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CAPTAIN THOMAS HOLME, SURVEYOR-GENERAL OF PENNSYLVANIA AND PROVINCIAL COUNCILLOR.

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Thomas Holme was born in the year 1624; although a great part of his life was spent in Ireland, there is little doubt that his birthplace was in England, most likely in Yorkshire. His parents, whose names are now unknown, appear to have been of good position and family, and Thomas Holme was styled "gentleman" by right of birth; several facts lead to the supposition that his father belonged to a younger branch of the family of Holme, of Huntington, in the County of York. Thomas Holme used an armorial seal on his official papers, corresponding with the arms of this family, which are described in Burke's General Armory as: "Argent, a chevron azure, between three chaplets gules."

The shield on Thomas Holme's seal is the same, surrounded by a bordure with ten roundels; the bordure being used to distinguish the branch of the family.

While Thomas Holme was quite a young man the Civil War between the King and the Parliament broke out; he took the side of the latter and became a captain in its army. He is said to have taken part in the Hispaniola expedition under Admiral Penn in 1654, either as one of the naval officers, who were largely taken from the army, or as an officer in the land forces under General Venables; his intimacy with the Penns and Crispins in after-years might have had its beginning here, and gives a coloring of truth to the statement. He was in Ireland in 1659, and was then a member of the Society of Friends. It is reasonably presumed that he obtained lands in Ireland during the settlement of Cromwell's soldiers there in 1655. There was a Captain Holmes (Holme?) in Sir Hardress Waller's regiment, whose company was given lands in the Barony of Shilmalier, in County Wexford, in which county Thomas Holme afterwards resided, at least temporarily. In 1656 many of the Parliamentary officers in Ireland joined the Society of Friends. The name of Thomas Holme occurs in the grants under the Acts of Settlement and Explanation passed after the Restoration.[1]

Thomas Holme became an important man among the Friends in Ireland, and travelled extensively over the central and southern parts of that country, attending meetings of the Society. In many places he encountered the opposition of the authorities to his religion, and received abuse and hard treatment from those that had formerly been his companions in arms. In 1659 a number of prominent Friends in Ireland published an address to the English Parliament, reciting their persecutions. It is entitled, "To the Parliament of England, who are in place to do Justice,

[1] The Act of Settlement was passed by the Irish Parliament in 1662, confirming most of the English settlers in the lands they had gotten in Ireland during the Commonwealth period, though it restored a few Irish to their original estates; in 1665 an act called An Act of Explanation was passed, relating to some points in the Act of Settlement. See "The Cromwellian Settlement of Ireland," by John P. Prendergast, London, 1870 (2d ed.).

and to break the Bonds of the Oppressed. A Narrative of the Cruel, and Unjust Sufferings of the People of God in the Nation of Ireland, Called Quakers. *London*, Printed for *Thomas Simmons* at the Bull and Mouth near *Aldersgate*, 1659." It is signed by Thomas Holme and fifty-two others, among them Samuel Clarridge and Robert Turner, both afterwards First Purchasers in Pennsylvania, William Edmondson, the well-known preacher, and some former officers under Cromwell, most of them sufferers mentioned in the narrative. This address tells that "*Thomas Holme* (late a Captain in the Army) *Charles Collins*, and several of the Lords people, being in a peaceable meeting at Wexford, had their meeting forcibly broken, and many of them violently haled and turned out of the Town, by order from *Edward Withers* Mayor then." "*Thomas Loe*, *Thomas Holme*, *William Blanch*, and *John Wrenn*, being in Cashell on their Journey, were apprehended by *Colo. Lehunt's* order, and brought before him, and he commanded the Sould. (violently) to turne them out of the town, and to cut their pates, three of them were not suffered to go into the town again for their horses." Thomas Phelps, of Limerick, besides other losses, "had his house broken open and rifled with a Guard of Sould. from the Governour (Col. Ingoldesby) which Guard by the same Order rifled the houses of *Richard Piercy* and *Thomas Holme*, and took away what books and papers they pleased." In Besse's "Sufferings" it is stated that in 1660 the meetings of Friends in Dublin were frequently molested; a number of persons, of whom Thomas Holme was one, were taken from them and committed to Newgate by order of Robert Dee, then mayor of the city; Samuel Clarridge and Robert Turner were also of this number. In 1661, Thomas Holme, Robert Turner, and others were taken from a meeting in Dublin and committed to Newgate, by order of Hubert Adrian, mayor.[1] In an address of Friends in Ireland to the Lord Lieutenant

[1] In 1662, Sarah Holme and others were imprisoned for visiting Friends in Wexford Prison; this might have been Thomas Holme's daughter Sarah, or possibly his wife, whose name is unknown.

and Council, in 1673 (quoted by Charles Evans, M.D., in "Friends in the 17th Century"), occurs the following: "In the county of Wexford, Thomas Holme, having about £200 due to him from one Captain Thornhill, for which judgement was obtained against him in common law, was subpœnaed into Chancery by Thornhill, where he well knew Thomas could not answer on oath; and so this Friend lost his debt." In 1672, Thomas Holme and Abraham Fuller of Ireland published "A Brief Relation of some part of the Sufferings of the True *Christians*, the People of God (called in scorn *Quakers*) in IRELAND for these last 11 years, viz. from 1660 until 1671. Collected by T. H. and A. F." In 1731 there was published a work called "A Compendious VIEW of Some Extraordinary SUFFERINGS of the People called QUAKERS both in Person and Substance, in the Kingdom of Ireland from the Year 1655 to the End of the Reign of King George the First.—In 3 parts. Dublin, Printed by and for Samuel Fuller, at the Globe, in Meath-street." Part I., according to Smith's Catalogue, "Contains the true Grounds and Reasons of their Consciencious Dissent from other Religious Denominations in Sundry Particulars," and was by Fuller and Holme; they were both deceased at the time of this publication, and it was probably the same as their work of 1672; the second part consisted of examples of sufferings, and the third was a synopsis of the number of religious prisoners. These two books are very rare. Another work partly by a Thomas Holme, presumably the same one, as he wrote on similar subjects,[1] is "The Perse-

