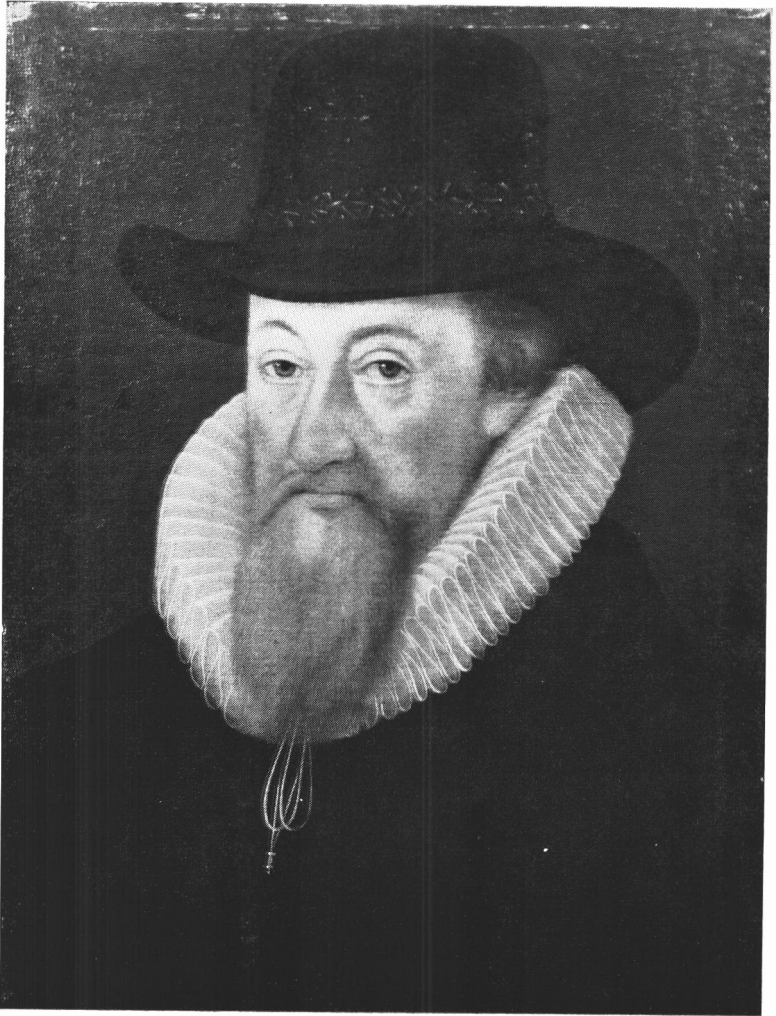


SOME PROBLEMS IN THE HISTORY OF DRONFIELD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

By P. J. WALLIS, M.A.(Cantab.).

THIS short article is intended only to draw attention to some unsolved problems in the long and fascinating history¹ of one of the oldest schools in the county. As is so often the case with ancient schools, the first problem is its origin. It is usually stated that the school was started in 1580 after the charter had been obtained by Thomas Fanshawe, nephew and executor of Henry Fanshawe, but there is evidence to suggest that the school had existed for some years before. Mr. W. E. Godfrey saw a reference to "the Schoolmaster of Dronfield" in a pre-Reformation will; unfortunately this has not been found again. This reference supports the suggestion that Christopher Haslam was a schoolmaster at Dronfield before the Reformation. Pegge² and Addy³ have referred to Haslam's agreement⁴ with Beauchief Abbey to teach the boys and novices in singing and grammar. The agreement is usually dated 1490, but as it referred to Richard (Redmayne),⁵ Bishop of Exeter and Visitor⁶ of the Praemonstratensian Order (to which Beauchief belonged), the agreement must have been made between 1496 and 1501. Haslam belonged to a family from Holmesfield in Dronfield; while he was allowed the use of a chamber at the Abbey, in 1534 he rented from the Abbey a house⁷ at Dronfield itself. By this time he was clearly living in Dronfield, possibly already one of the priests attached to the Guild of Our Lady. He was one of the Guild priests named in the Chantry Returns,⁸ and obtained a pension of £4, but he died shortly afterwards and was buried on October 5, 1551. His will, dated March 16, 1550/1, includes a reference to his nephew and namesake, with whom he has been confused;⁹



HENRY FANSHAWE, 1506-68.

Remembrancer of the Exchequer to Queen Elizabeth I. Endowed Dronfield Grammar School by his will dated 1567.

Photographed by R. L. Knight (Barnstable) from the original drawing by kind permission of Captain Aubrey Fanshawe of Cratton Fleming, Devon. The portrait belonged to an Austrian Archduke, was brought to England and secured by the Fanshawe family in 1930.

the younger Christopher died as Vicar of Dronfield¹⁰ in 1570/1. There is, however, nothing in the will to support the suggestion that the elder Christopher was schoolmaster in Dronfield.

The school was endowed by Henry Fanshawe,¹¹ the first of the family to be Remembrancer of the Exchequer. The first two drafts of his will¹² contain no reference to the school. It is not known why he changed his mind, but in the final version, dated 1567, Henry left his property in Chesterfield, Dronfield and Eckington to three trustees for maintaining the school. He also charged his nephew and executor, Thomas Fanshawe, to use four years' profits from the lease of the parsonage for the school. While Thomas proved the will in the next year, 1568, for some unknown reason¹³ there is no further reference to the school until the charter¹⁴ was obtained on June 23, 1579.

