

SOME NOTES

on

OLD BUCKENHAM

collected by

Miss SIMPSON
Mrs. G. JOYCE
Mr. H. E. READ
Mr. W. PARISH
Mr. T. LOVEDAY

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Editor : Mr. H. E. READ

EDUCATION IN OLD BUCKENHAM.

THE PRIORY. As far as can be traced, the Black Canons of St. Augustine who lived at the Priory took no active part in the education of local youth. This seems unusual, as many monasteries sought out intelligent local lads and taught them to read and write. In 1520 one of the canons, named Norfolk, is recorded as complaining to the Commissioners of the Bishop of Norwich that there was no schoolmaster at the Priory.

BEQUESTS. In 1604 Matthew Sturdyvant, Gent., left £100 in his will towards the maintenance of a school in this parish. A further £50 was bequeathed by Hugh Harvey in 1720. In 1737 there was a house and ground settled on the schoolmaster worth £6 per annum, for which he was obliged to teach four poor children without payment for so doing. The Enclosure Award of 1790 mentions a road as starting "from the School House in Cake Street." Possibly this was the old Charity School.

CHURCH SCHOOLS. These Schools were unusual in that the Senior School was separated from the Infants' by some hundred yards. Neither had a playground, but made use of the Church Green for physical training and all physical recreative activities.

The Senior section was begun in 1841, and the Infants' School was opened on July 27th, 1865. The latter was the gift of Robert Cocks, founder of the Almshouses. It was built by Loveday & Sons to designs by the Rev. C. St. Denys Moxon, and the following ministers of religion were present at the inauguration ceremony :—The Rev. R. R. Cousens, The Rev. F. W. Thompson and The Rev. Thomas Fulcher, Vicar of Old Buckenham.

The Schools were endowed with 16 acres 2 poles of land purchased with the £100 left by Matthew Sturdyvant in 1604.

In 1865 the Schools were intended to hold 170 boys and girls, and 70 infants.

AREA SCHOOL. The Church Schools were closed in 1838 when the present Area School was erected by the Local Education Authority. This modern edifice draws children over the age of 11 from the villages of Old and New Buckenham, Banham, Carlton Rode, Bunwell, Tibenham, Shropham, Eccles and Snetterton.

Interesting items about Education in Old Buckenham,

1. Extract from the Will of Matthew Sturdyvant, March 4th, 1604.

“ I further will that my Executor within one month next after my decease shall deliver unto the then Churchwardens of the Parish of Old Buckenham, and to twelve others of the chiefest Inhabitants of the same town, 100 pounds of lawful English money, to be employed towards the maintaining and continuing of a Schoolmaster in the said town of Old Buckenham for ever, for the Education or learning of the children of the Inhabitants of the same town for the time being, and also for the owner or owners of any freehold or copyhold estates for term of life or any others life, or any greater Estates, of any one messuage or cottage, and to be employed to that only use and to none other intent or purpose.”

2. Trustees appointed by the last Deed of Sturdyvant's School Charity, May 3rd, 1821.

William Algar
Robert Roper.

Thomas Slapp.
Ellis Palmer.

William Norton.
Henry Norton Palmer.

Henry Norton.	Henry Norton, Jr.	John Burlingham.
Marlborough Rush.	Edmund Rush.	John Burlingham,
James Turner.	William Turner.	Junr.
		James Palmer.

3. Extract from the last Feoffment or Deed of the Old Buckenham School, May 3rd, 1821.

“ The Trustees shall receive and take the rents and profits of the said freehold and copyhold heritaments respectively, and pay, apply and dispose of the same in causing such and so many of the children of the Poor Inhabitants of Old Buckenham aforesaid to be from time to time selected from amongst those children who, in the opinion of the Trustees for the time being of these present or major part of them, shall be the most indigent and deserving objects of charity—to be taught and instructed in Reading, Spelling, Writing, Sewing and Knitting, and for the purpose of such instruction to appoint some fit and proper person as a Master or Mistress, who shall by their habits in life be most likely to improve the morals and religious conduct of such children.”

4. Bill presented to the Feoffees (Trustees) of the Charity School, March 31st, 1834.

Dr. to John Eaton.

For Educating 10 Children one year, viz. : from Michaelmas 1832 to March, 1833 at £1 each ... £10