

Schools of the Grange over Sands and Kents Bank area

The main aim of these notes is to bring together information on the private boarding and day schools which existed in Grange over Sands and Kents Bank in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. A surprising number of these schools were established; at the peak, in the 1880s and 90s, there were about ten such schools but by the first years of the twentieth century only five or six remained and by 1956 just one, Charney Hall in Grange, which eventually closed in 1973. Most of the schools were established in converted large houses and they generally adopted the name of the house as the school name. The majority of the schools catered for girls and took both boarders and day pupils, but the largest of the schools were for boys. The original scope of the notes has been enlarged to include other schools, e.g. Cartmel Grammar School and the National Schools, so as to provide a wider context. The notes do not aim to present a comprehensive account of any of the schools. It can be seen from the notes that little information, other than the name, is currently available for some of the schools; it is hoped that more information on these schools will become available in the near future. There are also additional National and Endowed Schools which are not mentioned – notes on these will be added as soon as possible.

The entry on Cartmel in the Penny Encyclopaedia of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge from the early 1830s gives an overview of the number of schools in the parish at this time and illustrates the scale of the challenge of providing a comprehensive account of the early development of education in the area: *'There were in the whole parish, in 1833, four endowed day-schools, with 115 children,; three national schools, with 147 children; ten other day schools, with 215 children; two boarding schools, with 21 children; and seven Sunday-schools, with 337 to 347 children; besides which two of the national schools were Sunday-schools, also, and had 131 children.'* Only two of the schools discussed below were open in 1833, Cartmel Grammar School and Mrs Maud's school in Grange. This suggests that there is much research still to be done on the early schools of the area.

The following notes are mainly based on the following sources: Swale's (1969) book on Grange, Webster and Ward's (2002) booklet on the history of St Paul's Church, Webster's (1900) booklet 'A walk around Grange', guide books to Grange, articles from the Grange Parish magazine and the Grange and District Red Books, Stockdale's (1872) Annals of Cartmel, Mannix's (1849) History, topography and directory of Westmorland and Lonsdale North of the Sands, plus census data.

Cartmel Schools

Cartmel Grammar School

This is much the earliest school to have been established in the area. The exact date of its establishment is not known but the earliest reference to it is said to be in an old Church book dated 1598 (Stockdale 1872). It was originally a parochial seminary superintended by the church wardens and sidesmen of the parish, who hired a master. The master was paid from a combination of interest from bequests, periodic donations from the wealthier families in the area and quarterage from the scholars, except that the children of poor parents were taught free. Thus, for example, in 1680, £131 was invested in land for the use of the school. In 1689, and the school was left £400 in Henry Bigland's will, the monies being invested in land in 1692. Mannix (1851) quotes a Mr Baines as saying that, 'it is customary for persons of property who have children at the school, to make a compliment to the Master at Shrovetide, of a sum called cock-pence', usually a guinea; it seems that this was a long standing tradition. The quarterage for grammarians was gradually raised over the years, in 1674 from 3d to 8d and in 1711 to 1s 6d for latin and 1s for English. By 1714, however the quarterage had been dropped and the school became entirely free for local boys. The stipend for the Master was £20 in 1664 and in 1850 the Master, a Mr Paul Snowden, received £130 per year.

Subjects taught at the school in the eighteenth century included english, latin, greek, algebra and geography. The school initially catered for local boys but in the early eighteenth century there are references to boys being admitted from throughout Britain and from overseas but with a limitation that non-parishioners should not exceed twenty. From its establishment until 1624 the school was held in the church. In 1624 it moved to the 'Gatehouse', which local inhabitants had purchased from George Preston for £30 for 'conversion to a Public Schoolhouse'. The school remained in the Gatehouse until a 'new' school was built in 1740 on the current site of the Old Grammar Residential Home. The gatehouse was sold for £50. The 'new' school remained in use until 1911.

Cartmel National School

The school was established with funds from the National Society for the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church throughout England and Wales. It was built in 1861 on the site of the present Church of England School. The log books from the girls section of the school give a picture of the early years. In the beginning the headmistress received important support from local ladies and vicars wives. Later the headmistress received rather inconsistent assistance from paid monitors and student teachers. In the girls side, up to 70 girls, in six different 'standards, were taught in one room. The room was partitioned in 1897 to allow the infants to be taught separately from the older girls. The subjects taught were English grammar, reading, writing, dictation, arithmetic, geography and religious knowledge; the latter receiving great emphasis.

Conditions in the early years of the school were not ideal, for example a log book entry notes that on winter afternoons it was so dark in the building that reading was difficult if

not impossible. The school room had a coal fire which was lit in cold weather, by a rota of the girls, and in front of which the children were allowed to warm themselves. The girls were also allocated sweeping duties until a paid servant was appointed, as from 1889. There was initially no wash basin despite a plea from the schoolmistress to the vicar. In 1891 a government inspector called for a lavatory, or an effluent substitute, to be installed. Desks were fixed to the floor and, when necessary repaired by the blacksmith. Outbreaks of measles, mumps and chicken pox occurred regularly; a third of the girls were off during one measles epidemic in 1869 and there was a bad mumps epidemic in 1877.

