

ART. XX.—*Maughanby School*. By the Rev. F. B. SWIFT.

Read at Durham, July 16th, 1953.

THIS school (now a Church Elementary School) was founded 330 years ago as an Endowed Free Grammar School, and had it been established in a more thickly populated area it might have developed as did similar schools at Penrith and elsewhere. Its situation precluded this, but it continued in existence as a Grammar School until it was reorganized by the Charity Commissioners as a National or Church School in 1869. This account of it may be of interest as showing something of how such an endowed Grammar School fared and worked in a rural parish. Some information about the National School into which it was transformed is also given.

Maughanby (locally pronounced "Maffanby") is the name of a farm near the village of Glassonby in the parish of Addingham, but at one time there were two or three cottages there as well as the farm-house. The school was founded here, and endowed with 72 acres of land, by the Rev. Edward Mayplett, vicar of Addingham and prebendary of Carlisle, some time before his death in 1624. We owe to Bishop Nicolson our earliest information about it for he includes the school, and a terrier of it and the land, in his notes on the Visitation of the diocese which he made in 1703-4 (*Miscellany Accounts*, 122 and 237). The bishop states that Mr Mayplett founded the school in 1634, and though this date cannot be correct because the latter was buried on 28 July 1624 (Addingham Parish Registers), we need have no fear that there is any mistake about the name of

the founder, for Bishop Nicolson would be quite familiar with it as he was himself vicar of Addingham from 1698 to 1702. Unfortunately the original trust deed is missing. The bishop lists the school buildings as consisting of "A large school-house; a mansion house; a barn and a beast house". These still exist in a somewhat altered form and can be seen in the farmyard at Maughanby. The land forming the endowment was all "customary" and a small portion of it, for which a rent of 3s. 4d. was paid, was in the dean and chapter's manor of Little Salkeld. The rest was held of the lord of the manor of Melmerby at the yearly rent of 8s. 0d. One shilling cornage rent was also due. The bishop states that when Mr Mayplett bought the land for the school he settled it in "frank-almoign", but that about 1684 the lord of Melmerby recovered his lordship, on the grounds that his ancestor could not sell it. This recovery meant that a fine had now to be paid on the death of the lord of the manor and on change of tenant. This fine, according to the Commissioners for Inquiry (1821), was the large sum of £200! Such a sum payable at intervals, even if only in the special circumstances mentioned, must have been a great burden on the school as the master had to live on, and run the school out of, the income arising from the land, which he had to farm himself or find a tenant to do so. In 1704 the tenant was dead and the fine due to be paid. As it was about equal to two full years' income the bishop justly writes "What shall subsist the Schoolmaster and his Family, whilst this money is raising, is hard to determine". There were also arrears on a debt in connection with an old suit which needed clearing off. The bishop notes that he had suggested that the land be sold and after payment of the debt and fine the balance invested. However, nothing was done and the payment of the fine went on crippling the school's finances and threatening its existence until 1868, when the Charity Commissioners were instrumental in getting it replaced

by a rent charge of £15 per annum payable to the lord of Melmerby. This sum is now paid to the managers of Melmerby School.

Having considered the endowment we can now turn to the school itself. The accounts of it given in the Cumberland Histories are obviously based in the main on Bishop Nicolson's Visitation notes and nothing fresh is to be learned from them with the exception of Jefferson's *History of Leath Ward* (1840), though in 1748 Chancellor Waugh made some notes on the school which will be given later in this article. Jefferson says that the school was open to boys and girls of the parish free of expense, who were admitted as soon as they had learned the alphabet. He mentions the existence of an original bond, dated 1676, by which the master was required to attend the church regularly with his scholars, and to instruct them in the principles of religion, especially the catechism of the Church of England. There is now no trace of this bond, but the duties mentioned were certainly carried out.

Two reports published in 1819 and 1869 give an interesting picture of the school as it was in the early and middle parts of the nineteenth century. The first report was the work of the Commissioners for Inquiry Concerning Charities, appointed by act of Parliament. It recounts the foundation and endowment of the school and the appointment of the master by the bishops of Carlisle as given in Nicolson and Burn (ii 451), and having noted that the land was let (in 1819) to Jonathan Glenton at £70 per annum, continues "There is no dwelling house upon the estate; but there is a good school-room, in which the master teaches his scholars, and he keeps it in good repair. In respect of this endowment, the school is free to the whole parish. The children are instructed in reading, writing and arithmetic, and in the classics, when required, without any charge. There are generally from 40 to 60 children in the school, and there

are now three or four learning the classics'' (p. 116). The number of children attending the school shows that it was being well used, and the tone of the report indicates that it was competently managed and conducted. The master at this time was the Rev. John Jackson.

