

THE LEGACY OF THOMAS DEACON



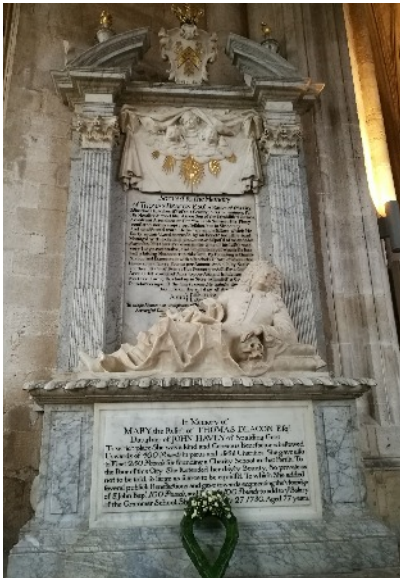
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THOMAS DEACON FOUNDATION

Thomas Deacon

Thomas Deacon was a wealthy wool merchant and philanthropist. Born in 1651, he married Mary Harvey of Spalding in 1673.

Thomas was a prominent figure in the local area, owning a number of properties within Peterborough and the surrounding area, including farms, cottages and Longthorpe Tower.

Thomas Deacon died on 19 August 1721, and was laid to rest on 24 August 1721 in Peterborough Cathedral.



The Deacon Memorial in Peterborough Cathedral.

Each year a Wreath Laying Ceremony takes place in honour of the founder, Thomas Deacon.

1651

Thomas Deacon born

1673

Married Mary Harvey of Spalding

1679

Became a Peterborough Feoffee

1683

Appointed Governor of Town Estates

1701

Acquired New Manor (Longthorpe Tower)

1704

Appointed High Sheriff of Northampton

1721

Died on 19 August

Gift to the city

Thomas Deacon bequeathed in his Will, dated 13 January 1719, that:

'...My messuage and two freehold cottages and appurtenances the orchard, garden, yards and barns... assign my freehold farm... all profits from time to time and at all times for ever, however arising and proceeding...to be duly applied for the endowing and setting up of a school and schoolhouse in Peterborough... for teaching and instructing twenty poor boys...to read, write and cast accounts...'

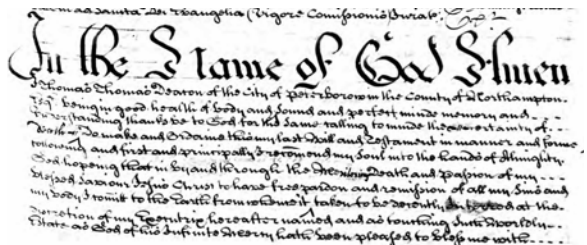
The Will gave the responsibility and management of the school to the Vicar of St John Baptist, Peterborough and the Feoffees.

The Will devised the following for the benefit of the school:

- i) Willow Hall Farm, including 231 acres 21 poles plus farm buildings
- ii) Newborough, 2 acres 0 roods 26 poles
- iii) Padmholme (Flag Fen) 4 acres 1 rood
- iv) Barsonly Close, Whittlesey, 28 acres
- v) Unspecified land at Stanground whose rent goes to Willow Hall Farm

FEOFFEES?

Feoffees, similar to today's local councillors, were a form of local government who in 1571 were entrusted (emfeoffeed) by other citizens to control and administer land and charities in and around Peterborough.



Extract of Thomas Deacon's Will from Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills, 1384-1858

Whatever you do, act wisely

KEY DATES

Deacon's Charity School

The first location of the school was situated in two adjacent cottages in Cowgate, occupying most of the North side of the road (what is now King Street).

In his Will, Thomas Deacon appointed Nathaniel Symth as Schoolmaster. Nathaniel held this position until 1769.

The school opened in 1722 and remained on site for 161 years until 1883 when it moved to Crown Lane. The site was sold by auction for £3,150.



Original school in Cowgate

1722

Deacon's Charity School opens

1826

William Squire bequeathed £500 to Deacon's School

1834

Bequest from Mrs Ann Ireland of £100 "to teach thirty poor children going to Deacon's School"

1874

Incorporation of the City of Peterborough

1881

First Board of Governors established

1881

School reorganisation allowed for "free" places to be awarded on results of a competitive examination

KEY DATES

Deacon Street

In April 1882, a site on Crown Lane (later renamed Deacon Street) was purchased to house the new school campus and opened in 1883 “without unnecessary ornament”.

The school was designated a “public school secondary grade”, meaning secondary with provision for scholarship entry and fee paying boys.

The site on Deacon Street expanded over time to accommodate the growing number of pupils and staff. This included the addition of science laboratory, classrooms, caretakers house, and fitted gymnasium.

Once there was no more land to be purchased around the site, other space was hired to accommodate increasing numbers, this included:

- Westgate Congregational Church Schoolroom
- The Technical School, Broadway



Deacon School on
Deacon Street

1903

Transferred to Board of Education as a Secondary School (Division B)

1905

Formation of Old Deaconians' Association

1922

Founders Day Commemoration Service established

1922

House system established - Britons, Danes, Normans and Saxons

1945

Became a 2-form entry grammar school for boys

1950

First Annual House competitions and School Carol Service at St Johns The Baptist

KEY DATES

Queen's Gardens

Pre-fab accommodation opened on the site in September 1949. The New Main School building opened in 1960, this included establishment of enlarged playing fields. Before the governors leased playing field on Park Crescent from Soke of Peterborough County Council.

In 1976, mathematics and science complex opened. This was followed by a sports hall, art, music and technical complex in 1980. In 1990, the English, Humanities and RE block was opened.

A new Maths block was opened in 2000, followed by a new Buttery building in 2001.

Deacon's achieved many accolades, including becoming a Specialist Technology College in 1994, Beacon School in 1999 and Leading Edge School in 2002.



Drawing of Deacon's School in Queen's Gardens.

1949

Introduction of House Competitions for Art, Music, Dance

1950

Formation of Parent Teacher Association

1952

Dedication of Old Deaconians' War Memorial lectern

1972

250th Anniversary of Foundation

1972

Gift of new Coat of Arms from Parent Teacher Association

1976

Became comprehensive School for boys and girls

KEY DATES

Thomas Deacon Academy

Deacon's School closed in July 2007, merging with Hereward Community College and John Mansfield School to form the Thomas Deacon Academy.

The Deacon's School Trust, now Thomas Deacon Foundation, became one of the two sponsors of the Thomas Deacon Academy by investing £1.2m into the Academy.

In 2014, the opening of TDA Juniors enables the Academy to offer education from Year 3 to the end of Sixth Form in Year 13.

In 2016, the Thomas Deacon Education Trust was formed, as a multi-academy trust.



2002

Joint venture with Hereward Community College begins

2003

Thomas Deacon Academy project begins

2007

Thomas Deacon Academy opens

2014

TDA Juniors opens

2016

Thomas Deacon Education Trust formed

2018

TDA extension to refectory and new Sixth Form centre opens

Whatever you do, act wisely

Thomas Deacon Foundation

Our vision

To see the legacy and values of Thomas Deacon impact the students of Thomas Deacon Academy in a positive and long-lasting way.

Thomas Deacon Foundation, formerly Deacon's School Trust, is a charity with origins going back to the Feoffees. We continue to support Thomas Deacon Academy, by providing two governors to the local governing body and administer bequest scholarships to students.

SUPPORT US

- **Help us raise funds - just by shopping online with Give as you Live**
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- **Leave a Legacy**
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THOMAS DEACON FOUNDATION

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