



## NOTES ON SOME MEDIÆVAL GOLD- SMITHS IN CHESTER.

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*(Read 15th December, 1890.)*

THE following translations of six early-dated Latin deeds, relating to Chester, are of much interest, as they furnish us with the names of three very early Chester goldsmiths, viz., Matthew, Nicholas his son, and John, each described as "the goldsmith."

One of the properties conveyed by these documents is situate at the corner of Cow Lane (now known as Frodsham Street) and Foregate Street, and the other at the junction of the latter highway with St. John Street, formerly called St. John's Lane. It is noteworthy that the last-named locality is now occupied by two banking establishments, viz., that of Messrs. Williams and Co. on the one side, and that of the National Provincial Bank of England Limited on the other. As the early goldsmiths were generally the bankers or money lenders of the then community, it is a curious reflection that the property owned by a goldsmith and banker at the end of the thirteenth century is now, some six hundred years later, also occupied by a firm of bankers.

William de Doncaster mentioned in these deeds is "the merchant," as he is called to distinguish him from other persons of the same family with the same Christian name. He was at the time a very prominent citizen of Chester, and an account of him and his family, as well as of nearly all the witnesses to these deeds, will be found in the paper I read before this Society, and which is printed in vol. ii. (new series) of the Society's *Journal*.

These early deeds are of much assistance to the student of local history, and I trust that from time to time other members of the Society will exhibit any similar documents, which they may be so fortunate as to discover, for the benefit of future Chester historians.

DEED NO. I, c. 1292.

*Quitclaim by Nicholas the Goldsmith to William de Doncaster, of all his right in certain land in Foregate Street, Chester, c. 1292.*

To all the faithful of Christ who shall see or hear this present writing, NICHOLAS, *called* THE GOLDSMITH, son of MATTHEW THE GOLDSMITH, formerly a citizen of Chester, sends greeting in the Lord. Be it known to you all that I have remised, granted, and absolutely for me and my heirs for ever quitclaimed to WILLIAM DE DONCASTER, citizen of Chester and his heirs or his assigns, all my right and claim which I have or in any manner may have in all that land with the appurtenances lying between the land of Richard the clerk, citizen of Chester, on the one part, and the lane which is called Le Coulone on the other part, in Foregatestrete of the city of Chester, together with 7s. to be received from that land on which Beatrix le Lokker dwells, which she is accustomed yearly to render to me for the aforesaid land. So that neither I Nicholas nor my heirs nor any one for me or by me or in my right shall have any right or claim in the said land and 7s. annual rent, or power to sell the same. In testimony of which thing to this present writing of quitclaim I have placed my seal.

These being witnesses, Hugh de Brichull now Mayor of Chester, Nicholas Payn & Roger Dunfoul now Sheriffs of Chester, Robert le Mercer, Robert de Terven, Alexander Hurel, Robert Harald, Randle de Deresbury, and others.

(Not dated, but *circa* 1292.) (Seal gone.)

Endorsed :—"ffogatestrete."

DEED NO. 2.

*Lease of land in Foregate Street, Chester, by Nicholas the Goldsmith, of Chester, to William de Doncaster of Chester, for eight years. 1293.*

This is the agreement made between NICHOLAS called THE GOLDSMITH, son of MATTHEW THE GOLDSMITH, formerly citizen of Chester, on the one part, and WILLIAM DE DONCASTRE, citizen of Chester, on the other part, namely, that the aforesaid Nicholas hath demised, and to farm surrendered to the aforesaid William and his heirs or assigns, certain land of his, viz.: all that land lying between the land of Richard called the Clerk, on the one part, and the lane which is called Le Coulone, on the other part, in Forgatestrete of the city of Chester, together with 7s. yearly rent which Beatrix le Lokhere is accustomed to render to the said Nicholas for land on which the said Beatrix dwells, the which land aforesaid, the aforesaid Nicholas to the aforesaid William, together with the aforesaid 7s. annual rent has given, and moreover of him the said Nicholas to fee farm has taken, for 10s. yearly rent to him at four yearly terms to be paid, as in the charters between them made is fully contained. To have and to hold to the said William and his heirs or assigns, of the aforesaid Nicholas and his heirs or his assigns, freely, quietly, well, and in peace, for the term of eight years, beginning at the feast of the Nativity of our Lord in the year of grace 1293, with all buildings in the same placed or to be placed, liberties, commodities, appurtenances, and easements to the said land and 7s. whatsoever belonging.

