

QUARRY HOUSE, ON FRINDSBURY HILL.

BY A. A. ARNOLD.

A NOTICE of the fine old house known as the Quarry House, near Rochester, in the parish of Frindsbury, appeared in *Archæologia Cantiana*, Vol. XVI., pp. 285–288, accompanied by an admirable drawing by Mr. Arthur Baker. The house was visited by several members of our Society at the recent Annual Meeting held at Rochester in 1886; and others have since inspected it.

The author of the paper observed (p. 287) that very little of the history of this house is known; he mentions the tradition or suggestion that the house may have been built by Thomas, Lord Cromwell, in the reign of Henry VIII., but himself maintained that this was not possible, as the house could not, in the opinion of careful observers, have been built until Lord Cromwell had been dead at least fifty years. Canon Scott Robertson, who was the writer of the paper, also stated his opinion, that the house was probably “more Jacobean than Elizabethan.”

Something has, since the publication of our last volume, been found as to the date of the building of this house, and it appears to corroborate in a very marked and satisfactory manner the conclusions of our Honorary Secretary.

The house itself stands on land which has for many centuries been part of the possessions of the Wardens of Rochester Bridge. The conveyance of the property to the Wardens, in trust for the support and maintenance of the Bridge, is not now among the archives;* it was probably

* Many of the original grants of lands to the Wardens of Rochester Bridge and other valuable evidences were sent up in 1575 to Sir Roger Manwood, the head of the Royal Commission then sitting, for his examination; they appear never to have been returned. There is a memorandum by Dr. Thorpe, now extant, stating the fact, and deploring it.

dated in or soon after the seventeenth year of Henry VI. (1438), as there is in their possession a record of a licence of that date to the Wardens to hold this, with Little Delce and other estates, in mortmain. Some earlier deeds relating to this property are in the possession of the Wardens, and among them the following:—

“Monday before the feast of St Gregory 10 Edw^d III., 1335-6. *John Shotur* of Strood to *Gregory atte Mersche*. Grant of $\frac{1}{2}$ acre and 2 daywerks of land in ffrensberie ‘*in loco vocato ffastyngdyche*.’

“Wednesday in the feast of St Calixtus 29 Edward III., 1355. *William Godfrey* and *Helen* his wife of Strood to *John Welshe* of ffrensberie. Grant of $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of land in *Vastyngedyche* in fee.

“Thursday after the feast of St Michael 6 Rich. II., 1382. *Robert P'kot* of ffrensberie to *John Walsche*. Grant of 7 daywerkes of marsh in *Fastynedyche* adjoining the marsh of the Almoner of Rochester in fee.”

At the date* of the grant of the Licence in Mortmain of 1438, above referred to, the lands in Frindsbury then granted to the Bridge were vested in Thomas Chichele, citizen of London, and were described as: “xiiij^d acres and an half of lond and . . . acres of M'rshe with th'appurtenances in ffrensberie.”

In a survey and valuation of the Bridge Estates in the 22nd Henry VII. they are thus described: “*ffrenesbery*—It: pro tenement. in ffrensbery voc. lyme-house alias vocat. Walches per ann. xxvi^s viij^d.”

These names, “Lyme-house,”† “Walches” or “Welshes,” and “Fasting-ditche” are names applied or used in the descriptions of the property, and by which it continued to be known and to be described until the middle of the last century, when a new survey and plan were made of the property and a more modern description was adopted.

The earliest rolls of the Bridge accounts give simply the

* The licence to alien to the Wardens was granted 17 Henry VI. (Thursday before the feast of St. Margaret Virgin); a heavy fine was required by the Chancery for issuing it, and therefore a petition was presented by the Wardens for relief, and praying that the licence might be granted to them free of expense. The petition to King Henry VI. begins thus: “Besechen right mekelye your poor bedemen Thomas Glover and Henrie Hunte, Wardens of the Bridge of Roucherster.” It seems to have been successful, and the grant of Delce at any rate—which was included with Frindsbury in the licence—was made on the Monday next after the feast of St. James in the same year, 17 Henry VI.

