief note on each. The old street names of Derby have a certain amount of interest, and no doubt an entertaining paper could be written about them from the material available, little of which, unfortunately, is very early. A lot of foolish nonsense has been written about old street names, a particular example being Rotten Row, which some imaginative writers have

derived from such a weird phrase as 'Route du Roi,' a street name for which there is no record in this country or in France. I have not space to go fully into arguments here, but of the scores of Rotten Rows in this country, now or in the past, all show forms like, rotton, rotten, ratten, being variants of the ME. word for a rat. Had anything like 'route du roi' been the origin, then derivatives would necessarily have shown great variation. For instance, 'beaurepaire' gives Belper, in Derbyshire, and Bear Park, in Durham. In the case of Rotten Row no such variations occur.

Bochere.—The Butchery alias Shambles, inside the block of buildings which formerly stood on the west side of the Market Place.

Bradshaw.—Royal Derbyshire Infirmary is on this site; the name is preserved in Bradshaw Street.

Breadleypes.—ME. 'lepe,' a basket. The Town Hall (Guild Hall) formerly stood in the Market Place opposite where it now stands, and the short street thus formed was the 'Bredlepes' where the bakers had their stands.

Burne Croft.—A croft of which this is my only record.

Cappe Croft.—This is recorded as early as the 13 c. both in the Dale and Darley cartularies. I cannot explain the meaning.

Castell Hyll.—Now called Cockpit Hill, between East Street and Eagle Street; Speed's plan of 1610 shows the Cockpit; early in the 19th century the 'hill' was lowered.

Cheker.—The Chequer Meadows on the east of the Derwent.

Derk Chamber.—Perhaps one of the lock-ups in the Guild Hall, Alice had a house under it, so that it was not a cellar.

Derwent Lane.—This ran down between the Eagle and Child public-house and the next buildings to the causeway across the Derwent.

Flessheberde.—‘The flesh-board,’ probably another name for the Butchery on Shambles.

Freres Cundyth.—Friars’ conduit; conducted water from Bramble Brook to their fishponds near the present Curzon Street.

Hell Croft.—The rental of 1611 shows this to have been called Hill Croft; it was at Rowditch.

Holcrofte.—This seems to be a misreading for Helcroft.

Holmes.—A large island in the Derwent on which the Cattle Market is now held; besides which it accommodates a recreation ground and open-air baths.

Humbercroft.—Probably near Humberholme on the boundary of Osmaston with Alvaston and Boulton, *see D.A.J.*, vol. 7, 1933. It is an interesting survival of ‘Humber’ as a stream name.

Ireland.—On the north side of Bridgegate—Britannia Street runs through Ireland. I cannot account for name.

Irongate.—The street of that name, so called because the street of the iron-workers.

Markett Hedd.—Market Head, west side of Market Place next Sadlergate.

Morleyge.—The Morledge; unfortunately the second and third letters are omitted so that we cannot be sure what they were.

Rayles.—‘Water Meadows,’ a common field-name derived from the expression, ‘at ther ey leys,’ the ‘r’ becoming attached to ‘ey.’

Rotten Rowe.—‘Rat Row’ from ME. ‘rotton,’ a rat; a common term in medieval times for streets of ancient houses; the block of buildings mentioned under Bochere, together with the present west side of the Market Place, formed Rotten Row.

St. Leonard’s.—A leper hospital near or in the present Leonard Street.

St. Mary of the Bridge.—The Bridge Chapel now repaired.

St. Peter's Bridge.—Still underneath the road at the bottom of St. Peter's Street.

Stathom Close.—Not identified; must have taken its name from a former holder.

Stonyforth Lane.—Led from Bridge Gate to Derwent Lane.

Syddals.—Fields on which the races were formerly held; near the Midland Station; Siddalls Road led to the Siddalls

Wygoursley. This is the only record I have of this name.

