



# 250 YEARS ON

To commemorate the  
Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary  
of the Trust Deed by which

WILLIAM PALMER

endowed in 1706 a School in

GRAYS THURROCK

The Plinistow Press (T.U.), New Plinistow Road, E.15

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Chairman of the Governors 1921-31

Author of *William Palmer and his School*.

## PREFACE

NO one investigating the life of William Palmer or the story of his School can fail to acknowledge the great debt owed to the late Herbert E. Brooks whose book "William Palmer and his School" remains an essential and invaluable source book for its history. I have had the additional privilege of reading the voluminous files of notes and correspondence which he gave to the Thurrock Public Library, admiring not only the prodigious labour he expended on his self-imposed task but the single-minded and purposeful devotion with which he pursued his search to a successful outcome. Frustrated often, he was never dismayed, and so extensive was the range of his enquiries that he left few obvious sources to be tapped by his successors.

Most of the additional information that has been garnered has come from the Essex Record Office, and I acknowledge with gratitude the kindness of the County Archivist, Mr. F. G. Emmison, and his staff for the facilities they have placed at my disposal, and for much helpful advice. For their generous assistance, I am further indebted to the Chief Librarian of the Thurrock Public Libraries, Mr. D. A. Wickham, and his staff; to the Chief Librarians of the Leyton and West Ham Public Libraries; to the Legal Secretary of the National Society; to the Vicar of Grays, Rev. K. A. Vine, and Mr. E. L. Bone, Churchwarden and lately one of the sequestrators of the living of Stifford for access to Parish Records; and to Mrs. H. W. Turner of Bristol. The proprietors of the "Times" gladly gave permission for the use of the extracts quoted by Lord Strang.

It would be impossible to mention by name all who have helped in the production of this volume, but I am most grateful to the Foundation Governors who made it possible, to the Headmaster, Mr. F. J. Jordan and the Headmistress, Miss A. Leworthy for constant encouragement, to Miss W. M. Braimbridge of the Girls' School, and to the contributors who cheerfully gave their services out of devoted loyalty to the Schools. It is a particular pleasure to have an essay from the pen of Mr. W. H. Edwards for whom 1956 will mark the completion of 50 years' continuous service to the School—surely a unique record. Miss V. M. Smith kindly did the line-drawing of the Girls' School; the remainder of the drawings and the maps are the work of D. A. Mann, a pupil of the Boys' School. The printing has been undertaken by a firm of which an Old Boy, Mr. G. F. W. Ramsey, is proprietor.

Lord Strang, referring to the essays which, as a schoolboy, he had to write annually on William Palmer, says that "they served to remind us who we were". If this little volume fulfils the same purpose and helps to explain our pride in our School, then its production will have been very worth while.

J.R.H.

# WILLIAM PALMER

by J. R. HAYSTON, M.A.

of the Staff of Palmer's School, Grays.

IF we know disappointingly little about the personality of William Palmer, we can find some sober satisfaction in the reflection that only within the last thirty years has his identity been definitely established. The late Mr. Herbert Brooks,<sup>1</sup> the principal architect of this success-story, once wrote to a friend of " 'Ole Bill, as my family have christened the Founder of our School," adding, "there have been so many William Palmers turning up in the search that some distinctive title had to be invented". The seventeenth century Palmers were indeed legion. The name was known at the national level, where Sir Geoffrey Palmer was Attorney-General to Charles II and Barbara Palmer, more widely known as Lady Castlemaine, the most notorious lady in the land; at the County level where two Palmer families are noted in the Visitation of Essex in 1634; and even more tantalisingly at the local level where a Robert Palmer was Vicar of Grays and, early in the following century, a William Palmer was Churchwarden of Stifford. And the investigation had to contend with the fact that Morant the great Essex historian, whose work is the obvious starting-point for the search, laid a false trail in postulating the existence of two William Palmers, apparently based on the record of two marriages, whereas in fact the one relevant William Palmer married twice.

The family from which our William sprang, originated at Evington in Leicestershire. His greatgrandfather, Henry, may have been the first to seek his fortune in London; his grandfather, also William, certainly did so, was a freeman of the Haberdashers' Company and married "Jone da. of Richard Turke of London". According to the Visitation of London, 1633, he had then three surviving children of whom only the second, Edward, need concern us here, for he is the father of our Founder.

Edward describes himself as "Merchant". The nature of his business we know not, but there is little doubt that he prospered exceedingly, for he aspired to, and won the hand of Anne, daughter of Sir Hugh Hammersley, Lord Mayor of London, whom he married in April, 1626 in the church of St. Andrew Undershaft in the year of Sir Hugh's Mayoralty; and some ten years later he had invested about £8,000 in the purchase of the "Manor of Thurrocke

1. William Palmer and his School, by H. E. Brooks.



otherwise Thorocke Gray otherwise Grayes Thorocke" thus beginning the Palmer connection with Grays. During at least part of his married life, Edward Palmer lived in the Parish of St. Katherine Coleman, Fenchurch St.; and the baptismal Registers of the Church (now lodged in the Church of St. Olave, Hart Street) give us our first introduction to William Palmer in these terms:—

1633. April 5. William Palmer.

Edward.

Edward did not survive long to enjoy the fruits of his property investments for the Burial Register of the same church records

1638. Nov. 17. Mr. Edward Palmer

His son and heir, William, was then a minor of 5 years of age and became a ward of the Court of Wards and Liveries.

Of William's childhood and upbringing we know nothing, save that Edward in his will made provision for the education of his children "in that frugal and decent manner that their mother shall think fit" and to whom, he adds later, "I am assured she will be a loving and careful mother and true accomptant". Anne did not long remain a widow, for she married the "loving friend, Mr. John Bentall" (whom Edward had named as joint executor, with his wife, of his will) probably in the year 1642 since their first child, Richard, was baptised in the Church of St. Katherine Coleman, London on 13th August 1643. Anne, during her widowhood, lived in Fenchurch Street, London; and here she lived after her marriage, though it is impossible to say whether or not it was in the same house. It seems reasonable to suppose that William, to the time of his own marriage, lived here also with his mother and stepfather, and probably joined in the business enterprises of John Bentall, since the next reference to him occurs in a lease of 24 September, 1653<sup>2</sup> whereby "John Bentall of London Marchannte and William Palmer of London Marchannte" let a house and lands in Grays to Ezekiel Sparkes, a yeoman. The income for the first half-year was to be paid to John Bentall; thereafter to William Palmer. For in 1654 William came of age and entered fully into his inheritance.

Let us first examine his inheritance in so far as it affects our locality. The sale of the Manor of Grays Thurrock by Edward Kighley to Edward Palmer is recorded in two "fines" as under:

Feet of Fines March 13 Chas. I (1637)

Fine made at Westminster on the morrow of All Souls 13 Chas. I between Edward Palmer gent., plaintiff, and Edward Kighley Esq. and Isabella his wife, deforciant, of the Manor of Thurrocke otherwise Thorocke Gray otherwise Grayes Thorocke with appurtenances, and of 12 messuages 12 gardens 500 acres of land 20 acres of meadow 20 acres of pasture 120 acres of wood 180 acres of marsh, common of pasture for all beasts, free warren,

fairs, markets, marts and passages over the water of the Thames, with appurtenances, in Thurrocke otherwise Thorocke Gray otherwise Grays Thorocke.

*Fees of Fines Trin. 14 Chas I (1638).*

Fine made between Edward Palmer, plaintiff, and Edward Kighley Esq. and Isabel, his wife, defendants, of 26 acres of pasture 25 acres of marsh, 35s. rent, free warren, fairs, marts, markets, with appurtenances in Thurrocke . . .

If this estate cannot be accurately delineated its approximate bounds can be defined. On the south side, it abutted on to the river Thames; on the west, it was bounded by Hogg Lane and an imaginary extension of it southward, across the West Thurrock highway, to the river. The present boundary between Grays and Little Thurrock was its approximate eastern limit, and on the north, the present Long Lane. The principal arable lands lay in the Warren lands of 90 acres, the later Lodge Farm, between the present Lodge Lane and Long Lane; and in four great fields of 128 acres, bounded on the north by Lodge Lane and on the west by Hogg Lane, severally known as Dyes Field, Small Profits, Round Bush Field and the Fourteen Acres. To the east of these fields as far as Socketts Heath and extending south to the Grays-Chadwell highway lay 100 acres of woodland, known as Grays Wood, Lady Spring and Sacoeks. On the south of this highway, in the angle formed by the present Bridge Road and Orsett Hill lay the Manor House in its 11 acres of demesne. The highway continued towards the "town" of Grays bounded on the north by the fields known as the Crofts, the Slade, and Bramble Hills, and on the south by Boorefield and Townefield; and at the Three-Want Way—the junction of this route with the highway leading to West Thurrock (London Road) and that leading to the Town (High Street) stood the Pound, and near it the Smith's Forge; from the Pound, the way led past the church to the "town" and the wharf, and to the great stretch of marshes and saltings to East and West.

