

**THE RECORD SOCIETY FOR THE PUBLICATION
OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS RELATING TO
LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE, VOL.
LIII. MARRIAGE LICENCES GRANTED WITHIN
THE ARCHDEACONRY OF CHESTER IN THE
DIOCESE OF CHESTER, VOL. I. 1606-1616**

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WM. FERGUSSON IRVINE

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Marriage Licences
GRANTED WITHIN
The Archdeaconry of Chester
IN THE
Diocese of Chester.

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1606-1616.

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WM. FERGUSSON IRVINE, F.S.A.

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PREFACE

WHEN a licence for marrying without the proclamation of banns was granted by the Bishop of Chester or those duly appointed by him for that purpose, a form, known as a Marriage Licence Bond, was filled up by the contracting parties and their surety or bondsman and deposited with the registrar. From these forms,¹ short abstracts in Latin, containing the main facts in the case, were entered into a folio volume kept by the registrar.

The following volume contains short English abstracts of the entries contained in the first of these Marriage Licence Act Books, which covers the period between the dates 18th July 1606 and 22nd March 1616.

Through the kindness of the Registrars, the transcript has been made by Mr. W. H. Price, the registrars' clerk, who has carefully collated the proof with the original manuscript.

Copy of Original Bond.

Nosſint Vniſi p p'ntes nos Will'mū Birch de Manchester in Com' Lanc' haberdasher et Joh'em Doo teneri et firm' obligar' Re'do in xpo p'ri et dno dno Briano pu'a dia Cestr' E'po in Centum libris bone et legalis monet' Anglie solvend' eidem Re'do p'ri aut suo certo Atturnat' vel successoribus suis. Ad qua quidem solucōnem bene fidei faciend' obligamus nos et Vtrumq3 nfm p se pro toto et insolid' hered' Execut' et admirat' nros firm'r p p'ntes Sigiff nris Sigillat'. Dat' octavo die mens's Maij año Regni Caroli secundi Angliæ Scoc' Franc' et Hib^{niæ} Regis fidei Defensor' &c decimo tertio añoq3 dñi 1661.

The Condiçōn of this obligacōn is such that if there bee noe lawfull let or impediment but that the said William Birch and Alice Moteshed of Motron in the pish of Presbury & County of Chester and Dioces of Chester may lawfully bee married together according to the Lawes of the Church and ordinances of this realme in that behalf proyded And if the said parties have the consent of their parentē if they bee liveinge, or of their Tutors and Goūhors to the

¹ Specimens of these are here appended.

solemnizacōn of the said Marr'age And proceed therein in all things accordinge to the effect of Līes of dispensacōn to them in that behalf granted. And finally doe at all tymes hereafter save harmles the above named reſend Father his Vicar geſſal & all other his Officers and Ministers for and concerninge the grantinge the said L. es of dispensacōn Then this p'nte obligacōn to be voyd or els to remaine in force and vertue.

WILLIAM BIRCH (L.S.)

Sealed and deliued
in the p'nse of

WILL: WILSON.

Examples of Form of Original Marriage Licence Act Book.

Liber Regſarius Iſar dispensacōn' p ve'lem virum David Yale legū [worn] xpī p'ris et dñi dñi Georgij p [worn] Cestr' Epī vicariū in spualibus geſſal' Concedend' Jncipien' xvij^o die mensis Julij Anno dñi 1606.

xviiij Julij βd'.

Norton

Comiſſe fuere līe dispensacōn' Curato de Budworth p'va ad solemnizand' m'foniū inter Joh'em Norton poch' de Frodsham et Deborah Heywood poch' de Budworth βd' bannis omiſſ' salvo Jure &c. dicto Joh'e Norton βimitus iuxta Cannon' Jurat'.

Quint' die Menſis. Septem' 1611.

Lomas
Walworke

Comiſſe fuer' līe dispensacōn' Vicario de Boulton ad solemnizand' m'foniū inter Thomā Lomas et Elenā Bamfron poch' de Boulton in le moores necnon Joh'em Walworke poch' de Prestw^{ca} et Elizabeth Halliwell poch' de Boulton βd' bannis omiſſ' salvo Jure, &c. Jurat' fuit Richardus Leauer de Leau' p'va iuxta Can' p M'fūm Sandford.

xviiij^o die Augusti 1613 βd'.

Andrewe

Comiſſe fuere līe dispensacōn' Curat' de Minshull ad solemnizand' m'foniū inter Laurentiū Andrewe Jun' et Elizabeth Boulte poch' de Minshull βd' bannis omiſſ' salvo Jure, &c. Necnon ad solemnizand' m'foniū inter Will'mū Walley et Elenā Yates poch' Medij Vici bannis omiſſ' salvo Jure, &c. these lycence were p'cured by Hugh Robinsons note and hee is to enter bound and take oath vpon tuesdaye nexte viz. the xxiiijth daie of this Instant.

Walley

xvij die No. 1613.

Emap'uerunt līe dispensacōn' sup m'fonio inter Edwardum Davie et Elizabetham Johnes clandestine solemnizat' testes tunc adstan' absolut' p ve'lem virū David Yale legum do^{rem} &c.

The following particulars of the Act Books relating to Marriage Licences still remaining in the Registry at Chester will be found of interest :—

Dates of Marriage Licence Volumes in the Registry.—1606 (July 18) to 1615-16 (March 22); 1616 (April 11) to 1624 (May 17); 1624 (May 18) to 1631-2 (March 24); *Hiatus*; 1639 (March 30) to 1644 (Oct. 21). NOTE.—The entries at end of this volume, following the entry of licence John Baxter and Dorothy Brooke of 27th June 1642 and extending to 21st Oct. 1644, appear to have been very irregularly entered, and it is a question whether the volume contains the whole of the licences issued during this period (June 1642 to Oct. 1644). Probably not, unless owing to the troublesome times fewer licences were granted. *Hiatus*; 1666-7 (Jan. 9) to 1679-80 (March 24); 1680 (April 6) to 1694 (Dec. 27); 1695 (March 25) to 1700 (Aug. 31); *Hiatus*; 1719 (June) to 1726 (Oct.); 1726 (Oct.) to 1732; 1733 to 1772; 1733 to 1745; 1745 to 1762; 1755 to 1757; 1788 to 1796; *Hiatus*. *The volumes are continuous from 1838.* The volumes from 1733 to 1796 are very irregularly entered up.

The original marriage licence bonds begin in 1661.

The documents at Chester only relate to licences affecting residents within the ancient Archdeaconry of Chester, *i.e.* all Cheshire, Lancashire south of the Ribble, and the Welsh parishes in Bangor Deanery. The licences for the Archdeaconry of Richmond are at Lancaster.