About a year later the vicar and churchwardens of Dronfield, who were made governors of the school by the charter, received from Thomas Fanshawe the property¹⁵ from which the school funds were to be derived for many years. The lands included some given earlier in the century by William Wolley for a priest to serve in Charlesworth Chapel, Glossop. Wolley had obtained them from Ralph Heathcote, a Chesterfield bell-founder. The chantry property was confiscated by the Crown and obtained by Sir George Howard, from whom it was bought by the Fanshaws.¹⁶ It also appears that about 1580 Thomas Fanshawe was responsible for getting a new schoolhouse built.¹⁷

It is possible that some thirty years later Sir Henry Fanshawe, son and heir of the Thomas already mentioned, made "Constitutions and Ordinances" for the school.¹⁸ It has hitherto been assumed that the Statutes¹⁹ made in 1638 by another Thomas were the first. No details of any earlier statutes are known, but they would have been similar to those of 1638. These Statutes were probably made as a result of an investigation into the school trust caused by the second (Sir) Thomas Fanshawe. The Exchequer Court's decision in 1635 found that there was a danger of some of the lands being lost, and that some

of the rents charged were under value.²⁰ An incidental result of the case was a survey and valuation of the school lands,²¹ which can be compared with one made by Joseph Parker²² in 1691.

The 1638 Statutes were replaced by a new set in 1786. By this time there was clearly much dissatisfaction with the condition of the school. A petition²³ to the Patron and Governors mentioned the "present deranged and unsettled state" of the school and regretted that the Founder's intentions had been frustrated "for a great number of years past". The master then was an old Leeds Grammar School boy, the Rev. John Russell, and the petition shows that many local inhabitants were displeased with his administration. The new Statutes¹⁹ made the usher more independent of the master, and virtually divided the school into two separate sections. Local dissatisfaction probably increased even more in 1797 when Russell also became vicar. The opposition to Russell was undoubtedly connected with his political views — only a few years before he had been one of the most prominent opponents of the Sheffield radical publicist, Joseph Gales.²⁴

From the middle of 1787 the usher, Joseph Taylor, issued advertisements²⁵ describing the curriculum of his Academy, which covered the usual course of such institutions,²⁶ including classics, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, mensuration and surveying, geography, geometry, navigation, French, dancing and drawing. It would seem as if Russell held a sinecure, but the exact relationship between Taylor's Academy and the Free Grammar School is difficult to determine. Much more information would undoubtedly be obtained from a Chancery Suit of this period, which has not yet been traced. Russell died in May 1808 and was succeeded as vicar by William Spencer; apparently no new master was appointed. The new vicar dropped the suit, which had been caused by Russell's refusal to instruct the scholars in anything other than classics.²⁷ The costs of the suit amounted to £1,100 and were met by the selling of timber and coal-mining rights. Meanwhile Taylor's Academy apparently continued as one "to which the

gentry of the Counties of Derby, Notts, Leicester, York and Lancaster sent their sons", until his retirement in 1814 through ill-health and financial difficulties.²⁸

New masters were appointed and began their duties in October 1814. Like many other grammar schools,²⁹ the school was conducted on the Madras or monitorial system of Dr. Bell.³⁰ When the school was visited for the Charity Commissioners in 1827, the numbers had increased to give an average attendance of 130 boys and girls.³¹ It is not known when the girls³² first joined the school, but they only remained for a short time and were not admitted again until 1899. Although much can be gleaned from local newspapers, it is impossible to understand fully the changes in the school in the nineteenth century as the school register³³ and other documents have been lost.

Considerable changes were made in 1847, shortly after the death of the vicar, William Spencer when new statutes were introduced and new masters appointed.³⁴ Some, but not sufficient, progress was made, and there was much interest and excitement about changes in the 1860's when the school was moved to the present site,³⁵ a new scheme introduced, and another master appointed.³⁶ The results of this reorganisation still disappointed many local people, and continual agitation led to yet another scheme in 1888, in which the governing body was made more representative, the powers of the Fanshawe family were ended, and foreign languages and natural science were recognised to be a prominent part of the curriculum.³⁷ Progress at first was still slow, and at the end of the century promising students who contemplated entry to a university continued their schooling at Sheffield, Derby or Nottingham. It was only in the present century that Dronfeldians again went directly to a university.³⁸

While there was a growing movement to establish school libraries during the seventeenth century, nothing is known about any early library at Dronfield. Soon after the move, in 1871, one certainly existed, as the governors made a grant towards it, but no books have survived.

The Fanshawe endowment was intended to provide

both a master and an usher.³⁹ Unfortunately no complete list is available; it is, however, now possible to supplement previous lists.⁴⁰ Some of the following identifications and statements are doubtful, but it is difficult to give all the arguments without making this article too long.⁴¹

MASTERS AND USHERS OF DRONFIELD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.⁴²

- 1582-5- Thomas Revell.⁴³
St. John's College, Cambridge, 1569.
- 1583-7 John FLETCHER.⁴⁴
Leeds GS., Caius College, Cambridge, BA. 1580/1, scholar until Michaelmas 1584, MA. 1584, Fellow Lady Day 1587 until death. Tutored several local boys at Cambridge. Pupils included the famous mathematician, Henry Briggs, the populariser of logarithms. Described by a contemporary as "one of the cunningest we have [at Cambridge] in that faculty" i.e. of mathematics. Also famed for skill in medicine and astrology.
- 1593- — WATERHOUSE.⁴⁵
Only known from the entry of a pupil at Cambridge.
- 1600-4 Thomas MIDDLETON.⁴⁶
From Bedfordshire, sizar Queens' College, Cambridge, BA. 1593/4, MA. 1597. The dates are those for which he was Vicar of Dronfield. Reported not to care for the powers of the Fanshawe family, and concerned in an incident when the school chest was broken open. Middleton had the scattered papers collected and copied by his pupils. Rector Eyam 1608-17, when he died. His relict, Alice, had administration in 1618.
- 1604-15 Robert TOPHAM.⁴⁷
From Derbyshire and possibly locally, as his uncle, William Topham *alias* Short, was a prominent Dronfield mercer. Sizar Queens' College, Cambridge, migrated as pensioner to St. John's College, BA. 1600/1 MA. 1604. Described as BA. when appointed schoolmaster by Sir Henry Fanshaw and shortly afterwards he was presented to the vicarage "contrary to the intention of the founders". On 22 May 1606 he had a licence to marry Isabel Stringer, of Egmanton, daughter of Martin of Clayworth, Notts. A defendant, with his uncle, in 1609-18 suits about the school lands, and living at Clayworth, Notts, in 1630/1 when he appeared as a

witness in a further case. He was vicar of Wirksworth (also schoolmaster), presented by the Dean of Lincoln, Anthony Topham, in 1633, and by 1649 he had probably been succeeded by his son, Martin, who was a prominent member of the Presbyterian Classis.