† That part of the Medway which bounds these properties on the south, is still designated, and known as “Limehouse Reach.”

name of the parish and situation of each property, and the amount of the yearly rent. For the object of this paper it is not necessary to refer to them; but we can take the survey made in 1575 of the Bridge Estates, by order of Sir Roger Manwood, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, and his colleagues, the commissioners acting under a commission granted by Queen Elizabeth (the second commission granted by that Sovereign) for the affairs of the bridge, as the starting-point.

In that survey, which was very carefully made by two of the commissioners themselves, and considered in draft, and revised at two meetings before it was finally adopted, the description of the estate at Frindsbury is as follows:—

“Firma in Frenesburge.

“Thomas Bettes tenet ad voluntatem unum horreum et unum clausum terre arabilis vocatum Lomepittfield dicto horreo adjacentes continens per estimacionem v acras. Tres parcella terre arabilis jacentes in quodam campo jacente inter le chalk pittes ibidem et Fastinge Ditche in tribus separalibus locis ibidem continentis per estimacionem iii acras et dim. unum parcellum terre arabilis vocatum Welches jacentem ex parte orientali venellæ ducentis ad le Horse-marshe continentem per estimacionem ii acras dim. unum parcellum marisci salsi vocat. Horse-marshe jacentem ex parte orientali prædicti terre vocate Welches continentem per estimacionem viii acras—unum parcellum terre arabilis jacentem supra le Cliffe ex parte boreali de Meadway Water ibidem continentem per estimacionem unam acram, ac unum parcellum terre vocatum le Chalk Pitts cum uno parvo Cottagio et uno le Lyme-kiln in eodem edificatis continentem per estimacionem iii acras et reddit inde per annum.

xlvi s. viii d.”

“The said Barne is veye moche decayed in the thatching and walles of the same—sufficient chalk is reserved in the Pittes there for the mayntenance of the Bridg.”

From this record it appears that in 1575 there was nothing like a mansion, or house of the character of the existing Quarry House, on the Bridge land.

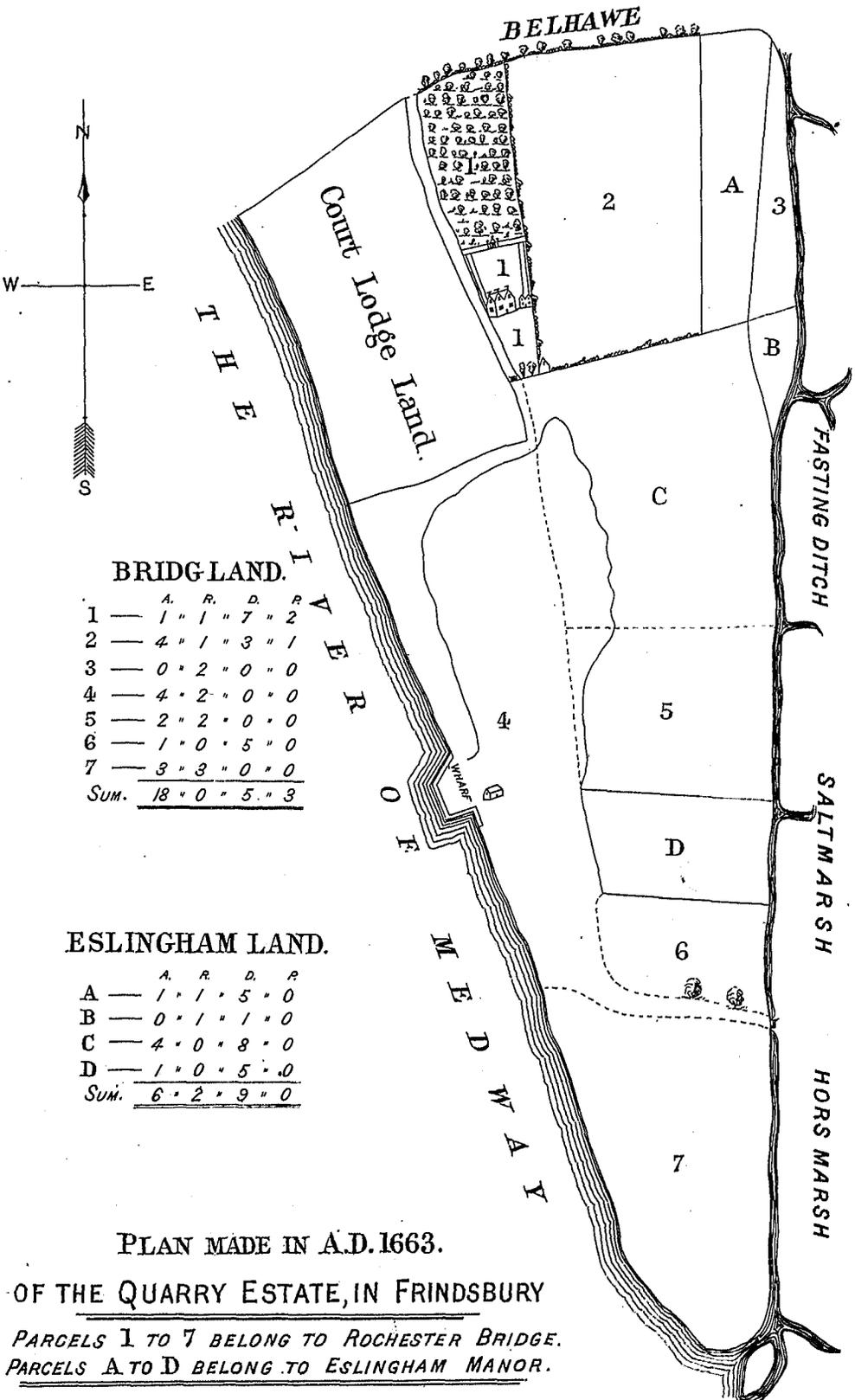
According to the Rentals, Bettes, the tenant in 1575, continued to hold the property for a few years, but in 1583 the rent of £2 6s. 8d. for that year is mentioned to be paid by “Thomas Thomsonne,” and two years afterwards he is himself entered in the Rental, that is for 1585, as holding the property. It is then described as “a tenement and certain landes belonging to the same in the parishe of ffrinsberie

