



On five Letters of Henry Maynwaring, of  
Chester, Merchant, to Thomas Trafford, Esq.,  
of Bridge Trafford, co. Chester, 1588=9.

BY PHILIP H. LAWSON.

(Read 8th December, 1914.)

**T**HROUGH the kindness of Mr. Henry Taylor, F.S.A., I have had an opportunity of transcribing these letters, and am now able to exhibit and describe them. They are of exceptional interest, not only on account of their early date, but also as referring to the disputed ownership of ground rents issuing out of a house and land in Chester, then in the occupation of the writer, but formerly part of the possessions of the Fraternity of St. George. There is hardly anything in print concerning this Order, and without special reséarch very little can be said of it. In 1556 annuities<sup>1</sup> were being paid to priests who had officiated in St. George's Chapel in St. Peter's Church<sup>2</sup> prior to the Suppression; and a rental of their possessions, taken in 1622, is extant.<sup>3</sup>

Unfortunately the letters contain no indication of the precise situation of the land in question. The house and land may have been that which Henry Maynwaring

<sup>1</sup> Ormerod's *Cheshire*, 2nd Edit., Vol. I., page 354.

<sup>2</sup> *Harl. MS.* 2150, fol. 248a.

<sup>3</sup> Ormerod quoting *Harl. MS.* 2159, fol. 110.

occupied at the time of his death, described in his will, to which I shall refer later, as situate in Watergate Street, near St. Peter's Church.

The land appears to have belonged to the Traffords of Bridge Trafford, co. Chester, in the time of Edward III., and subsequently to have been held by or under the Fraternity subject to rent charges of 33s. 4d. to the Traffords, and 6s. to one Raufe Wryne<sup>4</sup> and his heirs, the right to the latter rent being vested in John Vavasour, Esq.,<sup>5</sup> of Haselwood, co. York, at the time of the dispute. The estate of the Fraternity in the land passed after the Suppression to the Bavands, of Chester, and it was most probably Richard Bavand,<sup>6</sup> alderman and justice of the peace, second son of Thomas Bavand,<sup>7</sup> alderman, who, on succeeding his elder brother, Thomas Bavand, formed the opinion that he was entitled to the whole of the rent of 40s., namely, the 39s. 4d. always paid to the heirs of Trafford and Wryne and the 8d. theretofore alone paid to St. George and his successors. In 1589 Mr. Bavand instituted a suit against Maynwarding, at the Portmote, for the recovery of the land, but if the property was identical with that entailed by Maynwarding in his will, he can hardly have been successful. The Bavands evidently continued troublesome however, for, forty years later, in 1629, William Trafford, Esq., of Bridge Trafford, the son of the recipient of the letters, brought an action in the Court

<sup>4</sup> Recorder of Chester and Clerk of the Pentice, 1540.

<sup>5</sup> Son of Sir William Vavasour, Knt. See Foster's *Yorkshire Pedigrees*.

<sup>6</sup> Died 20th Aug., 1603. *Funeral Certificate*, Record Society, Vol. VI., pedigree in *Visit. Chesh.* 1613, *ibid.* Vol. LVIII., and *Visit. Chester* 1591, Harl. Soc., Vol. XCIII.

<sup>7</sup> "Mr. Tho. Bavand was buryed the 19 daye of October," 1564—*St. Peter's Reg.*

of Wards against Thomas Bavand,<sup>8</sup> gent., when these letters and rent receipts were produced, as appears by an endorsement on each.

It is clear from the rent receipts preserved with the letters that the Maynwarings held the house and land for at least forty years prior to 1588, when the dispute arose. They descended<sup>9</sup> from Nicholas Maynwaring, of Nantwich, an illegitimate son of [? Sir John] Maynwaring, of Peover, co. Chester. Nicholas Maynwaring had issue besides Humphrey Maynwaring, ancestor of a Nantwich family of that name, an elder son, Thomas Maynwaring, of Chester, who had two sons, Thomas, who died without issue, and Randle.

