

A Selected History to illustrate some connections between
The Hoares of Stourhead
and
The St.Johns of Lydiard

Hoare's bank has been owned and directed by members of the Hoare family since it was founded by Sir Richard Hoare (1648 – 1719).

1672

On 5th July 1672, following a seven year apprenticeship, Richard Hoare, the son of a horse dealer, was made a freeman of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths at the sign of the Golden Bottle in Cheapside. By 1673 he bought his former master's business and soon built up a sizeable trade as a goldsmith/banker. Goldsmiths had secure premises and had always been the storehouses for cash and valuables so they were in a unique position to evolve a system of banking. By 1677 some 58 goldsmiths kept "running cashes". They also started to lend their customers' money for interest.

1690

Richard Hoare moved his business to new premises in Fleet Street and continued trading at the sign of the Golden Bottle (a gilded leather bottle that hung outside the shop). Street numbering was unknown in 1690 and signs were used to distinguish one business from another.

1697

Sir Henry St.John (1652 - 1742) opened an account with Hoare's Bank. This was the beginning of a banking relationship between the Hoares' family and three generations of St.Johns.

1702

Richard's son 'Henry the Good' (1677 - 1725) became a Partner of the bank. The demand for banking services was beginning to eclipse the goldsmithing business. Richard was knighted by Queen Anne.

1704

Sir Walter St.John (1622 - 1708) opened an account with Hoare's Bank.

1717

Henry Hoare (1677 – 1725) bought Stourton manor. He replaced it with the Palladian house we know today - renaming it **Stourhead**. After Sir Richard died in 1719, Henry continued to run the bank alongside his younger brother Benjamin.

1720

Speculation on the 'South Sea Bubble' allowed the bank's Partners to generate considerable profits for themselves and eight of their customers.

1725

Henry's son, Henry 'The Magnificent' (1705 – 1785), became a Partner at the age of only 19 and remained one until his death 60 years later. Much of his leisure time was dedicated to Stourhead. He furnished Stourhead house with paintings and sculpture, much of which remains today. He created Stourhead's iconic landscape garden, with its lake, temples and monuments.

1735

The Hon. John St.John (1702 - 1748) opened an account with Hoare's Bank.

1785

Henry the Magnificent died. His nephew, Richard of Barn Elms, became Senior Partner at the bank, while Stourhead passed to Henry's grandson, Richard Colt Hoare (1758-1838), on condition that he left the bank.

Note:

In 2004 Brian Carne and Sonia St.John were permitted to examine the ledgers containing entries for the three St.John accounts held at the Hoare's Bank Archive in Fleet Street. Earlier that year it had been established that Roger Morris had been paid to work on Lydiard House during the refurbishment to a Palladian style in the 18th century. It was wonderful to see entries for painters such as Joshua Reynolds and establish that Lord Bolingbroke (1st Viscount Bolingbroke) banked with Mr. Drummond.