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Dear Mr Williamson,

Both Paul Pollak and Ken Stacey have suggested that I should get in touch with you, as I am working at present on the 17th c. Canon of Canterbury and collector, John Bargrave. As you probably know, the Bargrave (or Barger) family originated in Bridge, and the collector's father, also John, built Bifrons. The eloquent inscription commemorating the family is at the entrance to Patricbourne Church.

I find there to be many gaps in my knowledge of the Bargraves. For example, I can find few of the dates of birth and death relating to them, and wonder if there are parish records which might help. Also I wonder if it is known where in Bridge they resided (younger brothers of the older J.B. continued to live on what was presumably family land).

A further conundrum is Bifrons itself, though I have several times seen the later painting in the Mellon Collection at Yale. I am anxious to know about the 'Uxor Bona' inscription mentioned by Hasted, and evidently still there in the 1930's. But I can find no trace of what the heavily restored house looked like.

If you have any answers to these questions, or could point me in the right direction with local records, I should be most grateful.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Bann