

Jot & Tittle Sarum

A personal selection of Salisbury Cathedral, Museum and local history.

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No.8
July 2026

OUR MULBERRY

At a recent Old Boys Day at the Cathedral School, my wife and I were working on the Mulberry Tree Garden when we were approached by one of the school's old boys. Robert Gooden is 86, still working, and as bright as a button. His business was butterflies and we had visited his butterfly farm at Trent, outside Sherborne some forty or more years ago.

It turned out that he had also run Lullingston Silk farm. Originally in Hertfordshire, Lullingstone Silk Farm relocated its historic operation to Compton House in Over Compton, near Sherborne, Dorset during the latter half of its operation. Founded by Lady Zoë Hart Dyke in the 1930s, this pioneering British sericulture business is famous for supplying the silk used in numerous iconic British royal wedding dresses and coronation robes. Robert's family home was Compton House. The photo below appeared in the Daily Mail when the Goodens put it up for sale.



We mentioned the fact that our Salisbury Tree was a Black Mulberry not a White Mulberry used for sericulture in France. We understood that it was part of the large number of trees distributed by James I via the county sheriffs and that unfortunately James had been sold the wrong type of tree.

Robert we soon realised was decidedly an expert on silkworms and had set up a large project in Normandy. He stated that James I was not mistaken, his advisors knew that it was too cold in Britain for White Mulberries and that the Black Mulberry was better suited. In fact all varieties of Mulberry can harbour silkworms (around 10 to 20), it is just that the White is the most productive. He said that in France the farmers used sprays with gay abandon, not caring that the wind took the spray over neighbouring farms. As a result there were now very few silk farms in France, with the main ones concentrated in the Cévennes (south-central).

HYDE & SEEK

Roy Woodward, a Wednesday guide, has sent me the following:

In black and white marble and framed by columns with white marble head and sill. NOTE there is a connection with the other Hyde monument on the West wall in the South Transept, that of his brother Robert Hyde (Lord Chief justice) who was perhaps the more famous of the two brothers.

However the focus is on Henry Hyde born 1605 and beheaded in 1650. Henry was amongst other things an outspoken Diplomat and (unfortunately for him) a Royalist.

Roy asked our Librarian, Dr Anne Dutton, to help him with the translation from Latin to English. However the Editor's 'go to' book for Salisbury Tombs is *Copies of the Epitaphs in Salisbury Cathedral, Cloisters, and Cemetery*, published by James Harris in 1825. If you are interested, you can find it on-line at <https://archive.org/details/copiesofepitaphs00harr/page/n9/mode/2up>. The relevant pages are shown below. If you look up Wikipedia and the World of Hyde, there is also this extra information:

His father Lawrence Hyde (1562-1641) of Salisbury, Wiltshire, was the attorney-general to Anne of Denmark and a Member of Parliament (MP). His Italian mother was Barbara Castillion. He married a lady named Gower in 1624 and had two children, Jane born in 1625 and Henry in 1630 (at St Mary, Wilton).

Henry became a merchant and consul, based for many years in Turkey. During the Interregnum, he was selected by Charles II (who would flee into exile in 1651), to act as an envoy to the Turkish empire and solicit their support for his cause. The official Parliamentarian (Roundhead) ambassador, Sir Thomas Bendish, strongly objected to his presence in Constantinople and prevailed upon the Turks to arrest him and ship him back to England. Sir Henry Hyde was imprisoned in the Tower, charged with treason, and tried by a court made up from the [Cromwell controlled] House of Commons. In the National Gallery there is an engraving for the frontispiece of Winstanley's *Loyall Martyrology* of 1665. In the picture Sir Henry is the second one down on the top left of the page.



On a black marble tablet, supported with two Ionic black marble pillars, enchased in white marble, is this inscription in capitals :

Henricus Hide, Eques Luratus,
 Laurentii Hyde Eq. Aurat. ex agro Wilton
 Gentis Anglicanae, quatuor plus minus Austra,
 In Peloponeso Consul,
 Ecclesiae ibidem Fundator,
 Caroli II Magni Brit Regis,
 Apud Turcarum Imperatorem
 Internuncius.

Vir

Arduis admotus, et par negotiis
 In manus sacrilegus Perduellium
 Westmonasterii considentium
 Invidorum perfidia traditus,
 Defensae reus Majestatis,

IV Martias

MDCL^o

Securim qua periit deosculatus,
 Invidendo plane Martyrio (Car I ad instar)

Auspiciatissime baptizatus,
 Exulantis Caroli victima,
 Redituri Vates.

Excelso evehctus pegmate,
 Animo longe excelciori,
 Hymno iste Angelorum,
 Orationem inchoavit,
 Finivit vitam.

Gloria Deo in excelsis,
 In terris pax,
 Hominibus *εὐδοκία*.
 Anno Ætatis XLV.

TRANSLATION.—Henry Hyde, Knt. son of Lawrence Hyde, Knt. of the county of Wilts; about sixteen years Consul in the Morea, founder of a church there; Ambassador of Charles the 2d to the Emperor of the Turks. A man promoted to arduous business and equal to it, being treacherously delivered up into the sacrilegious hands of his inveterate enemies, then setting in

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL.

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council at Westminster,* and found guilty of being in arms for his King, on the 4 Nones of March, 1650. He finished life, kissing the axe by which he perished, in the 45th year of his age; being auspiciously and evidently baptized to suffer the envied martyrdom of Charles 1st (in resemblance); a victim of the banished Charles 2d, and foreteller of his return; being exalted on a high scaffold, with a still higher spirit, he sung this angelic hymn :

Glory to God on high,
 On earth peace,
 Good will towards Man.



Time Graphics adds a bit more information: Sir Henry Hyde (Jan 1, 1605 – Jan 1, 1650). Sir Henry Hyde was a Royalist at a time when most merchants in the Levant and East India Companies—practical, no-nonsense city men—leaned toward Parliament. When the English Civil War broke out, Hyde had his own path was juggling three gigs: trading raisins as the Levant Company's agent in the Peloponnese, spying for the Venetians on Ottoman trade and military movements, and, using the profits from both, securing a position as the Ottoman consul for the region, which even came with his own regiment of Janissaries*.

Despite all this, he stayed Christian and even had a chapel on his estate. Throughout the 1630s and 1640s, as England inched toward war, he built up his own little fiefdom—until the Levant Company had enough and sent Sir Thomas Bendish to kick him out. Forced to return to England, Hyde fought for the Royalists, only to see Charles I executed. He later followed Charles II to Paris before being sent to Istanbul as an ambassador. But things took a turn—

hiding out on a French ship in Smyrna, he was captured, hauled back to London, thrown in the Tower, tried for treason, and ultimately beheaded.

*Janissaries were in the 15th century a famed elite military unit formed from (largely Balkan) Christian children who were forcibly converted to Islam, forbidden to marry until their 40s and who grew up to become salaried Ottoman soldiers. They became very reactionary and even revolted and so were disbanded in 1826 in what became known as the *Auspicious Incident* in which over 6,000 were executed.

1. A Dictionary of Medieval Terms & Phrases by Coredon and Williams (D S Brewer 2004) and Domesday Book Translated by Prof. G H Martin (Penguin Books 2002).