



A Salisbury-Cathedral-centric view of History.

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A PEEK THROUGH THE WINDOW - NO. 43

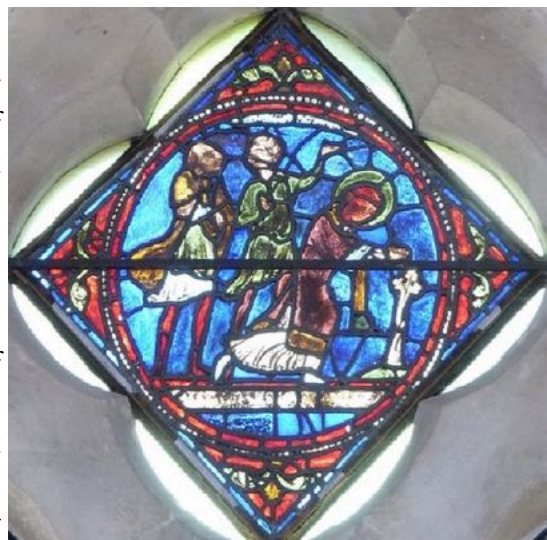
MIKE DEEMING WRITES:

What happened to the glass in the Cathedral after Wyatt's reordering? William Ranger, one of our glaziers back in 1819, told Charles Winston in 1849 that 'whole cartloads of glass, lead and other rubbish were removed from the nave and transepts and shot into the town-ditch...and similar rubbish was used to level the ground near the chapter-house'. A century later when the Jesse window was recreated in the south nave aisle, the Rev Dr Stanley Baker (pictured here) asked himself which ditch this referred to. Thus he embarked on an excavation of ditches all around Salisbury, trying to find medieval glass. He started outside the Chapter House – this was in the Palace grounds at the time, and the Bishop gave consent to the dig, saying, 'But mind, if you don't put the turf back exactly as it was, I'll get together bell, book and candle and I'll solemnly curse you in the Cathedral!' The dig was fruitless and the town-ditch was no more forthcoming. Another informant suggested the Harnham rubbish tip but that yielded nothing either. Finally, he tried a filled-in ditch at the west end of De Vaux Place and there he uncovered substantial quantities of medieval glass – enough for 300 sq Ft of windows. In autumn 1935 more medieval glass appeared, cleared from the triforium, and Dr Baker managed to rescue some of this before it was used as hardcore for a new road.



But he couldn't convince the Chapter to re-install the glass in the Cathedral – it was largely in small pieces and they were concerned that so much lead would be needed to hold the pieces that the windows would be made too dark. Winchester Cathedral didn't share these concerns and much of this glass is now installed there. Some ended up in St Andrew's Church, Laverstock.

The two windows in the south nave aisle contain the only medieval historiated (pictorial) glass in the Cathedral. The images of the annunciation of Zacharias and the visitation of three Magi may well pre-date the Cathedral. Similarly, an image of St Stephen in St Leonard's Church, Grateley (shown here), was brought from France for Salisbury



Cathedral by Pierre des Roches, Bishop of Winchester (d 1238); it was probably installed in the St Stephen chapel, at the east end of the south quire aisle. It was relocated to Grateley following the reordering. The Grateley window unusually uses flashed red glass for the Saint's bloodied head, after he was stoned following a trial for blasphemy against the Jewish faith.

It is likely that a large proportion of the original windows in the Cathedral contained grisaille (patterned) rather than historiated glass. Indeed, many of these original panels were gathered in 1896 by A O Hemming and re-assembled in the southeast transept window above the vestry. Salisbury is privileged to have more grisaille designs surviving than any other cathedral in Europe. Many cathedrals would have had predominantly grisaille glass in the thirteenth century, not least the Basilica of Saint-Denis, where Salisbury's 'architect', Elias of Dereham, had studied. Chartres Cathedral, with its predominantly blue historiated glass, was an exception. We get a sense of the Chartres style here with the blue Prisoners of Conscience window, designed, of course, by Gabriel Loire from Chartres - the significance of this Chartres blue will be explored in the next peek.

It remains one of the joys of our Cathedral that we have such an art gallery of glass in so many different styles from across the centuries.

TOMB TALK - Dr D'Aubigny Turburville

This mural monument is on your right when facing the Cathedral south wall/doors of the nave. I have found quite a bit of information on the good doctor which although the different reports overlap, I hope succeeds in painting a portrait of a very interesting resident. Please note that spelling is somewhat variable.

