

Sir William Cantlow -

There are no direct records linking William Cantlow with Pancras or Kentish Town; indeed, his late country residence might have been Dunstable in Hertfordshire. Nevertheless, the name Cantlow appears in London records in the late fifteenth century.



William Cantlowe Sherriff of London 1448-9 in Aldermanic robes. Member of the Mercer's Company. LMA: SC/GL/PR/LA/P3/CAM/p5381277

Materials in London Metropolitan Archives, City of London Court of Aldermen

1423, when William Cantelowe became tenant at farm paying £6. 6s. 8d. rent. ... £5. 6s. 8d. were spent by Cantelowe himself on making a house anew in the close there. ... Cantelowe continued to hold the house until 1433 or later, but had ceased to do so by 1445-6¹

1440 William Kerner acknowledges he received from Cantelowe's goods in town to value of £20 and as for residue of said goods he had received none

1446 Alderman of Cripplegate Ward

¹ <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/no-series/london-gazetteer-pre-fire/pp111-117>

1447 'late' victualler of the town and marches of Calais² ,
1447 slander against him
1449 to make scrutiny of 'wears' in the Thames
1454 Representative of the City of London in Parliament³
1456 Warden of Mercers
1456 Mayor and Sherriff⁴
1456 exonerated from office of alderman
1456 Imprisoned in Dudley Castle as being supposed to be concerned in an attack made by the young mercers of London on the houses of the Lombard merchants⁵
1458 'Agreement with William Cantelowe for masses', - The Grey Friars of London⁶
1461 'At the Coronation of Edward IV, in June 1461, a William Cantelowe was made a Knight of the Bath, who was probably identical with the Alderman of Cripplegate...'⁷
1462 decided he should retain in his hand.. what he received from his ward 'ad perquisitione de Billingsgate' and he should pay the rest when...

An account.

In the 34th year is the arrest of an alderman and mercer of London named Cautelowe, who was summoned before the King's Council and imprisoned, as an accessory in the attack on the houses of the Italian merchants. This is, doubtless, the William Cantelowe who afterwards captured Henry VI in a wood, and brought him to King Edward. He is mentioned in various accounts before this date as having dealings with the Crown, at one time as conveying money over sea for bringing Queen Margaret to England, at another time for supplying the Castle of Cherbourg with gunpowder when it was in the hands of the English.

The outrage in which Cantelowe was accused of taking part was one of those occasional outbursts of jealousy and dislike towards foreigners which are met with at intervals in the early annals of London. The Italian merchants were compelled to quit London, and take up their abode at Winchester and Southampton. Their withdrawal in all probability produced a sensible effect upon the commerce of the city; for they made a bye-law among themselves, that no individual merchant of Northern Italy should henceforth go to London and trade there. This ordinance the signory of Venice ratified by a decree of the Senate, and prohibited, under a heavy fine, all Venetian vessels from visiting the port of London.⁸

² Calendar of Close Rolls, Henry VI: Volume 4, 1441-1447

³ <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/no-series/new-history-london/pp897-899#highlight-first>

⁴ Names of the Mayors and Sheriffs of London 27 Henry VI (1455); Calendar of Close Rolls, Henry VI: Volume 5, 1447-1454

⁵ Notes on the Aldermen, 1220-1912 (Dr. Sharpe's London and the Kingdom, i., 292)

⁶ <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/brit-franciscan-soc/vol6/pp208-211>

⁷ British History Online <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/no-series/london-aldermen/hen3-1912/pp255-260>

⁸ <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/camden-record-soc/vol28/i-xxviii>

Business records

C. 6137. Acknowledgment by William Sydney of the receipt from William Cantelow of London of 13s. 4d., being a year's rent of a tenement in Milkstrete. 5 October, 38 Henry VI. (1460)

C. 6188. Acknowledgment by William Sutton, master of Burton St. Lazars of Jerusalem and warden of the hospital of St. Giles without London, of the receipt from William Cantelowe, knight, of 15s. being a half-year's rent of a tenement called 'Clementis Inne' in the parish of St. Clement Danes. Easter Monday, 3 Edward IV. Fragment of seal. (1464)

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/ancient-deeds/vol6/pp302-313>

C. 51. Letters of attorney from Henry Wilson [?], son of Thomas Wilson, late of Dunstable, to John Lynde, to deliver possession to William Cantelowe, citizen of London, of a tenement in the North Street of Dunstable, extending upon Watling Street. 45 (?) Henry VI.

<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/ancient-deeds/vol1/pp387-395#highlight-first>

Bedf. Herts. C. 2538. Release by John Bernarde, of Dunstaple, to William Cantelowe, esquire, and Anne his wife, of all his right in a messuage called 'Loughtons' alias 'Floure delys,' with three tenements and gardens and a close of land in 'le North strete' of Dunstaple, in land in the fields of Dunstaple, Houghton Regis, Cadyngdon and Kennesworth, in a grange, three barns, a close, and land near 'le West strete' of Dunstaple, and in land called 'Alens land,' all which Bernard had jointly with John Dogett, deceased, of the gift of Sir William Cantelowe, knight. 20 August, Edward IV.

<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/ancient-deeds/vol2/pp526-536#highlight-first>