



*Extracts from the Chapter minutes from 1701 onwards*  
Mark Brandon [markandsuebrandon@outlook.com](mailto:markandsuebrandon@outlook.com)

## CHURCH ESTATE

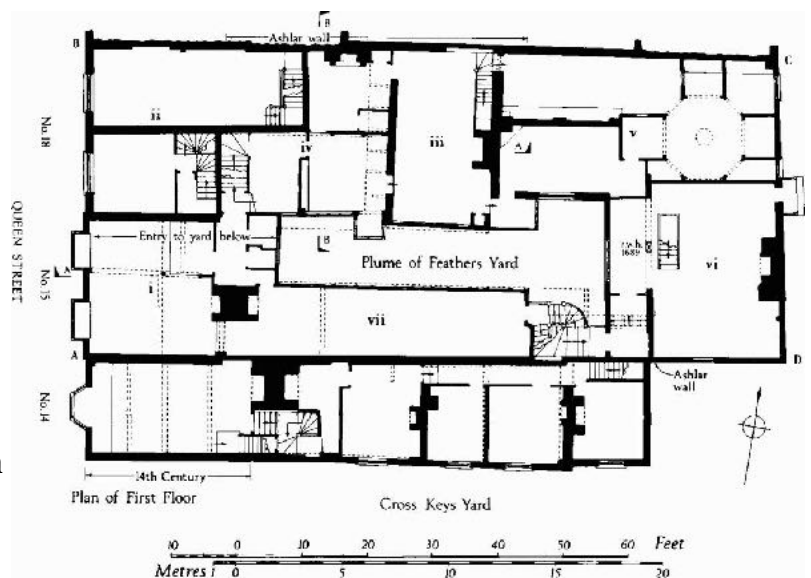
I have often been struck by how many properties come under the *peculiar* (ie not subject to the Bishop) jurisdiction of the Dean and Chapter. To try and unravel the situation it is necessary to go back in time to Old Sarum. Under Osmund's constitution the Cathedral was run by four Dignitaries: Dean, Precentor (Chanter), Chancellor and Treasurer. There were 32 Canons, 4 Archdeacons, a Sub-dean and a Succentor (Sub-chanter) to form the Chapter. The Prebendaries were given archidiaconal jurisdiction within their prebends while the Sub-dean held the Archdeaconry of Sarum from the Dean.

The Cathedral was generously endowed with estates from within the diocese but also estates at Grantham in Lincolnshire and Somerset (from the Sherborne see). They inherited a substantial endowment in Dorset and significant holdings in Wiltshire and Berkshire (from the Ramsbury see). Under Henry I the number of churches outside the diocese expanded considerably.

The Reformation saw the dissolution of three prebends with two transferred to Protector Somerset. Four

prebends were swapped. Finally some prebends were attached to offices: Potterne to the Bishop, Heytesbury to the Dean, Brixworth to the Chancellor and Calne to the Treasurer. Ogborne was annexed to the Dean and Chapter of Windsor. Dorset was removed from the see in 1542. In 1831 the Dean and Chapter were patrons of eighteen churches

with the Dean controlling a further twelve. To make matters even more complicated, the prebendaries also had their own patronage. Bear in mind that the Cathedral had a large rental income from the City of Salisbury and you can see that for most of its history the Cathedral was really wealthy. All this was to change of course with the collapse of farming prices and the formation of the Church Commissioners.