It would be idle to go into much detail about the tenements enumerated in the "fines" but one or two may be mentioned. The ferry house near the wharf was known as the sign of the Galley in 1657 but two years later was called the "Three Cupps" and in the next century, the "Three Cupps and Hoy". The "Rose and Crowne" was described in 1654 as a "victualling house" and lay between the "house of Sir George Whitmore Knight" on the north side and the house occupied by Symon Walker on the south. The "Boarded House" was also known as the "Anchor and Hope" and was claimed in the Parochial Inquisition of 1650 as a donative of the Church, improperly detained. The mention here of the house of Sir George Whitmore (who owned the Grays Manor west of Hogg Lane) reminds us that the tenements noted in the

"fines" were not the only ones in Grays. Edward Kighley kept his accounts from 1634-1638 in a rent book<sup>3</sup> which has survived. It details, in addition to the rents, the tally of quitrents due; and the list includes the "George", the "White Hart", Sherfields Farm and some unnamed houses, all apparently within the boundary of the Manor. Their occupants would, like the tenants, owe suit to the Court of the Manor, but no records of the Court survive for the 17th century, though they are complete from 1715 to 1815.

One field, the Slade, merits a special mention. It abutted south upon the highway in the vicinity of the present Orsett Hill and stretched northward, with its western boundary probably along the line of the present Dell Road.

In a lease<sup>4</sup> of the Manor House and nearly 400 acres of land in 1655 to John Lambert (who was also lessee of the market and joint lessee of the parsonage of Grays Thurrock and must thus have been a very influential inhabitant) the Slade is described as a parcel of arable land of 14 acres. But in 1688 Palmer leased<sup>5</sup> to John Fookes of Greenwich "2 limekilns which are now or soon shall be set up fit to work in the Slade . . . and one limehouse . . . with the liberty to dig as much chalk . . . as he . . . shall burn in the said two kilns" and a second lease<sup>6</sup> in 1693 refers to "the cliff or pitt of chalk now open lying and being in a certain close called . . . the Slade . . . and 2 limekilns and a lime house". Thus in Palmer's day and on Palmer's land was the first chalk pit opened on the Grays Hall Manor, and the lime-burning industry started. Fookes was incidentally obliged to carry 20 loads of great chalk a year to be stowed in workmanlike manner at the Seawalls the maintenance of which must have been a heavy responsibility on the Lord of the Manor.

With the Lordship went the right to hold "fairs, marts, markets". This was an ancient right, first granted in the reign of Henry III to Richard de Grey, and was a valuable manorial perquisite, for the Lord had the right to collect tolls on goods bought and sold, or when a stall was set up, or when the ground was broken to erect a post; and he received all the profits from the Court of Pye-Powder, a court of summary jurisdiction to settle disputes between people using the market. Successive owners of the Manor took good care to secure confirmation of their rights. Thomas Kighley did so in 1616 and Edward Kighley in 1638. William Palmer in 1685<sup>6</sup> received licence to hold "two fairs in the manor of Thurrock Gray on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in the week of Pentecost and a fair upon the sixth of October for six days". No doubt Whit Monday in particular was a gala day in Grays. Edward Kighley collected his own market tolls and recorded them in his Rent Book, so that he has left us an interesting

3 E.R.O. D.D.B. 121  
4 E.R.O. D.D.B. 1453

5 E.R.O. D.D.B. 1480  
6 Patent Roll 1 Jas. II

glimpse of Grays Market. Here, for example, is the record "of all my market rents and profits from our Alady day 1636 to Michaelmas 1636".

To R(eceive) of Thomas Camber for my half years rent for	his shop in the Market	xxvs
" John Foster	" "	xxvs
" Henry Moodye	" "	xxs
" Anthony Poulter	" "	xxs
" Thomas Stephens	" "	xxs
" Moore the butcher	" "	xijs
" Andrewes for his quarters rent for his shop		vs
" Squire the knacker for his half years rent	for his shop in the Market	vjs viijd
" King the knacker	" "	vjs viijd
" The Barber	" "	vijjs
" The Sadler for my half years rent for	his shop in the market	vijjs
" The Turner	" "	vijjs
" The nayle woman	" "	vijjs
" The salt man for his half years rent for	his salt bin	iijs
" Burnett for his half years standing in the	market to sell mault and otmell	iijs
" Scarbrough	" "	iijs
R. for towle Corne this half yeare		ij <sup>l</sup> ixs vijd
R. for the profit of my market for this half year for stalls	and the butter weomen	xv <sup>l</sup> xid <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
	Some ye	xxvj <sup>l</sup> xijs xid <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>

William Palmer preferred to lease his market rights: first, in 1655,<sup>7</sup> to John Lambert, a yeoman of Grays Thurrock (who was indicted at Quarter Sessions in 1668 for not providing a bushel signed by the King's standard); then in 1679<sup>7</sup> to John Crofts "inholder" of Grays Thurrock, and finally to John Crofts, shopkeeper of Grays Thurrock, probably son of the previous lessee, in 1703.<sup>7</sup> They brought him an income of £50 a year, and a couple of fat capons at Christmas. Lambert was given permission to enlarge the market place "in length outright twenty & 5 yards and in breadth the wideness of the market at this present" and was under the obligation to do extensive repairs to the market house, pulling down the old building to the lower floor "and build the same again substantially and new board the lower & upper parte thereof three foot from the ground". One clause in these leases suggests the site of the market for both Lambert and Crofts had to "make a good and sufficient fence or pale to stop and prevent the passage betwixt the Bull yard and the Market next to the Market field" for the "Bull" (though undoubtedly a reconstruct-

<sup>7</sup> E.R.O. D/DB T483

ed building) still stands in the old High Street. A century later, in 1770, the Jury of the Court Leet<sup>8</sup> presented "that there has been from time immemorial a Market House in Grays now fallen down and we humbly beg the Lord of the Manor to rebuild it". James Theobald complied, and in 1774, the Jury returned thanks that "the Lord of this Manor hath last year erected at a considerable expense an handsome and commodious Market House and Court Room . . . for the benefit of the Market Inhabitants and other persons resorting to and trading in the Town of Grays". This building stood until 1852, set back a little from the old High Street in a position that would be bounded on the south side by the present West Street; behind it was the open market space which also contained the cage and the stocks, with the yard of the Bull Inn on the north side of it. The Fairs, naturally, required more space, and Palmer in leasing, among other properties, the manorial lands to the west of the High Street in 1638 to Thomas Burchfield," yeoman, reserved "twice in every year . . . the use of the field behind the Market place or the use of the West Salting for to keep the fairs . . . at the will and pleasure of the said William Palmer".

The principal "highway" to and from Grays in Palmer's day was, of course, the river; the prosperity of the town and its market depended on it, and the right to provide a ferry service and to have the sole landing place where wharfage dues could be collected was a valuable manorial asset. William Palmer was, as the "Fines" record, entitled to "passages over the waters of the Thames" and he seems to have been fully alive to their importance. In fact, one of his first ventures in Grays was to enter into an agreement with Thomas Burren and Moses Jones of St Leonard, Bromley, in Middlesex for the construction of "one framed wharfe at Graies Thorocke . . . upon the place where the ancient wharfe formerly was". The Articles of Agreement<sup>9</sup> are printed in the Appendix. He was equally concerned for the wharf and landing place in the final disposal of his estates. In the Trust Deed of 1706, the overplus of the rents reserved for finishing the Schoolhouse were to be applied "for the raising of a causeway on the backside of the storehouse in Grays Thurrock, the said causeway to be made two foot high with earth and six foot wide and covered with gravel and fenced with posts" and the Trustees were to pay an annual sum of 20/- to the tenant of the Wharf and Ferry-house on trust that he lay out so much as was necessary for repairing the Causeway and "the remainder . . . in carrying of earth and laying the same on that part of the Salting Ground lying behind the wharfe . . . which is most wett and poachy". In his will, three years later, he provided an annuity of £25 a year for 99 years "in the first place for provid-

8. E.R.O. D.D.1 deposited with the Essex Record Office by Mr. L. A. D. Shiner on behalf of his father.

9. E.R.O. D.D.1 T475. 10. E.R.O. D.D.1 T478

ing and laying one hundred loads of earth chalk or chalk rubbish and spreading the same on the Saltings on the east side of the said storehouse for raising the said Saltings until the same shall be sufficiently raised and in the next place for buying timber pyles and boards for the necessary reparation of the said wharfe, bridge, etc. . . ."

