

Skelmanthorpe and District U3A

A HISTORY OF EDUCATION IN THE DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 2018

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1. Education Time Line

Pre-1700	Schools associated with some churches and monasteries
1700s	Endowed charity schools for the poor Schools established by richer inhabitants by subscription: “Old Town Schools”, e.g. Kirkburton, Skelmanthorpe, Deneby High Flatts boarding school established by Society of Friends.
1800	Methodist schools started. Sunday Schools started. e.g. Wesleyan School, Skelmanthorpe. Enclosure Acts provided funding for charity schools, e.g. Skelmanthorpe Manor Inclosure Act, 1800 Dame” schools began.
1802	Peel’s Factory Act encouraged “education for the labouring class”.
1807	Parochial Schools Bill made provision for education of “labouring classes”.
1811	National Society started - CofE organisation aimed to provide a school in every parish.
1814	British and Foreign Schools Society started founded by “liberals” as alternative to National Society. British School started in Emley.
1820s	National Schools in Skelmanthorpe, Kirkburton and other villages.
1832	Representation of the People Act
1833	First government grant of £20,000 for education.
1834	Society of Friends First Schools started - one in High Flatts from 1834.
1836	Home and Colonial Society founded to try to start infant schools.
	Battles between CofE and non-conformists over control of education, appointment of teachers and curriculum.
1854	Literary and Scientific Institutions Act facilitated establishment of institutes for promotion of literature, science and the arts. Growth of Mechanics Institutes ; Mutual Improvement Societies; Society of Friends Adult Schools.
1855	School Grants Act and Education Department Act started government direction intervention and some funding for education.
1861	Newcastle Report recommended provision of ‘sound and cheap’ elementary education led to:
1870	Elementary Education Act, “Forster Act” introduced compulsory universal education for children aged 5-13 set up and enforced by School Boards.
1870s	Board Schools started.
1902	Education Act 1902, the ‘Balfour Act’ established a system of secondary education integrating higher grade elementary schools and fee-paying secondary schools; abolished school boards and established local education authorities (LEAs).

2. Introduction

Endowed and Charity Schools educational provision developed in a piecemeal manner dependent on bequests and donations. According to a survey of benefactions in the years between 1480 and 1660 in Yorkshire 31.12% of all charitable benefactions were given for educational purposes. Many endowed schools were founded in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. A strong economy led to a greater degree of wealth for charitable purposes. In the Huddersfield area the first grammar school, King James Grammar School,

Almondbury was founded in 1609, as a successor of a previous school under the Tudors. The religious and Protestant allegiance of the school is evident from its statutes, the first of which was "No popish, profane, or immodest authors to infect the scholars with error or immorality". Grammar schools were intended to teach Latin and Greek. The curriculum comprised mainly Latin and Greek grammar, prose and verse. Other subjects included arithmetic and writing, while the Catechism and New Testament were also taught.

By 1811 the population of England was 9,543,610 and 11.49% of the population were attending day or Sunday school. As the percentage is for the population as a whole: both adults and children, the number of children attending school would be higher than suggested by this figure. Furthermore, the percentages are taken from the 1811 census and by 1818 the population had grown. Many children were only able to attend school on Sundays because they were working during the week, particularly in industrial areas such as the West Riding of Yorkshire. As 61.03% of day schools in the West Riding of Yorkshire were fee paying, the poor were likely to be excluded from many of them. Yet school attendance in the West Riding of Yorkshire was relatively high and was above the national average; this was due to the number of children: 7.68% attending Sunday schools against a national average of 4.74%.

There were 10 endowed schools in the Huddersfield parishes. More children, however, attended unendowed schools. Religious organisations were instrumental in forming day schools through the Anglican National Society for the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church founded in 1811 and the undenominational Royal Lancastrian Society in 1808, which became the British and Foreign Schools Society in 1814. (LINDA JEAN PARR University College London, Thesis submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy of the University of London. 2003)

3. Education in the Upper Dearne Valley

"The existence of at least one school in every village in the district provides evidence of an increasing recognition of the value of education, for whatever reason, during the nineteenth century. Compulsory education only became a feature of English life in 1870 but, for many years before that, small numbers of the area's children were able to gain a limited literary and numerical insight by various means. Charity schools, endowed by pious benefactors and providing some instruction in the 'Three Rs' and biblical knowledge were to be found in Denby Dale and Skelmanthorpe in the latter years of the eighteenth century. A similar, but more limited, programme was to be found in in one or two 'Dame Schools'. Ephemeral and probably providing little more than a child-minding service, no written records of their activities appear to have survived.

A chantry school had been founded at Cawthorne as far back as 1454. When chantries were suppressed during Henry VIII's reign, Cawthorne's school was refounded as a grammar school. Similar grammar schools were established in Emley and Flockton but all were short-lived. Within a century they had become elementary schools with the one at Emley fading from the scene altogether leaving behind only a few inscribed stones now tucked into the wall at the back of the parish church's graveyard.

The first form of mass schooling in England came into being in 1808 when Joseph Lancaster, a Quaker, founded the British and Foreign Society to build and run elementary schools. Organised on a monitorial basis, and well supported by non-conformists, such schools appeared in many parts of the country. Surprisingly in view of the strong non-conformist presence, only one British School appeared in the area - in Emley. Opened in 1852, its build-

ing is still there.

A far stronger and more visible influence was to come after the formation of the National Society for the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church in 1811. It placed its emphasis on the provision of religious teaching from the point of view of the Church of England. Between 1816 and 1872, National Schools were founded in Cawthorne, Clayton West, Cumberworth, Denby, Emley, Flockton, High Hoyland, Scissett and Skelmanthorpe, and in West Bretton, the village school which had been founded by the Lord of the Manor in 18th Century came under the auspices of the society.

For most the nineteenth century this was the sum total of educational provision in the area, but by the 1860s, pressure was being mounted throughout the nation for a more vigorous state involvement in schooling. In 1870 an Education Act was passed by Parliament to “fill up the gaps” in what had hitherto been the voluntary provision of schools. School Boards were set up to build and maintain schools in those districts which were not already adequately provided for. Only a few such gaps remained in our area, but they were to be filled. Financed in part by central government and partly from a locally levied rate, Board Schools were established in Clayton West, Denby Dale and Skelmanthorpe during the 1880s.

The story of educational development in the area during the twentieth century was one of refinement and expansion. In 1902 the West Riding County Council took over responsibility for educational provision. In 1944, Skelmanthorpe Secondary Modern school was opened at Scissett for pupils who were, from the age of eleven, to receive a more specialised education than had hitherto been available. A few pupils travelled to Grammar Schools in Penistone, Wakefield, Ossett and Huddersfield (and to Holme Valley Grammar School when it was opened in 1932) having undergone selection examinations and been awarded scholarships.

In 1974 a comprehensive system was introduced which centred for most children in the area on the new Shelley High School on the outskirts of Skelmanthorpe. The Secondary Modern school at Scissett became a middle school and the village schools were known as First Schools.”

Exploring the Upper Dearne Valley, John Wilkinson, 2002 (Bridge Publications, Sheffield)

4. Schools in Skelmanthorpe

HOYLAND, High containing townships of Clayton, West - - 665 Hoyland, High - - 217 Skelmanthorpe - - - <i>Chr. Bird, rector.</i>	A school in Skelmanthorpe, endowed with 7 <i>l.</i> a year, arising from an allotment awarded for that purpose at a recent inclosure. About 40 boys and 30 girls attend.	A national school has been erected, and is supported by voluntary subscriptions, in which about 130 children attend.	The poor possess sufficient means of instruction, while the national school is supported by adequate funds, and supplied, as at present, with an efficient master.
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PAROCHIAL RETURNS MADE TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE 224. APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO The Education of the Poor : Session 1818

The “Old Town School”

The first school in Skelmanthorpe was recorded in a Charity Commissioners’ report as existing in 1760. A dry stone building with slate roof and mud floor situated on “School Hill” on what is now Pilling Lane Methodist School yard.

“A school at Skelmanthorpe is known to have been in existence in 1791 and probably long before that. The earliest school building of which there is any record was an erection of un-mortered stone with a mud floor standing on what was probably an encroachment of the waste of the Manor. According to one account it was rebuilt in 1780 and it was twice enlarged by subscription of the inhabitants. Mr Martin in his enquiry below mentions he was informed that the building was used not only for a school but for various kinds of general meetings and particularly for preaching by dissenters of various denominations. A Wesleyan Sunday School having been taught there for many years. The schoolmaster was appointed by the freeholders.

By the Skelmanthorpe Manor Inclosure Act 39 and 40 it was enacted that the enclosure of part of the waste was for use of the schoolmaster and of the poor of Skelmanthorpe and should be vested in the churchwardens, overseers of the poor and constable of Skelmanthorpe for the time being in trust in the first place out of the rents and profits to pay £6 to the schoolmaster of Skelmanthorpe who was to be chosen by the majority of freeholders residing within the Manor and be approved by his Grace the Archbishop of York by writing under his hand to be paid to him in half yearly payments and the remainder of the rents, issues and profits distributed to and among the poor on every St. Thomas day in such sums as the churchwardens, overseers and constable think proper.” Tom Wainwright, “Papers of Tom Wainwright, KC490/7, Charity commissioners enquiry April 17 1896”, Kirklees Archives consulted 13 August 2018).

For years there were disagreements between “Dissenters” and Anglicans over the appointment of teachers and it was eventually agreed by the Charity Commissioners that as the school was run on a sound footing the “Dissenters” could carry on running the school (as they had been doing) but that the school trustees should include Anglican representatives.

In 1857 the school having been for some time under the control of the dissenters it was proposed that the old school building should be closed and sold and the proceeds appropriated to a projected school in connection with the British and Foreign School Society. The Vicar of Scissett made representation to the Charity Commissioners complaining of the wrongful appropriation by dissenters of a church school. Mr F. Martin an inspector for charities held public enquiries at Scissett on 30 April 1857 and the 5 February 1862 and reported on the results of his enquiries to the Charities Commission. The only affect of this agitation was to prevent the sale of the school which continued under the existing management. Tom Wainwright, “Papers of Tom Wainwright, KC490/7, Charity commissioners enquiry April 17 1896”, Kirklees Archives consulted 13 August 2018).

The school fell into disrepair and was closed in 1876. The building and land was bought by the Trustees of the Primitive Methodist Chapel for £172 in 1884 to build a Sunday School and the income formed an educational charity in line with the wishes of the Inclosure Act 1800 under a Board of Trustees who distributed payments to the village schools and to needy pupils on application.

In 1862 the school first received a parliament grant for education and in 1875 the grant was withdrawn on account of structural deficiency of the building which was then abandoned and from then until 1886 the whole of the rents of the allotment were distributed in doles together with £5 yearly received as rent of schoolmaster’s house, By order of Charity Commissioners on 17 august 1862 the real estate be-

longing to the charity was vested in the official trustees - see Minute Book (KC736. Skelmanthorpe School Foundation Minute Book.) Tom Wainwright, Papers of Tom Wainwright, KC490/7, Kirklees Archives, consulted 13 August 2018.

Dame Schools

In many ways, Dame Schools were like the modern idea of child-minders and they tended to come and go. In the mid-19th Century there were known to be at least two Dame Schools in Skelmanthorpe - one in a house on Huddersfield Road (later the Midland Bank) and another at Park Gate.

The National School

The National School arose out a deed enrolled in Chancery on 4th May 1864. Sir John Radcliffe of Ridding Park, Harrogate, under the School Sites Act and in consideration of £70, conveyed to the ministers and church wardens of the Parish of Scissett two parcels of land in Skelmanthorpe for use as a school by St. Aidan's Church, Skelmanthorpe,

“for the education of Children and Adults of the labouring and manufacturing and other poor classes of the Parish and the building of a school house for the residency of the school master/mistress”

In addition to the land gifted by Sir Joseph Radcliffe, an effort was made to buy an adjoining acre and convey the entire site to the Church Commissioners. In 1886 they built a National School on the site which was licensed by the Bishop of Ripon for the conduct of services in place of the mission room in the Royal Oak used earlier.

The school was open to Government Inspection and religious instruction was under the control of the Parish minister, who also had the power to appoint and dismiss the teacher. The school was controlled by a Management Board of members of the Church of England and all staff had to be practising Anglicans. The school burnt down in 17 Nov 1909 and then quickly rebuilt by December 1910.

The Board School

The Education Act of 1870 made elementary education compulsory for all children and made the Education Department accountable to introduce School Boards into areas where the school provision could not cater for all children in the area. The School Board had the power to levy rates to pay for building and running schools. Such schools became known as **Board Schools**. By 1875 in Skelmanthorpe the “Old Town School” had become so ruinous that it was closed down and the Education Department had become so disgusted with its condition that they ceased paying grants from central government for children to attend.

The Church School (**National** school) had been opened in 1867 but had accommodation for only about half the population of the village and a need was felt for another school in the village, especially by the Dissenters. “The Origins of Skelmanthorpe Board School” T. Wainwright, (Huddersfield Local History Society Newsletter No. 3 (1985))

Thus we can see that after the closure of the Wesleyan-dominated Town School, the Wesleyans took advantage of the 1870 Education Act to form a new School Board resulting in a Board School being built at Pond End in August 1884. It consisted of two schools - In-

fants and Mixed Departments. Infants under a mistress and Mixed under a headmaster.