There are some interesting reasons listed for absences from the school or for normal teaching being suspended; feast days, Military Volunteers Review, Congregational tea, preparation for magic lantern show, gathering primroses, flower show in Grange, wild beast shows, village sales, Jubilee Celebrations and special church services. Punishments are noted for late arrival, careless work, rudeness, insubordination, rough behaviour, breaking a slate, breaking a window, cheating, standing on the desk and poor homework. The punishments included extra duties such as sweeping, not being allowed to play out, standing apart from the rest of the class, detention and caning.

(The above is based on notes made by Dr Malcolm Arthurton from the log books of the girls section of the school).

Grange Schools

Mrs Maud's school

Mrs Elizabeth Maud established her school in 1811 at Blawith Cottage, on the shore near Blawith Point in Grange; so close to the shore that on at least one occasion a very high tide washed in the front door of the schoolroom and out the back. This was probably the first school established in Grange. It was initially a Sunday School for girls and taught reading, writing and arithmetic in the mornings and plain sewing, mending and knitting in the afternoons. The girls attending the school were dressed in a stiff sack like gown tied at the waist, with a white tippet, and a large straw bonnet. Fees were 5d per week. When the Misses Mary and Anne Taylor, who had spent holidays in Grange, moved to live here, they joined Mrs Maud to expand the school and convert it into a mixed day school. There is some uncertainty about when the 'new school' came into being; Mannix (1849) suggests 1830 whereas Swale (1971) states 1833.

'At Grange is a school, chiefly supported by Mrs Elley Maude, of Blawith Cottage, widow of the late Thomas Holme Maud, Esq., who established it as a Sunday School in 1811, and as a Day school in 1830.' (Mannix and Co, *Topography and Directory of Westmorland*, 1851).

An article in the Grange parish magazine suggests that thing did not go smoothly in the early days of the 'new' school, the Misses Taylor finding that 'good intentions were not sufficient equipment for a teacher' and, that despite their efforts, 'young Grange ideas

refused to ‘shoot’. The sisters were open about some of the initial problems, as can be seen from the following which is quoted in Webster (1900):

‘Our mixed school was not exactly up to the requirements of a modern school. Ferns grew in corners and the earthen floor gave them every encouragement. Our first attempt at teaching was not altogether successful. One boy fell so fast asleep that all attempts to rouse him were in vain. So four others were told to carry him out and so ended his first day of education.’

Eventually a ‘proper teacher’, Miss Dormer, was appointed, with the help of Mr Wakefield of Eggerslack, as schoolmistress. In 1934 the school had a general teacher, a language teacher and a music teacher; presumably Miss Dormer and the Misses Taylor. At this time there were 14 pupils. Until the mixed school was established, boys who did not attend Cartmel Grammar School were taught by Mr W Robinson at Middle Fell Gate Farm. There is no published information on this school or of when Mr Robinson started his teaching. Mrs Maud’s school closed when the National School opened in 1864 on Kents Bank Road in what is the current British Legion building.

The cottage in which Mrs Maud’s school was held was eventually pulled down to make room for the gates and stables of the Grange Hotel.

Grange National School

In the 1850s it became clear that ‘Mrs Mauds’ School’ was becoming inadequate as the population grew and that a new, larger establishment was needed. The land for a school, on Kents Bank Road, was conveyed to the Revd H R Smith, and his successors, Vicars of Grange. Funds were raised mainly raised locally, largely through the church, and from the National Society and a school and teachers house were built. The first mention of collections towards the school, referred to in the Grange Parish Magazine, is on the 16th March 1873 when £5.13s 6d was collected at the morning service and £6 6s 10d at the evening service but collections certainly began several years earlier as the foundation stone for the school was laid on December 4th 1863. The school opened in 1864, and a Miss M A Marsh was appointed as Headmistress. Swale (1971) quotes the original trust deed as saying that the school was ‘to be for ever used for the education of children and adults or children of the labouring and manufacturing classes’. In 1869 the school came under government inspection and was then no longer financed via the church. However, local fund raising continued to be crucial to the school and its development and to a series of enlargements. Thus, in 1880 a new class room was built at a cost of £140, funded by subscription. It was further enlarged in 1887 and land across the road was purchased as a playground, again by public subscription. Later, a cloakroom and toilets were added and the infants’ class room enlarged at a cost of £400 from public subscription. During the World War II evacuees were taught in the Parish Hall and the Hall later became the infant department for the primary school. Webster (op cit) provides some interesting memories of his schooldays in the infants department in the Hall.