Randle Maynwaring, of Chester, alderman, the younger son and heir to his brother, became free of the city as draper 13 Aug., 1528, served the office of sheriff in 1533, and was with John Walley, a Seneschal of the Guild of St. George at Chester, 33 Henry VIII., 1541.<sup>10</sup> He represented the city in Edward VI.'s second Parliament at Westminster, which sat from 1 March, 1552-3, to 31 March, 1553, when it was dissolved, being returned together with Richard Sneyd, gent., recorder, 23 Jan., 1552-3. In 1564, Bishop Downham reported him as an alderman (not a justice) not favourable to the new establishment of religion.<sup>11</sup> He occupied the premises afterwards in dispute, the receipts extant for 1549 and 1561 being

<sup>8</sup> Doubtless the son of that name of John Bavand, of Newton, eldest surviving son of Ald. Richard Bavand. The Will of Thomas Bavand, of Chester, esquire, was proved in the Consistory Court in 1644.

<sup>9</sup> *Visit. Chesh.* 1580, Harl. Soc., Vol. XCIII.

<sup>10</sup> Canon Morris's *Chester in the Plantagenet Period*, p. 339n. This Guild must be distinguished from the dissolved religious body. It appears to have been a society for the practice of shooting.

<sup>11</sup> *Cheshire Sheaf*, 3rd Ser., Vol. VII., p. 98.

in his favour, and died in 1567. The burial entry at St. Peter's, Chester, reads :

M<sup>r</sup> Rondell Manweringe was buried the 10 of Aprill.

The third receipt extant dated 20 March, 1576-7, credits Margaret, his widow, who survived him the space of eleven years, with having paid the rent. She was buried at St. Peter's in 1578.

M<sup>rs</sup> Margaret Manwaring buried the 26 of Aprill.

Henry Maynwaring, of the City of Chester, merchant, the son of Alderman Randle Maynwaring, and writer of the letters, was evidently a man of some substance, and of more than average ability, the character and excellent handwriting of the letters testifying to a good education. He obtained the freedom of the city as draper in the year 1557-8, and married, first, Ann,<sup>12</sup> daughter of Edward Dodd, of Boughton, co. Chester, gent., by whom he had issue—<sup>13</sup>

I. Randle, recorded at the 1580 Visitation, who apparently died young.

II. Henry Maynwaring, heir to his father, whom he survived, having had issue by his wife Elizabeth, daughter to — Skipwith, of "Herkfordshire," two children, Thomas and Elizabeth.

III. Daniel Maynwaring, living 1610.

1. Mary, living 1610.

2. Ellen, presumably living 1610, but not mentioned in her father's will.

He married, secondly,<sup>13</sup> Cicely, daughter of Foulk Dutton, of Chester, alderman and justice of the peace,

<sup>12</sup> If not the *Anne Manwaringe* buried at St. Peter's, 16 Dec., 1582, she probably died between 1596 and 1607, during which period the registers are missing.

<sup>13</sup> *Funeral Certificate* of Henry Maynwaring, gent., 1610; *Record Society*, Vol. VI., p. 138.

relict, first, of Morris Williams,<sup>14</sup> of Chester, alderman, and secondly, of Edward Thomason, of Chester, merchant, but had no issue by her. She survived her husband seven years, and died 21 August, 1617,<sup>15</sup> leaving issue by her first husband only. Her burial entry at St. Peter's reads:

M<sup>rs</sup> Manwaring wief to Henry Manwaring was buried the 6th of September, 1617.

Her will was proved at Chester in the same year.

Henry Maynwaring had property in Nantwich, including "twoe howses lyinge together in the Beamestreete<sup>16</sup> the one called Cheynye Halle wherein Mr. Edwards the surgeon dwelte," but this he sold to his kinsman, Roger Mainwaring, of Nantwich, gent. He occurs as one of the signatories to the letter of William Cotgreve, mayor, concerning one Peter Proby and the clerkship to the Pentice, under date 31 July, 1590.<sup>17</sup>

According to his Funeral Certificate, in which he is described as "gentleman," he died 6 May, 1610, and was buried at St. Peter's. Unfortunately there are no burial entries in the Church registers from 1610 to 1616 inclusive.

