## EARLY VICTORIAN SCHOOLS IN FENITON

The parish of Feniton lies about 4 miles west of Honiton just north of the A30, which still follows the old Roman road from Exeter to Honiton. The village, with the parish church of St Andrew's, is in the south of the parish, which otherwise is composed of several hamlets — Colestocks, Colesworthy, Cheriton, Curscombe and Fenny Bridges - and outlying farms.

St Andrew's Church is 13<sup>th</sup> Century mainly but has Saxon origins. There is no evidence of a Church House that may have been used as a schoolroom.

Feniton Court is the manor house, a Georgian building (replacing a earlier house with medieval origins), the home at the beginning of the 1800s of the Northcote family. George Barons Northcote (father of a later Rector) sold the estate in 1841 to Sir John Patteson, a High Court Judge, and father of missionary Bishop John Patteson who was murdered by natives in Melanesia. The Pattesons sold Feniton Court in 1871 to the Rashleigh family.

The population was: in 1821 - 258, 1831 - 321, 1841 - 343, 1851 - 366, 1861 - 361, 1871 - 333.

Most of the residents were farmers, agricultural labourers, and 'service' providers, eg carpenters, wheelwright, blacksmiths, cordwainers, shopkeepers, and one innkeeper until the arrival of the railway in 1860. (Trade Directories)

There were no very large families on Census returns. It was recorded in at least 2 ploughing match newspaper reports (1846 & 1851) that farm labourers were given awards for the largest families. (6 was the largest). The infant mortality rate at that time is illustrated by the fact that the then Rector Rev Head and his wife had 5 of their six babies die between 1830 & 1836.

In 1860 the railway line from London Waterloo to Exeter via Yeovil passing through the parish was opened, with a station at crossroads which served the locality especially Ottery St Mary and Sidmouth, until a branch line to the latter opened in 1874. This led to the building of 6 railway cottages, a hotel at the station, a non-conformist chapel (1860) and some villa type properties.

The incumbent for the parish from 1805 until 1828 was the Reverend John Rogers. He died at the young age of 47 and was replaced by the Rev Henry Erskine Head, who served until 1860 apart from the years when he was suspended, from 1843 to 1846, by Bishop Phillpotts for his outspoken low church views. The Rev. Head was much loved by the parishioners who gave him a warm welcome back when he was reinstated.

George Barons Northcote took the position of Rector after the death of the Rev Head in 1860, and served until 1899.

Three schools have been identified in the period 1820 to 1870: the Feniton Village School, a private preparatory school in Thorn Cottage, in the village centre, and a small school, Bloomfield, on the main road at Fenny Bridges, just over the boundary in Ottery parish which took boarders but may of course have taken Feniton children.

## THORN COTTAGE

FOUNDATION & GOVERNANCE: Founded by Mrs Isabella Murray and daughters Isabella, Jane and Mary Murray. Mrs Murray died in 1834. Isabella died in 1835.

They were the widow and daughters of army tailor William Murray of Pall Mall Court, London who was declared bankrupt. Mrs Murray was the sister of Mr Robert Aberdein, lace dealer and one time Mayor of Honiton. (*Did he help them to find a living and accommodation in the Honiton area?*)

In the 1833 Education Enquiry, Feniton is recorded as having:: *One Daily School* (commenced 1824), wherein are 30 children; and one *Preparatory Boarding school* (commenced 1824), (this is probably the Thorn Cottage School) in which are about 20 males. In both the above schools the instruction is at the expense of the parents. – One *Sunday School*, of 35 children (commenced 1830), is supported by charity. This is the only evidence of foundation of the school in 1824.

By 1861 both Miss Murrays were annuitants, presumably retired from taking pupils.

FINANCES: Fees Twenty pounds per annum in 1831 'washing included' & 1835 'without extras, except books'. In 1855 'Twenty-two guineas per annum, washing included'.