[1] There was a Thomas Holmes of Westmoreland, who travelled in Wales in 1654 to 1657 and later, and was the first preacher of Friends' doctrines in that country. He wrote a letter from Cardiff, dated 12 mo. 27, 1654, telling about his journey, which is published in George Fox's Journal. George Fox mentions meeting him at Brecknock in 1657. He was imprisoned in 1658 in Monmouthshire, and also upwards of three months in Cardiff, and his wife, Elizabeth Holmes, coming to visit him, was imprisoned with him; she was also a preacher, and was imprisoned on other occasions. He died in Wales in 1665. Whiting's Catalogue states that Thomas Holm of Westmoreland died in Wales in the days of King Charles II. It is possible he might have written the account

cution Of them People They call Quakers, In several places in Lancashire," by Leonard Fell, William Addamson, Thomas Holme, and others, "*London*, Printed for *Giles Calvert* at the *Black-Spread-Eagle*, neer the West-end of *Pauls*, 1656."

Thomas Holme's first appearance in Pennsylvania history is on April 18, 1682, when William Penn appointed him Surveyor-General of the Province. In his commission he is styled "Captain Thomas Holme of the City of Waterford in the Kingdom of Ireland." He sailed for Pennsylvania in the "Amity," which left the Downs April 23, 1682, bringing with him his family, and also Silas Crispin (son of Captain William Crispin, who is said to have been the first Surveyor-General appointed by Penn, but died on his way to Pennsylvania in 1681) and John Claypoole, son of James Claypoole; the latter wrote from London (to his brother Norton in the country) in this month, "I have been at Gravesend with My son John, who has gone per the Amity, Richard Dimond, Master, for Pennsylvania, to be assistant to the general surveyor, whose name is Thomas Holmes, a very honest, ingenious, worthy Man."[1] His name is on the

of persecutions in Lancashire, but the signature to the part written by Holme is printed "Tho: Holme," which is the way Captain Thomas Holme wrote his name. However, there were many of the name of Holme or Holmes in Lancashire, and the author may have been neither of the above.

[1] The historians Proud, Gordon, and Clarkson say the "Amity" was one of the three ships that sailed in 1681, and that she was delayed by contrary winds and did not arrive until spring of the following year; other historians dispute this statement on the ground of her sailing in April, 1682. But the former were no doubt partially right as to the "Amity" being one of the ships that sailed in the summer of 1681 and being delayed by contrary winds; it is likely that this was the vessel in which Captain William Crispin sailed for Pennsylvania, which, when in sight of the capes of Delaware, was blown off and put into Barbadoes, where Captain Crispin died; it is quite possible that then, instead of continuing to Pennsylvania, she returned to England, carrying the news of Crispin's death, and then again sailed for Pennsylvania in April, 1682, bringing Holme, who had meanwhile been appointed Surveyor-General; and Silas Crispin, having probably been with his father and returned to England with the vessel, going out again in her.

list of First Purchasers, and he was a member of the Free Society of Traders, and one of that society's committee of twelve to reside in Pennsylvania, appointed at their meeting in London on May 29, 1682.

On his arrival in Pennsylvania, Holme and his family took up their residence at Shackamaxon, where there was a settlement of English Friends who had come out in the preceding year; at first they stayed at the house of Thomas Fairman, who in this year sent a bill of charges to William Penn, for lodging Captain Holme and his two sons and two daughters. Holme brought a letter from Penn to the Indians, which said in regard to himself, "The man which delivers this unto you, is my special ffriend, sober, wise, and loving, you may believe him." He endorsed on the back of the letter, "I read this to the Indians by Interpriter 6th mo. 1682. T. Holme."[1] He was present at the first court held by Penn at New Castle, November 2, 1682, and also at the Great Treaty at Shackamaxon.

It has been stated that Holme was appointed one of the Commissioners for Settling the Colony, in place of William Crispin, deceased; and while no commission to him, as such, is extant to prove the statement, the fact remains that he acted with the other Commissioners in forwarding the settlement.[2] Their first duty was to choose a spot where

The *London Gazette*, Monday, April 24, to Thursday, April 27, 1682, has: "*Deal, April 23.* This Morning the Ships in the *Downs*, outward bound, Sailed; among them were five bound for the *East-Indies*, and one of Pennsilvania."

[1] This letter, without the endorsement, is printed in Janney's "Life of William Penn;" there is a fac-simile in possession of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. The original was exhibited in the Penn Parlor, at the Sanitary Fair, Logan Square, Philadelphia, 1864.

[2] The instructions to these Commissioners, dated September 30, 1681 (the original is in possession of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania), have often been printed, and need not be repeated here. They were directed to William Crispin, Nathaniel Allen, and John Bezar. Their commission is dated October 25, 1681, and names a fourth Commissioner, William Haigue. They were all, except the deceased Crispin, whose place Holme took, in Pennsylvania at the time of Holme's arrival.

navigation was best and large ships might lie close to the bank, the land being at the same time high, dry, and healthy, and to lay out there ten thousand acres for the site of a great city. This proved to be a very difficult task; no place could be found answering the requirements which would bear a city of such size; the Commissioners explored the country and Holme made a survey of the west bank of the Delaware, and they chose the site at the mouth of Dock Creek. When Penn arrived in the following October[1] he changed his ideas as embodied in the instructions, and had about two square miles, or twelve hundred and eighty acres, laid out for the city, which is the original part of the present city of Philadelphia.[2]

After Penn's decision was made, Holme, as Surveyor-

[1] Samuel C. Willits, in his MS. "History of Lower Dublin Academy," puts forth the opinion that Thomas Holme thought of the region between the Pennepack and the Poquessing, where he afterwards located part of his own land, as a site for the city; for he laid out the township of Dublin to contain about ten thousand acres, and ran a centre line through it which he called Susquehanna Street. Davis, in his "History of Bucks County," mentions a tradition that Markham and the Commissioners had an idea of putting the city at Pennsbury.

