



Extracts from the Chapter minutes from 1701 onwards and divers historical prospecting.

Editor: Mark Brandon - markandsuebrandon@outlook.com

EDUCATION



Hemingsby is a 14th-century house in the north-west corner of Salisbury Cathedral Close and overlooking Choristers' Green and was originally the Cathedral Choir School. Photo above *courtesy of Tony Hisgett, Birmingham Creative Commons*. It is an unusual building in that it was constructed as one house but is composed of two parts of different architectural styles giving the impression of two separate buildings. In modern times it has been altered to provide two separate houses. It is generally believed to have been built by Alexander de Hemynsby in the 14th century, the first recorded warden of the Choristers' School in 1322. Apart from a chapel constructed earlier and an extension of the 18th century most of the building was reconstructed in the middle of the 15th century by Nicholas Upton. He was succeeded by Thomas Fideon who completed the reconstruction and whose name appears on some architectural decorations in the house.

Edward Powell lived at Hemynsby in 1525, he served as counsel to Queen Catherine of Aragon at the hearing of Henry VIII divorce suit against her. Powell met with much disapproval from Henry VIII, after Catherine's death he was tried for treason in London and hanged, drawn and quartered at Smithfield. In 1547–1550 the house was occupied by the Reverend Simon Symonds who may have been the 'vicar of Bray' in the traditional folksong. The south part of the

house, No 56B, was partly rebuilt in 1727 by Canon Joseph Sayer to replace a decaying previous extension.

The Chapter set out the following rules in February 1851:

1. *Choristers shall be boarded in the Schoolmasters House and educated by him at no charge except for books and washing.*
2. Every chorister shall pay each year £5 which will be returned to him as an apprentice fee if of good character. If not, the money will go to the school.
3. Headmaster to receive £30 per annum in quarterly payments for board of choristers and £20 for board of the Second Master or Usher and £40 for the Second master's salary.
4. Headmaster allowed to take in other boarders and day scholars.

In 1840 the number of residentiary canons at the cathedral was reduced from six to four and Hemingsby ceased to be a canonry in 1848 on the death of the then resident, the Reverend Matthew Marsh. The house was designated as Grade I listed in 1952.

ST. NICHOLAS HOSPITAL



Donald Pleasance as Septimus Harding in BBC mini-series

Having looked at De Vaux College it naturally led me on to its close neighbour, St. Nicholas Hospital - I am sure you know that historically, hospital meant a charitable institution for the needy, aged or infirm. The Cathedral's Hospital seems to have been the inspiration for Trollope's Hiram's Hospital. You may well recall the TV version in which Donald Pleasance (left) plays the Warden.

It is possible that this confraternity predates the cathedral or it may have been founded by Richard Poore. In 1227 though it is mentioned in two charters by Ela, Countess of Salisbury and Bishop Poore. It was in the Bishop's patronage with a steward, chaplain, endowments, a chapel and the obligations of a chantry as well as caring for the poor, sick (*debiles et infirmi*) and travellers - of both sexes (I believe that there were only two in those days).

Ela's main contribution was the south close of Bentley Wood and the close of Buckley in West Dean which provided an income for centuries. Bishop Robert Bingham who succeeded Poore in 1229 almost re-founded the Hospital, linking it to his new (Ayleswade) bridge and the chapel of John the Baptist which was upon it. The bridge straddles a piece of land known as St. John's Isle. The bishop also increased the number and size of the endowments, encouraging others to join in (including the Earl of Hereford, Sir Richard Hinton and Richard FitzAucher) which in turn resulted in more buildings.