Swale (op cit) quotes some interesting entries from the log books of the school, referring to caning for carelessness, idleness and inattention; a parent objecting to paperwork for scriptures as a waste of time; no home lessons because of potato harvest; an outbreak of coughing which made the school like a dog kennel, children being dismissed early for pancake eating at home; parents cautioned for girls absence.

The school was replaced by the current primary School on Fell Drive. The youngest children moved into the new school in 1966 with the older ones following in 1969.

Grange College/Methven College

The school was opened in 1874 by Mr Edward Sewell and closed in June 1886 when Mr Sewell died. At present we are not certain where the school was located but is possible that it was in what later became the Methven Hotel. In 1874 the school was described as a 'Classical, Mathematical and Commercial School'. It had 25 pupils and 3 resident masters. The following advert from the 1882-83 edition of the Grange over Sands Red Book provides more detail:

The Grange College

<i>Principal</i>	<i>E Sewell, M.A., F.G.S.Lond.</i>
<i>Vice Principal</i>	<i>Mr H.B.Sewell</i>

Four Resident and Two Non-Resident Masters

Grange College occupies a most elevated position in the best part of Upper Grange, commanding one of the salubrious situations in the county. Being built expressly as a very superior Home for young gentlemen, it is in every department the most complete and best fitted up educational establishment near the Bay, The numerous dormitories are arranged on the principle of age, and afford abundance of room for every student to enjoy a separate bed, and every room is perfectly ventilated. The handsome building, the beautiful grounds, and the excellent discipline, combine all the advantages of a first-class School, coupled with inestimable supervision of a private establishment. The Students, being limited to 24 in number, are really select.

The course of study is arranged to secure primarily a thoroughly practical, Commercial Education; and secondly, decided preparation for the London Matriculation, Cambridge, Oxford and Durham Local, and the preliminary Law and Medical Examinations. During the last 12 years Fifty-one students who have been under the Principal's care, have been successful in the following examinations – London University matriculation, Oxford and Cambridge Senior and Junior Local Examinations, Royal College of Surgeons, London Pharmaceutical and Preliminary Law and Musical Examinations, making a total of 138 Certificates and Prizes in Art Subjects; 366 ditto Science; 51 ditto University; 12 ditto Music, Trinity College London; total 588 honours &etc., of which the Principal feels justly proud.

References to Parents and Pupils in London, Liverpool, Birmingham. Manchester, Preston, Newcastle, Macclesfield, Derby, Carlisle, Norwich, Boston, Swansea, Lancaster, Leeds, Sheffield, and every other town in Yorkshire.

The school listing in the 1881/83 Red Book, as opposed to the advert, lists the staff as Principal, Mr E Sewell; Vice principal, Mr H B Sewell; Junior Master, Mr Conlan; Science Master, Mr H B Sewell; Piano and Singing, Mrs Sewell; Art Master, Monsieur A Masson; Drill Master, Sergt-Major Paxton.

Mr Sewell senior was 62 at the time of the 1881 census, so that he would have been 55 when he opened the school, and lived in the school with his wife Jane Elizabeth (42), his sons Harold Berthold (30) and Dunsten Edmund (16) and daughter Ada May Victoria (13). As shown above, Harold was Vice Principal. Mr Sewell senior was born in Fulneck (Pudsey) in Yorkshire and his wife Elizabeth was born in Bramley; all the children were born in Fulneck. On the night of the census there were 17 borders in residence ranging in age from 11 to 16; they came from/were born in Rochdale, Hull, Bradford, Middlesbrough, Dumfries, Facet (Yorkshire).....Although the advert quoted above states that there were four resident masters, there were none in the school on the night of the census. The transcription of the census return refers to the school as Alethayne College but examination of the image of the handwritten return confirms that it is Methven College.

An article on education in Grange in the Grange Parish magazine notes that the school made an important contribution to the life of St Paul's Church with both masters and pupils being in the choir. It is thought that the move for a surplused choir came from the school. Swale (op cit) suggests that Mr Sewell understood public relations (probably essential for owners of private schools), for example he advertised the school sports day 'under the distinguished patronage of the Marquis of Hartington, Lady Frederick Cavendish and other notables'. He also ensured the school's examination successes were widely circulated, thus a note in the Lancaster and Gazette and General Advertiser for Lancashire, Westmorland and Yorkshire of July 14th 1880 informs readers; '*Methven College – Three Queen's prizes and six certificates have been gained by the students of the above college at the May examination of the South Kensington Science and Arts Department*'.

As noted above, Mr Sewell was born in Fulneck in 1819. In 1851 he is still living there and is described as a Professor of Music. He is married to Mary Elizabeth and they have one child, Harold. Mr Sewell is still resident in Fulneck in 1861 but is now described as a Schoolmaster. He and Mary Elizabeth now have two children, Harold and Samuel.