[2] When the city of ten thousand acres was laid out, the Commissioners were to give every purchaser of five thousand acres a lot of one hundred acres in this town land, in accordance with the conditions and concessions to first purchasers issued by the Proprietary, July 11, 1681. When Penn changed his plan, a tract was surveyed adjoining the city proper, which was called the "liberties," and out of which the first purchasers were to have their two per cent., while in the city itself they were to have only small lots. Josiah W. Smith, in the large foot-note on land tenure in his "Laws of Pennsylvania," says, "Not a single memorial can be found of this plan, nor any record of the alteration, or any written evidence of the consent of the inhabitants to the new arrangement; but a regular series of uniform facts, upon the books of the Land-Office, establish it beyond a doubt." The method of apportioning the liberty lands and city lots is fully described in the same foot-note. Reed, in the Explanation to his map of the liberties, 1774, quotes part of a letter from Holme, stating that Penn had instructed him not to give over eighty acres in the liberties on the east side of the Schuylkill to purchasers entitled to one hundred acres. This direction Holme carried out; it was given because the lands east of Schuylkill were considered more

General, laid out the city, extending from Cedar (now South) Street to Vine Street, and from the Delaware to the Schuylkill River, and, as appears by the plan, also including three squares beyond the latter, although no city lots were assigned on the west side of the Schuylkill. The lots were then apportioned to the purchasers, being drawn before William Markham, Thomas Holme, William Haigue, and Griffith Jones 7th mo. 9, 1682, they certifying to that effect on the list of lots and owners.[1] Holme drew up a map or plan of the city, which he called "A Portraiture of the City of Philadelphia;" this was printed in London in 1683 as part of a book entitled "A | Letter | from | William Penn | Proprietary and Governour of | Pennsylvania | In America, | to the Committee | of the | Free Society of Traders | of that Province, residing in London | Containing," etc. "To which is Added, An Account of the City of | Philadelphia | Newly laid out. | Its Scituation between two Navigable Rivers, Delaware and Skulkill | with a | Portraiture or Plat-form thereof, | Wherein the purchasers lots are distinguished by certain numbers inserted, together with the Surveyor General's advertisement concerning the situation and extent thereof. Printed and sold by Andrew Sowle, at the Crooked-Billet, in Halloway-Lane, in Shoreditch, and at several stationers in London, 1683." This book contained: a letter from Penn describing the country and its inhabitants, native and foreign; Holme's plan of the city, divided into lots, which were numbered; an account of the city, being principally a list of the purchasers with the numbers of their lots on the plan; and Holme's description of the city, called "A short advertisement upon the situation and extent of the city of Philadelphia and the Ensuing platform thereof, by the Surveyor General." The plan, list of purchasers, part of Penn's letter, and the "short advertisement" were reprinted in the ap-

valuable; any purchaser who took his liberty land on the west side got his full proportion.

[1] This list is published in the Appendix to Hazard's "Annals of Pennsylvania."

pendix of John C. Lowber's "Ordinances of the Corporation of the City of Philadelphia," Philadelphia, 1812, the plan being printed from the original plate, then in possession of Dr. George Logan of Stenton. The whole book, with facsimile title-page, was reprinted (with some other matter[1]) by James Coleman, Genealogical Bookseller, Tottenham, near London, N, in 1881. Philip Ford, one of the Free Society of Traders, wrote from London, 1st mo. 21, 1684/5, to Thomas Holme in Philadelphia, "As for the map of the city, it was needful it should be printed; it will do us a kindness, as we were at a loss for want of something to show the people."

The plan, as published, did not long remain in effect. As early as 1684 all the streets west of Delaware Eleventh had been moved eastward, and the Broad Street was changed from 12th from each river to 14th from Delaware, the next street west being 8th from Schuylkill; this second plan still remains unchanged, except that several streets have been added west of Schuylkill Front Street, which was some distance back from the river. Reed, in the Explanation to his map, 1774, says (and others have followed him) that this change was made by Benjamin Eastburn, who was Surveyor-General about 1740, but more recent investigations have shown that it was made as early as 1684, while Holme was still in office.[2]

[1] Coleman's reprint of Penn's letter, the Portraiture, etc., contains an address to the Representatives of the Province, which Coleman found bound with a copy of the original, but which had nothing to do with it. The Historical Society of Pennsylvania has this copy of the address from which Coleman made his reprint.

[2] This mistake probably arose because Eastburn was the first to draw up a new plan in accordance with the change. The following letter, among the Penn Papers in possession of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, refers to the publication of Eastburn's plan:

"25 June 1755——

"Sir

"The Plan of Philadelphia sent to the Honorable the Proprietaries was taken from a Draught or Plan of the same made by Benjamin Eastburn a little before the Honorable Thomas Penn left Pennsylvania,

This change did not affect the part between Delaware Eleventh and Delaware Front Streets, which is still the same as on the Portraiture of 1683.

When the plan of the city and assignment of lots there were finished, Holme turned his attention to the surveying of the country, and made a map of the Province, which was published in London under the name of "Map of the Improved Part of the Province of Pennsilvania in America Begun by Wil: Penn Proprietary & Governor thereof *Anno* 1681." It has a subheading, "A Map of the Province of Pennsilvania, Containing the three Countyes of Chester Philadelphia & Bucks as far as yet surveyed and laid out, the divisions or distinctions made by the different coullers respect the settlements by way of townships. By Thos. Holme, Survey^r Genl." It was "Sold by Robert Green at the Rose & Crown in Budgrow, And by Iohn Thornton at the Platt in the Minories London," and dedicated by them to William Penn. This map shows, in black and white, with colored lines for township lines, the settled portion of the Province, and the lands seated, with the owner's name on each tract; the township boundaries are nearly the same as afterwards laid down by juries appointed for that purpose, though not all of them are given names on the map. Geographically, it has a very fair degree of accuracy, except in the outlying districts, though the courses of some of the creeks as given by it are erroneous. The lines of the settlers' tracts are in general correct, so far as a map of small scale covering a large extent of territory could give them. A copy of this map, on a reduced scale, and

which I understood to be done by his Honor's direction, in which there is no Notice taken either of the Publick Squares, or the Centre square as laid down in the Old Plan.

