



## Sandhurst, Berks.

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The south chapel contains a tablet to the Rev. J. B. S. Carwithen, perpetual curate from 1810 to 1832, and also a striking marble relief, modelled in Greece, after an ancient sculpture, and representing the late Sir William and Lady Farrer with their children. Sir William Farrer, who was for many years the tenant of Sandhurst Lodge, died in the year 1911. He held the office of High Bailiff of Westminster 1868-1887, and married Anna Maria, daughter of Henry Francis Shaw Lefevre, Esq.

The remaining memorials in the church are to the Rev. Henry Parsons, rector, and his wife, 1878; Ellen Dumbleton (dedication of clock and bell), 1879; Thomas Smith, first captain of the bell-ringers, 1889; Jane Monckton Jones, 1881; George Sheppard Harvey, Col. R.A., 1902; Henrietta Camilla, widow of John Sutton Rothwell, R.A., 1902; John Sampson Gregory, master of the National Schools, 1869-1902; Nancy Waterhouse, widow, who bequeathed the residue of her estate to the church, 1898; Ella Louisa Agatha, wife of Hugh White Thompson, 1894.

The churchyard has recently been considerably enlarged eastwards. The old prejudice against burial on the north side of the church is shown by the fact that there are no ancient interments there. When, however, the other sides were filled the surviving inhabitants seem to have accepted the inevitable, and the burials took place on the north. In Yateley the churchyard was extended in another direction sooner than utilize the northern side.\*

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\* Johnson, "Byways in British Archæology."

The old oaken stem from which the churchyard rails were formerly reckoned seems to have disappeared about the year 1809. There were formerly other fine trees round the churchyard, notably a large ash at the south gate, the stump of which has recently been removed. On the west side there is a yew tree of venerable but uncertain age. Near the south door is the grave of General Cox, the last keeper of Bigshot Rails, who died in 1788, and on the east side lie the remains of the Right Rev. John Fielder Mackarness, Bishop of Oxford, who died at Sandhurst in 1889.

#### ST. MARY'S CHURCH.

The church of St. Mary was built by the present rector in 1889, and was dedicated by the Archdeacon of Berks on March 23rd of that year. Canon Parsons has recently added a Sunday School room.

There are also Wesleyan and Baptist chapels, the former dating from 1905.

#### THE MEN'S CLUB.

The men's club at Scotland Hill was started by the late Col. G. S. Harvey in conjunction with the Rector. It is now the property of the latter, who lets it to the members.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

The church schools were built by Mr. John Walter in 1862, and let by him to the managers for a nominal rent. They are now the property of the Rector, who has enlarged them at his own expense to meet the requirements of the Board of Education.

Previous to the present buildings the only school in the parish was kept by a dame in the house which stood near the west end of the churchyard.

By the terms of the Moseley Charity, instituted in 1773, a sum of £2 2s. od, yearly used to be paid out of the Moseley estate in the parish for teaching six poor children to read. This charity lapsed many years ago when the Moseley property was sold.

Soon after Mr. Walter's new school was built it was found that there was not room to accommodate all the children, and for several years the infant school was held in the gardener's cottage at the rectory.

There is a school belonging to the Wesleyan congregation on Cock-a-dobby, and a large County Council school has lately been built at the east end of the parish.

## WELLINGTON COLLEGE.

The year 1856 marks an important event in the history of the parish. Shortly after the Crimean War a large sum of money was raised by subscription for a national memorial to the Duke of Wellington, which it was decided to devote to the foundation of a college where the orphan sons of a certain number of officers in the army and navy might receive a free, or nearly free, education. The money subscribed having been augmented by a large grant from the Patriotic Fund, Sandhurst parish was selected for the site of the building.

The work was already far advanced when Queen Victoria came down to lay the foundation stone. All the preparations had been made for the ceremony to take place on May 3rd of this year, the Duke of Wellington's birthday. Owing, however, to the threatening state of the weather on the previous day it was decided to postpone it to June 2nd. At the same time arrangements were made for a review of the regiments which were stationed at Aldershot.