With a clause that the said rent of 10s. be duly paid and the premises kept in a good state, and with clause of warranty.

In testimony of which thing to either part of this writing made in manner of a chirograph they have alternately placed their seals.

These being witnesses, Hugh de Brichull, now mayor of Chester, Nicholas Payn and Roger Dunfoul, now sheriffs of Chester, Robert le Mercer, Robert de Vernon, Hugh Payn, Randle de Deresbury, Alexander Hurel, junior, Gilbert Dunfoul, clerk, and others.

(Part of an oval-shaped seal, of green wax, remaining bearing the impression of an ear of wheat tied in the shape of a fleur-de-lys. The part of the legend remaining has the letters S · NIC : FIL — RI FAB.)

Endorsed:—"fforgatestrete."

DEED NO. 3.

*Quitclaim by Nicholas, son of Matthew, the Goldsmith of Chester, to William de Doncaster of Chester, of all his right in land in Foregate Street, Chester. 1305.*

To all the faithful of Christ who shall see or hear this writing, NICHOLAS, SON OF MATTHEW, *called* THE GOLDSMITH, citizen of Chester, sends greeting in the Lord. Be it known that I have remised, granted, and absolutely for me and my heirs for ever quitclaimed to WILLIAM DE DONECASTR, citizen of Chester, and his heirs or assigns, all my right and claim that I have or in any manner may have in all that land with the appurtenances, in fforgatestrete in the city of Chester, lying between the land which was Richard the Clerk's, formerly citizen of Chester, on the one part, and the lane which is called Le Coulone, in the city of Chester, on the other part, and in 7s. yearly rent which I am accustomed to receive of Beatrice le Lokker for a certain mesuage which the said Beatrice holds of me in fforgatestrete of the city aforesaid. So that neither I Nicholas nor my heirs nor any one by me or for me or in my name or right shall have any right or claim in all the aforesaid land with its appurtenances nor in the aforesaid 7s. yearly rent, nor shall have power to sell the same in future. In testimony of which thing to this writing of quitclaim I have placed my seal.

These being witnesses, Richard len Genour [the engineer or architect], now Mayor of Chester, John de Warwyk and Benedict de Stanton now Sheriffs of Chester, Robert de Maclisfeld, John

Dunfoull, Robert de Qwetemor [Whitmore], Richard de Qwetelegh [Whitley], William son of Peter de Brichull, Roger de Huntyndon, Gilbert Dunfoull, clerk, and others.

Given at Chester the 15th Dec. in the 34th year of the reign of King Edward [1305].

(Seal gone.)

Endorsed:—"fforgatestrete  
above Cowlone.  
Quitclaim of land  
above Le Coulone."

DEED NO. 4.

*Grant by John, the Goldsmith, to William de Doncaster, of Chester, of land situate between Eastgate Street and St. John's Lane, 1297.*

Let all present and future know that I JOHN, called THE GOLDSMITH, citizen of Chester, have given, granted, and by this my present charter confirmed to WILLIAM DE DANECASTRE, citizen of the same city, all my land with the appurtenances lying in breadth between the land which was William the Butcher's, formerly citizen of Chester, on the one part, and the land of Thomas called the Marshall, and the land of Richard de Conewaye, clerk, on the other part, and extending in length from the king's street to the land of Henry de Thelewalle in the lane of St. John in the city of Chester. To have and to hold to the said William and his heirs or assigns, of the chief lords of that fee, by the service thence due and accustomed, freely, quietly, fully, peacefully, and of inheritance for ever, with all and singular its appurtenances, buildings on the said land placed or to be placed, commodities, liberties, and easements, to the said land whatsoever belonging.

And I the said John and my heirs, all the aforesaid land with all its appurtenances in length and breadth, and with all the buildings on the same land placed or to be placed, commodities, and easements, to the aforesaid William de Danecastre and his heirs or assigns for the aforesaid service as is aforesaid, against all people will warrant and defend for ever. Moreover for this gift, grant, and confirmation of this present charter, the said William has given to me ten pounds sterling by hand.

In testimony of which thing to this my present charter I have placed my seal, these being witnesses, Sirs Reginald de Gray, now Justiciary of Chester, John his son, and Richard de Mascy, knights, Alexander Hurel, now Mayor of Chester, Robert Ythel and Andrew de Stanlawe, now Sheriffs of Chester, Hugh de Brichull, Robert de Terven, Roger Donfoul, Richard Candelan, Gilbert the clerk, and others.

Given at Chester on the Monday next before the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary [March 25] in the year of our Lord 1297.

(Large seal of white wax bearing the impression of a man's head, full face, with a nimbus. Qy.: that of St. John.)

Endorsed:—Eastgate,  
St. John's Lane.

DEED No. 5.

*Grant by William de Doncaster of Chester, to John the Goldsmith, and Agnes his wife, of land &c. in St. John's Lane, Chester. c. 1297.*

To all to whom this present writing shall come WILLIAM DE DANECASTRE, citizen of Chester, sends greeting in the Lord. Be it known that I have granted to JOHN *called* THE GOLDSMITH, citizen of Chester, and AGNES his wife, for the term of the lives of the aforesaid John and Agnes, certain land of mine and all the moveable goods in the same land remaining, the which lies between the land which was William the Butcher's, on the one part, and the land of Thomas called the Marshall, and the land of Richard de Conewaye on the other part, in the lane of St. John in the city of Chester. To have and to hold to the said John and Agnes for the term of the lives of the said John and Agnes, of me and my heirs or assigns, freely, quietly, wholly, and peacefully, with all its appurtenances, buildings on the same placed or to be placed, commodities, liberties, and easements to the said land whatsoever belonging. Yielding thence yearly to me and my heirs 12 pence of silver at two yearly terms, viz., at the feasts of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist and the Nativity of our

Lord by equal portions, for all secular services, exactions, and demands to the said land whatsoever belonging. And I William and my heirs or assigns all the aforesaid land with all its appurtenances, to the said John and Agnes, for their lives as is aforesaid, against all people will warrant acquit and defend. For this grant the said John and Agnes have given to me 5 marks of silver by hand. So that after the death of the said John and Agnes all the aforesaid land with its appurtenances shall quietly revert to me or my heirs. In testimony of which thing to either part of this writing made in manner of a chirograph we have alternately placed our seals.

These being witnesses, Alexander Hurel now Mayor of Chester, Robert Ythel and Andrew de Stanlawe now Sheriffs of the said city, Roger Donfoul, Richard Candelan, John Donfoul, Gilbert the clerk, and others.

(Not dated, but *circa* 1297.)

(Seal gone.)

Endorsed:—"Estgatestrete,  
in the lane of St. John Chester.  
John Goldsmyth."

#### DEED No. 6.

*Grant by Richard, son of John de Stanlawe, to Thomas de Citoc-sather, of land in Foregate Street, Chester. 1303.*

Let all present and future know that I, RICHARD, son of JOHN DE STANLAWE, formerly citizen of Chester, have given, granted, and by this my present charter confirmed to THOMAS DE CITOC-SATHER, citizen of Chester, all my land which lies in fforegatestrete in the city of Chester, between the land of Richard de Coneway, clerk, on the one part, and the land of the aforesaid Thomas on the other part, in breadth, and extending so in length from the king's street of fforegatestrete as far as the land which was John the Goldsmith's. To have and to hold of me and my heirs to the aforesaid Thomas and his heirs or assigns, freely, quietly, well, and in peace, wholly, and of inheritance for ever, with all buildings on the said land placed, or to be placed, and with all the appurtenances, liberties, inclosures, and easements to the said land whatsoever belonging. Yielding thence yearly to me and

my heirs, of the aforesaid Thomas and his heirs or assigns, 14s. of silver at four yearly terms, viz.: at the feasts of the Nativity of our Lord, the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary, the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, and St. Michael the Great [*i.e.* Sept. 29], by equal portions, for all secular services, exactions, or demands. And I, Richard, and my heirs all the aforesaid land with all the appurtenances, to the aforesaid Thomas and his heirs or assigns, for the aforesaid service as is aforesaid, against all people will warrant, acquit, and for ever defend. In testimony of which thing to the parts of this charter in two parts divided they have alternately placed their seals.

These being witnesses, Alexander Hurell, now Mayor of Chester, Richard Candelan and John de Terven, now Sheriffs of Chester, Hugh de Brichull, William de Dancaster, Roger Donfoulgh, Robert Smalproud, John de Waruik, John Donfoulgh, Henry de Chelewelle, Adam de Moelys, Robert de Wyttemor, Roger the clerk, and others.

Given at Chester, on Wednesday next, after the feast of St. Matthew the Apostle [Sept. 21] in the year of our Lord 1303.

(Small seal of dark green wax still attached, bearing the impression of a dolphin.)

Endorsed:—“fforgatestrete.”