The School Board

The School Board had responsibility for ensuring the compulsory attendance of all children at the schools within its area: Skelmanthorpe Board School, Skelmanthorpe National School (CoE), Scissett National School and Denby Dale School. It received grants and fees for the education of children at these schools and monitored attendance; summoning before the courts the parents of children who did not attend regularly.

It met monthly and the meetings were recorded in the *Huddersfield Chronicle* for all the monthly School Board meetings. These are available in the British Newspaper Archive. By and large the business recorded was the same each month:

1. Income received and expenditure,
2. Attendance across the schools,
3. What should be done to those that don't attend.

There are also newspaper clippings from court reports of parents brought by School Board for this non-attendance and the fines imposed.

By the Elementary Education Act of 1891 all elementary education was to be provided free of fees borne by parents. This was adopted in our area from 1st September 1891.

The Education Act 1902, the 'Balfour Act' established a system of secondary education integrating higher grade elementary schools and fee-paying secondary schools. It abolished school boards and established local education authorities (LEAs) to oversee education in each area. The work of the Skelmanthorpe School Board came to an end.

Methodist Schools in Skelmanthorpe

In 1851 the following Methodist schools were recorded in Skelmanthorpe:

1707 Primitive Methodist Chapel, Cumberworth Half. Erected 1836. It is a Chapel. Sittings Free none SS none Other 140 Free Space 100. On 30 March Morning GC None SS 122 Afternoon GC 220 SS 130 Evening GC 134 SS none. Average during 12 months Morning GC X SS 130 Afternoon GC 120 SS 130 Evening GC 140 SS X. Signed Milton Radley, Chapel Steward, Skelmanthorpe, nr Huddersfield. [497/54]

1708 Green School (Wesleyan Reformers), Skelmanthorpe. Erected Before 1800. Separate Building. Day School. Sittings Free 160 Free Space 40. On 30 March Afternoon GC 70 Evening GC 140. Average during 2 months Morning X Afternoon GC 160 Evening GC 200. Remarks NB This School has been open about 2 months for religious worship. The Town of Skelmanthorpe includes part of Cumberworth and part of Cumberworth Half. Dated 26 March. Signed David Lawton, Schoolmaster, Skelmanthorpe, nr Huddersfield. [497/55]

Yorkshire Returns of the 1851 Census of Religious Worship: West Riding (South) edited by John Wolffe, 2005, Borthwick Institute of Historical Research

Fred Lawton recorded that in 1892:

Wesleyan chapel built 1815. No. of scholars 190, teachers 21

Primitive chapel built 1834 scholars 248, males 127, females 121, teachers 27 male, 5 female.

Wesleyan Reformers chapel built 1854 scholars 144, teachers 29 males, 14 females

Second advent mission two services each Sunday

Church school two services each Sunday.

There is also the log book of Wesleyan school 1868-1875.
(From Field Archives, Box 10, KX241)

In general, the Methodist schools in the village were part of the Sunday School movement which became very influential for educating poorer people - both children and adults - in the early part of the 19th Century before central government took any role in education.

5. Sunday Schools

Sunday schools provided an alternative to day schools and more children attended them. They were popularised and publicised by Robert Raikes who founded schools in Gloucester in the early 1780s. Early attempts were also made to set up schools in Huddersfield according to Raikes' scheme. A letter to the Gentleman's Magazine in June 1784 reported: *... the inhabitants of Leeds have, very much to their honour, adopted the plan, and have already eighteen hundred children engaged. - The towns of Huddersfield and Dewsbury are likewise endeavouring to follow so meritorious an example.* The Reverend Thomas Wilson, Curate of St. James Church, Slaithwaite 1777-1809, initiated Sunday schools in 1783, which were held at several places at private houses, by zealous and pious persons of his congregation. Early attempts to form Sunday schools were encouraged by the formation of two national societies based in London. The Sunday School Union was a teachers' organisation from 1812. The Sunday School Society gave assistance mainly to small country unions, but a school in Huddersfield received a grant.

In Huddersfield the first Sunday School Union was started in 1817. By 1822 there were 20 schools in the Union, with 3,666 children and 959 teachers. A clear distinction cannot be made between what was taught at day schools and Sunday schools. Religion was taught at day schools and reading, writing and arithmetic were taught in Sunday schools. The idea of teaching religion on Sunday and mainly secular subjects on other days was not to come until later in the nineteenth century.

The earliest Sunday Schools were interdenominational and had paid teachers, but by 1811 the denominational schools with voluntary teachers were becoming the norm. The original purpose of the schools was to teach on a Sunday those basic skills of literacy which middle-class children could expect to learn at weekday school. Indeed some turned away any children who attended day school as, "it is contrary to the original design of Sunday Schools, and also to common equity and reason". By 1822 there were 22 schools in the Huddersfield Sunday School Union with 3666 children and 959 teachers, but by the celebration of the centenary of the Sunday School movement in 1880 the growth had been extraordinary.

Sunday Schools in Huddersfield 1880

Wesleyan	3587
New Connexion	2238
Primitive	602
United Methodist	2524
Baptist	2580
Congregational	3117
Other	893
Anglican (1858)	4580

TOTAL participants

20,121

These huge church and chapel Sunday Schools dominated religious life in the Huddersfield area for a hundred years until between the two world wars.

"Religion in Huddersfield since the Mid-Eighteenth Century", Edward Royle in *"Huddersfield : a Most Handsome Town"*, ed E.A. Hilary Haigh (Kirklees Cultural Services, 1992)

6. Libraries

Sunday School Libraries

Working class children had little access to books other than through Sunday school libraries, which were particularly important in the West Riding of Yorkshire, where attendance at Sunday schools was higher than the national average. The Sunday school library made its appearance in the early years of the nineteenth century. Literature was being written for Sunday school pupils in large quantities by the 1820s and libraries began to be formed. These libraries served a large number of children providing them with educational texts and surviving evidence suggests that Sunday schools, particularly in Halifax, made a considerable contribution to the growth of literacy in the West Riding of Yorkshire and nationally. Moreover, they were accessible to more children than grammar school libraries, as the number attending Sunday schools was far higher. The Sunday School Union distributed literature to Sunday schools throughout England, not only publications of its own, but other works considered suitable. It had its own library and encouraged the setting up of local libraries and produced a booklet "Rules for the Library" in a Book of Hints on the Establishment and Regulation of Sunday Schools. The annual report of 1824 included a catalogue of publications for sale.

In the previous year 578,685 items had been distributed:

Spelling Books and Lessons 250,569

Prayers 4,323

Hymn Books 48,346

Catechisms 126,912

Tracts and Sermons 27,394

School Requisites 71,332

Reward Books and Magazines 49,809

TOTAL 578,685

By far the largest category consisted of spelling books and lessons. As many children did not attend day schools because they were working, Sunday schools were often the only means of obtaining basic education, so this material was vital. The provision of as many as 250,569 spelling books and lessons further emphasises the basic educational function of Sunday schools. As early as 1824 the Sunday school prize had made its appearance. The 1824 report lists over 150 books as appropriate for reward books. The Union concerned itself not only with the reading of Sunday school scholars, but also with the teachers, listing books suitable for both scholars and teachers

In 1824 the Huddersfield Sunday School Union had a depository and received books from the national union, as it reported:

Please to accept our thanks to your liberality in furnishing our depository with so good a supply of books.

Book Clubs and Libraries

From the mid-eighteenth century with industrialisation, the advance of the middle class and

rise in population, the number of booksellers and libraries increased to serve the growing number of educated people. The period 1750-1830 saw the formation of book clubs and subscription libraries often with a 'no politics, no religion' rule. Such clubs and societies existed alongside church and chapel libraries. In practice, however, there was not always a clear-cut division between the religious and the secular. Ministers of religion were often members of book clubs and played a prominent part in their management. Book clubs were not simply small-scale libraries: they were social clubs. Educated people living in rural areas such as Luddenden and Holmfirth could meet to discuss books and topics of common interest.

Membership of subscription libraries in the larger towns of Halifax and Huddersfield was confined to the professional and wealthier classes and, as Anne Lister's diary shows, visits to the library were part of the 'social round'. Yet not all book reading was social. Reading, as detailed in diaries, can be perceived as an isolated and personal activity. The buying of books and the building up of private libraries was an expression of individual taste rather than the acquiescence in the collective purchase decisions of a society or library. Reading was a means of self-education and self-improvement.

Secular libraries had a mainly male membership. Few women were members. Women were more likely to have access to church libraries: the library of Halifax Parish Church was open to all parishioners, but other church and chapel libraries were restricted to members of a particular church or denomination. The Society of Friends was relatively well supplied with books, which were available to both men and women. Girls as well as boys were able to use Sunday school libraries. By the nineteenth century libraries were attached to churches and chapels and classics and religious books were used in schools, but in addition secular libraries had been formed with a wide range of subjects. History, travel and fiction were popular in subscription libraries and there was beginning to be a shift of emphasis towards reading for entertainment rather than for education. In the early nineteenth century libraries had begun to appear, both locally and nationally, which were to appeal to a far wider readership: the commercial circulating library, the newsroom with its newspapers and magazines and the Sunday school library.

Extracts from..... THE HISTORY OF LIBRARIES IN HALIFAX AND HUDDERSFIELD FROM THE MID-SIXTEENTH CENTURY TO THE COMING OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES

LINDA JEAN PARR University College London

Thesis submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy of the University of London. 2003

7. Schools in the Other Villages

Kirkburton and Shelley

Although Kirkburton had an endowed school from 1714 and together with a school in Shelley this was supported by rents from the enclosures of the early 1800s, education always seemed to be a matter of contention between Anglicans and Dissenters in the village.

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TO DEVISEES OF MATTHEW HIRST :—	
A. R. P.	
30 3 27	„ Stoneley Carr.
TO DEVISEES OF JAMES OLDFIELD :—	
35 2 22	„ Maggleden Edge.
TO THE HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF GEORGE TAYLOR, OF MELTHAM, MERCHANT :—	
92 2 16	„ Deer Hill Moss and White Holes.
TO THOMAS SHAW, OF MELTHAM :—	
250 0 0	„ Leggards, Bracken Hill, and Scope.
22 0 11	„ Slack of Moor.
TO THE CURATE OF HOLMFIRTH :—	
2 0 20	„ Laund.
TO THE TRUSTEES OF MELTHAM CURACY :—	
0 3 36	„ High Moor.
0 0 3	„ Green's End.
12 3 33	„ Swinsher Slack.
8 0 0	„ Wilshaw.
16 0 1	„ High Moor.
19 3 18	„ Hassocks.
8 1 11	„ Harding Hill.
19 1 12	„ Harding Clough.
TO THE TRUSTEES OF HONLEY CURACY :—	
19 3 17	„ Wilshaw.
AND, FINALLY, TO THE POOR OF MELTHAM :—	
4 0 0	„ Little Dyke Bottom.

The Allotments of the Meltham Commons would require very special pleading for their justification. The arguments for enclosure, an argument not without substance, was that the allottee would cultivate the land, grow corn on it, and so add to the national wealth and furnish employment to the peasantry. In the case of Meltham what happened was that the sheep of the poor were turned from the moors that the rich might the better preserve their grouse.

This Award, dated June 1st, 1816, declares that the commons, moors, and waste grounds, with the encroachments made within 40 years from the THE KIRKBURTON enabling Acts, amounted to 206A. ENCLOSURE. 1R. 20P. It allots to the Vicar 11A. 3R. 20P. and 3A. 10P. at Grice Common ; 2A. 3R. 14P. at Teppy Lane ; and 2A. 1R. 29P. on

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the Common ; to Trustees therein named 38P. at School Hill for a school ; to the Earl of Dartmouth about 25A. in different parts of the parish, in small lots ; to the Governors of Sheffield Hospital some 2A. ; to Sir Joseph Radcliffe 2A. 2R. 39P. ; and to Sir John Lister Kaye, Bart., as lord of the manor, 9A. 16P. at Harry Bower, as compensation for his rights in the soil of the manor, 3A. 7P. at Harry Bower, in lieu of Cottage Rent, 2A. 1R. 20P. at Harry Bower in lieu of Rabbits Rents, and some thirteen further acres in small lots in various parts of the parish. After provision for roads, footpaths, quarries, watering-places, etc., the rest is allotted in small holdings to a number of allottees.

The Award, dated 17th September, 1807, recites an Act, 43 Geo. III., intituled an " Act for dividing and allotting and enclosing a piece or parcel of open and unenclosed woodland called THE SHELLEY ENCLOSURE. Hartley Bank, and also the several commons, moors, and waste grounds within the Manor of Shelley in the Parish of Kirkburton." It certifies these woodlands and commons contain 288A. 1R. 24P. After providing for roads, footpaths, watering-places, quarries, it gives to trustees 2A. 1R. 13P. at Shelley Near Bank, 2R. 27P. at Town End, 3A. on Long Moor as a provision for School House and School Master ; to the Vicar of Kirkburton 22A. on Barncliffe Hill and 10A. 1R. 20P. on Ffeer Moor, which having been let for a term of 21 years for £34 yearly, were to be in full satisfaction of vicarious tithes and other tithes great and small, and all ecclesiastical dues or any moduses (Easter offerings, surplice fees, and mortuaries excepted), which said Easter offerings included house duty and communicants.

To Mary Kershaw, Frances Sheppard, and Rebecca Kershaw, and the devisees of the late Ann Russell, as Ladies of the Manor of Shelley, were awarded some fifty acres at Grice, Far Moor, and elsewhere throughout the parish ; the rest in small lots to various proprietors.

