



**A Deed of Transfer of Family Property
by Randle Holme III. and Randle Holme IV.
in 1690.**

By HENRY TAYLOR, F.S.A.

(Read 8th December, 1914)

THROUGH the kindness of our Honorary Treasurer, I am enabled to exhibit this evening an interesting deed relating to the Randle Holme Family. I venture to think any new information relating to that Chester family of Antiquaries, Genealogists and Heralds is always welcome to the members of our Society. Before you inspect it, however, I will read an abstract I have made of it as follows:—

ABSTRACT of a Lease and Release of a
Messuage and Premises situate on the East
side of Bridge Street in the City of Chester.

16th June Lease (Bargain and Sale for 5/-) for six months and
1690. Release dated the 17th June 1690 made between
2 Wm. & Randle Holme the Elder of the City of Chester
Mary Herald Painter and Ann his wife and Randle
17th June Holme the Younger Son and heir apparent of
1690. the said Randle Holme the Elder and Margaret
his wife of the one part and Richard Bridge
of the said City of Chester Dyer of the other
part

WITNESSETH that in consideration of £100 paid to the said Randle Holme the Elder and Randle Holme the Younger the receipt, &c., the said Randle Holme the Elder and Randle Holme the Younger granted released and confirmed unto the said Richard Bridge and to his heirs and assigns for ever

ALL THAT Messuage and Tenement or Dwellinghouse with the appurtenances situate lying and being within the said City of Chester in a certain Street there called the Bridge Street on the East side of the said Street and next adjoining on the North side to a certain messuage late in the possession of Edward Gregge Gentleman deceased and on the south side to a Messuage late in the possession of John Rort Cutler also deceased and extending from the said street eastwards to the lands late of John Lingley deceased and sometime heretofore in the tenure or occupation of one Ralph Holme deceased and now in the tenure or occupation of the said Richard Bridge party to these presents his assigns or undertenants

With all houses outhouses buildings shoppes cellars solars standings Rowes entrys backsides gardens orchards wayes watercourses lights easements profitts commodities priviledges advantages and hereditaments whatsoever to the said Messuage Tenement or Dwellinghouse lyeing belonging or in any wise appertaining &c. And the reversion and reversions remainder and remainders

And all the estate &c., together with "all the wainscoat glass and standing goods" belonging to said messuage and all Deeds &c.

TO HOLD unto and to the use of the said
Richard Bridge his heirs and assigns for
ever

COVENANTS by the said Randle Holme the
Elder and Randle Holme the Younger

That they were lawfully seized

Good right to convey

Free from incumbrances by them or by
Thomas Holme deceased late Great Grand-
father of the said Randle Holme the Elder

For quiet enjoyment

COVENANT by Randle Holme the Elder and
Ann his Wife and Randle Holme the Younger
and Margaret his Wife for further assurance
within 12 years

EXECUTED by Randle Holme Ann
Holme (her mark)

Randle Holme Junr

Margt Holme

Sealed and delivered (after the sealing and
delivery of the bargain and sale within-
mentioned) in the presence of

Richard Brereton

Samuel Kelsall

Jon. Norbury.

Receipt for the consideration money £100 signed
by Randle Holme and Randle Holme Junr
and attested by Richard Brereton and Thomas
Jackson.

The conveying parties were the third and fourth
Randle Holme and their respective wives at the time.
It will be observed that Mrs. Ann Holme, the wife
of the third Randle Holme, was a markswoman. The
late Mr. J. P. Earwaker, F.S.A., in his paper on the
Holme family, in Vol. 4 (N.S.) of our Society's Journal,
says that she was his third wife, but he is uncertain
as to her maiden name. It was probably Birkenhead, as

the settlement after the marriage, dated 20th January, 1688-9 (a copy of which is in the British Museum, MS. 2022, f. 128), was made between Randle Holme, of Chester, herald painter, and Thomas Birkenhead, of Chester, gentleman. It was made for the purpose of settling on the wife an annuity arising out of the said Randle Holme's two messuages in Bridge Street. It is possible that the property conveyed by this deed formed part of the premises referred to in that settlement. Ann Holme survived her husband, and was buried at St. Michael's, 26th June, 1713, having had no issue.

