SOME GLIMPSES OF LIVERPOOL DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

By Arthur C. Wardle, M.I.Ex.

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FOR a knowledge of Liverpool affairs and events during the first half of the eighteenth century, the historian has to rely largely upon the Town Books and Vestry records; and such proximate evidences as the Norris Papers and Blundell Diary. The town did not then boast any continuous weekly news-sheet or similar printed chronicle, and to enlarge his knowledge of this period the student must turn to contemporary external references to Liverpool, many of which are to be found in the periodicals of those days, published in London and elsewhere. The following pages are devoted to some excerpts, a result of desultory transcribing while engaged in more specific research, from contemporary printed documents hitherto unnoticed by our local historians, which may prove helpful to future students.

Richard Brooke, in Liverpool During the Last Quarter of the 18th Century, refers at length to a copy of the town’s first newspaper, which he stated he examined in 1848, when it was in the possession of Samuel Staniforth. This journal was the Liverpool Courant, and is also mentioned in the Liverpool Mercury of 10th February, 1837:

We have just been favoured with the sight of a Liverpool newspaper published in the year 1712. It is entitled “The Leverpoole Courant, being an Abstract of the London and other News from Tuesday, July the 15th to Friday, July the 18th, 1712.” The paper before us is No. XVIII and printed by “S. Terry in Dale Street, where all persons willing to subscribe by sending their Names and Places of Abode may be constantly served herewith every Tuesday and Friday morning.” At one corner is a wood-cut representing Orpheus and his harp, at the other Mercury with his usual attributes. Possibly this lone issue of Liverpool’s first newspaper slumbers
to-day among the muniments of some local family. How long the Courant lived is not known, and it may well have been the subject of the following note in the Gentleman's Magazine for April, 1733:

The Joy has been universal [i.e. at news that the Tobacco Bill was postponed] particularly at Leverpoole, where a Courant containing some severe Reflections on the Merchants was publickly burnt.

Subsequent lack of a local newspaper probably led to the Liverpool Council order, in 1743, "that St. James Evening Post be now provided every Post weekly at the expense of the Corporation, to be directed by the Members of Parliament to be left with the Mayor".

Here is a description of the home-coming of one of Liverpool's parliamentary representatives in those days, transcribed from the Weekly Journal or British Gazeteer of 17th July, 1725:

Leverpoole. July 6. Mr. Brereton, our Representative in Parliament arrived here last Night; he was met at Warrington by a great Number of Inhabitants of this Town and were joyn'd on the Road hither by abundance of neighbouring Gentlemen who were splendidly treated by the Corporation at the Exchange Hall; and Mr. Mayor afterwards gave him and his Friends an handsome Entertainment at his own House; at both Places his Majesty's and other Loyal Healths were drunk on that occasion and several Barrels of Ale given among the Populace.

The same newspaper, early in 1726, contained the following obituary notice, of genealogical interest to-day:

A few days since, died Mrs. Dickins, wife of Dr. Dickins, of Liverpool, and Daughter of the late Mr. Barnard, Serjeant Surgeon to Queen Anne.

A quaint Liverpool incident was recorded by a Bristol newspaper of 2nd December, 1727:

They write from Leverpoole that they have been for many Months extream sickly in that Town and Parts adjacent thereto And that a Physician who imagined the Air to be the Occasion of it thought proper to attempt the following Proof, taking a Vessel, he put to Sea with a piece of Beef at the Top Mast Head when in less than 12 Hours sailing he found upon Examination that the Flesh was indented and in several parts become corrupt and putrid, from which
he concluded the late bad State of Health the Town was in to proceed entirely from the Air's being impregnated with noxious Particulars.

A few glimpses of Liverpool's mercantile or trade history during the period under review can be gained from the House of Commons Journal, particularly in the numerous petitions presented to that assembly, of which the following, submitted in February, 1728, is typical:

A Petition of the Several Merchants and Traders in Tobacco of and in the Port of Liverpool in the County Palatine of Lancaster was presented to the House and read setting forth that the Prohibition of Import Tobacco stript from the Stalk is found to be very Detrimental and a great Discouragement to that Branch of Trade; That the Importers are loaded with Prime Cost of the Stalk in the Plantations, Freight from thence, and Customs for it here and that when separated they are great Sufferers; and that the using Stalk instead of Tobacco will ruin the Trade; and therefore praying the Consideration of the House and such relief as the House shall think fit.

