

**The Revd Nicholas Sambrook Russell, AM**

1732 – 1795

**Domestic Chaplain to HRH Princess Amelia, favourite daughter of George II**

**Appointed to the Rectory of St Marylebone by the Crown in 1768**

**Rector of St Marylebone 1768 - 1788**

Russell was born at Basingstoke in 1732, was educated at Winchester; and was thence admitted of Queen's College, Oxford; where he took the degree of B. A. in 1753; and M. A. in 1757.

His first ecclesiastical duties were performed in the neighbourhood of his native town, where he continued about seven years; when, having been appointed Domestic Chaplain to the Princess Amelia, daughter of King George the Second, he removed to the Metropolis, and for nearly twenty years was a frequent and energetic preacher at the church of St. Mary le Bone, and at some of the Chapels in that neighbourhood.



*HRH The Princess Amelia*



*His Majesty King George II*

In 1770 he was presented to the Rectory of Bruntingthorpe in Leicestershire; and in 1777 to that of Sadington in the same County, a Crown living; after which, he regularly and conscientiously resided at Bruntingthorpe; and was much esteemed by his parishioners.

He was brother to Francis Russell, Esq. F. R. S. and F. S. A. for many years a distinguished Officer of the Duchy of Lancaster, and Extra-secretary of the Board of Control for the Affairs of India. This gentleman was much employed by Mr. Pitt, who highly valued his industry, integrity, and talents. He married Anne, third daughter of the late opulent and respectable Samuel Kirshaw, D. D. Vicar of Leeds, and Rector of Ripley, in Yorkshire; by whom he had no issue. About the year 1785 he printed a Collection of all the Statutes concerning the English East India Company, a book very useful to gentlemen concerned in the affairs of that Company, in one volume, quarto, with a large index; and *in* 1793 he published 'A short History of the East India Company.' It made a small volume in quarto, and was very favourably received by the public. He died September 1, 1795, in Park Street, Westminster, after a long and severe illness, which

he bore with true Christian fortitude and resignation. This brief account .(copied from Gent. Mag. vol. LXV. p. 794), was written by the Rector of Sadington; whose own death was in a few weeks after recorded in the same volume, p. 1056.

His distinguished abilities deservedly gained him a high reputation amongst those who had the happiness of his acquaintance, as an excellent and polite scholar. His conversation was lively and agreeable; and, when any particular subject required elucidation, his mode of arguing was perspicuous: and his language, though uttered with rapidity, was accurate and nervous. To a warm benevolence, and an undisguised and open heart, he united a vivacity of temper, which was perhaps encouraged by a life of celibacy, and might have been softened by the mild influence of conjugal society.

It was for some years the amusement of his leisure-hours to superintend a small farm, where he practically studied the principles of vegetation, and the various properties of soils. The intelligence he acquired, he freely communicated to others; and thereby gave encouragement and assistance to the great improvements that have, within a short period, been made in the system of agriculture.' Nihil est agricultura melius; nihil uberius; nihil dulcius; nihil homine libero dignius.'

In the History of Leicestershire, a work so extensive in its nature, and of such laborious investigation, much assistance was in course required, and much was obtained. The able and liberal assistance of Mr. Russell was acknowledged in the Preface to that Work. To him I owed the History of the Feudal Earls of Leicester; which his many literary accomplishments, his knowledge of the manners and customs of Antiquity, his exactness of judgement, his classical learning, and his patient industry, peculiarly qualified him to write. How excellently Mr. Russell's important part of that undertaking was performed, those who are the most intimately acquainted with the English Constitution will be the best able to judge. His whole life, indeed, was chiefly spent in the acquisition of general knowledge, and in the pursuit of the studies more immediately belonging to his profession.

"Another Friend has expressed an unwillingness that his name should be mentioned. He had employed a large portion of an active life in a study very little understood, the early Constitution of this Kingdom; but, being accidentally drawn from the Metropolis, about ten years ago, to the tranquillity of a Rectory in the County of Leicester, his intention on the subject had remained suspended till I announced my intention of publishing this History of the County; when, with the utmost frankness and alacrity, he extracted for me the quintessence of his labours; which I shall have the pleasure of laying before the publick as Memoirs of the Earls of Leicester. The Rev. Sambrook Nicholas Russell will be easily discovered by every Antiquary; and I cannot deny myself the satisfaction I feel in expressing my obligations to him."

*Preface to the History of Leicestershire, 1795.*

The following lines were in his own hand-writing:

"My Epitaph on a marble slab, in the chancel of Sadington, Nov. 1793. S.R.

Siste paulisper, Viator,  
dum te docet optimus ille praeceptor,  
sepulchrale saxum.  
Ecce ad pedes tuos jacet,  
Heu! sordido pulvere obrutus et commixtus;  
(reminiscere quantum sis)  
SAMBROOK NICHOLAUS RUSSELL, A. M.  
et Clericus olim a domesticis  
AMELIA ALTISSIMJE FILI GEORGII II. .  
Si petas unde ortus; ingenuus

per longam stirpem; et, quod  
melius, bonis creatus.  
Si cultum quifcras; in pueritia,  
WINTONI/E inter WICCAMICOS;  
postea, adulta state,  
in Academiu Oxoniensi  
inter Reginenses, humanis et sacris literis  
feliciter imbutus. Primd prope BASINGSTOKIAM  
in *South-hantoniensi* agro,  
ubi natus fuit, septem circiter annis;  
deinde LONDINIIS, proecipue  
in parochia Sanctae Marise”