PREMISES: Property known as Thorn Cottage in centre of oldest part of Feniton village. Now known as 'Thorn'. Accommodation was described in a newspaper when property was for sale in 1845 as 'A dwelling house now in the occupation of Miss Murray, comprising on the ground floor, a room now used as a school-room, kitchen, scullery and larder; on the first floor, drawing and dining rooms in the front and a back parlour; on the second floor, 4 bedrooms and 2 rooms in the attic. There are convenient outbuildings and walled garden attached. It was again advertised, to be let, in 1850 as 'unfurnished, consisting of Dining, Drawing and Breakfast Rooms, Six good Bedrooms, Servants' Offices, Coach—house, Stable, and large walled garden. Also TWO Fields with a Pew in Church.

Whites Directory of 1850 described the house as 'a boarding school'.

ADMISSION – ELIGIBILITY: 'A limited number of YOUNG GENTLEMEN' taken from (in 1835) 3 to 8 years, and in 1855, from 4 to 10 years. One boy was the grandson of Sir John Kennaway of Escot. Another pupil was the son of Dr E Cronin, London physician, missionary and pioneer of Homeopathy.

CURRICULUM: 1835 'Advancement in the rudiments of education', And in 1831 'parental care with improvement'. Sources; Newspaper adverts.

TEACHERS: Mrs Isabella Murray and the Misses Isabella, Jane & Mary Murray, until the deaths of the former two, then Mary & Jane until 1860s. No other teacher living in the house.

SOURCES: Newspaper adverts. Census returns 1841 – 1861. Newspaper reports. Local Directories. Feniton parish register of baptisms and burials. IGI Vol I, Abstract of Answers and Returns to the 1833 Education Enquiry, London, HMSO, 1835, p.184

### 'BLOOMFIELD', FENNY BRIDGES.

This school was actually in Ottery St Mary parish but close to Feniton boundary by the Mill on the river Otter where it goes under the main London Road. The building later became the Fenny Bridges Hotel, and is now a private house reverting to name Bloomfield. Information about this school has been found mainly in newspaper advertisements, chiefly the Western Times, a trade directory, and Census returns.

#### FOUNDATION / GOVERNANCE:

On the 1841 Census a young couple Mary and John Webber, school master and school mistress were living at Bloomfield with 5 young children, not their own, so it would seem that this was a school of some kind. John was the named occupier on the 1840 Tithe apportionment for Ottery St. Mary. Two of the children appear to have been the youngest children age 5 and 3, of the miller, widow Sarah Coombe, mother of 9 children, at Feniton Mill, just across the road from Bloomfield. A Wesleyan Chapel (which when it closed in 1939 was said to be 100 years old) was built on land that belonged to the Mill. This suggests perhaps that the school may have been providing a non-conformist alternative to a Church of England based education.. Adverts throughout the 1850s in the Western Times name the school as Bloomfield House, a boarding school or board school, conducted by Mr & Mrs Webber.

In 1851 the school was said to have been established in 1840.

By 1853 the school was described as a Ladies Boarding School, with also a 'Preparatory establishment for young Gentlemen under ten years of age'.

References were available in 1862 from parents whose children had been in the establishment for the last ten years

In January 1862 John Webber died. Mrs Webber continued to advertise saying that she intended to continue her school which had been established for 21 years. The following year whilst Mrs Webber was named as the Principal, the school was 'conducted' by Mr Thomas Halfhead, late an assistant master at the Weslyan College, Taunton, which strongly suggests that the school was a Protestant establishment.

FINANCES: The only evidence of financing are the terms quoted in the advertisements: In 1851 fees charged were £12 per annum for pupils under 10, £14 for ages 10 to 12, and £16 for ages over 12 years. Two years later the prices had gone up to £23 for ages 10 to 12, and £25 for over age 12. But these must have included extras as it stated that for preparatory education 'accomplishments not included' the charges were as before.