"I think I may Venture to say that the Plan that you sent is a true Copy of that made by Benj^a Eastburn and that there is Ground sufficient for all the Streets and Squares laid down in the same.

"The Measure from the West of Delaware Front street to the East side of 12th street is 4921 feet or 298 perches & 4 feet.

"*Nich^o Scull.*

"To Richard Peters Esquire——"

in plain black and white, was published by John Harris in London, date unknown.[1] Harris's map was reprinted (Philadelphia, 1876) by Samuel L. Smedley, Chief-Engineer and Surveyor of Philadelphia; Smedley called his reprint a "Facsimile of Holme's Map, copied from an original print in possession of the publisher," but it is from Harris's copy.

A fac-simile of Holme's map was published in 1846 by Lloyd P. Smith, stated to be "by an anastatic process from an original in the Philadelphia Library." Another reprint of the full-size map was made by Charles L. Warner, but it is not a fac-simile and has more color than the original.[2]

There has been a great deal of uncertainty about the date of publication of Holme's map of the Province, some writers asserting that it was published in 1684, while others argue that it was not published till much later, as it represents tracts some of which were not laid out till as late as 1725, as shown by returns of survey and patents. The

[1] The Ridgway Branch of the Philadelphia Library has a curious copy of Harris's map which at first was thought to be a separate edition, but on closer examination proved to have been constructed by its owner; it consists of Harris's map, mounted on cloth; around the sides and bottom are pasted what seem to be cuttings from an early print, resembling newspaper clippings, this reading-matter having the title, "A General Description of the Province of Pennsylvania in America," and being principally (but not entirely) copied from Penn's letter of 1683; the whole surrounded by a border of scroll-work, fruits, birds, etc. On the back is a note, "Given to me by Erskine Hazard, 1830," but not signed.

[2] Neither of the maps published by Holme give the names of the owners of "town lots in the liberty lands" given to first purchasers in addition to their city lots and country tracts. His map of the city does not include this part and his map of the Province leaves it blank. This deficiency was supplied by John Reed, who published in 1774 a map of the "city and liberties of Philadelphia compiled from Thomas Holme's surveys." The Explanation printed with it quotes Holme's "advertisement" and extracts from some of his letters. These fragments preserved by Reed, and one quoted by Dr. More, seem to be the only remains of Holme's correspondence. None of the originals of these are known to be in existence.

map is not dated, the only date on it being in the heading "Begun by Wil: Penn Proprietary & Governor thereof *Anno* 1681," which, of course, does not refer to the time of printing it. The only tenable theory, in view of the conflicting evidences of the different parts of the map, is that there were several editions, the first showing the earlier surveys only (which are the tracts nearest the city), and the subsequent editions being printed from the same plates, on which the later surveys had been added, without any alteration of the parts previously printed. It is certain that an edition was printed between the end of the year 1686 and the beginning of the year 1689, for the extract of Thomas Holme's letter of October, 1686 (printed with Dr. More's letter in 1687), ends thus: "I intend to send the Draught for a Map by the first ——" ["opportunity" probably]; and during a discussion on the bounds of Chester County, by Governor Blackwell and the Council in their meeting 1st mo. 25, 1689, the Surveyor-General's Deputy was sent for, who showed the bounds of the county on the map, and the minutes of the Council say, "'Twas observed by ye Goverr and Councill that ye mapp of The Province was the work of Thomas Holme, Surveyor Genell; that it was dedicated to ye Proprietor by ye Publisher; that many Coppys had been published in England and here in this Province." This settles the date of the first publication of the map some time in 1687 or 1688, and an advertisement in the *London Gazette* in May, 1688, evidently referring to this map, shows it to have been published by that time.[1] That the date 1684 is too early is shown by the names

[1] *London Gazette*, Monday, May 7, to Thursday, May 10, 1688:

"☞ This is to give Notice, That ſuch Maps which were made and ſold by Mr. Robert Green deceaſed, are ſold by Elizabeth Green his Daughter, at the Roſe and Crown in Budge-Row, where Perſons may be furnished with all ſorts of Maps as formerly (viz.) The Map of Canaan, Jeruſalem in two Sheets, England, Scotland and Ireland, a Map of Penſilvania, by William Pen Eſq; Alſo a new Map of London."

This undoubtedly refers to Holme's map.

attached to the tracts nearest the city (that is, the tracts earliest surveyed). Some of these were sold between 1684 and 1687, and the ownership attributed to them by the map corresponds to the latter date; one instance of this is Thomas Holme, who owned six hundred acres in Byberry, which he sold to Nicholas Rideout in 1685; on the map it bears the name of Nicholas Rideout. This first edition could not have shown the bounds of lands that were surveyed at a later date, but copies preserved at the present time contain, as stated above, tracts that were laid out later; for instance, Laetitia Penn's Manor of Mount Joy, and William Penn, Jr.'s Manor of Williamstadt, both taken up in 1704, Samuel Carpenter's great tract north of Moreland (now in Horsham), laid out in 1706, and others in the more distant parts, some of which were not surveyed before 1725, or even a few years later. Therefore these copies must be of an edition published about 1730, but from the original drawings filled in to that time, for the tracts near the city are still the same on these copies as they were earlier, notwithstanding that many of them had in the mean while been subdivided and changed owners several times.[1] The map, as a whole, represents different parts of the Province at different dates, those nearest the city as they were in 1686, the more distant as they were laid out, at intermediate periods, from that time to about 1730. Copies of the map may have been printed at any time between these two years, the original drawings remaining always unchanged, the newer surveys being added as they were made. The final edition, however, seems to be the only one that has survived; Harris's reduced copy and the Philadelphia Library copy from which Smith's fac-simile was taken both belong to it.