A few common nouns used in the list are more or less obsolete at the present day, and some explanation is desirable. All Saints had a bread shop at the Market Head and a "grese" pertaining to it. This word, from the French, means 'a flight of stairs,' in this case probably an outside staircase, as, of course, there would be no object in mentioning an ordinary indoor staircase.

A 'bulke' was a framework projecting from the front of a shop, or a stall, and our rental carries this use of the word back nearly fifty years earlier than the Oxford English Dictionary does.

'Penter' is a variant of penthouse, which a supplementary structure to a building usually with a single-slope roof. Many variations occur in the spelling of penthouse, among them, penthus, pentice, penters. The latter seems to be the origin of penter, and the scribe who made out the rental appears to have taken penters to be a plural, and adduced penter as the singular which it is not.

'Posts' would be positions probably on the side-walks from which sales could be made. Something less than a bulke or stall.

Burgi Derbe.

Rentale fact' ibm octavo die Januarij anno regni
regis Henrici octavi trecesimo primo. [8 Jan. 1540].

Flessheberde.

Imprimio of Edmunde Walker for ij shopes by yere	iijs. iiijd.
Ellys Dyar for ij shoppes by yere	iijs. iiijd.
Edmunde Walker for a shoppe	xxd.
Wyllyam Bylkes for ij shoppes	ijs. vjd.
Henry Strynger for a shoppe nowe in the holdyng of John Storey	xijd.
Rychard Ilseley for ij shoppes	ijs. vjd.
Rychard Holbroke for a shoppe	xijd.
Rychard Waldeen for a shoppe	xxd.
John Prest for a shoppe nowe in the holdyng of John Dyer	xijd.
John Cundy for ij shoppes	xiijs. iiijd.
Wyllyam Bradshawe for a shoppe	xijd.
Wyllyam Symeson for a tenement	xxd.
Robert Smyth for ij chambers in' the Bochere ..	viijd.
Wyllyam Cockerell for the Derke Chamber ..	iiijd.
Wyllyam Symeson for a shoppe	iiijd.
Alys in the Leapes for a house under the Derke Chamber	xxd.

Breadleypes.

Rychard Cundy for a shoppe	ixd.
Edward Lenton for a shoppe	xijd.
Robert Smyth baker for a shoppe	xvjd.
Thomas Clakhades for a shoppe	xvjd.
Wyllyam Fraunces for a shoppe	xvjd.
Nycholas Certylmedes for a shoppe	xvjd.
Edward Parker for a shoppe	xvijd.

come[n] Rentes.

Wyllyam Feysand for a shop at the ende of the Rotten Rowe	vjd.
Roland Babyngton for a bulke in the Rotten Rowe	iijd.
The heyrez of Odebye for a bulke	iijd.
Nycholas Byngnam of London for a bulke nowe in the holdyng of Thomas Longbacke	iijd.
The abbot of Derley for a bulke	iijd.
The abbot of Burton for a bulke	iijd.