The following is an abstract of his will at the District Probate Registry, Chester:—

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN. I, Henry Mannering, of the City of Chester, marchant, aged wthall and sicke and weake in bodie. . . . 5 May 1610. to bee interred in the parish church of St. Petter in Chester at the discretion

<sup>14</sup> "Mr. Moris Williams buried the 4 of January," 1573—*St. Peter's Reg.*

<sup>15</sup> *Funeral Certificate* of "Mrs. Sysely Manwaring, vid.," Record Society, Vol. VI., p. 138.

<sup>16</sup> "p'cell of the lands purchased of my cosen Henrye Manwaringe of Chester"—Will of Roger Mainwaring, proved at Chester 1 May, 1590.—*Cheshire Sheaf* Vol. II., p. 25.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, 3rd Ser., Vol. IX., p. 85.

of Cicelie my wyef whom I appointe sole executrix . . . . the messuage wherein I doe inhabitt and dwell situate in the Wattergatte Street in the said citty neare unto the said church wthall backsides gardens lands &c. unto the said Cicelie my wyef for her natural lyef and after her decease unto Henry Mannering my eldest sonne and the heires of his body [in tail male] and for want of such issue unto Danyell Mannering my younger sonne and the heires of his body [in tail male] and for default to my own right heires.

My messuage or tenement in Geldon Sutton co. Chester now or late in the tenure of John Dutton together with all landes adjoining in the occupation of Robert Stanford, clarke, all my estate and tearme therein, to my wyef [sons and right heirs, as before]. Immediately after the expiration of occupation of Stanford my executrix to pay to my daughter Mary Mannering iiiij<sup>li</sup> yearly until xx<sup>li</sup> be paid and also to my cozen Margrett fflynt<sup>18</sup> xl<sup>s</sup> yearly so long as she shall dwell within the citty. If she marry to the liking of my wyef she and her husband to have their maintenance with my wyef. unto my servant Margrett Williams xxvj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup> yearly and maintenance with my wyef unto my sonne Henry all the waynscott, glasse, cubboards, tables, frames and bedsteeds in my house my wyef to have the use of them during her lyef. Residue to wyef. I desire my wor<sup>th</sup> and very good friends<sup>19</sup> Richard Breereton of Eccleston said co. Esq., William Aldersey the elder and Edward Dutton of the City of Chester aldermen to be overseers.

Witnesses: William Aldersey, Edward Dutton, John Morgell, Thomas Dalbie.

<sup>18</sup> His wife's granddaughter.

<sup>19</sup> All nephews of Cicely his wife. William Aldersey *the elder* was of the Picton family, so designated to distinguish him from his younger namesake and brother alderman of the Middle Aldersey branch. Funeral Certificates of the first two overseers are extant, and pedigrees of all three are recorded at the 1613 Visitation.—Record Society, Vols. VI. and LVIII.

The original will is missing, only a copy remaining. A long inventory of his goods, appraised by Richard Wright, Randall Ince, Thomas Syere and Richard Sneade, 21 May, 1610, and amounting to *xlix<sup>ii</sup> xiiij<sup>s</sup> ij<sup>d</sup>*, accompanies the will.

The usual items occur, including pewter, linen, one musket with furniture, one rapyer and a Scotch dagger with skeyne, one byble, *xxtie* other bookes, & *xvien* small bookes, and mapps. The following rooms are mentioned: the Hall, Kitchen, Parlor in the Court, Butterie, Street Chamber, Chamber over the Hall, Chamber over the Buttrie, Chamber over the Parlour, Corne Chamber, and Court. The following items appear to have been added at the Registry:—

Item. two kyne of the deceedents wch went for herritts valued unto .....*iiij<sup>ii</sup> xiiij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>*

Item. A messuage or tenement in Gelden Sutton with appurtenances thereunto belonging for certayne yeares unexpired and also for *xxj* yeares in rev'con, valued unto ..... [No amount shewn]

Probate was granted in the Consistory Court at Chester 4 June, 1610, to Cicely, his widow, the sole executrix.

No Arms are assigned to Henry Maynwaring in his Funeral Certificate, but the 1580 Visitation gives the Chester and Nantwich families the heraldic bearings of Mainwaring of Peover differenced apparently for the bastardy of their common ancestor, Nicholas Mainwaring. These are: Arms, *Argent, two bars gules within a bordure goboné or and sable*; Crest, *An ass's head proper, erased, maned, and haltered or*.