The Commissioners to settle the Colony were also empowered to purchase lands from the Indians, but they do not seem to have exercised this right as a body; Markham purchased land near the Neshaminy from the Indians; the deed was dated July 25, 1682, but none of the Commis-

[1] Mr. William J. Buck was the first to point out the fact that the map, as we know it, represented different dates in different parts.

sioners' names are subscribed to it. However, Thomas Holme was present at most of the Indian treaties and had an important part in some of them. He was a witness to the deed made June 23, 1683, from the Indian chiefs Essepenaike and Swanpees to William Penn for lands between the Pennepack and Neshaminy Creeks, and also one dated 4th mo. 3, 1684, from Maughoughsin to Penn. In August, 1684, the old Commissioners were superseded by new ones with more limited powers, called the Commissioners of Property;[1] Holme, however, continued to conduct purchases of land. A deed was made July 30, 1685, from the chiefs Shakhoppoh, Secane, Malibor, and Tangoras to William Penn for lands bounded on the east by two lines, both beginning at Conshohocken Hill, one running to Chester Creek and the other to Pennepack Creek, then up each creek to its source and then back from both points two days' journey into the interior; this deed was, in its own words, "sealed and delivered to Thomas Holme, President of the Council," an office he held temporarily. At a meeting of the Council, 7th mo. 22, 1685, information having been given that body by Captain Cock, of the Indians' willingness to sell all their right to the land between Upland and "Apoaquinamy" (Appoquinimink, in the lower part of New Castle County) as far backward as they had any claim, and that they proposed meeting at Widow Scallop's on the 29th instant to treat about the same, the Council ordered Captain Thomas Holme, John Symcock, and the Secretary (William Markham), or any two of them, to be at that place, with full power to treat and complete the purchase. A deed dated 8th mo. 2d, 1685, from a number of Indian sachems for

[1] At a meeting of the Provincial Council, 6th mo. (August, O.S.) 19, 1684, a commission was read empowering Thomas Lloyd, James Claypoole, and Robert Turner to sign patents and issue warrants. They were called Commissioners of Property, and replaced, to some extent, the former Commissioners to settle the Colony, though their powers were more limited, the new Commissioners having control only over the taking up of land, while the old ones had also power to purchase new lands, and, at first, a general superintendence, under the Deputy Governor, of the progress of the settlement.

land between Duck Creek and Chester Creek, was sealed and delivered to Captain Thomas Holme, Surveyor-General.[1] A pamphlet called "A Letter from Dr. More, with Passages out of several Letters from Persons of Good Credit, Relating to the State and Improvement of the Province of Pennsilvania, Published to prevent false Reports. Printed in the Year 1687" (reprinted in PENNA. MAG., Vol. IV, pp. 445–453), contains an extract of a letter of October, 1686, from Thomas Holme, in which he says, "We have made three purchases of the Indians which added unto the six former sales, they made us, will, I believe, be Land enough for Planters for this Age." He then continues on the conduct of the Indians.

[1] These deeds are printed in Vol. I. "Pennsylvania Archives."

Thomas Holme was a member of the first Assembly of the Province, which began its session at Upland, December 4, 1682, Penn presiding. He was elected to represent Philadelphia County in the Provincial Council for one term of three years, 1683, 1684, and 1685, and took a prominent part in its transactions, serving on several important committees. In the 1st mo., 1683, he was a member of a joint committee of the Council and Assembly to draw up the new Charter, or Frame of Government, which was passed and signed on 2d mo. 2d.

By letters dated 4th mo. 11th, 1683, William Penn appointed Christopher Taylor, James Harrison, Thomas Holme, and Thomas Wynne, Commissioners in his name, as Governor and Proprietary of the Province of Pennsylvania, to treat with the Governor and Council of West Jersey concerning the satisfaction he demanded of them in a letter of the same date, of which the Commissioners were bearers, for certain great wrongs and injustice done to him and his Province by some of the inhabitants of their Colony. In the letter he complains that England was filled with rumors of wars between the inhabitants of Pennsylvania and Lord Baltimore's Colony, of Lord Baltimore having claimed all the land from Upland to the Falls of Delaware, and of several having been killed in the conflict; that these rumors, being much talked of in London, discouraged many persons from purchasing land in Pennsylvania; he says that the starting of these reports had been traced to some of the inhabitants of West Jersey, and he demands satisfaction. His letter of instructions to the Commissioners bears the

same date, and directs them to demand particularly the punishment of Thomas Matthews, as the principal author of the rumors, either by fine or banishment or delivery of him to be tried in Pennsylvania. These Commissioners also had authority to settle with the Governor and Council of West Jersey about the trade on the river and the islands therein; as soon as the first business was finished they were to insist on Penn's title to the river and islands according to his grant. The West Jersey authorities sent an answer by Penn's Commissioners, dated Burlington, 4th mo. 16th, 1683, containing an explanation from Thomas Matthews, and saying they were willing to be passive in regard to the river and islands; four Commissioners of theirs (Thomas Budd, John Gosnell, Henry Stacy, and Mark Newby) also came with the answer. The explanation was not acceptable to Penn, as he informed them in another letter from Philadelphia, dated 4th mo. 20, 1683, but he appears to have gotten no further satisfaction from them.

On 4th mo. 3d, 1684, Thomas Holme, William Welch, and Thomas Lloyd were appointed a committee to look into the actions of Lord Baltimore and draw up a declaration to hinder his illegal proceedings (referring to threats of his agents to take settlers' lands from them unless they acknowledged Lord Baltimore to be their Proprietor). On 5th mo. 26th, Thomas Lloyd, Thomas Holme, and William Haigue were appointed to draw up a charter for Philadelphia to be a borough, with a Mayor and six Aldermen. About the middle of Holme's term, Penn sent a commission to the whole Council to act in his place as Governor; this was read at the meeting 6th mo. 18, 1684. In the last year of Holme's term, 1685, Thomas Lloyd, the President of the Council, was absent a large part of the time, and Holme was elected to act as President in his place, which he did at twenty-seven out of the fifty meetings held this year. Thomas Holme acted as President of the Council at the first meeting of the year, 1st mo. 30th, and those immediately following, 1st mo. 31st, 2d mo. 1st, 3d, 4th, and 6th; again, 2d mo. 25th and 28th; Lloyd presided at the

next two, 3d mo. 11th and 12th, and on the 13th and 14th the Council met as a committee of the whole, with Holme as Chairman. Holme was President at the consecutive meetings 4th mo. 11th, 13th, 18th, 19th; 5th mo. 3d, 4th, 10th, 11th, 28th, 29th; and 6th mo. 19th, Lloyd being in New York; he returned and presided at nine meetings and then again went to New York, Holme presiding on 9th mo. 5th and 6th. Holme was again President at the consecutive meetings held 11th mo. 9th, 15th, 16th, and 12th mo. 1st and 3d, 1685/6, the last being the last meeting of the year, with which Holme's term in the Council expired.

