

THE CHAMBERS FAMILY: A CORRECTION

BY FRANK MARCHAM

IN a book entitled *Some Notes on the South-East Corner of Chancery Lane, 1119 to 1929*, by R. T. D. Sayle, published by Sweet and Maxwell in 1929, is given, as a fact, an identification of Abraham Chambers, of Bond Street, 1770, as a grandson of Abraham Chambers, goldsmith, 1690. This is not correct.

The pedigree of Abraham Chambers, of Bond Street, 1770, is partly printed in Berry's *Kent*, p. 360, and is in brief this:—Abraham Chambers of Marshes in Selling, Kent, died 13th January, 1694, and buried in Selling Church. By his wife Catherine, daughter of Spracklyn, he had, amongst others, Abraham Chambers, second son, buried at Tunstal, 19th September, 1735. This Abraham, by his wife, also said to be a Catherine Spracklyn, had a son Abraham Chambers, who is the banker of 1770. The last named was twice married and by his first wife Elizabeth, the daughter of Major James, of the Artillery, he had an only daughter Elizabeth, born about 1733, who was subsequently the wife of William Hallett of Cannons, in Middlesex. She married, secondly, the Rev. Harrington. The second wife of Abraham Chambers was Ann the daughter of Hugh James, of St. Dunstan in the West, grocer (who had a sister Emily), and the eldest son of this marriage was Sir Samuel Chambers, of Woodstock Hall, Tunstall, Kent. The second son was Abraham Henry Chambers, of New Bond Street, banker (died 1852), and a third son was Rev. James Chambers, of Great Malvern, Worcester. The daughter of Abraham was Emily Mary Ann and she married John Herbert Foley, of Pembrokeshire. Abraham Chambers was of Milk Street, London, upholsterer, in 1754, afterwards of Hornsey, then of Finchley Lodge, Finchley, and finally

of Totteridge. He founded the firm of Chambers, Franks, Percy and Birch, in 1769 at 152, New Bond Street, and this firm stopped payment in 1824 (F. G. Hilton Price, *London Bankers*, 1890-1).

The descent of Abraham Chambers, goldsmith, who was executor to George Pawlet is this:—Richard Chambers, of Shoreditch, citizen and girdler, by his wife Susan Trosse, had a son Abraham Chambers, who married Mary the daughter of George Monnox and he died 1669. The son of these was Abraham Chambers, of the Middle Temple, barrister-at-law, who died 1665-6 and who, by his wife Barbara, the daughter of James Reynolds, had a son Abraham Chambers, the goldsmith, who was shot by highwaymen in 1693. The brother of the last named was James Chambers who founded the bank called Gosling's, or, at least was identified with that business. Their sister Dorothy married George Wanley of the Society of Antiquaries. The eldest son of Abraham (died 1693) was Abraham, also a goldsmith, who died 1733, and by his wife Mary (died 1738-9) he had a son Abraham, also a goldsmith, and three daughters. This last Abraham died 1757 without issue and ended the direct line of descent. Thus both Abraham Chambers, who were goldsmiths and named by Mr. Sayle, are not related at all. The descendants of Richard Chambers were property owners in Hornsey (see *The Court Rolls of the Manor of Hornsey* by W. McB. Marcham and Frank Marcham, 1929), but the other Abraham (the upholsterer banker) only became a leaseholder there in the eighteenth century.

In 1770, Elizabeth Dod, of Southampton Row, Saint George Bloomsbury, widow, Esther Sayer, of Southampton Street, widow, and Mary Usborne, of Staplehurst, Kent, widow, were sisters and co-heiresses of Abraham Chambers, late of Fleet Street, goldsmith, who was great-nephew and heir-at-law of James Chambers, late citizen and goldsmith. They owned "The Bull," at Tottenham.