In the following February another petition was presented from the "Merchants and Masters of Ships in the Port of Liverpool," stating that

"in their Trading to Ireland they had formerly frequent Opportunities of a loading back with Soap Waste for Ballast to their considerable Advantage; which they have lost for the most Part by reason of the Duty laid thereon and are obliged to be at the Charge of other Ballast from thence to their great Prejudice and the Discouragement of Navigation; and therefore praying that they may be allowed to have the Soap Waste for the Encouragement of Navigation as formerly, clear of duty."

The petition, however, was rejected. In April, 1729, appeared Liverpool's earliest protest against the East India Company's monopoly:

A Petition of several Merchants, Traders and others in the Port of Liverpool on behalf of themselves and others his Majesty's Subjects against confining the East India trade only to the East India Company; and for obliging the Company to grant Licences on proper Terms and Conditions to such of his Majesty's Subjects as shall desire to trade to the East Indies; and praying to be heard thereto before the Bill do pass now depending in this House, by which the Company's exclusive trade to the East Indies is to be prolonged; was offered to be presented to the House.
This application, also, was rejected. In February, 1730, still another petition went up from Liverpool, from the merchants and shipowners and "the makers and Dealers in English Sail Cloth in and about Liverpoole", complaining of the great importation of foreign sail cloth, particularly from Russia, "which tends to the Ruin of our Manufactures and the very great increase of the Poor, and Praying the Consideration of the House and such Encouragement to this manufacture as the House shall think fit."

Liverpool's participation in the attempt towards settlement of Georgia is mentioned several times in the Egmont Manuscript. On 28 February, 1733, a letter was read to the Georgia Society, London, from "an Alderman of Liverpool giving account that the designs of the Society are so well approved there, that the Chamber of the Town had given fifty pounds to it, and the ministers of the two parish churches preach on the subject and make a gathering. We ordered our thanks to be returned and that it should be published in the prints for encouragement to other towns." The result of this collection is recorded by later entries in the diary of the first Viscount Percival:

Decr. 10, 1735. A letter from Dr. Stanley to me desiring five persons may be sent over [to Georgia] for the £80 collected by him at Liverpool and £20 at Preston. I was ordered to let him know that four persons shall be sent of his or the Corporation's recommendation next embarkation, but we had sent one on the score of the Preston collection.

A more important record which finds no place in the published histories of Liverpool is contained in the Political State of Great Britain, in the form of a letter dated at Liverpool, June 24, 1738:

This Morning the Mayor, Aldermen and Common Council of this Corporation (who by the new Act of Parliament lately passed, are appointed Trustees for making an additional Dock and erecting a Pier in our Harbour) met at the Town Hall in their Corporation Habits and being attended by the Sub-bailiffs and Constables and having the Regalia of the Corporation carried before them, proceeded thence to the new intended Works, set out by the most esteemed and ingenious Mr. Thomas Steers, who is appointed by the Trustees to superintend and direct the new Works; the worshipful George Norton, Esq., Mayor, assisting in the laying and placing the first Foundation Stone; as also Alderman Richard Gildart, Esq., the
Rev. Thomas Baldwin, Alderman Foster Cunliffe, Esq., Alderman John Goodwin, Esq., and the rest of the Aldermen, the Town Clerk, Mr. Thomas Armitage, and the rest of the Common Council attending and joining therein returned back to the Hall, and there the Merchants and Owners of Ships unanimously elected eight eminent Merchants to be the first Commissioners to audit and adjust the Accompts of the Receivers of the Dock Duties and all other Officers that shall be employed therein; and were afterwards generously entertained and drank the Health of his Majesty, the Healths of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family, the Right Hon. the Earl of Colmondley, Sir Robert Walpole, our worshipful representatives in Parliament, Alderman Thomas Brereton Esq., Alderman Richard Gildart Esq., a lasting continuance of this Unity and Peace of the Town, success to Trade and Navigation and Success to the New Works.

Thus was commenced the work on the South Dock, now known as the Salthouse Dock.