The Award, dated June, 1827, recites that the commons, wastes, etc., known as Shepley Common,

The History of Huddersfield and the Valleys of the Colne, the Holme and the Dearne was written by D.F.E. Sykes and first published in 1906 by The Worker Press, Huddersfield. (Huddersfield Exposed, consulted August, 2018)

Emley

Emley had an ancient endowed Grammar School the only remains of which are now some stones in the churchyard wall. There was then an endowed town school financed by rents under the Inclosure Act. Emley was also the only village in this area with a British School set up by the undenominational British and Foreign Schools Society. This survived to become an Elementary School under the 1902 Education Act.

High Hoyland and Clayton West

The National Society (Church of England) sponsored a meeting at High Hoyland in 1816 for the purpose of establishing a school for 'the instruction of boys' for Clayton West and High Hoyland under the chairmanship of Thomas Wentworth Beaumont. Thomas Richard Beaumont was appointed President, Walter Spencer Stanhope, Thomas Wentworth Beaumont, Joseph Kay, Benjamin Micklethwaite, Charles Stringer and the Rector of High Hoyland were appointed managers. Rev. Christopher Bird was appointed Treasurer and William Jackson the Secretary.

A meeting of trustees in January 1820 made a call for more funds as there were none to meet the extra costs of the school beyond that of the Master's £30 salary. The school relied heavily upon its benefactors. In 1886 John Kaye can be found donating £10 in May towards the building of a porch at the school and a further £10 in September.

In 1932 the Board of Education deemed that High Hoyland School was unnecessary as adequate arrangements existed at Clayton West and at Kaye's Council School and closure quickly followed.

(*'Ye Olde Townships: Denby Dale, Skelmanthorpe, Clayton West and District'*, Chris Heath, 2006)

Cumberworth

Upper Cumberworth C of E school. Built in 1820 as a National School and enlarged in 1894. By 1912 it was described as a Public Elementary School when Henry Johnson was the Master. By 1922 Miss Beatrice Senior had taken over as Mistress. Photo dated 1904.

Scholars pose for a photograph outside Cumberworth school in 1906.

(Chris Heath)

County] ABSTRACT OF EDUCATION RETURNS : 1833. 515

CROXTON Parish, including YARBOROUGH Hamlet (Pop. 103.)—No School in the parish.

CUMBERWORTH Parish (Pop. 188.)—One Daily School (commenced 1829), containing 7 males and 3 females, is partly supported by the Rector, and partly by the parents of the children, those of the poor only paying a penny per week.—One Sunday School (commenced 1823), with 16 males and 12 females, is supported by the Rector and Curate.

Denby Dale

Deneby School

Founded by the will of Jane Massie in 1728. Governed by eight trustees with the right to appoint and remove schoolmaster. Twenty-five children taught reading, writing, knitting, sewing and the Catechism of the Church of England and supplied with books. Income of £47 from rent. Reported on 1827.

(*Public Charities Analytical Digest of the Reports made by the Commissioners 1847*)

Job Johnson was active in the foundation of a church school at Deneby. It was built on a site next door to the church on land donated by Thomas Kaye of Bradford in 1864 and cost £750. One of the earliest masters of the school was Charles Hargreaves who took up his post at Deneby sometime before 1870.

A further visitation by the church authorities took place in 1870 which recorded the following:

Deneby was a parish of 1700 people - it included a large part of Denby Dale. The new church could hold 300 but the average communion was 40. The pews in church were rented out and the services were depressingly dull. Dissent was rising and at a meeting to elect new trustees for the management of the church school, all those elected were in favour of secularising education.

Parliamentary Papers 1850-1908, Volume 54, Page 29 recorded that Denby township charities included:

Denby Dale Udenominational School
Lower Denby School
Upper Denby National School.

7. Education and the Society of Friends

Joseph Lancaster - Monitorial schools - leading educationalist of his day was a Quaker. Fox encouraged Friends to be involved in education regarding it as an essential foundation upon which to build a future.

Very little is known about the earliest provisions for education in the area except that they did exist as increasing literacy among Friends (shown in minutes and signatures) from 1662 to 1762 shows. Generous bequests, provided by Friends such as Joseph Milnthorpe enabled poorer parents to have their children educated.

Within our own area, the provision of which we have details was the boarding school at High Flatts run by Joseph Shaw in the mid-eighteenth century. Prior to the formation of this school local Quaker-based education appears to have been conducted by individual members of the meetings.

Further afield within the area of the Pontefract Quaker Monthly Meeting, Ackworth School was established in 1779 for "the education of children whose parents are not in affluence." In 1832 Rawdon School between Bradford and Leeds was opened for the large number of children who had been born of parents who had been disowned for marrying out of the Society but who had remained in association with their meetings. Regular collections were made at Wooldale and High Flatts towards supporting these schools and Meetings financially supported particular children in the area to attend them. Local Friends also had a concern with education in the local area. John Wood and Joseph Firth were instrumental in founding Birdsedge Village School.

The drive to provide education for children and adults was at its most active in the period from 1830 to the early 1900s and came in the form of First Day and Adult School provision.

First Day Schools

First Day Schools were set up for the education of local children. First Day classes at High Flatts were held for children on a Sunday as early as 1834. It was run by John Firth and

lasted until his death in 1847 when it was suspended. A full report was lodged on the activities of the school. It had started with about 35 pupils but soon increased in size till the average attendance was about 50 each week, both boys and girls. When it was forced to close in 1847 through lack of good teachers only two of the children on the books were not receiving some other form of education. This makes an interesting comparison with the 35 original pupils in 1835 of whom 33 were not receiving any other form of education. It was also reported that during its existence some 104 boys and 86 girls had received tuition.

A second First Day School was started in about 1865. There is a detailed record book covering the period 1866 to 1877. In 1866 there were 43 boys and 31 girls divided into four classes. There were both morning and afternoon classes at which there could be up to 8 male and 4 female teachers in attendance. The teachers did not consider that the Meeting House made for a good school and in 1877 a new school was opened at "Three Wells", a private house, situated above the Meeting House. The families most associated with the school were the Firths, the Woods and the Dickinsons. At some time between 1877 and 1899 the High Flatts First Day School had to close due to declining numbers. In 1899 there was an unsuccessful attempt made to re-open the school.

Wooldale also had its First Day School although it was on a smaller scale than that at High Flatts. This started in the late 1800s and continued to the early years of the 20th century. In 1903 it had 11 pupils and one teacher.

The creation of a state education system effectively ended the need for such schools and the First Day Schools finally came to an end. In recent years at both meetings activities for children have again been organised and Children's Meetings have been started.

(Plain Country Friends - the Quakers of Wooldale, High Flatts and Midhope, David Bower and John Knight, Wooldale Meeting, 1987)

9. Adult Education

Adult Schools

The Society of Friends was strongly represented in the founding and running of Adult Schools. These reached their peak towards the end of the 19th Century and the early years of the 20th century. They have been described as, "groups which seek on the basis of friendship to learn together and to enrich life through study, appreciation, social service and obedience o a religious ideal." They were originally started to teach poor people to read and write. This moved on to Bible study and finally into various social activities with a strong emphasis on Temperance. Many of the Adult Schools used Friends Meeting Houses for their premises and local Friends often undertook the organisation and teaching. Wooldale and High Flatts were no exception.

The school at Wooldale opened its doors in 1905 and in 1906 it was reported that there were 34 on the books with an average attendance of 19 with four or five friends occasionally taking part. It was last recorded in 1921.

The High Flatts Adult School started in 1908 in the Meeting House and "Three Wells" was used as a venue for residentials from the Yorkshire Adult School Union. This finally moved to the Strines Guest House in the 1920s until the premises were sold to Barnsley Corporation in the 1930s. With the advent of education for all and the reduction in Church attendance the Adult School Movement gradually declined.

(*Plain Country Friends - the Quakers of Wooldale, High Flatts and Midhope*, David Bower and John Knight, Wooldale Meeting, 1987)

Mechanics Institutes

Kirkburton Mechanics' Institute

The Kirkburton Mechanics' Institute — also known as the Dogley Lane Mechanics' Institute — was established in 1846.

The first meeting was held on Wednesday 18 November 1846, with the institute's president, the Rev. R. Collins, delivering the lecture. The *Leeds Times* reported that institute had between 40 to 50 members and subscribers, 38 of whom attended the classes twice a week in "grammar, reading, writing, arithmetic, and dictation".^[1]

In the summer of 1853, the Tract Society provided 157 volumes for the institute's library, bringing the total number of volumes up to 534.^[2]

A public news room was established by November 1854, which could be used on payment of 6d. every three months.^[3]

In January 1856, the *Huddersfield Chronicle* lamented that the institute's committee had not "furnished the members with a single lecture" during the previous year and the classes were reportedly sparsely attended.^[4]

At the 11th anniversary soiree was held in February 1857 where it was reported that the library had expanded to 637 volumes and they had 108 members:^[5]

- 2 life members
- 13 annual subscribers
- 9 reading members
- 72 attending classes
- 12 attending singing class

At the meeting held on 26 February 1858, it was reported that the institute had £5 1s. 5d. "in the hands of the treasurer".^[6]

Skelmanthorpe Mechanics Institute

Skelmanthorpe started a Literary and Mechanics Institute in 1853 meeting in the Old Royal Oak Inn. Night classes were held to teach reading and writing. By 1876 it had acquired its own building on Commercial Road and was recognised by the Yorkshire Union of Mechanics Institutes who provided a library.

Mutual Improvement Societies

In his 1997 article, "Mutual improvement societies and the forging of working-class political consciousness in nineteenth-century England", Christopher Radcliffe of the University of Leeds provided the following summary:

Unlike most mechanics' institutes, mutual improvement societies were of the people not for the people. The movement as such began in London at the end of the Napoleonic Wars and spread to the north of England around 1825. There were however earlier isolated examples. The societies were democratic and usually provided instruction by working men themselves in elementary, and sometimes in other subjects. Political discussion was also a major feature. Mutual improvement societies were set up by early nineteenth century radicals, by Owenites, Chartists and secularist groups. From mid century there were increasing numbers of nonconformist societies until by around the last quarter of the century almost every chapel in the North and the Midlands had such a group. The chapel societies seem to have been largely radical liberal in nature and by the 1890s individuals and entire societies were turning to socialism.

There was an Owenite Hall of Science in Huddersfield - the building is still standing.

Unlike the various local mechanics' institutes, a number of the mutual improvement societies provided classes to women.

The following are named in contemporary newspaper articles relevant to our area:

- Holmfirth Methodist Free Church Mutual Improvement Society — formed by 1891
- Kirkburton Mutual Improvement Society — formed 1850
- Kirkburton Young Men's Mutual Improvement Society — formed February 1865
- Lane Chapel Mutual Improvement Society (Holmfirth) — formed by 1868
- New Mill Mutual Improvement Society — formed April 184
- Shelley Mutual Improvement Society — formed prior to 1851
- Skelmanthorpe Mutual Improvement Society — formed by 1890
- Wesleyan Reform Mutual Improvement Society (Holmfirth) — formed 1855

The 1893 Skelmanthorpe Almanac and Year Book printed by Andrew Lodge of Skelmanthorpe gives the officers of the Mutual Improvement Society, Polytechnic Institute, Local Board, Liberal association, cricket club and some tradesmen. (Fields Archive, Kirklees Archive, consulted 13 August 2018)

The Polytechnic Institute President was Sam Field and contributions cost 6d per month, but whether this referred to the Mechanics Institute or was something different is unknown.

10. Sir Percy Jackson

Percy Richard Jackson, born in 1869, was the son of William Michael Jackson of Sheepridge. Percy was educated at Fartown Grammar School and at Huddersfield Collegiate School. In 1890, he joined the firm of Field and Botterill of Skelmantorpe at which his Uncle was a partner and eventually took over the firm which is still known as "Percy Jackson's" in Skelmanthorpe.

He married Mary Elizabeth Blacker in 1893. They then had seven children.

The 1911 Census shows the family living in Woodlands, Scissett in the civil parish of Skelmanthorpe and Percy Jackson is described as a Plush Cloth Manufacturer employer.

Percy Jackson was a County Councillor for the West Riding from 1904 to 1937. He became a long-standing and very powerful Chair of the West Yorkshire Local Education Authority.

He had a particular interest in Education and was a Member of the Court of Leeds University from 1918. He received Honorary Doctor of Letters Degree (LL.D) from Leeds University in 1924. He was created a Knight in 1925 by King George V.

He was very influential with the government of the day regarding Education, being a member of the government consultative committees for the Hadow Reports on education in 1926 and 1933. He was then centrally involved with the Spens Report of 1938 and the ensuing Education Act of 1944.

Sir Percy died at his home in Scisset, near Skelmanthorpe in 1941. He was 72 years old.

APPENDICES

1. Original Sources and Extracts from Newspapers

Skelmanthorpe schools:

“Hamlet of Skelmanthorpe.—Allotment. Seven acres allotted under the inclosure. £6 per annum out of the rent is paid to the schoolmaster for teaching six free scholars to read and write; the remainder to the poor, on St Thomas's day. The Frith dole. 10s. per annum rent charge, given among poor people on St Thomas's day.”

“PARISH OF EMLEY, Cumberworth Half

Unknown rent-charge of 10s. is distributed among poor persons of Cumberworth. Poor's land. Rent of six acres, half to the poor of Cumberworth, £6 ; part of the rent is paid to the master of Skelmanthorpe School, for instructing six poor children, and the residue to the poor on St. Thomas's day.”