The second report, which is very informative, was produced by the Schools Inquiry Commission in 1869 (Northern Division, vol. XIX). The Commission reported on all free Grammar Schools and based its information on the visits of inspectors and on returns from trustees and managers in 1864 and 1865. Maughanby School was inspected by Mr C. I. Elton and it is very obvious from what he has to say about it that the school had deteriorated since 1819. Probably this decline set in after the resignation of the Rev. J. Jackson from the position of master in 1840, for his successor does not appear to have been a very capable person. It should be remembered however that the facts noted in the report refer to 1864-5 and not to 1869 when it was published. By the latter date a new school had been built and a new scheme of management granted. The inspector reports the schoolroom to be in bad condition and describes it as a "hovel". He refers to there being no trustees or governors and notes that the original trust deed was lost, being supposed to have been stolen from the parish chest; that the fine of £200 had been commuted to the rent charge of £15 per annum, and that, as the land was let for £100 per annum, £85 was left for the master. He goes on, "Notwithstanding the good salary it has not hitherto been possible to secure good masters in the absence of trustees, the present master is a 'deputy' appointed by the late schoolmaster, who was for some time before resigning unable to discharge his duties. There is not a playground except the farmyard in which the school building stands. The late master ——— professed to teach botany, arithmetic, geography, reading and writing, but the children were in reality confined

to the most elementary subjects." The inspector notes that under the new scheme established for the school by the Charity Commissioners on 15 May 1866 no Latin would be taught, and the school would be conducted as an ordinary village or national school under Government inspection, and that a new school building would be erected.

From the statistics at the end of the report the following will give a good idea of the teaching, etc., given in the school at this time:

No. of scholars 50.	45 learning arithmetic.
1 learning mensuration.	20 ,, history.
20 ,, geography.	15 ,, English grammar.
50 ,, reading.	47 ,, writing.
No. of school hours 30.	No. of play hours 8.
No. of school weeks in year 46.	
A few tasks performed at home.	
Prayer Book prayers used morning and evening.	
The incumbent is responsible for teaching confirmation candidates.	
Denomination of school—Church of England.	
Knowledge required on admittance—alphabet.	

1866 therefore marks the end of Maughanby Free Grammar School and the beginning of Maughanby Endowed National School. The old schoolroom continued to be used until the new building was opened in January 1868. Under the 1866 scheme a new body of trustees was appointed, consisting of the bishop and the archdeacon of Carlisle with the vicar of Addingham, all ex-officio, and two laymen, Charles Featherstonhaugh, Stafffield Hall, and Thomas Scott, Brent House, Penrith. The school was to be open to all resident inhabitants of the parish between three and sixteen, who were to attend Sunday School and church once every Sunday, and to receive religious instruction in accordance with the principles and doctrine of the Church of England. Only bona fide members of the same Church were to be appointed master and mistress.

The new school, to accommodate 100 children and with house attached, was built in 1867 on trust property in a

field called New Ruft, at the junction of the roads leading to Gamblesby, Robberby and Little Salkeld. To meet the cost, which was £703. 6s. 2d., an allotment belonging to the endowment was sold with the approval of the Charity Commissioners for £625 and the balance was met by subscriptions. It is said that on the day the school was opened the temporary master, Mr Joseph Westgarth, marched at the head of the scholars from the old school and that on arrival at the door of the new one he took the scholar smallest in size, though not the youngest in age, one Isaac Nicolson of Hunsonby, by the hand and together they entered the building, in this way performing an unofficial opening ceremony. By the end of the year Mr. J. Turnbull, a qualified master, had been appointed to the school, which closed on 22 December 1868 "with a touching farewell address from Mr Joseph Westgarth who has held for five years the office of temporary master and who during that time has greatly raised the moral and intellectual standard of the School" (Trustees' Minute Book). When Mr Turnbull took over in the following January his log-book shows that though no school pence were paid, the scholars had to meet the cost of the coal used in the school. Two boys were chosen each week to act as firemen, each boy lighting the fires during part of the week. The girls swept out the school once each in turn and all the boys collected firewood. The whole school attended church on Ash Wednesday and Ascension Day and on a certain day in May, when the children were examined by the parish priest on the catechism. The local custom of having a school holiday on "Little Whit Tuesday" (a fortnight after Whit Tuesday) was observed.

