



The Berringtons of Cheshire

BY J. H. E. BENNETT

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AMONG lesser, and consequently frequently overlooked, memorials of the past are those generally successful attempts at decoration, by means of which an owner sought to add beauty and dignity to the exterior or interior of buildings in his possession. Sometimes the ornamentation consisted of a floral or other design executed on wood, plaster, or any suitable material—sometimes of an heraldic display, or of dated initials on beam or house-plate, chimney-piece or window, panel, ceiling, or spout head of moulded lead.

A description of the work, even if it is not possible to ascertain the name, and, to some extent, follow the career of those for whom the work was carried out, is of interest—an interest greatly enhanced if, by any means, the original owner can be identified.

In an old City, such as Chester, these memorials, many of which are not even placed on record, are to be found in all directions, and in the following notes an attempt has been made to solve the problem offered by a chimney-piece, the key of which lies in the heraldry emblazoned on its surface.

At the present time Castle Lane or Castle Street, Chester, consists of a number of houses whose front-ages bear witness to the substantial standing of their sometime inhabitants, but whose mutilated interiors are now, in many instances, given over to the casual lodger.

Nine years ago, on the north side of the street, a house was pulled down to provide a site for the business premises of Mr. William Browne. "The front portion was not very old—it was of plain brick, built about the end of the eighteenth or beginning of the nineteenth century. The rear of the house was, however, of much earlier date, probably having been erected not later than the middle of the seventeenth century. It was in this part"—to continue quoting from a letter of Mr. L. V. Browne—"I found the chimney-piece built in an angle fireplace, and covered, nearly to its full height, by a painted deal Georgian mantel of the ordinary type, which contained a small hob grate. When this grate and the brick-work were removed the original fireplace was discovered, built circular on plan, and plastered or pargeted with clay, tempered with cowdung. The hearth was of red stone, raised about two-and-a-half inches from the floor level, and the middle was hollowed out, evidently where the fire had been laid directly on the hearth. This stone had perished and fell to pieces on removal," but the old fireplace and the hob grate were preserved, and are now fixed across an angle in Mr. Browne's office.

The uprights and lintel of the mantelpiece, as well as the centre of the overmantel, are of a hard yellow stone, probably from Manley. The horizontal mould-



J. Elliott, Photo.

G. R. Griffith Ltd., Chester

Mantel-piece from the house of Thomas Berrington,
re-erected at 16 Castle Street

ings, above and below the overmantel, are of local red sandstone. The pilasters on each side, and the two tablets over the lintel are of black marble, and the scroll ornamentation, existing on one side only, is of alabaster.

The overmantel is of superior workmanship, and very curious. Mr. J. Paul Rylands, F.S.A., confirms the writer's opinion that it is of an earlier date than the armorial lintel below, and considers it to be work of the time of Elizabeth or James I., while the lintel might be as late as that of James II. He also considers it likely that the overmantel was originally intended for some other purpose, possibly for a tomb, and adapted to its present use, and that the division in the centre was due to it being found impracticable to fit a middle column in this position; the want of which is evident. The Elizabethan or early Jacobean alabaster scroll at one side appears without doubt to have been designed for some other purpose than that for which it has been adopted. Again, the use of the two marble panels is problematical—they would have been suitable on a tomb, though certainly rather small, whereas if they had each been meant to hold a motto they seem rather large.

On the overmantel, mounted on well moulded cartouches, and placed above the two marble panels, are two large shields with the following charges in relief:—

First shield. Sable, three greyhounds courant in pale argent, collared gules. This is evidently intended for the coat of Berrington of Bradwall, though lacking the silver border usually shewn, as on the third shield.

Second shield. Sable, a seven-pointed estoile or, between two flaunches ermine—the arms of Hobart, an important and ancient family, chiefly connected with the eastern counties. From a junior branch are descended the Earls of Buckinghamshire; their ancestor being a Sir Henry Hobart who, in 1611, was appointed Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas.

The remains of a wreath and crest are visible above the Hobart coat, and, no doubt, the Berrington coat was similarly surmounted, although nothing is now to be seen.

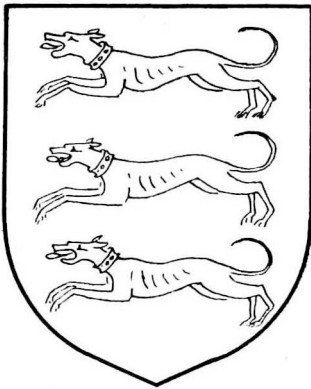
Below and stretched across the lintel of the fireplace are three raised shields with arms, which impale Hobart in each case:—

Third shield. Quarterly, 1 and 4, Berrington of Bradwall, as on the first shield, but with the addition of a bordure argent; 2 and 3, azure, two bars argent, in chief three plates—Venables of Bradwall. Over all four a crescent gules for difference. Impaling Hobart.

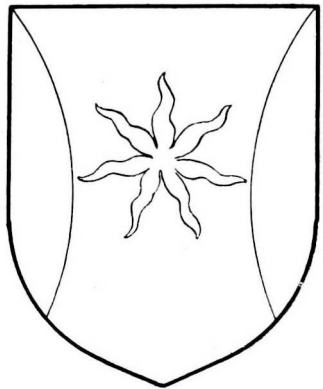
Fourth shield. Azure, on a fesse dancettée between six cross crosslets fitchée or, three escallops sable—Boyton of Boyton End, Norfolk. Impaling Hobart.

Fifth shield. Barry of six argent and gules, and apparently a bezant-like charge on the second bar for difference. Impaling Hobart. Among the families to whom the former coat may belong are those of Lord Barrey of Ireland, Barry, Earl of Barrymore, Bery, Bayouse, Multon, or Talebot, but it has not been more definitely identified. The Earls of Barrymore were connected with Chester, and several members of the

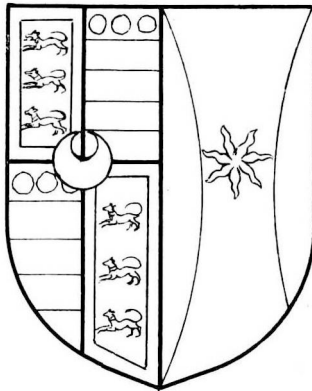
1.



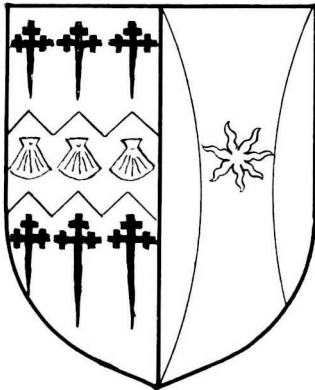
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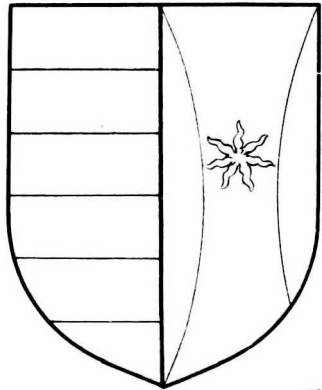
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4.



5.



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ARMS ON MANTEL-PIECE IN
CASTLE-STREET, CHESTER.

family were admitted to the Freedom of the City in the eighteenth century. It is noteworthy that a branch of the Multon family lived in Norfolk, a circumstance which, considered in conjunction with the fact that the Hobart and Boyton families were seated in that neighbourhood, seems to point to the key of this alliance also lying in the genealogy of that district.

The family of Berrington, whose arms appear on two of the shields, probably take their name from the village of Berrington, situated about four miles south-east of Shrewsbury. A considerable pedigree of the Berringtons of Shrewsbury and Moat Hall is contained in the printed Visitation of Shropshire of 1623,¹ and this family, with offshoots, is still represented in Herefordshire, and the neighbouring counties, and numbers among its descendants, Charles and Joseph Berrington,² two noted Romanist divines who lived in the latter half of the eighteenth century.