In 1861 30 guineas per annum were quoted, including for young gentlemen under 10. The terms quoted in 1863 include a cheaper rate for weekly boarders as opposed to 'boarders'. By 1870 extras were offered such as Latin, German and French for 4 guineas each. To put the prices in perspective, £10 in 1860 was the equivalent of about £500 today. (National Archives)

PREMISES: Bloomfield stood on one side of the road leading to Feniton that comes off the main London opposite the Feniton Mill where in 1838 a Wesleyan Chapel had been built. In 1851 Mr and Mrs Webber advertised that 'having lately much enlarged their House, they can recommend its Situation to the notice of their Friends as being very healthy.' By 1860 the London and South Western railway line from Exeter to London had opened with local stations so that they were able to state that they were  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the Feniton or Ottery Stations.

In 1870 Mrs Webber stated in the Sidmouth Journal and directory that the 'premises were built by the Principal, for the express purposes of Education, and are in every way convenient and commodious'.

Maternal care for children is offered in many of the advertisements, extra charges were made for the services of a laundress, and, oddly, in view of the fees, in 1870 children were asked to bring 'four Towels, and a Dessert Spoon and Fork'.

The building still stands. It has been since the 1880s a boarding school for young ladies, (all girl pupils on the later census returns), a private home and a hotel, and now a private home again.

#### **ADMISSION & ELIGILITY:**

In 1851, according to the Census, twelve children between the ages of 2 and 12 were accommodated by John and Mary Webber with 2 servants. The 'scholars', 8 girls and 4 boys. were not from well-to-do families but were, for example, children of a fisherman from Beer, a tailor from Honiton and a butcher from Coombe Raleigh. Although the fees were no less and at times more than that charged by the Misses Murray's school at Thorn Cottage in Feniton it does not seem to have been a rival institution, but taking children from a different class, and perhaps from Non-conformist families.

There is no evidence of whether there were also day pupils.

In 1861 (Census) the number of resident pupils fell to just 3 boys age 7, 9 and 10, two brothers from Middlesex and the other from Sidmouth, son of a stonemason, plus one female teacher age 19.

Although the school was repeatedly advertised as being a Ladies Boarding School, in the Census returns of 1861 and 1871 there were only boy pupils. Is it possible that the girls were boarded in another building?

CURRICULUM: The earliest advertisements call the school a preparatory boarding school for 'Young Ladies and Gentlemen'.

In June 1851 Music, French, Drawing etc were offered 'on the usual terms'.

Later in that year more detail is given of subjects offered:

'The course of study pursued by the Young Ladies includes Music, Singing, French, Drawing, History, Geography, Use of the Globes, English Grammar, Composition, Elocution, Recitation, Reading, Writing and Arithmetic. The accomplishments taught by a resident teacher; Writing, Arithmetic etc by Mr Webber; the general routine of school duties, and the domestic comfort of the Pupils, under Mrs Webber's personal superintendence.'

During 1857 prospective parents were assured that: 'The earnest efforts of the principals are directed to the intellectual and religious improvement of their pupils and the promotion of their personal comfort. Children deprived of maternal care would find this a happy home' In 1861 'Deportment' was added to Music French and Drawing, and a 'superior English Education'.

By 1863 a Mr Thomas Hothead was 'conducting' the school. He was lately an Assistant Master at the Wesleyan College in Taunton. The curriculum was now expanded to include Classics and Mathematics, whilst pupils intended for 'Mercantile and Agricultural Pursuits' would receive special attention in those subjects.

In 1870 Mrs Webber was conducting the school on her own again but she assured parents that 'The primary object of the above Establishment is to provide a sound English education'. Oddly, Calisthenic Exercises were added to the usual English; French, Music, Singing and Drawing,

TEACHERS: When the school opened John and Mary Webber were the only resident teachers (according to 1841 and 1851 Censuses), but Music was offered by 'Approved Masters'.