The 1866 scheme was revised by the Charity Commissioners on 20 May 1880, when in place of the trustees a board of nine governors was established. They were the lord of the manor of Glassonby, ex-officio, two appointed by the vicar and churchwardens, two by the

ratepayers "in vestry assembled", one by St. John's College, Cambridge, and three by the Governors themselves. School pence were introduced and £25 was set aside annually (raised to £35 in 1928) for exhibitions for higher education. As an acknowledgment to the founder they came to be called Mayplett Exhibitions. A revision of 1907 established the appointment of an additional governor by the Cumberland County Council.

The Old Grammar School Buildings.

The old schoolroom (now adapted to other purposes) still stands in the farmyard at Maughanby, though its size does not agree with Bishop Nicolson's statement of "A large School-House". Probably it is a successor of the original building, though it was certainly in use when the 1819 Inquiry was held. It is built of stone and measures 27 ft. 4 in. by 8 ft. 9 in. and the walls are 7 ft. 9 in. from the ground to the eaves. It was originally entered through a doorway (now blocked up) on the field side, and probably the interior structure differs little from when it was in use as a school. In 1867 fifty-five children were being taught, so the room must have been unduly crowded.

Nearby is an old and interesting building now used as a byre. This must be the "mansion house" mentioned by Bishop Nicolson, and therefore the original master's house, though it has been altered since that time. Built of stone on cobble foundations, it measures 21 ft. by 28 ft. The walls are 2 ft. 3 in. thick and at one end is the old doorway with its massive jambs. In the adjacent wall is the long runway for the door bar. A modern door is now hanging on hinges fixed to the outside wall and a new entrance has been made on the north side. In the south wall are two small oblong window frames and, though now blocked up, they must be the ones put in when the building was erected. Here lived the schoolmasters of the foundation until the early part of the

eighteenth century. Chancellor Waugh records in his copy of Bishop Nicholson's *Miscellany* under 14 May 1748:

"I called at Maughanby School and found the School, House, (now turned into a bier (*sic*) so that no place for the master to live in, or indeed a Farmer) and out Houses very bad —— all the Houses and Glebe are neglected and suffered to run to ruin."

Probably the last master to live in the house was the Rev. Joseph Smith, who died in 1769.

The present appearance of the building shows that it was originally one storey high. After the house had been in use for some time as a byre the walls were carried up to form an upper storey. This can be clearly seen as the addition is narrower than the original walls. A fireplace was inserted in one of the extended gable ends and a mullioned window in the other. The building now served the dual purpose of a byre below and a dwelling above (no doubt for a farm worker). There is no evidence of an outside stone stairway to reach the upper storey, so access to it must have been obtained by a ladder. Some time last century the additional floor was removed and the building became simply a byre, as it is now. The fireplace was left in position and it now presents an odd appearance up in the wall, a mute witness to the vicissitudes through which the old schoolmaster's house has passed. Nearby, a well-built barn and some byres, formerly cart sheds, no doubt occupy the site of the barn and beast house mentioned by Bishop Nicolson (*Miscellany Accounts*, 237). These buildings belong to the school foundation and together with the school land are at present rented by the occupier of Maughanby Farm, which belongs to a private owner.

Schoolmasters.

The appointment of the master of the school seems to have been in the hands of the original trustees, after

whose deaths it came to the bishops of Carlisle (cf. Nicolson and Burn, ii 451), who appointed from about 1700. Chancellor Waugh, who visited the school in 1748, notes: "the trustees being all dead the bishops have for some years as Ordinary named the masters". It is not often that one comes across a list of the men who served our rural Grammar Schools as masters, so it may be of interest to give one for Maughanby School. It is possible to do this because they had to have the bishop's licence to teach, and their names and dates have therefore been entered in the Episcopal Registers from 1673 to 1842, with two exceptions. The first, second, third, fifth and sixth names on the list have been found in the Diocesan Visitation Books.