During his term in the Council, Holme was also attending to his duties as Surveyor-General, and after its expiration these duties kept increasing, because of the rapid growth of the Province; he had deputies in each county, whose returns were made to him, and the whole work of laying out the settlers' tracts, locating towns, highways, etc., was under his direction. This made the office of Surveyor-General one of the most important in the Province.[1] At first the Council did not understand whether Holme's commission applied only to the Province proper or whether it extended to the three lower counties or territories, but on 7th mo. 10th, 1684, it decided that the management of the Surveyor-General's office of New Castle County should be put into the hands of Thomas Holme, with Thomas Pearson as his deputy. On October 14, 1688, Penn issued a new commission to Holme to be Surveyor-General of the Province of Pennsylvania and the annexed counties of New Castle, Kent, and Sussex, and the island and territories thereunto belonging, for life, his office in Philadelphia to be an office of record. Both Penn and Holme were in England at this time.

At the meeting of the Council held 6th mo. 2, 1686, Thomas Holme was one of those recommended for appointment as provincial judges, but the commission was not

[1] By the Constitution of 1873 the office of Surveyor-General was abolished and its duties transferred to the Department of Internal Affairs, the transfer going into effect May 4, 1875.

issued to him. He continued to be selected when it was necessary to treat with the Indians. At the same meeting, complaint being made to the Council of violence done Nicholas Scull and his family by Indians forcibly entering his house and carrying away his goods (further information being given that Nicholas Scull had, contrary to the law, sold them liquor, "whereby they were much Disordered, to y' notorious Disturbance of the neighboring Settlements"), the Council ordered Captain Thomas Holme, assisted by Captain Lace Cock, Zachariah Whitpaine, and such others as Captain Holme should approve, to inquire into the truth of the report, and if the Indians were guilty to require them to make speedy satisfaction, leaving the manner of treating the Indians to the discretion of Captain Holme. In 1694 he was appointed one of the Commissioners of Property, which position he held until his death in the following year.

As already mentioned, when Thomas Holme first arrived in Pennsylvania, he and his family, consisting of two sons and two daughters, lived at Shackamaxon. After the city was laid out in 1682, he built a house on his lot at the northwest corner of Front and Mulberry (now Arch) Streets, and lived there until 1688. Mulberry Street was first called Holme Street, for Thomas Holme, but the name was changed to Mulberry by Penn. On a part of this lot farther up Front Street, sold by Holme to the trustees appointed by the Friends' Meeting, the Bank Meeting-House was built in 1685; Thomas Holme was one of those appointed by the meeting, 11th mo. 9, 1683/4, to select the site for the meeting-house, the others being John Songhurst, Thomas Wynne, and Griffith Owen. This was a fine situation for a residence; the lot was a wide one, and as there were no buildings between Holme's house and the meeting-house, nor on the east side of Front Street, it commanded an uninterrupted view of the river. In 1688, Thomas Holme went to England; he must have gone over in September, for on the 4th of that month he signed a deed in Philadelphia, while his new commission as Surveyor-General, dated October 14, 1688, speaks of him as being then abroad. For a short time before he left he was living on his plantation of Well-Spring, in Dublin Township, Philadelphia County; and on his return, probably about the end of 1689, he again resided there. About October, 1690, he again went to England; before leaving he gave letters of attorney to his son-in-law Silas Crispin and three others, and in several deeds made by them in 1691

he is spoken of as being in London. This time he stayed until 1694, and when he came back, went to live at Well-Spring, continuing there till his death, which occurred in March or April, 1695.

In his will, dated 12th mo. 10, 1694 (O.S.), he styles himself "of Dublin township in Philadelphia County, aged full seventie years;" it was admitted to probate April 8, 1695. To his daughter Eleanor Moss he gave power to dispose, at her decease, of "the one moiety of the £150 in the hands of Patrick Robinson," in compensation for her resignation to him of all her right in Well-Spring Plantation, provided that she gave the said moiety to one of her sister Hester Crispin's children. To the children of Richard Holcomb, by his daughter Sarah, thirty pounds, to be paid out of his one thousand acres beyond Hilltown, in Philadelphia County, when sold. To his niece Susannah James ten pounds for herself and children. To his granddaughter Sarah Crispin five hundred acres called Pyne-Spring Plantation, in the upper Dublin Township (not the present Upper Dublin [1]), Philadelphia County, to be enjoyed and possessed by her after the death of her parents Silas and Hester Crispin. To his granddaughters Rebecca and Marie Crispin one thousand acres "joining on this side of Hilltown," to be divided between them, his executor having power to convert it into money if he thought best. To his grandsons William and Thomas Crispin, when of age, fifty pounds apiece; and to his granddaughters Eleanor and Esther Crispin twenty pounds each, when of age or at marriage. To his kinsman John Fletcher, who came over with him

[1] On Holme's map there are two townships indicated in the area that was known as Dublin Township; the lower one was entirely included in what was afterwards Lower Dublin Township, while the upper was about half in the latter and half in what was afterwards Abington; they were generally known together as Dublin Township, though the upper one was sometimes called "the upper Dublin Township." The rest of the present Abington was then called Hilltown; the line between it and the present Upper Dublin was the same on Holme's map as it is now, and the latter was called Upper Dublin even in Holme's time. Pyne-Spring Plantation was in what is now Abington.

from England, two hundred acres, worth twenty pounds. To John Osborne, who came over with him, land to the value of ten pounds, when he had served out his time. He divided his household furniture, plate, etc., between his daughters Eleanor and Esther (Hester), and to Eleanor gave a colt that was at Well-Spring. He left ten pounds "for some charitable purpose in Dublin township, either a school or putting out the child of some honest man that was poor, to a trade or some honest way of livelihood." Silas Crispin was appointed executor, with Patrick Robinson to advise him.