Here are a few excerpts from The Lancashire Journal "Sold by Mr. Sears at the White Lyon in Liverpoole", of which but a few copies are extant locally. A notice of 16th October, 1738, announced the theft of a silver watch made by "Moullineux, watchmaker, of Liverpool." The issue of 23rd July, 1739, affords the earliest reference to a flower-show at Liverpool:

On Tuesday the Thirtyfirst of July (and not the 26th as Advertised in our last Journal) at the Sign of the Millstone in Castle Street in LIVERPOOLE will be a Florist Meeting for the Encouragement of all Wellwishers to the said Society, there is to be three Prizes, the first a Piece of Plate, the second a good Pair of Silver Buckles, third a Gardiner's Apron, a Pruning Knife and Money to buy him a pair of Gloves. There will be very good Entertainment prepared at the said House, each Person paying One Shilling for Ordinary.

The name of the Society is not given, but at the head of the notice appears an emblem representing a vase and some flowers.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette of 25th December, 1741, reports an outbreak of "distemper" among cattle at Liverpool, and the issue of 16th August, 1741, mentions the bankruptcy of Samuel Ansdell at Liverpool, "late of Parkagate, timber merchant and shipbuilder."

A curious experience is related by a correspondent of the Gentleman's Magazine, in June 1744, who reported that the Liverpool ship Baline, Captain Hughes, "bound to Guiney,
Some Glimpses of Liverpool during

200 tons, 12 guns, and 44 men, valued at £5,000, being forcibly struck by a Whale on her Bow and Main Chain, sunk in half an Hour but the Crew in their Long Boat and Yawl got to Ferreter's Cove near Limerick in Ireland, after a very dangerous Passage of 6 days and 60 Leagues.”

Another quaint reference to Liverpool is contained in the Gentleman's Magazine, March, 1745, in an extract from the Dublin Journal purporting to be "an affidavit concerning the effects of tar water and sworn before the mayor of Liverpool, January 18, by Captain Jos. Draper, who deposes that he took into his ship 216 Negroes, of which 170 fell ill of the small pox before he left the Coast, and that he expected to lose most of them, but by the plentiful use of tar water they all recover'd except one who refused to drink it, and the rest chose to drink tar water during the voyage and were preserv'd in health.” Joseph Draper, in 1752, was master of the Liverpool ship Nelly, engaged in the Guinea trade.

From Adams Weekly Courant, 9th December, 1746, we obtain a glimpse of the well-known salt-works which existed at the Dungeon, Hale, on the Mersey:

To be sold by Auction to the highest bidder at the Merchants' Coffee-House in Liverpool on Monday the Twentyninth of this Instant December at Six o'clock that Evening:

A SALT WORKS called the Dungeon, consists of four Pans, situated in Hale in the County of Lancaster on the River Mersey about Six Miles above Liverpool near opposite the Mouth of the River Weaver, which hath very good Navigation up to Northwich in Cheshire from whence the said Works is easily supplied with Rock Salt and with Salt Water to work it from the River Mersey.

The building is mostly new and all in good Repair, and convenient for carrying on the trade of making and refining Salt.

The premises are in possession of Mr. Ford who hath a Term of Four Years in them under the clear yearly Rental of Fifty Pounds Annum.

There are about two acres of Land of Inheritance belonging to it and a convenient House for the King's Officers, together with about eight acres of Tenement held by Lease for one Life.

Particulars may be had and a Plan of the work from Mr. Jonathan Case at Wills Coffee House opposite to Lincoln's Inn Gate, London, or from Mr. Richard Eccleston, attorney in law at Liverpool.

Local affairs also find occasional mention in the Puleston
Manuscripts. The following is an extract from a letter dated 17 June, 1746: "Captain Beeby, of the GOODWIN pink, being insulted by two of his servants, had one of them committed, upon which the rulers of the town assembled in mob, broke the jail windows and rescued the prisoners. Then they attacked Capt. Beeby's house who, with two pistols stood upon his own defence, wounded three people and put them all to flight."

On 9th November, 1747, according to Adams Weekly Courant of that date, John Gradwell, a merchant of Liverpool, gave notice of separation from his wife, Jane. The same newspaper, on 24th May, 1747, contained a notice of the sale of "The Lordship of Landican in the Hundred of Wirral and County of Chester, being betwixt three and four miles from Liverpoole, and consist of Five Farms and Tenements, the whole containing 562 Statute acres, and is of yearly value of £220. There is also belonging to the said Lordship a considerable quantity of good Commoning which the Owner of the Lordship hath a Right to enclose. Enquire of John Sanforth, of Liverpool, or of Mr. Richard Eccleston of the same place, of whom further particulars may be had." Another issue of the Courant, 13th October 1747, announced that Joseph Rutter, tallow chandler and soap boiler, had removed from Boughton, Chester, to Fenwick Street, in Liverpool.