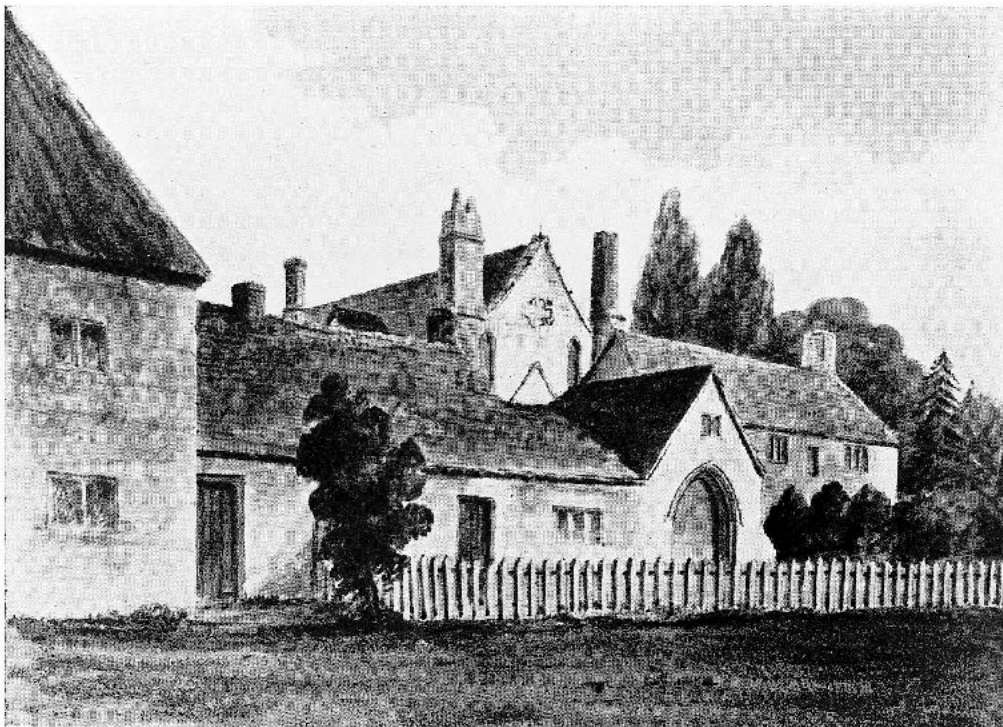
Bingham issued two ordinances that made the Dean and Chapter patrons and resulted in the appointment of the Sub-Dean as Hospital Warden and the Succentor (Precentor's deputy) as warden of the bridge and chapel. The two warden-ships were eventually merged. There were also three priests that wore a uniform russet cloak. Those that served St. John's Chapel slept at an inn (*hospicium*) on the bridge. St. Nicholas' appears to have become a parish. The design of the hospital was in the form of a church with two aisles but no nave. The aisles were divided by a seven-arch arcade. This can be seen in the picture below as the north aisle was later removed.

There were two chapels at the east end which still stand. It is not clear if the two aisles were to separate the sexes.

Bishop Bridport (1258 to 1262) made the warden a Prior (usually someone in charge of a priory or second-in-command at an abbey). The Prior and Brethren were termed *religiosi viri, prior et fratres* which implies that they followed a Rule, probably St. Augustin. Bridport agreed with the Dean and Chapter that they could have the patronage of De Vaux College whilst he kept St. Nicholas Hospital. The founding of St. Edmund's caused a rearrangement of parish boundaries in which the Hospital lost its parish status. After 1281 the Prior again became Warden.

Over the centuries the bishop pulled rank to gain the patronage and endowments continued to be added. Ela's endowment continued under the names of Howe Farm and wood or Winterslow Manor in West Dean. Despite all its property the hospital was not a rich institution (and neither was the college). It also became an almshouse. A fundamental requirement of the Warden was the upkeep of the bridge but this was often not possible and the bridge became rather dilapidated. In 1413 the king agreed to institute *pontage* (a toll) for seven years to pay for the upkeep.