In an 1851 advertisement: 'An Articled Pupil wanted'. (Pupil Teacher)

In 1853, the 'accomplishments taught by a resident teacher; Writing, Arithmetic etc by Mr Webber; the general routine of school duties, and the domestic comfort of the Pupils, under Mrs Webber's personal superintendence'.

The 1861 Census showed a resident teacher, a young lady of 19 from Barnstaple. John Webber died in 1862.

In 1863 Mr Hothead was conducting the school and providing extra subjects (as described under Curriculum)

Mary was living on her own in 1871 in 'The School House' (Census 1871).

In 1877 Mary married Thomas Howell Gauntlett a widowed schoolmaster and former Baptist minister from Honiton. (Another clue to the school's likely Non-conformist ethos.) The school continued, as 'Bloomfield House', a Ladies' Seminary.

SOURCES: Advertisements in local papers chiefly *The Western Times*. Census Returns (Ottery St Mary), 1840 Tithe Apportionment, various Parish Church registers and Census returns for pupils' families.

(I have not been able to find Methodist records for the Chapel or school)



# HOME AND EDUCATION. LADIES' BOARDING SCHOOL,

BLOOMFIELD HOUSE, FENNY BRIDGES

3½ Miles from Honiton, 1½ from the Feniton and Otters

Station on the South Western Line.

Established 1840.

A LSO a Preparatory Establishment for young Gentlemen under ten years of age.

Terms-30 Guineas per annum.

The above terms include Music, French. Drawing, Deportment, and a superior English Education.

Reference and further particulars given on application to Mrs. WEBBER.

May 27th, 1861.

#### FENITON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

FOUNDATION /GOVERNANCE: Feniton's Church of England Primary School is commonly thought to have been founded in 1844 by Miss Patteson of Feniton Court, the sister of Bishop John Patteson, who was later martyred in Melanesia. Sir John Patteson, their father a High Court judge came with his family to Feniton in 1841.

However, there may have been an earlier school for village children. The Times newspaper of 16<sup>th</sup> October 1838 carried an account of a confirmation service at the new church of St Paul's' in Honiton when Bishop Phillpots asked some of the 30 children from Feniton to step forward and interrogated them, asking them particularly if they had been taught their catechism and by whom. This was because the Rector of Feniton at the time was the Rev Henry Erskine Head who being very low church, had 'crossed swords' with the Bishop, having been accused of holding sacrilegious views that were 'contrary to the statutes and canons ecclesiastical'. Some of the children when questioned said they had been taught their catechism 'when I went to school'.

The Reverend Head was suspended from his post by the Bishop in 1843. There were many letters of support for him in local and national newspapers. One writer recorded on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1843 (*Western Times*) that it was sad to see 'the children of Feniton's public schools coming to take leave of their worthy and beloved pastor'.

In the 1833 Education Enquiry, Feniton is recorded as having:: *One Daily School* (commenced 1824), wherein are 30 children; and one *Preparatory Boarding school* (commenced 1824), (this is probably the Thorn Cottage School) in which are about 20 males. In both the above schools the instruction is at the expense of the parents. – One *Sunday School*, of 35 children (commenced 1830), is supported by charity.

In the Church School Enquiry Vol 1 of 1831 Feniton is recorded as having a Sunday & day school attended by 15 boys and 15 girls.

In the Church School Enquiry Vol 1 of 1837 Feniton is recorded as having a Sunday & day school attended by 12 boys and 13 girls.

The Return of General Enquiry made by the National Society into the State of schools, 1846/47 Feniton is recorded as having one Sunday and Day School, (no weekday only or Sunday only), attended by 18 boys and 23 girls.

In 1843, July 1<sup>st</sup>, a letter in the Western Times in support of the Rector the Rev Head who had been removed from his post mentions the affection of 'the children of the Feniton public schools'.