## ST. MARY ABBEY

Thanks to the help of archivists in the County and Lloyds Bank we have made great progress. British History On-line with info based on *Ancient and Historical Monuments in the City of Salisbury*. Originally published by HMSO, in 1977 has the answer. The property in Queen Street originally belonged to the Cathedral's Clerk of Works who bequeathed it to the Chapter. The name is still a bit of a mystery but *In 1465 the property was called Seynt Maryabbey, probably because it belonged to the cathedral.*

## SALISBURY UNIVERSITY

In 1262 the buildings of a foundation of considerable interest, the College of de Vaux, were erected close to the Hospital (of St. Nicholas). It was for twenty scholars and has often been claimed as the first university college in England, being founded two years before Merton College, the first Oxford college. Already university masters and students from Oxford were settled in Salisbury, for after the suspension of Oxford University in 1238, they were attracted by the facilities offered by the new city as a centre of learning. At this time there was a group of exceptionally learned canons at the Cathedral, there was ample accommodation and supplies of food and other necessities. It seems likely that for a period after this migration, the city had an incipient university organised under the Chancellor of the Cathedral. When it failed to survive, the college remained in the unique position of preparing students for other universities, while functioning as a college for university graduates, though detached from any university. A later foundation of 1269, the College of St. Edmund (where the Bourne Hill Registry Office now stands) was also intended to promote learning. Its thirteen priests, under a provost, were to attend lectures in the neighbouring theological schools, as well as attending to the parochial duties of the new parish of St. Edmund. What a missed opportunity.

## CONNECTIONS

I am sure that you all know the Nelson tablet in the north Nave aisle. Well you might be interested in the back-story. The title of 1<sup>st</sup> Earl Nelson was given to the Admiral's elder brother William (left), a Norfolk clergyman. He also inherited the Dukedom of Bronté. He does not sound very nice, making use of Emma Hamilton whilst Horatio was alive but cutting her dead afterwards - despite being asked to look after her and their daughter by Horatio on his



THE RIGHT HONOURABLE EARL NELSON.

deathbed. He lobbied for an estate in his brother's name and moved to Trafalgar Park after Standlynch Park near Downton was renamed thus by an Act of Parliament in 1814. Our tablet is of Horatio the 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl; his father was a nephew of Admiral Lord Nelson, and he married a granddaughter of the 11<sup>th</sup> Earl Pembroke. The house was sold by the 5<sup>th</sup> Earl Nelson in 1948.

One of the owners since then was Jeremy Pinckney (1971). I don't know, but it seems likely that he came from the local banking family that ties up with our first story. Pinckneys Bank was in Queen Street and was absorbed into the Wilts & Dorset Bank and eventually into Lloyds.

Now, going off at a tangent: in the Museum among the Brixie Jarvis Wedgewood collection is a small basalt plaque of Admiral Jervis, the one who so efficiently reorganised the Navy. As a young man he was sponsored by Lady Jane Hamilton. In his turn he sponsored Nelson. Nelson meets Emma Hamilton, the wife of his friend, and Lady Jane's son. That son, Sir William Hamilton, was an antiquarian and in his capacity as Ambassador to Naples brought back to England numerous examples of ancient Etruscan pottery. These went on show in London and inspired Wedgewood to copy the style and even name his factory *Etruria*. Sir William then sells a Roman vase to a great collector, Margaret Bentinck, Duchess of Portland (1715 to 1785, one of the original *Bluestockings* and patron of Captain James Cook) and so it becomes the Portland Vase. One of her daughters married Thomas Thynne and so became the first Marchioness of Bath and lived at Longleat, bringing us nicely back to Wiltshire.

#### LEDGER IN SOUTH AISLE

Renowned, if controversial, historian who lived in Myles Place in the Close. Sir Arthur Wynne Morgan Bryant CH CBE was an English historian, columnist for *The Illustrated London News* and man of affairs. His books included studies of Samuel Pepys, accounts of English eighteenth- and nineteenth-century history, and a life of George V. Whilst his scholarly reputation has declined somewhat since his death, he continues to be read and to be the subject of detailed historical studies. He moved in high government circles and his books were devoured by the ruling elite; he was the favourite historian of at least three prime ministers: Churchill, Attlee, and Wilson - *and he introduced me to the Peninsular War*. Bryant's historiography was often based on an English romantic exceptionalism drawn from his nostalgia for an idealised agrarian past. He hated modern commercial and financial capitalism, he emphasised duty over rights, and he equated democracy with the consent of "fools" ! and "knaves". *Sounds reasonable to me!!!!!!*