In 1871 Mr Sewell is a schoolmaster in Ilkley. The school has 37 boarders on the night of the census and they range in age from 8 to 16. The census does not give an address for the school and it is interesting that Mr Sewell is not referred to as the principal, simply as Schoolmaster. At this time there are four of his children living at home; Harold is described as an Assistant Master, Samuel is a Surveyor and Engineer, and Dunsten and Ada are scholars. The two younger children are from Mr Sewell's second marriage. Mrs

Mary Elizabeth Sewell died between October and December 1861 and Mr Sewell married Jane Elizabeth Crowther, who was 17 years his junior in, late 1863. The family must have moved to Grange between 1871 and 1874; Samuel has left home by the time they move.

Charney Hall School

Charney Hall was the longest lived, and probably the largest of the private schools in Grange. The school was established by Mr George Podmore in September 1882 and continued until 1973. There is some confusion over where it was initially located. The sources agree that it was in a large house at Eden Mount but some state that the house was called Rose Cottage and others that it was in Grove House, the latter continued to be part of the school until it closed. The school was initially referred to as the Eden Mount Preparatory School and the first entry in The Grange and District Red Book states that the school 'provides Preparatory tuition for Private Pupils'. It started with three pupils but grew rapidly and by 1885 other rooms had been added to the house and two further houses in the row behind Rose Cottage/Grove House were rented to accommodate the growing numbers. By the mid 1880's Mr Podmore began looking for land to build a school and two fields on Eden Mount, opposite the houses initially used for the school, were purchased. Building began in February 1888 with the new school opening in 1889; the architect was a Mr Pattinson.

The following advert for the school appeared in the Westmorland Gazette of July 7 1888:

Eden Mount Preparatory School Grange over Sands

*G Podmore MA Oxon assisted by H F Plumtree RA Oxen receives boys from 8 -15 years, to prepare for the Public Schools. References to the Marquis of Lothian, many parents, and Head Masters of the Public Schools.
Good cricket ground, covered play-room and thirty acres of grounds.*

Many changes were made to the school between its building and closure. A shooting range was added. In 1924 a large memorial hall was built to commemorate the 22 'old boys' who died in the First World War. The lodge was added in 1928 to provide more accommodation for boys. The school celebrated its jubilee in 1933 and purchased Gilbert Field which had been used by the boys over a long period for games. Two pavilions, gifts from two parents of 'old boys', were later constructed on the playing fields. A 1961 advert for the school in the Official Guide to Grange states that, 'The grounds contain excellent playing fields and a shooting range, and in summer the boys are taught swimming in the Grange open-air pool, of which, by special arrangement, they have the exclusive use at certain times'. By the time of a 1970 advert, however, the school has 'a swimming pool and a shooting range in the grounds'.

The staff also changed over time. The advert above names Mr Plumtree as the assistant master but in 1891 a Mr George Antrobus was listed as schoolmaster. In 1901 Mr George Podmore was 'assisted by Mr T. S Roberts, B.A. and Visiting Masters'. Mr Roberts

seems to have stayed at the school until 1912 when a Mr B.P.Halewood,B.A. becomes 'assistant' to Mr Podmore. In 1914, Mr Podmore's son George Conrad joined the staff. He left shortly afterwards to serve in the army but returned to the school in 1919. In 1924, the staff, as listed in the Grange Red Book, includes a Mr J.H.Hutchinson in addition to Mr Podmore and his son. Mr George Podmore senior died in 1933, some 51 years after he had founded the school; his son George Conrad took over the running of the school, along with a 'full staff', until he died in 1937. Mr H M Duncan, M.A. and Mr J.R.Hirst, M.A. then took over as joint headmasters. In 1965 Mr Duncan is still Headmaster but has two 'Partners', Mr H.P.B.Fawcett and Mr A.B.K. McCullagh, M.A. In 1970 or '71, Messers Fawcett and McCullagh take full control of the school and are in control when the school closed in 1973.

At the time of the 1891 census there were 19 borders in residence ranging in age from 9 to 13. They came from/were born in Prescot, Newcastle, Lindale, Ennerdale, Liverpool, Gosforth, Long Preston, Kendal, Dalton, 'Ireland', Dewsbury and Gateshead. Mr Podmore his wife and five children also lived in the school and there was a resident boy's matron, a nurse/domestic servant, a cook, a parlour maid and two housemaids. At the time of the 1901 census there were 16 borders ranging in age from 9 to 13. They came from/were born in Conway, Accrington, Witherslack, Horby (Staffs), Leeds, Halifax, Withington, Keighley, York, Bradford, Sheffield and four from the USA. We have no numbers for day boys for these two years. The school clearly continued to grow and by 1969 it had 60 borders and 6 day boys.