(Collectio_Rerum_Ecclesiasticarum_de_Diœ (1842))

HIGH HOYLAND.—SKELMANTHORPE SCHOOL.

Report and Date.—17th Rep., p. 750, MS. 380, date 1827.

Foundation.—Endowment by Inclosure Act, 1800.

Governors.—Churchwardens and overseers.

Patrons.—Majority of freeholders residing within the manor have right of appointing master, subject to approbation of Archbishop of York.

Income.—£6 rent-charge.

State, &c.—Master of township school, to whom the above income is payable, teaches 6 poor children as free-scholars to read and write.

1842 Digest of Charities for Education of Poor

“THE SKELMANTHORPE SCHOOL GOVERNMENT ENQUIRY, The contest which has for sometime past been pending as to the government of this school is likely to be brought to an early close. On the one hand, it is contended by the incumbent, supported by William Walker, Esq., and a very limited number of the inhabitants, that the school is a National or a Church School, and that the master must be licensed by the Bishop ; while, on the part of the inhabitants, it is contended that the school is the property of the freeholders ; that with them rests the appointment of the teacher and the government of the school ; and that the church (as such) has nothing to do with it. With a view to the settlement of this question an enquiry was directed by the Board of Charity Commissioners, and was held on Wednesday last, before K. O. Martin, Esq., one of the senior inspectors. Mr. Kydd, barrister of London, and Mr. Lees, solicitor, Bradford, attended on behalf of the incumbent and Mr. Walker, and Mr. Learoyd, of Huddersfield, on behalf of the freeholders.

Mr. Kydd opened by an able address, in which he laid down the principles of the law regulating charities, and contended that the intentions of the founder were to be first ascertained and strictly adhered to, and that if those intentions could not be ascertained, but it should nevertheless be obvious that the charity was founded for educational purposes, the presumption was, that such education was intended to be that of the Church of England. Mr. Kydd then called a large number of witnesses, chiefly person who had been at the school more than fifty years ago, for the purpose of showing that they were instructed in the Church Catechism, and attended once a year at High Hoyland Church to repeat the Catechism before the rector; but in cross-examination by Mr. Learoyd, these witnesses gave much stronger evidence

on behalf of the opposition, and though ten or fifteen persons were called to prove that visits to High Hoyland Church, it was shown that the whole of them referred only to two occasions, and that in like manner the scholars at the same time were taken to two Dissenting Chapels, the object being to give a treat to the children on the afternoons of the summer season. It was also shown that the building had been used from a very early period as a preaching room for the Wesleyan Methodists, and had been one of the appointed country preaching places in the Barnsley circuit. Much amusement was occasioned by the reluctance with which these facts came out from witnesses called by the incumbent's counsel.

At the close of the case for the incumbent, Mr. Kydd summed up the evidence, and reiterated his legal arguments; and Mr. Learoyd, having intimated that he should call no witnesses, answered the legal arguments of the learned counsel, quoting the judgment and dicta of learned judges; and commented at length upon the evidence, contending that every witness who had been called had contradicted and refuted the case which he had been called to establish. He emphasised the fact that the church had done nothing either secularly or religiously to promote the usefulness of the charity, but that the freeholders, chiefly through the instrumentality of the Wesleyans, had been labouring there for more than 60 years, according to the evidence ; and now they were told the school was under the control of the incumbent, and subject to the exclusive rules of the National Society.

The Inspector said his duty would simply be to report to the Charity Commissioners, but intimated that in his judgment the attempt to prove anything like an exclusive use by the church had signally failed. The room was crowded almost to suffocation during the whole of the day, and much interest appeared to be felt in the question. The inspector and the advocates on both sides had frequently to interfere to prevent the too noisy expression of public feeling."

Huddersfield Chronicle, February 1862

Skelmanthorpe Temporary Church and Schools.

ENTERED upon the Incumbency of Scissett, Cloyton West, a new parish with a population of 5,000, in October, 1854. I found the parish in a most unsatisfactory state. The Church, built under the 1st and 2nd William IV., was, I may say, empty, not a single sitting being let. Now, the Church is well filled, and the communicants number sixty-seven. The National School was in a dilapidated state, unprovided with apparatus, and badly attended. In 1861, a new National School was opened under a first class certificated master, and the required number of pupil teachers, and this year the old building has been converted into an infant school, under a first class certificated mistress. The number of children attending the new school is 252, and the infant school 60. There are also two Sunday schools, with an attendance of 327. A parochial lending Library has been opened at a cost of £60, in connection with the schools. This work, however, is almost entirely confined to the village of Scissett, and it is for Skelmanthorpe, an outlying village of the parish, containing a population of about 2,500, principally hand-loom weavers, that I earnestly solicit aid.

Two acres of land have already been conveyed to trustees, upon which it is intended to build in the first instance a school, to be licensed for divine service, and afterwards a church, as soon as sufficient funds can be raised. Towards the building of the school the National Society has made a grant of £60. Up to the year 1862, the Church had done little or nothing for this place, and consequently nearly the whole of the population had become alienated from her. In that year, however, the Additional Curates' Society made a special grant to meet subscriptions, and a curate was appointed. For two years, services were held in cottages; but in May, 1864, a public-house was purchased for the Incumbent out of the Endowment Fund—the large club-room of which has since been used as a temporary Church, in which also a Sunday school is about to be opened. The room is now so inconveniently crowded, that there is urgent need of increased accommodation.

In the parish and immediate locality, there are twelve Dissenting Chapels three of which are in Skelmanthorpe, and when I add that I have received very little pecuniary assistance from the resident parishioners, but have had to seek extraneous aid to carry on the work of the parish, I make this appeal for Skelmanthorpe, in the confident hope that it will not be made in vain. The erection of the proposed school, now that the land has been conveyed for the purpose, is a pressing necessity, and the contributions of all lovers of the Church are most earnestly solicited."

Any communications addressed to the Rev. H. Newland, M.A., Scissett Parsonage, Huddersfield, will be thankfully acknowledged, and subscriptions towards "The Skelmanthorpe School Fund," may be paid to Messrs. Leatham, Tew, and Co., bankers, Wakefield.

P.S. Since the above was published, the Sunday School has been opened, and already there are nearly 75 children in attendance.

A Night School has also been established. And on the 14th of this month, (Oct.), a Day School was commenced under a Female ex-pupil-teacher, the average attendance being now about fifty.

The Mission Field of the Church of England 1870

THE SCHOOL BOARD QUESTION AT SKELMANTHORPE .

The Huddersfield Chronicle and West Yorkshire Advertiser (West Yorkshire, England), Saturday, March 09, 1878; pg. 6; Issue 3304. British Library Newspapers, Part II: 1800-1900.

A poll was taken at Skelmanthorpe, on Monday last, as to whether there should be a School Board for the township or not. The question arose apparently out of the investigations of the Education Department who issued a notice stating that there was a deficiency of school accommodation for about 120 children in the village. Nothing, however, was done in compliance with these orders, and two similar notices were subsequently issued. After this a public meeting was called, and a resolution was carried in favour of the formation of a School Board, but a poll being demanded by those who were opposed to its formation, Monday was fixed upon as the day.

Two polling places were opened for the township one at the Old Town School in Skelmanthorpe and the other at the Old National School, Scissett. At the Town School Mr. Hall, the clerk to the Guardians of the Huddersfield Union, presided and was assisted by Mr. Hartley, clerk to the Guardians of the Prescott Union as poll clerk. Mr. David Marsden, the assistant overseer, attended with his rate book. The School Board party were represented by Messrs. Wilson, Fisher and Aubrey Tyas, and the opponents of a School Board had the services of Messrs. Fred Buckley and Sidney Blackburn. The number entitled to vote at this polling place was 411.

At the Scissett polling place Mr. W. B. V. Cullerne, deputy clerk to the Huddersfield Board of Guardians, acted as presiding officer, and as poll clerk he had the assistance of Mr. F. J. Burgess, of Huddersfield. Mr. John Booth represented the School Board party here, and the Opponents' interests were attended to by Mr. James Shaw. At this polling station 251 ratepayers might have voted.

The contest passed off very quietly, contrary to all anticipation. The only item worthy of notice during the day was the "modus operandi" of bringing the voters to the poll; these principally of the number seeking "education," they were drafted along in hand trunks, and received on route to the booth a well-earned "salutation" from the bystanders.

The polling at the Town School showed that 70 votes were recorded by a quarter to twelve o'clock. At three o'clock the number was 279, at five o'clock 320, and at the close of the poll 361, and 9 tendered votes had been given. At the Scissett polling place 100 persons voted by one o'clock, 130 by two o'clock, and 194 by six o'clock.

The whole of the ballot papers were afterwards counted, and it was found that there were eleven bad, nine tendered votes, and 544 good votes. The following is the result of the poll:

<i>For the School Board</i>	<i>300</i>
<i>Against</i>	<i>244</i>
<i>Majority for a School Board</i>	<i>56"</i>

Skelmanthorpe School Board election Huddersfield Chronicle, 4 May 1878

The Huddersfield Chronicle and West Yorkshire Advertiser (West Yorkshire, England), Saturday, May 04, 1878; pg. 5; Issue 3352. British Library Newspapers, Part II: 1800-1900.

"Skelmanthorpe on Thursday. Five members were required and six were brought forward necessitating a contest. On Tuesday evening three of the candidates at a public meeting explained their line of intended action if they should be elected. The meeting was held in the large Assembly Room of the Three Horse Shoes Inn. There was a crowded attendance and large numbers were unable to gain admittance. Dr. Oakley presided.

Mr. F. Norton having spoken of the blessings of education said he felt it his duty to come forward at the call of the ratepayers and do what he could to get a suitable school and an efficient teacher. Mr. B. Norton, the next speaker, calculated that while one of the candidates for the School Board would only, in rates be called upon to pay about 4s in support of a Board School, he would have to pay at least £13. On these grounds he thought he had a right to have some say in the matter in looking after his own interests as well as theirs. (Laughter). He said they had only to provide accommodation for 120 infants so that the expense of school accommodation need not be very great. Mr. W.T. Beanland next addressed the meeting insisting upon the advisability of keeping down expenditure; and he advocated the opening of the school by the Lord's Prayer and the reading of a portion of scripture.

The chairman having invited questions, one or two were put by Mr. Field, which though not of much importance, were a source of amusement and helped to put the meeting in a merry mood. On a show of hands being asked in favour of the candidates who had addressed the meeting a goodly number were held up, but the "contrary" carried the majority. A vote of thanks was given to the chairman, Dr. Oaxley,

in acknowledging it said, "We generally can have orderly meetings at Skelmanthorpe and this is more than can be said of many places that profess to be more civilised. This remark was received with cheers and laughter, as Skelmanthorpe people know they are not in the best repute. After the close of the meeting some stayed at the inn to continue the discussion.

The votes polled at Skelmanthorpe on Thursday were counted yesterday by Mr. Hall, clerk to the Guardian, and the result was found to be as follows:

<i>Mr. Bottrill, manufacturer, Shelley</i>	<i>530</i>
<i>Mr. Eastwood, book-keeper, Skelmanthorpe</i>	<i>520</i>
<i>Mr. Beanland, manufacturer, Clayton West</i>	<i>490</i>
<i>Mr. Tunncliffe, designer, Skelmanthorpe</i>	<i>475</i>
<i>Mr. B. Norton, manufacturer, Nortonthorpe Hall</i>	<i>430</i>
<i>Mr. T. Norton, manufacturer, Bagden Hall</i>	<i>411</i>

The first five were declared to be elected"

Letter, The Skelmanthorpe School Board Election, Huddersfield Chronicle, 11 May 1878

"To the Editor, Sir, noticing in today's Chronicle your report on the election of a School Board at Skelmanthorpe, it occurred to me that a little explanation on the result of the contest was desirable. The question at issue resolved itself, as usual in School Board elections, into one of Church against dissent, and as the latter element greatly predominates at Skelmanthorpe, the Church candidates were in the minority, and this accounts for the fact that men of influence and position in the neighbourhood were at the bottom of the poll.

Yours respectfully, Scissett."

"The Committee eventually found a suitable site at Pond End owned by Mrs. Child with a cottage and garden adjoining owned by Mr. Edwin Field. Architects were invited to submit plans for a school to accommodate 120 infants and 100 older scholars and it was agreed to call for a loan of £1500 from the Public Loan Commissioners.

The Minutes of April 21st, 1880 record that the following tenders be accepted:

<i>Masons John Allott</i>	<i>£689</i>
<i>Joiners Thomas Blacker</i>	<i>£250</i>
<i>Plumbers and Glaziers</i>	<i>£110</i>
<i>Plasterers W. Needham</i>	<i>£56</i>
<i>Slaters Goodwin</i>	<i>£106</i>
<i>Whitesmiths Thorntons</i>	<i>£80</i>
<i>Painters Quarmby</i>	<i>£15.</i>
	<i>Total £1306 .10 .0</i>

It was agreed in the following November, after some haggling, that Mr. Field should receive five shillings per sq. yd. for his land and the price eventually agreed for the 1,927 sq. yds. bought from Mrs. Childs was £240.18s.9d.

We must assume that building began in the Summer of 1880 because on April 13th of the following year the Board visited the site and suggested a number of

alterations to the building in progress. These included additional heating pipes and the Gallery in the Infants section to rise in small steps for the convenience of the children.