called the lime-house, w^h he holdeth by lease, sometime in the occupation of Thomas Bets; yearlie value ij^u vj^s viij^d.”

The rentals from 1585 to 1597 shew no alteration either in the description of the estate or in the name of the tenant, but in the latter year the tenant's name is for the first time entered as Thomas Thompson *the elder*; he most probably died about that year, as in the rental for 1598 the tenant is entered as “Elizabeth Thompson, wydowe.” And in the next year, 1599, Elizabeth Thompson (there spelt Tompson) obtained a lease from the Wardens of the property for 21 years at the rent of £3 6s. 8d., being an increase of 20s. per annum above the previous rent.* She continued tenant until 1612, when she was succeeded by one Walter Thompson (probably a son), who obtained a further lease for 21 years from 1611 at the same rent.† He seems to have occupied the property until 1615, when for one year, for 1615 only, the name of Best, so well known in our county, appears as the tenant. Probably Mr. Best was a trustee or

* The full description of the property in the lease of 1599 is as follows: “All that one messuage or tenement with the kitchin barne and stable w^h sixteen acres of land arable and pasture more or lesse and eight acres of salte mershe more or lesse with all and singular the appurts. whatsoever all wh^h demysed premises are now in the tenure and occupacion of her the said Elizabeth Tompson and are part of the possessions belonginge unto the said Bridge of Rochester and of the said demysed premises the foresaid messuage or tenement kitchin barne and stable and sixteen acres of arable and pasture land more or less are situate lying and being together at a certain place called Fasting-Ditche withⁱⁿ the p'she of frindsburie aforesaid and being intermingled with six acres of land there in the holdinge of the Right Honourable the now Lord Cobham or his assignes doe abut and bound to a certain marshe there adjoining called Horse Marshe towards the East to certain land called Bell-hawe towards the West to the landes of the Cathedrall Church of Rochester towards the Northe and to the Kinges River called the River of Medwaie towards the Southe and the foresaid eight acres of salte marshe are lyinge and beinge withⁱⁿ the p'she of frinsburie in sondrie and severall pitts withⁱⁿ the said marshe called Horse Marshe Except and out of this present demyse unto the said Wardens and Commonaltie and their successors and assignes alwaies reserved the land called Quarrie and certain pitts with the use of the wharfe together with free libertie of ingresse egressse and regresse in to and from the same at all times during the term of years under granted them to dig lade loade and carrie chalke to the said wharfe and from thence by water for the use of the sayd bridge and also free libertie to dig further for chalke into the lands by these p'snts demysed yf nede of chalke shalbe for th' use of the sayd bridge.”