Thomas Lath[a]m of Chaddesden for a bulke nowe in the holdyng of Wyllyam Wise	vjd.
Edmunde Walker for a bulke	iijd.
The priorez of the Nunnery for a bulke	vid.
The churche of All Hallowes for the bred shoppe at the Markett Heed and a grese perteyneing to the same nowe in the holdyng of Christofer Thakker.	xijd.
Syr John Porte knyght for ij posts at the Markett Hedd	iiijd.
The same Syr John Porte for a grounde in the M[or]leyge now in the holdyng of John Bynder ..	xijd.
Robert Lev[er]seyge for easement at Seynt Peturs Brydge	vjd.
The same Robert Lev[er]seyge for a grounde lying att the est ende of Seynt Petur Brydge	vjd.
Edmunde Walker for a lane called Derwent Lane the course wherof is stopped by the house nowe in the holdyng of Wyllyam Bradshawe barber ..	iiijd.
Theyres of Sale for buyldeyng att Seynt Peter Brydge	xijd.
Henry Strynger for ij posts at the Markett Hedd ..	iiijd.
Thomas Walker the brasyer for a grounde att Seynt Peter Brydge	xijd.
The Channthers p[rie]stez of Chadesden for buyldeyng over a lane in the Irengate.. .. .	viijd.
For a grounde nere Seynt Peter Church nowe in the holdyng of Robert Yorke wheruppon the sayd Robert hath a barne	viijd.
John Chapman for rent at the [? St. Peter's] Brydge	xxd.
Rycherd Justice for fyssheyng Derwent Water ..	xvs.
Thomas Harwode for a grounde late John Cryches For a parcell of grounde lying in Nycholas Holborne garden	iijd. vjd.
Comen Pastures.	
[? Ex'] Brydde for a close called	vs.
Thomas Warde for iij closes at the Castell Hyll ..	vjd.
The rent of the Holmes	xlvs.
Thomas Neuton for a close at the Castell Hyll ..	xijd.
Robert Lev[er]sege for a close at the Castell Hyll ..	iijs. iiijd.
John Watson for Wygoursley	vs.
Robert Yorke for a close at the Castell Hyll ..	ijs.

Theyres of Sale for a close near Bradshawe beyng nowe in the holdyng of Thomas Hernebie ..	xd.
Elyner Thakker for a close at the Castell Hyll ..	xxd.
John Watson for a pece of medowe in Syddals ..	iijs. iiijd.
John Storer for Stathom close	iijs.
Roland Babyngton for a close	xvjd.
Edmunde Walker ij closes beyonde Derwent ..	viijs.
Wyllyam Wise for Burne Crofte	iijs.
The Cheker by yere	viijd.
The p[ri]or of the Freyery for a close at Holcrofte .	viijd.
Robert Faryngton for a close	iijs. iiijd.
Ellys Cowper for a watt[er]yng place	iiijd.
The sayd Ellys for a close	ixd.
John Feyrn for a close	iijs.
Ex' Brydde for a close	iijs. iiijd.
Edmunde Walker for a close at Hollcrofte ..	iijs. iiijd.
John Feyrn for a close	iijs. iiijd.
The priores of the Nunnery for a close ..	ijs.
The same priores for a close at Hell Crofte .	vs.
Thomas Neuton for a close nere hyre [her] close ..	xijd.
The same Thomas for a dunghill	ijd.
Ux' Brydde for a close nere the Freres cundyth ..	xxd.
Ux' Brydde for an other close	vs.
John Hey for his grett close	xs.
The same John for an other close	iijs. iiijd.
Nycholas Orchard for a close nere the . . .	iiijd.
Bradshawe hey	xls.
Chester Grene	xls.
They Rayles	xxs.
They Towne Mylles	xls.
The mylles on the Holmes	iiij li. vjs. viijd.
Chrystofer Harwode for one acre of ground lying nygh Mary of the Brydge	xxd.
The priores of the Nunnery for Seynt Mary Close .	vs.
Edmunde Walker for a close at Seynt Leon[ar]d ..	iijs.
Robert Smyth for Stonyforth Lane	xvjd.
Roger More for a parcell of grounde in Ireland ..	iiijd.
Thomas Harwode for a close at thys sede Chaddesden Crofte	ijd.
Elyner Thakker for a close in Cappe Crofte . ..	xxd.
Edmunde Walker for a parcell of grounde lying in his grette close nere unto Humbercrofte ..	xvjd.

The est syde of the Bochere.

Edmunde Walker for occupieyng his penter ther of they Frydayes and Fayre dayes	ijs.
Wyllyam Pydcock for a penter lykewyse	xijd.
Rauffe Collyer for a penter lykewyse	xxd.
Henry Smyth for penyng his wyndowes	xxd.
John Storer for a penter of Henry Stryngers shoppe	ijs.
Thomas Horneby for ij posts under his swynestye in the M[or]lege	ijd.
Wyllyam Wise for a ground at ye	xijd.