James Harris (1825) writes and translates: Sacred to the memory of Dr. D'Aubigny Turburville [born 1612], and Anne his well beloved wife; she was descended from a very religious family, being the daughter of James Ford, minister of How, in the county of Dorset. The best of wives, to the best of husbands, highly distinguished for piety, prudence, and every other virtue. He also descended from a family equally ancient and respectable, from Weyford, in the county of Somerset. He was a sincere and constant worshipper of God, bountiful to the poor, a kind and generous friend, a cheerful companion, and lastly, a man of the strictest honour. He so much excelled as an oculist that he alone was known and celebrated in every part of the world, whose fame, more lasting than this marble, will never perish. He died April 2, 1696, aged 85. Anne died December 15, 1696, aged 80.

Alas ! alas ! he's gone for ever. And left behind him none so clever.

Beneath this stone extinct he lies,

The only doctor for the eyes.



The following epitaph was written by **Dr. Walter Pope**, chaplain to, and friend and companion of Bishop Seth Ward. It evidently is not a translation of the above Latin epitaph, and is almost a biographical account of the doctor's life. It is as follows : Near this place lies interred the most expert and successful oculist that ever was, and perhaps ever will be, Doctor D'Aubigny Turburville, descended from two families of that name, than which there are few more ancient and noble. During the civil wars, he bore arms for the king. After the surrender of Exeter, he

lived at Weyford and Crookhorn [Crewkerne], but these towns not affording convenience to his numerous patients he removed to London, intending to settle there, but not having his health, he left it and lived in Salisbury more than thirty years, doing good to all, and being beloved by all. His great fame caused multitudes to flock to him, not only from all parts of the kingdom, but also from Scotland, Ireland, France, and America. He died April 21, 1696, in the 85 year of his age, and left his estate betwixt his only sister and niece, at whose expenses this monument was erected.

Dr. Pope says he wrote the above to perpetuate the memory, and his gratitude to his friend and benefactor; in the Salisbury ballad also. Dr. P, compliments him in the following lines.

Nor you that knew all the diseases of the eyes.

And to all a sure remedy find ;

*Who alone gives light, after twenty years night, **

To those who are born stone blind.

*This alludes to one Peverel of Salisbury, and a daughter of George Turburville of W. in Gloucestershire.

Would you believe that a group of Crewkerne Morris dancers (right) is named after the good doctor!



A footnote in **Samuel Pepys'** diary (1893 edition) records: Daubigny Turberville, of Oriell College; created M.D. at Oxford, 1660. He was a physician of some eminence, and, dying at Salisbury on the 21st April, 1696, aged eighty-five, he was buried in the cathedral, where his monument remains. Cassan, in his *Lives of the Bishops of Sarum*, has reprinted an interesting account of Turberville, from the *Memoir of Seth Ward* published in 1697, by Dr. Walter Pope. Turberville was born at Wayford, Somerset, in 1612, and became an expert oculist; and probably Pepys received great benefit from his advice, as his vision does not appear to have failed during the many years that he lived after discontinuing the Diary. The doctor died rich, and subsequently to his decease his sister Mary, inheriting all his prescriptions, and knowing how to use them, practised as an oculist in London with good reputation.



Pepys (left, painted by John Haylis in 1666, *courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, in the public domain*) first wrote about his deteriorating eyesight in April 1662. Dr Turberville treated him and gave him convex lenses for long-sightedness which helped a good deal.

British Journal of Ophthalmology by R R James. This paper deals with a man who belongs to the seventeenth century, when medicine generally was only just emerging from the astrological period. It is a remarkable fact that he was not only a properly qualified medical man, but also a member of an ancient English family; records of which go back to

the days of King John, if not earlier still; branches of which were settled in various counties. The name would appear to have been adapted by Thomas Hardy in his "Tess of the D'Urbervilles." Dawbigney was of Oriel College, Oxford, matriculating November 7, 1634, aged 19 years. He took his B.A., October 15, 1635; his M.A., July 17, 1640; and his M.D., August 7, 1660. We next hear of him serving as a combatant for the King at the siege of Exeter in 1646. When the city was captured by Fairfax he quitted the military life and settled at Wayford.

The chief account of Dr. Turberville is to be found in Walter Pope's "Life of Seth Ward, Bishop of Salisbury," 1697. In this scarce book a whole chapter is devoted to our Salisbury oculist, and from it I have abstracted most of what follows in a somewhat abridged form. Turberville cured the writer, Pope, who says: "It was he who twice rescued me from blindness, which without his aid had been unavoidable, when both my eyes were so bad, that with the best I could not perceive a letter in a book, not my hand with the other, and grew worse and worse every day." Turberville was born in 1612 of an old-English family, "there being in the church of Beer only, the tombs of no less than fifteen Knights of that name, as I have been credibly informed, but I confess I have not seen them."