† It should be also observed that in the yearly Bridge rentals from 1585 to 1604 the rent is described as “for lands in Frensberie;” in 1605 the description is for the first time altered, and stands thus, “for a messuage and lands in Frinsburie.” In the above lease of 1599 the description of the property, it will be seen, begins with, “All that one messuage or tenement with the kitchen, barne, and stable;” possibly the “unum cottagium” of the survey of 1575 had, after the Thompsons became tenants in 1583, been converted into a larger house.



BRIDG-LAND.

	A.	R.	D.	R.
1	1"	1"	7"	2
2	4"	1"	3"	1
3	0"	2"	0"	0
4	4"	2"	0"	0
5	2"	2"	0"	0
6	1"	0"	5"	0
7	3"	3"	0"	0
Sum.	18"	0"	5"	3

ESLINGHAM LAND.

	A.	R.	D.	R.
A	1"	1"	5"	0
B	0"	1"	1"	0
C	4"	0"	8"	0
D	1"	0"	5"	0
Sum.	6"	2"	9"	0

PLAN MADE IN A.D. 1663.

OF THE QUARRY ESTATE, IN FRINDSBURY

PARCELS 1 TO 7 BELONG TO ROCHESTER BRIDGE.
 PARCELS A TO D BELONG TO ESLINGHAM MANOR.

N.B. IN THE ORCHARD MARKED 1 ROMAN REMAINS WERE FOUND IN 1886-7.

executor for the Thompson family, as in 1616 "Thomas Thompson, Gent.," appears in the rental as the tenant, and it was he who built the present Quarry House.

It is clear from the next survey of the estates, dated in 1624, that Thomas Thompson must at this time have got possession of the lease granted to Walter Thompson in 1611, and have entirely rebuilt or greatly enlarged the building which formerly stood on the property. He did not, however, long enjoy it, for he died before the year 1622, and was succeeded by his widow Eleanor Thompson.*

The next document to be quoted is interesting, as it gives the nearest date, yet ascertained, of the building of the Quarry House. It is a report of a survey of the Bridge Estates "taken in the months of April and May 1624 by Sir Edw. Hales, K^t and Barronett, and Sir W^m Page, Kn^t, then Wardens of Rochester Bridge," and is as follows:—

"Ellino^r Thompson widow holdeth a faier messuage *lately built* of bricke with a garden with a bricke-walle—a barne—a stable thatched—a cherry orchard—about xvi acres of up-land and xviii of salte-merse, in the p'she of frindesburie at the yearlye rent of £3 6s. 8d.; estimat: £11 Os. Od."

By permission of the Bridge Wardens, we are enabled to insert a Plan of the Quarry Estate, as described in the extract last quoted. This Plan was made 39 years later, in 1663, by R. Burley, "*readar of the Mathematiques to his Ma^{ty} Navey at Chatham.*" The Wardens of the Bridge, in 1663, were Mildmay, Earl of Westmorland, and Sir Oliver Butler, Bart. The Assistant-Wardens were Sir Jno. Marsham, Bart., Geo. Newman, Rob^t Barnham, Tho^s Flood, Max. Dalison, Alington Paynter, Esquires, Tho^s Lord Colpeper, Sir W^m Swann, Bart., Sir E^d Hales, Bart., Sir Fra^s Clarke, Knt., Sir Jno. Tufton, Bart., and Ja^s Cripps, Esq., all of whom are named on the original Plan.

Two years afterwards, in 1626, the widow, Mrs. Thompson, surrendered to the Wardens the former lease, granted in

* Nothing or little appears to be known of this Mr. Thomas Thompson. In a petition to the Bridge Wardens afterwards presented by Peter Philcott, and complaining of the acts of his widow, he is referred to as "Captⁿ Tompson." His wife Eleanor was, it is believed, the only child and heiress of Mr. Richard Wood, lord of the Manor of Hucking. She carried that estate by her marriage to her husband, Mr. Thompson, and he with her assent sold it 9th James I. to William Taylor (see Hasted, vol. ii., p. 519). This sale perhaps provided the means for building the Quarry House.

