



Matrons College - Resident Jemima Butt

This is the first building on the left as you pass through the High Street gate of The Close. Erected by Bishop Seth Ward in 1682 for widows of the clergy.

Jemima Butt is one of the residents who we know something about because she wrote letters and diaries which were discovered later.

Born Jemima Hubbel in 1792 in Birmingham. In about 1822 she married Reverend John Butt a widower with 8 children. They had 4 more children. Her husband at some stage became ill with mental problems and was committed to an asylum where he died.

She applied for a place at the Matron's College even though it appears she still had 3 children dependent upon her, one who was training to be a doctor. She was quite fortunate as at that time as although she was a widow of a Berkshire Clergyman she was just within the qualifying diocese.

She was resident there from 1847 till her death in 1867.

When she took up residency, the allowance given to them each quarter was £10. Rules were strict. If they went outside The Close they had to have a companion. They were expected to go to daily seervices at The Cathedral. They were not allowed to be away from the College for more than a month each year nor allowed lodgers. They had to share a privy and the laundry room but had their own plot of land in the communal garden.