Another removal is mentioned in the Birmingham Gazette of 12th December, 1748:—

THOMAS GILL, Clock and Watch Maker from Liverpool in Lancashire who now lives near the Golden Ball the upper end of Moor Street in Birmingham Makes all sorts of Small Files in the most curious Methods where any Person may depend upon being carefully served to any Part at reasonable Prices paying at the Delivery of the Goods.

In a letter dated 11th May, 1749, we have a faint glimpse of the Liverpool of those days. The following is an excerpt from this letter, which is preserved among the Puleston Manuscripts:— "We continue to visit the dock, particularly tide time and have been aboard two of the largest ships there, vizt. the BARCLAY all unrigged, and the EATON equipped ready for sailing. We have seen the ropewalks, the Quarry Hills, Mr. Done's and Mrs. Cobham's curiosities, the silk winders, Ranelagh Gardens, the
Copperas House, the pot house, the Ladies Walk, toy shops and china shops.” The Eaton was a Liverpool-built ship of 280 tons, owned by John Okill and others.

The year marks Liverpool’s earliest association with the province of Nova Scotia, in Canada. Evidence of this is contained in the Journal of the Commissioners for Trade and Plantations. On 25 March, 1749, the Commissioners were handed a letter from the mayor of Liverpool stating that a “great number” of people were desirous of accepting the Government’s encouragement for the settlement of Nova Scotia, if a suitable vessel could be provided for transport. Their lordships replied by asking the mayor to determine the actual number of such prospective emigrants, and the mayor thereupon distributed an advertisement, with the result that thirty people promptly applied. Fourteen days later, their lordships were informed that this number had increased to ninety, and by the end of April nearly two hundred persons had applied. The Commissioners then contracted with the Navy Office for a vessel to carry them, with the result that the ship Sarah, of about 400 tons, was fitted up and the mayor of Liverpool ordered to give the emigrants all possible subsistence while awaiting embarkation. The Sarah sailed from Liverpool for Nova Scotia on 25 June, with 116 settlers on board, but late in July the commander of H.M. sloop Scorpion reported that the “transport Sarah” had met with heavy weather and was driven into a Scottish port. The ship apparently continued her voyage later, for there is no subsequent reference to her in the State Papers. It is interesting to note that the mayor of Liverpool was ordered by the Commissioners to have a small chest of medicines put on board the Sarah and to make the best arrangements he could to find a person to serve as surgeon on the ship.

Two important references to the building of Liverpool’s Town Hall or Exchange are contained in the Weekly Courant files for 1750:

Liverpool. April 27, 1750.

Whereas the Foundation of the new Exchange at Liverpool in the County of Lancaster, after the plans of John Wood Esq., Architect, is brought up to a Level with the Street, This is to give Notice to all Masons who are willing to contract for and carry on the Superstructure of the said Building and receive the Information of the Nature of the
Work from John Wood Junior, architect, in Liverpool, at any time till the 21st Day of May next, when printed proposals for doing the said Work with Blanks left for the Prices will be delivered to such Persons who shall apply for the same and be willing to Undertake the said Works and fill up these Blanks with their own Prices; and to return the Proposals with the Prices fixed, Sealed up the Twenty-third Day of the same Month at Ten o'clock in the Forenoon of that Day directed to the Committee for the said Exchange and left in the Worshipful Mayor's Office in Liverpool aforesaid, when and where they will receive answers suitable to the Proposals then made.

By Order of the Committee,
F. Gildart. Town Clerk.


This is to give NOTICE That any Persons who are willing to contract with the Committee appointed for building the Exchange in Liverpool to do the Workmanship of the Joiners and Carpenters Work of the said building according to the printed Proposals now delivering at the Mayor’s Office in the Exchange in Liverpool are desired to fill up the Articles with the lowest Prices and return them sealed to Mr. Mayor of Liverpool at his Office on or before Friday next the sixth Instant at Eleven o’Clock in the forenoon, and those Persons who can’t attend to see the printed Proposals at Liverpool may see them by applying to Mr. Miles Bowers at Manchester, Mr. Thomas Marsden at Chester, Mr. Luke Astley at Preston, and Mr. Peter Woodcock at Warrington.

By Order of the Committee,
F. Gildart. Town Clerk.