The school came to be a notable part of the Grange community and was locally referred to as 'Poddys'. The results of its sports day and of its cricket club, with batting and bowling averages, were published in The Grange Red Book each year in the early nineteen hundreds. The events at the sports day included the broad jump, throwing the cricket ball, high jump, 90 yards race, hop, skip and jump, 600 yards handicap, egg and spoon race, three legged race, 1200 yards handicap, sack race and Hampsfell race. The sports day is also mentioned in the Summary of Events in the Red Books of this period, naming the dignitaries who presented the prizes. The school had close links with St Paul's Church and pupils and staff attended regularly'. Webster and Ward (2003) note that the north aisle of the Church was referred to as the Charney Hall Chapel because of the plaques and tablets linked to the school which are sited there. Thus, there are boards or tablets of Honour listing the 'old boys' who fell in the Boar War and the First World War. The Boar War memorial lists three former pupils and was erected in 1909. The First World War memorial names 16 former pupils and it is thought to have initially been sited in the entrance to the Memorial Hall at the school, being moved later to the church. There are also memorials to Mr George Podmore senior, his wife Matilda, the Podmore's son Eric who died aged 11 and their son Major H P Podmore who died in 1917. Mr Podmore was also a Churchwarden in 1903/04 and his son George Conrad Podmore in 1924/25. Swale (1969) reports that Mrs Podmore played an important role in the school, working 'ceaselessly for its material welfare' and imposing 'discipline on staff and students alike'. Swale adds that Mrs Podmore, 'Having been close to the court of Queen Victoria, was able to draw boys from influential families'.

Mr Podmore was born in Elstree in 1854 and his wife Matilda in London in 1855. They had 5 children, all born in Grange; George Conrad born in 1884, Eric born in 1887, Hubert 1888, Enid 1890 and Edgar 1891. Mr Podmore was a very keen cricketer and entomologist.

Sunny Brae

The school was located in a house called Sunny Brae, which built in 1862. The house, which is at the eastern end of Rockland Road, is now divided into a number of apartments. Highfield Cottage, which was located behind Sunny Brae, also formed part of the school and was connection to Sunny Brae by a bridge; the Cottage contained a large playroom and additional accommodation. The school also had tennis courts on the opposite side of Rockland Road to Sunny Brae, opposite the house called Rockland. It was a ladies boarding and day school.

The school was probably established in the 1890s; it is not listed in the Grange Red book for 1882/83 but is included in 1901. In 1901 it was 'conducted' by a Miss Gilkes who was probably the founder. By 1903 a Miss Hilda M. Ransome was the Principal/owner. Some time between 1905 and 1908 a Miss M E Brothers took over the school and remained in charge until the school closed in 1932. In 1901 Miss Gilkes was assisted by a general teacher, an english teacher and a student teacher. On the night of the 1901 census there were 11 boarding students in residence who ranged in age from 12 to 15 and came from/were born in Sheffield, Birmingham, Kendal, Linthorpe (Yorkshire), Ashton on Ribble, Lancaster, Greenodd, Swarthmoor, Workington and Bury. We have no record of the number of day pupils

An advert for the school from 'Grange over Sands: The Official Guide' published by Edward J Burrow, c.1910, gives further information on the school:

*Sunnybrae School for Girls
Grange-over-Sands, Lancashire
Principal Miss M E Brothers
(Registered by the Board of Education on Column B)*

Assisted by a fully qualified Staff of Resident and Visiting Masters and Mistresses.

Girls are received at ages varying from nine to twenty. The School Course includes Religious Knowledge, English language and Literature, History, Geography, Mathematics, Latin, Conversational French, nature Study, Drawing, Drill and Class Singing. Special attention is paid to languages.

Entire charge is undertaken of girls whose parents are abroad or those who require special care in consequence of rapid growth or delicate health.

The aim of the school, in addition to the ordinary educational work, is to develop in a pleasant home atmosphere the intellectual and physical faculties of the pupils, with a careful training of character to prepare them for the work of life.

The education is conducted on thoroughly modern lines. Numerous Successes have been gained in the Oxford Local Examinations, Senior and Higher, and in Cambridge Senior and Higher, Trinity College (Music), Royal drawing Society etc.

Sunnybrae stands high overlooking the sea, and was built for its present purpose. The rooms are large, numerous and airy, and there is also a good play-room, dry-playground and tennis court. Outdoor games are much encouraged. Hockey or Basket Ball is regularly played in the winter, and cricket as well as tennis in the summer.

Hill Foot School

This was a 'middle class' school conducted by Miss Margaret Carter. The school was started by Miss Cater in 1896 in the Congregational school room and then transferred successively to houses in Kents Bank Road and later in Fernleigh Road, Grange, both houses being called Hill Foot. The school took both boys and girls and when Swale (op cit) was writing his book in 1969, he stated Miss Carter had 'taught many of the boys and girls still alive in Grange today'. Miss Carter died in 1966.