The receipts, which are written on single sheets, and the letters on double foolscap sheets (folio), are here printed with the contractions extended.

## I. RECEIPT, dated 11 Nov., 2 Edw. VI., 1549:—

Memorandum that I Thomas Trafford of bridge Trafford have receyved of Randull Maynwarding of Chester draper by the hand of Uter Johnson xvj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup> due unto me the said Thomas for the ffe rente dew at Mychaellmas last past for the half yeare the which xvj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup> if the said Rondull cannott be alowde be the Kings offesers of his warte of Augmentasyon then do grannte & bynde myself my heires and assignes to Repaye the said xvj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup> unto the said Rondull or his assignes at any tyme heereafter. Wrytten the xj<sup>th</sup> daie of November in the secunnde yeare of the Raigne of our soveraigne lord Kinge Edwarde the sixte.

Ex. per me Tho: Case.<sup>20</sup>

## II. RECEIPT dated 2 Oct., 3 Eliz., 1561:—

This bill of Acquittance made the seconnde Daie of October Anno regni regine Elizabeth &c tertio wyttnesseth that I Roger Royden of burton in the countie of Denbighe gent. have had and receyved the daie of the date hereof of Rondell Maynwarding of Chester the some of xxxiiij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup> of Annuell rent reserved of the lands he holdeth of my cosine Trafford and due at the feast of Saint Michaell the archangell last past of which said somme of xxxiiij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup> I doe acknowledged myself to be well & trulie contented and paid and the said Rondell Maynwarding thereof acquitted and discharged by this present. In wyttness whereof I have sett my seale<sup>21</sup> yeven the Daie & yeare above said

per me ROGER ROYDEN.

Ex. per me Tho: Case.<sup>20</sup>

## III. RECEIPT dated 20 March, 1576-7:—

Receyved the xx<sup>th</sup> Daie of Marche 1576 of Margarett Maynwarding widdowe the Some of xxxiiij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup> due to the Quenes Majestie for one hole yeares rent ended at Martynmas last past for A howse in the holdinge of the

<sup>20</sup> Probably appended when the suit was brought in the Portmote Thomas Case was an Attorney in the Exchequer at Chester, and died in 1634. See his *Funeral Certificate*, Record Society, Vol. VI.

<sup>21</sup> Seal, if any, gone.



said Margaret of thenheritance of Thomas Trafford her Majesties warde.

per me RICM̄ HURLESTON SENR

Ex. per me Tho Case.<sup>20</sup>

IV. 5 March, 1588-9. LETTER of this date addressed:—

To the worshipfull M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Traford Utter barester in the Inner temple this be delivered.

Worshipfull, your letter I Reseived this morning wherin you thincke that I am bound by my fefarme to paye you. The truthe is I hould from St. gorge & his successors the whiche is M<sup>r</sup> bavand, paying 40s. per yeare, and because ther wentt out to your anncitors & nowe to you 33s. 4d. yearlye & to the heyres of Rauf wryne 6s. yearlye so ther remeyned no more but 8d. per yeare [? &] the bochers shoppes in the strette to St. gorge & his successors; and M<sup>r</sup> bavands ancitors receiving but 40s. & paying out 39s. 4[d] was contentt that my anncitors shuld paye the chef rent<sup>22</sup> & paye the other 8d. the whiche hathe bene trulye payd to all parties, tell nowe that M<sup>r</sup> bavand upon the coming to the lands & upon vewe of his writtings dothe thinck yt ther is no rent Dewe nether to your Worship nor to the heyres of wryne, and because M<sup>r</sup> bavand is nowe in London and dothe lye at our M<sup>r</sup> Cletons in St. Lorraine I thought it good to serteffye you therof that if it please you to talke with hym for his better instruction I doe not Doute but you shall find hym resonable, and this withe my hartye commendacions I committ you to god. Chester the 5 of Marche, 1588.

Yours in what he maye

HENRY MAYNWARING.

V. 25 June, 1589. LETTER of this date addressed:—

To the Worshipfull M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Traford in the Inner temple this be delivered withe spede.