- 1615-7 Edward FISHER.⁴⁸
Possibly at Oxford or Cambridge, but proof lacking. Subscribed at Lichfield (as ludimagister) 6 Jan. 1615/6 and buried at Dronfield (Schoolemr) 15 June 1617. Died intestate, in debt. Inventory taken 11 June 1618 included 50s. 5d. for 66 books.
- 1626-30- Simon PECK.⁴⁹
Sizar Trinity College, Cambridge. BA. 1619/0, MA. 1623. Rector of Grindon, Staffs. 1631-45. Married at Norton 24 Sept. 1635 Mary Froggat, gen.- their son, John, was vicar of Chesterfield 1705-7.
- 1636-9- Francis Alsop.⁵⁰
Pensioner Trinity College, Cambridge, scholar 1631, matriculated 1632. Perhaps rector Kirk Langley, 1644 until death in 1655/6, and minister at Barton-in-Fabis, Notts., an "able preacher and of godley conversason".
- 1640- Joshua POOLE.⁵¹
Educated at Wakefield, sizar Clare College, Cambridge, BA. 1635/6, MA. 1639. His appointment possibly coincided with the adoption of the 1638 Statutes. Married at Monken Hadley on 19 Jan. 1642/3 Mary, daughter of Francis Atkinson. Taught there until his death in 1656. Issued *The English Accidence* in 1646; *The English Parnassus* . . . appeared posthumously in 1657.
- 1652-4- — HOW.⁵²
Only known from the entries of two pupils to Christ's College, Cambridge.
- 1658-62 William WHITAKER.⁵³
A Yorkshireman, sizar at Jesus College, Cambridge, BA. 1645, MA. 1650. Already in Sheffield district in 1647. Master at Sheffield Grammar School 1651-8, children born in Sheffield. Monumental inscription at Dronfield, "Quondam Rector Scholae Dronfeldensis".
- 1663- Gervase STAYNROD.⁵⁴
Only known from his subscription at Lichfield on 1 April 1663 "ad docendum pueros", and may have been an usher. Seems doubtful that he was head of the family resident in Dronfield for more than a century and which was closely connected

- with all the disputes about the school lands. If so, he married at Dronfield on 15 June 1625 Dorothy Hyde, who leased school lands in 1669; Dronfield freeholder 1633; disclaimed arms 1663; inventory, taken 6 Sept. 1666, totalled £55. 3. 2; administration granted to widow and son, Thomas.
- 1668-71 James Hoole.⁵⁵
Baptised at Sheffield 9 Dec. 1649, son of John, a yeoman-tanner of Crookes, and educated at the grammar school there under Whitaker's successors, Francis Potts and Thomas Balguy. Subscribed at Lichfield (pedagogue) 23 July 1668 and admitted as a sizar at Magdalene College, Cambridge, 26 April 1671. Buried at Sheffield 5 Jan. 1698/9.
- 1671-88 William MASON.⁵⁶
Origin and education unknown, but the name occurs in Dronfield records throughout the 16th and 17th centuries. Aged and infirm, 27 May 1688, when he wrote his will, which mentions his farm and books.
- 1688-1722 Robert GOOD.⁵⁷
Born 1661, son of Henry of Bower-Church, Wilts. Magdalen Hall, Oxford, BA. 1682, MA. 1685. Nomination as master dated 20 June 1690, but is said to have succeeded Mason and may have been acting for him for a few years earlier. Left £40 by his usher, Curtis. An Unstone freeholder. Died at Dronfield 12 Sept. 1722, buried on the 14th, his monumental inscription mentioning that he had taught for more than 30 years. By his will, dated 28 Dec. 1710, he left his estate at Somerley to his brother Ralph. His inventory taken 28 Sept. 1722 totalled £84. 14. 3, including £12 for books, and listed various rooms in his house.
- 1705 Thomas Curtis.⁵⁸
Only known as usher from the description in his inventory, taken 21 Dec. 1705, as "late Usher Dronfield Free Schoole". By his will, dated 22 April 1701, he left £100 for a Charity which still awards prizes to Unstone children. He had already agreed to sell Somerley to Lionel Fanshawe. Related to Thomas Kent of Povey, who founded the Coal Aston Charity.
- 1722-5 John BAINES.⁵⁹
Baptised at Dronfield 25 Dec. 1700, son of William of Coal Aston, probably educated at the school before going to Balliol College, Oxford, BA. 1720/1, MA. 1724. Also vicar of Barlow. "Found dead on moors near Froggot moss, first January 1726."

