

Paula Fodor

Subject: RE: Chandelier Update

From: Bruce Arrindell [<mailto:bruce.arrindell@thestjohnscathedral.com>]

Sent: 25 August 2015 17:56

To: Robert Chelsom <Robert_Chelsom@chelsom.co.uk>;

Dear Robert,

Thank you so much for all that you are doing for our beloved Cathedral and for contributing to our history. William Forrest was a merchant on a very famous street in St. John's called Market Street. It was also known as 'Scotch Row' for the number of Scottish merchants who did business there. Not only was he a member of the Vestry and a devoted Churchman, he was also a very generous man. The conversion of the Candelabrum was done at his expense. He is also credited with rediscovering the silver candlesticks that adorn the main altar. The candlesticks were sold in the 1840's to raise money for the commissioning of the organ. Decades later Mr. Forrest purchased them as heavily corroded pieces of silver and later paid to have them fully restored and returned to the church. We owe much to this man for his acts of generosity. We cannot help but see the hand of God in his actions and in yours as well. We give thanks to God, we give thanks to you and we give thanks to God for you.

Regards,

Bruce

From: Robert Chelsom [mailto:Robert_Chelsom@chelsom.co.uk]

Sent: Monday, August 24, 2015 12:53 PM

To: deanery@thestjohnscathedral.com; bruce.arrindell@thestjohnscathedral.com

Cc: andrew@andrewgoodenough.com; derrickandwatt@candw.ag

Subject: Chandelier Update

Dear Dean Rudolph and Bruce,

We've had a very exciting couple of months working on your chandelier. It is so beautifully made, considering every piece of original work was undertaken well before any steam or power machinery, that it took us some time to work out how it had been put together and consequently how to take it apart for restoring and polishing. There was a small hole in the main body where one of the arms was missing so we put a small camera inside to try to understand the assembly system. It answered our questions but we were astonished to see some folded sheets of paper hidden inside.

Once we had the chandelier apart, we removed the pieces of paper. One small piece showed a list of four names with the date February 27th 1886 and we presumed that might have been the date when it was converted from candles to oil burners and we assumed the names were those who worked on the conversion. The folded piece of paper was more difficult because as soon as you tried to open it, the pieces cracked and fell apart. There was no way to preserve it in one piece so we opened it and it fell into 16 pieces but remained quite legible. The document is headed "ANTIGUA" and it is a receipt document from a company called William Forrest. The trading terms are shown as "Cash or quarterly statements by agreement". Handwritten in ink is:

This chandelier was taken in pieces and cleaned by John Parker Maw February 27th 1886 a native of Thornton le Dale, near Pickering Yorkshire, arrived in Antigua April 26th 1883.

We have researched John Parker Maw and he was born in Thornton le Dale in 1862, was there for the 1871 and 1881 censuses, arrived in Antigua April 1883, cleaned your chandelier in February 1886 and then emigrated to New York later that year. He was still in New York for the 1910 census. His village is only 1 ½ hours' drive from our factory

here. Isn't it amazing that a young man in his 20s could be so mobile in terms of travelling during the late 19th century. We have carefully preserved both documents and will have them framed for you so that hopefully they can hang in the cathedral for everyone's interest. See the first two images above.