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Grants and Leases of Lands in King Street, Bristol

by E. Ralph
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next building is St. Nicholas' almshouse, which completes the street on this side as far as its intersection with Queen Charlotte street, and to which reference has already been made. A room on the first floor of the almshouse, over the entrance, has an interesting barrel vaulted and enriched plaster ceiling. The remainder of the street east of Queen Charlotte street has two houses of some interest.

King street has an irregular outline and is much wider at the middle than at the ends. It still retains a cobble paved roadway.

In the reproduction of Mr Meredith's drawing it has been necessary to omit a small portion of the east end of the north side, and of the west end of the south side.

REFERENCES

- Trans. Bristol and Gloucestershire Arch. Society*, vol. 29 ;
 Latimer, *Annals of Bristol*, 17th cent. ;
 Stone, *Bristol as it Was and as it Is* (several illustrations) ;
 Dening, *18th Century Architecture of Bristol* ;
 Latimer, *History of the Merchant Venturers' Society* ;
Theatre Royal, Bristol, Preservation Fund pamphlet.

GRANTS AND LEASES OF LANDS IN KING STREET, BRISTOL*

by MISS E. RALPH, *City Archivist*

MERCHANTS' HALL AND ALMSHOUSE

14 *March* 1493

Corpn. granted to the Society of Merchants a piece of land in the Marsh adjoining a tower in the Town Wall [site of old City Library] 203 foot in length and 60 foot in breadth together with part of Law Ditch. Paying 12 pence yearly.

4 *April* 1650

Corporation granted to Thomas Wickham, carpenter, in consideration of the sum of £10 rent paid quarterly,

* Extracted from the Bristol Corporation bargain books.

all that piece of void ground on the North side of the Marsh, from the West of the tower on the Wall, towards the West close by the said wall, unto a new house, near the library, wherein Robert Vickris, merchant, now dwelleth, together with 40 foot in breadth from the wall to the highway and in length 275 foot. And at his cost to erect six dwelling houses or more within 10 years next ensuing, provided that none of them are converted into Smith's shops, salt houses, soap houses, tanner houses, or victuallers or any other noisome trades, and shall make a causeway 4 foot in breadth before his buildings, with other usual covenants. [Bargain Book 43, fo. 57.]

7 April 1652

Daniel Adams one lodge over the Gate also one garden adjoining to the Merchants' Almshouse and also a piece of void ground between his workhouse aforesaid and the Back Street Gate. £3.

28 September 1660

Corpn. to Alexander James all that one plot of void ground situate at the Marsh Gate next to a certain Smith's shop now in the holding of one Thomas White, Blacksmith as under tenant to the said Alexander James containing fourteen foot in breadth in the clear from the corner of the said shop towards a place called the graveing place and as many foot in length from the said forepart backwards to the River as the other house he now holdeth there doth extend, paying 4 shillings yearly. Within the one year to build a messuage.

ST. NICHOLAS ALMSHOUSE

28 September 1652

Conveyance in fee farm from Corpn. to Feoffees of St. Nicholas of a piece of void ground in the Marsh under the town Wall, situate and being between the way leading out of the Marsh into Back Street and the new buildings

of Thomas Wickham, carpenter under the town wall (that is to say), one foot in length from the splay of Back Street Gate along under the said town wall to the new buildings of the said Thomas Wickham, from thence by the said buildings to the outer corner of them towards the Marsh and from that outer corner 100 foot in length upon a skew towards Back Street Gate, home again to the town wall where it began leaving one foot in length from the splay of Back Street Gate. Paying yearly 6s 8d.

In the space of five years now ensuing to erect build or set up a convenient messuage, which shall contain several romethes and chambers for the inhabitation of poor people to be there in placed and maintained by the vestrymen and inhabitants of the said parish for the time being.

The said tenements and premises from time to time shall maintain and keep in all necessary reparations and in commemoration of the gift of the Corpn. shall erect or set up the armes of the City of Bristol fairly engraven over the door of the said Almshouse.

UNIDENTIFIED PLOTS ON THE NORTH SIDE

6 October 1658, JOHN BUMPSTEAD

Then agreed with John Bumpstead that for and in consideration of the sum of five pounds in hand paid there shall be a lease granted to him for three score years of a plot of ground containing as followeth (that is to say—) from the quine [quoin] end of his new house situate at the Marsh Gate containing in length ten foot and a half from the said quine end and from the end of the said ten foot and a half one yard forth from the partition of deale bord now here standing, and towards the Marsh to be even with Mr Bumpstead's corner which is 22 inches from the outside of the said wall and from the quine end to the quine end over against it one and twenty foot : under covenant usuall. [Bargain Book 44. fo. 85.]

21 *February* 1658, RICHARD DEANE

Then agreed with Mr Deane, merchant, that in consideration of the yearly rent of five shillings paialbe quarterly he shall have an estate by lease of and in fower foot in breadth of all that part of the towne wall situate at the Marsh within the said citty at the back part of a tenement of his the said Richard Deane now in the possession of Anthony Smith cooper, and bounded on the West end thereof with a crosse partable wall neere to the terret belonging to Ald. Vickris, and on the East end with the garden wall of Mr Thomas Easton, and containing in length seventy foot or thereabouts be the same more or lesse, the whole breadth of this wall being six foot or thereabouts, the two foot of the outward part of the same wall next the Marsh being formerly granted unto the Citty tenants on the Marsh side—to build chimnies upon and by building of tenements to rayse as high as they shall be raise, and whereon Thomas Wickham has in pursuance thereof built severall chimnies already, To hold the same from the xxvth of March next for 99 years if three lives (to be named within one moneth) shall soe long live, under covenant usuall. [Bargain Book 44. fo. 89].

