

# **Apostle Peter The First Bishop of York?**



**By  
Sussexman**

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**W**AS THE APOSTLE PETER THE FIRST BISHOP OF YORK? Many will say of course not, he was the first Bishop of Rome! While the fact that he was never first Bishop of Rome has been satisfactorily proved from Scripture and extant records and documents, but up to now very few were aware that there is good evidence that the Apostle Peter was in fact the first Bishop of York!

This lost information has been brought to light by, until recently, the unpublished book of the late Comyns Beaumont, "The Great Deception". Comyns Beaumont, in his book produces overwhelming evidence that Peter was York's first bishop.

From the very beginning of the Christian area York was a major centre of the Christian Church in the Culdee tradition. At one time the Diocese of York extended all the way to the Isle of Man, to include all of Scotland and on to the capital of Norway.

## Apostle Peter The First Bishop of York

In times past York has had many names, but during the Roman era it was known as Eboracum and to the indigenous population as Caesarea a name bestowed on it by Herod in honour of Caesar although it was not his to give.

One notable feature of Peter's early activities in Caesarea is that recorded of Cornelius, the devout Roman Centurion, who had a vision and was told to send to Joppa and "call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter" (Acts 10: 5)

Cornelius dispatched three of his personal servants to invite Peter to Caesarea; how on the day following, the Apostle accompanied the men and was escorted to the house of Cornelius, who had invited his kinsmen and close friends to hear Peter expound the word of God.

Peter eventually became the first Bishop of York, this is attested to by the ancient City Seal of York.



**Above:** A seal for sealing precepts, passports, and the like was ordered to be struck in 1577: with the legend **SIGNACULUM EBORACENSIVM**. In 1736 it was used for sealing freemen's certificates, J.P.s' warrants and sessions processes.

Next Page: Allen, in his History of Yorkshire, describes the obverse showing St Peter, with his cross-keys, standing between two angels, with the inscription: "**S B I PETRI PRINCIPIS APOSTOLORUM**" which is interpreted: **SEDES BRITANNIS INSULIS PETRI PRINCIPIS APOSTOLORUM**

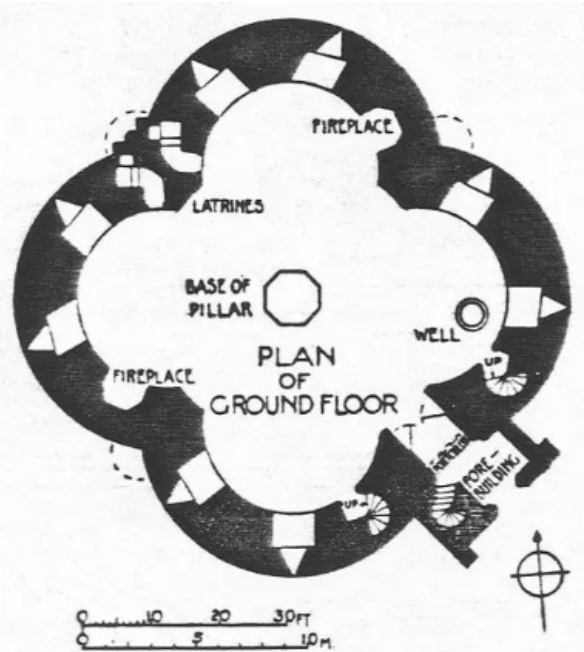


Its reverse depicts an edifice with three towers or turrets and one larger inscribed: “**SIGILLUM CIVIUM EBORACI**” (The Seal of the City of Eboracum).

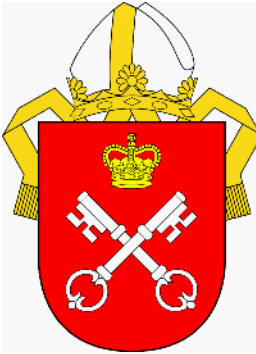
There is a double witness forming even more evidence that York (Caesarea) was the apostolic seat of Peter and that is the Clifford Tower, an important landmark in the centre of the town. In plan, it resembles the heads of 2 Roman keys side by side.

Furthermore, Clifford Tower is erected also on an artificial rocky height, which brings to mind the Bible verse “*Thou art Peter, and on this rock I will build my church—and I will give thee the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven.*” (Matthew 15: 18-19)

Not only that the Coat of Arms of the Archbishop of York (see next page), has the cross keys on it, which is not even on the Coat of Arms of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The only other to display it is those of the Vatican which stole it from York!



Above right - a plan in section view showing the design of the of the Clifford Tower of likeness to a key handle.



## The Coat of Arms of The Archbishop of York

Why was it that, at a time when Rome could actively intervene, the patron saint of York became St William, who was its Bishop in 114 and was only canonised in 1284? (Raine, p 156). Why was St Peter ignored?

Not every part of medieval York came within the Mayor's authority. Large institutions like the Abbey and the Minster retained control of all that went on within their walls. And like the Abbey (St Mary's) the Minster (St Peter's) had its own walled boundary.

Liberty of St Peter, an ecclesiastical regnum in regno, whereby the Church authorities within its own bailiwick were an independent body. To cite Allen, the well-known historian of Yorkshire.



Between 1285 and 1839 York Minster had its own Liberty. The Liberty, known as the 'Liberty of Saint Peter and Peter Prison,' was the walled area which enclosed the Minster Close. Within the Liberty, the Dean and Chapter of York Minster held jurisdiction, and were able to appoint constables.

**Above - The York Minister Police Today**



**Left: The York Minster Police Badge Emblem**

York Minister still has its own police force today with their own badge and the keys of St. Peter emblazoned on it.

The name of St. Peter is plentiful in York, St. Peter's School, St. Peter's Church, St. Peter's Prison. There was also St. Peter's Hospital, later to become St. Lawrence's Hospital, as down the centuries they have been doing their best to remove from peoples remembrance, the association of York with St. Peter, but this is too well ingrained for them to succeed totally!

History indicates how anxious the Vatican became, in the centuries following Constantine, to get York to conform, regarding it as the most important of the primatial cities. It was always ear-marked for an arch-bishopric directly it joined the Roman communion. And then it beatified St William, in order to eradicate St Peter where possible.

Most of St Peter's later life is uncertain, and although it is often claimed that he visited Rome and was executed there, no such evidence exists. It is true that the Vatican claims to possess his Pontifical chair, but if so it seems more likely that it was originally at York.

True, that Constantine built and dedicated the first St Peter's Church to the Apostle, but Constantine, who knew his York well indeed, had strong motives for transferring the activities of the Chief Apostles from their real setting to Rome.

The secular authorities had lost control of the masses since the spread of Culdee Christianity from the British Isles which was fast replacing the old Hebrew religion whose priesthood had been heavily infested with Edomites. Under Constantine, they would reform and set up a counterfeit church which be centred at Rome. This could not be achieved until they had removed the great centre of true Christianity centred in York in the British Isles, particularly the association of York with the Apostle Peter!

That fight is still going on, by removing all historical references of St. Peter once having been Bishop of York from the official histories.

This brief summary of the hidden history of York, would not have been possible if it were not for the investigative work of the late Comyns Beaumont and the recent publication of his up to now unpublished book titled “The Great Deception”.

It is appreciated that some of our readers will be quite credulous about this history of York, but it behoves everyone to check out the facts for themselves. Comyns Beaumont provides copious references and notes in his book, which is available from Resonance Books. For details see advert on page 39 of The New Ensign Magazine [HERE](#)



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