- c. 1664-1669 Rev. Robert Nelson, curate of Addingham.
- c. 1671 John Dodd.
- c. 1672 Richard Hudlestone.
- 9 Jan. 1673 Henry Raickstray.
- 1677 Rev. Robert Hodgson.
- 1678, 1681 Thomas Hornesby.¹
- 11 Nov. 1690 Thomas Bowman.
- 1 Aug. 1695 Joseph Langhorne (see below).
- 5 Apr. 1697 George Dobinson, M.A. (Glasgow).
- c. 1702 Gerald Stalker (see below).
- 1 Feb. 1716 Rev. John Rumney. Ordained (Carlisle) deacon 23 Sept. 1716, priest 23 July 1721, curate of Addingham 23 Sept. 1716 to 1732.
- 27 Jan. 1732 Joseph Rowland.
- 1 Oct. 1741 Joseph Smith (see below).
- 10 Aug. 1769 Thomas Lancaster.
- 9 July 1776 Rev. William Todhunter, curate of Addingham 1769 to 1783.

¹ Presented at the Visitation Court at Penrith, 3 July 1678, for teaching school without a licence.

- 10 Sept. 1817 Rev. John Jackson. Resigned 2 Feb.
1840 (see below).
- 1840 David Goodman Dixon. Resigned 3
Aug. 1842 (see below).
- 7 Sept. 1842 John Hodgson.
-
- 1863—22 Dec. 1868. Temporary master—
Joseph Westgarth.
-
- 1869—1905. Jared Turnbull. First master
of Maughanby National School.
-

A few notes on some of the above masters.

(a) Joseph Langhorne, 1695-1697. He was licensed by the bishop as master of Penrith Free Grammar School on 4 May 1697 and ordained deacon (Carlisle) on 13 May 1697 and licensed to officiate in Penrith Church. In 1706, while Langhorne was still a deacon, Dr. Todd, vicar of Penrith, nominated him as a churchwarden. The bishop (Dr. Nicolson) naturally objected and refused to ordain Langhorne priest until he gave up the position of churchwarden.²

(b) Gerald Stalker, c. 1702-1716. As no licence appears in the Episcopal Registers it seems probable that he was appointed between 12 April and 13 June 1702 when the See of Carlisle was vacant. His name, with the designation "school master", appears in the Addingham Parish Registers on 11 July 1702 as a witness of the induction of the vicar, John Christopherson. Bishop Nicolson refers to him in his diary as "School-master of Mowghanby" (CW 2 xlvi 211). He married Mistress Cathran Barrase, of the parish of Kirkoswald, at Addingham on 1 October 1702. The registers record this and the baptism and burial of a son, William, on 7 and 18 February 1705.

² See *Prelates and People*, 297-8, CW2 iii 48 and *Letters of William Nicolson D.D.*, i 308-320.

(c) Joseph Smith, 1741-1769. In his burial entry in the Addingham Parish Registers on 27 February 1769 he is described as "Revd". This prefix does not appear in the entries of the baptisms of his daughters in 1760 and 1764, as he was not ordained deacon (Carlisle) until 1768. He did not serve the curacy of the parish and probably remained in deacon's orders. Mrs Smith was buried at Addingham 19 April 1789. Both are described as "of Maughanby", which seems to suggest that they lived in the old school house.

(d) Rev. John Jackson, 1817-1840. He served the curacy of Addingham to which he was licensed on 20 October 1829, being then in priest's orders. He was non-resident rector of Bewcastle 1834-1836 (CW2 ii 252) and later vicar of Heddon on the Wall for some years, though apparently only resident in 1848 and 1849. He married Elizabeth Falder on 1 May 1820 (Addingham Parish Registers) by whom he had several children. Though he remained master of the school until 1840, he resigned the curacy in 1834 and apparently went to live in a house at Glassonby Beck. Only a dilapidated portion of this house now remains and it is known locally as the "Old Vicarage". As it was never a real vicarage it has been somewhat of a puzzle as to how it got this name, but without doubt it was due to its association with the Rev. John Jackson. He was rector of Croglin 1837-1848, and was buried there in 1849.

(e) David Goodman Dixon, 1840-1842. The record of his appointment and licence does not appear in the Episcopal Register, though the date of his resignation has been entered. The reason for this omission is inexplicable, as the See of Carlisle was not vacant at that time.

(f) Jared Turnbull, 1869-1905. A native of Longtown, he was trained at Bede College, Durham. He was the first master of Maughanby School on its becoming a National School. (*The dates after the above names*

denote the period during which the masters of the school held office.)

Thanks are due to Mr Butcher of the Carlisle Diocesan Registry for his help in providing access to the Episcopal Registers, and to the Diocesan Registrar for permission to quote from them.