

NOTES ON THE SEVENTEENTH- CENTURY TOKEN ISSUERS OF CHESHAM

GEORGE BERRY

THESE notes are intended to supplement information contained in Manton and Hollis' *Buckinghamshire Trade Tokens Issued in the Seventeenth Century*, (1933) (B.N.J. XVIII, XIX, XX). Manton and Hollis relied chiefly on parish registers and records and did not consult hearth tax records, quarter sessions records, wills and inventories.

Thirteen traders in Chesham issued tokens. If the number of traders issuing tokens be taken as an indication of commercial importance then Chesham would be the fourth most important town in the county in the 1660s. Only traders in High Wycombe (22), Aylesbury (16) and Stony Stratford (14) issued a greater number of tokens.

The specific occupations of the 13 Chesham issuers are set out below :

Mercer/Draper.
Thomas Hall.
Samuel Treacher.
John Tyler.
Clothworker.
Richard Amond.
William Grome.
Brewer.
William Childe.
Tobacconist.
Abraham Garraway.

Cordwainer.
Thomas Slaughter.
Tailor.
John Grover.
Occupation Not Known.
Rise Davis.
James Joyce.
Samuel Ware.
Richard Ware.

It is interesting to note that unlike other Buckinghamshire towns such as High Wycombe and Colnbrook, which issued a considerable number of Inn tokens, no Chesham Innkeeper's token has yet been discovered. This is probably accounted for by the fact that Chesham did not lie on a major coach or trade route, as did High Wycombe and Colnbrook.

Two issuers were staunch supporters of the Established Church—John Grover and Thomas Hall. Both were Churchwardens in 1676 and 1681 respectively. Thomas Hall was also sworn chief constable in 1688. At least four were members of a growing Baptist Community in Chesham —William Childe, Samuel Treacher, Richard Ware and Samuel Ware.

Ship money payments were made in 1636 by the fathers of three issuers,

Richard Amond (3s. 0d) John Grover (13s. 4d) and Samuel Treacher (5s. 0d). This Richard Amond may have been the issuer himself.

Below are recorded a few details of the lives of these Chesham traders.

References

- (W) Geo. Williamson's edition of *Boyne's Trade Tokens*.
- (M) Manton and Hollis *Buckinghamshire Trade Tokens Issued in the 17th century*.
- (A) Ashmolean Museum.
- (B) British Museum.
- (C) County Museum, Aylesbury.
- (D) High Wycombe Museum.
- (E) The Writer's Collection.

Richard Amond

½d 1664 R.D.A. Clothworkers Arms M55 W42 (BC)

Richard Amond was born in 1609. Thus he issued his tokens when he was fifty five years old. His father's marriage is recorded in the parish register as follows: Richard son of William Hammond and Ellen daughter of the Widoe Tookefield of the wood of Ashridge 20th February, 1597.

A Richard Amond of Chesham is recorded as having made a ship money payment in 1636 of 3/-. This could well have been the issuer of the token, who would then have been twenty five years of age. He was assessed for 4 hearths at 8/- in 1674.

William Childe

½d W.M.C. Brewer, Brewers Arms M56 W43 (ABCDE)

The initials M represents William Childe's second wife, Martha née Birch, whom he married on 21st March, 1654. He died in 1676, his will being proved on 10th October that year.

The issuer's name is contained in a list of jurors for the County (1653/4), and his property was assessed in the lay subsidy at £3.0.6d (1667). His will indicates that he was a man of considerable means. He left £25.0.0d to each of his four daughters, Martha, Mary, Loar, and Sara.

His widow was brought before the Quarter Sessions (10th Oct. 1678) along with Joseph West "for being brewers and making combinations with the ale-house keepers, their tenants, to take such quantities of drink of them as they consumed".

The Childe family had undoubted Baptist connections. Giles Childe (born 1629, married Frances, died 1680) was a member of the Baptist Church at Amersham. At a church meeting 18th September, 1684, brother William Childe, perhaps the issuer's son, was withdrawn from the sacrament "for disorderly walking in the matter of mixt marriage".