Before his death, Thomas Holme laid out an acre of land on the northeast side of his Susquehanna road, in the five-hundred-acre tract adjoining Well-Spring on the north and west, for a burying-ground for himself and family. Here he was buried and his descendants in the Crispin line for several generations; it has long been known as the Old Crispin Graveyard. The first burial there is said to have been of an assistant surveyor who came with Holme from England. This plot always remained in possession of the Crispin family, all deeds to surrounding lands expressly stipulating that it was excepted from the sale. Thomas Holme's grave, northeast of the centre, was marked only by a large, round, unlettered stone, but each generation of the Crispins pointed it out to the succeeding one; nearly all the other graves in the plot had at least initials on the stones. In November, 1863, the trustees of the Lower Dublin Academy (which was founded on Thomas Holme's bequest for school purposes) appointed three of their number—Samuel C. Willits, Charles W. Harrison, and Benjamin Crispin—a committee to erect a monument over Thomas Holme's grave. They replaced the old stone by a marble shaft about eight feet high. The ground is still reserved, though the last burial there was in 1863.

Thomas Holme's bequest of ten pounds for school or other charity was not carried out by his executor; but in 1723, when part of Well-Spring Plantation was divided among the heirs of Esther Crispin, a piece of ground,

roughly laid off for an acre and a half (a quarter acre from the share of each of the children), was set aside for a school-house lot in lieu of the money; a log school-house was built there about that time. In 1793 a charter was granted to the corporation known as "The Trustees of the Lower Dublin Academy," who assumed the direction of the school. In 1801 they built the present stone building; the old log structure is now part of the janitor's residence. In 1842 the trustees leased the school-house to the Public School Directory of Philadelphia.[1] The income from this lease accumulated in the hands of the trustees, as they had no expenses, and in 1880 they devoted the surplus to founding and maintaining "The Thomas Holme Free Library of Holmesburg."

Thomas Holme married before he came to Pennsylvania, but his wife's name is not known; she probably died before 1682, as she did not come to America with her husband. Their children were:

SARAH HOLME, married Richard Holcombe; neither she nor her husband are known to have come to Pennsylvania; they had children, mentioned in her father's will, but their names are not given.

MICHAEL (?) HOLME, died without issue, before his father. (Michael Holme was a witness to the will of Joseph Moss, 1687.)

TRYALL (?) HOLME, died without issue, before his father. On Thomas Holme's map the name of Tryall Holme is on the tract called Pyne-Spring Plantation. Tryall Holme was a witness to a deed of June 7, 1684, from Richard Mettamicont to William Penn, for lands on both sides of Pennepack Creek; also to the deed of July 30, 1685, for lands between the Chester and Pennepack Creeks; and to a deed of 9th mo. 3, 1685, from Thomas Holme to

[1] Samuel C. Willits, one of the trustees, who lived on the estate of "Longford," wrote a history of the Lower Dublin Academy, which the trustees expect to publish. Rev. S. F. Hotchkin, in his "Bristol Pike," has an account of the old graveyard and the academy, taken from Willits's manuscript.

Nicholas More, for eighty acres of liberty land on Cohocksink Creek. (Thomas Holme brought two sons to Pennsylvania, who both died, without issue, before him; there is very good reason to suppose that their Christian names were as above.)

ELEANOR HOLME, came to Pennsylvania with her father. On Holme's map her name is on the part of Well-Spring southwest of the Pennepack; by an agreement made January 14, 1694/5, she surrendered to her father all her right in that plantation, he putting one hundred and fifty pounds at interest for her, in the hands of Patrick Robinson; he mentions this sum in his will. Eleanor married, first, Joseph Moss, by whom she had no issue. By his will, dated 7th mo. 23, 1687, Joseph Moss, "now of Well-Spring," left all his estate and anything that might be due him from any one in Europe or America to his wife Eleanor, whom he named his executrix; the witnesses were Michael Holme and Thomas Holme. She married, second, Joseph Smallwood, and had one daughter, Sarah.[1] They had a dispute with Silas Crispin as to the division of Thomas Holme's estate; after an arbitration, Crispin had one thousand acres of Holme's unsurveyed lands laid off near Germantown, and conveyed it to them; they sold it to John Cadwalader, of Philadelphia.

ESTHER HOLME (usually written Hester) came to Pennsylvania with her father. She married, 1683, Silas Crispin, son of Captain William Crispin, formerly of the English

[1] Sarah, only child of Joseph and Eleanor Smallwood, married, first, John Thomas, of Philadelphia County, at Christ Church, Philadelphia, February 8, 1720; she married, second, —— Winthrop Westcomb, and went to Baltimore County, Maryland, where he probably lived previously; after his death she lived in Passyunk Township, Philadelphia County, probably with her cousin Sarah Hannis (granddaughter of Esther Crispin). While living there, on January 14, 1745/6, she executed a release, as only child and heiress of Eleanor (Holme) Smallwood, to the heirs of her aunt Esther (Holme) Crispin of all her right to any part of Thomas Holme's estate undevised by his will, especially Well-Spring Plantation. She is not known to have had any children by either husband.

navy, and one of the Proprietary's Commissioners for settling the colony in Pennsylvania. She died April 17, 1696, and her husband May 31, 1711. They lived on Silas Crispin's plantation in Dublin Township, northeast of the Pennepack Creek. They had eight children, six of whom survived their parents, and inherited the greater part of Well-Spring. Silas Crispin was executor of Thomas Holme's will. After Esther's death he married Mary, widow of Thomas Shinn and daughter of Richard Stockton, of Burlington, West New Jersey, by whom he had several children.

