

## Education 1820-1837

The Deddington National Schools Society had been formed in 1814 in response to the establishment in 1811 in London of a National Society to promote the education of the poor in the principles of the Church of England.<sup>1</sup>

Separate boys' and girls' schools were established, the boys' school initially for 100 pupils, increasing gradually to 200, funded by public subscription.

The schools were to be open to children from Deddington, Clifton, Somerton, North Aston, Duns Tew, Nether Worton, Over Worton, Great Barford, and Hempton.

The school premises were converted barns attached to Appletree's Farm on the east side of Hopcraft Lane (then School Lane). The premises were described in 1832 auction particulars as:

*A capital four-bay Building, used for a Boys' School, and a three-bay Building, used for a Girl's School; stable, coal-house, and two large yards and a garden, occupied by the Committee of the National School.*

The 1832 auction was part of the process of the realisation for the benefit of creditors of the assets of the bankrupt Deddington solicitor, Samuel Churchill.<sup>2</sup>

Ownership of the school premises was subsequently acquired by the Rev. W.C. Risley (Vicar 1836-1848).

The annual meeting of the Deddington National Schools Society included a public examination of the children, and divine service, with sermon, in the parish church. Notices of the annual meeting ceased to be published in *Jackson's Oxford Journal* after 1830. The founder Secretary, Samuel Churchill Field, solicitor, was still Secretary in 1830.

There was a change of Mistress of the girls' school in 1820, when the Society advertised for "a respectable WOMAN to take charge and management" of the girls' school, which had about 60 pupils at that time.

In 1827 an advertisement appeared for a School Mistress at a salary of £25 per annum, "without a residence or perquisites".

The death in 1827 of the Master, Thomas Osborne, necessitated the appointment of a new Master. This appears to have been John Calcutt, who is mentioned as Master in Piggott's Directory in 1830, along with Mary Osborn as Mistress, probably the widow, or perhaps daughter, of Thomas Osborne.

---

<sup>1</sup> The 'National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church in England and Wales', was founded in 1811. The 'British Schools' founded by the British and Foreign School Society were non-denominational.

<sup>2</sup> Samuel Churchill had been declared bankrupt in 1827. He died in 1840, although his bankruptcy was not finally concluded until 1867.

John Calcutt (c.1794-1871) resigned as Master in 1836, and became postmaster until 1864. He was succeeded as Master by James Clarke, who remained until 1850. Calcutt also became a prominent Wesleyan preacher.

There is also mention in Piggott's Directory in 1830 of Andrew Sturt as Master of the 'Boys' day' school, and Robson's Commercial Directory in 1839 lists James Davis as Master of the 'Free Grammar School'. There are no references to either in *Jackson's Oxford Journal* during the period 1820-1837.<sup>3</sup>

The following information about schooling in the Parish was provided by the vicar, the Rev. Richard Greaves, in his replies to the questionnaire preceding the Bishop of Oxford's Triennial Visitation in 1834:<sup>4</sup>

- no Infants' school;
- a daily boys' school with about 100 boys aged 6-12;
- a daily girls' school with about 100 girls aged 6-12;
- the above 'Scholars' also attended the Sunday School;
- the Sunday School was attended by about 125 boys and 125 girls aged 6-16, and funded by the incumbent.

The Rev. Greaves also mentioned in his Clergy Return that there were other schools in the Parish (without being more specific) over which he had no authority.

In 1835 the Government published an abstract of the returns to an educational enquiry addressed to parochial overseers of the poor.<sup>5</sup> The return by the Deddington overseers is set out below:

"DEDDINGTON Parish, including the Townships of CLIFTON and HEMPTON, (Pop. 2,078.) - *Ten Infant Schools*, wherein about 110 children of both sexes are instructed at the expense of their parents. - *One Day and Sunday National School*, containing 100 males and 90 females daily, and 124 males and 100 females on Sundays, is supported by voluntary contributions; the salary of the master is 30 £., that of the mistress 18 £. per annum. - *One Sunday School*, consisting of 26 males and 50 females, appertains to Wesleyan Methodists, and is also supported by voluntary contributions."

Whilst most towns in Oxfordshire boasted small private educational establishments for the children of genteel families by the end of the eighteenth century, as evidenced by numerous small advertisements in *Jackson's Oxford Journal*, Deddington seems to have been rather backward in this regard, although not all felt a need to advertise.