1611 to her late husband's kinsman Walter Thompson, and in consideration thereof and (as the new lease expresses it) "of the costes and charges by her husband bestowed in *newe buildyng of the said tenement*," the Bridge Wardens gave her a new lease of the property for 21 years from Lady Day 1626, at the old rent of £3 6s. 8d. a year.

This lady apparently lived at the Quarry from the time when her first husband built it, about the year 1616, to her death, which happened nearly forty years afterwards.

She was married twice after the death of her first husband: in the year 1630 to Mr. Thomas Sympson of London, Citizen and Goldsmith, Jeweller to Her Majesty Queen Anne, the Consort of James I.; he survived his marriage with her for a short time only, and died in May 1631. A law-suit then occurred—not the only one in which this lady figured—by which the widow applied to the Court of Chancery against her late husband's sons to get back her lease of the Quarry House and lands (which she stated in the Bill of Complaint were then worth £30 a year over and above the reserved rent) and other property of hers which she alleged her step-sons detained. She claimed in addition her rights as a widow under the custom of the City of London to "her widdowes thirde of her husband's personal estate,"* and "her widdowes chamber and the furniture therein." The step-sons brought a cross suit against her; both suits were referred to arbitration, and in the end she succeeded in getting back the lease of the Quarry; certain rent charges, and "two truncks' full" of her paraphernalia.†

* In her Bill of Complaint, the widow, Eleanor Sympson, alleges that at her first widowhood she possessed plate and effects of the value of £300, besides her own "wearing apparell, jewells and ornaments of the body," to the value of £100 more. Her second husband, "Thomas Sympson," must have been an opulent citizen—a second George Heriot. She alleges of him in her bill that he was possessed of the lease of his house in Cheapside, which cost him £1000, and of the lease of certain tenements in Goldsmith's Alley in Redcrosse Street, which brought him in £30 a year, and besides of "divers jewells, emeraldes, pearles, dyamond rings, pendant dyamonds, and other jewells and precious stones set in gould, and collers of esses (*sic*), and other thingis appertayning to the trade of a jeweller and Gouldsmith, to the value of ten thousand pounds."

† These "belongings" of this lady were thus described in the award: "Wastecoates, one edged with golde lace; one blacke taffatie gowne and kyrtille; one damaske petticoate with fobbys, golde laced; fower pearces of gloves and one pearce of sheetes; one taffatie petticoate; a silk program, gowne and kyrtille lettered; a gowne and kyrtille of silke callendbarsh, and a litle peece of the same stuff; an

In the year 1634, while in her second widowhood, she surrendered her former lease, and obtained a new lease of the property from the Bridge Wardens for 21 years, at the increased rent of £4 a year; in this lease the house is described as "heretofore erected and *buildd* by Thomas Thomson, gent., her former husband."

All the leases of the property at Frindsbury contain a reservation to the Bridge Wardens of "the right to dig and take away chalk from the chalk-pits there for the repairs of the Bridge;" this reservation is first mentioned in the survey of 1575, and the leases also shew that there were intermingled with the Bridge lands some detached pieces of freehold upland and marsh land, being parts of the Manor of Islingham, which did not belong to the Bridge estate, but were apparently always occupied by the same tenant. These detached and intermingled pieces, which formerly belonged to Lord Cobham (so stated in the lease to Eliz. Thompson of 1599), were afterwards purchased by Thomas Thompson, the builder of the Quarry House, and were part of his property which his widow recovered in the Chancery Suit against the representatives of her second husband Sympson. About the year 1635 she was married, for the third time, to Mr. John Woodgreene,* two years afterwards she was again a widow; and as soon after her second widowhood she went to law with her husband's sons, so now, in her third widowhood, she appears to have had serious quarrels and

