

24 St Giles, Oxford
June 6 1887

Reverend Sir

I venture to trespass on your kindness so far as to ask you if you can find out for me when William Friend (or Friend?) was instituted to the rectory of Turvey and when he resigned. [He was rector in 1715.]

I have charge of him in Leslie Stephen's Dict. of National Biography & should be very glad if the Turvey records should add anything to his rather curious story. On the back of this I have jotted down what I do know of him. I am Sir

Your obedient servant

Edwin Cannan

William Friend (or Friend as he seems to have generally spelt it) brother of Dr Robert Friend HM of Westminster school & of Dr John Friend the physician. Uncle of Wm Friend dean of Lancaster.

Born 1688 or 9?

King's scholar at Westminster 1683

Westminster student Chch Oxford 1687

BA 1691 MA 1694

Rector of Sarvey before 1715

1715 Feb 14 won a prize of £20,000 in a lottery. (Said to have won another prize of 5 or £10,000 before this - probably a myth)

Described as lord of the manor of Hitcham Bucks on his father's tomb at Croton at some time between the 1711 & 1728, but the manor belonged to John Friend in 1700 and 1722-8.

Squandered his prize in 'generosity & hospitality.'

Legatee of £100 a year from John Friend 1728.

Pub. the 'Sacred historian' about 1736.

In prison for debt Oct 1742 in the King's Bench or Fleet.

Said to have been made chaplain to a ship of ~~the~~ 100 guns by Lord Winchilsea first lord of admiralty 1742-4.

Also said to have been 'released' by death.

Died Apr. 15. 1745.

Wife buried at Burnham near Hitcham 1721. 2 daughters one ~~the~~ married son of Bp Smalbridge May 2. 1730.

[Do not trouble to return this.]