

PENNSYLVANIA

A HISTORY

Editor-in- Chief

GEORGE P. DONEHOO

*Former Secretary of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission
and State Librarian; Collaborator of the Hand-
book of American Indians, Etc.*

With Introduction by

THOMAS L. MONTGOMERY

*Librarian of the Historical Society
of Pennsylvania*

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(The Holmes Line).

In Lancaster, England, the records of the name, more often spelled Hulme, are ancient and bear testimony to a distinguished ancestry. It is said that an augmentation of the coat-armor, a chaplet gules on a canton argent, was granted by Edward the Black Prince to Sir William de Hulme, of Lancashire, for his gallant service in France. Many branches of the family bear this augmentation on arms identical with, or closely similar to, the ancient coat of the Lancashire house. The latter is blazoned:

Arms—Barry of eight, or and azure, on a canton argent a chaplet gules.

Robert Hulme was of Reddish, in Manchester parish, Lancashire, where William Hulme held land in 1202, and which was the home of the family down through the centuries. Close by are other places long connected with Hulme (Holmes) history, as Heaton Norris, Withington, and Denton, Didsbury, Stockport, Gorton and Manchester. The last, and especially its ancient church, now Manchester Cathedral, which contained two chapels founded by the Hulme family, is often mentioned

in ancestral chronicles, and in the city of Manchester to-day lies much of the now exceedingly valuable property of the famous Hulme Exhibitions. The latter is the name of a fund bequeathed to Brasenose College, Oxford University, for free post-graduate scholarships, by William Hulme, who died in 1691, and was probably a near relative of Obadiah Holmes, since he came of the branch of the family seated at Hulme Hall, in Reddish. Hulme Hall, now more often known as Broadstone Hall, and at present a farm house, should not be confused with another Hulme Hall, Hulme Manor, also close to Manchester. This last-named mansion was demolished about 1840. Its gardens were long celebrated for their beauty and their archaeological interest, many Roman remains having been there unearthed. Reddish Hall, in Reddish, a beautiful old timbered house, stood until about 1780. There was relationship by marriage in very early times between the families of Hulme and Reddish, and it is possible that the name of Reddish was once borne by the Hulme ancestors.

Robert Hulme, of Reddish, was born early in the sixteenth century, and died in January, 1605, being buried on the fourteenth of that month at Stockport, close by Reddish. In the record of his burial he was described as "Ould Robert Holme of Redich." His wife, Alice, whose maiden name is unknown, was buried in the present Manchester Cathedral, September 7, 1610, as "Alyce, wydow of Robte Hulme of Reddiche."

There were several branches of this family early in New England's colonization.