- 1726-57 William Allison.⁶⁰
Baptised at Brampton, 4th son of Godfrey of Newbold and Walton, and Mary (Roberts). May have succeeded Curtis, but first known as usher when cited to appear at 1726 Visitation, also churchwarden. First occupant (lease dated 1734) of new "Red House" provided for usher by public subscription. Married at Dronfield 9 Aug. 1739 Anna Younge. His daughter, Elizabeth, married in 1751. Allison was also parish clerk and is criticised for his carelessness by a later vicar, in the register. Will dated 27 Feb. 1754, buried at Dronfield 5 Sept. 1757.
- 1726- Godfrey FE(A)RNE.⁶¹
Son of Joseph, rector of Matlock. Sizar Jesus College, Cambridge, BA. 1723/4, MA. 1728. Unlicensed in 1726. Ordained priest at Lincoln 1733/4, and probably of Brampton, freehold at Fairfield in 1734 poll, when he had been succeeded by Walker. Vicar of Beauchief. Died at Chesterfield 22 June 1751 and buried at Matlock. By his will, dated 15 June 1751, he left everything to his wife Frances.
- 1734-75 John WALKER.⁶²
Admitted Christ's College, Cambridge in 1718, but left in 1724 without graduating. Usher at Chesterfield Grammar School in 1726. Curate Great Barlow 1726-75. Vicar of Crich 1731-75. Lived at Dronfield in 1734 and voted because of a freehold at Brampton. Buried at Dronfield 16 May 1775.
- 1764 Michael Rowland.⁶³
From Derbyshire, sizar Queens' College, Cambridge, 1759, possibly after appointment as usher to succeed Allison. Ordained priest 19 Dec. 1762, but dead when successor appointed.
- 1764-76 Edward Bagshaw.⁶⁴
Nominated by Simon Fanshawe 15 Oct. 1764. Received £18 *per annum* in 1774. Buried at Dronfield 10 Feb. 1776.
- 1775-1808 John RUSSELL.⁶⁵
Educated at Leeds Grammar School, but no evidence of stay at university. Master at Rotherham Grammar School 1762-75. Also assistant minister Ecclesfield. Leased Fanshawe Bank Farm from the governors. Vicar of Dronfield from 1797, and previously minister at Beauchief. Married at Dronfield 2 July 1798 Alice Bridgeland from

Kentish Town. His refusal to teach anything other than classics led to a costly Chancery case. Died after a long, painful illness on 17 May 1808, aged 66.

- 1778-85 Fairfax Norcliffe.⁶⁶
Presumably of the family of Norcliffe, Nunnington, and Langton, but not given in pedigree. Testimonial of fitness signed by incumbents at Bonsall, Bradbourn and Carsington. Nominated by Althea Fanshawe 13 Aug. 1778. On 19 Jan. 1784 married by licence at Dronfield Hannah Heayes.
- 1786-1814 Joseph Taylor.⁶⁷
Had been at Ecclesfield 1784-5. Married by licence at Dronfield first, 5 June 1792, Mary, daughter of Joshua Jepson Oddy of Darnall, Sheffield; and secondly, 22 June 1802, Helene Anne Haslam of Ashover, who died at Bolton in 1818, leaving six children. Lived in the usher's house and held other property from the governors. Conducted a very successful classical, mathematical and commercial Academy. Published in 1804 an English Grammar and in 1805 a children's Reader. Lost his property and his reason in 1814 and was killed by a fellow inmate at an asylum near Nottingham on 25 Dec. 1816.
- 1814-47 William PIDCOCK.⁶⁸
Early history unknown, but he had married his wife, Sarah, before 1809, when a son was born in Surrey. Conducted the school on the Madras system. Won dispute with the governors in 1818. Brought the school to a poor level before his resignation, although he had sent his sons to Cambridge.
- 1814-8- William Birkin.⁶⁹
Had married his wife, Elizabeth, before his appointment after the reorganisation in 1814. Probably of Derby St. Michael's and married Elizabeth Wright at Derby All Saints on 28 Dec. 1807. Answered a mathematical question in 1813 *Ladies' Diary*. Returned to Derby and kept a commercial boarding school in Full St. 1820-1-.
- 1827-47 Peter Holmes.⁷⁰
Married by licence at Dronfield on 3 July 1826 to Hannah Gregory of Hucknall, so he may have come from that district. Taught at Dronfield Woodhouse -1857-62-, probably from 1847.

- 1847-62 John COCKERTON.⁷¹
Born in London 12 April 1805, son of John, oil leather dresser and glue maker, later of Millsands, Sheffield. At St. John's College, Cambridge, BA. 1831, MA. 1835. Master of a private boarding school at Hill Side, Dronfield from 1833. Ordained deacon 1835, priest 1851, curate of Holmesfield. Vicar of Beauchief 1850-62 and preached at Dronfield. Died at Dronfield 13 June 1862, monumental inscription.
- 1847-9- John Bell.⁷²
Accepted the new statutes in 1847, probably recently appointed with Cockerton.
- 1852-77 John Garland.⁷³
Born 1813, but nothing known before his appointment. In 1864 he received £95 besides £10 from fees and his house rent free. Pensioned in 1875 (£40 p.a.) but died 8 Dec. 1877 after 25 years as second master.
- 1862-4(-6) John Faithfull FANSHAWE.⁷⁴
Born 14 Feb. 1810, son of Charles Robert, rector of Fawley, Oxon. Became a lieutenant in the Navy. Pensioner Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, BA. 1841. In Aug. 1842 married Elisabeth, daughter of James Upton of Dulwich Common. Perpetual curate of Lanchester and Withington 1842-60. Appointed master by his brother June 1862, and resided in School House for one year. Came from Sheffield two or three times a week, with James Smith as deputy 1863-4, and then Haslam, who continued when Fanshawe left Sheffield. Finally resigned Dec. 1866. Succeeded his brother as head of the family in 1873, but patronage of school passed to his son, Henry Ernest, in 1870. Died at Balham 12 Sept. 1892.
- 186(4)-8 Edward Young HASLAM.⁷⁵
Son of Rev. William. Educated privately. Assistant at Manchester private school. Principal of an academy at Hanley. Ph.D. (Heidelberg) in 1844. Deputy for and successor to Fanshawe. Many local people wanted his appointment under the new scheme, but the vicar strongly opposed.
- 1869-88 Waller King BEDINGFIELD.⁷⁶
Born 16 April 1837 at Wokingham, Berks., son of Rev. Richard King. Educated privately. From 1853 assistant at various schools, including Allesley Park College, Coventry, and Junior Department, Lancaster Grammar School. Entered Trinity