Leaving on one side certain conjectures,³ the earliest known ancestor of the Cheshire family was one Matthew de Berthinton or Beryngton, in the reign of Edward I.⁴ His son Randle owned an estate at Moresborough or Mooresbarrow, a township in the parish of Middlewich, and his seat [Moresborough Hall] was, it is alleged, burnt down early in the fifteenth century, by illegitimate descendants of a younger son, as a result of some dispute with reference to the succession of the property.⁵

¹ Harleian Society (*Visitations*, Vol. XXVIII.).

² *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

³ Ormerod's *History of Cheshire* (Helsby Edition), Vol. III., p. 202, and *Harleian MS.*, 2187, f. 97.

⁴ A.D. 1275.

⁵ *Harleian MS.*, 2038, f. 95.

The main family, although not included in the more important gentry of the county, seem to have consistently maintained a good position, and intermarried with the greater families for a considerable period. John, the son and heir of the previously mentioned Randle, married a granddaughter of Sir Ralph Vernon, knight, Lord of Shipbroke, commonly known as "Vernon of the Brand," who is said to have lived to the rather unlikely age of 150 years,⁶ and to have married Mary, daughter of Lord Dacres.

The marriage of Thomas de Berington, son of John, was, however, of greater importance. This marriage was contracted with a daughter and coheir of William Venables of Bradwall, nephew of the then Baron of Kinderton, and through it the Berringtons succeeded to a moiety of the Bradwall property of the Venables, which was followed by a second moiety some generations later.⁷ The descendants of this Berrington-Venables marriage were consequently entitled to quarter the Venables coat with their own. The arms of the Bradwall branch of the Venables family are usually shewn with only two plates in chief, but in a manuscript in the *Harleian* collection⁸ three are given as borne by the grandfather of this heiress, and this number, as will be seen, appear on the coat on the mantelpiece.

The Berringtons entered into possession of the Bradwall property about 1362, and continued to be seated

⁶ Ormerod's *History of Cheshire* (Helsby Edition), Vol. III., p. 252, and *The Visitation of Cheshire, 1580* (Harleian Society), Vol. XVIII., p. 232.

⁷ Ormerod's *History of Cheshire* (Helsby Edition), Vol. III., p. 111-2.

⁸ *Harleian MS.*, 1505, and *Visitation of Cheshire, 1580* (Harleian Society), Vol. XVIII., p. 228.

there until 1588 when, the main male line becoming extinct, the Mooresbarrow and Bradwall estates passed to the family of Oldfield of Middlewich, by the marriage of the heiress⁹ or coheiress¹⁰ of the Berringtons with Philip Oldfield, of Gray's Inn, and Chester, Esquire, whose recumbent effigy, surrounded by his kneeling children, in St. Mary's Church, Chester, is well known. The arms of a number of connections appear on the monument, and on the railings surrounding it, but those of Berrington are not included, although they might reasonably be expected since the Oldfields inherited the estates, and the arms of the family into which Philip Oldfield secondly married are duly blazoned.

As already mentioned, there is a differencing crescent on the third shield, and this makes it clear that the coat was not that of the head of the family. An examination of the pedigree contained in the *History of Sandbach* by the late Mr. Earwaker,¹¹ shews the existence of a William Berrington, who was a second son. He was uncle to the last Berrington owner of the Bradwall estate, and, in view of the fact that his great-grandson was a parishioner of St. Mary's, and married a Hobart,¹² there can be no doubt but that the fireplace was situated in the house of the said great-grandson, and that the display denotes that his wife had two relations, probably sisters, who married the owners of the fourth and fifth shields. The descendant in question, by name Thomas Berrington, appears to have felt greater satisfaction in the con-

⁹ *Harleian MSS.*, 1424, f. 30, 1505, f. 26, 1535, f. 230, and 2187, f. 97.

¹⁰ *Harleian MS.*, 2038, f. 95; and *B.M., Add. MS.*, 5529, f. 7.

¹¹ p. 131.

¹² *Harleian MS.*, 2038, f. 95.

nections made by his wife's family than those made by his own, and from this it might be argued that they were people in a station in life superior to that of the Berringtons. This is a not unlikely state of affairs, as the members of the younger branch of his family are nearly all described as "yeomen"—no doubt well to do people of that class, but living the life of farmers, and recognised as being below the narrow border line separating the wealthy yeomen from the minor gentry, the fact of their being entitled to coat armour notwithstanding.

Before dealing with this branch of the Berrington family, a short account of the career of its founder will not be out of place. As already mentioned, William Berrington was a second son, and it is reasonable to suppose that he and his family were well acquainted with the important Cheshire family of Brereton of Brereton, living in the near neighbourhood of their home at Bradwall. It seems clear that Sir William Brereton must have taken an interest in his neighbour's son as, in the pedigree already mentioned, the latter is stated to have been Sir William's standard bearer. To hold this post he must have been high in favour, and, as we may assume his movements to have been generally identical with those of his leader, an account of Brereton's career in Ireland will, by inference, give an insight into that of Berrington.

It will be remembered that the historic Irish house of Fitzgerald was represented in the early part of the sixteenth century by Gerald, ninth Earl of Kildare, who succeeded his father as Lord Deputy of Ireland in 1515. He incurred the enmity of the great rival

house of Butler, holders of the earldom of Ormonde, and, in 1534 was, for the last time, imprisoned in the Tower on the charge of treason. Before leaving Ireland he had appointed his son Lord Thomas Fitzgerald, known later as "Silken Thomas," deputy, and the latter, on receipt of certain rumours of his father's death, and of a plot against his house, broke into open revolt against the Crown, laid siege to Dublin Castle, and put to death Archbishop Allen.

In due course an English army, under Sir William Skeffington, set sail from Beaumaris, but, meeting with rough weather, took shelter by Lambay Island. A portion of the fleet under Sir William Brereton was subsequently detailed for Dublin, and 250 well-appointed soldiers were disembarked at Howth with the object of lending support to the main body. It was at first intended to land the latter at Waterford, but eventually the disembarkation took place at Dublin, a week after Brereton had arrived there.

Fitzgerald, on the approach of the Royal troops, retired to his principal fortress of Maynooth, and Sir William Brereton, welcomed by the citizens, entered Dublin.

In the ensuing operations against the Irish, Brereton is said to have been Skeffington's right-hand man, and, after a winter in which nothing of importance was effected, the troops were concentrated on Maynooth, which was defended by a garrison of 100 men and a number of small guns brought from Dublin. Brereton was despatched by the Lord Deputy, that is Skeffington, to summon the Castle to surrender, but

the place was considered impregnable, and the summons was disregarded.

Maynooth, however, was not fitted to resist artillery, a new feature in Irish warfare, and after a bombardment of six days, a breach was made in the north wall, and Brereton took the outworks by storm, sixty of the garrison being slain in or after the engagement.

The main tower still held out, but the officer in command, either considering the position hopeless, or, as the result of a bribe to betray the Castle, surrendered, apparently unconditionally, and, it is stated, Brereton "ran up to the highest turret of the Castle, and advanced his standard on the top thereof, notificenge to the deputie that the fort was woone." A punishment, even more severe than usual, was meted out to the unfortunate defenders, and a long line of them, including the Dean of Kildare, were soon hanging from the walls. The remainder were, with one or two exceptions, put to the sword. Thus the "Pardon of Maynooth," as it was called, practically determined the fate of a rebellion which, at one time, threatened to prove fatal to the English authority in Ireland.

At the time of the fall of Maynooth, Fitzgerald was advancing to its relief with an army of 7,000 men, doubtless very ill disciplined, which melted away on receipt of the news. Notwithstanding this, Fitzgerald engaged Brereton in battle near the Naas, but suffered a serious defeat, as was to be expected.

Some months of minor warfare followed in which to use the words of *Hollinshed*, Brereton "skirmished so fiercely with Fitzgerald, as both the sides were

rather for the great slaughter disadvantaged, than either part by anie great victorie furthered." Eventually the revolt died out, and its organiser, with five of his uncles, met at Tyburn the fate of those convicted of treason.