20 *July* 1660, ALEX. JAMES

Agreed with Mr Alderman Alexander James that he shall have an estate in a plott or parcell of wast ground at ye Marsh gate next the Smith's shop in the possession of one Thomas White containing fowerteene foote in breadth in the cleere from the corner of the Smith's shop towards the graveing place and as many foot in length from the said forepart backwards to the river as the other house he now holdeth there doth extend, To hold the same in fee farme forever at fower shillings rent, from Michaelmas next. The deed to containe a covenant for the rent and a house of distress if the rent shall happen to be in arrear, And he to build a house of office on part of

the premises for publique use according to a former contract. [Bargain Book 44. fo. 108].

28 *March* 1663, JOHN WALKER

It is this day agreed by and between the Surveyors of the Citty lands and John Walker, Blacksmith, that in consideration of the yearly rent of eighteen pence per foote there shall be a lease granted him of all that peece and parcell of void ground lying in the Marsh adjoining to the Sawpitt there and lyes in the middleway between Sir Humphrey Hook's houses and the house of Mr Elbridge now in the possession of Mr Moone, extending North and South in the breadth thereof and East and West in length towards the Wharf where the wood is landed and contains in length thirty foote. To hold to him for 99 years if three such lives as shall be named by him on sealing or any of them soe long live, Att the rent of thirty shillings. A Covenant to build a convenient tenement or dwelling house thereon in the space of four years two story and a half high with the shop next to the water, and other covenant usuall to containe in the front only twenty foote, the rent to commence the 24th June 1664. [Bargain Book 44. fo. 137].

PLOTS ON THE SOUTH SIDE

4 *March* 1663, FRANCIS BAYLY

Then agreed with Francis Bayly, shipwright that for and in consideration of a rent of four pounds eleven shillings and six pence there shall be a lease granted him of a plott of ground in the Marsh containing in breadth in the front thereof sixty and one foot and in the length backwards thereof fourscore foot betweene a plott of ground lett to Capn. Willet on the East part thereof and a plott of ground lett to Stephen Watts on the West part thereof, To hold from the five and twentieth day of March next ensueing for fourscore and nineteen years if five lives to be named at sealing shall soe long live—and

he be covenant to build upon the premises in the front thereof three sufficient messuages or tenements, fitt and convenient for tenants to live therein containing in height three storyes besides the roof within three years next coming and under covenants usual. [Bargain Book 45. fo. 5].

The following leases, all dated 4 *March* 1663, are similar in wording :—

Michael Deyos, merchant, granted a plot of ground, in breadth in the front 82 ft. and in length backwards 80 ft. for £4 2s to hold for 99 years, etc.

Mathew Stephens, merchant, granted a plot of ground in breadth, in the front 83 ft. and in length backwards 80 ft. for £6 4s.

Christopher Taylor, cooper, granted a plot of ground in the front breadth 44 ft. and in length backwards 80 ft. for £3 6s. 6*d.*

Daniel Adams, merchant, granted a plot of ground in breadth in the front 22 ft. and in length backwards 80 ft. for £1 13s.

Thomas Weare, ropemaker, granted a plot of ground in breadth in the front 20 ft. and in length backwards 80 ft. for £1 10s.

Alexander James, esq., granted a plot of ground in breadth in the front 20 ft. and in length backwards 80 ft. for £1 10s.

John Bradway, sheriff, granted a plot of ground in breadth in the front 22 ft. and in length backwards 80 ft. for £1 13s.

William Willet, merchant, granted a plot of ground in breadth in the front thereof 60 ft. and in length backwards 80 ft. for £4 10s.

William Baldwin, granted a plot of ground in breadth in the front 21 ft. and in the length backwards 80 ft. for £1 10s.

Richard Hart, merchant, granted a plot of ground in breadth in the front 25 ft. and in length backwards 80 ft. for £1 17s.

Sarah Bumpstead granted a plot of ground in breadth in the front 40 ft. and in length backwards 80 ft. for £3.

Robert Vickris, merchant, granted a plot of ground in breadth in the front 40 ft. and in length backwards 80 ft. for £3.

Robert Vickris, merchant, granted a plot of ground in breadth in the front 20 ft. and in length backwards 80 ft. for £1 10s.

John Peterson the younger granted a plot of ground in breadth in the front 25 ft. and in length backwards 80 ft. for £1 17s 6d.

George Morrice, mariner, granted a plot of ground in breadth in the front 25 ft. and in length backwards 80 ft. for £1 17s 6d.

Stephen Watts, merchant, granted a plot of ground in breadth in the front $22\frac{1}{2}$ ft. and in length backwards 80 ft. for £1 13s 9d.

Gabriel Deane, merchant, granted a plot of ground in breadth in the front $22\frac{1}{2}$ ft. and in length backwards 80 ft. for £1 13s 9d.

12 July 1665, JOHN PETERSON

John Peterson the elder granted a plot of ground in breadth in the front 43 ft. and in length backwards 80 ft. for £3 4s 6d.