- College, Dublin 1865, resided 1867-8, 3rd rank pass BA. in 1868. Appointed to Dronfield 16 June 1869. Married on 15 July 1869 Helen Cray from Trowbridge. Remained in Dronfield after his retirement, acting as Registrar of Births and Deaths and local newspaper reporter. Died 20 Sept. 1914.
- 1888-1926 Charles Chapman BAGGALEY.⁷⁷
 Born 29 Mar. 1861, son of John, insurance agent, and Edna, of Sheffield. Pupil-teacher Lowfield Council School, Sheffield. Corporation and Queen's Scholarships. Trained at St. Mark's College, Chelsea. Assistant master at Latymer School, Hammersmith, and St. Mark's College School. Married at Sheffield Parish Church in 1886 Alice Elizabeth, daughter of Rev. Samuel and Maria Wright — 2 sons and 2 daughters. BA. 1887, Honours in French, at London. Founder member of Incorporated Association of Head Masters. Local councillor and prominent conservative. Married secondly Mabel Osborne of Dronfield. Died 5 July 1931.
- 1926-53 Norman Shera MILLICAN.⁷⁸
 Born Maryport, Cumberland 25 Nov. 1889, son of a master mariner. At Nelson Endowed Grammar School, Wigton. Scholar Liverpool University, BA. Honours in Classics 1912, MA. 1913. Assistant master, Newcastle, Leeds, London, and Liverpool. Military service 1914-9, M.C. and mentioned in despatches. Married in 1920 Clarrie Butterworth of Newcastle, Staffs. Local churchwarden for 15 years. Retired to Bridlington.
- 1953- Peter John WALLIS.⁷⁹
 Born London 4 June 1918, son of Bertie Cotterell, author and schoolmaster. Kingsbury County Grammar School. Scholar Pembroke College, Cambridge, BA. 1939, MA. 1943. Married 22 Dec. 1939 Ruth Violet, 2nd daughter of Julius and Violet Jacob of Kensington. Assistant master 1939-41. Research mathematician 1941-5. Senior mathematics master, Heath Grammar School, Halifax, and King Edward VII School, Sheffield, 1945-53.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

¹ The most accessible short account is still that by A. F. Leach, published in 1907 in Vol. II of the *Victoria County History*, p. 250-3, but a more detailed account was prepared by C. C. Baggaley and J. N. O. Manners and published in the *Derbyshire Times* for April and May 1927. See also an illustration of the seal and a note by Rev. H. Lawrence in *D.A.J.*, xli, 1919, 76-7.

² S. Pegge, *An Historical Account of Beauchief Abbey . . .*, 1801, 67.

³ S. O. Addy, *Historical Memorials of Beauchief Abbey*, 1878, 128-9.

⁴ The present location of this deed is unknown, so that it has not been possible to check the transcript with the original.

⁵ *Dictionary of National Biography*.

⁶ The Bishop visited Beauchief Abbey in 1498 and 1500 (Addy, 110-2).

⁷ Pegge, 105. This property may have been near the present School buildings and formed part of the Fanshawe endowment.

⁸ *Reliquary*, xi, 1870-1, 87. J. C. Cox, *The Churches of Derbyshire*, 1875-9, i, 211; iv, 461. *D.A.J.*, xxviii, 1906, 26, 39.

⁹ By, e.g., Addy, 129, 139. This mistaken identification and the wrong date, 1490, made Haslam a centenarian when he died. It is, of course, possible that there were more than two Christopher Haslams, so that the schoolmaster of c. 1500 and the chantry priest were different. The chaplain at Shirland (*Reliquary*, xi, 85; Cox, i, 474) seems to have been the nephew.

¹⁰ He appears to have succeeded Richard Haward, who died at Sheffield in 1567, and for whom Haslam may have deputised for several years previously.

¹¹ Much information about this and about other members of the family can be obtained from *The History of the Fanshawe Family*, 1927, written by Herbert Charles Fanshawe, the only member of the family who is known to have attended the School.

¹² The three versions are given in *Notes, Genealogical and Historical, of the Fanshawe Family*, reprinted from *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*, 1868-72.

¹³ According to Henry Fanshawe's will, there should have been a delay of four years while the profits from the lease of the parsonage accumulated. The dates suggest that the delay may have been connected with John, Henry's elder brother, father of Thomas who succeeded Henry as Remembrancer, and one of the school trustees named in Henry's will. John only died at the beginning of 1579. By his will he left the parsonage house and tithes to his wife, Ellen, but it is not known when she died.

¹⁴ This has been often printed, in translation, the earliest known edition being that for 1786. Nothing is known about the original Charter. The date given is that from the copy in the Patent Rolls, but some school leases give the date June 3.

¹⁵ The Deed of Feoffment, dated May 2 (but not now available), and a Letter of Attorney, dated August 10, 1580, give some details of the properties.

¹⁶ Cox, ii, 205, gives details of the endowment of the chantry, but does not refer to the connection with the school. Further details, including the date of the Fanshawe purchase, would be welcome.

¹⁷ Several witnesses in the 1630's Exchequer case (see note 20) mention this. It is not known whether Thomas was only carrying out his uncle's will or whether he also contributed from his own resources.

¹⁸ The evidence for this is again in the 1630's Exchequer case, but a 1617 Chancery Bill (PRO. C. 2/51) and a 1618 Exchequer Bill (PRO. E. 112/75/139) state that Sir Henry did not make "any Rules or ordinances for the government of the said School".

¹⁹ The 1638 Statutes, which have often been printed locally, were given *in extenso* by N. Carlisle, . . . *Endowed Grammar Schools . . .*, 1818, i, 222-5, and are often quoted in educational histories, e.g. J. H. Brown, *Elizabethan Schooldays*, 1933. As the local pamphlets are rare, those known are listed here:

A Translated Copy of the Patent of the Free School at Dronfield in the county of Derby Granted by Queen Elizabeth AD 1579 and founded by Henry Fanshawe Esq. . . . Together with such Rules and Orders, as were afterwards made by Sir Thomas Fanshawe, Knight . . . and others . . .

Published at Chesterfield in 1786 by J. Bradley.

Published at Sheffield by J. White in 1798, and reprinted again, no date, much later but without any alterations, by Pawson and Brailsford.

Printed at Chesterfield in 1817 by John Ford.

These all gave the charter, and the 1638 and 1786 statutes. See also note 29.