Not long after this Sir William Skeffington died, and Brereton returned to England, when he was appointed Deputy Chamberlain of Chester. His services were, however, valued, and still required in turbulent Ireland, and on the 2nd October, 1539, he was instructed to levy 250 archers, and proceed with them to that country. In spite of the fact that he had broken his leg one day when returning from musters, he sailed early in November, and on arrival was appointed Marshal of the Army in Ireland, and a member of the Irish Privy Council. Subsequently he took an active part in fighting against Desmond in Munster, and, during the winter, and on the recall of Lord Leonard Grey, the then Lord Deputy, he was commanded to act as Lord Justice, a post he ceased to fill on the arrival of the new Deputy, Sir Anthony St. Leger, or as *Hollinshed* spells it in one word "Sentleger." Brereton's term of office was, says the last authority—"entangled with no little trouble, for albeit he and Oneale fell to a reasonable composition, yet other of the Irish lordings, namelie Oconhur and his adherents, that are content to live as subjects, as long as they are not able to live out as rebels, conspired together, and determined to assemble their power at the hill of Fowre in West Meth, and so on a sudden to ransack the pale. The Lord Justice forthwith accompanied with the armie, and with 2,000 of the pale, of which no small number were ecclesiasticall persons, made towards the rebels, who upon

the approach of so great an armie, gave ground, and dispersed themselves in woodes and marishes. The Lord Justice this notwithstandinge invaded Oconhur his countrie, burnt his tenements, and made all his trenches with the multitude of pioneers so passable, as foure hundred carts besides light carriage were led without let through the countrie."

On resigning the office of Lord Justice, Brereton was made Lord High Marshal, and "within one halfe year after he was preferred to be Marshall, travelling by the Lord Deputie his appointment to Limerike, to bring in James, Earl of Desmond, who stood upon certeine tickle points with the governor, ended his life in that journie, and lieth intoomed at Kilkennie in the quier of Saint Kennie" [St. Canice] "his Church."¹³

Whether Berrington followed Sir William Brereton during the whole of his campaigns, or only during a portion, has not transpired, and no information has come to light which would lend strength to a supposition that, like many another Englishman of the period, he reaped substantial profit from his service, at the expense of the native or naturalised Irish.

The pedigree in the *History of Sandbach* shews William Berrington as ancestor of the Brereton and Chester branch, and it was probably owing to his service with Sir William Brereton, or to the fact that he married Jane, daughter of Henry Brome of Brereton, that his descendants settled in that village. The

¹³ The account of Sir William Brereton is compiled from Ormerod's *History of Cheshire* (Helsby Edition), Vol. III., pp. 84, 85; Hollinshed's *Chronicles*, Vol. VI., pp. 299, 313; and *Dict. Nat. Biog.*, Brereton, Sir Wm., Fitzgerald, Thos., Skeffington, Sir W., St. Leger, Sir A., and Grey, Lord L.

arms of the Bromes of Brereton are given as ermine, a chief indented gules, a mullet sable [? for difference]¹⁴, and, in view of certain connections with the eastern counties mentioned elsewhere, it is significant to notice the similarity of these charges with those borne by the family of Brome of Broom Hall, cos. Suffolk and Norfolk, *i.e.*, ermine [another argent] a chief indented gules.

Connection between the Berringtons and Chester, prior to the time of the owner of the chimneypiece, seems to have been inconsiderable, but in a deed of 1327 Randle Berrington conveyed a tenement he had in Lostock Gramam and in all places in Chester,¹⁴ and possibly it was a near relation of the standard bearer, unnamed, but described as a daughter of Berrington of Chester, who married Thomas Wetenhall of Nantwich.¹⁵

William Berrington had a son and namesake, and the latter married Elizabeth, daughter of Randle Phithion, of Moston, in the parish of Warmingham, and died intestate.

The following Inventory was exhibited at Chester, and, as well as those given afterwards, is interesting, as giving an idea of the personal estate of a substantial farmer; although the rooms in the house are not enumerated, as is a rather frequent feature in similar documents:—

“A true Inventorie Indented of all and singler the goodes Cattells and Chattells of Will^m Berrington, late of Brereton, in the County of Chester, yoman, deceased, seene, levied,

¹⁴ *Harleian MS.*, 2038, f. 94 *et seq.*

¹⁵ *Visitation of Cheshire, 1613* (Lancs. and Ches. Rec. Soc.), Vol. LVIII., p. 252.

and prayed by Andrewe Carrington, gent., Thomas Berrington [possibly a son or grandson], and Richard Tofte, yoman, the xjth daie of Aprill etc 1606.

	li	s	d
Itm one cowe		xxx	
One fetherbedde, two mattresses, three boulsters, three cad- dowes, ¹⁶ and one couerlett		xxx	
Seven sylver spoones	xxviiij		
One old truncke	iiij	iiij	
Three old chestes	iiij	iiij	
Pewter	iiij	iiij	
Brasse	xiiij	iiij	
Iron ware	vj	viiij	
His bookes	iiij	iiij	
One little table	iiij		
Two Cheeres			xij
Treene ware ¹⁷		ij	vj
vij payre of coarse sheetes and a pillow beere ¹⁸		xx	
One bill from Richard Deane and others wherein they stood In- debted to the Deceadent in	xj		
Owinge in like manner by John Johnson as by bill appeareth	xliiiij		
Owinge by Roger Berrington as by his hand appeareth	xliiiij		
Owinge by John Hodgkinson		x	
Owinge by Henry Ridgway		viiij	
Owinge by William Ridgway		xx	
Owinge by John Walworth		viiij	
Certeyne leases yet enduringe	xiiij	vj	viiij
In redy money found after the decease of the deceadent and received of Creditors since he dyed		xxx	

¹⁶ A rough coverlet.

¹⁷ In a *Glossary of Shropshire Words* (G. F. Jackson) "Treen" is said to signify "wooden," and is a term applied to utensils for domestic purposes. "Plowg and harwe coude he digt, Treene beddes was he wont to make." *Cursor Mundi*, MS., Coll. Trin. Cantab, f. 77, l. 12388. In the *English Dictionary* by N. Bailey, 1751, while "Treen" is shewn to signify "of a tree," "Treenware" is shewn to be "earthen vessels," and the word derived from the French "terrine."

¹⁸ A pillow case. The term was in use in Cheshire up to a recent date. In *The Prologue* (l. 694, Ed. Morris) Chaucer mentions a "pilwe beer." *Glossary of Words used in the County of Chester*, (R. Holland). See also *Humphrey Clinker* "Pray send me the shift and apron with the vite gallowmanky shoes; which you'll find in my pillowber."

For the deceadendes apparell	li	s	d
found after his death	vj	xij	iiij
For his bookes prayسد to		xxxiiij	iiij
One gold ringe w th a sapher stoun valued to		xx	
One small truncke, a deske, and a boxe		vj	
One pystill pryce		ij	vj

amounting to the total of £161 16s. 8d.

Reference to the Act Book shews that administration was granted five months later, on the 10th September, 1606, to Eleanor Berrington, daughter of the deceased.

William Berrington was followed at Brereton by his son and heir Thomas, who married Eleanor, daughter of John Oakes of Eaton.¹⁹ The arms of this family of Oakes or Ockes are given as sable, a chevron between three [trefoils?] or, a mullet of the field [? for difference].²⁰

Thomas Berrington died in 1615, and in his will, dated the 13th day of February in the 12th year of King James [1614⁴/₅], he describes himself as of Browne Edge, in the parish of Brereton, in the county of Chester, yeoman. After committing his soul to Almighty God, and his body to the earth from whence it came, to be buried in the churchyard of Church Brereton, he bequeathed to "euerie" of his godchildren "xij^d a peece." To Elizabeth Cowper, his daughter, wife of Thomas Cowper of Bradley in the said county, and to Ellen Lingard, his daughter, wife of William Lingard, the younger, of Arclude,²¹ "v each in full satisfacon and recompense of their child's

¹⁹ This township, one of several of the name in Cheshire, at the period in question was included in the parish of Astbury.

²⁰ *Harleian MS.*, 2038, f. 95.

