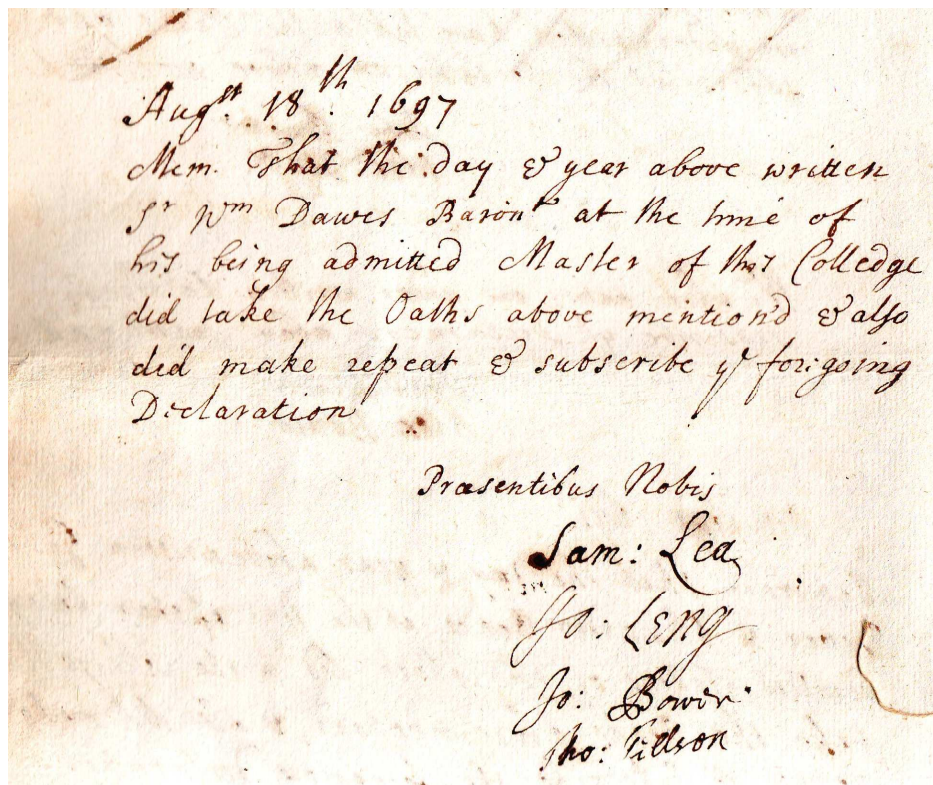


## Sir William Dawes (1671-1724)

Sir William Dawes was born in Lyons, near Braintree in Essex in September 1671, the third son of Sir John Dawes. He went to school at Merchant Taylor's School in London before being elected as a Scholar to St. John's College Oxford. In 1689 he migrated from St. John's to St. Catharine's following the death of his two older brothers and his subsequent inheritance of the family baronetcy.

Sir William went on to be made a Fellow of the College in 1695 and received a Doctorate of Divinity by Royal mandate in 1696. The following year saw him elected to the Mastership of St. Catharine's, a post he held until 1714. He was also elected as Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University for 1698-9.



Aug<sup>r</sup>. 18<sup>th</sup>. 1697  
Mem. That the Day & year above written  
S<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Dawes Baron<sup>t</sup> at the time of  
his being admitted Master of that Colledge  
did take the Oaths above mention'd & also  
did make repeat & subscribe y<sup>e</sup> foregoing  
Declaration

Præsentibus Nobis  
Sam: Lea  
Jo: Leng  
Jo: Bower  
Tho: Tilson

A record of the election of Sir William Dawes to the position of Master of St. Catharine's College. The admission was witnessed by Samuel Lea, John Leng, John Bower and Thomas Tilson and required a letter of dispensation from King William III as Dawes was under the age of 30.

Reference: XL/33, page 18

In Dei Nomine Amen. Coram Vobis Notario Publico  
Publicâq; & Authentica Personâ, ac Testibus fide dignis hinc  
Presentibus, Ego Gulielmus, Providentiâ Divinâ, Eborac  
Archi-Episcopus, Magister Collegij sive Aulae Divae Kath  
-rinae, in Academia Cantabrigiensi, Volens & Affectans,  
ex certis causis & Considerationibus Veris, Justis & Legi  
-timis, me in hac parte specialiter moventibus, ab Onere  
& Regimine dicti mei Magistratus Collegij sive Aulae  
Divae Katharinae, & pertinentijs ejusdem, exui penitus  
& exonerari, Eundem Magistratum meum, una cum,  
suis Juribus, Membris & Pertinentijs universis, in manus  
Reverendi Viri Thomae Fosse, Praesidis, & reliquorum Socio  
-rum ejusdem Collegij sive Aulae, seu alterius cujuscunq;  
hanc meam Resignationem Admittendi Potestatem ha  
-bentis vel habituri, simpliciter & absolute Resigno, ac re  
& verbo vacuum dimitto: Juri quoq; & Titulo & Possessi  
-oni meis, in eodem ~~Magistratu~~ Magistratu, Omnibus &  
singulis Renuntio, cedo, & ab eisdem Recedo totaliter &  
expresse, in his Scriptis Propria manu meâ subscriptis  
& Sigillo meo sigillatis, Decimo die Aprilis, Anno Do  
-mini Millesimo, Septingentesimo, Decimo quarto.