---

<sup>3</sup> It is unclear whether these were one and the same institution, or whether they were related to the pre-Reformation school founded by the guild of the Holy Trinity.

<sup>4</sup> Oxfordshire History Centre, Bodl. MS. Oxf. Dioc. b.39, f.124.

<sup>5</sup> Education Enquiry: Abstract of the answers and returns made pursuant to an address of the House of Commons, dated 24th May 1833, volume II Leicester-Suffolk, page 745. Home Office, March 1835.

An advertisement for the letting of a house in Deddington (location unspecified) in 1810 mentioned that "A few years ago it was occupied as a Ladies' Boarding School".

In 1824 a Ladies' Seminary was established in Deddington on removing from Adderbury. The principal in 1824 and 1825 was Miss Clarke. The advertisements spoke of promoting "the mental and moral improvement of the young Ladies entrusted to her care". Fees were 25 guineas per annum. An advertisement in 1836 identified Miss Nutting and Miss Butterworth as co-principals.

In 1826 the Deddington School for Ladies was established on removing from Summer Town. The school's principal, Miss Eliza Varney, seems to have been well connected. Its referees were the vicar of Deddington, Rev. Richard Greaves, and the Vice-Principal of St. Edmund Hall in Oxford.

Basic fees for board and instruction were 16 guineas per annum for children under eight, and £21 per annum for children above that age. The school's teaching methodology followed the Pestalozzi plan developed by the pioneering Swiss educationalist, Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi. Coincidentally, James Pierrepont Greaves, the brother of the Rev. Greaves, was instrumental in promoting Pestalozzi's ideas in England.

An advertisement in 1830 stated that: " Miss Varney will be happy to receive a pious Lady as PARLOUR BOARDER. - Terms moderate."

The Deddington School for Ladies appears to have closed in 1831, when the premises were advertised to let (see below). The description of the house included seven bedrooms, some of which may have been shared.

For more information about schools in Deddington, see:

- article on Deddington's Schools by Buffy Heywood in 2004

[https://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0006/2796/schools.pdf](https://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/2796/schools.pdf)

- sub-section on 'Education' under 'Parishes: Deddington' in the Victoria County History of the County of Oxford, Volume XI (Wootton Hundred, Northern Part), ed. Alan Crossley (London, 1983), pp. 81-120.

<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/oxon/vol11/pp81-120#h3-0013>

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

**5 August 1820, page 2**

*Deddington National Schools.*

THE Annual Meeting of the Society will be held at the Schools, in Deddington, on Saturday the 12th of August instant, at Twelve o'clock; when a Public Examination of the Children will take place, and the Accounts of the current year will be examined and settled.

S.C. FIELD, Secretary.

*Deddington, August 3, 1820.*

**2 September 1820, page 1**

*Deddington National Schools.*

WANTED, - A respectable WOMAN to take charge and management of the Girls' School of about 60 girls.

Persons desirous of the situation, who are already instructed in the plan, or willing to learn it, may obtain the particulars of the intended salary, &c. on applying to Mr. Field, of Deddington, the Secretary of the Society; if by letter, post paid.

**14 July 1821, page 3**

*Deddington National School Society.*

THE Anniversary Meeting of this Society will be held at the Schools, in Deddington, on Wednesday the 25th of July instant, at Ten o'clock.

A SERMON will be preached by the Rev. Dr. HAGGITT, Rector of Nuneham, and Prebendary of Durham, and a Collection made at the Church for the benefit of the Schools. - Divine Service to begin at Eleven o'clock.

Immediately after the Service a public Examination of the Children will take place at the Schools, and the accounts of the current year will be examined and settled.

The attendance of the friends of the Establishment is requested.

SAML. C. FIELD, Secretary.

*Deddington, July 10, 1821.*

**4 December 1824, page 3**

**LADIES' SEMINARY,**

*DEDDINGTON, OXON.*

MISS CLARKE, who has for many years conducted a School for the education of Young Ladies at Adderbury, begs to inform her friends and the public she purposes (after the ensuing vacation) removing to a more desirable situation at Deddington, where she hopes for a continuation of the favours she heretofore received: and assures those parents and guardians who may honour her with their patronage, that every attention will be paid to the health and comfort, as well as

to the mental and moral improvement of the young Ladies entrusted to her care.