²⁰ The whole case, together with an earlier one in 1599/1600, is filed as E. 178/632.

²¹ An earlier survey, made about 1607, is mentioned in the 1617-8 Bills, and may have led to Sir Henry Fanshawe's statutes.

²² Unfortunately Parker's survey has been lost, but much information from

it has been preserved in a manuscript *Summary* of school papers made about a century ago; some of this material was included in the *Derbyshire Times* article. The Sheffield City Library (B.M. 671) has a survey made by Parker in 1692 of some other lands in Dronfield, but otherwise nothing is known about this early surveyor. The *Summary* is made very useful and important by the loss of some of the school papers since it was made. It also refers to a 1606 lease (the earliest mentioned anywhere) which no longer exists.

²³ With the papers connected with Taylor's appointment at Lichfield Diocesan Registry.

²⁴ For an account of Gales' views and the political background in the Sheffield district, see three articles in *The North Carolina Historical Review* for July 1949, July 1951 and October 1953.

²⁵ The writer has copies from the *Sheffield Register*, and its successor, the *Sheffield Iris*, and from the *Derby Mercury*. Mr. G. B. Wynne has kindly sent copies of similar advertisements in the *Doncaster Gazette*, and the writer would be pleased to know of any in other local newspapers.

²⁶ Much useful material about the Academies is contained in N. Hans, *New Trends in Education in the Eighteenth Century*, 1951.

²⁷ *Charity Commission Reports*, xviii, 1827 (subsequently referred to as C.C.R.) 202.

²⁸ Joseph Tilley, *Dictionary of Derbyshire Biography*, manuscript, Derby Public Library. This description of Taylor's Academy is supported by the long list of signatories to an appeal on behalf of his family — see, e.g., *Sheffield Iris*, July 19, 1814.

²⁹ Such as the neighbouring Sheffield School, or that at Leeds. At Sheffield the master was only appointed on condition that he used the Madras System, and it was probably introduced at Dronfield in 1814 when Pidcock was appointed, as only four years later, when Carlisle reported, the system was in use. An undated *Rules for the Regulation of the Free School at Dronfield*, published by C. & W. Thompson of Sheffield, was probably issued at this time, and certainly by 1815. It is possible that a new version of the statutes had been issued after 1798, but no changes have been reported until those in 1826, which are only known from the reference to them in the 1827 *Report* (C.C.R. 199).

³⁰ See any standard history of education for details of this cheap method of using a few masters for a large number of pupils.

³¹ C.C.R. 204.

³² In his *Second Report on Schools Inspected in Derbyshire* in 1843 (*Minutes of Committee of Council on Education*, 1844, 41-59), the Rev. John Allen contrasted the poor standards of the 35 boys at the Grammar School with the better standards at another school under a mistress. Many hoped that the 1888 scheme would allow the entry of girls, but they had to wait a few years longer. At the end of the century many old Derbyshire schools were becoming co-educational.

³³ In 1866 the usher produced the school register when Commissioner Thomas Hare visited the school (see his *Report*, Ministry of Education EE 54654, or Sheffield City Library, Jackson Collection 1364.19 for an account of his visit). The extant registers commence in 1888 and give few details at first. The names of some earlier pupils have been obtained (see note 76), but the writer would be pleased to receive any information about early pupils.

³⁴ Little is known of the background to these changes. The new Statutes were printed by Pawson and Brailsford of Sheffield in 1864 as *Rules for the Government of the School of Henry Fanshawe, Esq., of Dronfield in County of Derby*. This version does not include a slight amendment given in the manuscript *Summary*.

³⁵ The Rev. J. F. Fanshawe was very critical of the accommodation available at the old school and moved into Sheffield. The 1855 *Post Office Directory* mentions that Thomas Fanshawe's 1580 building had since been rebuilt and enlarged. Unless this refers to repairs carried out in 1814, costing £135 12s. (C.C.R. 202), it is unknown when these changes took place. There was much opposition to the proposed move, which was advised by the vicar, who finally persuaded the Patron to sanction it (see speeches made at the laying of the corner stone of the present building on 28 Nov. 1866). The Charity Commissioners favoured the new building, which was paid for out of proceeds from the

sale of coal, but which left the school short of funds for many years (see, e.g., M. E. Sadler, *Report on Secondary . . . Education in Derbyshire*, 1905, 76). Unfortunately very few school papers survived the move — the oldest minute book and account book date from this time and were probably started as a result of the interest taken by the School Inquiry Commissioners, whose observations on the school appeared in Vol. 16 of their 1869 *Report* (subsequently referred to as *S.I.C.*). Some of their statistics had appeared earlier in an 1865 *Return on Endowed Grammar Schools*, HC 467, 32-3. The Commissioner's visit probably led to the Governors getting John Wright of Chesterfield to prepare a *Valuation and Plans of Property belonging to the Trustees . . . in 1865*.

³⁶ The 1869 *Scheme for the Regulation and Management of the Grammar School of Henry Fanshawe, Esq., at Dronfield, in the County of Derby* was published at Chesterfield by R. C. Toplis in 1870.

³⁷ The Charity Commission Scheme, no. 894, was printed in 1888 and amended in 1896, 1897, 1899, 1901 and 1909. While the official connection of the Fanshawe family with the school ceased, its members have maintained an interest up to the present day — at the last speech day the family presented a fine new trophy for the champion house.

³⁸ Thus reviving the practice of the 16th and 17th centuries. The last pupil known to have gone to Oxford or Cambridge went in 1708, although others like the master's son, Thomas Walker, the vicar's son, T. W. Spencer, or the master's sons, William, Benjamin and George Pidcock, who went to Cambridge in 1758, 1823, 1839 and 1843 respectively, may have been taught at the school. On entering Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1823, John Spencer (presumably a younger son of the Vicar) said he had been educated at Dronfield under Mr. Spencer — if this is not a clerical error in the College Register, it suggests that the vicar may have been teaching privately. The progress of the school in the latter part of Mr. Baggaley's régime disproved the pessimistic view taken by Sadler in his *Report* as late as 1905.