old gowne of wrought velvett; two ffanns with silver handles; three pairs of stockings; a pair of roses, and a mourning hat-band; ruffs, cuffs, aprons, and devers parcells of small wearing lynnens; also beaver hatt and one hat-band of ribbin with six and thirty small gold and enamelled buttons with a pearle upon each button; one little booke of the com'on prayer; one brasse chaffing-dishe, and one old Jakett; a ribbon girdle with seed pearlys, and five knotts; and one olde trunk; and a large Bible; a large tapestrie coverlett; seaven narrowe pieces of newe cloth; doth for towells, about three yards (long) a piece; two cupboard cloths of Penthagas (?); two cupboard clothes of networke; a short dyaper table cloth; two cupboard cloths, one laced and one playne; three towells whereof one dyaper; nyne dyaper napkyns; eight flexen stryped napkinds; eight course napkins; twelve edge-worke buttons with a pearle upon each button, six enamelled white and six red; thirteene small buttones with a pearle; a bracelet with amethies and pearle, and one other bracelett with Cornelians and Elitropian beaded." [Elitropian; query for Heliotrope, "a translucid agate, of a lively leek green colour, spotted with red." *Vide Dieulafatt On Precious Stones.*]

* Mr. Woodgreene was one of the benefactors of Frindsbury parish, and "in 1632 devised a tenement and orchard at Higham Ridgeway in trust to lay out the rent in white bread to be given to the poor."

differences with the Bridge Wardens. It would seem from a petition presented some years afterwards by Mr. Atkins, that the principal cause of the quarrel was about the digging of chalk; probably she may have been led to think that the Bridge workmen were digging it from her own freehold lands; at any rate she went again to Chancery, and brought her landlords the Bridge Wardens to the bar of that Court.

There are many entries in the rolls of accounts from 1641 to 1644 as to the expenses incurred by the Wardens in the suit of *Woodgreene v. Wardens, etc., of Rochester Bridge*, but the records of the case are not now in the Wardens' possession. The Wardens were, however, successful in their defence to the suit, and Mrs. Woodgreene next appears as soliciting them to grant her another renewal of her lease.

This petition is not dated, but was evidently received—and rejected—by the Wardens in the year 1650; her existing lease would run out at Lady Day 1655, and she was evidently most anxious to obtain the renewal of it. No doubt she must have felt a difficulty in approaching her landlords after her lawsuit with them, but she makes the best of it, and throws the blame on Peter Philcott. The petition, which is partially obliterated, reads thus:—

“To the Right Worth the Wardens and Com'naltie of the landes contributorie to the repaire of Rochester Bridge.

“The humble petition of Ellioner [Woodgreene] widowe.

“Sheweth

“That yo^r pet^r hath bene tenant to yo^r Wors^{pp^s} of the capitall messuage with the appurts, wherein she nowe dwelleth (built at the charge of Thomas Thompson gen. her former husband) and of certaine lands cont. about 16 acres therewth demised situate and being in the parish of friendsburie in the countie of Kent by and under a lease therof made to yo^r pet^r about 14 years since at the yearly rent of £4.

“Synce w^h by the insinuatⁿ and practice of one Peter Philcott the Indenture purporting the said lease hath bene imbezilled and for sev'll years last past detain'd from yo^r pet^r and by meanes of the said Philcott yo^r pet^r hath been exposed to sev'rall unneecessarie suits w^h yo^r Wors^{pp^s} and to great trouble and expense much ag^t her own ynclinac'on and expresse order, to her great disquiett and ymperishm^t.

“Yo^r pet^r ys now an humble suitor that yo^r Wors^{pp^s} will please to grant unto her a new lease of the said messuage and lands for the term of 21 years at the said yearlie rent of £4 or wth as little encrease therof as may be.

“ffor w^h she shall have great cause to declare your noblenes
[] bound to pray,” etc.

“It is not thought fit to take this peti'on into consideratⁿ until the original lease be produced and surrendered unto us. Ap^l y^e 26, 1650.

A. MILLER, G^{EO}. DUKE, RICHARD LEE,
WM. PAYNETER, A^{UG}. SKINNER, WM. JAMES.”

The petition was rejected, as the note upon it shews, and it was ordered that the old lease should be allowed to run out and be surrendered.