Rise Davis

½d 1671 R.E.D. His ½d. M57 W45 (BC)

I can find no direct reference to a Rise Davis in the local records. There are two marriage references to a Richard Davis including the following:

Richard Davis and Mary Child 19th May, 1678.

Abraham Garraway

½D 1671 A.M.G. Two tobacco pipes MW58 W46 (C).

The issuer was probably a tobacconist. Again I can find no definite reference to him, although the will of an Abraham Garraway of Chesham described as a yeoman, was proved in 1705. It is possible that this Abraham Garraway was the issuer himself. The chief beneficiaries of the will were a grandson, Thomas Garraway who received most of his goods and chattels, a son-in-law Robert Hall who was bequeathed furniture, and three grandchildren, Mary and Rebecca, daughters of his son Zacharias Garraway as well as his wife Ann.

William Grome

½d 1671 W.S.G. His ½d shears M60 W— (C)

A die variety gives the spelling GUOME M59 W44 (CE)

William Grome is described as a yeoman in the Parish Register, which records his burial on 18th April, 1690. His wife Susan was buried on 1st May, 1687. He was a juror for special cases at the Michaelmas session at Chesham, 9th Oct., 1679. He was probably a clothworker.

John Grover

¼d 1655 I.I.G. M61 W47 (BCD)

John Grover was an extremely common name in Chesham in the 17th century. One must exercise extreme caution before claiming that a particular reference refers to the issuer. The following marriage record undoubtedly refers to the token issuer.

John, son of Wid Grover and Jane Hopper of Amersham. One John Grover was a quaker—reference is made to him in the Quaker Minute Book (Upside) (1681). It is more likely that the issuer was the John Grover who was Church Warden in 1676. He is described as a tailor in the burial register (26th July, 1696).

An earlier John Grover made a ship money payment of 13s. 4d. in 1636.

Two John Grovers appeared in the Lay Subsidy assessment for 1667.

John Grover of Ye Town £1. 0s. 0d.

8d.

John Grover of Slow land £1. 10s. 0d.

12s.

The former may well have been the issuer.

Thomas Hall.

½d Mercer, roll of cloth. Grocer's arms, heart-shaped M62—3 W49
(ABCDE)

He was Churchwarden at Chesham in 1681 and was sworn chief constable on 26th April, 1688 (QSR). The burial of a son is recorded on 17th October 1678 as follows: Richard Hall, son of Thomas Hall and Mary his wife.

The token shows a roll of cloth, and not of tobacco as suggested by Manton and Hollis.

James Joyse.

¼d 1658 and '58 I.M.I. M64 W48 (C)

The issuer was born in 1616. James married twice. There is a record of the



a.



b.



c.



d.



e.



f.

PLATE IX.

- a.—b. Halfpenny token (heart shaped) of Thomas Hall, Mercer.
 a. Obverse b. Reverse
 c. Reverse of farthing token of Samuel Treacher dated 1653.
 d. Obverse of halfpenny token of William Grome displaying a pair of shears and dated 1671.
 e. Obverse of farthing token of Richard Ware, dated 1653.
 f. Reverse of farthing token of William Childe, brewer.

baptism of Hester, daughter of James and Ann Joyse 16th November, 1636. Thus he must have married his first wife Ann before he was twenty. His second wife Mary, alluded to on the token, was buried on 12th December, 1675. She was a widow, so James must have died before that date.

Thomas Slauter.

½d 1669 T.M.S. Cordwainer's Arms. Num. Circ. April 1947 (C)

Thomas Slauter's token was first published as recently as 1947, being unknown to Williamson and Manton and Hollis. The issuer was born in 1625, being the son of Richard and Mary Slauter. Another son also called Thomas had been born to Richard and Mary in 1614. He had died at the age of ten just a year before his namesake was born.

Samuel Treacher.