Margaret, the wife of the fourth Randle Holme, was a daughter of Griffith Lloyd, of Llanarmon in Yale, co. Denbigh, gentleman, by whom he had an only son, Randle, and four daughters, all of whom died young. Illustrations of the handwriting of the third and fourth Randle Holme will be found with Mr. Earwaker's paper, and when compared with their signatures to the deed will be found similar.

The purchaser, Richard Bridge, married Elizabeth, daughter of Ralph Holme, blacksmith, to whom I shall presently refer.

It will be observed that the house conveyed is described as situate on the east side of Bridge Street, whereas "Lamb Row" and the other property of the Holme family at the corner of Lower Bridge Street and Castle Street were on the west side of Bridge Street. From the fact that in the covenant for title in this deed reference is made to Thomas Holme, I am inclined to think that the conveyed property was the first domicile of the Holme family in Chester, for Mr. Earwaker says "Thomas Holme was a smith by trade, and lived in a house in Bridge Street." He

was the younger son of Richard Holme, of Tranmere, and was the first of the family who settled in Chester about the middle of the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

I think that this house was evidently family entailed property from the father and son joining in as well as their wives who might have a charge upon it either by settlement or dower.

Ralph Holme—mentioned in our deed—was the second son of Thomas Holme, and elder brother of Randle Holme the first. Ralph Holme lived in Chester, and continued his father's trade of a blacksmith. He married Ellen, daughter of Richard Sneyd, of Hope, co. Flint. As previously mentioned, their youngest daughter, Elizabeth, married Richard Bridge, party to our deed. She was baptized at St. Michael's, 6th September, 1615.

I am sorry that at present I am unable to describe with accuracy whereabouts on the east side of Bridge Street the house and premises conveyed by our deed stood. In those days there were no plans endorsed on deeds. Judging from the fact that the Holme family and that of Bridge at this period were baptized and buried at St. Michael's Church, I am inclined to think that they lived in that parish. Now St. Michael's Parish, in Bridge Street East, begins at the north end of the Duke of Westminster's property, Allen Buildings, and extends southerly to Hawarden Castle Entry, or the site of the old Albion Hotel, in Lower Bridge Street; but I suggest that the house mentioned in our deed was probably situate in that portion which lies between Allen Buildings and St. Michael's Church, as in the general words in the parcels of our deed we find "Shoppes Cellars Solars Standings and Rowes" mentioned. It is true that formerly to some of the

houses on the east side of Lower Bridge Street there were "Rowes," but they did not form a continuous Row as in the case of Bridge Street.

As to the purchaser, I find the name of Richard Bridge, dyer, as a freeman of the city in 1612-3. He was Sheriff of the City in 1621. Then another Richard Bridge, dyer, was a freeman in 1646. I suggest that the latter was the son of the Sheriff, and the purchaser mentioned in our deed. On the 27th September, 1652, I find "John, son of Richard Bridge, dyer," admitted a freeman. The purchaser's eldest son was named John, as I shall presently show from his being named in the purchaser's will. Again, 27th September, 1693-4, we have the same entry on the Chester Freemen's Roll.

Richard Bridge, dyer, was buried at St. Michael's, 31st May, 1697. His will, dated 19th February, 1695, was proved at Chester, 27th April, 1698, by his Executors, John Bridge, his eldest son, and Timothy Deane. He had property at Churton, Aldford, Coddington, and elsewhere in Cheshire, besides land and houses in Handbridge and various other parts of the City. The special devise which interests us is as follows:—

Also I give and devise all that my message stabling and other buildings thereto belonging with ye Sellar and Shoppes and garden and orchards and appurtenances situate lying and being in ye Bridge Street in ye City of Chester on the East side of ye said Street which I lately purchased from Randle Holme the Elder and Randle Holme the Younger with all the wainscott glass and standing goods thereto belonging to my youngest son William his heirs and assigns for ever

but the son William was not to have possession until he had served his apprenticeship. This he did, as

I find that on the 5th January, 1701-2, William, son of Richard Bridge, of Chester, dyer, defunct, and prentice of Timothy Deane, of Chester, ironmonger, took up his freedom. Richard Bridge, at the time he made his will, does not appear to have lived in this house bought from the Randle Holmes, as he devises "the house that I now inhabit or dwell in with the appurtenances lying in the City of Chester to my said son John" subject to a charge of £40 in favour of his seven grandchildren, four of whom bore the surname of Witter, and three that of Moulson. As the testator in his will made no reference to his wife I presume he was a widower.