According to contemporary newspapers and journals, Liverpool was visited, in 1750, by one or more severe earthquake shocks:

Aris's Birmingham Gazette, 5 March, 1750.

Letters from Liverpool say that about the same time they had a violent Shock of an Earthquake there which threw down some old Houses. The same Shock was also felt in several other Places in the neighbourhood of that Town.

Adam's Weekly Courant 10 April, 1750.

On April 7th at 10.15 p.m. a smart shock of an Earthquake at Liverpool.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette, 16 April, 1750.

Extract from a letter from Liverpool: On the 2d. Instant about 10 at Night was felt a smart Shock of an Earthquake it was felt pretty
near 40 miles North and South and about 30 Leagues East and West. I perceived the Motion distinctly it was partly a Vibratory Motion and did not continue above two or three Seconds of Time. It alarm'd the Inhabitants pretty much but did little Damage. I was immediately apprehensive what it was, went out to observe the Air and found much Stranger Appearance than ever before saw; great Mist of Blood Red Rays converged from all parts of the Heavens to one dark Point but no Luminous Body could be seen.

_Gentleman's Magazine, September, 1753._

Letter from Rev. J. Seddon dated April 2nd, 1750: He was then at Liverpoole where the shock was felt about ten at night and tho' not so strong as in some places, yet a person who had lived in Jamaica declared it was the smartest he ever felt. It was attended with a noise like distant thunder. A china jar and a piece of marble were thrown down by it. At the time there appeared in the atmosphere an infinite number of rays proceeding from all parts of the heavens, converged to one point, at first of a bright yellow and afterwards of a blood red, they were not far from the zenith, continued about 20 minutes and then disappeared. The shock was felt as far N. as Lancaster.

Contemporary newspapers make several references to the Mersey ferries. The _Birmingham Gazette_ of 12 February, 1750, for instance, records that the Rock Boat was sunk within a hundred yards of the Cheshire side, twelve persons being drowned. According to the _Chester Courant_ of 1st November, 1751, the Eastham and Ince boats put off from Liverpool between 4 and 5 a.m. on 18th October, each with passengers on board. They laid a wager as to which should get to Ince first. It was a foggy morning, and the Ince boat, taking a nearer course, collided with a flat. Six persons were drowned, and the remaining six saved themselves by clambering on board the flat where they remained until assistance came.

Those concerned with the industrial history of Liverpool will be interested in the following extract from the _Weekly Courant_ of 13th November, 1750:—"Last Monday night about 11 o'clock a Fire broke out at the Sugar House in Liverpoole which burned with such Violence that in a short Space the Building was entirely consumed. The Warehouse belonging to the same was happily preserved and adjoining Houses received but little Damage. It being a Rejoicing Day, the Men had left off Work at Three o'Clock in the Afternoon; and it is conjectured had not taken
proper care of the Stoves etc. *It is remarkable that about 25 years since and on the same Day* that Sugar House underwent the same fate.

Much has been written about the *Golden Lion*, whaler, and her trading. Here is a notice of sale taken from the *Weekly Courant* for 5th November, 1751:—“On Wednesday the 13th of this Instant November at the Merchants’ Coffee-House in Liverpool will be exposed for Sale to the highest Bidder. About 5,000 gallons Greenland Whale Oyle in Ten Lotts and about 21 C. o q. o lb. of Whale Bone taken out of Two Fish whereof about 19 C. o q. in Quantity 727 Fins are from Six to Nine and a Half Feet long and about 2 C. o q. o lbs. in Quantity 409 Fins under Six Feet divided equally into Four equal Lotts exactly Sorted.” The *Golden Lion* is shewn as commanded by John Medcalfe and entered inwards at Liverpool in March, 1752.

On 21st January 1752, there appeared in the *Chester Courant* a notice, as under, concerning the business of the oldest firm of jewellers which, I think, is still in existence to-day:—

**To be SOLD**

The Stock in Trade of John Brancker, Goldsmith and Jeweller lately deceased Consisting of Large and small Plate Jewellers Work Gold and Silver Watches Glass and China Ware, together with the Fixtures of the Shop, extremely well situated for the Business at the corner of Water Street near the Exchange, to be Lett. For further particulars enquire of John Backhouse Merchant or of Thomas Horse­man, grocer, of Standish.