In March, 1681, Holme bought from William Penn five thousand acres of land in Pennsylvania. In 1686 he bought the same amount from Samuel Clarridge, who was an original purchaser from Penn; and in 1688 he bought one thousand acres from Richard Crossley, also a first purchaser. He thus had a right of eleven thousand acres of land in the Province. By the terms Penn made with the first purchasers he was entitled to have two per cent. of this, or two hundred and twenty acres, in the "liberty lands" adjoining the city, and to have four whole lots and two one-fifth lots in the city. A good deal of this remained untaken up at his death, but his executor Silas Crispin obtained warrants for most of the balance.

The most important of his tracts was his plantation called Well-Spring, containing one thousand six hundred and forty-six acres, in Dublin Township, Philadelphia County. This tract extended entirely across the lower part of the township, from Oxford Township to Moreland; it was divided into two parts by the centre line of Dublin Township, laid out by Holme, and called by him Susquehanna Street or Road.[1] The southwest portion, which was much the larger, Holme intended for his daughter Eleanor,

[1] This road was never opened through Dublin Township, though it is mentioned in the deeds to lands adjoining it, being a very convenient boundary, although purely imaginary; all the original tracts laid out in this township ran from this line to the outer boundaries, about a mile and a half distant on either side. In Abington and Upper Dublin Townships a road was opened very early, on the continuation of this line, which is still in use.

and on his map it bears her name; but she afterwards released her right in it to her father; the northeast or smaller portion bears Holme's own name on the map. The Pennepack Creek ran through the larger part, and that part of it lying southwest of the creek covered the site of Holmesburg. The village was not named for Thomas Holme, but for the family of John Holme, not known to be related to Thomas, into whose possession this part of the land passed at a later date. The school-house lot laid off in 1723 was situated on the lower boundary of the smaller portion of Well-Spring. Adjoining this smaller portion on the northwest, and separated from the larger part of the plantation only by the imaginary road, was a tract of five hundred acres belonging to Holme, which was not considered part of Well-Spring, although it lay in an angle formed by the two parts of the latter. On Holme's map it is marked "Samuel Clarridge," and was laid out as part of his purchase, transferred to Holme. The burying-ground was located on this tract, on the line of Susquehanna Road.

Holme had a tract of one thousand acres in Hilltown Township, Philadelphia County (now Abington Township, Montgomery County), lying between the road and Moreland; on his map it bears the names of Trial Holme and Daniel Heaphy, the latter having bought the lower half from Holme. The upper half is mentioned in Holme's will as Pyne-Spring Plantation. He also had a tract of two thousand five hundred acres partly in Hilltown and partly in Upper Dublin Township, which the map gives as Clarridge's; this is mentioned in his will, part of it being left to the children of his daughter Sarah, and to his grandchildren Rebecca and Marie Crispin. He also had one thousand acres farther out on the upper boundary of Upper Dublin Township, marked "Richards & Arbury" on the map, which was probably a misprint for "Richard Crossley," in whose name it was taken up.

Of his smaller tracts, one was his plantation of six hundred acres in Byberry, called Shaftsburie Plantation, which he sold in 1685 to Nicholas Rideout; it had a large frontage

on Poquessing Creek; on the map it bears Rideout's name. Another was a triangular piece of land of one hundred and twenty acres in Oxford Township, adjoining the southwest part of Well-Spring. Another was taken up for six hundred and sixty acres in Bristol Township, Bucks County, on Neshaminy Creek, running back along the line of Middletown Township; a re-survey showed this to contain only five hundred and seventy-four acres. Another was five hundred acres on the Schuylkill River, on the line of Limerick Creek; this was taken up by Holme's executor to satisfy certain gifts he had made to his servants. He also had two hundred and seventy-five acres in Newtown Township, Chester County, thirty acres of which were in the townstead; and two hundred and fifty acres in Darby Township, in the same county.

Holme's liberty lands amounted to one hundred and eighty-eight acres, instead of the two hundred and twenty he was entitled to; this was due partly to a change in Penn's concessions to settlers and partly to Holme's selling and buying rights before the land was laid out. He had one nearly triangular tract of eighty acres on Cohocksink Creek, about a mile and a quarter up from its mouth, and fronting on the creek about half a mile; it was situated in the region now between Oxford and Dauphin Streets and Eighth and Thirteenth Streets. Another of eight acres was on Wingohocking Creek, about half a mile above its junction with Frankford Creek; it was opposite the present Greenmount Cemetery. Holme also had twenty-eight acres adjoining this last tract, but not on the creek. These three tracts are shown on Reed's map of the liberties.

Holme's principal city lot was the one his residence stood on, at the corner of Front and Mulberry Streets. It ran from Front four hundred and twenty-six feet along Mulberry to Second Street, and one hundred and two feet on Front and Second. This lot carried with it a wharf property on the east side of Front Street.[1] He had another lot

[1] The patent for the land on the river side called for one hundred and two feet on the east side of Front Street, and gave a privilege of extend-

on the northwest corner of Sixth and High Streets, one hundred and thirty-two feet on High and three hundred and six feet on Sixth Street.

In right of his purchase from Crossley, he had two one-fifth lots; one of these was on the northeast corner of Front and Chestnut Streets, the whole lot being No. 20 on the plan. Holme evidently got the best choice in the partition among the five owners, as he secured the corner; his part had twenty feet on Front Street, and ran back three hundred and ninety-six feet along Chestnut to Second Street. This also carried with it a water front across Front Street. The other one-fifth lot was on High Street, beginning one hundred and forty-four and one-half feet west of Fifth; it had twenty-six feet on High Street and ran back three hundred and six feet. The two whole lots belonging to Holme in right of Samuel Clarridge's purchase were originally laid out on the Schuylkill end of the city. As this part of the plan was changed soon after it was made, these could not have remained the same; it is probable that Holme never took them up.

ing two hundred and fifty feet into the Delaware River. It specified that Holme was to leave a public cartway thirty feet wide along the bank; this is no doubt where the present Water Street runs. Holme was also to leave out a proportional part of the width of his bank lot, so that in the centre between Mulberry and Sassafras (Race) Streets there might be made a public stair down from the east side of Front Street.