The Board now proceeded to select its staff, As Master of the school it appointed Mr. David Harris from Staffordshire at a salary of £90.00 per annum and as Mistress of the Infants Miss L.A. Eastburn at £60,00 p.a. Mr. Harris's wife was to teach sewing and a local youth, Willie Bolton was selected as a likely candidate for the post of pupil teacher at a stipend of £10 p.a. Mr. Allen Jackson was appointed Clerk and Attendance Officer at £10 p.a. and the Caretaker was to be Samuel Radley at £15.12.0 p.a.

The school eventually opened on August 15th, 1881. The infants paid 2 pence per week for their education, Standards 1, 2 and 3 paid 3 pence and Standard 4 and upwards paid 4 pence. As well as Willie Bolton, the pupil teacher, there were two girl monitors, Rose Booth and Phoebe Field, aged 13 and 15 years respectively, who were paid 4 shillings per week for their supervisory work. The total School Pence received for the first month of the school's life amounted to £6. Is. 5d. The number of scholars admitted on the first morning was 101, with a further 15 enrolling in the afternoon. Phoebe Field was an early casualty of the new hierarchy being ordered to send in her resignation because the Mistress complained that she was neglecting her homework.

Willie Bolton's career in education too came to a sudden, and in his case tragic end, The reports on his work are consistently good but on 24th February 1886 the School Log Book records that "The School was closed in the afternoon so that the Teachers, Members of the Board and scholars could attend the Pupil Teacher's funeral". Local tradition has it that he had attended an examination at a local school and fell asleep on the train when returning home. He was carried past Skelmanthorpe station and got out of the train on the wrong side when he arrived at Clayton West and fell onto the line. The fall caused injuries which eventually brought about his death.

Rose Booth however managed to negotiate the pit-falls of the teacher's world successfully. She married and became Rose Gawthorpe and continued to teach at a variety of schools in the district, returning eventually to Skelmanthorpe, whence she retired in 1919, her career in education having spanned 38 years.

The Headmaster, Mr. Harris, continued in post until 1901. The last entry in his hand is dated 15th May when he records the closing of the school for the Whitsun holiday. He died the day the school reopened whilst conducting his class. During his twenty years as head teacher he had won the respect of the local community as well as that of his pupils who saw him as both capable and fair. "The Origins of Skelmanthorpe Board School" T. Wainwright, (Huddersfield Local History Society Newsletter No. 3 (1985))

Skelmanthorpe School Board 1887, Huddersfield Chronicle, 17 September 1887
The monthly meeting of this board was held on Tuesday evening in the Boardroom. Present Mr. B. Eastwood (Chair), and Mssrs John Stead, Oswald Drummond, George Tunnicliffe and Fred Peace. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed and signed by the chairman. The clerk reported the receipts for the past month as School fees - £9 13s, and other sources 5s. Payments were allowed

amounting altogether to £103 10s 11d, divided as follows: salaries £35 8d, trade accounts £11 14s 4d, and Public Works Loan Board for loan account £57 5s 11d. The attendance officer read his monthly report from which it appears that the average attendance at the schools remains the same as last month, viz 78.2%. The officer reports five non-attenders and eight irregular attenders at school. The Board ordered notices of summons to be given to the several offenders.

SKELMANTHORPE. Skelmanthorpe School Board.— The monthly meeting of this Board was held in the Boardroom last Tuesday evening, Mr. George Tunnicliffe in the chair. There were also present, Messrs. Oswald Drummond, Fred Peace, John Crosley Cockcroft, and Wilson Kaye. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Receipts for the month of June were reported at £9 12s. 6d. school fees. £6 10s. from Science and Art Department, and 4s. hire of room. £15 16s. 3d. teacher's salary, and £2 7s. for school stationery were ordered to be paid at the end of the month. For the post of monitress in the infant department there were two applications, and both applicants were considered very suitable for the situation, but as one of them (Ethel M. Blacker) had applied for a similar situation before, the Board gave her the place, commencing at a salary of £10 4s. a year. A resolution that the head-teachers should report the progress of each pupil teacher and monitor every month was passed. The clerk was instructed to make enquiry into all cases of arrears of school fees and report at the next meeting. The attendance officer read his monthly report, from which it appears that the average attendance has gone up one-half per cent since last month, being now 80 per cent, as against 79 per cent for the previous month. Ten defaulters were reported and ordered to be noticed, four to be given final notice, and the others a general notice. The attendance officer and clerk received instruction for the next month, and the Board adjourned to Tuesday, the 12th of August next.
Huddersfield Chronicle, 19 July 1890

“Skelmanthorpe School Board. — This Board held their monthly meeting last Tuesday evening. Mr. George Tunnacliffe occupied the chair. There were also present Messrs. Fred Peace, Oswald Drummond, John Crosley Cockcroft, and Wilson Ogden Kaye. The clerk reported that the overseers had paid over to the treasurer £160, amount of the precept served upon them last month. The attendance officer's monthly report was read, from which it would appear that the attendance has improved since last month, being then 74 per cent, as against 76 per cent for the present month. The officer stated that there was less sickness amongst the scholars, and that the throat disorder was leaving them. Three defaulters were reported and dealt with. The total number of scholars on the school registers were reported as follows: — Skelmanthorpe National, 160 ; Skelmanthorpe Board, mixed, 127 ; Skelmanthorpe Board, infants, 122 ; Scissett National, mixed, 143 ; Scissett National, infants, 81 ; Denby Dale undenominational, 26 ; total 659. Seventeen attending Clayton West Board School are not included in the statement.”
Huddersfield Chronicle - Saturday 14 November 1891

“Thomas Bilcliffe, Walter Hinchliffe, John Lodge and Joshua Beaumont of Skelmanthorpe; Henry Swift, Adam Robinson and Sam Dawson of Scissett and Joseph Dyson of Skelmanthorpe were charged at the instance of the Skelmanthorpe School Board with neglecting to comply with the provisions of the Education Act and Mr Jackson, the compelling officer, having proved the cases, a fine of 5s was imposed in each case.”
(Chris Heath, *Denby & District III*, Wharnccliffe Books, 2006)

FREE Education at Skelmanthorpe. A special meeting of the Skelmanthorpe School board was held on Monday evening for the purpose of considering the provisions of the new Education Act and the attitude of the Board thereon. It was decided to accept the fee grant and open the Board schools free from the 1st inst. The managers of the Skelmanthorpe National School have also decided to open their schools free from the same date.

Huddersfield Chronicle - Saturday 05 September 1891

Created: 30/04/2018 URL: <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/b/0000167/18910905/053/0007>

“SKELMANTHORPE. Skelmanthorpe National School. — A meeting of the managers of the Skelmanthorpe National School was held on Monday evening last, when it was decided to adopt the offer of 10s. per head on the average attendance from the Educational Department and declare the school free from the 1st September 1891.”

Huddersfield Chronicle - Saturday 29 August 1891

Sunday Schools:

“SKELMANTHORPE Sunday School Anniversary. — The third annual celebration of the commencement of the Wesleyan Reform Sunday School, in this place, was held on Sunday, 30th of April. Two sermons were preached to crowded audiences by Mr. Blenkhorn of Sheffield. The number of scholars is 141. There is a very good library in connection with the school. The collection amounted to £5 15s. 6d. Some time since the foundation stone of a new chapel for this body was laid; the edifice is in rapid course of erection, and in a few months the society may worship in their own house of prayer”. (‘Huddersfield Chronicle’, 3 May 1854).

“SKELMANTHORPE. Sunday-school Anniversary. — Two sermons were preached in the Wesleyan (Conference) Chapel, on the afternoon and evening of Sunday, the 21st inst., on the occasion of the anniversary of the Sunday-school in connection with the congregation. Mr. Isaac Marsden, of Doncaster, officiated. A most efficient band conducted the musical services. The collections amounted to £6 17s. 1d., of which Mr. Marsden, who is a native of Skelmanthorpe, gave £1. (Huddersfield Chronicle, 27 May 1854)

“Kirkburton Wesleyan Sunday School.— On Wednesday, the children of the above school partook of their annual Trinity treat, At half-past one o'clock the scholars and teachers, numbering about 220, assembled in the school-room at the Dean Chapel, from whence, headed by the Kirkburton Temperance Brass Band, a procession was formed, and marched through the village to Mr. Benjamin Mellor's field at Riley, where several hours of recreative exercises were thoroughly enjoyed. The large party then returned to the schoolroom, where buns and tea were abundantly supplied to them. After they had been dismissed, the teachers, superintendents and friends partook of tea together in the same room, and then proceeded to join their friends in the general feast.”

“Primitive Methodist Sunday School, Highburton. The scholars and teachers connected with the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Highburton, held their annual feast on Monday. The children assembled about half-past one o'clock, and headed by the Kirkburton Temperance Band, proceeded through the village of Highburton, accompanied by their superintendent Mr. Joseph Robinson, to a field, kindly lent for the oc-

casion by Mr. Edmund Dyson, where numerous rustic and athletic sports and pastimes were indulged in for several hours. The procession was then reformed and proceeded through Burton to the School, where they were plentifully regaled with tea, coffee, buns, currant cake. Having satisfied their appetites with these good things, the children and teachers returned to the field and spent the evening in exhilarating recreations.”

“School Trip. On Saturday last, the scholars, teachers, and friends in connection with the Primitive Methodist Sunday School, Skelmanthorpe, had trip to Wentworth Castle, near Barnsley. They were conveyed in wagons by way of Scissett, Clayton West, and Darton. Leaving Skelmanthorpe about 7 a.m., they astonished and charmed the inhabitants of the villages through which they passed, by emulations of joy, and singing. After arriving at their destination, they spent their time in innocent games, singing, and inspecting the interesting features which are found in the hall and grounds. On their return they were entertained at Alpha Villa, the residence of Mr Henry Lodge, with tea and buns. They arrived home about 10 p.m. thoroughly satisfied with the entertainment. (Barnsley Chronicle, 18 August 1871)

“Primitive Methodist Anniversary. — The Primitive Methodists at Clayton West held their Sunday school anniversary on Sunday last, when Mr. C Duce, of Huddersfield, preached special sermons in the afternoon and evening to large congregations. The collections were in aid of the school trust. Chapel Anniversary — The anniversary of the Baptist Chapel, Clayton West, was held last Sunday, when Mr. Hart, of Hindley, was the special preacher. The attendance both at the morning and afternoon services was very good. The collections, amounting to over £11, were in aid of the chapel trust.” Huddersfield Chronicle, 13 June 1891)

SKELMANTHORPE. School Anniversary. — On Sunday the annual sermons in aid of the Wesleyan Methodist Reformers' Sunday School, were preached in Zion Chapel, Skelmanthorpe, by Mr. Thomas Marler, of Newton-moor, near Manchester. There were good congregations, both morning and evening. The collections amounted to £7 7s. The schools are in a prosperous state. There are 170 scholars and an equal proportion of teachers.
Huddersfield Chronicle - Saturday 04 May 1867

Kirkburton and Shelley:

Cumberworth half includes part of Skelmanthorpe township, the other part is included in Emley parish, but the whole is in Staincross wapentake. Cumberworth is mostly in Silkstone parish, Staincross wapentake.

The glebe house is fit for residence.

The Register Books commence in 1686. No marriage registers from 1774 to 1789, and 1807 to 1812, can be found.—Vide Transcripts at York.

CHARITIES.—*The School.* This was originally established by the inhabitants in 1714. In 1721, the Rev. Henry Robinson bequeathed 100*l.* for teaching ten poor children of the township of Kirkburton and three of the township of Thurstonland. In 1722, John Horsfall, Esq. bequeathed 360*l.* for teaching ten poor children of each of the above townships, and providing annually two shirts or shifts for each child. The children are taught reading gratis, and writing at half charges. The income consists of the rent of 26 acres of land, and the interest of 50*l.* A question was also depending at the time of the Report, as to an equivalent for a house, let for 30*l.* per annum, and agreed to be purchased by Wentworth and Co. (who afterwards became bankrupts), and pulled down by them. The trustees are the Vicar of Kirkburton, the Rectors of Kirkheaton and Emley, and the heirs of John Horsfall, Esq.

Shelley School. Income: rent of six acres of land, and use of house. Four children taught English, reading, writing, and accounts, free of charge.

worship for Wesleyans.

BURTON, KIRK (*St. John the Baptist*), a parish, in the union of HUDDERSFIELD, Upper division of the wapentake of AGRIBIGG, W. riding of YORK; containing 18,452 inhabitants, of whom 3474 are in the township of Kirk-Burton, 5 miles (S. E.) from Huddersfield. This parish comprises the townships of Cartworth, Foulston, Hepworth, Kirk-Burton, Shelley, Shepley, Thurstonland, Wooddale, and part of **Cumberworth-Half**; the whole forming an area of 15,990 acres, whereof 1260 are in Kirk-Burton, which includes the hamlets of Dogby-Lane, Green-Grove, Linfit-Lane, Spring-Grove, and Paddock, and the village of High Burton. The village of Kirk-Burton is of considerable size, and pleasantly seated on a declivity at the junction of two narrow ravines, or valleys. The woollen and fancy-wool-coating manufactures are carried on to a great extent, affording employment to about 2600 persons: edge-tools, and spades and shovels, are manufactured in High Burton; and there are coal-pits and good stone-quarries. Fairs for cattle are held on the last Mondays in April and October. The living is a vicarage, valued in the king's books at £13. 6. 8., and in the patronage of the Lord Chancellor; net income, £276; impropriators, the governors of Sheffield Hospital. The tithes were commuted for land in 1799. A sum of £4 is annually paid by Kirk-Burton to the vicar of Dewsbury, as a mark of its dependence upon that ancient church. The parochial church, built in the reign of Edward III., is a large and commanding edifice, with a square tower; an organ was erected in 1836, at a cost of £300. At Holmfirth and New-Mill are district churches, the former an ancient structure; and at Thurstonland is an episcopal chapel. There are places of worship for Independents, Wesleyans, and Primitive Methodists. A school, established in 1714, was endowed in 1721 by the Rev. Henry Robinson, with a bequest of £100; and in the following year with a bequest of £360, by J. Horsfall, Esq.; which sums, having been invested in land and houses, produce about £80 per annum: the school was rebuilt in 1840.