The Bridge Wardens obtained repossession of the estate upon the breach of some covenant, in 1654, that is one year before the lease of 1634 to Mrs. Thompson expired, and no doubt their old tenant Mrs. Woodgreene must by that time have been dead. They granted a lease of it to their clerk, Mr. Atkins, at the increased rent of £5 per year. Upon this, Mrs. Woodgreene's representative and executrix, Miss Lucy Carmarden, or Carmarthen (for the name is spelt both ways), again petitions the Wardens for relief. In her first petition she avers that there "hath bin bestowed by the said Ellinor and her husband nere £500 on the said house and lands." In the second petition she refers to her counsel having attended the Bridge Wardens' meeting, and, "as she humbly conceives, made it clerely and evidently appear to your worships that (at the least) the mesne profits and also such moneys as were expended for the betteringe or building upon the said farme ought to be satisfied unto your petitioner."

This is the last trace in the Bridge records of the Thompson family, or of their connection with the Quarry House—it had lasted from 1583 to 1654. Nothing more can be found out at present about them; the registers of Frindsbury parish do not begin till 1660, and there appears not to be any monument or record of them in the parish church.

Mr. Atkins, the Bridge clerk, held the lease only for two years, until 1657, when he died, and his widow succeeded him. She transferred the lease in 1660 to Mr. Needler or his wife Mrs. Jane Needler, who must have held it for many years.* In a survey of 1674 the property is described thus:—"Mrs. Needler Widdow holdeth the Quarry House and landes etc. at the rent of £05.02^s.06^d; old estimate £12.0.0; new estimate £25.0.0."

In 1684 another lease for 21 years was granted to Mrs. Needler, and in the next year she assigned it, and conveyed

* There is, or was, a tablet in Frindsbury Church to the memory of Henry Needler, who died 4th August 1661, erected by his wife Jane. (Thorpe's *Reg. Roff.*, p. 740.)

the freehold lands which were intermixed, and of which she was the possessor, to a Mr. John Cable of Strood, shop-keeper. The Cable family kept the property from 1685 to about the year 1767, the last lease for 21 years being granted in January 1746 to Mary Cable, widow. In this lease a new and more elaborate description of the lands is given; it was probably drawn up or revised by Dr. Thorpe, who at this time was a most active Assistant-Warden of the Bridge, and took a personal supervision of everything that was done. Difficulties had arisen from the destruction of the boundaries between the Bridge land and the freehold lands intermixed with them. There is a memorandum, evidently of Dr. Thorpe's, in the Minute Book of the Bridge Committee in 1740, and then or soon after an exact survey was made of the boundaries and boundary stones were laid down.

The ownership of these intermixed freehold lands* seems always to have followed the possession of the lease; they were bought by the Cables from Mrs. Needler, when they first became lessees; she had bought them of the Thompsons. In 1767 the lease to Mrs. Cable expired, and the property was demised to one Richard Russell for two successive terms of 21 years; he was described as a tallow chandler of Strood, in the second lease granted to him in 1788, as well as in the first of 1767, so that probably he did not actually reside in or occupy the Quarry Estate, but underlet it, and himself continued to live in Strood.

* A full description of the intermixed lands taken from the conveyance thereof in 1685, from Mrs. Needler to Mr. Cable, is here set out: "All those peeces or parcell of land with theyr appurtenances being arrable and pasture ground lying dispersedly containing by estimac'on six acres be the same more or less situate lying and being in the parish of frindsbury in the County of Kent neere unto a messuage there parcell of the possessions of the Wardens and Commonalty of Rochester Bridge commonly called the Quarrie and bounding to certain lands belonging to the said Bridge of Rochester and to certain other lands parcell of the possessions of the said wardens towards the South and West to certaine salt marshes there towards the East and to a small peece of land there commonly called Bell-hawe towards the North now in the tenure or occupation of Thomas Cooke and also all that peece or parcell of land with the appurtenances commonly called or knowne by the name of Bealhouse al's Bell-hawe and containing by estimacion one acre more or less lying and being in the said parish of frindsbury bounding to the lands of the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedrall Church of Rochester towards the West and South to the peece of salt marsh hereafter mentioned towards the North and to an orchard belonging to a messuage or tenement there commonly called the Quarry towards the East And all that peece, etc., of salt marshe," etc., etc.