In 1863 the Parish sought to purchase the school from the Patteson family. The indenture exists in the Devon Heritage Centre, dated 7<sup>th</sup> November 1863, between James Henry Patteson Esq, Joanna Elizabeth Pattteson and Frances Coleridge Patteson (*sisters*) and the Rev G.B. Northcote, Henry Bath junior and Philip Wheaton, Churchwardens, 'witnesses that in consideration of sum of 10/- paid by Rev Northcote, H. Butt and Wheaton – all that parcel of land or ground with the messuage, tenement or school house erected thereon – upon trust to the use interest and purpose – and no other – to be used as and for a school house and residence for the teachers for the time being ,and in which school shall be taught the doctrines of the Church of England'. A sketch of the school house and land was included.

At the 1863 vestry meeting 'to consider affairs connected to the parish school', a vote of thanks was proposed by Sir John Kennaway to be conveyed to Mr James Patteson and his sisters for their promised conveyance to the parish of the Village school and premises. To provide for the expense of the conveyance a voluntary rate 'not exceeding a penny in the pound should be collected'. It was agreed some necessary addition should be made to the present schoolroom.

The Vestry accounts show subscriptions had been collected for the conveyancy fee of £11 15s £11. 2s had been paid to Messrs Patteson and Cobbold. (*Was the 10/- conveyancing fee already paid - and the remaining £11. 2s for the actual building?*).

In 1865 the Vestry discussed the state of St Anne's Chapel at Fenny Bridges in the parish. (The actual medieval chapel had vanished in the 18<sup>th</sup> century but a cottage stood on the site known as St Anne's Cottage) As it was dilapidated it was suggested that as the parish was liable for repair, it should be sold and 'to apply the money arising from its sale as the nucleus of a fund for keeping in repair the Schoolhouse recently conveyed to the parish'. For this to happen they needed the consent of the Honiton Guardians of the Poor (under a law passed in William IV's reign about the conveyances of Workhouses), as the building was in use as a Poor House.

In 1867 St Anne's Chapel dwelling house and garden plot were sold by auction to James Coombe for £56. The principal was to be invested and the yearly interest to be used for the keeping of the Parish School in repair.

After the 1870 Education Act it was decided by the Vestry to 'unanimously act in harmony with the Government on the subject of public elementary education and lay before the Council the facts' about the school. They carried out a survey of the families in the 75 houses in Feniton, (population 361 in 1861), and found out the number of children between ages 5 and 12 to be 100. The number of families who would send their children to a public elementary school was 250, while 55 families would not. The dimensions of the school were measured as 25ft 6ins by 14ft.9ins. They calculated that each child needed 8 sq ft of space. 'Under the circumstances', they asked, ' is the present school sufficiently large to meet the requirements of the Act?'

By 1873 the plans were to build a new schoolroom and a notice was pinned to the Church door stating that money from the sale of St Anne' Chapel was to be used for the alteration of the Village school house according to the requirements of the Education Committee. It seems likely permission from the Honiton Guardians to use this money was refused unless the school became a Public Elementary school. (*to be proved*)

Following on from this, the school sought funds from the National Society to enlarge the school

In the Church of England Record Centre is a letter from the Rector of Feniton seeking a donation:

In 1874, the Rev G. Barons Northcote wrote to the Secretary of National Society for the Education of the Poor:

"Feniton has a schoolroom built at the sole expense of the family of the late Sir John Patteson, a liberal contribution, I do not doubt to your society. The premises are vested in the Rector and Churchwardens for the time being for the special purpose of training the children in the doctrines of the Church of England.

"To make these premises suitable for present requirements a Builder's Bill has been incurred for £214.14s.1d which the landowners undertake to pay by a shilling rate: but the London & South Western Railway refuse to pay their share, amounting to £23.12s 3d, unless by the action of a School Board which is to be avoided if possible. As a trustee I shall give the School managers the use only of the schoolroom for a certain number of hours daily under a lease with the conscience clause, but the shilling rate proves insufficient to meet the expenses incurred and we may be <u>driven</u> to a School Board so as to catch the Railway unless we can get help from some other quarter". He mentions that the school in (neighbouring) Buckerell has been granted £15.