BURTON LATTIMER (See *Map*) a parish in the

KIRK (BURTON), a parish and township in the upper division of the wapentake of Agbrigg, union of Huddersfield, west riding of Yorkshire, 5 miles south-east of Huddersfield. The parish includes the townships of Cartworth, **Cumberworth-Half**, Foulston, Hepworth, Kirk-Burton, Shelley, Shepley, Thurstonland, Wooldale, and the chapelry of HOLMFIRTH: which see. Living, a vicarage, formerly in the archd. and dio. of York, now in the dio. of Ripon; rated at £13 6s. 8d.; gross income £305. Vicarial tithes, moduses, &c., commuted in 1813. Patron, the Crown. The church—which was built in the reign of Edward III.—pays £4 per annum to Dewsbury, in token of its former dependence on that ancient place. At Holme-Bridge, in this parish, a neat district church has been erected. It was consecrated in March 25th, 1840. Here are two Independent churches, formed in 1795 and 1816. The Wesleyan Methodists have also places of worship; and there are 20 daily schools, one of which is endowed with about £90 per annum; another with £12 10s. Besides these, there are 3 day and Sunday schools, whereof one is endowed with £15 14s. per annum, and a day and boarding-school, endowed with £25 per annum. Other charities, in 1829, £23 10s. per annum. Poor rates, in 1838, of the parish, £3,055 5s.; of the township, £609 18s. The woollen manufacture is extensively carried on here. In 1838, 47 woollen mills employed 769 hands. A Saxon fort is thought to have stood

KIRKBURTON. Possession of Public School.—“In order that this extraordinary case may better understood I shall here give some particulars respecting the original management of the Kirkburton Town's School up to the present time. In year 1813, an Act of parliament was obtained for dividing and enclosing the wastes of Kirkburton. The inhabitant of this village being desirous of having a Sunday School erected; small plot of land was purchased of the commissioners. The commissioners' award was executed in 1811. In the interval between obtaining the enclosure, and the execution of the said award, the school in question was built; the following is copy of the award belonging thereto;—“And also assign, and allot unto the said Sir John Lister Kaye, Thomas Hardy, James Booth, junr., John Parkin, William Parkin, Benjamin Cocker, and George Hey, the trustees of the new Sunday School, and their successors, 12 perches in Tunshaw Lane, and No. on (he said plan, and whereon new school now erected, bounded by waste land, &c. And I order, direct, and award, that the said trustees and their successors, or the owner or owners for the time' &c. There is but one surviving trustee, and unfortunately there is deed existing—that we are aware | of—specifying the mode in which new trustees shall be appointed; but this, though a legal difficulty, does not alter the right ownership. Whose then is the school .Who have righteous claim to its possession! To determine this, must first see who paid for it. The cost of erection was and is the subscription of the inhabitants, defray that cost, amounted to leaving a deficit £31, which, however, was advanced from the trustees, and afterwards repaid to them by further subscriptions from the inhabitants: the school was freed from debt about the year 1826. The trustees have not interfered with its management, but have left the teaching of the children there, to such of the people were willing to. attend. And persons favourable the education of the poor, have attended every Sabbath day, for the purpose of teaching reading and writing. In Mr. Hutchinson, then vicar of the parish of Kirkburton, made an attempt take possession of the school, with the design of conducting it after his own fashion. One avowed intention was stop the practice of writing on the Sunday. He did not succeed, and from that time to the present, the government of the school has been in the hands of the teachers, who have carried it

the original Way, amid great opposition, chiefly from few individuals who have lately entered the town, and who never gave a farthing towards the erection of the building in dispute. Don't enter here at all the question which the best method of conducting Sunday School—that has nothing to do with our question of the ownership the building. Whose is it then?. The vicar's, or the inhabitants? From the fact already stated, clearly does it belong to the latter. Neither churchman nor dissenter, such, bar right to it; it belongs to the people, irrespective of sect; and the inhabitants or ratepayers alone, it appears to us, have a right to say how it stands. The present vicar and his friends, have for some time cast longing looks upon this place, and many have thought that the parties might have meditated, with profit, on the "Thou shalt not covet" If they wanted it why not have bought it, obtained (through the consent of a majority of the inhabitants. The first plan would have been expensive, and the later was hopeless. It was accordingly solved by these defenders of Justice, those professing of Christian charity! that forcible entrance of the premises be effected. This was accomplished last Wednesday. About half-past o'clock the morning of that day. inhabitants were roused the unusual sound at that early hour—of certain number policemen from Huddersfield, headed Mr. Thomas Heaton, who were coming to take possession of the school. One of the policemen picked the lock, and the force immediately entered. Intelligence of what was going on, spread rapidly through the village, and a large concourse of people assembled to witness the scene; all behaved themselves in a most orderly manner, offering not the slightest opposition the police officers. If the church people can show a legal title to the school let them do so and free them from the charge of gross injustice. It is thought that this claim will be disputed, in ordinary course of law, and whatever the result. It will help the progress of right principles, if the church party have no moral claim; and yet, even in this case, the blow they have dealt out to others, will recoil on their own heads, and their temporary triumph over justice, pave the way for the ultimate establishment of right, stimulating to more vigorous action the friends of civil and religious freedom."

(Huddersfield and Holmfirth Examiner, 6 Sept 1851)

"KIRKBURTON The Sunday School Dispute. — The dispute in the Wesleyan Sabbath school, between the conference and reform parties, we are sorry to say still continues, without any prospect of an amicable settlement. The conference party kept the school closed on Sunday last, and the scholars who attended at the doors were forced to go to some other school, or anywhere else they chose. However, a teachers' meeting was held on Thursday night, attended chiefly by the reform party; and it was decided to open a Sabbath-school, in connection with the reform meeting-house. The dispute is not, however, likely to end here— for the reformers having a large majority of teachers and scholars on their side, lay claim to a portion of the school furniture, such as books, forms, which will not, we believe, be readily given up. The funeral money, too, is a matter of dispute, not likely to be adjusted without legal interference. It would, we presume, be far better, and more creditable in Sunday-school teachers, for the two parties to make a little sacrifice, and meet each other half-way, and thus put an end to the strife." (Huddersfield Chronicle, 27 May 1854)

"Kirkburton Church Schools. Last Wednesday, being "Trinity Wednesday," and the great day of Kirkburton Feast, the scholars belonging to the Parish Church assembled at their school at half-past twelve o'clock in the afternoon, where a procession, consisting of about 210 girls, and 170 boys, was formed, and accompanied by their superintendents and teachers, and the Victoria Brass Band (the scholars carry-

ing innumerable small banners), proceeded to a field, kindly lent by George Hey. Esq., where they amused themselves in various healthy recreations for a couple of hours. The procession was then re-formed, and proceeded to the Parish Church, where a short and appropriate service was held, and a feeling address delivered by the Rev. R. Collins, vicar, to the young. After the service, the procession, headed by the band, proceeded from the church to the vicarage grounds, the trees in which were tastefully hung with many coloured flags, and banners, the brilliance of which contrasted greatly with the various hues of their luxuriant foliage. A number of tables were arranged under the shadow of the widespread trees, where the children and their teachers partook of tea, with an abundance of currant cake, and it was a pleasant sight to see the happy countenances of the children, the anxiety of the teachers to supply their wants, and the smiling faces of more than a thousand persons who had assembled to witness the children's feast. At the conclusion, the scholars were arranged in front of the vicarage, where, under the conductorship of Mr. Henry Jackson, seven hymns were sung, and the blending of nearly 2 000 voices, accompanied by the powerful and well-trained band of instruments, produced a charming effect. After a few remarks from the vicar, who feared the rain would spoil the festive scene, the National Anthem was sung, and the proceedings brought to a close. Each child was, before leaving the grounds, presented with a large bun and a packet of sweetmeats. The teachers and friends, to the number of about 100, afterwards partook of tea together in the old schoolroom, and then dispersed to enjoy the fair as best they felt inclined." (Huddersfield Chronicle - Saturday 01 June 1872)

Emley:

EMLEY.—ST. MICHAEL.—(*Rectory in charge.*)—Area, 3,120 acres. Agbrigg wapentake, L.D.—POPULATION, 1,445¹; CHURCH-ROOM, 400²; NET VALUE, 422*l.*—This is an ancient Rectory belonging to the patronage of the Fitzwilliams, knights, lords of Emley, and from them descended to the Savilles of Thornhill.

Patron, the Earl of Scarborough.

Valued in Pope Nicholas's Taxation at 10*l.*; in the King's books at 14*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.* per annum; and in the Parliamentary Survey, vol. xviii. page 300, at 80*l.* per annum. Synodals, 4*s.* Procurations, 7*s.* 6*d.*

There were Inclosure Acts passed in 39th and 40th Geo. III. (Skelmanthorpe), and 57th Geo. III.

Torre gives a list of the Rectors.

The glebe house is fit for residence.

5th August 1797, faculty granted to new pew the Church.

The Register Books commence in 1600. Deficient for 1675, 1676, and 1677.

CHARITIES.—*School and poor estate.* Income, rent of a messuage, garden, and nine acres of land, purchased with sundry sums left for the poor. Seven-eighths are distributed amongst the poor, and one-eighth is paid to a schoolmaster, for instructing children on moderate terms.

William Turton's donation. Rent-charge of one load of rye. The value is paid in money.

John Allott's donation. Rent-charge of 10*s.*

¹ This includes a part of Skelmanthorpe township, most of which is included in **Cum-**berworth Hall, Kirkbaron parish.

² In 1818, estimated at 500 or 600.

Adult Education:

Proposed Literary Institute or Mechanics Institute Skelmanthorpe, 1853,
Huddersfield Chronicle, 3 September 1853

“On the evening of Friday, 25th inst. the schoolmaster of this village delivered a lecture to the inhabitants on the ‘employment of leisure hours on literary pursuits’. The object in view was to ascertain the feeling of the villagers as to the formation of a literary society, or a preliminary mechanics institution, for which purpose the matter was discussed at the close of the lecture, the result of which was to take the preliminary step of appointing a committee to consider the practicality of the proposed association. We earnestly hope that the matter will not be allowed to die away and expire, but that it may be carried on with energy and vigour until the fruits become visible in the increased intelligence of the young men of Skelmanthorpe.”

Mechanics' Institution.— *Huddersfield Chronicle 3 May 1854*

“Skelmanthorpe Mechanics' Institute.— This society, instituted in the January of this year, is now in a tolerably progressive and flourishing state. Beginning with eight members, it now numbers about 50. Classes are held, under a paid teacher, twice a week, and are well and improvingly attended. Since the commencement there have been delivered five lectures on different subjects. Efforts are to be made to set a library on foot for the use of the members, who it is to be hoped will continually have fresh accessions.”

“Mechanics’ Institute at Skelmanthorpe.— *A public meeting was held on Saturday, to inaugurate the launching of a Mechanics’ Institute. The Primitive Methodist Chapel was crowded, chiefly working men and women, the chair being occupied by Mr. Henry Field. Earnest addresses were delivered by the chairman, by the Rev. J. Yeadon, Mr. Benjamin Eastwood, Mr. Bottrill, and Mr. Frank Curzon. Good premises have been taken, the aid of the village library of the Yorkshire Union have been obtained. 160 members have been enrolled, and everything promises that the institute will be successful as must be useful.*

Leeds Mercury, Tuesday 21 September 1875

“SKELMANTHORPE. *On Saturday last, public lecture delivered in the Mechanics’ Institute, Skelmanthorpe, in connection with the Young Men’s Discussion Class. Subject “Liberalism, Socially and Politically, by Mr. Seth Ackroyd, of Huddersfield. John Jenkinson presided. Owing to the inclement state of the weather the meeting was not very numerously attended. The lecture was very much appreciated, and Mr. Ackroyd was very warmly thanked for his services.”* *Barnsley Chronicle, etc. - Saturday 20 November 1875*

“YORKSHIRE UNION OF MECHANICS’ INSTITUTES. *Yesterday the proceedings of the thirty-ninth anniversary of the Yorkshire Union Mechanics’ Institutes, Working Men’s Clubs, etc., were commenced at Sheffield. The attendance of delegates from all parts of the county was very large. Mr. E. Baines, president of the Union, occupied the chair, and was supported by the members of the Executive Committee and other gentlemen. THE PRESIDENT’S ADDRESS. The thirty-ninth year of our Yorkshire Union, though not one of prosperous trade, has been marked by general rise of mechanics’ institutions; and we have added to our association within the year 27 institutions and members, making aggregate in the union of 178 institutions and 34,900 members.*

*ADMISSION OF NEW INSTITUTES. Mr. BARRAS (Rotherham) moved the admission of twenty-nine new institutions into the union follows: Norton Club and Institute, Sheffield Sherburne Library; Highfield Lecture Society, Huddersfield; **Skelmanthorpe Mechanics' Institute**; Redmore Readme Room, Be-dale ; Grassington Mechanics' Institution Bell Busk Reading Room ; Hambleton Reading Room; Saltburn-by-the- Sea Mechanics' Institute; Beverley Literary and Christian Institute; Methley Mutual Improvement Society ; West Witten Reading Room; Leeds Jewish Literary Society Mexborough Mechanics' Institute ; Wensley Village Library, Ripon; Hopetown Reading Room; Falneck Evening Closes; Sheffield Deaf and Dumb Adult Institution; Stan-nington Working Men's Club, Sheffield ; East Witton Reading Room; West-gate Hill Mutual Improvement Society, Bradford; Doncaster Great Northern Free Mechanics' Institute; Yeadon Mutual Improvement Society ; Mr. CRICH-TON seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.
Bradford Observer - Thursday 08 June 1876*

***"SKELMANTHORPE. Lecture at Skelmanthorpe** —A meeting of the Skel-manthorpe Mutual Improvement Society was held on Saturday. Mr. John Lis-ter, M.A., C.C., of Shibbden, Halifax lectured on " A workman of the olden time." Mr Z Hinchliffe, Denby Dale, occupied the chair. Huddersfield Chroni-cle - Saturday 09 December 1893*

2. Education of Women - Huddersfield Female Educational Institute

The following is a transcription of a historic newspaper article and may contain occasional errors.

