



Extracts from the Chapter minutes from 1701 onwards
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I have mentioned spelling before; originally I thought there were no rules but I can now see that often there were rules, but not our sophisticated ones. Originally there were no lower case letters (aka Minuscule) - those most used by printers and therefore stored in the most convenient (lower) place. Upper case (aka Majuscule) letters were then used for the initial letter of **all** nouns whereas we use them just to start a sentence and for 'proper nouns'.

The clergy could be obsequious to a degree; so in April 1840: *Addresses of congratulation on the occasion of the marriage of her Majesty Queen Victoria be presented under seal from the Chapter to her Majesty the Queen, His Royal Highness Prince Albert of Saxe Coburg and Gotha and Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent.* I take it that the last named is Victoria's much despised mother.

An entry for April 1841 refers to *proper protection to be placed near the Plumbers melting fire.* I expect that this was worry of the risk to the building rather than a Health & Safety issue. The plumbers were housed in wooden sheds on the site of the present refectory.

Choristers, who could be very young - *Edward Osmond 9 and Joseph James 8* (January 1846), were apprentice to a trade when their voices broke. This included paying their premium (my father paid mine). However in February 1851 it was minuted that Every chorister will pay £5 per year which will go towards his premium if he is of good character. If he is a 'bad lot' the money goes to the school! The apprenticeships covered the usual coach-maker, apothecary, grocer, harness maker, printer and bookbinder. Just occasionally though a pupil with potential was encouraged into a musical career: December 1836: Apprenticed to A J Corfe Organist and Professor of Music, January 1841: Apprenticed to the Music Master at Winchester, March 1851: Apprenticed to James Elliott to learn Music and Harmony. One late chorister asked for a donation to help him study in France but there was no chance of the Chapter sponsoring a pupil to a Catholic institution.

An interesting lease appears in February that year, in the name of *Henry Thynne Lascelles.* He had the potential to go far: Thynne being the family name of the Marquis of Bath and Lascelles that of the Earls of Harewood!

There are two strange events which appear every year. The first is the election of additional job titles. In September 1741 for example the Dean added *Keeper of the Muniments*, Dr Wynne and Canon Pyle added *Masters of the Fabrick* (there were always

two) and Canon Wishar added *Communar*. Canon Wishar was challenged as he was already a Prebendary at Winchester Cathedral but this was allowed by the Bishop who thought only that he might require a Sub-Communar to do the actual work!!!!
Communar comes from the Italian *Keeper of the Common Fund*.

The second election was that of options. So in June 1826 the Dean chose the *Churchyard*, The Treasurer the *Rack Close*, The Archdeacon the *Close near Leydenhall*, Canon Ogle the *Close Marsh* and Canon McDonald The *Close near Choristers House*. I can't help thinking that both these events were to provide the Dean and Residential Canons with additional income. To back this up, in October 1850 we find this entry: Profit from the Cathedral churchyard to go to the Fabric but £11 to the Dean for his option. So it **would** appear to be another form of income. At the other end of the scale, the Reverend George Radcliffe, Rector of St. Edmunds had to try and support some 3,000 poor (February 1842). He asked if he could be given an unwanted house in the Close but was turned down as it *formed part of the corporate possessions of the Chapter*.

The Cathedral's Trinity Chapel window seems to have changed a number of times. In October 1842: *Anonymous donation of £100 [say £12,500 today] to be appropriated towards the expense of painted glass for an eastern window*. For some reason, the stained glass was always referred to as painted. In March 1819 for example the Master of the Fabric was asked to *direct a plan to be formed for the great west window in order that a new one be made from the painted glass of the different windows of the Church*.

Minute of November 1850: *The Percy Society have had a very kind offer from Mr Crofton Croker to undertake the editorial of Browne's works and I am requested by the Council to ask whether you would kindly present the valuable copy of the **Brittania's Pastorals** be considered to the care of that gentleman while he is preparing the edition - I have taken the greatest care of the volume and have kept it in a fire-proof safe. J.D.Halliwell. According to Wikipedia: The Percy Society was a British text publication society. It was founded in 1840 and collapsed in 1852. William Browne (c. 1590 – c. 1645) was an English pastoral poet, born at Tavistock. His chief works were the long poem **Britannia's Pastorals** (1613), and a contribution to *The Shepherd's Pipe* (1614). To him is due the epitaph for the dowager **Countess of Pembroke**. I love the local connection.*

In February 1851 the *premises in the Close granted to Mr Arney requesting him to set out the property by **Metes and Bounds***. According to Barron's Dictionary of Legal Terms this is to define the property in relation to landmarks and adjoining property.