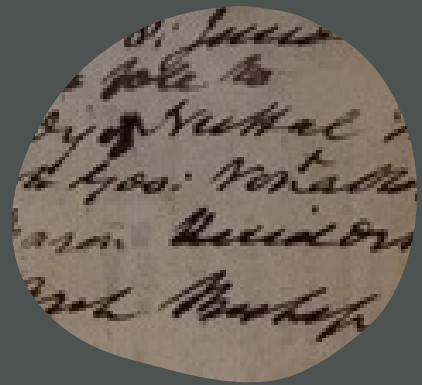


Who's the winner please? An exercise in sleuthing

Susan Faine, May 2022



Goodness knows how many years ago, I dug this handbill out of a box at a charity garage sale, in North Melbourne. This is the story of my many attempts to sleuth, transcribe and decipher the handwriting on the back of the bill, and what I eventually discovered.

State Lottery.
MORE
Prizes than Blanks,
And all the Capital Prizes in Addition.
THE WHOLE WILL BE
DETERMINED IN ONE LOTTERY
OF FOUR DAYS DRAWING,
Not divided into Two Lotteries, as of late Years.

THE FIRST DAY
Will be THURSDAY,
The 6th of MAY

SCHEME.		
3	of £20,000	are £60,000
3	.....10,000	.....30,000
4	.....2,000	.....8,000
6	.....1,000	.....6,000
8	.....500	.....4,000
10	.....300	.....3,000
15	.....200	.....3,000
20	.....100	.....2,000
40	.....50	.....2,000
50	.....40	.....2,000
1,000	.....20	.....20,000
3,000	.....10	.....30,000
6,000	.....5	.....30,000

10,159 Prizes.
9,841 Blanks.
20,000 Tickets. £200,000

Part of the Prizes determined as under:
The First 1,000 Blanks drawn, £20 each;
The Second 1,000 Blanks drawn, £10 each.

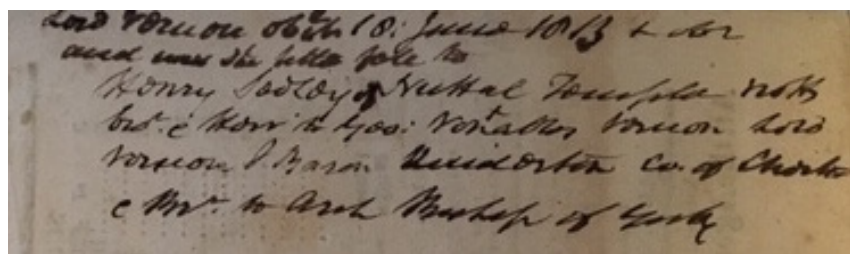
The above Scheme is peculiarly adapted to CLUBS and SOCIETIES, as well as to individual Adventurers, for more than Half of the Tickets and Shares purchased, are almost

SURE to be PRIZES,
Besides their Chance for
ALL THE CAPITALS.

Tickets, and Shares are selling by
All the Agents in this Town.

I know nothing about the history of lotteries or gambling, and embarrassingly little about English history. I started with the assumption that the information on front and back were related by date. Then again, the handbill might just have been a convenient scrap of paper for writing notes - the risk of researching in the dark!

The 6th of May fell on a Thursday in 1813 1819 1824 1830 1841 1847 1852 1858 1869 1875 1886 1897 1909 1915 ... and 1813 is decipherable in the handwriting - 18 June 1813.



But if this is from England, where the final of 170 state lotteries was drawn on 18 October 1826, then the window narrows considerably, making a date relationship between front and back seem more plausible.

From researching the bits of handwriting I was confident I could decipher, I learned that the 'Arch Bishop of York' [a common spelling at the time] from 1808-1847 was Edward Venables-Vernon (later Venables-Vernon-Harcourt). Baron Vernon of Kinderton in the County of Chester is a title in British peerage.

But then I needed help, so I approached fellow members of the Ephemera Society of Australia <https://www.ephemerasociety.org.au>.

Lord Vernon 18 June 1813 & br
and the lett[] [] to
Henry Sedley of Nuttall Temple both
but e Herr to Geo. Venables Vernon Lord
Vernon I Baron Kinderton Co. of Chester
& Br to Arch Bishop of York

Working in tandem, Wendi B. and I deciphered, and cross-referenced with historical research, to arrive at the following transcription:

Line 1: Lord Vernon [] 18 June 1813 & br[other]
Notice the flourish to create the two '8's. This corresponds to the peerage link, when Venables succeeded as 3rd Lord Baron, hence his name change. Prior to 1779 he was known as Henry Sedley; his wife's maiden name.

Line 2: and [] the lett[] [] to

Line 3: Henry Sedley of Nuttall Temple [both]
There was no formal consistency in spelling at this time - spelling was phonetic, with local and vernacular variations.

Line 4: [bid]e? Herr to Geo. Venables Vernon Lord
Henry Sedley was changed to Henry Venables Vernon on 18/6/1813. The 't' symbol above Venables is uncertain - usually superscript letters were abbreviations.

Line 5: Vernon I Baron Kinderton Co. of Chester
The third word looks like Kess/tt_erton, although logically it is Kinderton.

Line 6: e [and] Br to Arch Bishop of York
The character resembling 'e' is frequently 'and' or 'at'. 'Br' is likely brother.

So together:

Lord Vernon [] 18 June 1813 & br[other]
and [] the lett[] [] to
Henry Sedley of Nuttall Temple [both]
[bid]e? Herr to Geo. Venables Vernon Lord
Vernon I Baron Kinderton Co. of Chester
[and] Br to Arch Bishop of York

Despite our research, we may never know if this piece of script relates to the lottery bill, or if the bill was used as a scrap of paper. But luckily for us the writing refers to people who were of some standing.

A quick look for Nuttall Temple on the internet tells us it was built in Nottinghamshire in 1757 for the Sedley family, the last of whom was Sir Charles Sedley. Sir Charles' daughter had married Henry Venables-Vernon and, 'on the acquisition of this fortune, Mr Vernon does not seem to have exhibited any reluctance to change his name to Sedley'.

The Peerage website explains that: Henry Venables-Vernon (1747-1829) was the 3rd Lord Vernon, Baron of Kinderton in the County of Chester. He was educated at Westminster School, and was Groom of the Bedchamber from 1770 to 1809, during which time, in 1779, he married Elizabeth Sedley, daughter of Sir Charles Sedley and his name was legally changed to Henry Sedley. It was legally changed back again when he became the 3rd Lord Vernon, after the death of his older stepbrother George Venables-Vernon, 2nd Lord Vernon, on 18 June 1813 (the date in the writing).

Henry's younger brother Edward was indeed the Arch Bishop of York between 1807 and 1847.

A version of this article first appeared in Ephemera Society of Australia newsletter, and we're pleased to be able to adapt it for this HAW newsletter. There's more information about transcribing handwriting on the ESA website - <https://www.ephemerasociety.org.au/>

Following references all retrieved in October 2021:
<http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/Jacks1881/nuttalltemple.htm>;
<https://www.thepeerage.com/p3580.htm#i35794>;
<https://tinyurl.com/d79y5pdd>
[\https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archbishop_of_York
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuttall_Temple
<http://www.thepeerage.com/p3580.htm>
https://www.bellsite.id.au/gdbtree/HTMLFiles/HTMLFiles_29/P18733.html



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My work is with communities, people and their stories, objects and places. I encourage people to speak of their life as they have lived it.