HUDDERSFIELD FEMALE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE.

The object of this institution is to afford to young females of this town and neighbourhood additional opportunities of mental improvement, by means of evening classes, a library, lectures, &c. It does not aim at giving instruction on religious subjects, thereby interfering with the Sunday schools at present in operation, where it can be more effectually and di-rectly inculcated, but to teach reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, history, and other branches of a sound moral and secular education.

The small payments made by the pupils not being nearly sufficient to meet the current ex-penses, and afford an adequate sum for the purchase of class-books, maps, &c., the pay-ments of teachers, and the supply of the library, the committee take this opportunity of making an appeal to the friends of education for aid.

It is now several years since the institution was formed, and in reviewing its history from the period of its commencement to the present time, the committee are impressed with mingled feelings of gratitude and pleasure at the success which has remarked its progress. Originating in the desires of some who felt the want of a suitable education, and knew that many others like themselves might reap large advantages from such an institution, the idea of its formation was eagerly and zealously entertained by others who, not themselves absolutely requiring its assistance, perceived, or thought they perceived, the high and im-portant ends it might be made, under a careful direction, the means of accomplishing. Sprung thus from the persons for whose especial good it is destined, and anxiously watched over by those who feel a zealous interest in its well-doing, it has been gradu-ally and silently doing its work of imparting good, sound, useful moral instruction, and sup-

plying its members with the means of instructing themselves by all kinds of useful reading. Each succeeding year has witnessed the extension of its machinery, and the enlargement of its sphere of usefulness; and it is most gratifying to be able to add, that it is in an eminent degree flourishing. The attention of the committee, as well as that of former committees, has hitherto been more directed to the proper working of the institute, and the careful management of its duties and affairs, than to its extension: but they now begin to perceive that it is becoming esteemed as an important institution, recognised by its members as an educational focus, well adapted to their wants and means. Nor is it possible to estimate the amount of eventual good which, during the period of its existence, the institution may have been instrumental in effecting. The institution is in a very thriving condition; its present aspect promises well for its future prosperity. It has received two handsome donations this week, Sir Joseph Paxton, M.P., and John Cheetham, Esq. M.P., having each given £5 to its funds. ***Huddersfield and Holmfirth Examiner (09/Dec/1854)***

Huddersfield and Holmfirth Examiner (03/May/1856) - Education of Women

The following is a transcription of a historic newspaper article and may contain occasional errors.

EDUCATION OF WOMEN.

HUDDERSFIELD FEMALE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE.

It has often been said of late that in our day social questions have become more important to the progress of society than political ones. In a deeply interesting sense there can be no doubt the remark is correct. The statement is not only true of our times, but it was always true. More attention is certainly being given to social matters now than in former times. Of all social questions, we unhesitatingly affirm that education is the most important. When regarded in its widest acceptance, it is greater than any other; it deals more directly with the springs of human action, and more widely influences the formation of character than any other. When we speak of education doing this, however, we mean something more than the elements of knowledge that are ordinarily communicated in a common school. We understand by the term the development and training of the whole properties of humanity, and not simply intellectual instruction. The importance of this distinction has often been pointed out.

It cannot be too frequently insisted on. For ourselves, we are opposed to state education, because, amongst other things, we believe it would lead to the destruction, or to the practical forgetfulness among the people of this the wider, the more noble and the holier view of education. To render education productive of its grand and legitimate objects, the agency of parents in the work is essential.

It never can yield its best fruits, — its highest moral results, without the enlightened and devoted co-operation of parents. Schools, however you improve them, will never effect this. The better parts of humanity, the emotive and moral, if ever they are to be properly evolved and directed, must be mainly cultured by parental influences. And in this work the mother must be the more powerful educator. Indeed, this work is assigned to her by the beneficent Author of our nature. Now, are mothers qualified to fulfil this office a right? Are they truly sensible of the weighty obligation, and, are we fitting woman, intellectually and morally, for the proper discharge of this duty? If not, does it not become one of the most momentous questions to a community, — How can woman be prepared for the fulfilment of her high mission? Is it not the first duty of society to seek to qualify its women for their noble vocation? Philosophers, divines, and educationists have long contended for this. Some have earnestly endeavoured to gain for this truth a practical recognition; but, as yet, it

seems to be treated but as a theoretical dogma. In the system of that greatest of educationalists, — Pestalozzi, the agency of the mother is the prime force. He believed little effectually could be accomplished for the moral and spiritual elevation of society, for the thorough education of man, until mothers were better fitted for their duties. This conviction is evident in all he did, said, and wrote. It is true, he worked in the school, but it is equally true that, for moral ends, he regarded the school as a very subordinate agent to the mother. He said, "Unless maternal love be rendered more instrumental in early education than any other agent; unless mothers will consent to follow the call of their own better feelings, — unless they will consent to be mothers and act as mothers, — unless such be the character of education, all our hopes and exertions can end only in disappointment." Again, "Let me repeat, that we cannot expect any real improvement in education, and improvement that shall be felt throughout an extensive sphere, and that shall continue to spread in the progress of time, increasing in vigour as it proceeds — we cannot expect any improvement of this character, unless we begin by educating mothers;" and again he remarks, "In short, whoever has the welfare of the rising generation at heart, cannot do better than consider as his highest object, the education of mothers."

Now, we apprehend most thinking persons will concur in these sentiments of Pestalozzi. But let us ask ourselves, what are we, in all our boasting about education, practically doing for the education of women, or the preparation of them for mothers? We grieve to say that very little indeed is being accomplished that is specific, effective, or in any way commensurate with the claims of the work. We know that, within the last few years, maternal associations have been established in several localities; and although these are producing good, their influence is very limited. The Rev. Mr. Maurice has recently established some classes, in connection with his working-men's college, for the instruction of women in several branches of knowledge that are very useful to females. But how lamentably few and feeble are the special efforts for the mental and moral improvement of women? How is it that the country does not abound with classes like those founded by Mr. Maurice? Surely these are as needful as mechanics' institutions for the instruction of young men. We hold that they are more important and more necessary. We rejoice to say that Huddersfield has for some years, enjoyed the singular honour of having a "[Female Educational Institute](#)." The public may not have heard much of this institution and its proceedings. Its operations may not have been paraded in soirées and demonstrations; but we are glad to know that it has been pursuing a noiseless, useful, and, on the whole, prosperous course. All honour to those who originated it, and have sustained it. The institution is based on the broadest foundation; and its objects are wholly of a catholic and unsectarian nature. It embraces classes for the instruction of girls and women in most of the useful departments of knowledge; and some for their improvement in matters peculiarly belonging to females. We are gratified to know that its classes are, at the present time, as numerous and as well attended, as at any period of its existence. Its funds are also in an encouraging condition. Its operations are not, however as extended as we could desire to see them. In a town, like Huddersfield, where the condition of the women of the working classes ought to excite peculiar interest among the enlightened and benevolent, we should like to see this institution operating on a much larger scale. It ought to be thus. Why is it not so? Might not our employers, — our wealthy, public-spirited merchants and manufacturers render assistance to such an undertaking? They ought to do so with the greatest alacrity. Again, are there not many ladies in our town that might easily render assistance in conducting classes in such an institution? They would thus be encouraging and aiding women in the humbler condition of life to secure for themselves a higher education. What an ennobling and truly womanly mission this! What a field for the benevolent! What a work for the disinterested, the high-minded, and the devoted!

Our readers will be glad to see, from an advertisement in another column, that Mrs. Balfour is coming to lecture next Thursday evening, under the auspices of this institution. She is to bring the whole question of female education before a Huddersfield audience. The committee have done well to secure a lecturer so eminently qualified to unfold the nature of female education, and to urge its importance on the attention of all earnest and thoughtful people. Mrs. Balfour's talents as a lecturer are well known and appreciated in Huddersfield, and we doubt not she will have a good attendance. We hope her labours will lead to a wider and deeper conviction amongst us of the value of female education, and to a practical sympathy with all well-directed efforts to extend and improve it.

Huddersfield Exposed.....(<https://huddersfield.exposed/wiki/Welcome>)

Huddersfield Female Educational Institute

The Female Educational Established provided evening classes to girls and young women in Huddersfield between 1847 and 1883, after which it was amalgamated with the Huddersfield Mechanics' Institute.

It is generally regarded as being one of the first such institutes for women.

History

In the Huddersfield Mechanics' Institute's report of December 1844, it was recorded:^[1]

The attention of your committee has been called during the past year to the propriety of endeavouring to afford to the female portion of the working-class society advantages similar to those which the Institute offers to males. There is certain no reason against but every reason for, the wife and daughter sharing the social, literary, and education privileges of the husband and son.

A society is now in course of formation in Huddersfield, having for its object the teaching of young females, by means of evening classes, addresses, and a library, the necessary branches of a female education.

Newcastle Guardian (19/Dec/1846)

Exactly two years later, the Huddersfield Female Educational Institute was established to "provide for young females of the town and neighbourhood increased facilities for mental improvement, by means of evening classes, a library, addresses, and other such methods as may from time to time appear suitable."^[2]

Amongst those attributed with the founding of the institute are [John Frederic Schwann](#) and his wife Henrietta, her brother Samuel Kell (who founded the Bradford Female Educational Institute circa 1857), William Paul England, and Joseph Batley.^[3]

As noted by Teresa Gerrard and Alexis Weedon in their article "Working-Class Women's Education in Huddersfield":^[4]

As workers migrated from the rural countryside to the expanding towns and cities, extended families became divided. For working-class women this meant a movement of em-

ployment away from home-based industries toward factory work. At the same time, a shortage of domestic servants for the expanding middle classes necessitated the cultivation of working-class girls suitable to take up employment. All of these developments were debated as the evil effects of industrialisation and were reflected in the provision of lessons offered at the Female Institute.

In December 1846, the committee of the institute announced that Mr. Lundy of the Rastrick British School had been appointed and that lessons would commence on the evening of 5 January 1847. The *Leeds Times* reported that 63 females had already enrolled.^[5]

The *Leeds Mercury* (19/Dec/1846) published details of the aims of the institute:^[6]

We are happy to learn that an institution with the above title is about to be established, having for its object "to provide for young females of that town and neighbourhood increased facilities for mental improvement, by means of evening classes, a library, addresses, and such other methods as may from time to time appear suitable. The object of this institution is not to give instruction on religious subjects, thereby interfering with the Sunday schools at present in operation, where it can be more effectually and directly inculcated, but to teach reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, history, and other branches of a sound, moral, and secular education."

The charge for attending the institute was 2d. per week. Those who supported the institute via annual subscriptions of 10s. or more were permitted to "nominate one member, who shall enjoy all the benefits of the institute".

Initially, meetings were held above "Mr. Heaps' workshop in Westgate"^[7] before moving to the [British School](#) on Outcote Bank. In the spring of 1850 onwards, classes were held on the third floor of [Netherwood's Buildings](#) on King Street.^[2] The latter building lacked a meeting room, so lectures were instead usually held in the [Philosophical Hall](#) on Ramsden Street.

By February 1847, the Institute had 201 members and subscribers.^[8]

The institute held its first soiree event on 15 November 1847, with Thomas Mallinson presiding. In his speech, Dr. Smiles "observed that in the district of Huddersfield the number of women who signed the marriage register with a cross was double that of men".^[1]

S O I R E E
OF THE HUDDERSFIELD FEMALE EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTE.

A SOIREE in connexion with the above Institution will be held on TUESDAY NEXT, April 29. Tea will be provided in the School-rooms of Ramsden-street Chapel, at 5. 30. p.m.

After the Tea, a PUBLIC MEETING will take place in the PHILOSOPHICAL HALL. The Chair to be taken at Seven o'clock by JOSEPH BATLEY, Esq., of Armitage.

The Rev. Dr. GODWIN, of Bradford; W. B. HODGSON, Esq., L.L.D., of Manchester; THOMAS PLINT, Esq., of Leeds; Rev. R. SKINNER, F. SCHWANN, Esq., T. P. CROSLAND, Esq., and WRIGHT MELLOR, Esq., will address the meeting.

Vocal and Instrumental Music will be given at intervals by Misses WHITHAM and TAIT, Messrs. MILNES, J. and W. H. LEE, and G. WILKINSON.