<sup>22</sup> This is rather ambiguous. He probably means that Bavand's ancestors allowed the 39s. 4d. to be paid direct (as was done in the case of Trafford's portion at all events), and received only 8d. themselves.

Worshipfull, this is to serteffye you that ester evening at the laste Instantt of the daye M<sup>r</sup> Bavand did over to me to make demannnd for his rentt upon the lande. I did aske of hym howe muche, he sayd lxxx<sup>ii</sup> accounting from the iij<sup>th</sup> yeare of Kinge Edwarde the vj<sup>te</sup>. I tould hym howe I and my ansiters had payd to you & your anseters & to the heyeres of M<sup>r</sup> Wryne 39s. 4d. & the rest to his ansitors, being 8d. he sayd to me ageyne because I had not payd his ansitors he was to hold the same or the land & sayd fether that you nor the heyres of M<sup>r</sup> Wryne had no right to Reseive any rentt of that land. I tould hym you had. Upon the same he wold have entared but I did withstand hym & so he meanes to comens his shutte, I knowe not howe sone. I wold wishe you, bothe for your owne titell & my paymentts, to let it appere that of right the same rentt is dewe to you, & that we maye so Deale that he have not his will. I could inlarge more but I hope you wilbe downe shortlye bothe to preserve your owne titell as also my fee farme. I marvell that you did not talke withe M<sup>r</sup> Bavand at your being at London and as you promised me. this hoping to see you shortlye or to here from you effectuallye I committe you to god withe my hartye commendacions.

Chester the 25 June 1589.

Your Worshippes to commandd

HENRY MAYNWARING.

VI. 23 July, 1589. LETTER of this date addressed:—

To the Worshipfull and his verye good frend M<sup>r</sup> thomas Trafford esquire in the Inner Temple this be Delevered.

Worshipfull. Your letter of the 12 of these presents I Reseived the 19 of the same & according to your requeste I have Inquired for M<sup>r</sup> Vavesare,<sup>23</sup> his name is John Vavesare an esquire of greate wor<sup>24</sup> his house is

<sup>23</sup> The heir of Rauf Wryne,

<sup>24</sup> Worship or worth,

called haselworthe<sup>25</sup> aboutt 7 mills from Yorke, and I thincke your advise to be good to Joyne to gether. As yet M<sup>r</sup> Bavand hathe comensed no sutte ageynste me but I loke for it everye daye, for he gevethe out greate words touching your titels and myne, he saythe that my fee farme is not onelye forfeited in paying of M<sup>r</sup> Vavesere & you but also because it is not exemplied under the greate seale & that 2 statuts make withe hym ageynste me touching the same, this he Declared to a secrett frend of his. if it wold plesse you to serteffye me whether ther be any suche matter or no you might plesure me & what I can doe to plesure you you shall be sure of, for he is gredye of lande. this hoping to here from you shortlye I ende withe hartye commendacions wishing to you as to myself. Chester the 23 July 1589.

Yours wherin he maye

HENRY MAYNWARING.

At the Kings vesitors being here after the sopression of St. gorge my fefarme was then entared as dothe appere, the whiche (peradventure) M<sup>r</sup> Bavand knoweth not of.

VII. 6 November, 1589. LETTER of this date addressed:—

To the Worshipfull Thomas Traford esquire in the Inner Temple this be Delevered withe Spede

Worshipfull. I have had some talke withe M<sup>r</sup> Bavand and I perseve by hym that if you be able to showe that St. gorge did hould the house from your anciters payinge unto them & their heyres the rentt Reserved that then I here he will make no forther matter therein but that you maye Injoye your rentt quietlye therfore if you be able to showe any suche conveance that St. gorge hathe no right therin but from your anciters I pray you so serteffye me that I maye make the same knowne to M<sup>r</sup> Bavand that quietnes maye be among frends. this expecting Your answeere withe as convenientt spede as you maye I ende withe hartye

<sup>25</sup> Haselwood.

commendations wishing to you as to myself. Chester the 6 November 1589.

Your frend to usse

HENRY MAYNWARING.