Grangethorpe

This was a day school started by the Misses A M and E K Rawlinson, who came from Bardsey, in 1913 in the house called Grangethorpe at the corner of Charney Road, Grange. Swale (op cit) states that up to 30 children at a time were taught at the school with the sisters making lunch for those that travelled from a distance. The school closed some time between 1941 and 1947.

Mrs Podmore, the wife of the Headmaster at Charney Hall School evidently encouraged the Misses Brindley in their enterprise and sent her own children to the school. In 1967, the surviving sister told Swale (op cit) that she thought theirs was 'the most select school in Grange'. The school operated from 1913 until 1944.

Miss Perry's Nursery/Rockwood/Willow Bank

This was rather different to the other schools included in these notes as it was a day school taking only local children. It is described in the Grange Red Book for 1947 as a 'nursery and preparatory school'. Miss Perry started the school in the Vicarage in 1941. In 1942 she moved it to Rockwood on Rockland Road where it operated until 1952.

In 1952 Mrs Joyce Coley transferred the school to a house called Willow Bank, also on Rockland Road. The Grange Red book for 1952 lists Rockland School, at Willow Bank, as a 'nursery and preparatory day school with a Miss Hamilton as principal. In 1953/54 a Mrs M T Freeman is running the school at Willow Bank and it is referred to as a 'pre-

preparatory school'. The school, still using the name Willow Bank and still run by Mrs Freeman, moved in 1954 to a house called Gatesgarth on Risedale Hill. It closed some time between 1955 and 1957.

Oaklands

The school was located in Grange but the precise location has not yet been discovered. In 1882/83 a Miss Evans was the Principal and the school was described as a 'ladies boarding and day school'.

Eden Mount

A school started by a Miss Rowley.

Mrs Wallace's school

Mrs Wallace operated a boarding school for younger children at 8 Thornfield Terrace during 1936 and '37.

Westholme

A Mrs Fowler opened a school in this house on Fernleigh Road but later moved the school to Arnside.

Kents Bank Schools

Moorhurst

Moorhurst is located on Kentsford Road, Kents Bank. The school was probably opened in the mid or late 1870s. The first clear evidence is an advert which appeared in the Liverpool Mercury dated 24 July 1877 advertising a ladies school at Kents Bank with application to be made to Miss Dunkerley at Allithwaite Vicarage. However, Swale (op cit) states that the school was opened in 1822 by the Misses Dunkly. This is almost certainly in error. The adverts for the school in the 1870s emphasised the location and stated that pupils were prepared for Cambridge examinations. Later mentions of the school refer to it as a school for 'the daughters of gentlemen' to learn modern languages, and singing with dancing and drawing available as extra subjects.

At the time of the 1881 census, the house is recorded as being owned by Mrs Mary Anne Dunkley who is a 64 year old widow. The school was being run by one of Mrs Dunkerley's daughters, Mary Anne Dunkerley, aged 31, with another of the daughters Ellen Dunkerley, aged 25 listed as a schoolmistress. There were seven borders, ranging in age from 8 to 16, who came variously from/were born in Leeds, Blackburn, Heworth, Northampton and Neston. One of the pupils, Agnes M Dunkerly, was a niece of the two Dunkerley sisters. There was also a live in kitchen maid and a general servant.

In 1891, Miss Mary Anne Dunkerley is still Principal but her sister is no longer associated with the school. Mrs Dunkerly is not recorded as resident; did she die between 1881 and 1891? There are eleven borders, ranging in age from 7 to 16, coming from Sawbridgeworth, Lancaster, Wrexham, Halifax, Ashton on Mersey, Colton, Checkabont (?) and Rugby. Two of Miss Dunkerley's nieces were also living at the school but are not listed as scholars. The staff included two further teachers, Miss Ogden who taught languages and Miss Beckett who taught English. There was also a resident cook, Housemaid and waitress.

In 1901, Miss Dunkerley is still running the school which has two further teachers, Miss Hall and Mme Bonotaux. There are 9 borders, ranging in age from 10 to 17, and coming from/born in Little Houghton, Ashley, Urmston, Manchester, Bourne, Chorley, and West Kirby. There is a resident cook and two housemaids.

Entries in the Grange and District Red Book show that the school changed hands between 1903 and 1905, being taken over by a Miss Butler. In 1910 the school was still being run by Miss Butler but in Dec 1910 the Wesley Guild Central Council agreed to lease the building to provide holiday accommodation. It was a great success and when the lease expired in February 1916 new and larger premises were acquired for the Guild at Abbot Hall, also in Kents Bank (Mycock D C, Eighty Years Onward (1996)).

Information obtained from the census establish that Mary Ann Dunkley was the daughter of a butcher and was born in Northampton in 1850. She had three younger sisters, Elizabeth, Emma and Ellen and an older brother Charles. Charles was a pupil at Ullesthorpe House School, Claybrook, Lutterworth, Leicestershire in the 1861 census. The 1871 census show Mary Ann as a governess at Gilpin House in Durham where there were ten pupils and four staff on census night. By 1881 she had set up her own school in Kents Bank.

Seawood House, Kents Bank

The house is located close to the shore between the Guides Cottage and Kents Bank. Census's of 1861 and 1871 record a 'ladies seminary' at Seawood which is run by two sisters, Elizabeth Dracup, a widow and Emily Askew, unmarried. In 1861 there were 17 female boarders aged between 7 and 17. In 1871 there were 18 female boarders aged between 11 and 16 and coming variously from/born in Croydon, Gomersall, Bolton, Oldham, Dalton, Askham, Sheffield, Ormscar, Chippenham and Whitehaven. There were two assistant teachers, a cook and a housemaid.

Manchester Times (Manchester, England), Saturday, July 19, 1862

SEA-SIDE.—SEAWOOD HOUSE, GRANGE-IN-CARTMEL.—Mrs. WILLIAM DRACUP and Miss EMILY ASKEW, assisted by a resident foreign governess and eminent professors, RECEIVE a limited number of YOUNG LADIES for Board and Instruction, on a plan combining educational advantages with the comforts of a home.—Prospectuses may be had on application.

The Preston Guardian etc (Preston, England), Saturday, October 4, 1862

LADIES' COLLEGIATE SCHOOL, Seawood House, Grange-in-Cartmel, Lancashire.—Mrs. DRACUP undertakes the Education of a limited number of Young Ladies. French and German are taught by a resident foreign governess; music and drawing by first-class professors. The situation is most salubrious, overlooking Morecambe Bay. Appliances for sea bathing are provided. Terms moderate. Highest references and prospectuses for varied on application.—NEXT TERM WILL BEGIN on Wednesday, July 29th, 1863.

The Preston Guardian etc (Preston, England), Saturday, April 4, 1863

LADIES' COLLEGIATE SCHOOL, SEAWOOD HOUSE, GRANGE-IN-CARTMEL.
Principal—Mrs. DRACUP, assisted by a resident foreign governess and eminent masters.

The second quarter will begin on Tuesday, the 7th of April. Prospectuses on application. References permitted to the Rev. Henry R. Smith, incumbent of Grange; James Simpson Young, Esq., Abbot Hall, Kent's Bank, Grange; Richard Hildick, Esq., Abbey Hey, Fairfield, near Manchester; &c., and to parents of pupils.

The Leeds Mercury (Leeds, England), Saturday, March 23, 1872

EDUCATION.—SEAWOOD HOUSE, Grange-over-Sands.—The Midsummer quarter will begin on the Fourth of April.
Prospectus of terms may be had from Mrs. Dracup, Principal.

The school probably closed in the late 1870s.

Kents Bank ‘House’ Seminary’/Furness Collegiate School/Selwyn

Kents Bank House is situated opposite the Station in Kents Bank, at the junction of Kentsford Road and Kirkhead Road. The Building was converted into a series of town houses in the 1990s.

The first evidence of Kents Bank House being used as a school is an advert in the Manchester Times on Dec 26 1868 for Miss Metcalfe’s school for young ladies under the heading ‘Education by the Sea’. The 1871 census describes Kents Bank House as a Ladies Seminary and shows 18 pupils registered on census night. The pupils are aged between 4 and 17 and came variously from/were born in Manningham, Bradford, Undercliffe, Southoram(?), Pennington, Wilsden, Shipley, Skipton, Covent Garden and Woodhouse. There were two resident teaching assistants, a governess, a classroom maid and a cook. The seminary closed some time between 1871 and 1876.

Miss Elizabeth Metcalfe was born in 1838 in Halifax, Yorkshire. She was the daughter of a butcher. The 1851 census shows her occupation as a teacher living at 19 Northfield Place, Bradford with her parents and brother.

In 1876 the Liverpool Mercury and Leeds Mercury were advertising Mr Matthew’s Furness Collegiate School which had extensive grounds. Subsequent advertisements confirm that this is Kents Bank House (Northern Echo 28 Jan 1879). The school offered 26 subjects and drill under Sgt Major Paxton: it claimed to be recommended by the medical profession for delicate children and to offer a really paternal home, at 15 guineas a term. Sgt Major Paxton is also associated with Grange/Methven College at this time.

The 1881 census records Thomas Goodwin as the occupier. He was an Irishman born in 1821 whose occupation was described as clergyman, without care and school work. There were 8 pupils boarding on census night ranging in age from 9 to 13 and coming variously from Greenwich, Deptford, Knotty Ash, Herckmonwhyte, Lowick, Cark and Aberdeen. There was also a cook/domestic servant and a ladies help.

School use ceased by 1891 and the 1891 census show the Milnes family in residence. Eli Milnes was an architect, born in Bradford in 1831.

School use was re-established some time between 1891 and 1901 when there were four Miss Brindles involved in running the school and teaching; the sisters Anne, Sarah and Mary and their niece Annie. The latter was described as a ‘pupil teacher’. Annie was born in 1840, Sarah in 1841 and Mary in 1844 in Cumberland, daughters of a publican. There were 12 borders in residence on census night, aged from 5 to 18, and they came variously from/were born in Hull, Sheffield, Scotland, Lancaster, Whitehaven, Ireland, Colne, Sicily (although this girl is actually British), St Bees, Cleator Moor, Royton, Brocklesby (Lincolnshire), Blackpool, Zanzibar, and India. There was resident kitchen maid, housemaid and schoolroom maid.

Between 1909 and 1911 the school was moved to The Crown Hotel in Grange, although the Grange and District Red Book for 1911 lists the school as still being in Kents Bank House. The three sisters were still running it along with their niece Annie. On the night of the 1911 census they had eight boarders aged between 6 and 12, six of which were female and two were male. By 1912 the school had moved again, to a house called Selwyn on Kents Bank Road. It seems likely that the location in the Crown Hotel was a temporary one between moves. The school is still in existence at Selwyn in 1916 but had apparently closed by 1920.

The Misses Brindle had gained much experience of running schools before they arrived in Kents Bank. The 1861 census describes Sarah J as a governess to the Hollinshed family at Billings Seare House, Troy Hill, Blackburn, Lancashire. However Anne was housekeeper to her father at the Queen's Arms in St Bees and Mary was running the Sea Cot Inn with her brother Thomas. By 1871 however the census records them running a boarding school for young ladies at Jenkin Hill, Cockermouth. Nine female boarders aged between 6 and 16 were recorded on census night. In 1881 their school was operating from Greta Hall in Keswick. They had twenty boarders on census night aged between 6 and 20 including two young boys aged 6 and 8, one of which was their nephew Henry. By 1891 they had moved again and were running a boarding school at Steelfield, Gosforth.. They had twenty one female boarders aged between 7 and 17. Sarah was not recorded on the census form at the school but is shown as a visitor to Thomas and Jane Mummey lodging house at Stanley Villa, Seascale. She was accompanied by her nephews and nieces Henry, John and Annie. John was the son of Thomas and Isabella Brindle who were living at the Sea Cote Hotel, St Bees in 1881. Thomas's occupation was hotel keeper, farmer of 150 acres and auctioneer. I have not been able to establish who Henry and Annie's parents were.

Abbots Hall Preparatory School

There is some disagreement about when the school was opened. According to David Mycock's book *Eighty Years Onward 1916-1996*, written to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the opening of Abbot Hall as the first Wesley Guild Guest House, in 1889 H Lowry purchased the estate and it became a boys' preparatory school. Swale, however states that the school was opened in 1895 by Mr R Weir M.A. and closed in 1903.

The 1891 census records Hubert Lowery, born in 1861 in Northleach, Gloucestershire as a schoolmaster living at Abbot Hall. He was married to Frances and they had a young baby named Maurice. Four scholars are recorded on census night aged between 10 and 12 and also in residence were a matron and four servants.

The 1901 census record Abbot Hall as unoccupied. The 1911 census shows Jonathan Uttley, his wife and a servant resident at Abbot Hall and he has no occupation (private means). It does not suggest that it was being run as a school at this date. Mr Uttley had apparently purchased the Hall in February 1903.

Witherslack

Sandford School

The school, which was in Witherslack Hall, was established in 1860 and was still existence in 1961 when a Mrs E H Browne B.A. was the Principal. At this time it is described as an 'Independent Boarding School for Girls'. An advert for the school in a guide to Grange published in 1961 invites enquiries *'from parents seeking a School, which under ideal conditions of environment, small classes and a happy atmosphere, offers a full education'*. The advert adds that Juniors (7 – 12) *'are prepared for Common Entrance to Public Schools (100% success since 1945) and for county Council Grammar Schools if required'*. The school did however offer education through to 18 with the opportunity take external examinations and these senior girls received a *'full domestic science training and, if required, secretarial training'*. The school had a stable of ponies and a resident, qualified riding mistress.

Why Grange and Kents Bank?

Why were so many schools established in Grange and Kents Bank during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries? There was probably a combination of factors:

1. The climate is often referred to by the schools and remarks by the local officer of health, which stressed the healthy climate, were often quoted.
2. The railway may also have been important to the boarding schools, allowing the students and their families an easy journey to the schools, especially from south Lancashire and West Yorkshire.
3. The existence of a significant number of large houses which could be converted relatively easily into schools.

Text on Cartmel, Grange and Witherslack schools
Text on Kents Bank Schools

Mike Hornung
Mike Hornung and Pat Rowland

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