FINANCES: in 1846/47 the only schoolmaster was paid £25, and the total expense of maintaining the school was £30. The school was supported by subscriptions.

In the Feniton Vestry book are school accounts for 1860:

Schoolmistress £25 Assistant £4..6s.

Money was spent also on coal, stationery, books, coal scuttle, and clock.. Night school – nil. Receipts included harvest offerings, and children's pence £6..5s..5d.

PREMISES: The building used until the 1960s, situated in Curscombe Lane was provided by the Patteson family.

The Return of General Enquiry made by the National Society into the State of Schools, 1846/47 recorded one schoolroom and one teacher's house.

On the Indenture document when the school house was transferred from the Patteson family was a hand drawn plan of the school premises showing the main school room and a garden. No doors or windows are shown. There was no indication either of where the school teacher's accommodation was. (Elderly residents still in Feniton say it was on an upper floor in the 1920s).

In 1865 a report in the Western Times of a treat for the school children says that the tea was laid out in the 'spacious schoolroom'.

Dimensions were given in section above for 1870 : 25ft 6ins by 14ft.9ins, before improvements were made.

In 1874 the then Rector Rev George Barons Northcote wrote to the National Society asking for a grant to extend premises.

ADMISSION – ELIGIBILITY: Number of pupils attending the day and Sunday school were given in the Church School Enquiries 1831, 1837 & 1846/7 (see above under Foundation).

In 1863 a list of the names of 30 pupils said to attend the school was made when the school was applying to be registered as a National School, and is held in the C of E Record Centre. All of these children appear in the Feniton Church baptismal register. (Does this mean that having been baptised was a requirement of attending this school?)

Assuming they were baptised as babies we can estimate that the ages of the 30 children would have been in 1863: 8 pupils aged 14, 2 aged 13, 4 aged 12, 6 aged 11, 1 aged 10, 3 aged 9, 1 aged 8, 1 aged 7, 3 aged 6, and 1 five year old.

(Does this suggest the list includes Sunday-only pupils?)

There are anomalies with this list. A look at the 1861 Census for Feniton, 2 years before the document date, reveals that the named pupils had siblings who would have been between ages 5 and 14 in 1863, were designated 'scholars' but do not appear in the school list; and some of the older boys were already living away as farm servants as young as age 11.

Only 13 of the children were found to be living in Feniton parish on the 1861 census, while 7 children were found to be living elsewhere. (Others were not found on any Census) The names of 3 of the children were found in the Feniton Burials register, having died as infants.

An examination of the Feniton 1851 Census reveals <u>62 children</u> may be counted as of an age (5 to 13), to attend school, (surprisingly 2 aged 14 and 1 aged 15 were recorded as scholars). 3 farmers sons age 12 and 13 were not recorded as scholars.

In the 1861 Census <u>65 children</u> in the parish may be counted as of an age, (5 to 13), to attend school. (Omitting the 2 pupils at the Murray's Prep School). 4 children were from railway worker families, following the opening of Feniton station in 1860.

In 1865 the newspaper report of the School treat says that about 60 of the 'children attending this school' were entertained.

All this suggests there were likely to have been far more children attending school than was the 30 listed in 1863.

By 1871 the 'scholars' recorded on the Census included 12 from railway families.

CURRICULUM: In the Church School Enquiries of 1831 and 1837 the answer to 'are other than CK books used?' was 'no', and the school 'followed the National plan of education'. (The children at the Confirmation in 1838 claimed to have learned their catechism at school, but the case against the Reverend Head was that he said that he preferred to teach the children the 'oracles of god' – i.e. from the Bible - rather than the creed and catechism. *Western Times* 17<sup>th</sup> November 1839.)

A condition of the conveyancing from the Patteson family was that the children should be educated in the doctrines of the Church of England.