²¹ Arclud—a township two miles east of Sandbach.

portion." To the two sons of the said William Lingard and Ellen his wife, viz.: William and John Lingard, "one heiffer sterke between them." To William and Elizabeth Berrington, son and daughter of John Berrington, of Sandbach, "one heiffer sterke between them." To the said William Lingard of Arclude, his son-in-law, five marks which testator lent him at such time "as hee purchased certen landes of Mr. John [Brome?], lyeinge in Arclude, and belonging to the tenement of the said William Lingard." To him also all such money as testator had disbursed and laid out for him in and about the assurances and conveyances made of the said lands. Testator recited that whereas he was seized and possessed of certain grounds belonging to the tenement of William Lingard of Arclude for years not yet expired, and held of William Lingard, and also of certain ground belonging to the tenement wherein Ellen Dale of Brereton, widow, was then dwelling, for years not yet expired, by writing between Randle Dale, deceased, late husband of the said Ellen Dale, he, testator, directed that the said tackes, together with the residue of his goods, cattles, chattels, &c., after payment of his debts and funeral expenses, should be equally divided into three parts, of which he bequeathed to Ellinor, his wife, one full third part, and the other two between his two sons Urian and Thomas Berrington equally. The testator appointed these three executors, and his sons-in-law William Lingard of Arclude, the younger, and John Berrington of Sandbach, overseers. The witnesses were John Dale of Browne Edge, John Gibson, and Thomas Hope.

Enclosed with the will is an inventory of the goods, &c., of Thomas Berrington of Brereton, taken on the

8th September, 1615, by William Phithion and William Berrington. The items are:—

	li	s	d
Corne in the ground	xxxj	xiiij	
In oxen, kine, younge beasts, one bull, calves, horses, mares and coltes	cviiij	xiiij	iiij
In sheepe		xx	
In swine and pigges	iiij	xiiij	iiij
Corne in the barne	xxviij	x	
Hay and straw	xj	ij	vj
Corne and mault in the house	iiij	xviiij	
Coales		vij	vj
Husbandry ware and yron ware	vj		
Bedstockes and bordes		xlvi	
Chestes		xxx	
Tables, formes, chairs, tresles and stooles		xxx	
One cupbord, dishbord, and shelves		vj	viiij
Coombs, ²² eshens, ²³ stoundes, ²⁴ barrells, 1 bottle, pigpins, ²⁵ and other Cooprey ware and earthen ware		xx	
Brasse and pewter	vj	xiiij	iiij
Bedding and linnen	x	xv	
Pewtrye ware		xiiij	iiij
Beest and bacon		xxij	
Butter and cheese		xxx	
Wooll and hempe		v	
His wearing apparell	iiij	vj	viiij
In tacks of ground	xliij	x	
Debts owing to the testator:—			
Thomas Oldfield		lviiij	iiij
Anne Lingard widow		viiij	
Anne Ridgeway widow		xiiiij	vj
William Walton the younger		iiij	
Roger Bolt	iiij	x	
Total	£274	19	6

The will was proved at Chester on the 5th December, 1615, by Urian Berrington, power being reserved to the other executors.

²² A measure of corn containing four bushels.

²³ Called also a kit—a milking pail or small tub with a cover.

²⁴ As the name seems to imply, a vessel capable of standing on end.

²⁵ A wooden vessel with a handle for holding liquids.

Thomas Berrington's wife survived him for twenty years, and left a will, dated 22nd December, 1635, which was proved at Chester. She described herself as "Elenoure Berington," of the parish of Brereton, in the county of Chester, widow, and continued—"being at this present weake and sickly of bodie yet neuertheless in mynd in good & perfecte Remembrance, all praise and thanks be geeven to allmightie God theirefore," &c. She desired that her body might be buried in the "parish Church yarde of Brereton," and detailed legacies as under. To Urian Berington her "Eldest Sonne," and to her son "Mr. Thomas Berington" £5 each "in full satisfacon of their Childe's parte." To "everie of the children" of the latter "ten shillinges six-pense." To "Elizabeth Copper," her "Doughter, wiffe to Thomas Copper £5 in full satisfacon of her Childe's part." To Elizabeth's son "Urian Copper" £5. To "the three doughters of Thomas Copper, to everie of them, ten shillinges six pence." To "Elizabeth Berington, Doughter of John Berington, deceased," £5. To "William Berinton" 10/6. To Margaret his wife 10/6. To his three children, "to everie of them" 10/6. To testatrix's "daughter Elizabeth Copper One ould fidr bedd, Tow Coverletts, one peare of flaxen sheetes, and Three peare of hempe sheetes, one boulster." Residue to "Elizabeth Berinton Doughter of John Berinton, deceased." Eleanor Berrington made, constituted, and ordained her "beloved in Christ Urian Berington," her son, "Willm Berington," her grandson, and "Elizabeth Berington, sister of the said Willm Berington," her true and lawful executors. She signed by mark, and sealed with a demi-lion rampant on a wreath, in the presence of Richard Shawe, John

Deane, Ranulph Dalle, who all three signed by mark, and John Somerfeild.

Accompanying the will is:—

“A true & perfecte Inventorie of all goodes, Cattalls, Chattells, & Deptes of Elenoure Berington, of the parish of Brereton, lately deceased, seen & prayed the xvijth day of maie 1639 by John Dalle, Thomas Allcokke, Thomas Sutton, and Thomas Carter.

	li	s	d
Brasse & pewter	2	10	0
Beddinge	5	2	8
Napperie, ware, Bedd sheettes, new lynnen cloth, & new ticke for boulsters	8	16	8
New wollen cloth		10	0
Towe & yorne	1	6	8
Two bedstides	1		
Three Chestes & one lyttle boxe		15	4
One cheare, two quissens, spinging whiles, & other Implem ^{tes}		5	0
Earthen ware, glasses, Bottles, & other small thinges		2	0
Three hennes			18
Debtes owing unto the testato ^r by bonds, billes, etc.	55	13	5
Her wearinge appaerall & money in her pourse	12	0	0
Total	88	3	3

The inventory was exhibited on the 9th July following, and among other enclosures is a citation, calling upon Thomas Berrington, of the City of Chester, gentleman, to appear.

The will was proved on the 29th July, by Elizabeth Berrington, power being reserved to the other executors, who, in the Act Book, are mentioned by name as Urian Berrington, the younger, and William Berrington.

Thomas Berrington, and his wife, Eleanor, had at least three sons and three daughters.

1. William Berrington, eldest son. He was gentleman usher to the Countess of Pembroke, and died without issue. It is not quite clear which Countess is here referred to, but probably it was the gifted and generous Mary, third wife of the second Earl, and much loved sister of the celebrated Sir Philip Sidney. She died in 1621 at an advanced age, and was buried in Salisbury Cathedral. No monument was erected, but her memory is preserved in the following epitaph, which has been ascribed to Ben Jonson by some authorities and to William Browne of Tavistock by others:—

“Underneath this sable Herse
Lyes the subiect of all verse
Sydneys sister, pembrokes mother
Death e're thou hast slaine another
ffaire & Learn'd & good as she,
Tyme shall throw a dart at thee.”²⁶

The second Earl died in 1601, so that it is possible the Countess in question was Mary, daughter of the wealthy Gilbert Talbot, seventh Earl of Shrewsbury, who married in 1604 the notorious William Herbert, third Earl of Pembroke, a principal in the Mary Fitton scandal. He died in 1630, and *Clarendon* considers “He paid much too dear for his wife's fortunes by taking her person into the bargain.”

The date of the death of William Berrington is not known, but it was probably before 1615, as he is not mentioned in his father's will, and was certainly not later than 1632, as he is stated to have been dead when a pedigree was confirmed in that year.²⁷

²⁶ Young's *Mary Sidney, Countess of Pembroke*, pp. 122 and 199; and *Lansdowne MS.*, 777, f. 43.

²⁷ *Harleian MS.* 2038, f. 95.

2. Urian Berrington, of Brereton, second son. He is said to have been married in 1628 but to be without issue.²⁸ His wife is shewn as "Jane, daughter of Jo. Low, of co. Staffs., and widow of Hamon Hide, of co. Ches."

3. Thomas Berrington, of whom hereafter.

4. Elizabeth, for whose marriage at Frodsham with Thomas Cooper, or Cowper, a licence was granted at Chester on the 10th January, 161 $\frac{4}{5}$. In it she is described as a spinster, and both, apparently, of the parish of Frodsham, where they were married on the 18th January.