There was frequently trouble with the brothers and sisters, usually quarrelling or living together. Extensive alterations were made about 1498 and this was probably when the north aisle was removed. The institution lived under the constant fear of dissolution and were for a time protected by the patronage of the Earl of Pembroke. The reduction in size may have been to take them under Suppression Commissioners' radar. In 1626 the Earl ordered the Master that *since some married people have proved both burthensome and troublesome to the house...I do... require you not to admit any married men or married women....hereafter upon no terms*. The Dean and Chapter sporadically sought to take over the patronage from the Bishop but the bishop usually kept control or leased the patronage to the Earls of Pembroke. The records show that in 1550 Henry Herbert, the next in line for the title, became warden at 10 years old.



HOSPITAL OF ST. NICHOLAS, SALISBURY
(a) SOUTH-EAST VIEW, (b) WEST VIEW

Print on left courtesy of Wellcome images Creative Commons. Around 1590 evidence was given against the hospital as being a chantry in order to take over the land. This failed as the warden, Geoffrey Bigge, ran the institution very effectively and he persuaded the Earl of Pembroke to take up the

patronage from Bishop Cotton which he held for 41 years. Bigge also petitioned the Earl of Northampton and the Archbishop of Canterbury and was rewarded by the issue of a Royal Charter in 1610 (James 1st). At this point there were 6 poor men and 6 poor women in the almshouse.

The charter also confirmed the property: *the hospital itself with its two gardens, three orchards, and two pasture closes; St. John's Chapel; another tenement nearby; St. Nicholas's Farm in Salisbury, Harnham and Homington; a meadow close to the east; a pasture close in Britford; a garden in Bugmore; two tenements in New Street and Brown Street; Buckett's Mead, St. Nicholas's gardens, and two pasture closes in Fisherton anger; a piece of meadow in Stratford; How Farm and Wood; the rectories of Wilsford, Broad Hinton, and Turnworth; the annual pension from Ansty church; the manors of Gurston, Corfe Mullen, and Thorncombe.* The warden could also tithe swans bred on St. Nicholas's ground. His gross revenue amounted to £75.2.2 a year out of which he maintained the buildings and the bridge. Each of the brethren and sisters received around £4.2.3 a year; the chaplain received £4 and the woman servant and barber had 6/8d a year. The master's portion came to £25 to £30.

In 1656 Cromwell gave a new charter to Salisbury that passed the patronage to the mayor and aldermen. However, the position was reversed by Charles II in 1610.

[St. Edmund Hall, Oxford](#)

The hospital now entered a period of stability with many of the wardens being kinsmen of friends of the bishop. They were largely non-resident. In 1675 Gorges Mead at Milford was added to the list of properties. In 1770 a relative of an inmate gave £350 in Old South Sea Stock and then in 1796 the formation of the Barrington Trust Fund resulted in the biggest gift since Bishop Bingham's time.

In 1834 the Charity Commissioners caused changes to be implemented that resulted in a wider spectrum of brethren including *a schoolmaster from Norwich, two parish clerks from Britford and West Harnham, a farm bailiff, a combmaker from Birmingham, a turnpike-keeper, and a coachman, besides many gardeners and labourers. The sisters were mostly widows, housekeepers, nurses, domestic servants and laundresses.* Canon Wordsworth (brother of the bishop) kept the institution on a sound footing until the statutes were revised by the Bishop of Salisbury and Archbishop of Canterbury in 1933.

USELESS KNOWLEDGE

In the last edition, I mentioned 'The Secret Lives of Colour'. Under the orange section there is a colour called Minium which was a cheap alternative to Vermillion and Cinnabar, made from lead tetroxide (used to produce Lead White). However it was not very stable. One use was in early manuscripts. The scribes would copy a text and a specialist, known as a *miniator* would add the capitals, headings and pilcrows (¶ used to mark a new paragraph or section) in Minium to make them stand out. Their work was called a *Miniatura*; the origin of our word miniature, but it has nothing to do with being small.

END-PIECE

Lackland John were a right royal Tartar, till he made his mark upon Magna Carta: Ink, seal, table, on Runnymede green, Anno Domini 1215 - *Walter de la Mare.*