VIII. 16 January, 1589-90. LETTER of this date addressed :—

To the Worshipfull M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Traford esquire in the Inner Temple withe Spede

Worshipfull. Your letter of the 16 of Desember I Reseived the 10 of these presents<sup>26</sup> wherin you doe not answeare my letter to that effecte as I loked for. I pray you peruse the same as also your writtings, for M<sup>r</sup> Bavand hath begunne the shutte ageynst me at the puortmote upon Mondaye last & dothe make full accounte to recovere the land of me, & if I los it for paying you rentt I thincke it strange as I sayd in my other letter so I saye nowe if you wold freyne upon M<sup>r</sup> bavand then could I be a good witnis for you, for I have an ould del'.<sup>27</sup> made in Edward the 3 his dayes that dothe meyre my house that I dwell in to trafords land, and for forther matter I refare to this good berare M<sup>r</sup> hughe hurlstone,<sup>28</sup> and this withe my hartye commendations I committe you to god, hoping to here from you withe spede. Chester the 16 January 1589.

Yours to his power

HENRY MAYNWARING.

Your belye<sup>29</sup> tould me if you be unpayd a twelfmonthe & a daye that then the land is forfette to you. I pray god it be so & you & I shall agree like frends.

M.

IX. ENDORSEMENT on each document :—

Shewed to witnesses this 12th of August 1629 examined in a cause dependinge in His Majesty's

<sup>26</sup> Note the length of time in transit by the posts in this Letter and No. VI.

<sup>27</sup> Query—*delivery*.

<sup>28</sup> Possibly brother of Richard Hurlston, of Hurlston, co. Lancs., and Picton, co. Ches., buried at Plemstall, 1589, who may have given the third Receipt.—*Visit. Chesh.*, 1580 and 1613.

<sup>29</sup> *bailliff*.

Court of Wards, betweene William Trafford Esquire  
relator uppon Information of Sir Walter Pye, Knight,  
Attorney of the sayd Court, ageynst Thomas Bavand,  
gentleman, defendant.

Willm. Brocke  
Thomas Meoles  
Willm Colly.

The letters have been folded and sealed, the seal bearing, with other illegible emblematic symbols, the initials "H.M." in Roman capitals.

I will conclude with a brief reference to the Traffords,<sup>80</sup> and to their contemporary representative to whom these letters were addressed. They held the manor of Bridge Trafford and lands in Chester, under the Crown, and hence were subject to the jurisdiction of the Court of Wards and Liveries after the institution of that Court in 1540. It is interesting to note that a number of rent charges issuing out of lands in Chester are included in the findings of the jurors at the different *Inquisitions* of members of the family, and doubtless the Maynwarding rent is included in the number. By an *Inq. per comm. de melius inquirend.*, 4 Eliz. [1561-2] Thomas Trafford, gent., who died 20 May, 7 Edw. VI., 1553 (and acknowledged the payment in 1549), was found to have held, in addition to lands in Bridge Trafford, 10 messuages, 4 shops, and lands in Chester from the Queen by military service, of the value of 26s. 8d. Thomas Trafford, his son and heir, was then aged 11 years, and being a minor, his "cosine," Roger Roydon, who may have been a guardian or bailiff, acknowledged the rent in the same year. This gentle-

<sup>80</sup> For authorities for the following statements and a further account, see Ormerod's *Cheshire*, 2nd Edit., Vol. II., pp. 43—46, and *Lanc. and Chesh. Records*, pp. 184 and 186.

man, afterwards an Utter Barrister of the Inner Temple, was he to whom Henry Maynwarding addressed his letters. He was born *circa* 1550-1, married *circa* 1574 Alice, daughter of William Massey, of Puddington, by whom he had issue, and was buried at Plemstall, 26 Jan., 1625-6. His will is at Chester. By *Inq. post mortem*, 17 Oct., 1627, it was found that he died 23 Jan., 1625-6, seized of the manor of Bridge Trafford and a rent service of £3 5s. 4d. issuing out of 11 messuages and 4 shops in Chester. William Trafford, his son and heir, was aged 52 years. Two years later William Trafford instituted the proceedings in the Court of Wards against Thomas Bavand, but I have not yet ascertained the result of this Action.