5. Ellen, married William Lingard, of Arclid, described as the younger.

6. Anne, who married John Berrington, of Sandbach at the church of that parish on 26th July, 1601.

Thomas Berrington, of the City of Chester, the third son, was born about 1594. He married about 1620, Elizabeth, daughter of William Hobart, gentleman, of Raven's Hall, in the parish of Lindsey, Suffolk,²⁸ by his wife Alice, daughter and co-heiress of William Herbert, of Horsley, in Suffolk (*sic*).²⁹

William Hobart, whose home at Raven's Hall was in existence in 1856 as "a considerable farm-house," and still appears on the ordnance map, had a second daughter Marie,²⁹ who married Henry Boyton, of Grimston, Norfolk, and was living in 1655.³⁰ He (William Hobart) had a third daughter Susan,²⁹ who

²⁸ *Harleian MS.*, 2038, f. 95.

²⁹ *Visitation of Norfolk, 1563, §c.* (Harleian Society, Vol. XXXII.)

³⁰ Communicated by Mr. Walter Rye.

doubtless married the owner of the last coat on the chimneypiece, the identity of which has not yet been ascertained.

In 1628 Thomas Berrington was living in Chester, and was an attorney in the Exchequer. This court of record, in which all cases relating to the crown revenues were determined, was held at Chester Castle in the building at the west end of the Shire Hall, which has been thus described: "This very building is said to have been the parliament-house of the little kings of the palatinate. It savours of antiquity in the architecture; and within are a number of seats described by Gothic arches and neat pillars; at the upper end are two, one for the earl, the other for the abbot. The eight others were allotted to his eight barons, and occupy one side of the room."³¹ The Exchequer was reached by the main entrance to the Lower Bailey, and this, in turn, by a lane opening into Castle Street, nearly opposite Bunce Street, but distinct from the lane leading from St. Mary's Hill,³² so that Thomas Berrington would be living within a stone's throw of the scene of his professional labours, an object regarded as desirable for a long period after that under consideration. In 1635 his mother refers to him, in her will, as Mr. Thomas Berrington, whereas she calls her elder son, Urian Berrington, without any prefix, a distinction no doubt due to the fact that the former was a member of a profession and a man of some importance.

The outbreak of civil war found Thomas Berrington living in his house in St. Mary's parish, and he,

³¹ Hemingway's *History of Chester*, Vol. II., p. 176.

³² *De Lavau's* map, Proceedings of this Society, N.S., Vol. V., p. 180.

like the majority of Chester citizens, embraced the Royal cause, with the result that eventually he had to compound for his property, as is shewn by the following copies of his composition papers at the Public Record Office³³:—

I.

Thomas Berrington, of Chester, gen., sometymes an Attorney in the Court of the County Palatine of Chester.

His delinquency—that he lived in Chester whiles it was a Garrison hold for the kinge against the Parliam^t and after went and lived in Wales & in other the enemies quarters for a good tyme, and after rendered himselfe to the Com^{tee} of Chester, beinge a Garrison for the Parliam^t, the last of Aprill last, and tooke the Negative oath before them as they certyfy, and hath taken the Nationall Covenant before Will^m Barton, minister of John Zacharies, the 30th of July 1646.

He compounds upon a perticuler delivered in under his hand by which he doth submitt to his fine &c and by which it doth appeare,

That all the estate whereof he is seized to him and his heirs, lyinge in Chester, was of the yeerely value before theis trouble 5^{li} 6^s

And that he hath a personall estate in Goods and good debts oweinge him 100^{li}, and owes a 130^{li} and have other houses in Chester, wasted and demolished worth nothinge, soe that to compound at a third, if as an Attorney, his whole Composicion will but amount unto—20^{li}.

4 Auguste 1646.

fine 20li.

JEROME ALEXANDER

D. WATKINS³⁴

6 August [written at foot].

2.

To the hon^{ble} Com^{tee} att Goldsmiths Hall for compoundinge with Delinquents.

The humble peticon of Thomas Barrington, of Chester, gen., & shewinge

³³ R.C.P., G. CLXXXV., Interregnum Comm for Compounding, 225 et seq.

³⁴ A master in Chancery.

That yo^r Pet^r liveinge in the Citty of Chester, the place where he hath lived for this many yeares, before it was a Garrison, and where his whole fortune is, findeinge the same to be resolvedly against the Parliam^{te}, which he affected not, he went into Wales, where he hath ever sithence remained; and, haveinge understood of that grace and favo^r which the Parliam^{te} have been pleased to extend unto such as shall submitt and render themselves.

He humbly prayes he may be admitted to partake of that mercy which is offered to others, and that he may be received to a favourable composicion to free his person and estate out of Sequestracon,

And he shall pray, etc.,

16 April 1646.

THO BERRINGTON.

3.

A Particuler of the Reall and personall estate of mee Thomas Berrington, of the Cittie of Chester, gent., as followeth

That I and my wiefe beinge Joynte purchas^{ors} are seised in fee to us and our heires of and in one house scytuate and beinge in the Castle Lane in the parishe of S^t Maries in the Cittie of Chester, of the yearly value before theis tymes of trouble of 2^{li} 10^s, out of wch is issuinge a Cheife Rent of 4^s yearly, payable to Thomas Starkey of Stretton Esq^r and his heires for ever, wch is arreare for fower yeares.

That I and my wief are heires to a like estate of and in another house and Garden thereunto belonginge late the Inherytance of Christopher Danold, scytuate and beinge in the said Castle Lane and parish offoresaid, of the yearly value before theis troubles of 2^{li} 16^s 00^d, upon which there is a charge of 13^{li} 6^s 8^d to be paid upon the Death of Katherine Danald, whoe dyed lately.

I humbly pray a saveinge for a Barne and Stable scytuate and beinge in the parish aforesaid in the said Cittie of Chester, whereof I am possessed for the remainder of a terme of 13 yeares or thereaboutes, of the yearly value of 2^{li} beinge forfetted 3 yeares sithens to M^{rs} Marshe widdow for non paym^t of the Rent of 2^{li} Reserved upon the ["said" erased] original lease for the said

barne & stable, and a house to whom the same did belonge she the said M^{ris} Marshe beinge tennte thereof to the Crowne.

I also pray a savinge of a Cottage and backsides and 2 small parcells of Lande of wch I am possessed for a like terme of yeares, lyinge and beinge in the said parishe of Sc^{to} Maries for wch I paid yearly 3^{li} 5^s 8^d to the said M^{ris} Marsshe beinge a Racke Rent, And is also forfettered 3 yeares since for non paym^t of the said Rent, And wch Cottage was burnt 3 yeares sithens by the kinges partie.

That I have a personall estate in goodes, some of them not yet Removed from the howse to the value of 10^{li}.

Also a Debte of 100^{li} due by bond by the Executo^{rs} or administrato^{rs} of Will^m Marbury Esq^r, deceased, who dyed much indebted, and some of the sureties are likewise dead.

Another Debte owinge by Jefferye Shackerly Esq^r by bond of vj^{li}.

That I owe and am Indebted to severall persons to the value of 130^{li}.

THO. BERRINGTON.

This is a true perticuler of all my estate reall and personall, for which I onely desire to compound to free it out of Sequestracon, and do submit unto and undertake to satisfye and pay such ffine as by this Com^{tes} for Composicons with Delinquents shall be imposed and set, in order to the ffreedome and dischargd of my person and estate.

THO. BERRINGTON.

3.

These are to certifie that Thomas Berrington, of Chester, in the County of the same, Gent., did freely & fully take the Nationall Covenant and subscribe the same upon the Thirtieth day of July 1646. The sayd Covenant beinge administred unto him according to order, by me

WILLM. BARTON, Minister
of John Zecharies, London.

4.

Thomas Berrington, gent., beeing determined to travell into Suffolk and desireing [“the” erased] Passe from This Committee for that purpose hath taken the Oath of y^e fite of Aprill before us whose names are underwritten that last day of Aprill 1646.