His mother was a Dawbigney, and it was upon her advice, according to Pope, that the son took up the study of eye diseases at the University. While besieged at Exeter he and a friend ran in debt £100 each, "in chalk behind the door; he told me that his landlord came into their chamber, leading his daughter by the hand, and courteously proffered to cancel the debts of either of us who should marry her." Turberville "valiantly resisted this temptation and chose rather to pay his debts in ready money, which he did shortly after; the other accepted the terms, and had his wife's portion presently paid him, viz., his scores wiped out with a wet dishclout." The articles allowed the garrison of Exeter to return to their dwellings; he went to Wayford and married, but had no children. He began practice at Wayford and Crookhorn (Crewkerne), but got so busy that he moved to London. The city air not suiting him he finally settled in Salisbury; "thence he made several journeys to London. Once he was sent for by the Dutchess of York to cure the Princess of



Denmark (Queen Anne), then a child, labouring under a dangerous inflammation in her eyes, and a breaking out in her face the cure for which had been attempted in vain by the Court fysicians." These despised Turberville, looking on him as a country quack. He had a quarrel with them, refused to meet them in consultation and won the day. The Duke and Duchess asked him to undertake the case, which he did successfully. The Duke ordered him a fee of £600, but he appears to have received only half that amount. [another patient was physicist Robert Boyle, left, painted in 1689 *courtesy of the Science History Institute, Philadelphia - in the public domain*].

"Many years afterwards he was called up again by one of the greatest and ancientest Peers of this Kingdom. to whom, after having attentively inspected his eye, he spoke after this manner: 'My Lord, I might bear you in hand,' a western frase, signifying to delay or keep in expectation, 'and feed you with promises, or at least hopes, that I should cure you in some competent time, and so cause your Lordship to be at great expence to no purpose; I cannot cure you, and I believe no man in England can.' The Earl answered, 'Such and such will undertake it for a hundred pounds.' To which the doctor replied, 'I have so great an honour for your Lordship, and so much wish for your welfare, that I will joyfully give a hundred guineas out of my own

purse to the person who shall restore your sight in that eye. I confess I am not able to cure it, but I can reduce it to a better figure.' " Turberville was no boaster, "he generally prescribed to all, shaving their heads and taking tobacco, which he had often known to do much good, and never any harm to the eyes. Far from covetous, he cured the poor gratis, and received from others what they pleased to give him, never, that I knew, making any bargain for so much in hand, and the rest when the cure is perfected, as some do." Pope could never force anything on him for his medicines and extraordinary care, unless it were a cane, a tobacco box or some new book.

Patients came from all over the country and even from abroad; one is mentioned from Jamacia; she was cured but died of smallpox before she could return to her home. It was good business for the City of Salisbury; his patients "being lodged in inns and private houses through all quarters of the city: one could scarce peep out of doors, but have a prospect of some led by boys or women, others with bandages over one or both eyes, and yet a greater number wearing green silk upon their faces, a stranger might have reported the air of Salisbury to be as pernicious to the eyes as that of Orleans is to the nerves, where almost one-third of the inhabitants are lame." Tales of two patients are next related. In one, a countryman with a bloodshot eye consulted Turberville, who, after inspection, told the man that the inflamed eye was the best of the two. The man vowed that he could see equally well with either eye, but on the inflamed eye being covered, found that he could see nothing with the other and exclaimed: "I am blind in it, tho' to all the rest who were there, it seemed a good eye." In the second case, a man came with a protuberant eye, which could not be contained within the lids and seemed to be like a piece of raw flesh. Dr. Turberville "placed him in a chair and with a pair of scissors cut large gobbetts, the blood trickling down his cheeks in abundance, and yet he seemed no more concerned, than if it had been a barber cutting his hair. I was surprised at his behaviour and said to one of the bystanders, 'without doubt this is a married man otherwise 'twere impossible he should be so patient'; which he overhearing in the midst of his torment burst into a loud laughter, and replied, 'No indeed, I am but a batchelor.'"

Dr. Turberville left his estate between a niece of his wife's and his sister Mary Turberville, "who now practises in London with good reputation and success. She has all her brother's receipts, and having seen his practice during many years knows how to use them. For my part I have so good an opinion of her skill that should I again be afflicted with sore eyes, which God forbid, I would rely upon her advice rather than upon any pretenders or professors in London or elsewhere. Lest any should be surprised at Mary Turberville taking on the practice I may remind readers that Sir William Read's widow carried on his business after his death at Durham Yard, Strand. Adieu my dear friend, arivederci, till we meet and see one another again with eyes which will never stand in need of a COLLYRIUM [Ed. medicated eyewash].

Women in Salisbury Close (Sarum Chronicle, Sarum Studies 5) has an article on Mistress (Mary) Turberville by John Chandler which shows the Turbervilles living at No.17 The Close (right) for some twenty-five years. After the Doctor's death, his sister (and assistant) Mary set up her own practice in London where she achieved a reputation for skill and success in her own right.