¼d 1653 S.G.T. M65 W51 (CE)

½d 1665 S.I.T. Mercer, Mercer's Arms M66 W50 (ABCE)

The tokens indicate that the issuer married twice; his second wife Jane was buried on December 17th, 1682. He himself was buried on 5th February, 1687/8. The register describes him as Samuel Treacher, Senior, Draper. The terms Mercer and Draper were interchangeable. Samuel Treacher was summoned to be a juror on 10th October, 1678 (QSR). A year later his son Samuel Treacher junior was fined for assaulting Daniel Garnett and his wife. We do not know the cause of this misdemeanour. The fine was 6/8. This is probably the Samuel Treacher who married Susan Stone on 9th April, 1678.

A ship money payment of 5/- was paid by Samuel Treacher of Chesham in 1636, probably the issuer's father. The will of Samuel Treacher was filed on 11th August, 1688. The chief beneficiaries were his sons, Samuel and John.

The Treachers were a notable Baptist family from the seventeenth century onward. Prebendary Treacher, founder of the Church Army, was a descendant of the issuer.

A new road in Chesham has been given the name Treacher's Close as it is on the site of Treacher's Orchard, west of Bellingdon Road, and North of Park Road (Arnold Baines).

The marriage of another descendant, Samuel Treacher, laceman, to Mary Rolph is recorded on 15th May, 1698.

John Tyler.

¼d 1665 I.A.T. Mercer's Arms. M67 W52 (C).

Little is known of this man except the details of his birth—(prB 1621) John sonne of William and Harriet Tiler.

Richard Ware

¼d 1653 R.P.W. M68 W53 (BCDE).

He was born in 1608 and married Philotheta Harding on 27th September, 1632. No other details of Richard Ware can be found. The following two references almost certainly refer to his son Richard—Marriage to Mary

Gossome 5th December, 1687, and enrolment of a juror for special cases 9th October, 1679.

Arnold Baines points out that the Wares of Chesham were a Baptist family. John Ware was High Sheriff 1734-5. Joshua Ware preached at the Lower Baptist meeting at Hinton, and also to the General Baptists at Broadway where "he was allowed the use of the pulpit" around 1735. *He wrote the Torments of Hell and Joys of Heaven* (1732).

Samuel Ware

½d 1658 S.S.W. M69 W— (CE)

The name Samuel Ware occurs frequently in Chesham records during the seventeenth century, and extreme caution must be exercised before attributing a particular reference to the token issuer. There are three baptismal records, for instance, between 1607 and 1636 all referring to Samuel Ware.

One of the following records undoubtedly refers to the baptism of the token issuer, but one cannot be sure which:

1628 Samuel sonne of Thomas and Joanna Ware bapt. 18 May.

1636 Samuel sonne of John and Marie Ware bapt. 19 June.

The issuer was buried on 17th March 1694/5. He probably married twice, for the parish marriage registers record: Samuel Ware and Greas Downes 5th October, 1665. The burial of a daughter of this marriage is recorded—Mary on 28th April, 1675.

John Glenister, a yeoman of Northchurch in Herts, stood surety in 1692 with Samuel Ware of Chesham for two other yeomen to keep the peace.

MANUSCRIPT SOURCES

Wills proved in Archdeaconry of Buckingham (Bucks Record Office, Aylesbury).

Chesham Parish Register (Bishop's Transcripts) (Bucks Record Office, Aylesbury).

Hearth Tax Returns for 1674 E 179 244/13

Subsidy Assessments in 1667 Chilterns Hundreds. Public Record Office. E 179 80/338

PRINTED SOURCES

Manton and Hollis *Trade Tokens of Buckinghamshire issued in the seventeenth century* (1933)

William le Hardy (editor) *Buckinghamshire Sessions Records* (1933)

Quaker Minute Book for the Upperside of Bucks. Bucks Record Society. *Ship Money Papers* Bucks Record Society.

Arnold H. J. Baines *The Signatories of the Orthodox Confession of 1679* (1960) Church Book of Amersham (records of the Baptist Church at Amersham).

Numismatic Circular, April 1947 issued by Spink and Son Ltd.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

I am most grateful to Mr. E. J. Davis of the County Record Office and Mr. C. N. Gowing of the County Museum, Aylesbury for their continued help and advice. I should also like to thank Mr. John Bennell for his help and encouragement, Mr. G. Hill for taking the photographs and Mr. Arnold Baines for providing some extremely helpful notes.