In 1808 one Mr. Thomas Levett, gentleman, of Northfleet, who had acquired both the last lease granted in 1788 to Richard Russell and the freehold lands intermixed with the Bridge lands, applied to the Wardens for a new grant, which was made to him for 21 years from Lady Day 1808, at the increased rent of £40.

Mr. Levett turned the property to commercial purposes; in 1809 part was let as a dock to Mr. John Nicholson, another piece to Mr. John Pelham as a shipbuilder's yard; several cottages had been built, and a rope-walk had been made during or before Mr. Russell's tenancy.*

In 1814 Messrs. Brindley, the well-known shipbuilders, acquired both the lease and the freehold piece of land; their connection with the property is referred to in Canon Scott Robertson's paper in Vol. XVI. They became bankrupts about 1820, when their freehold lands, intermixed with the Bridge Estate, passed to Messrs. Sutthery, as mortgagees, and were ultimately purchased by, and conveyed in 1833 to, the Bridge Wardens.

Messrs. Brindley's lease (acquired from Mr. Levett) expired in 1829, and the property was then for some years let by the Wardens on yearly tenancy, and probably rapidly got into a worse state of repair. Mr. Sutthery, the mortgagee, held it till 1834. In 1835 Mr. Samuel Stroughill occupied the whole as yearly tenant. Mr. Samuel David next took the Quarry House, as yearly tenant, at £15 a year, and occupied it from 1836 to 1847. Mr. Anthony Ryott from the latter year became the tenant. Afterwards, in 1855, Mr. George Burge held it at the same rent, and continued the tenancy until 1858. Then Mr. Haymen, J.P., of Rochester, had it, and subsequently he took the lands also, first as yearly tenant, and afterwards, from 1865, on a lease for 14 years. Mr. James Edwards, J.P., of Rochester, was the next lessee, and on the expiration of his lease in 1884 the whole property was leased to the present lessees, Messrs. Tingey and Son, the well-known cement manufacturers of Frindsbury.

* Among the Bridge muniments is a plan of the Frindsbury Estate as it existed in 1767 during Mr. Russell's tenure. It shews the rope-walk, wharf, various cottages and stores, and the great ditch or fleet, which was then called "Basting-ditch."

The house had gradually become so dilapidated that it was impossible for the Wardens to contemplate repairing without rebuilding it. It is now occupied by Messrs. Tingey's principal clerk, Mr. Miles; and although Messrs. Tingey have by their lease a power reserved to them of removing the house, it still stands, and may yet remain for some time. Mr. Tingey, jun., is a member of our Society.

It seems needless and would now answer no good purpose to enquire how so substantially built a house could have been allowed to come to so bad an end; probably the true solution of the matter would be found in the fact that the Wardens could not, in the last century, when the house was going to disrepair, grant a certain lease for a longer term than 21 years; and no tenant would on so short a tenure take upon himself the great outlay and liability which its repair involved. The site, surrounded by cement works and factories, does not now appear an inviting spot, whereat to listen to the strains of sweet music, or "to sport with Amaryllis in the shade." The cherries in the once famous cherry garden, flourishing in 1575, have ceased to ripen; the trees are dead; and it would be impossible now for Mr. Rye to get his glass of milk here, unless he took it impregnated with blacks. The "Publick House" commemorated in 1732 is represented by a modest shanty, known as "the Cottage on the Cliff," held by Messrs. Arkcoll and Co., and shortly to be replaced, it is believed, by a gorgeous edifice, with more convenient access than at present exists. Tramways are being made over the "Fasting-ditche;" a railway even is projected; the whole face of the country is to be changed. The "Quarry House" will soon be a thing of the past, and so "the old order changeth, yielding place to new." These "*Ædes labentes et fæda nigro simulacra fumo*" are all that are left of "the faier messuage lately built of brick, with cherry orchard." They have served their time and purpose. We can no longer claim to set up as a "Kentish Vauxhall" the neighbourhood of Messrs. Tingey's works, with fumes and smoke never ceasing, but ever increasing, whence they export their far-famed cement to all parts of the world, "from China to Peru."