I have a later note of this business being taken over by Jones. For almost two hundred years, this shop and its trade were maintained continuously on the same site. *Williamson’s Adver­tiser* of 10th December, 1756, records the death of Brancker’s successor, as follows:—

Buried at the Anabaptist Church, Everton, R. Jones who succeeded the late John Brancker in the Goldsmith, Silversmith and China Shop next the Exchange.

The *Liverpool Chronicle* of 1st January, 1758, contains the following obituary notice:—

Mrs. Brancker, mother of the late John Brancker, goldsmith, and relict of Benjamin Brancker.
Among hitherto unprinted manuscripts pertaining to Liverpool are two documents relating to St. Thomas’s Church. They are preserved at the Liverpool Public Library, and would appear to be an important item of local records from an ecclesiastical and municipal history standpoint.

The first, dated 24 October, 1748, reads as follows:—“Agreeable to a Meeting held in the Exchange on the 16th Instant notice was given to ye Subscribers in particular also publick notice by the Bell Man at Exchange hours yesterday and this day that the first Corner Stone would be laid this afternoon at four o’Clock and accordingly the Mayor and several of the Aldermen Common Councill Commissioners Subscribers and other Gentlemen of the Town mett at ye Exchange and at four o’Clock walk’d in procession to the foundation, the Town’s Musick, Halbert Men, Constables, Sub-Bailiffs, Water Bailiff, Sword and Mace leading the Van. Then the Mayor, Aldermen Bailiffs Common Councill Commissioner for building the Church, the Subscribers thereto and ye Gentlemen of the Town following in a regular procession attended with several thousands of ye Common people. The Stone being laid upon a poise, the Mayor enter’d the foundation and after throwing some new pieces of Coin under the Stone he threw down the Stone into its bed with one hand, then taking a Mallet into his hand made ye following speech. “ I haveing wish’d for and rejoice to see this Day. May the establish’d religion of this Kingdom for ever flourish and the worthy pattern of Piety and Benevolence encourage others to follow our Example ” then striking three blows with the Mallet on the Stone said: “ God prosper the Work ” in like manner followed the Gentlemen in their order and did the like except the speech, throwing money on to the Stone for the Workmen, and then returned in ye same order to St. George’s Church where publick Prayer was made and then proceeded to the Exchange where the Day was ended with a handsome entertainment in great decency and sobriety suitable to ye occasion.

Thomas Shaw, Mayor.

The church was consecrated two years afterwards and a contemporary scribe has left us the following description of the ceremony:—
"The Bishop having given Notice that he would be at Eastam Boat House on Monday the 11th of September, Mr. Charles Goore took several Boats over to attend His Lordshipp, the Chancellor, the Register and other Gentlemen that attended the Bishop. They were brought over and on Wednesday the 12th of September, 1750, about ten o'Clock in the Forenoon the Mayor Joseph Davis Esq. the Aldermen and Common Council together with the Gentlemen and Ladies and numerable Common People walk'd in Procession to the said Church Where the best preperation was made wch could be invented to make a clear road for the Bishop who coming to the Church Doore demanded One of the Commissioners the Petition for the Consecration of the Church wch was accordingly delivered to Him along with the Consecration Deed by Charles Goore standing at the outside of the Doore and the Bishop withinside of the Church having a Servant along with Him then the Doore was fastened and the Bishop took Possession of the Church and after staying about 10 or 15 Minutes the Church Door was opened and the People enter'd the Bishop and Clergy that officiated being placed at the Communion Table when the Consecration Service was read and afterwards the Consecration Deed then the Service of the Church was read by the Rev. Robert Brereton and a Sermon preached by the Revd William Martin Chaplain of the Church consecrated & call'd St. Thomas Church. After the Service ended the Consecration Deed was signed by a Great Number of the Gentlemen as witnesses thereto, and from the Church the Bishop, Clergy & Gentry withdrew to Thomas Denham's at Pontacks Head in Water Street where a Dinner was provided at the Corporation's Expence, The Bishop staying in the Town till Saturday the 15 September when He was again carried up to Eastam on the Boat that brought Him down."

Among the first pew-holders were William Bulkeley, merchant; Edward Grayson, shipwright; John Newton, brewer; Joseph Rathbone; John Salthouse, cooper; and Owen Prichard, merchant. The architect of the building must have died within a few years of completing the work, as is shown by the following extract from Williamson's Advertiser of 12th January, 1759: "Died Mrs. Sephton, relict of Mr. Sephton, an eminent architect and Mason, who built St. Thomas's Church and was concerned in erecting the Exchange of this town."