In presentia nostrum.

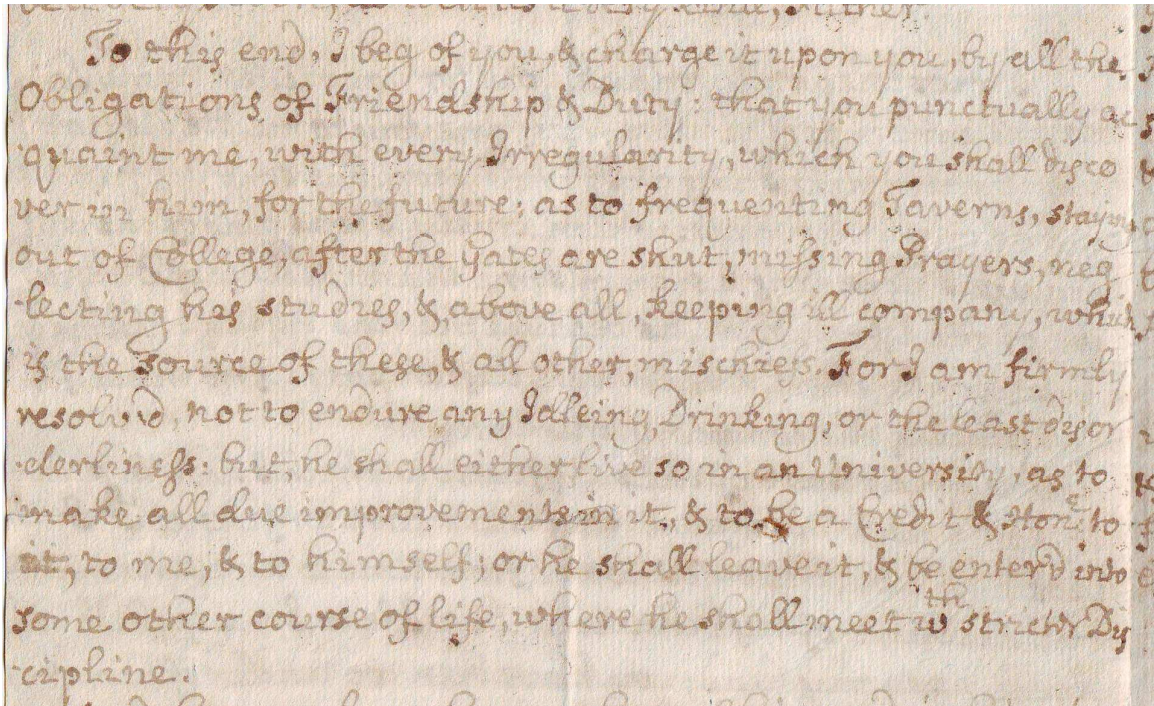
Robt Peirson, <sup>Ej. Praesid.</sup> no: 1  
Wm Haselum  
John Howkner

Gul: Ebor:



William Dawes' letter of resignation from the Mastership. He went on to be Archbishop of York.

Sir William married Frances, eldest daughter of Sir Thomas D'Arcy in 1692 and they had 7 children, one of whom attended St. Catharine's. Darcy Dawes was elected a Fellow-Commoner in 1720 and gained his MA in 1722. He went on to succeed his father as Baronet. Whilst at university his behaviour was sometimes deemed inappropriate as this extract of a letter sent to the Vice-Chancellor by his father on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 1721 indicates:



To this end, I beg of you, & charge it upon you, by all the Obligations of Friendship & Duty: that you punctually acquaint me, with every Irregularity, which you shall discover in him, for the future; as to frequenting Taverns, staying out of College, after the Gates are shut, missing Prayers, neglecting his studies, & above all, keeping ill company, which is the source of these, & all other mischiefs. For I am firmly resolv'd, not to endure any Idleness, Drinking, or the least disorder: but he shall either live so in an University, as to make all due improvements in it, & to be a Credit & Honor to it, to me, & to himself; or he shall leave it, & be enter'd into some other course of life, where he shall meet w<sup>th</sup> strict Discipline.

Reference: M/5/Dawes/2

Sir William died in 1724 and was buried in the East end of the Chapel at St. Catharine's College with his wife who had died in 1705.

Further information about Sir William Dawes can be found in his entry in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography and at the Borthwick Institute for Archives which holds official correspondence and papers of the Archbishop of York (<http://www.york.ac.uk/library/borthwick/catalogues/archival-holdings/>).

The College Archivist is always happy to answer questions relating to the College Archives: [archivist@caths.cam.ac.uk](mailto:archivist@caths.cam.ac.uk).