THO. MASON
JO. JONES
GEORGE TWISLETON
RICH. PRICE

5.

A copy of the particular of the estate certified by J. Rowley.

On this is the following endorsement cut from another document:—

THO. BERRINGTON No. 599.
Rep. 1^o Oct. 1649. ffyne 20^h

Intrat.

It will be noted that Thomas Berrington decided to go to Suffolk while the settlement of his composition was under consideration, probably for the purpose of rejoining his wife and family, and he seems to have spent the remaining years of his life among her relations, as he was buried at Lindsey Church in Suffolk in 1651.³⁵ Twenty years ago there was, and probably still is, a wooden tablet (a sort of hatchment, but in reality a memorial) with the arms of Berrington quartering Venables, and impaling Hobart, and this inscription:—

“Here lieth the body of Tho Barington of Chester Gen. who married Eliz d^r of Will Hobart of Reuenshall in Suff Esq. He died at Reuenshall 29 March 1651 in his 57th year”³⁶

³⁵ Communicated by Mr. Walter Rye.

³⁶ Communicated by the Rev. E. Farrer, F.S.A.

Mistress Elizabeth Berrington survived her husband, and, on 14th August, 1655, she is mentioned in the will of one of her brothers, Nicholas Hobart, of Lockerley, Mottisfont, Southampton, as his "sister Barrington." He also mentions "his cousins," by which term he refers to his nephews and niece, "Herbert Barrington, Henry Barrington, and Hanna Goodwin," and he gave legacies to the "other children" of the "said sister Barrington."³⁷

Thomas Berrington and his wife had a large family, many of whom were baptized and buried at St. Mary's, and some indication is given in the Registers of their burial place. There is, however, a discrepancy, as when three of his children were buried there, the place is mentioned as being in the north aisle, whereas, when two of the children of his daughter Philippa were buried twenty years later, the situation is given as the south aisle "under Mr. Berrington's stone." A tablet to the memory of Philippa herself was certainly in the south aisle, and, as there seems no reason to doubt the earlier description of the position of the grave, it can only be conjectured that the stone had been transferred in the interval, possibly during the disturbances which occurred on the entry of the Parliamentary forces into Chester.

So far as I have been able to gather, the children of Thomas Berrington and his wife were:—

1. Philippa, eldest daughter, born 4th September, 1621.³⁸ On the 22nd November, 1641, a licence was granted at Chester for the marriage of Thomas

³⁷ Communicated by Mr. Walter Rye.

³⁸ *Harleian MS.* 2038, f. 95.

Browne, gentleman, and Philippa Berrington, both of St. Mary's parish, Chester. The bondsman was William Aldersey, a member of a well-known Cheshire and Chester family, and the licence was addressed to the Rev. Mr. Massey, curate of St. Mary's-on-the-Hill, Chester, and to the Rev. Mr. Seddon, vicar of Eastham, Cheshire. The marriage took place at St. Mary's three days later.

Thomas Browne was descended from a family long connected with St. Mary's parish. Formerly on the south wall of the Church there was an old board, on which the inscription, translated, ran as follows:—"Phillippa, wife of Thomas Browne, of Nether Legh, gentleman, daughter of Thomas Berrington, of the city of Chester, gentleman, by whom he, the said Thomas, had ten sons and five daughters. She died in the forty-second year of her age, on the 6th day of May, in the year of Our Lord 1664, in peace towards God and all mankind." There was also a shield of arms:—argent, two bendlets between as many mullets sable. Crest—a lion sejant sable, the dexter paw resting on an escutcheon argent, charged with a mullet sable [Browne]. Impaling sable, three greyhounds courant argent, collared gules, edged and ringed or within a bordure of the second. Crest—out of a ducal coronet a greyhound's head argent, collared gules, studded and ringed or [Berrington].³⁹ In the same church there was an inscription to the memory of her husband, who married twice.

It is possible that this lady was named Philippa, either in honour of her kinsman by marriage Philip

³⁹ Earwaker's *History of St. Mary-on-the-Hill, Chester*, p. 68.

Oldfield, or of Sir Philip Sidney, to whose sister her uncle had apparently been gentleman usher.⁴⁰

2. Katherine, second daughter, born 7th August, 1623, and baptized on some day in the same month. She was living in 1628.⁴¹

3. John, son and heir,⁴¹ born 13th January, 162 $\frac{1}{2}$, and christened on the 23rd of the same month. He was living in 1628, and it is assumed that he, or possibly his father, was the standard bearer referred to in the following notes.

In the parish church of Farndon is a very interesting small coloured glass window, divided into twenty compartments, which are chiefly occupied by figures in the military dress of the Stuart period. Accompanying the figure in five of the compartments are shields of arms and, by this means, in both editions of Ormerod's *History of Cheshire*, four of the figures have been identified as prominent Cheshire gentlemen who attended Charles I. at the Siege of Chester, and subsequently suffered loss of property, and, life itself, in one case at least, for their loyalty.

The fifth figure carries a standard, and both Dr. Ormerod and Mr. Helsby were unable to identify him, although the Berrington arms are quite plainly shewn in the coloured illustration of the window which appears in the first edition of the work.⁴² The arms are very indifferently reproduced in the second edition.⁴³

⁴⁰ A rather distant cousin of the wife of Thomas Berrington, Sir John Hobart, married Philippa, daughter of Robert Sidney, Earl of Leicester, and niece of Sir Philip Sidney. She died in 1620.

⁴¹ *Harleian MS.*, 2038, f. 95.

⁴² Vol. II., p. 408.

⁴³ Vol. II., p. 746.

In each the coat bears a differencing mark of an eldest son, *i.e.*, a label of three points or.⁴⁴

The first volume of this Society's Proceedings⁴⁵ contains a description of the window viewed, on a visit to Farndon, on the 14th July, 1854, and the remark is made that this figure had been hitherto unknown, but was "certainly Berrington, the standard bearer, whose shield of three greyhounds is carved on an oak above a mantelpiece in Castle Street, Chester." Mr. L. V. Browne has no recollection of this, but mentioned that the houses adjoining belonged to a Miss Berrington or Barrington. In view of the possibility of the "oak" being situated there, enquiries were made but no trace of the carving was found, and, by the courtesy of the present owner, it was ascertained that her family name is and always has been Barrington, to the best of her knowledge, and that the property in question was inherited through her maternal grandfather.

4. Robert, second son,⁴⁶ was born 9th December, 1626, and baptized five days later. He was buried 17th February, 1627.

5. Hubard [Hubbart or Hobart], third son,⁴⁶ born 30th December, 1627, baptized 6th January, 1628, and buried at St. Mary's 17th December, 1628, as son of "Mr. Tho. Berrington."

6. Anna [Hannah], third daughter,⁴⁶ born 20th June, 1629, baptized at St. Mary's 28th June, as daughter of "Mr. Tho. Berrington." Prior to 1655 she married Goodwin.

⁴⁴ If the figure is that of the Attorney, the indications are that his brother Urian died before the work was executed.

⁴⁵ p. 440.

⁴⁶ *Harleian MS.*, 2038, f. 95.



Portrait of a Berrington,
from a painted glass window in Farndon Church

7. Herbert, fourth son,⁴⁷ born 23rd February, 1630-1, baptized at St. Mary's 3rd March, 163⁰/₁, as "Harbett Berrington, son of Tho. Berrington, gent." As "Mr. Herbert Berrington" he was assessed on seven hearths, situated in St. Olave's parish, in the Hearth Tax Returns of 1664-5. He is mentioned as "Herbert Berrington, Esq.," in a list of "Nobility and Gentry which are or lately were related unto Cheshire with their seats by which they are or have been known," as given in the *Britannia* of Richard Blome, printed in London, in 1673, by Thomas Roycroft.

8. Alicia, fourth daughter,⁴⁷ born 27th February, 163¹/₂, baptized at St. Mary's 4th March, 163¹/₂, as daughter of "Thomas Berrington, gent."

9. Arnold, fifth son,⁴⁷ born 7th October, 1633, baptized at St. Mary's 13th October as son of "Tho. Berrington, gentleman," and died two days later; buried at St. Mary's as "Arnold Berrington an infant, under Mr. Berrington's stone in the north Ile."

