

Reverend Hon. John Horatio Nelson

Vicar of Scottow and Belaugh 1857-1872

Revised 4th May 2015

The Rev. Hon. John Nelson took up the post as vicar of Scottow and Belaugh on the 27th June 1857, living at the vicarage in Scottow. He married Susan Spencer-Churchill a short time later on 27th August 1857 in London.

John Horatio Nelson was born 15th January 1825 in Brickworth House, Whiteparish Wiltshire. He died 28th September 1917 aged 92, and is buried in Shaw St. Mary's churchyard, Newbury, Berkshire. He was educated at Eton College and Harrow School, Trinity College Cambridge.

He was the son of Thomas Nelson 2nd Earl Nelson of Trafalgar and Merton. His mother was Frances Elizabeth nee Eyre.

His wife Susan Spencer-Churchill was born 1831 in Bath Somerset and died 1898 in Berkshire. She was the daughter of Lord Charles Spencer-Churchill and Ethelred Catherine nee Bennett. She was christened on the 27th May 1831 Kingston-upon-Thames. Her father, Lord Charles Spencer-Churchill, born 3 December 1794 and died 28 April 1840, was a British nobleman, soldier and politician, the second son of the Duke of Marlborough. Her parents married on 24 August 1827 and she was one of three children, the other two being sons.

The Nelsons were to have two sons of their own, both born at the vicarage Scottow.

John Eyre Nelson, born 1st October 1858 – baptised 30th November 1858 at Scottow Church. He married Katherine Cornelia Kell, and died 9th January 1913 aged 55.

Horatio Spencer Nelson. Born 8th June 1860 - baptised 4th July 1860 at Scottow Church. He died 8th May 1935 aged 75.

The Rev. Hon. John Nelson then at the age of 32 and newly married appeared to have shown a great enthusiasm for his new church at Scottow. Reportedly it was thoroughly restored by him and his friends in 1857, when the windows were almost entirely reglazed, a new oak pulpit with stone base was presented by him or possibly his older brother, the then holder of the Lord Nelson title. The old Purbeck marble font was restored, new altar rails and choir seats were provided, and the chancel floor was raised one step.

Records also indicate that he helped in financing the building of the new parochial school built 1859 in the Fairstead, an area of Scottow.

Nelson stayed at Scottow for some fifteen years, when he then left and graduated in 1872 Master of Arts (MA) Cantab. He became Rector at Shaw-cum-Donnington, Newbury Berks.

A Lady Lamb in 1876, some 4 years after the departure of the Nelsons, was to present Scottow church with its handsome oak lectern purchased and brought from London.

Footnote:

Perhaps it was not purely by random chance that led John Nelson to take up the post as vicar of Scottow, as his famous past relation Admiral Lord Nelson many years earlier, had often visited the Durrants, principal landowners, at Scottow. He (Lord Nelson) referred to them as "the jovial Durrants of Scottow Hall."

The vicarage of Scottow was demolished in the early sixties, after being used for some years for raising battery chickens. The land (glebe) is now the home of the North Walsham Rugby Club.

The following are some notes on John Nelson's father and his family connection with the Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson, battle of Trafalgar fame.

Thomas Nelson, 2nd Earl Nelson, father of the **Rev. John Nelson**, was born **Thomas Bolton** (7 July 1786 – 1 November 1835), and was to become the 2nd Earl Nelson.

He was the son of Thomas Bolton and Susannah Nelson, daughter of the Rev. Edmund Nelson and sister to the famous Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson, and was educated at Norwich High School and St Peter's College, Cambridge, graduating MA in 1814. This made him the nephew of Admiral Horatio Nelson, hero of the Battle of Trafalgar, etc. He married Frances Elizabeth Eyre, daughter of John Maurice Eyre of Landford, Wiltshire, on 21 February 1821. They had seven children:

- Horatio Nelson, to become the 3rd Earl Nelson (1823–1913).
- John Horatio Nelson (1825–1917) *who was to become the vicar of Scottow and Belaugh in 1857.*
- Frances Catherine Bolton (1827–1877)
- Susannah Bolton (1829–1900)
- Maurice Horatio Nelson (1832–1914)
- Edward Foyle Bolton (1833–1859)
- Henry Bolton (1835–1863)

He was High Sheriff of Wiltshire in 1834.

He inherited the titles of Earl Nelson, Viscount Merton and Baron Nelson from his uncle **William Nelson, 1st Earl Nelson, 2nd Duke of Bronté** (20 April 1757–28 February 1835) who was the elder brother of Horatio Nelson, 1st Viscount Nelson, and who died on 28 February 1835 without surviving male issue. Bolton changed his name to Nelson on inheriting the earldom.

A Brief Life and Times of the Rev. John Horatio Nelson

Born: 15 Jan 1825 Brickworth House, Whiteparish Wiltshire.
 Death of his father: 1835 Thomas Bolton (changed to Nelson on inheriting the earldom).
 Education: Eton College and Harrow School.
 Census: 1841 Harrow on the Hill, Middlesex.
 Education: Trinity College, Cambridge.
 Occupation: 1847 - 1851 Curate of Eartham Sussex.
 Census: 1851 Speen, Berkshire.
 Occupation: 1851 - 1853 Curate of Speen, Berkshire.
 Occupation: 1853 - 1857 Rector of Trimley St Mary, Suffolk.
 Married: Susan Spencer-Churchill 27th August 1857 in London.
 Occupation: 1857 - 1872 Rector of Belaugh with Scottow, Norfolk
 Birth of first son: John Eyre Nelson. Born 1st October 1858. Scottow, Norfolk
 Birth of second son: Horatio Spencer Nelson. Born 8th June 1860. Scottow, Norfolk.
 Census: 1861 Scottow Vicarage, Norfolk.
 Occupation: 1861 Vicar of Scottow.
 Occupation: 1872 - 1909 Rector of Shaw with Donnington, Berkshire.
 Death of his mother: 1878 Frances Elizabeth Eyre.
 Census: 1881 Shaw cum Donnington, Berkshire.
 Census: 1891 the Rectory, Shaw, Berkshire.
 Death of his wife: 1898 Susan Spencer- Churchill. Shaw cum Donnington, Berkshire.
 Census: 1901 Shaw Rectory, Shaw cum Donnington, Berkshire
 Census: 1911 Lords Oak Cottage, Landford, Wiltshire
 Death of his first son: 1913 John Eyre Nelson died 9th January 1913 aged 55.
 Nelson died: 28 Sep 1917 Landford, Wiltshire.
 Father: Thomas Bolton (1786 - 1835) He changed his name to Nelson on inheriting the earldom.
 Mother: Frances Elizabeth Eyre (1796 - 1878)