TERMS, for Board and Instruction in every branch of English Education, with Useful and Ornamental Works, Twenty-five Guineas per Annum.

NO ENTRANCE REQUIRED.

► Accomplishments on the usual terms. - Vacancy for an Articled Assistant.

*Adderbury, Dec. 2.*

**14 January 1826, page 1**

**DEDDINGTON SCHOOL,**

OXON.

MISS VARNEY presents her grateful acknowledgements to her friends for their kind patronage during her residence at Summer Town; and respectfully informs them, she has removed her SCHOOL to a more commodious Residence at DEDDINGTON, where she hopes, by unremitting attention to her Pupils, to experience a continuance of their support.

TERMS - <i>Per Annum</i>	£	s.	d.
Board and Instruction, including Geography, History, Needle-work, &c. under eight years of age}	16	16	0
Above that age,	21	0	0
Writing and Ciphering,	1	11	6
Mapping and Use of the Globes,	1	11	6
Washing,	2	2	0

*Drawing, Music, and French, at the usual charges.*

A Quarter's Notice will be expected previous to the removal of a Pupil.

► School will re-open on Wednesday, January 18.

References are kindly permitted to the Rev. R. Greaves, Vicar of Deddington, and the Rev. J. Hill, Vice-principal of St. Edmund hall, Oxford.

**20 January 1827, page 2**

*School Mistress wanted.*

A MISTRESS is wanted to the Deddington National School. The salary will be £25 a year, without a residence or perquisites.

Persons wishing for the situation are desired to furnish the Secretary with testimonials of qualification without delay; if by letter, postage paid.

S.C. FIELD, Secretary.

*Deddington, January 25, 1827.*

**10 January 1829, page 3**

*Ladies' School, Deddington, Oxon.*

MISS VARNEY presents her grateful acknowledgements to her friends, and begs to inform them and the public, the duties of her SCHOOL will re-commence on Monday the 26th instant.

The plan of Education pursued is calculated to promote the solid improvement of the pupils, to whose moral and religious principles the utmost attention is paid.

**20 March 1830, page 3**

**Ladies' School, Deddington, Oxon.**

MISS VARNEY presents her grateful acknowledgements for the support she has so long received from her friends, and assures them it will ever be her earnest endeavour to promote the advancement of her Pupils by adopting the most pleasing and successful methods of Instruction.

Pestalozzi's highly improved plan forms the basis of Miss V's system, which only requires to be more generally known in order to be fully appreciated, for no one has penetrated so deeply, no one has judged so correctly of the essential wants of the juvenile mind, as Pestalozzi. Where this plan is pursued the perceptions will become clear, distinct, and enlarged; and the physical, mental, and moral facilities developed in a manner suitable and peculiar to that tender age; and to facilitate the progress of her Pupils in learning to read, Miss V. pursues Mrs. Williams's method of Syllabic Spelling, by which the most difficult of human attainments is made an easy and pleasing employment.

Miss Varney will be happy to receive a pious Lady as PARLOUR BOARDER. - Terms moderate.

*March 18, 1830.*

**2 October 1830, page 1**

*DEDDINGTON NATIONAL SCHOOLS.*

THE Annual Meeting will be held at the Schools on Saturday the 9th day of October next, at Eleven o'clock, when a public

examination of the children will take place, and the accounts of the current year will be examined and settled; and a SERMON will be preached in Deddington Church in the afternoon of Sunday the 10th of October, by the Rev. the Archdeacon of Oxford, and a collection made at the Church for the benefit of the Schools. - Divine Service to begin at half-past two.

Sept. 29, 1830.

SAMUEL C. FIELD, Secretary.

**2 April 1831, page 3**

*DEDDINGTON, Oxfordshire.*

TO be LET, with immediate possession, - A RESIDENCE, fit for the reception of a family of respectability; containing breakfast, dining, and drawing rooms, seven good bed rooms, kitchens, and all requisite out-buildings; excellent two-stalled stable, with rooms over, adapted for sleeping rooms for male servants; and a capital walled garden. - A Close of about Three Acres, immediately behind the house, may be had, if desired.

The Premises have for some years been occupied as a Ladies' School, which is much wanted in the neighbourhood.

Further Particulars may be known upon application to Mr. T. [sic] F. Lamb, solicitor, Deddington; if by letter, post paid.