Though a considerable part of the walls were standing the ground all round was still in its rough condition, and for a week before a party of sappers were engaged in clearing the space between the front of the college and the swamp on the north for the march past.

It was an exceptionally wet summer, but the weather on the day turned out an agreeable surprise. "The sun shone forth effulgently, while a gentle breeze from the south-west gave a freshness and softness to the atmosphere. Everything wore a vivid, glowing, and cheerful look, and the scene in the immediate vicinity of the college was particularly brilliant and animated."\* The area of the building had been enclosed and covered with a white awning profusely decorated with banners, flags, and festoons of laurel branches. In the centre was the foundation stone, and a raised platform over which was a pagoda-shaped canopy covered with scarlet cloth. The visitors' seats were arranged all round in tiers and a large tent was erected on the south side for the Queen. Throughout the morning people were arriving at the temporary railway station, the majority coming by the nine o'clock special from London Bridge. The Queen and the royal party entrained at Vauxhall and travelled most of the way by the S.W.R. On the arrival of Her Majesty the heath presented a very smart appearance. Tents were dotted about, and

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\* "The Times" report.

there was a large refreshment marquee under the management of Messrs. Staples of the Crystal Palace. In front of the college ten thousand troops were drawn up, and the route was kept by a large force of Metropolitan police. The latter secured fourteen pick-pockets in the course of the day.

With the Queen were Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, Prince Alfred, the Princess Royal, Princess Alice, Princess Helen, Princess Louise and Prince Arthur. The future Duke of Connaught was on this occasion making his first public appearance to do honour to the memory of his godfather. Prince Frederick William of Prussia and the Regent of Baden were also present.

To the strains of the National Anthem the Queen took her place on the dais, while the Governors ranged themselves round in a semi-circle before it. The Earl of Derby, as Vice-President, read an address, to which Her Majesty replied, and, after a short prayer by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the stone was lowered into its place. Beneath were deposited coins and a parchment document by the Queen herself.

After lunch the troops marched past. By this time the heat had become very oppressive, and three cases of sunstroke occurred, one, unfortunately, fatal.

The college was fit for habitation by the beginning of 1859. January 20th was fixed as the first day of term, when fifty-two boys and five masters assembled after finding their way as best they could over the heather, for there were as yet no roads through the estate. One can hardly envy the feelings of a new boy arriving at school in such a desolate spot. A writer in the "Wellingtonian" describes how he and his mother emerged from the fir woods after a drive through muddy lanes and byeways from Blackwater station, only to find their carriage stuck fast in the mud. They managed to reach the gatehouse dryshod only by scrambling along the boundary wall, and thence to the great gate by wading through the heather which grew luxuriantly all about reaching well over his waist. He gives an amusing account of their first night in college. It was bright moonlight, and at three in the morning, thinking it must be about time for early school they all got up and went down into the quadrangle. They had already started a game of prisoners' base when the masters, headed by Dr. Benson, arrived and ordered them back to bed.

The original college grounds consisted of only 112 acres. Twenty more were purchased at the time of building so as to

include the swamp which was dug out to make the lakes, and the property was gradually enlarged to its present size. Mr. Menzies, then deputy ranger of Windsor Forest, was consulted by the Prince Consort as to the laying out of the grounds, and Mr. George Richardson was transferred from his department to superintend the making of the avenues, lakes and gardens. Mr. Richardson became the first bailiff of the college and remained so for many years, a much respected inhabitant. He died in 1892.

From the first it was found necessary for the success of the school to accept others besides the original foundationers. It was arranged, therefore, to admit the sons of both officers and civilians, who paid ordinary school fees, and so contributed to the expenses of the college. Fortunately for the future of the new institution the Prince Consort selected Dr. Benson, of Rugby, to be the first headmaster, giving him his loyal support in all his plans for its development. The difficulties to be faced were trying and harassing, but before Dr. Benson left in 1872 his object was achieved. Instead of being a mere military academy Wellington had taken its place among the great public schools of England.

*(To be continued.)*