10. Anne, fifth daughter,⁴⁷ born 16th December, 1634, baptized at St. Mary's 26th December, 1634, as daughter of "Tho. Berrington."

11. Hobard [or Hubbart], sixth son, born 31st December, 1635, baptized at St. Mary's, 10th January, 163⁵/₈, as son of "Tho. Berrington, gent." On the 21st March following, as son of "Thomas Berrington, gent.," buried "in the north Ile att the side of his owne" [*sic*] "childrens stone."

12. Elizabeth, sixth daughter,⁴⁷ born 2nd June, 1637, baptized at St. Mary's 9th June, as daughter of "Tho. Berrington, gent."

⁴⁷ *Harleian MS.*, 2038, f. 95.

13. Jane, seventh daughter,⁴⁸ born 2nd July, 1638, baptized at St. Mary's 8th July, as daughter of "Tho. Berrington, gent." On 3rd June, 1639, as "an infant" and daughter to "Thomas Berrington, gent.," buried "under his stone in the north Ile vnder the end of the geates att the goeing in of Mrs. Holmes pue."

14. Heneretta [Henrietta], eighth daughter, baptized at St. Mary's 6th September, 1639, as daughter of "Tho. Berrington gent." Possibly the infant [unnamed] of "Mr. Berrington's buried under his children's stone in the north Ile" on 10th August, 1641.

15. Henry, seventh son, living in 1655.

It has already been pointed out that the eldest brother of the attorney died without issue, and, from a remark, apparently made in 1628,⁴⁸ and referring to the latter "who hath only issue male of both the lynes," it is evident that the second brother, Urian, even at that date had no sons. Some little enquiry was made to trace the descendants of Thomas Berrington further, but without success.⁴⁹

In addition to those gentlemen whose names have been already mentioned, the writer has to record his indebtedness to Mr. Chas. H. Athill, F.S.A., *Richmond Herald*, the Rev. C. E. Austin, Dr. J. Elliott, the Rev. H. Grantham, Mr. P. H. Lawson, Mr. F. Simpson, Mr. T. Alfred Williams, and others, for valuable and much appreciated facilities and assistance.

⁴⁸ *Harleian MS.*, 2088, f. 95.

⁴⁹ A pedigree of Berrington was entered at the Norfolk Visitation of 1664, but it is of a branch of the Herefordshire family. A contemporary with the children of the attorney, Jane, daughter of Capt. Berrington of near Litchfield, co. Staff., was buried at Backford 29th Jan. 1685. She was wife of John Birkenhead of Backford esquire. Burke's *General Armory* gives the Arms of the Berringtons of Staffordshire as azure, three greyhounds in pale argent, collared gules.

APPENDIX.

The most extended manuscript pedigree of the Berringtons is that given in *Harleian MS.*, 2038, the greater part of which is printed in Earwaker's *History of Sandbach*. This pedigree was made for Thomas Berrington of Chester, and at the foot of the manuscript is the following:—

“Ex testimonio mihi præstito per plurimos fide dignos ego præmissa omnia rata habeo et subscriptione mea confirmo vj^{to} maji 1632—Joannes de burgo Norroy Rex Armorum.”⁵⁰

With the pedigree are notes of the presented proofs of the descent, and, in view of their interesting character, it has been decided to print them in full. The additions in square brackets have been inserted to assist identification. In the original MS. the abstracts are lettered to correspond with others on the pedigree.

1. This Randle Berington [son of Matthew de Beryngton] by his deed dated on friday next after ester 1327, 1 Edw. III., did covenant with M^r Richard Vernon parson of Stockport that John Berington his sonne and heyre shall espouse Agatha the dau to Tho Vernon, and that he will enfeoff the said Richard in all his lands and tenements in Bradwall [and] Moresborough, with one tenement he had in Lostock Gramam, and in all places in Chester, on condition the said Richard shall reinfeoffe John, the sonne and heyre of the said Randle, and Agatha his wife daughter of Tho Vernon aforesayd brother to the sayd Richard, and the heyres of their tow bodys lawfully begotten etc.

2. It appeareth by the coppies of certayne records remayning in Chester that Tho. Berington sonne of John and

⁵⁰ The following is a translation: “From testimony given to me by many trustworthy persons, I ratify all the foregoing and confirm it with my signature, the sixth day of May, 1632, John Burroughs, Norroy King of Arms.” Burroughs was appointed Garter King of Arms 27th December, 1633; he was knighted 17th July, 1624, being then Norroy King of Arms. (Communicated by Mr. J. Paul Rylands, F.S.A.)

Johan his wife [daughter of William Venables of Bradwall], brought a writt of formedon agaynst Adam berington in Chester, before the Justices there in the 5 year of K[ing] R[ichard] II., for one messuage, 200 acres of land, 6 acres of meadow, and 8 acres of wood in Moresborogh, which Randle Berington gave unto Jo. and Agatha his wife and to the heyres of their bodies issuing, father and mother to the sayd Tho, whos heir he is.

3. Also by copies of the said records in [? it] appeereth that William Berrington son of Tho brought a writt of formedon against Tho Berington [son of Adam] 1 H[enry] V. for the same land, as sonne and heyre to Tho Berington the sonne of Jo and Agatha to whom Randle Berington gave the lands in Moresborogh aforesaid.

4. An indenture made 16 year of K[ing] Edw. IV. between Margery Berington late wife of William Berington, and Willm [her grandson] sonne of Hen Berington, wherein the said William sonne of Hen granted to the said Margery an annuity or yearly rent in recompense of her dower.

5. Wheras in many descents this Hen is made to be sonne and heyr of Willm Berington, it doth appere by a deed dated 18 H[enry] VI. made by John Berington, wherin he giveth land to Henry his brother, and therin is sayd to be sonne and heyre to William Berington.

6. Indenture made 5 H[enry] VIII. between William Berington of Bradwall, and William sonne & heir apparent of the said William, on the one part, and William Rawne of Newbold, on the other part, witnesseth that whereas Geo Berington, son & heir apparent of the said William Berington the sonne, hath married Alice daughter of the said William Rawne of Newbold, the said William the father and William the sonn be agreed that they or their feoffys of trust shall make a sufficient estate of certain lands to divers feoffeys to the use of the sayd Geo and Alice and to the longer liver of them etc.

7. An indenture made the 33 H[enry] VIII. by George Berington of Bradwall in the County of Chester gent. who in consideration of a marriage solemnized bet[ween] William, sonne & h[eir] to the said George, & Elizabeth his wife dau of William Bowyer late of Knippersley in the countie of Staff gent, and for the accomplishment of certayn agreements in a payre of indenturs conforming the marriage aforesaid

between the said William Bowyer and John sonne & heir of the said William Bowyer on the one part, and William Berington late of Bradwall father of the said Geo on the other party, which deed was dated 20 H[enry] VIII. wherin the sayd George Berington maketh an estate of all his lands to certain feoffyes etc.

All theis evedences were inserted in the pedegree (besid the Certificates endosed on the back side the pedegree) and were given as testimonialls to the Kinge of Armes to produce the [? descent] out of William Berington second sonne of William & Agnes Cotton to be of trew blood and to satisfie the kinge of Armes in the premises vide 8a, b, and c.

Then follow tricks of the arms and crest:—

(a) Crest. Out of a ducal coronet or a greyhound's head, with collar and ring argent edged and studded gules, charged on the cheek with a crescent of the first.

(b) Details of the collar, as above.

(c) Quartered coat of Berrington and Venables charged with a crescent gules for difference.

(d) Details of the charge on the Berrington arms, *i.e.*, a greyhound courant argent, collared gules.

8. The 3 certificates upon sininge of the pedegree by Sr John burroges Kt.

(a) Secundo die mensis februarij 1631.