In 1874 the Rev G Baron Northcote's letter reports that the education was: 'training the children in the doctrines of the Church of England'.

A look at the Marriage Registers for Feniton for brides and grooms signing their names might give a clue as to whether the children learnt to write at all:

In the 1840s (when they would have attended school presumably pre 1820) of 28 Feniton resident brides and grooms 10 signed with a 'cross'. In the 1850s of 30 brides and grooms only 3 could not sign their names. In the 1860s only one groom, born in 1840, married in 1864, a labourer's son at Curscombe, (remote from the school) could not sign, (apart from one couple age 75 and 71!) This suggests that by the 1830s children were being taught to write.

TEACHERS: One paid master and one teacher's house is recorded in the 1846/7 General Enquiry. On the 1841 Census Return for Feniton there was a school master Thomas Hurcombe living in Feniton Village. (Who may have been employed at the Thorn Cottage school.) On 1851 and 1861 Census Returns the schoolmistress was Miss Mary Kerslake. Miss Kerslake had lived with her widowed mother who died age 80 in 1864. In 1863 Mary Kerslake, schoolmistress, age 48 was married in Feniton Church to John Perry, a widower cordwainer and shopkeeper so she would have had to resign her post.

On the 1863 school list of pupils the head teacher was Mrs Winsley, and the Under Teacher was Miss Franks.

By 1865 in the school treat report the School Mistress was named as Mrs Winsley, with assistant Miss Marles.

In 1871 Miss Priscilla Carnell, age 32 was Headmistress, living at the School House in Feniton Town. Miss Carnell was to be in the post for 21 years and a presentation was made to her in 1891 on her retirement, reported in the Western Times 7<sup>th</sup> June.

SOURCES: NS/7/7/1/1 the National Society Church School Enquiry 1831. 1831NS/7/7/2/1 the National Society Church School Enquiry 1837

NS/7/7/3/1 The Return of the General Enquiry made by the National Society into the State of Schools 1846-7

Vol I, Abstract of Answers and Returns to the 1833 Education Enquiry, London, HMSO, 1835, p.184

Correspondence between Rectors of Feniton and the Secretary of the National Society among records on Feniton C of E School held in Church of England Record Centre NS/7/1/4900.

Feniton Church Wardens' Accounts and Vestry Meeting book (from 1860, with school accounts)

Kelly's Directory of 1850. Census Returns for Feniton. 1841 – 1871

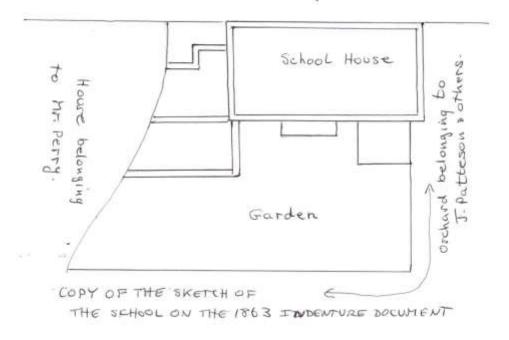
Feniton Parish registers.

The Times newspaper 16<sup>th</sup> October 1838, and other papers as quoted.

# Feniton Church of England Primary School. (date of picture unknown)

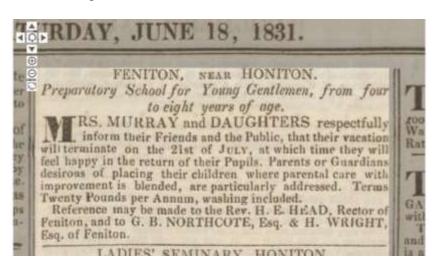


Feniton Village





Thorn Cottage in about 1900



PREPARATORY	SCHOOL for Young Gentlemen
FEN	ITON, near HONITON.
THE MISSES	S MURRAY take this opportunity
d of returning th	ranks to their Friends, for the kind sup-
They continue to	with during a period of ten years. receive a limited number of Young Gentle-
men, from the age of	three to eight years, and trust that the
	n paid to the health and comfort of their their advancement in the rudiments of
	them a continuance of the kind support
they have so long en	joyed.
	Pounds per Annum, without extras, except kindly permitted to the Rev. H. E. Head.
	G. B. Northcote, Fsq. Feniton; R. H.
	iton; or to the Parents of the Children

1835 The Times

HONITON. NEAR 3 LONG-ESTABLISHED PREPARATORY SCHOOL FOR YOUNG GENTLEMEN. respectfully MURRAY MISSES ۲ inform their Friends and the Public that they continue to receive a LIMITED NUMBER of YOUNG GENTLEMEN, from Four to Ten Years of Age. Terms-Twenty two Guineas per Annum, Washing included. References of the highest respectability. 1 r

The Times 1855

TO be LET, unfurnished THORN COTTAGE, in the Parish of FERSTON, Devon, consisting of Dining, Drawing, and Breakfast Rooms, Six good Bed-rooms, Servants' Offices, Coach-house, Stables, and large Walled Garden; also TWO FIELDS with a Pew in Church: the whole in good repair.

For Particulars, apply to JOHN RADFORD, at the said Cottage; or to Mr. CLARE, Gittisham, near Honiton. Dated May 14, 1850.

# Teaching methods in early nineteenth century;

(using information from <a href="https://popularvictorianpoetry.wordpress.com">https://popularvictorianpoetry.wordpress.com</a>, an American website but methods are likely to have been similar to that used in English schools.)

Learning to read was likely to have been the most important subject taught in schools for poor children. Writing may have been optional..

Although there was much debate about how literacy was to be taught, in the early half of the century both Church and public schools generally used syllabic and spelling methods to teach reading and spelling. Teachers broke words down into letters or syllables, children were taught how each should sound, and parts were later put together into whole words. The letter came first, the sound and meaning after. In the classroom, monitors and teachers spelled words aloud as they wrote them on the blackboard, and then each monitor repeated the word to its class, and the children in turn pronounced it as they inscribed the letters on slates or sand trays. Later in the second half of the nineteenth century, what was called the "Look and Say" method began to be recommended. This method received official sanction in an 1852 Report of the Committee of Council on Education. The process consisted of teaching children to read words

Committee of Council on Education. The process consisted of teaching children to read words as whole units, rather than breaking the word down into individual letters or groups of letters. In his 1857 Introductory Text-Book to School Management, John Gill pointed out, "The first lessons should consist entirely of words with which the ear of children is familiar". Teachers repeatedly told children the name while showing the printed word, perhaps accompanied by an illustration.

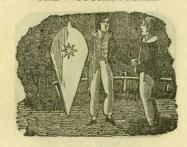
Examples of primers from the 1840s The Victoria Primer and The Silver Primer:

So on ox do to no if of of is in as be we go my am

An ox. He is. I go. It is. Is it? To it. Ye go I am.

To it. Go in. On me. Is it in? Do so. To us.

THE VICTORIA PRIMER.



It is to me Go ye as we Lo am he By it I am Ah no do so As if he be I am to be Ah me it is so So do ye As I do We go on Go by us It is so Do go in If ye do Do go up It shall be so It is to be If it be so So up we go

THE VILTUE PROPERTY



A wag, a box, a hob, a run A can, a pan, a nob, a hun-A man, a boy, a top, a hat. A nog, a car, a bar, a wit.

When a good boy is at school, he minds his book, and tries to learn to spell and read well.

The boy that minds his book shall have peaker. But he that will not learn. must feel the real.

THE VILTER PRINCIP



If we do go in If we do go up It is so to me If Lam to go Go in to it as So let me go

go on to it as क के कर का up he is so to me no I may to go go up to it so belg al flatte 1

The cat and the dog are oft at war. You may pat the dog and let him run.