³⁹ Both Henry Fanshawe's will and the Charter envisage a master and an usher, but it is not certain that an usher was always appointed. The given list shows that for long periods the name of the usher is unknown, while a special survey and valuation of the lands were made in 1607 in an effort to raise sufficient maintenance for the usher as well as for the master (Answer of William Topham in the 1618 case — see note 18).

⁴⁰ See the lists given in 1907 and 1927 (note 1), by W. E. Godfrey in *D.A.J.*, lxi, 1940, 38, and the "official" list on a tablet erected in the school in 1950.

⁴¹ In order to save space, facts given in the University *Alumni* are not all reproduced. Most information is given in J. and J. A. Venn, *Alumni Cantabrigienses*, 10 vols, 1922-54, but use has also been made of J. Foster, *Alumni Oxonienses*, 8 vols, 1891, and published and unpublished College Registers. Through the kindness of the vicar and school governor, the Rev. J. W. Blanch, many items from the parish registers are incorporated in the brief biographies. Any additions and corrections will be gratefully acknowledged.

⁴² Masters are indicated by capitals. Sometimes it is difficult to decide whether the man named was master or usher. Doubtful dates are indicated by italics.

⁴³ Revell is only known from references in the parish register, where he is called "schoolmaster". The suggestion made here that he was only usher depends on the date 1583 for Fletcher, and is supported by Revell's lack of a degree. He was probably a local boy belonging to the same family as a later vicar — see J. Hunter, *Familice Minorum Gentium*, Harleian Soc., Vols. 37-40, 1894-6 (subsequently cited as *F.M.G.*), i. 393.

⁴⁴ The only evidence for Fletcher's being at Dronfield is from the Caius College Register and this does not give his first name. The date 1583 depends on the identification of Fletcher's pupil at Dronfield and Caius, Philip Nevill, with one of the same name who matriculated at Balliol College, Oxford, in 1583. The contemporary description was in a letter, dated 20 April (?1590) from A. Downes of Trinity College to Sir Thomas Tresham, given in the *Historical Manuscripts Commission*, 15th Report, iii, 1904, 59.

⁴⁵ A family of this name was widespread in South Yorkshire, and the Onesacre family (*F.M.G.*, ii, 805) was connected with the Fanshawes by

marriage. If the master were the Henry Waterhouse who married Elizabeth Calton at Dronfield in 1588, he probably did not go Oxford or Cambridge.

⁴⁶ The surname occurs in the parish register, so that the master may have had local connections. As vicar he succeeded Francis Bennett, who was buried in September 1600 and who may also have been master. Apparently he had another living before succeeding John Hayward at Eyam in 1608. The inventory of his goods, taken 17 Dec. 1617, totalled £148 13s. 8d.; these included hay and corn, ploughs and harness. He was presumably connected with the family of Leam in the parish of Eyam, whose pedigree was given by Hunter, *F.M.G.*, i, 206. The school chest incident is discussed in the 1609 Exchequer Deposition, PRO. E. 134.

⁴⁷ For references to the uncle, see T. W. Hall, . . . *Sheffield Manorial Records* . . . , 1934, 56 and 69. Other relations were probably John Topham alias Short, and his son, Maximilian, who had lands at Mosbrough (Sheffield City Library, W.C. 643, 933). Index Library, lviii, 1930, 29. Mr. F. N. Fisher has kindly sent me extracts from the Society of Genealogists' Library referring to a 1638 tithe dispute at Wirksworth in which Robert Topham figures prominently. Cox, iv, 521. For a 1649 reference (which I owe to Miss N. Kirkham) to the son, Martin, see J. C. Cox, *Three Centuries of Derbyshire Annals*, 1890, ii, 253. For the Wirksworth Classis, see *D.A.J.*, ii, 1880, 135-222.

⁴⁸ I owe the subscription to my friend, Mr. E. Clarke. As Fisher's two predecessors were at Queens' College, Cambridge, it is tempting to assume that he was also. If so, he came from Cumberland, was a sizar, and graduated BA. 1612/13, MA. 1616. It will be noticed that there is a gap between Fisher's death and Peck's graduation. During part of this time the vicar, Thomas Taylor, may have been acting as master.

⁴⁹ The 1630's case mentions the difficulties that Peck had in obtaining his salary from the churchwardens. It is possible that he continued teaching after he became rector of Grindon, but the witnesses all refer to him as "the then Schoolmaster", rather than as the "present" schoolmaster, and it is perhaps significant that Peck himself was not called as a witness.

⁵⁰ Also may have been master, but he is called "Schoolmaster" in the parish register entries. He was possibly a son of Thomas, baptised 12 Mar. 1614/5 at Chesterfield, where a Gilbert Allsop was usher at this time. Another Allsop was teaching privately at Shirland in the 1630's (J. Peile, *Christ's College Biographical Register*, 1910, i, 458).

⁵¹ See the writer's argument in *Notes and Queries*, Sept. 1954, 386-7, in support of this identification. The reference to Poole as master does not give his first name. The given details supplement the account in the *Dictionary of National Biography*.

⁵² His pupils at Cambridge only gave his surname. Some of this name went to the University.

⁵³ Venn's medical career for the Jesus graduate conflicts with the teaching career given here. It is possible that he was usher at Dronfield before going to Sheffield. His widow presumably remained in Dronfield, as their son, Samuel, was a pupil until he entered Cambridge in 1672.

⁵⁴ *D.A.J.*, vi, 1884, 53; xxxii, 1910, 58.

⁵⁵ In the entry at Magdalene College, Cambridge, he was described as "schola Sheffieldiensis Alumnus sed Dronfeldensis inter Derbiensis nunc Magister" (Manuscript Register, ii, 506). It is possible that he was acting as master temporarily.