George berington of Altrincham in the county of Chester mercer aged threscore yeares and ten or therabout sayth and will deposse as folowith—that he the sayd George berington did know william berington of bradwall gentleman deceased that was father in law to phillip ouldfeild esqr. learned in the lawe deceased, & that he the sayd Geo. berington hard the sayd william saye that the sayd william beringtons father had three bretheren wherof one was married unto the howse wch is now the howse of Urian berington of brereton in the sayd county, & that he the sayd M^r berington of brereton was greate grandfather to the sayd urian berington & to Thomas berington of the city of Chester one of the attorneys of his maiesties court of Exchequer in chester, & further that an other brother was married to an howse in bradwall wch is now widow

Suttons where he the sayd George berington was borne & from whom the sayd George berington is descended, & that an other brother was married to an howse in bradwall wch was called whittinghams & now latly hattons, all the promises before written I know to be trew & will justyfie.

Witness here unto my name

We whose names are subscribed were by
and present wittnisses—
The marke X of
ROBERT BURGES de Northenden,
The marke RS of ROBERT SARROCOLD,
THOMAS POWNES scriptor.

(b) Vicessimo sexto die Januarij 1631.

William hope the elder of bradwall in the county of chester yeoman aged forescore and ten yeares or therabouts sayth and will depose—that he did know one ould M^r berington lord of bradwall whos granddaughter was married to Phillip Ouldfeild of bradwall esqr. deceased who was learned in the lawes, & further sayth & will depose that he knew 3 brothers of the sayd ould M^r berington whereof one being greate granfather to M^r Thomas berington the Attorney was married & dwelled at the browne edge in brereton, an other married an lived at one Whittinghams howse in bradwall, & an other married & lived on bradwall grene in the howse where now widow Sutton dwelleth.

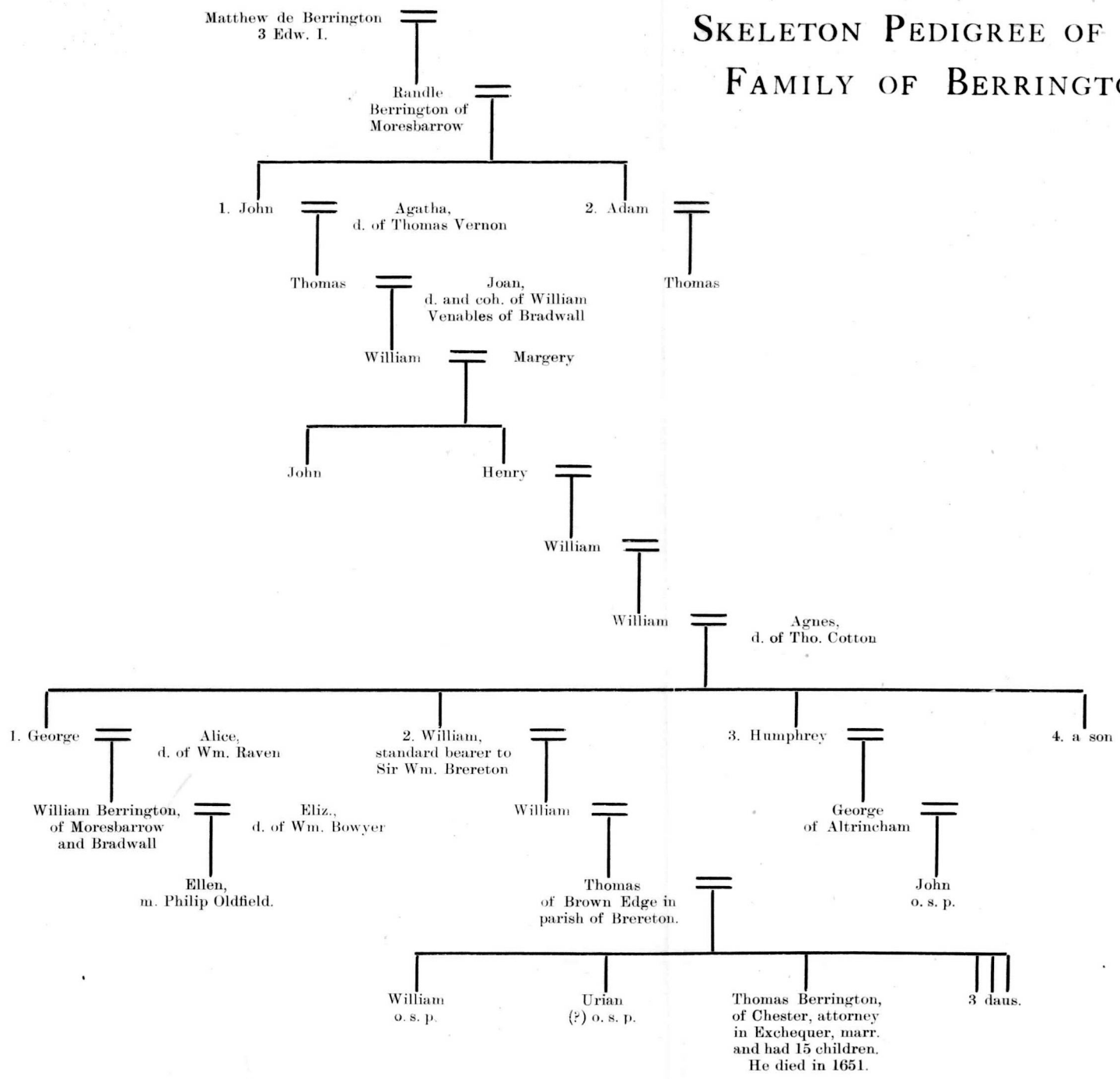
The mark X of the sayd

Wee whos names are subscribed were by & present when the sayd Willm hope the elder did afferme the promises to be trew & make his marke,
The marke X of JOHN JOHNSON of bradwall,
PETER HODGKINSON.

(c) Tertio die Januarij 1631.

John Johnson of bradwall in the county of chester yeoman aged fourscore and one yeares or therabouts will depose as followeth—that he did know Willm berington of bradwall aforsayd gentleman to whom his father was servant, & did also know Tho. berington late of browne edge in the parish of brereton and in the sayd county of chester deceased late father of Tho. berington of the city of chester one of the

SKELETON PEDIGREE OF THE FAMILY OF BERRINGTON



Attorneys of his maiestyes court of Exchequer at chester, & the sayd John further sayth & is redy to justyfie upon oth that he was by & present when the sayd William berington of bradwall & the sayd Thomas berington deceased had conference together conserning their nerenesse of blood & kindred, & then the sayd M^r berington of bradwall did upon the sayde conference saye that the grandfather of the sayd Tho berington deceased was his the sayd M^r beringtons yonger brother lawfully begotten, and did all his life tyme call the sayd Thomas berington deceased coosen and esseine of him as his neere kindesman, and the sayd John Johnson also sayth and will likewise deposse that he was servant by the space of 50 yeares together to Phillipouldfeild esqr deceased late father to S^r Phillipouldfeild Kt. deceased and his sonne who married Ellen one of the daughter & heyres of the sayd William berington of bradwall, and hath divers tymes hard his sayd M^r say & acknowledge that the grandfather of the sayd Thomas berington deceased was a second sonne of the sayd howse of bradwall and his wifes nere kindesman, & doth know that the sayd M^r Ouldfeild & his wife & Thomas his sonne wch he had by her now also deceased did during their sever[al] live tymes call the sayd Thomas berington coosen, & upon some discontent betwene the sayd Thomasouldfeild & his wife, the sayd M^rouldfeild the father intending a devorse betwene the sayd Thomasouldfeild & his wife, did send the sayd Thomasouldfeild to the howse of the sayd Thomas berington deceased as his nerest kinesman of the name of berington, to be kept & seprated from his wife where he remayned for a certayn tyme, & the sayd Thomasouldfeild, in his life tyme after his fathers death, did often resort to the house of the sayd Thomas berington, & did intrest him in his greatest occations, & did princepally depend upon him as his espetiall frend & nerest kinsman of that name.

All the promises before written I know to be trew & will Justyfie upon oath as may wittnesse my marke made with my owne hand.

Wee were by & present whos names are subscribed when the sayd John Johnson did affirme the promises to be trew & subscribe his marke hereunto.

The marke X of JOHN JOHNSON.

RAANDLE (*sic*) HOLME
RANDLE HOLME Jun: