

Bishop's Waltham Society



# **A brief history of Bishop's Waltham Grammar School 1679-1892**

**With references to some other  
schools in the town**

**With full acknowledgements to local historians**

**Peter R. Watkins and Barbara Biddell**

**BWS: Celebrating the Past • Enjoying the Present • Safeguarding the Future**

*Registered Charity Number 294433*

# Bishop's Waltham Grammar School 1679-1892

In June 2016 the Bishop's Waltham Society received a request from a Canadian, William Duke, about his possible great, great uncle Henry Duke. This request was based on the 1841 census that showed a Henry Duke at a 'Brook Street Boarding School' in Bishop's Waltham. Humphrey asked the question 'was this a charity school' because his research suggested that Henry may have been an orphan. We've tried to help...

*Much of the following information is extracted from two books about Bishop's Waltham - see footnotes for details - with additional research conducted by Tony Kippenberger.*

---

In 1679 the Bishop of Winchester, George Morley, founded a charity grammar school in Bishop's Waltham and endowed it with income from lands previously owned by Mottisfont Abbey. £10 was to be paid annually to the schoolmaster who was to be chosen by the rector and churchwardens<sup>1</sup>. He was "to teach children of the poorer sort to read English and to write without being paid by such children, their parents or guardians"<sup>2</sup>. Hence it was also referred to as the Free School. Five years later, in 1684 George Morley's nephew, Francis Morley, became Rector of St Peter's church in Bishop's Waltham.

The Bishop's initial endowment was then enhanced by Robert Kerby of Preshaw who, when he died in 1721, among other charitable bequests left £400 to purchase land whose rental would go toward educating boys from the town. £6 was enough to buy six boys an education at the Grammar School and if more rent was obtained, then £7 of it was to be used to send poor boys and girls, aged from five to 14, to other schools in the town. Once over that age the boys would go on to the Grammar School and be known as 'Kerby's scholars'. The bequest was invested in 34 acres of land on the north side of Curdrige Lane. It was a good investment that brought in around £16 a year.

Local historian Peter Watkins points out that between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries most towns in Hampshire and elsewhere acquired a grammar school, often endowed and established by a local worthy. Grammar schools founded before the 19<sup>th</sup> century were rarely selective academically. They were intended for anyone likely to enter a profession or to become a clerk who needed to read and write English and, probably, Latin. Until the 18<sup>th</sup> century Latin was the language of the professions and as such used by lawyers, universities, clergy, schoolmasters and professional men generally.

The grammar school was housed in a gallery in the north-west corner of St Peter's church - now known as the Upper Vestry. It was approached through a door and short flight of steep steps in the north-west buttress of the church.

A further bequest of £16 was made by Mary Bone in 1732 who left land in the deserted medieval village of Lomer, near Exton, with a charge of £20 on it for the Master of the Free School (Grammar school) to teach ten boys, chosen by the rector and bishop. These boys were "to be kept constantly at school... from eight to 15 years of age and to be instructed in writing, Latin, arithmetic and the church catechism."

---

<sup>1</sup> Barbara Biddell, Bishop's Waltham: A history. Phillimore 2002. ISBN 1 86077 235 8

<sup>2</sup> Peter Watkins, Bishop's Waltham: Parish, Town and Church. Swanmore Books, 2007. ISBN 978-0-9541566-2-6

From the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Bishop's Waltham suffered from the same rampant pluralism and non-residency of the clergy that had become commonplace in the Church of England at the time. James Cutler, Rector of Droxford, was also appointed Rector of Bishop's Waltham in 1753. However, he chose to continue living in Droxford Rectory and remained there until his death in 1782. His successor, Dr Henry Ford, was made Principal of Magdalene Hall and Professor of Arabic at Oxford University and was thus rarely, if ever, seen in Bishop's Waltham thereafter.

Peter Watkins makes reference, at a much later date (1859), to a School House "adjoining the church" with room for 40 boarders and two acres of land<sup>3</sup>. There is in fact a great deal of graffiti around the north window of the chancel that dates roughly from 1770 to 1810.

In the 1780s there were three private schools in Bishop's Waltham. William Jennings, bookseller and stationer, ran a boarding school 'for young gentlemen'. Another private school for boys was run by the curate, the Revd Charles Walters, who was also the headmaster of the Grammar School. There was a school for girls at Hope House in St Peter's Street (then Church Lane) called The Bishop's Waltham School for Young Ladies, run by Jemima Jones.

In 1793 a Hampshire Directory stated that "the place [Bishop's Waltham] may be called a little university as it has ever been famous for its schools; among them one for female education has been particularly successful". It is worth noting that no qualifications were needed to open a school, nor was there any regulation. Indeed the last years of the 18<sup>th</sup> century saw a huge upsurge in private day and boarding schools and academies run by anyone who fancied starting one. In 1794 the Bishop of Winchester, Brownlow North (brother of Prime Minister Lord North), made his brother-in-law, Edmund Poulter, Rector of Bishop's Waltham. He was already Rector at Meonstoke and was subsequently also made Rector of Calbourne on the Isle of Wight, of Buriton and Petersfield, as well as Rector of Alton with its associated parishes of Selborne, Binstead and Kingley.

As Peter Watkins points out, 'by now the people of Bishop's Waltham can scarcely have expected their rector to reside and in this their next incumbent did not disappoint.' Edward Salter was Rector of Stratfield Turgis (in north-east Hampshire) in 1775 and added nearby Stratfield Saye in 1795 - where he chose to live. He was then made Rector in Bishop's Waltham, as well, in 1798. He subsequently became a prebendary at York cathedral and a canon of Winchester, which meant that his visits to Bishop's Waltham were rare indeed.

In 1733 the erection of a 'Faculty Gallery' was permitted by the then Bishop of Winchester, Richard Willis (1723-34). This was built next to the Upper Vestry against the west wall of the church. It was erected at the expense of five parishioners who were "desirous to have seat room in the church where to sit together". Each of the five would have their own pew and there would be three more - without locks - for the singers. These seats are apparently still the property of the owners of: Northbrook House, Southbrook House, St George's House, Mill House and a house in Basingwell Street (now divided into three).

The very significant amount of carved graffiti in some of these pews suggests their use by local children who could write. Almost certainly the grammar school boys. The earliest known pew graffiti mark is dated 1739.

It was Poulter's appointment to prebendary (a type of canon) of Winchester Cathedral that secured him a stately house at No 1, The Close (below).

Meonstoke historian, Frances Collins describes Edmund Poulter: "It seems that he and his wife aroused feelings of strong dislike, but perhaps that is just a reflection of the general opinion of the Norths... he was a place seeker with both eyes on every chance of promotion. ... From No 1 The Close with periods of residence in his various rectories, he entertained, hunted, shot, played cricket, and sat on the Bench (where he sometimes fell asleep) and cultivated the acquaintance of the County."



<sup>3</sup> P92 in Peter Watkins, Bishop's Waltham: Parish, Town and Church. Swanmore Books, 2007. ISBN 978-0-9541566-2-6

As a result of this non-residence, it had become customary for the rector to appoint the curate as headmaster of the Grammar School and for the curate to then choose the schoolmaster. The schoolmaster received a stipend of £20, but the curates - as headmasters - became used to paying themselves £12 a year. A significant sum to pay yourself to supervise one schoolmaster, but no doubt a means to supplement the paltry annual salary they received from their absentee rectors, for whom they undertook all the work of the parish.

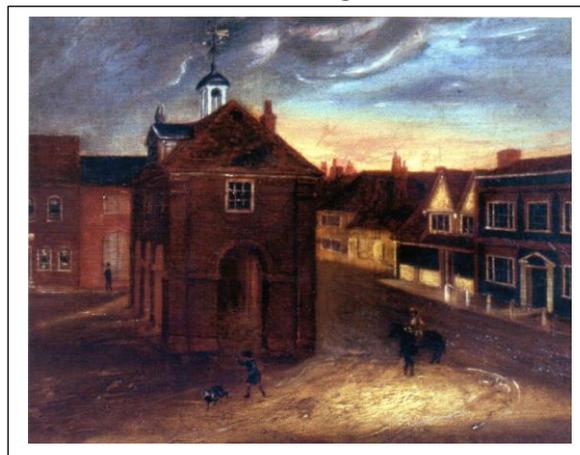
Despite the various rectors' absences, it appears that the Bishop's Waltham Grammar School reached its zenith in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Trade directories of the time describe the school as being "in a very prosperous state, and conducted with great propriety". In c1781 the Revd Charles Walters became headmaster and he taught the boys Latin whilst the schoolmaster taught them English. Three years later, in 1784, Walters became curate of St Peter's church and remained headmaster of the grammar school until his death in 1811. For many years he was assisted at the grammar school by his brother the Revd John Vodin Walters, who was curate at Meonstoke church. According to the local papers at the time, Charles Walter's funeral was attended by 1,700 people!

However, as already mentioned above, he also managed to run a private school in the town which advertised in *The Hampshire Chronicle* as a "boarding school for young gentlemen".

In 1802 the Revd James Ogle became Rector of St Peter's and actually took up residence at the rectory. Unusually for his time, Ogle thought education was necessary for all children in the parish. Even the radical William Cobbett (who lived in nearby Botley and sent his two eldest children to the grammar school) wondered if it was achievable or even desirable - sharing a common belief that it was better for the poorer classes to learn a trade. However new impetus was given to the idea when, in 1811, the Church of England founded the National Society for Promoting Religious Education to provide schools for poor children. The aim was to found a church school in every parish and by 1851 (still 20 years before the state took any responsibility for education) there were 12,000 National Schools across England and Wales.

In Bishop's Waltham, whilst the grammar school provided education for at least some poor boys, there was no school that catered for girls from a poor family. So, in 1816 the Revd James Ogle rented the room above the Market House (right) in George's Square and opened a girl's school there. Six years later, in 1822, he founded a new Boy's National School, built in the south-east corner of the churchyard - about two hundred yards from the church. It was financed by the Rector and by the boys who brought their 'school pence' - a penny a week. This was followed shortly by a new Girl's National School a mile or so away in Newtown based on the same principles. By 1870 the girls had joined the boys in the churchyard (see red square on map)

Also in 1822 Charles Walter II (who had succeeded his father in 1811), resigned the headship of the grammar school, although he stayed on as curate until he became Rector of Bramdean in 1831. He was succeeded as headmaster by Thomas Scard who had graduated from Magdalen Hall in Oxford in 1819 and became Master of Bishop's Waltham Grammar School before he was ordained a year later in 1823.



Also in 1823 the Charity Commissioners opened an enquiry into the running of the Grammar School and the curate, the Revd Charles Walters II, confirmed that the grammar school still used the Upper Vestry in St Peter's church. The school room was on the right hand side of the staircase at the western end of the church, but access to it was through the school-room door in the church's north-west buttress. The Charity Commissioners found a number of matters that concerned them. The boys in the school were not being taught Latin (despite the conditions imposed by Mary Bone's bequest) because "no one had asked for it". It was noted however that Charles Walters, and - as already mentioned - his father before him, had run a private boarding school in the town that offered a complete classical education (that would necessarily have included Latin). It also noted that the Kerby bequest of £7 had never been used to educate poor boys and girls and had instead been handed out to the poor.

'Pigot's Directory of Hampshire 1823-24' shows that Bishop's Waltham had four 'Academies'. Jennings James, no doubt the son of William Jennings (see above), who was running a school offering 'classical and commercial boarding'. Miss Rosewell was running a 'ladies boarding school' (at Hope House? - see below) and the Revd Charles Walters II was offering an academy at 'private lodgings'. Again presumably a continuation of his father's private school.

Thomas Scard is named as running an 'academy' that offered 'classical boarding'. Note the absence of the word 'commercial' which William Jennings used to describe his offering. Since Thomas Scard has only been headmaster of the grammar school for a year it seems likely that this was the Grammar School, with boarding.

An invoice for a Master James Ridge for 'Board and Classical Tuition' at the Grammar School under Thomas Scard, including the cost of books, gloves and shoemaker's and tailor's costs is in Bishop's Waltham Museum. James Ridge does not appear at the school in the 1841-51-61 censuses, so this invoice almost certainly predates 1841. The Ridge family lived at nearby Preshaw, at the old manor house.

Just a few years later in 1830 Pigot's Directory lists more 'academies and schools'. They are:

Sarah Fitz-Adderley, ladies' boarding, Basingwell Street

FREE SCHOOL, Basingwell Street,  
John Robert Knight, master

Charles C Robinson, gent's boarding, Northbrook road

Maria Rosewell, ladies' boarding, Church Lane (now St Peter's St)

Rev. Thomas Scard, gent's boarding, Brook Street

**BISHOP'S WALTHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL.**

*Master James Ridge in account with Thomas Scard.*

---

For	Years Board and Classical Tuition of	L 10
Master	<i>from Sept 6<sup>th</sup> till Easter</i>	70-10
Entrance		
Washing		15
School	<i>2 Writing Bks 4 Copies Bible &amp;c</i>	11 2
	<i>Explanation of Ch. Catechism &amp; Prayer Bk</i>	5
	<i>Ch. History Book and Latin Professor</i>	6
Books.		
Weekly Allowance	<i>and Hair Cutting</i>	5 1
Bills inclosed.	Draper's <i>Gloves</i>	1 3
	Shoemaker's	6 6
	Tailor's	5 4 3
	Surgeon's	
	Carriage of Parcels } Letters &c. }	
	Dancing	
	Drawing	
		13 9 7

Bills to be punctually discharged on the return of the Pupils after each Vacation, and a Quarter's notice will be expected before a Removal.

What is significant about this list is that the only school with an actual name is FREE SCHOOL, and that strongly suggests that this was the endowed grammar school with John Knight as its master (not headmaster). It would seem that Thomas Scard has followed the well-worn path of the Walters and was running his own private boarding school in Brook Street whilst remaining headmaster of the grammar school which was now based in Basingwell Street.

An encyclopaedia of 1835<sup>4</sup> states: “There is an endowed charity school in the town founded by Bishop Morley... and now provides instructions for 36 boys. There are also two national schools in the town, containing together eighty boys and as many girls.”

Significantly, Pigot’s Directory for the same year confirms that the Free Grammar School was indeed in Basingwell Street, with a new master, James Knight - probably a son or relative of John Knight. Meanwhile Thomas Scard ran his private boarding school, apparently called the Classical Academy, in Brook Street<sup>5</sup>.

This clearly became very successful because by the time of the 1841 census Thomas and his wife Eliza (nee Veck) had no less than 52 male boarders at what was by then called ‘Brook Street Boarding School’. Most were between the age of 11 and 15 although Ivan Fernandez was 17 while Henry Simmons was only seven. It is interesting to note that around half the boarders are children born outside Hampshire. Sadly, unlike the 1851 census, their father’s professions are not detailed.

This is the school that Henry Duke attended (as shown on the 1841 census) and it does not appear to be a Free or charity school. Indeed among Henry’s fellow pupils are Thomas and Edward Clark - the children of two of the town’s richest merchants. It would seem that the pupils at the Brook Street School attended church and sat in the Faculty Gallery (see page 3). Evidence for this is the large amount of carved graffiti on the Faculty Gallery pews. Including the signatures of Henry Duke and his fellow pupil Edward Clark.



<sup>4</sup> The Penny Cyclopædia of The Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, Volume 4 by George Long, 1835, <https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=NUGyrSuohw4C&pg=PA458&lpg=PA458&dq=bishops+waltham+free+grammar+school&source=bl&ots=Z86GBLUSmp&sig=iURbiGuzEeBEmkDKc7aoNm-HX8c&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj6zPLAntTRAhVMOMAKHQ1uCOUQ6AEINjAG#v=onepage&q=bishops%20waltham%20free%20grammar%20school&f=false>

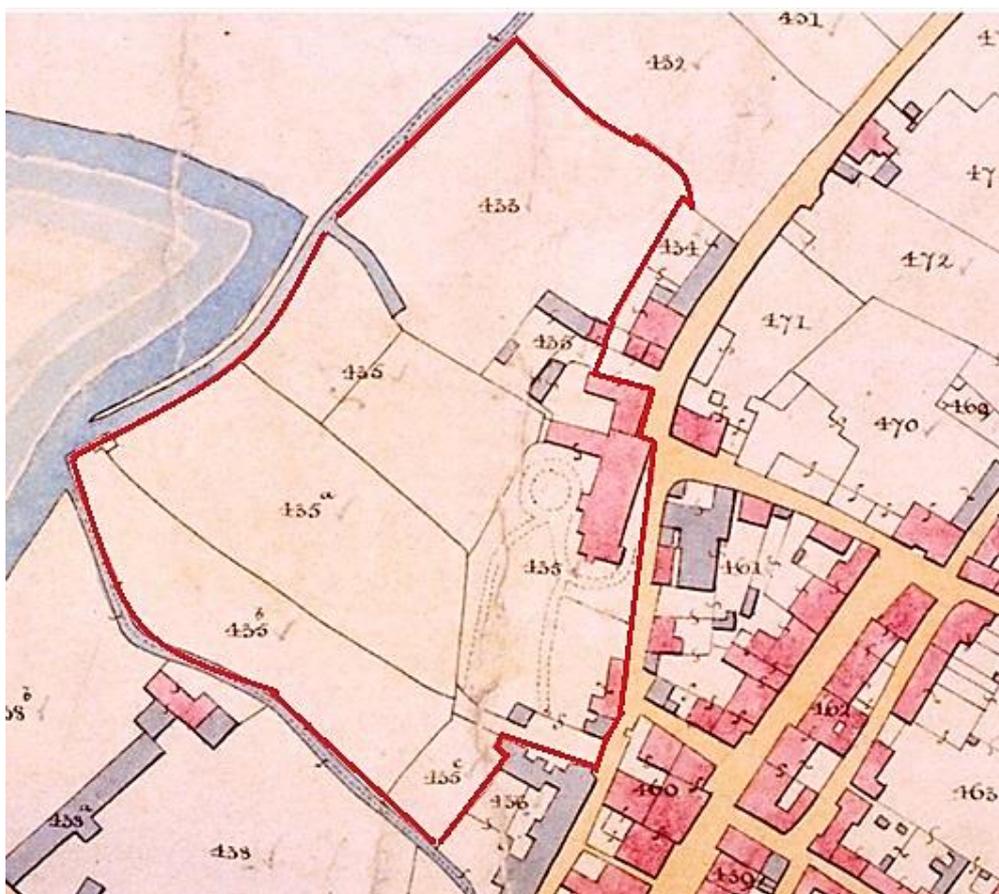
<sup>5</sup> Barbara Biddell, page127



Young Henry Duke may also have drawn his name on a pew in the south aisle of St Peter's (see left). But it is more likely that this was a more recent piece of graffiti because the family of the Abbey Mill owner, James Duke, moved to the town and raised a family in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The writing style is also later and *sans serif*.

Perhaps surprisingly, in the 1841 census, Thomas Scard gave his occupation as 'clerk' at the Brook Street School rather than headmaster - but maybe this was a way to explain his different status in the two schools. Also, by the 1841 census there is no sign of a grammar school in Basingwell Street (though there was now a girl's school called Frogmore School in Northbrook Lane (subsequently known as Middlebrook House in Lower Lane)). Perhaps this is the point at which, with a very successful boarding school being run by Scard, the grammar school ceased taking boarders.

The coincidence of the 1841 census and the Bishop's Waltham tithe map of the same year enables us to locate the properties of Richard Scard and his wife Eliza. They lived in Southbrook House close to the junction of Brook Street and French Street (now Bank Street). The tithe map shows that they owned a large house with three different entrances for carriages with the turning circle behind the house, large service quarters and, no doubt a building to house the boarders. They also owned land on the other side of the Bishop's pond. The boundaries are marked red on the map below. Buildings marked pink were inhabited, those marked grey were utilitarian (e.g. stables, barns, workshops).



Judging by the typical layout of large houses of this period, the main house would have been entered from the rear straight off the turning circle for carriages. At the north end of the main residence the lengthy extension to the west would have been the service

quarters - kitchen, pantry, larder etc. - whilst the dog-leg building at the north, separated by a clear line, was most probably an extension that housed the boarding school. Dormitories for 50+ boarders would have taken up some space.

However, life moved on for Revd. Thomas Scard. A Curate Licence was issued on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1843 when he officially assumed the Curateship of Durley and subsequently moved to Durley Lodge - as shown by the 1851 census. It was while he was in this role that he was appointed to a royal household as 'Chaplain' (see box right). This patronage was however brief and there is no evidence that he continued in a teaching or headmaster role, which may account for financial problems that arose (see box below). However by 1871 he was Rector at Durley.

In 1874 a crisis for the Grammar School was reached when the Rector, William Brock, who had served for more than 40 years, couldn't find a suitable candidate to act as curate and headmaster. In a rather high-handed fashion he simply shut the school down. The trustees of the Mary Bone charity were duly dismayed by this action and requested another enquiry by the Charity Commissioners.

This enquiry was held in 1875. Amongst the witnesses was the Revd W. Allen, a former master and curate, who had served on the committee of the local Board of Health in 1848. He declared that in his time the school was very successful "it was a high class grammar school". He had received £15 as salary and had educated three boys for free (many fewer than stipulated).

In defence of his action (in shutting the school), William Brock stated that it should have been a school for boys of the poorer sort, but instead 'flourishing tradesmen have received what the poor ought to have". However, another witness, Mr Atherley J.P., thought that the school was needed not so much amongst the poorer classes - who were receiving their education at the nearby National Schools - but by "a class slightly above, small tradesmen, small farmers and their widows".

William Brock returned to his original refrain by stating that the entry conditions had been abused because at least two-thirds of the pupils were "children of parents who ought to have been above indebtedness to these bequests". Adding that: "I have always been of the opinion that this school could never succeed as long as there was no house for a master's residence and no schoolroom for the boys".

The Charity Commissioner's conclusion was that premises must be found. To do so they arranged that other rents should be diverted and the local alms-houses (founded in

On the 8th January 1849 Thomas Scard was appointed by the Duke of Cambridge to be one of his chaplains, this notice appearing in the *London Gazette*;

'Cambridge House 6th January 1849. The Duke of Cambridge has been pleased to appoint Reverend Thomas Scard M.A. to be one of His Royal Highness' Chaplains.'

This appointment would have been short-lived because Prince Adolphus, 1st Duke of Cambridge, the 10th child and 7th son of George III and Queen Charlotte died in 1850. The Scard family tree shows that Thomas's brother Edward had graduated as a surgeon from Oxford in 1827. He also held a position, by appointment, to the Duke of Cambridge but as "Household Surgeon." Sadly Edward died in the same year as his brother's appointment in 1849.

The Census of 1851 shows Thomas Scard and his wife living in Durley Lodge as curate. He is 55, she is 58 and they have Thomas's deceased brother, Edward's daughter Eliza - aged 18 - living with them.

But in 1857 Thomas Scard appears to have a financial problem. He appears in the *London Gazette* surrendering his Real Estates to various Creditors:

Published 21st July 1857; Creditors: Thomas Clark , Merchant of Bishop's Waltham [the leading merchant in Bishop's Waltham at the time] & Robert Hash Stares, Land Surveyor of Duxford [Droxford] and several others. An agreement had been reached and signed 1st July 1857 whereby Thomas issued Covenant that all his Lands and Estates be held in Trust until all debts were paid at annual instalments of £100.

1st November 1862, amongst the papers of Solicitors Longcroft, Lewis and Barwick of Havant, there is a release relating to the payment of the debts by Reverend Thomas Scard. This suggests that his earlier debts were less than £500 plus accrued interest.

Thomas Scard died in in February 1893, aged 77, leaving different bequests of several hundreds of pounds. The total value of his estate was judged as 'less than £7,000'. A great deal of money for that period.

1609 in Little Shore Lane<sup>6</sup>) repaired and sold off, all in order to pay for a new building. In the meantime premises could be rented and the curriculum was widened to include English, mathematics, history, geography, book-keeping, Latin or French (at two guineas extra), drawing and singing. The entrance fee was to be ten shillings with fees of £2-3 a year. Twelve boys were to receive free instruction, eight chosen by competition and four by nomination. The master's stipend was to be £65 a year and he was to live in an official residence.

An early attempt to acquire the Royal Albert Infirmary, which had been started in 1864 but remained unfinished and unoccupied, foundered. Its builder, Sir Arthur Keeps, had died in March 1875 and while subscribers to the Infirmary had written to the Charity Commissioner's in October saying that they thought its use as a Grammar School was a fitting use of the building, their letter went unanswered before Keeps' estate was auctioned later that month. The auctioneer, Richard Austin, determined that since Sir Arthur had given land for the building of the Infirmary it must be regarded as part of his estate which was being sold off to pay for the building and the bills still owed to creditors. This was badly received but nothing could be done.

As a result, the Grammar School leased a house in Brook Street in 1875/6. Ironically or perhaps naturally this appears to have been the part of Southbrook house used by Thomas Scard for his boarding school decades earlier.

One final effort to find a permanent home - at Lee's Farm at the bottom of Free Street - came to nought. According to Peter Watkins, the school closed in the early 1880s though Barbara Biddell says that technical classes were being held at the Old Grammar School at one penny a lesson as late as 1892. In 1896 the Charity Commissioners combined its endowments with the Charities for the Poor and Needy and build the Educational Institute at the east end of Bank Street at a cost of £1,800.

Thus ended Bishop's Waltham (Free) Grammar School after its 217 years of existence. The building that had been rented in Brook Street was known for another 70 years as the 'Old Grammar School' and was, in a very dilapidated state, itself demolished in 1962 to make way for what is now Lower Lane Car Park.



Portland Square looking towards Bank Street in 1962.  
The remains of 'The Old Grammar School' are shown on the right shortly before demolition for Lower Lane Car Park.

---

<sup>6</sup> Barbara Biddell, page 123