

Streets of York

Do you live in Pelham Street



The Pelham family name is notable as belonging to the Earls of Chichester. In 1811 Thomas Pelham, second Baron Pelham of Stanmore, was created first Earl of Chichester. He was elected to the House of Commons in 1748, and represented Sussex until 1768, serving as a Commissioner of Trade and Plantations and Lord of the Admiralty.

His eldest son, also called Thomas became second Earl Chichester on his father's death in 1805.

Educated at Westminster and Cambridge, he joined the Sussex militia in 1778, subsequently being promoted to Major and Lieutenant Colonel. In 1778 he stood as a candidate for the county of Sussex in the general election. He went on to be appointed Surveyor General of the Ordnance and Chief Secretary for Ireland. He was Home Secretary from 1801 to 1803 and Postmaster General from 1807 to 1826.

Henry Pelham, third Lord Chichester inherited the Earldom in 1826 and became deputy Lieutenant of Sussex in 1827. He served as President of the Royal Agricultural Society in 1849. It is likely that this appointment was the reason for him being represented with a street name in York due to the emergence of the York Agricultural Society in 1840, and its strong link with the Royal Agricultural Society in England during the early years of the colony.

In 1894, a meeting of ratepayers in York, discussed a proposal for a railway platform and railway accommodation in Pelham Street to service those living in the North Ward. Some ratepayers and counsellors preferred a platform position in Knight Street to benefit the possible placement of a Showground. Neither railway platforms nor the Knight Street Showground were to eventuate.