MR. WOOD WILL PRESIDE AT THE PIANO.

Tickets for the Tea and Meeting, 1s.; for the Meeting only, 6d.; to be had of Mr. Roebuck, Printer, King-street. Huddersfield, April 23, 1851.

Huddersfield Chronicle (26/Apr/1851)

The *Huddersfield Chronicle* reported in April 1851 that "at present about fifty females [are] receiving instruction at this institution, whose ages vary from thirteen up to thirty years of age" and that "upwards of a thousand females have passed through this institution".^[9]

In October 1852, secretary W.M. Nelson placed a notice in the local press to say that the institute was "desirous of engaging as an additional teacher a lady competent to give instruction in plain needlework and the elementary branches of education".^[10]

An appeal for funds in December 1854 gave the following description:^[11]

The object of this institution is to afford to young females of this town and neighbourhood additional opportunities of mental improvement, by means of evening classes, a library, lectures, &c. It does not aim at giving instruction on religious subjects, thereby interfering with the Sunday schools at present in operation, where it can be more effectually and directly inculcated, but to teach reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, history, and other branches of a sound moral and secular education.

At a committee meeting held in December 1855, comprised of the "ladies who give their services as teachers and [the] gentlemen who subscribe annually 10s. and upwards, it was reported by treasurer William Paul England that the institute had a balance in hand of £70 and that the annual subscription list had risen from £36 to £110 since the previous year.^[12]

In January 1856, the institute was described as having classes on "four evenings per week, with an average of 60 to 70 pupils."^[13]

Frederick Crosland, the under-secretary of the Huddersfield Mechanics' Institute, was appointed the secretary for the Female Educational Institute in December 1856 and remained in the post for seven years.^[14]

HUDDERSFIELD FEMALE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE.

THE CLASSES will RE-REOPEN on Monday Evening, January 4th, 1858. The subjects taught, are, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Grammar, Dictation, Geography, History, Composition, Singing, and Sewing. The institute opens at a Quarter-past Seven, and closes at a Quarter-past Nine.

Terms—Sixpence Entrance Fee, and Threepence per Week. Annual subscribers of 10s. and upwards are entitled to the privileges of the institute, and also to send, for every 10s. subscribed, a female upon her paying one penny per week.

F. CROSLAND, Secretary.

Huddersfield Chronicle (26/Dec/1857)

The 1857 annual meeting held on 8 April reported that classes were conducted by 17 teachers (6 paid and 11 unpaid) covering reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, dictation, geography, history, sewing and singing (the latter being held on Wednesday evenings and conducted by Mr. James Peace). The committee members for the coming year were recorded as:^[2]

- Mr. W.P. England (president), Mr. Joseph Batley (vice-president), Mr. Joah Johnson (treasurer) and Mr. P.B. Shaw (honourable secretary)

The officers for the coming year were:

- ladies — Misses Dyson, Kell, Johnston, Mallinson, Pesel and S. Webb.
- gentlemen — Messrs. W.W. Greenwood, James Hanson, William Hornblower, J.M. Johnson, D. Johnston and [F. Schwann](#)
- elected pupil — Misses Ellen Crabtree, Eliza Hirst, Alice Mitchell and Mary Wood

An advertisement for classes starting in January 1858 listed the subjects taught as: reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, dictation, geography, history, composition, singing, and sewing.

HUDDERSFIELD FEMALE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE.

W. P. ENGLAND, Esq., PRESIDENT.

THE Committee of the above Institute, have pleasure in announcing that they have made arrangements to hold a SOIREE, in the Philosophical-hall, on Wednesday Evening next, October 20th, 1858, under the Presidency of EDWARD AKROYD, Esq., M.P.

The following gentlemen are expected to attend and take part in the proceedings:—W. E. FORSTER, Esq., of Burley; S. C. KELL, Esq., of Bradford; the Rev. S. HOLMES, M.A., Vicar of Huddersfield; Rev. J. HAIGH, M.A., Rev. R. BRUCE, M.A., GEO. ARMITAGE, Esq., J.P., T. P. CROSLAND, Esq., J.P., J. HAIGH, Esq., J.P., W. WILLANS, Esq., J.P., Rev. J. K. MONTGOMERY, Rev. J. COLLIER, T. MALLINSON, Esq., J.P., BENTLEY SHAW, Esq., J.P., J. BATLEY, Esq., G. TOLSON, Esq., President of the Huddersfield Mechanics' Institution, with other Friends of Popular Education.

The proceedings of the Evening will include a SELECTION of SOLOS and GLEES, by Miss WHITHAM, Messrs. MILNERS, NETHERWOOD, and T. HINCHCLIFFE.

Pianist—Mr. JAMES PEACE.

Tickets of Admission—To the Saloon or Orchestra, 1s.; Back Seats, 6d. May be had of Mrs. Hardy, Mr. Joseph Brook, Mr. Brown, Messrs. G. and J. Brook, Messrs. J. Crossley and Co., and at the Institute. The gallery will be reserved for the pupils. Doors open at Half-past Six. Chair to be taken at Seven o'clock.

The attendance of Ladies is specially and respectfully requested, as a token of their interest in the cause of improved female educational training.

Huddersfield Chronicle (16/Oct/1858)

The institute's second soiree was held in October 1858, presided over by M.P. Edward Akroyd. At the event, the honourable secretary Mr. P.B. Shaw noted that although the institute did offer classes in singing and sewing, the bulk of the attendance was in the subjects of reading (75 pupils), writing (108), arithmetic (90) and geography (72). He also noted that "more than half the pupils on entering the institute are unable to write their names".^[3]

The annual report given in April 1859 noted that 45 of the 157 pupils were fatherless.^[5]

By 1863, German-born Miss Delphine Bertha Löwenthal^[6], daughter of woollen merchant Louis Löwenthal, had been appointed the institute's librarian. By 1876, her younger cousin, Helen Löwenthal, daughter of merchant [Joseph Löwenthal](#), had taken over the role and likely remained the librarian until 1883.^[7]

In March 1864, Henry Whiteley, formerly the master of the Milnsbridge National School, was appointed as the new secretary of the institute.^[8]

The 1863/64 annual report noted that eight of the pupils were married women, including one who then encouraged her two daughters to attend. The treasurer noted however that

the expenditure for the year had been £134 10s. 6d., leaving a balance in hand of just 2s. 9d.^[19]

A soiree was held on 27 October 1864 at the [Gymnasium Hall](#) on Ramsden Street, with the town M.P. Edward A. Leatham in the chair. ^[1]

Secretary Henry Whiteley stepped down during the 1865/66 year and his replacement was Mr. W.S. Brook, master of the Almondbury Grammer School.

By 1868, the institute had outgrown the room available on the third floor of Netherwood's Buildings and had begun to use Gladstone Chambers (also known as Gladstone Buildings) on King Street.

Secretary John F. Cook stepped down during the 1870/71 year, due to leaving the area, and was replaced by Mr. W.H. Hitchon.

In 1875, the institute began using the [Board School](#) on Beaumont Street for teaching.

The Female Educational Institute merged with the Huddersfield Mechanics' Institution in 1883 to become the Huddersfield Technical School and Mechanics' Institute, with both establishments moving into the newly-built [Ramsden Building](#) on Queen Street South, Huddersfield.

After 37 years in existence, the Female Educational Institute ceased to exist circa May 1883.^[20]

Lectures and Events

The following are a selection from local newspaper reports:

- October 1850 — Lecture by the Rev. John Glendenning on the life of philanthropist and prison reformer John Howard (1726-1790).^[21]
- February 1851 — Lecture entitled "Reading Considered as a Means of Mental Culture" by Mr. Hanson.
- 8 May 1856 — "[Thoughts on Female Education](#)" **## included below** by Mrs. Clara Lucas Balfour^[22], author of "Sketches of English Literature" and "Morning Dew Drops".
- October 1857 — Lecture on "Common Things" by Barnett Blake.^[23]
- May 1858 — Lecture on astronomy by Mr. Dore, illustrated with magic lantern slides.^[24]
- 3 March 1859 — Lecture on the subject of the "Importance of Little Things" by the Rev. Robert Bruce.
- 2 June 1859 — Lecture titled "Topsy or the Power of Kindness" by John Moody.

Ref ## *Huddersfield Chronicle* (10/May/1856) - Lecture by Mrs. Balfour

The following is a transcription of a historic newspaper article and may contain occasional errors.

LECTURE BY MRS. BALFOUR.

On Thursday evening Mrs. C.L. Balfour delivered a lecture in the [Philosophical Hall](#), to the members of the [Female Institute](#) — her subject being "Thoughts on female education." There was a large audience, principally of the gentler sex.

W. Willans, Esq. took the chair, and briefly introduced Mrs. Balfour to the audience.

Mrs. Balfour said it was with great diffidence and deference she ventured to offer to them what she had preferred to call "thoughts on female education," a subject in which she had ever been deeply interested. After a sketch of the schools which she attended in her early days — which included both pleasing and unpleasing recollections, she proceeded to consider the meaning of the word education. It did not mean, when applied to woman, an educating and developing of the intellectual faculties — the strengthening of the reasoning powers — the implanting of principles — the building of character or the development of faculties. They limited it in a variety of ways — spoke of it as belonging to a particular time in life — as restricted to a particular place, and having some particular object. The time was the period of youth — the place, school — and the education had merely reference to a certain amount of intellectual acquirements — such as strengthening the memory and obtaining the routine of fashionable accomplishments. Such was the general idea with regard to female education in the present day. Every person must know that training had much more to do with the moral character, the habits, and future development than teaching. Home must be the first school — the mother, necessarily the most valuable or the most ruinous teacher for good or for evil. Education was not limited to the school-room — it did not begin or end there. All relative education was to prepare persons for carrying on their own education, the same as society had a government to prepare people for self-government. There was two maxims with regard to education much forgotten — one was to know thoroughly all they professed to know; the next was not to pretend to know what they did not know. Girls were only taught results; boys principles. It had always seemed to her that one of the great merits of the Society of Friends was the admirable way in which they taught certain ordinary branches of instruction — such as English grammar, arithmetic in its higher branches, and English reading. Thoroughness and completeness, as far as the mode of study went, ought to be a primary matter in female education, because it strengthened the character, and would give a distinct and moral sense of perfect truth and sincerity as the basis of all knowledge. Education depended much on the existence of three or four principles in the persons themselves. They could not obtain education irrespective of efforts made by themselves; for it was not what was done by society but what people were resolved to do that was really valuable. They had volume upon volume of instances of men who had raised themselves from the humblest ranks of life by their indomitable energy of character — but there were comparatively few instances in which the same could be said in regard to women. There was always a little sarcasm, a little ridicule, and a slight tendency to sneer at a woman who manifested a disposition to be bookish. The necessary duties of life must not be ignored or slightly performed, and these presented some hindrance with regard to the continuance of a systematic plan of self culture. Yet this did not touch the real truth of the matter — which was that woman had so little faith in herself — so little faith in her duty to train and educate her mind. If women considered the duties which would devolve upon them as daughter, sister, wife and mother, they would recognise the fact of its being light to cultivate their mind — and would see it their duty as well as their privilege to enter upon the work of self-culture as zealously and earnestly as man. The lecturer next dwelt upon the plans woman should adopt for self-cultivation. She should first cultivate the faculty of observation. Every one had admitted the quickness of perception, acuteness of observation, and knowledge of character which woman seemed to possess intuitively. Woman had plans of reasoning not easy to define, but the conclusions of which were generally correct; but, unfortunately, instead of educating this faculty, she wasted it upon trivialities. The second important work in female education was conversation. This rightly employed and wisely used was one of the most important means in the work of education. Cowper had told them a great deal on the subject in one line. "To talk is not always to converse." The next department was writing. She did not think in these days we were such letter writers as formerly. The penny post had annihilated letters. The goodly

sheet filled on three sides, and the ends where it was folded, perhaps cross written too, was known no more. In the present day we only wrote notes. She recommended that after reading any book, they should write down any thought it had suggested to their mind. In this way they would find many a book valuable, not for what it contained, but for what it suggested. If they did not read with a systematic plan, they could not read to any good purpose. She thought posterity would regard it as a great blessing to have been born in this age, when the first railroad was made, the first steam engine in operation, when the telegraph first sent its message, and the sun painted its first portrait. England now wanted what a great Frenchwoman said to Napoleon that France wanted — mothers. For the cultivation of woman's mental powers she recommended principally the study of biography, which would do much to prevent the exclusive reading of works of fiction. She did not deprecate the perusal of works of fiction. Three classes, however, erred with regard to works of imagination. First, those who thought fiction trifled with the sanctity and dignity of truth. Such should remember that similitude was one of the oldest forms of teaching, and had ever been recognised as the most influential. The next class who erred were the scientific investigators, who said life was too short and the world too full of mystery for them to waste time on works of imagination. The argument appeared plausible, but history proved that the greatest discoverers had always been men of great imagination. The third class, and the largest, were those who also erred most fatally — those who with greedy voracity were ever devouring the contents of circulating libraries. In conclusion the lecturer pointed out the importance of historical study — showed how woman had ever excelled in criticism, and defended the utility of reading our poetic literature showing as it did the resources of our language. Everything was useful which tended to develop mind, educate the feelings, called forth genial sympathies, that spread a charm over the social circle, intellectualised their recreations, and added to the sum of innocent enjoyment.

Votes of thanks were accorded to Mrs. Balfour and the chairman, after which the meeting separated.