⁵⁶ The first name is given in his nephew (Robert)'s will, which refers to "My Uncle William Mason late Maister of Dronfield Free Schoole". Since he was "aged" in 1688, he may have graduated at Cambridge (Trinity College, BA. 1628/9, MA. 1632) or at Oxford (Exeter College, BA. 1632).

⁵⁷ His deed of appointment, dated 20 June 1690, is framed (with a 1691 receipt for his salary and a copy of his monumental inscription) and hangs in the school library. *Reliquary*, xx, 1879-80, 246. *C.C.R.*, 211. *Notes and Queries*.

⁵⁸ For the charities, see *C.C.R. Reliquary*, xx, 1879-80, 246. The incomplete pedigree in *Hunter's Pedigrees*, Harleian Soc., lxxxviii, 1936, 51 end with Robert, who was probably father of Thomas.

⁵⁹ *Reliquary*, xxi, 1880-1, 107. *Surtees Society Publications*. lxxv, 1875, 247. Baines was buried at Dronfield on 6 Jan. 1725/6.

⁶⁰ The father occupied the usual local offices of churchwarden, overseer of the poor and constable at the end of the century. Young William was presumably educated at Brampton School, but he may have continued his schooling at Dronfield (like Paul Jenkinson a few years earlier) or at Chesterfield. The elder brother, Godfrey, of Newbold (see the *Reliquary*, xxii, 1881-2, 95) was baptised 25 Jan. 1682/3. I owe the baptisms and other Brampton information to the kindness of the vicar, the Rev. A. B. Gordon. I have not found the probable earlier marriage, possibly to a relative of his second wife, Helen Younge, widow of Edward France (*F.M.G.*, ii, 713). The schoolmaster, Gooding, mentioned (*Reliquary*, xxi, 1880-1, 165) as living in 1739, was possibly a third master.

⁶¹ *F.M.G.*, ii, 482. *Reliquary*, xxii, 1881-2, 94.

⁶² Tilley MSS. Lichfield 1726 Visitation. Cox, i, 69; iv, 52.

⁶³ Two centuries before, Thomas Rowland, a Fellow of Merton College, Oxford, had property in Holmesfield and other parts of Derbyshire. One of his executors in 1580 was Godfrey Fanshawe, and receipts connected with his will are among the *Fanshawe Papers*, PRO. E. 192/1. See also *D.A.J.*, xx, 1898, 94, 105, and H. Armitage, *Chantrey Land*, 1910, 61.

⁶⁴ Does not occur in the pedigree of the family from The Oaks, Norton. Education and ordination unknown.

⁶⁵ See above, p. 70; *Leeds Intelligencer*, 16 Mar. 1762, quoted in *Thoresby Soc.*, xxviii, 1928, 159. J. Eastwood, *History of . . . Ecclesfield*, 1862, 215. *Sheffield Courant*, 11 Apr. 1797. *Sheffield Iris*, 13 July 1798 and 24 May 1808.

⁶⁶ Appointment documents at Diocesan Registry. J. Foster, *Pedigrees of the County Families of Yorkshire*, iii, 1874.

⁶⁷ See above p. 70; Appointment documents at Diocesan Registry. Tilley's *Index*. The *Sheffield Register*, *Sheffield Iris* and *Sheffield Mercury* advertise the school and the academy, Taylor's books and the subscription in June-July 1814 for his family. Mr. W. E. Tate has kindly sent an advertisement by Taylor, as Usher of the free grammar school, from the *Leeds Intelligencer* for 4 July 1786. M. le Cornu (probably John, later vicar of Hathersage) was a French assistant at the school and academy. William Butterman was an partner in, and later rival to, Taylor's Academy. Taylor's books were entitled *A System of English Grammar, upon a plan Entirely New . . . and Childrens true Guide to Knowledge and Virtue. A Collection of Early Lessons . . . in Reading . . .* The title page of the latter suggests that he may have written other books, but none is known. *F.M.G.* i, 199.

⁶⁸ Carlisle, i, 227. Local directories. *C.C.R.* The Rev. John Allen (*Report*, 48) said that the teachers were "wholly unfitted for their office". This view is supported by the evidence of a few ex-pupils in the *Report of the Children's Employment Commission*, 1842.

⁶⁹ Carlisle, i, 228. Advertisements in *Derby Mercury* 12 July 1820, 11 July 1821.

⁷⁰ *C.C.R.*, 203. Local directories.

⁷¹ Jackson Collection (Sheffield City Library), 1128. Deed of appointment, dated 14 Apr. 1847, is last entry in MS. *Summary* (see note 22), suggesting that Cockerton made the *Summary*.

⁷² 1849 Directory.

⁷³ *S.I.C.*, 494. Local directories. Account Book. He was the last official usher.

⁷⁴ *S.I.C.* The Grocock Papers include a letter to the former vicar of Dronfield from the master's son, Herbert Charles Fanshawe, whose family *History* gives some information about his father. Charity Commission Records (at the Ministry of Education) EE 2786. The 1864 Sheffield Directory shows him living at 9, Broomgrove Crescent.

⁷⁵ Name given as E. H. Haslem in *S.I.C.*, 494, which does not allow his title of "Doctor", but credits him with an M.A. of Heidelberg. Dr. H. Krabusch of Heidelberg University kindly sent details of Haslem's connection with that university. The third master, Charles Walton Houseman, was secretary of the Dronfield Mechanics' Institution until he moved to a similar post in Oldham in 1868.

⁷⁶ Information from Mr. H. W. Parke, the Librarian of Trinity College, Dublin, and from members of the family. The second masters were Samuel Deane until 1879, and then Samuel Nunn Stow. The first known Old Boys' meeting took place in 1886 to sympathise with Mr. Bedingfield because the

new scheme required a different master — the 177 signatures to the memorial passed at this meeting help to replace the lost Registers.

⁷⁷ Information from his three surviving children.

⁷⁸ School records and information from the subject.

⁷⁹ The present writer, who wishes to thank, in addition to those already named above, Mrs. D. M. Dancer and Miss P. W. Shield for abstracts from Lichfield Wills and Public Record Office deeds.