William Palmer followed the usual custom of the Lords of the Manor in leasing out his ferry rights. John Watts of Erith, Kent, waterman, took up the tenancy of the "Three Cupps" in 1659<sup>11</sup> for a period of 21 years on payment of £60 a year and "one flitch of good well dried well fatted and sweet bacon" at Shrove-tide; and was bound to maintain the ferry "with three sufficient tide boats at the least . . . so that all passengers and wares paying their duties may have their passage and carriages at all times and tides if winds and weather shall permit". William Palmer reserved from this grant free passage by water to and from the landing place for himself and his family "with all manner of household stuff and other goods . . . which he . . . shall have occasion to carry . . . so that the same be not by way of Trade", and also free wharfage for all commodities which he should load or unload at the Wharf. Did William Palmer in fact do any trading on his own account? It is difficult to make deductions of this nature from the legal verbiage of leases, but he may have done so. For in the lease of 1680<sup>12</sup> to George Waters of Grays Thurrock, he reserves for his own use a little storehouse on the wharf, and 30' x 30' of ground to build another should he so wish; and apparently he did, for in the 1706 lease to Oliver Wake,<sup>12</sup> waterman, of Grays Thurrock, he reserved two little storehouses (called Cowdens and Kinsmans) on the wharf and the right of passage to load and unload all kinds of commodities, he "paying the usual wharfage for all such commodities" and now only claiming free wharfage for household goods "not in the way of trade" Palmer also claimed, and apparently exercised, the right to erect pens adjoining the highway near the ferry house and to have the whole profits from their use, so that it is probable that there was considerable movement of livestock to and from Grays wharf.

The rental surprisingly decreased during this period, Waters paying only £50 a year and the flitch of bacon. If this suggests any shrinkage in the volume of trade, then recovery had set in by the end of the century, for Wake had to pay the same rent as Watts and an additional half bushel of sweet oysters at Christmas.

The other right pertaining to the lordship and mentioned in the "Fine" can be briefly dealt with. The grant of "Free Warren" had an ancient origin and can be traced back to the reign of John. It was concisely defined in the Court Leet records of 29 October, 1773

11 E.R.O. D/D/1 T477      12 E.R.O. D/D/1 T487



"that the Lord of this Manor is seized to him and his heirs forever and is entitled to hold (by virtue of several Royal Charters or Grants given and confirmed to his predecessors Lords of this Manor) Free Warren in his demesne lands of the Manor so that no person may enter to hunt therein without his license."

But a further claim made by the Lords of the Manor to wrecks was a prescriptive right based, they said, upon immemorial custom. It is asserted at many sessions of the Manorial Court in the eighteenth century; in 1731, for example "If any wrecks have happened, they belong to the Lord"; in 1756, "Wrecks . . . happening within the jurisdiction of the Leet do belong to the Lord". But in 1795, a specific precedent is cited in the Court's records

"N.B. Anno 1660 a wreck was taken possession of by the Lord of the Manor."

Thus we learn that William Palmer succeeded in making good his claim to some hapless vessel driven on to the Grays foreshore in the early years of his tenure of the Manor; and his action was being quoted at the time of the Revolutionary wars when a repetition of such a misadventure was a possibility and might be to the advantage of the Lord.

In 1657, at the age of 24, William Palmer married Anne, the third daughter of Robert Smyth of Upton in the parish of West Ham. Robert Smyth, who was elected Alderman of the City of London in 1650 and Master of the Drapers' Company in 1651, was a strong Parliamentarian. He was a regular attendee at meetings of the Romford Committee, one of those appointed by Parliament to recruit forces for the defence of adjacent areas against the Royalist armies; and when Parliament in 1648 reorganised the Church on the Presbyterian model and appointed "Classes" in each Hundred, he served as an "elder" for West Ham on the "Classis" for the Hundreds of Becontree, Havering and Chafford. In 1654 the Commonwealth Government authorized Justices of the Peace to perform marriages, and Smyth was very active in this respect, officiating at 73 weddings in his own parish between 1654 and 1657. And as Justice of the Peace, he conducted the marriage ceremony between his daughter and William Palmer. Like many others of this period, however, Robert Smyth did not find it difficult to accept the Restoration of King Charles II in 1660, and as an Alderman undoubtedly shared in the City's welcome to the returned monarch and in the honours distributed; for in 1660 he received a knighthood, and five years later, a baronetcy. His second son, Sir James Smyth, became Lord Mayor of London in 1684, so that William Palmer could claim a double association with the City through the Mayoralties of his maternal grandfather and his brother-in-law.

The Ordinance which authorised Justices to perform marriages was preceded by one which required parishes to appoint civil "Registers"; and Edward Lawford, who was sworn to this office, entered into the West Ham Registers not only the record of the marriage but that of the publication of the banns. They run:

Pub. Mr. William Palmer of ye Parish of Cathrin Colman London Merchant and Mrs Anne Smyth ye daughter of Robert Smyth of Upton Esq were published three severall Lords Days viz, ye 3th day ye 10th day & ye 17th day of May 1657.

Mar. Mr. Will. Palmer of ye parish of Cathrin Colman London, Merchant and Mrs Anne Smyth daughter of Robert Smyth of Upton, Esq., weare Married by ye said Robert Smyth Esq., Justice of ye Peace, the 20th day of May, 1657

A marriage between families of such standing required considerable preliminary formalities. A Marriage Settlement was drawn up, whereby it was arranged that Anne should bring to her husband a dowry of £2,000 and William was to put the Grays Manor in trust for the joint benefit of the married couple, with detailed instructions for the succession of male heirs or the dowering of daughters of the marriage. A manuscript copy of the Marriage Settlement has survived and is now in the possession of the School—a great treasure, since it is the only contemporary Palmer document in the School, and particularly valuable because of the detailed information it gives about the Manorial lands. Legal force was given to the marriage settlement according to current practice, whereby a friendly lawsuit was entered into between William Palmer on the one hand, and Robert Smyth and his son, also Robert Smyth, on the other, and the record of the transaction is preserved in another "Fine" which runs:

#### Feet of Fines; Trinity 1657

Fine made at Westminster in Holy Trinity between Robert Smyth Esq. and Robert Smyth the younger, Gent. plaintiffs, and William Palmer, deforciant, of the Manor of Thurrocke otherwise Thorocke Gray otherwise Grays Thorocke, with the appurtenances, and of 12 messuages, 12 gardens, 600 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, 70 acres of pasture, 120 acres of wood, 180 acres of marsh, common of pasture for all manner of cattle, free warren, fairs, markets and passages over the water of the Thames . . .

Anne, unfortunately, disappears from the story as soon as she enters it; all that we know is that she died before 1669 when William Palmer was described as a widower. No record of her burial has yet come to light, despite a fairly intensive search in likely registers. Was she, as Herbert Brooks tentatively suggested, a victim of the Plague? It might be; but a review of a number of leases negotiated by William Palmer in this period at least suggests other possibilities.

Here are the titles given to the lessor between 1657 and 1661.

- 20 Nov. 1657<sup>13</sup> William Palmer of London Merchant.  
27 Sept. 1658<sup>14</sup> William Palmer of London Merchant.  
1 Mar. 1658/9<sup>15</sup> William Palmer of London gent. and  
merchant.  
24 June 1659<sup>16</sup> William Palmer of Grays Thurrock gent.  
16 July 1660<sup>17</sup> William Palmer of London Merchant.  
26 Sept. 1661<sup>18</sup> William Palmer of London Merchant.

Why, for a brief period, did Palmer leave London for Grays? This we may never know, but some connection between it and his marriage is a possible inference. Did the early death of Anne cause him temporarily to retire from active business? Or did he retire and bring his wife to Grays where she died? If the latter be the case, then the record of Anne's death may never be discovered, for the existing Grays Registers do not go back so far. Nor is it possible to conjecture where he may have lived in Grays; the Manor House in particular had been let in 1655<sup>19</sup> on a 24 year lease.

From 1661 to 1669 no record of any sort has been found concerning William Palmer. At the beginning of this period he was described as "of London Merchant"; at the end of it he was living in Stifford as a country gentleman. The intervening years witnessed two nationally important phenomena that may have accounted for the move. The most probable is the Great Plague of 1665. This did not strike London without warning, and those who could, left to escape the contagion; in fact it is estimated that two-thirds of the population left the city.<sup>20</sup> If William Palmer remained in London, or returned there, he may have been made homeless in the following year by the Great Fire—though this must be conjectural, since we do not know where his London house was situated. But at some period in or before 1669, he had moved to Stifford.

The earliest record of his residence in Stifford is contained in the licence issued by the Archbishop of Canterbury's Faculty Office for his second marriage.

- 17 Dec. 1669 William Palmer of Stifford Co. Essex Esq. widower and Elizabeth Sandford of St. Andrew Holborn, spinster, 22  
dtr. of Anne Sandford of same, widow, who consents  
At St. Andrew Holborn or + + + F.

There is no corresponding entry in the Registers of St. Andrew's Holborn, and as no other church was entered in the licence, we do not know where this marriage took place. Nor has it yet been possible to identify Elizabeth Sandford. A funeral hatchment once hung in Grays Parish Church and was described by

13 E.R.O. D.D.B. T478  
14 E.R.O. D.D.B. T475

15 E.R.O. D.D.B. T491  
16 E.R.O. D.D.B. T477  
19 Encyc. Brit.

17 E.R.O. D.D.B. T493  
18 E.R.O. D.D.B. T473

Holman, a contemporary visitor, in terms that leave no doubt that it bore the arms of William Palmer and his two wives; those of Elizabeth suffice to connect her with the family of Thomas Sandford of "Coggshall" whose daughter Anne married John Hurte, Vicar of Horndon-on-the-Hill and whose younger daughter, Susan, is buried under the chancel at Horndon. Herbert Brooks guessed that Elizabeth was the daughter of John, the third son of Thomas, who in the pedigree recorded in the Visitation of 1633 is described as "of London" (the most likely explanation of Elizabeth's being of the parish of St. Andrew, Holborn); and this conjecture gains in interest when it is discovered that this John Sandford is recorded in Horndon Parish Registers as of West Thurrock, and as a Justice of the Peace officiating, like Robert Smyth, at marriages.<sup>20</sup> But, alas, the will of John Sandford of West Thurrock dated 26 Jan., 1657 and proved in 1660, mentions an only daughter Elizabeth, wife of Philip Meade, which does not accord with the Elizabeth Sandford, spinster, of 1669. So the problem of Elizabeth's parentage remains unsolved, though her probable connection with the West Thurrock and Horndon households at least suggests one means by which William Palmer may have come to make her acquaintance.

His residence in Stifford between 1669 and 1678 is well authenticated. He is described as "William Palmer of Stifford" in leases of 9 June, 1670,<sup>21</sup> 1 Oct., 1672<sup>22</sup> and 10 Sept., 1674.<sup>23</sup> It is a pity that the extant Stifford Vestry records only begin in 1672 and then are merely Vestry approvals of unrecorded accounts; but on the first page is this entry

"The Account of Thomas Joyce, Churchwarden and Overseer for ye poor of Stifford taken on ye 23rd day of April 1674

The above said accounts are seen and allowed by

Denzill Price

Peter Lathum

Wm. Finch

T. Lathum

Wm. Palmer

Thomas Joyce

So that those who can experience the thrill of seeing the actual signatures of our well-known figures in the past may find the signature of our Founder most readily accessible in this area at the foot of the first page of the Stifford Vestry Book.

One reference from Quarter Sessions Rolls<sup>24</sup> may here be quoted, though the identity with our William Palmer is not necessarily established. On 18 July, 1672, there was a presentment, on the witness of Sam Petchy of Cranham, of "Mr. Wm Palmer of Stifford, for making a farmhouse a cottage (by taking away the

20. *Essex Review* XL, 1867. 22. *E.R.O.*, D 101. T483. 24. *E.R.O.*, Q. SR 424. 25.  
21. *E.R.O.*, D 101. T486. 23. *E.R.O.*, D 101. T491.

land) for this twenty months at least and doth continue it". More certain is the fact that Palmer was pricked as Sheriff of Essex on 1 Dec., 1678 and is then described as "of Stifford",<sup>25</sup> Quarter Sessions Rolls of 1679<sup>26</sup> carried this record. "Writs of *capias* *distringas* *venire* *facias* and proclamations tested by Wm Lord Maynard Custos Rotulorum at Chelmsford 15 July. Returned by Wm Palmer, Esq., Sheriff". Herbert Brooks's book gives an interesting account of some of the duties falling to the lot of William Palmer as Sheriff.

Why and where did Palmer live in Stifford? It would appear that at some period Lords of Stifford Manor were mesne tenants of the Lords of the Manor of Grays Thurrock. Morant affirms that in the sixteenth century Thomas Latham, second son of Robert Latham and Thomasine Ardalle, held this manor of Sir John Zouche as of his Manor of Grays by fealty and a yearly rent of 8s. 3d. And in the records of the Court Baron of the Lords of the Manor of Grays Thurrock, Thomas Latham (or Latham) is presented in 1715 and Kenwrick Grantham in 1716 as owing suit at the Lord's Court for Stifford Hall and not fulfilling their obligations; and the matter is pursued as late as the Court of 1756.

J. A. Sych . . . owes suit of Court . . . for the capital messuage and lands called Stifford Hall . . . held of this Manor . . . and did not appear to do the same and pay his arrears of quit rent . . . in mercy (i.e. fine) xxs . . . Waters Esq owes suit of Court for his new built messuage in Stifford aforesaid called Copthall and did not appear . . . or pay his quit rent . . . in Mercy xxs

But the claim was not pressed beyond this date.

It would be attractive to believe that the two spinneys in Stifford called Palmer's Shaws were named after our William Palmer, and to infer from that the possibility of his residence at Hill Farm; but it must be remembered that Dr. Reaney<sup>27</sup> gives a much older origin for the name. A striking coincidence of dates, however, leads me to suggest that William Palmer lived in Stifford Hall, the house, now demolished, which used to stand in the field south of Stifford Lodge. For Palin<sup>28</sup> says that Thomas Latham, according to the Vestry Book, lived in Stifford Hall from 1679 to 1706; and in 1679 William Palmer moved to Grays, as a lease of 30 Aug., 1679<sup>29</sup> testifies; moreover the 24 year lease of the Manor House at Grays, previously mentioned expired in this same year.

For it was, I believe, to Grays Hall that Palmer moved in 1679. The evidence is based on a lease, previously mentioned, of two lime-kilns in the Slade to John Fookes, and dated 1 June, 1688,<sup>30</sup> and it contains the significant words . . . "the Slade lying against the gate leading to the dwelling house of him the said William

25 R. B. Colvin, *The Lieutenant-Keepers of the Rolls of the County of Essex*

26 E.R.O. O SR 420.68-72

29 E.R.O. D/DG 7497

27 Place Names of Essex, p. 129

30 E.R.O. D/DG 7480

28 Stifford and its Neighbourhood, p. 51 n.

Palmer in Grays Thurrock". This reference would fit Grays Hall, but not Sherfield House, to which Herbert Brooks inferred that Palmer moved on leaving Stifford. Accordingly the evidence concerning Sherfield House must be more closely examined.

There is a strong local tradition that William Palmer lived in Sherfield House, and such traditions command respect. Palin<sup>41</sup> may have given expression to it when he wrote that "William Palmer built Sherfield House in the reign of Queen Anne and lived and died there"; or it maybe that the tradition sprang from Palin's statement, for I have found no other authority for it. And it may be confidently affirmed that most of this statement is inaccurate, since there is ample evidence that Palmer had left Grays before Anne began to reign, and he was residing in Stratford at the time of his death. The only evidence that William Palmer may have built Sherfield House is of a negative kind; first, that in a second lease of the Slade in 1693,<sup>42</sup> the revealing words in the first are not repeated; secondly that when it is possible to establish the ownership of Sherfield House, it belonged to the Lords of the Manor.

The name Sherfield certainly presents no difficulties. Edward Kighley in his Rent Book<sup>43</sup> has this entry for 1634

To Receave of Jeames Herne Esq. for my half yeares Quit-rent for  
Sherfieldes farme

and the Court Leet Records in 1756 include the following

"We also present that the lands called Sheffields otherwise Sherfields are now in the Lord's hands in the occupation of Mr. Richard Hyder his undertenant and therefore owe no suit to the Court."

There seems to be here a fruitful source of confusion between Sherfield Farm and Sherfield House. The latter was most probably built on or adjoining to Sherfield lands, or was it perhaps the old farmhouse rebuilt? The earliest reference to the House which has come to my knowledge is also extracted from the Court Leet records for 14 May, 1731 when Henry Unton paid 2/- quitrent for "two cottages and gardens adjoining to Sherfields House". The only surviving lease of the House is that of Thomas Theobald to T. B. Sturgeon in 1847<sup>44</sup> and describes the property as "a Messuage or tenement with gardens, lawns, stables, coachhouses, outbuildings commonly called Sherfield House which one Richard Hyder did formerly occupy and dwell in . . .". A comparison of this with the Court Leet record of 1756, citing Richard Hyder as the tenant in each case, tends to emphasise the link between Sherfield House and Sherfield lands, without throwing much light on the building of the imposing house which stood opposite the Town pier until well into the present century.

41 Stifford and its Neighbourhood, p. 79. 43 E.R.O. D 101 E21.  
42 E.R.O. D 101 T480. 44 E.R.O. D 101 T489.



Whether William Palmer built Sherfield House or not, it is reasonably certain that it did not supplant Grays Hall as the Manor House. For the Trust Deed placed the appointment of the schoolmaster in the hands of the "Person . . . who for the time being shall be owner . . . of the said late Mansion house wherein the said William Palmer did lately live" and this is expanded in another part of the Deed to "the late Mansion House of the said William Palmer in Grays Thurrock . . . wherein William Tyler now inhabiteth". Now the lease of the Manor House and other lands to William Tyler of Aveley of 9 September, 1697,<sup>35</sup> has survived; and the description of the house and its "barns stables out-houses yards gardens orchards backsides and appurtenances . . . containing by estimation eleven acres" tallies exactly with the description of the Manor House in William Palmer's Marriage Settlement in 1657.

The "Gentleman's History of Essex" (1771) has pertinent comments on the two houses in question. "The principal House in the parish", it says, "stands about a furlong from the Church, is inhabited by Mr. John Button and is the property of Jas Theobald Esq."—a description fitting Sherfield House; but "the mansion house of the Capital Manor in this parish stands on the right hand side of the road leading from the town to Stifford". Further, Chapman and André's Map of 1777 prints the name of Jas. Theobald opposite Grays Hall. Finally it may be recorded that when the Theobald Estate in Grays was split up and sold in 1896 the title of Lord of the Manor—then quite nominal—went to the purchaser of Grays Hall farm.

In 1685 there was an Archidiaconal Visitation at Grays, and the Report of Archdeacon Thomas Turner contains the line "The Cover for ye Cup to be changed for a larger" and beside it, a marginal note which runs

"As to ye Cover of ye Cup there is no need now of changing of it, because there is lately given since ye pochiall Visitation a large silver Patten for ye bread."

There is not the slightest doubt that the anonymous benefactor was William Palmer, for the Paten bears his crest and is inscribed "The Parish of Graies Thorrock in Essex 1685". It is still in the possession of Grays Parish Church, and is still in use on special occasions; an object to be handled with reverent care in the knowledge it was almost certainly handled by William Palmer himself.

Herbert Brooks has dealt very fully with the circumstances under which Palmer was appointed to the Commission of the Peace in 1688. Briefly James II, in his efforts to secure a compliant Parliament to repeal penal laws against Catholics ordered the Lord Lieutenants in the counties to conduct an inquisition among Deputy

<sup>35</sup> E.R.C. D.101.1473

Lieutenants and Justices of the Peace concerning their attitude in the event of an election. The 20th Earl of Oxford, Lord Lieutenant of Essex, refused to comply and was replaced by the Catholic Lord Petre; and a list of persons "judg'd very fit by my Lord Petre to serve in the Committion of Peace for the County of Essex" contained the name of William Palmer.<sup>36</sup> It cannot be assumed from this that Palmer had any Catholic leanings; nor need we suppose him to have been as sceptically pliant to changing circumstances as the Vicar of Bray. Rather would he appear to have picked his way through this troubled century with circumspection, giving offence to none, but making a final, tongue-in-cheek commentary upon the situation by choosing as the day for the distribution of his charitable bequests—the Fifth of November; not only the anniversary of the exposure of the Gunpowder plot, but, more significantly, the anniversary of the landing of William III in England. A firm Protestant, no doubt, with a sympathetic view of Protestant dissent; inclined to toleration in an intolerant age.

William Palmer was quickly involved in some of the administrative duties heaped in those days upon the shoulders of a Justice of the Peace. He was in demand, especially in his own parish, for swearing affidavits of burial in woollen, according to the Act of 1678. One gains the impression that the new dignity of the Squire created a stir locally, and the Vicar, Robert Palmer,<sup>37</sup> in his meticulous hand, took pride in entering the name of "William Palmer Esq. one of his Majesties Justices of ye Peace for ye County of Essex". But familiarity bred contempt, for Robert Palmer presently shortened the title to "William Palmer, Justice of ye Peace" and finally to "Mr. Justice Palmer". But this painstaking priest would never have been guilty of the horror perpetrated by one of his successors, for the final entry in 1694 is compressed to "jus. pal". This caps a comparable entry in the Stifford Burial Registers in which the affidavit was sworn before Esq. Palmer!

The Justice of the Peace at this period was a local magnate of the greatest importance. "In his immediate district," says A. C. Edwards,<sup>38</sup> "the justice was the local Solomon who could settle minor disputes and business in his own library, either by himself or in collaboration with a neighbouring magistrate. The Court of Quarter Sessions, where the justices of the county sat as a body, was an institution of considerable importance, for in some respects its powers were greater than the modern Quarter Sessions and County Council combined". And it is from the Quarter Sessions records between 1689 and 1699 that we get a fascinating glimpse into the type of business with which William Palmer had to deal, as well as into the incidents that would readily find their way into

<sup>36</sup> Rawlinson MS. in Bodleian Library, Oxford.

<sup>37</sup> No relation to Wm. Palmer.

<sup>38</sup> *English History from Essex Sources*, p. 26.

the casebook of a present-day reporter for the local press. Un-neighbourly quarrels abound, and recognizances taken before Palmer for the appearance of principals and witnesses at Quarter Sessions in cases of assault are very common. Two or three examples must suffice:

1694<sup>39</sup> Edw. Tailor of Grays Thurrock: Anne his wife to prosecute him for threatening to kill her.

1698<sup>40</sup> Wm Andrew of East Tilbury labourer: to indict Mary Paiten for breach of the peace from her, hurling of stones and breaking his head.

And even the Rector of Stifford had trouble with a contentious parishioner—

1690<sup>41</sup> Jas Robertson of Stifford clerk: to indict Benj. Shervill for breach of peace

Benj. Shervill carpenter, Thomas Burton husbandman both of Stifford and John Edes of Orsett, husbandman: Shervill to keep the peace towards James Robertson and Elizabeth his wife

There was the local pickpocket to be dealt with

1695<sup>42</sup> John Crux of Orsett butcher: to prosecute Frs. Par for fraudulently taking four guineas of gold out of his pocket

and the more influential resident to answer the churchwardens and overseers of Horndon-on-the-Hill for suspected misappropriation of public moneys.

1690<sup>43</sup> John Towns Ralph Fidler and Richard Woodlands labourer; all to give evidence against Jasper Kinsman touching his wrongful detainer of monies in his hands belonging to the poor of the parish: all of Horndon-on-the-Hill.

As the parish officers were responsible to the Justice of the Peace for the adequate discharge of their duties, so they looked to him for protection against unwarranted burdens being placed upon the parish rates.

1690<sup>44</sup> Tho. Potter churchwarden and Matthias Putifar overseer of the poor of Stifford: both to indict Rich. Hull of South Ockendon for refusing to give security to the Parish of Stifford to save them harmless from a male bastard child of Joan Windall singlewoman of which he is charged to be the father.

39 E.R.O. Q/SR/482/1  
40 E.R.O. Q/SR/496/5

41 E.R.O. Q/SR/466/1  
42 E.R.O. Q/SR/484/3

43 E.R.O. Q/SR/464/31  
44 E.R.O. Q/SR/464/33

- 1698<sup>45</sup> Jonathan Miller yeoman, Robert Northleigh gent and Edw. Roberts yeoman all of Walthamstow: Miller to answer for leaving a child at the door of John Conyers esq. in the sd Parish likely to be chargeable to it. Owes 2s.

On the other hand, parish officers sometimes tried to evade their just responsibilities and then it was the duty of the Justice to bring them to account.

- 8 Jan. 1696/7<sup>46</sup> Mary Bel of Fobbing widow; to prosecute John Digby and James Read (overseer and churchwarden of Fobbing) for refusing to pay her for healing Sarah Bease, a bastard child born there.

- 1 Jan. 1697/8<sup>47</sup> Peter Lodwicke, John Pike husbandman and Edw. Spender all of "Curringham"; Lodwicke to answer for refusing to obey an order of Wm. Palmer esq. justice, of 29 Dec. for the relief of Robert Bigg, a poor man of the said parish, who with a wife and three children being wholly destitute of "cloth" and not having wherewith to cover in the night from cold, and giving no reason for his so refusing.

And of course there were tradespeople who complained that they were unable to secure due settlement of their accounts; and workmen who complained that their wages were in arrear; and both sought to lay their grievances before the J.P.

- 1697<sup>48</sup> John Watts of West Thurrock gent. and Gore (also gent. of West Thurrock); Watts to answer Geo. Mudie for refusing to pay him £1 17s. due to him (as he saith) for work done by him "in the breach in West Thurrock" for Watts.

- 1697<sup>49</sup> Watts to answer Tho: Day of "Alvely" Carpenter for refusing to pay him for 88 days carpenters work done by him for Watts.

- 1698<sup>50</sup> Tho: Miles of West Ham butcher; to answer his detention of 17s. 6d. which appeared to be due to John Baseley for wages.

Just as the great work of administration and the dispensation of justice within the County pivoted upon the voluntary services of those who were appointed to His Majesty's Commission of the Peace, so within the parish itself the maintenance of local services and local security depended upon unpaid officers. Their duties often made them unpopular with their fellows, so that it is not surprising that they frequently tried to avoid office or else were remiss in their

45 E.R.O. Q/SR 499.10  
46 E.R.O. Q/SR 491.13

47 E.R.O. Q/SR 495.39  
48 E.R.O. Q/SR 493.42

49 E.R.O. Q/SR 493.43  
50 E.R.O. Q/SR 498.20

execution of it; and it was the duty of the J.P. to see to the effective working of the machinery of parochial administration.

1699<sup>51</sup> Leonard Compeare of West Ham gent: to answer the officers of the parish for refusing to serve as constable.

1690<sup>52</sup> John Westthrop constable of Vange: to indict Peter Bell of the same for his wilful refusing to watch and ward.

Quarter Sessions Records contain two formal indictments against parish officers, one for negligently, and one for wilfully, failing to execute a warrant of William Palmer J.P.

1690 26 Dec.<sup>53</sup> Ezekiel King, constable of Mucking: to answer an indictment preferred against him by Henry Burie of Bulphan gent: one of the officers of same for suffering John Bell, servant to Mr. Partridge of Mucking, to escape when he was apprehended by a justices warrant (Was his negligence, perhaps, due to a too festive Christmas?)

1696<sup>54</sup> Tho: Dickison of Barking labourer 18 Apr. being constable of Ripple Ward in Barking refused to execute a warrant of Wm Palmer esq., justice, to him directed, in making hue and cry for the malefactors who had stolen the goods of Oliver Wake of Grays Thurrock but allowed them to go at large.

"Malefactors" were no respecters of persons. While small fry pilfered the goods of Oliver Wake, bigger fry cast their eyes on the more desirable possessions of the Justice himself, and no doubt the irony of the situation added zest to the venture. Accordingly there appeared in the London Gazette of Oct. 21, 1698 an advertisement quoted in full by Herbert Brooks; but since it is the only personal record we have of William Palmer, it is worth repeating here.

"Seven men on horseback committed a Robbery at the House of William Palmer, Esq. of Grays in Essex, four of the Horses black, one grey, a sorrel and a bay; six of the Men had black Periwigs, the other his own Hair, short, black and frissled; on Wednesday the 16th inst. at 3 in the Afternoon: Viz. One bay Gelding, 6 years old, a Star in his forehead, his near Footbehind white, and a bite in his near Eye; a very considerable quantity of Household plate, marked with W.P.A. part W.P.E. some with R.P. and Coats of Arms to the rest, a Sum of Sterling Money, besides a quantity of Broad pieces, Guineas, Lewis's, Medals &c. An old Gentleman's Picture enamell'd, set round with Diamonds, and a Drop of the same, 2 Bracelets, the one strung with Pearl and black Bugles, each joyned with a Ring, 9 Plum-stones cut with Faces, King Charles the First cut in Amber and set in Gold, a Griffin cut in Jett, a pair of green stone Pendants set in Gold, with 2 Baskets cut out of cherry-stones for the Drops, a black Sultana

51 F.R.O. Q SR 501 17

52 F.R.O. Q SR 464 32

53 F.R.O. Q SR 467 27

54 F.R.O. Q SR 488 75

with Gold Buttons and Loops, 2 Hair Locketts Letters on both sides W.P. W.S. W.S. and A.P. a blue silver Tabby Petticoat with 3 Gold and silver Laces, a silver Box of Counters stamp'd with Kings and Queens Heads &c. A Watch made by Francis Smyth, an Amber Ring cut in flowers, a Seal with 3 Stamps, and several other things. Whoever gives Notice of them, so that they may be secured, to Peter White, Goldsmith, at the Plough in Lombard Street, London, shall have 40s. Reward for each Man and 20L. for the Goods or proportionable for any part, and Charges."

We unfortunately do not know whether Peter White was called upon to disburse any of the reward for the recovery of this considerable haul.

Which house was burgled? The timing of the raid suggests a temporarily unoccupied residence. The Manor House, as we have seen, was leased to William Tyler in 1697, and though it may have been the scene of the crime, I think that some colour is lent by the circumstances of the case to another residence, and so perhaps to Sherfield House on the site of which, as Herbert Brooks recorded, a half-guinea piece dated 1695 was found by workmen in January 1926—and it is tempting to link this fortuitous discovery with the scene of the robbery. If William Palmer did live in Sherfield House, then it was certainly not occupied by him at the time of this exploit for at some time between September 1697—the date of the Tyler lease—and May 1698, he had finally left Grays and taken up his residence in the parish of Low Layton.

The reason for this move is a matter for speculation, but it seems unnecessary to look beyond the fact that William Palmer was now 65 years of age and desired to move from an area that was by repute unhealthy to one which offered the amenities of a leisured retirement and easier access to London. Daniel Defoe, in his "Tour through the Eastern Counties" (1724) spoke of the Thames-side marshes as beginning at Dagenham and from "hence eastwards growing wider and wider, till we come beyond Tilbury where the flat country lies six, seven or eight miles broad and is justly said to be both unhealthy and unpleasant. However the lands are rich and, as is observable, it is very good farming in the marshes, because the landlords let good pennyworths, for it being a place where everybody cannot live, those that venture it will have encouragement, and indeed it is but reasonable they should."

Defoe began his journey into Essex by passing Bow Bridge and goes on to give an account of the districts associated with the closing years of William Palmer in terms which appear so relevant to the circumstances of our Founder that they are worth quoting in full.

"Passing Bow Bridge . . . the first observation I made was that all the villages that may be called the neighbourhood of the City of London on this, as well as on the other side thereof . . . are increased in buildings to a



strange degree; within the compass of about twenty to thirty years past at the most

The village of Stratford, the first in the County from London, is not only increased but, I believe, more than doubled in that time, every vacancy filled up with new houses . . . Nor is this increase of buildings the case only, in this and all the other villages round London, but the increase of the value and rent of the houses formerly standing has, in that compass of years above mentioned, advanced to a very great degree, and I may venture to say at least a fifth part, some think a third part, above what they were before

This is indeed most visible, speaking of Stratford in Essex, but it is the same thing in proportion in other villages adjacent, especially on the forest side, as at Low Layton, Laytonstone, Walthamstow, Woodford, Wanstead . . . in all which places . . . above a thousand new foundations have been erected, besides old houses repaired, all since the Revolution; and this is not to be forgotten, too, that this increase is, generally speaking, of handsome large houses for £20 a year to £60 . . . being chiefly for the habitation of the richest citizens, such as either are able to keep two houses, one in the country and one in the City, or for such citizens as being rich and having left off trade, live altogether in these neighbouring villages for the pleasure and health of the latter part of their days

The truth of this may at least appear, in that they tell me there are no less than two hundred coaches kept by the inhabitants within the circumference of these villages . . .

This increase causes those villages to be much pleasanter and more sociable than formerly, for now people go to them, not for retirement into the country, but for good company, . . . there are in these villages . . . excellent conversation and a great deal of it, and that without mixture of assemblies, gaming houses and public foundations of vice and debauchery . . .

William Palmer's residence in Leyton is particularly well authenticated. Four leases—two of 1701,<sup>55</sup> and one each of 1703<sup>56</sup> and 1704<sup>57</sup> described him as "of Low Layton"; more particularly, his name appears regularly in the Rate Book of the parish from May 1698 to October 1704 and—though his actual residence is not known—in that section of the Rate List headed "Leytonstone". And in 1703 we have the last extant record of Palmer officiating as a Justice of the Peace. The occasion was a dispute between the authorities of Leyton and Wanstead as to who should repair a wooden bridge between the two parishes.

1703<sup>58</sup> Sept. 24th.

"Memorandum, that the wooden bridge lying cros the road at Hol-loway Down in Leytonstone High Way, being decayed; the Surveyors of the Highways for the Parish of Wanstead Ann 1703 pretended that this Parish of Low Leyton, was bound to join in the repair thereof, thereupon Mr. Peter Godfrey Surveyor of Wanstead had some discourse with Fisher Tench, Esq. Surveyor of Low Leyton about it, requiring him to assist in making a

55 E.R.O. D/D1 T486 & 493  
56 E.R.O. D/D1 T483

57 E.R.O. D/D1 T485  
58 Leyton Vestry Book



brick arch where the . . . used to ly. For the examination and decision of this matter, there met at the Green Man in Leytonstone Sep: 24 1703 Will Palmer Esq; and the said Fisher Tench Justices of the Peace and the said Mr. Peter Godfrey, and Mr. Merry, Surveyors of Wanstead, and Mr. Henry Mills the other Surveyor of Leyton Parish and the respective ministers of each parish, with divers other inhabitants of the same. Where proved evidently that the place to be repaired lay in Wanstead Parish, and that the carpenters work of the bridge there had been divers times done there by the Surveyors of Wanstead, never by those of Leyton . . .

The last entry of Palmer's name in the Leyton Rate Book almost certainly gives us the clue to the date of his final move – a short one this time, and even nearer London. In March of the following year another lease<sup>50</sup> refers to him as "William Palmer Esq. of Stratford"; and it is in Stratford, in 1706, that the Trust Deed was drawn up whereby he assigned five tenements in "White Crosse Street in the parish of St. Giles's Cripplegate" and one in "Lumbard Street in the parish of Allhallows Lumbard Street London" to a body of twelve trustees who were to use the income from these properties to build a school (should he not have done so himself) and to provide £40 a year, paid quarterly, for the stipend of a schoolmaster; and for these further charitable purposes

20/- yearly to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of Grays Thurrock to buy penny loaves for distribution to the poor of the parish, 18 on the first Sunday of each month, and 24 on the fifth of November.

Not more than £8 yearly to the same officers to "cloath four poor Children" of the parish on the fifth of November.

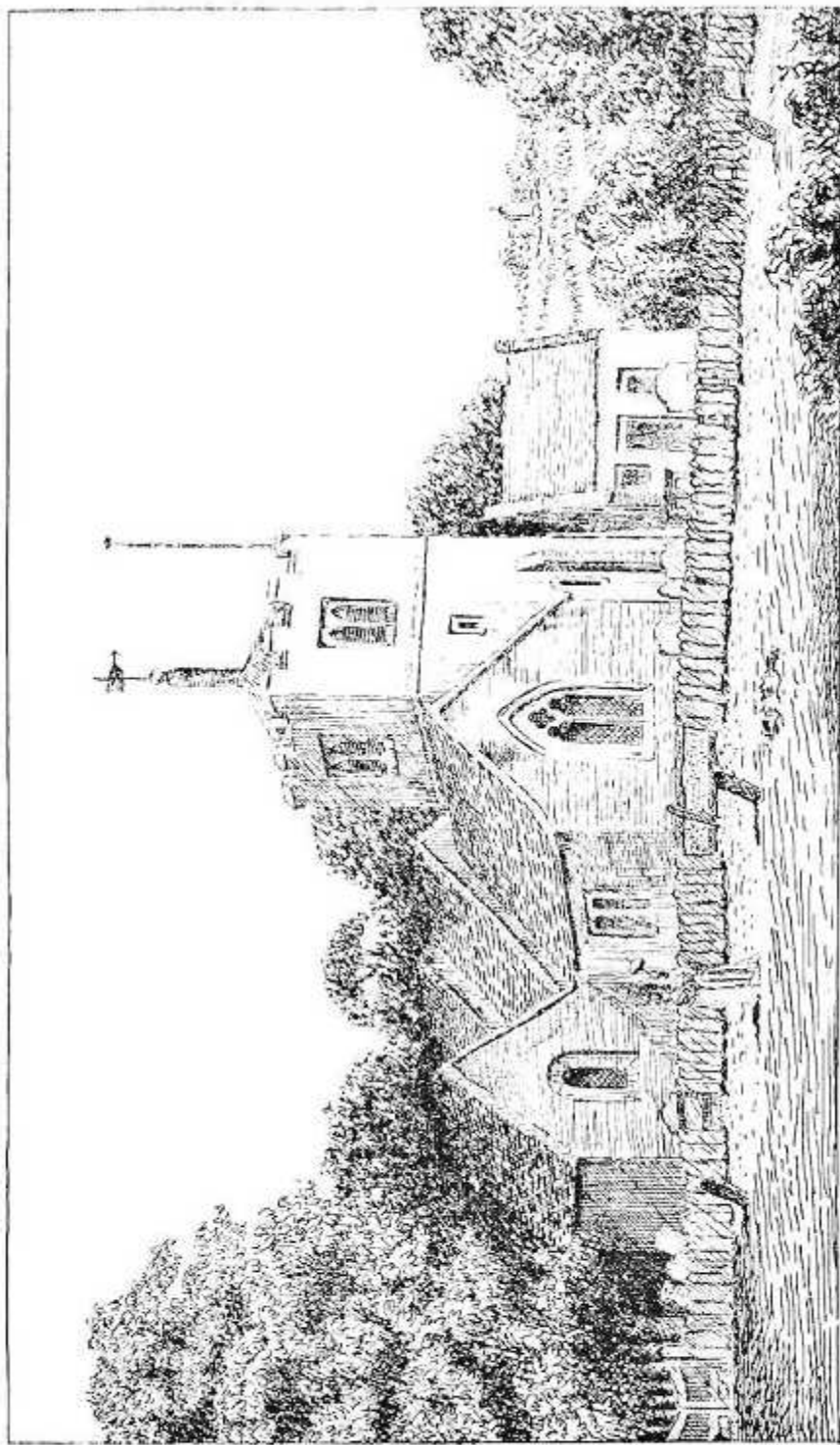
20/- yearly to the "Minister of the said Parish" for preaching a sermon on the fifth of November; should he not do it, the Churchwardens were to find some "Orthodox Minister of the Church of England" to do it and receive the fee.

20/- Annuity to the tenant of the Wharf – previously mentioned "Five Chaldrons of Coal" to be bought at the cheapest rate in the summer and be stored in the Vault under the schoolhouse until the fifth of November when it was to be distributed to the poor of the parish.

40/- yearly on the fifth of November "to be laid out in entertaining the said parish Officers (i.e. Churchwardens and Overseers) when they meet to enquire and examine whether the said several Charities be paid and applied according to the true intent of these presents."

William Palmer also gave as the site for the school

<sup>50</sup> E.R.O. D 106 T475



IMPRESSION OF THE FIRST PALMER'S SCHOOL  
From a drawing by Gifford, engraved by Duthemare, and published in 1807

"All that piece . . . of land being part of the field called Westfield . . . containing by estimation twenty foot in depth and eighteen foot in breadth . . . as the same is now marked out . . . which abutteth on the churchyard there on the east and abutteth on the parsonage garden on the south and north and west on Westfield"

and laid down specific instructions for the erection of

"a good substantial brick building for a Schoolhouse twenty foot in length and eighteen foot in breadth fronting the Church Yard aforesaid with a chimney therein and raise the floor of the said intended Schoolhouse one foot above the ground and wainscott the whole inside of the same with deal wainscott full four feet high from the said floor and place convenient low desks and seats in the said Schoolhouse and also make a vault under the same ten foot square sufficient to hold five chaldrons of coales or more."

In a perusal of the Trust Deed one senses in Palmer a particular affection for Grays Thurrock, in or near which, despite its unhealthy reputation and his business interests elsewhere, he had spent nearly half his life; and a patriarchal benevolence, typical of the best squires, towards those in his Lordship. One senses, too, a fierce desire to perpetuate his family name. Lacking an heir, he eventually willed his estate to Joshua Palmer "for the sake of the name, being no relation" as Morant puts it. Was it his childlessness that led him to found a school at Grays? Did he, in default of a family of his own, take under his protection the present and future generations of his Manor, among whom his name might be had in remembrance? There were sound precedents, for it is significant that such great Founders as John Lyon, at Harrow, Peter Blundell, at Tiverton, and Antony Browne, at Brentwood, were all childless men.

William Palmer himself began the building of his School, and as his Will of January, 1709 refers to the "Schoolhouse lately by me built but not finished" it is reasonably certain that it was completed, and was probably functioning, before his death in 1710. He then turned his attention to the provision of accommodation for the Schoolmaster, bequeathing to the Trustees by his Will,

"All that my cottage now in the possession of the Widow Elkin and William Gilman with the piece of ground thereto annexed . . . upon trust that they permit . . . my executors to pull down the said cottage and to erect . . . a tenement {which} shall be hereafter the habitation or dwelling house for the Schoolmaster . . . wherein he shall dwell gratis . . ." The stone tablet which was placed on the original Schoolmaster's House and is now built into the front of the present Boys' School clearly shows that this building, too, was begun by Palmer but was completed after his death. It reads:

Pro Preservatione Charitatis.

The Gift of W<sup>m</sup> PALMER Esq. Dec<sup>d</sup> for  
a Dwelling for the Ma<sup>r</sup> of his FREE  
SCHOOL on whom he settled 40<sup>l</sup> p<sup>r</sup> Ann.  
to teach 10 poor children of this Parish  
to READ WRITE & CAST ACCO<sup>r</sup>  
and to Instruct them in the LATIN  
TONGUE. He also gave to the poor  
5 Chaldrons of COALES & CLOATHING  
for 4 Children (to be distributed on y<sup>r</sup>  
5<sup>h</sup> of Nov<sup>br</sup> yearly) & 20<sup>s</sup> yearly for BREAD.

Begun by the said W<sup>m</sup> PALMER

JOSHUA PALMER Esq

Finished by  
&  
Mr. JOSEPH BRANDON  
(Executors to the Dec<sup>d</sup>  
Anno 1711.

Nor did this end the solicitous care of Palmer for his new foundation. By his Will the "Clock now standing in my Hall" was to go to the School "to be set up there to remain for the use thereof"—but, alas, nothing at all is known of its fate; and in a codicil of 12th May, 1710—within a few days of his death—he made final provision for the disposal of possible prizes from his holdings in a state lottery, allocating the "Profit of all the tickets, blanks or benefits . . . for the first year . . . for the setting up and fixing a complete and handsome Sun Dial at or on the Schoolroom which I have erected in . . . Grays Thorock". But there is no record that the School ever got its sundial.

The long life of William Palmer was now drawing to its close. Early in 1707 he lost his second wife, and, though living in Stratford, brought her to Grays for burial. As befitting her station, he buried her in linen and paid the forfeiture demanded by statute. The record still stands in the burial registers of Grays Parish Church,

Mistris Elizabeth Palmer Wife of William Palmer, Esquire was burried Aprile 18: 1707 in Linnen and the said W<sup>m</sup> Palmer, Esquire paid the forfeiture viz. Two pound & ten sh. to ye Church Warden for ye use of the poor which was distributed among ym

The law demanded a penalty of £5 for burial in linen 50/- to the informer, and 50/- to the poor: so that Palmer followed a not uncommon practice in laying information against himself.

Elizabeth was 60 at the time of her death; William was now 74—an advanced age in those days. Though of "sound Mind and

perfect Memory praised be God " as he wrote in his Will two years later, he called to mind "the frailty and mortality of my Nature " and in the Codicil, dated 12th May 1710, he spoke of "my great years". Ten days later he had died and his body followed that of his wife to the Parish Church of Grays Thurrock.

The final mystery to be solved is the place of his burial—and how great an indictment it is of his successors that there should be any mystery to solve!

His own direction was that his body should be buried "in my own Chancell at Grays Thorock"—but there is no real evidence that he had any claim at all to the Chancel. Nevertheless it should be noted that on 21st August, 1707, the Rectorial tithes and Advowson of Grays Thurrock were sold by Sir Richard Anderson of Stifford to Sir Thomas Davall, Lord of the other Grays Manor, but Anderson reserved from the sale "the chancel of the said parish church belonging to the said rectory or parsonage of Grays Thurrock . . . to and for his own use and he covenants to repair the same".<sup>60</sup> This was a most unusual procedure and is difficult to explain. Did Anderson sell his rights in the chancel to William Palmer? There is no record of any such transaction, but it remains a possibility. It is difficult to trace the future history of these claims, but by the time the Button family had acquired the other Grays Manor they were all in the same hands.

The Chancel vault has been opened; it contained only coffins of the Button family. One cannot rule out the possibility that William Palmer was buried in the chancel; with no one interested in asserting his claim, it may be that later claimants to the Chancel reinterred his body elsewhere and destroyed the evidence. For we must now mention the most startling fact of all. In the first volume of the Grays Registers, the last entry at the foot of one page is the record of Elizabeth Palmer's burial in 1707. The first entry at the top of the next page is dated Apr. 21, 1711. One page only is missing from the Registers—the one page containing the record of William Palmer's burial. Its loss may be accidental, but it looks like malice.

If we have no satisfactory evidence that Palmer had any right to burial in the chancel, we have some evidence of another claim that indicates a second possibility; for his Marriage Settlement of 1657 speaks of "that Chapel situate and being on the south side of the east end of the parish church of Grays Thurrock". An examination of prints of Grays Parish Church before the nineteenth-century alterations shows what appears to be the present south transept, but with its roof orientated in an East-West instead of the present North-South direction. Was this the chapel referred to? Did the notary who drew up the will confuse the two words Chapel

and Chancel? It is possible. And it fits to some extent the evidence of two contemporary historians. Holman, who died in 1720, wrote that "William Palmer Esq. was buried in the south isle of the Church May 22, 1710". Salmon's *History of Essex* (1740) contains the sentence, "In the south transept of the Church, William Palmer Esq., was buried in the south isle of the Church May 20, 1710". Neither statement is clear—Grays Parish Church at this time had no south aisle as we understand the term. Was he, in fact, buried in the south transept?

There remains one further possibility which may fit in with the equivocal statements of Holman and Salmon. On 17th July, 1926 Herbert Brooks met by appointment in the Parish Church two former scholars of Palmer's School, Mr. W. A. Brown and Mr. John Bannister. The latter was 75 years old at that time, and both had, as boys, attended the church regularly before the building was enlarged to its present dimensions. The schoolboys used to occupy pews on the south side of the central gangway, and on both sides of the passage leading to the south door. Both these gentlemen remembered clearly seeing a flat tombstone bearing the name of William Palmer in the central gangway adjacent to their pews to the east of the passage leading to the south porch. It has, like so much material evidence, disappeared, but it may be rediscovered in future reconstruction work if it was not moved but only overlaid with the present tiling. On the balance of evidence, I think it probably marked the last resting place of William Palmer.

It is chastening to think how soon the memory of this benefactor was allowed to fade in the place in which he plainly showed his heart to lie. No memorial was raised to his memory by his heirs; no stone marks his resting place; no record survives of his burial; no trace remains of the funeral hatchment which was seen by Holman. The effacement of his memory is so complete that it seems deliberate.

Yet William Palmer sowed in faith a good seed. He could never have suspected into what tree it would grow. But we, 250 years on, can see it in its stable and vigorous maturity and know it to be the memorial which would most have delighted his heart—  
MONUMENTUM AERE PERENNIOUS.



# THE FIRST TWO HUNDRED YEARS

## 1. THE SCHOOL AND ITS SCHOOLMASTERS

by E. F. MARSHALL, M.A.

Old Palmerian 1921-31

Sometime Draper's Scholar and Exhibitioner of Trinity College, Cambridge  
Principal of Shoreditch Training College, Egham, Surrey.

THE first quarter of the eighteenth century saw the foundation of many endowed schools and it is not difficult to account for this development. Modern research into the history of education has shown that there was considerable provision for popular education prior to the Reformation; this provision had lapsed during the religious and political struggles of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. With the Stuart Restoration a new era set in. The foundation of the Royal Society gave an enormous impetus to the extension of the liberal arts and sciences—to use the phraseology of the day. As Newton revolutionised the basis of mathematics and physics, so Wren changed the face of English architecture, and a new world of literature and music was born. In this climate of opinion it was not surprising that many wealthy merchants found outlets for their philanthropy and enlightenment by founding schools. We know little of William Palmer himself; a very interesting and well documented survey of his family and his relations with Grays is given in Herbert Brooks' book on William Palmer and His School, a book to which I am indebted for much information. What we do know is that he was a very wealthy London merchant. His maternal grandfather was Lord Mayor of London and his grandfathers on both sides were members of the Haberdashers Company—a Company which has made a notable contribution to English education. Probably William Palmer was at one time an Haberdasher himself but for most of his life he seems to have been a landed gentleman with considerable estates in Grays, of which he was Lord of the Manor. No doubt influenced by his friends and the current of the time, and approaching the end of a long life, he decided, to the great fortune of Thurrock, to found a charitable trust for the welfare of the area in which he had spent so much time and to which he had contributed so much as Lord of the Manor and Justice of the Peace.

In 1706 William Palmer completed the Trust Deed which made provision for a number of minor charities and for the foundation of the school which now bears his name. Oddly enough, he left



no instructions that the school was to be named after him; I will refer to this omission later in this article. Under this deed he nominated twelve trustees, nine of them important people in the neighbourhood and three of them influential friends in London. An account of their names and history is given in Brooks. To these trustees he conveyed (i) a piece of ground twenty foot in depth and eighteen foot in breadth lying in the West Field and abutting on the Church yard (ii) Five houses in Whitecross Street, Cripplegate and a house in Lombard Street.

On (i) above the trustees were to:

erect and build a good substantial Brick Building for a Schoolhouse twenty foot in length and eighteen foot in breadth fronting the Church Yard aforesaid with a Chimney therein and raise the Floor of the said intended Schoolhouse one foot above the Ground and Wainscott the whole inside of the same with Deale Wainscott full four foot high from the said floor and place convenient low Desks and Seats in the said Schoolhouse and also make a vault under the same ten foot square sufficient to hold five Chaldrons of Coales or more and to finish and compleat the said building within two yeares next after the decease of the said William Palmer in case he shall not himself build and finish the same in his life time.

Revenues from the property given under (ii) above were to be used to defray the cost and later to pay for the various charities and the salary of the Schoolmaster, who was to receive forty pounds a year. His nomination and appointment were to be in the hands of the person or persons who should occupy Palmer's mansion house. Ten poor children were to be nominated by the Churchwardens of the parish; they were to be taught to read, write and cast accounts and to be instructed in the Latin tongue. So the first regulations and syllabus for the school were laid down.

William Palmer also made provision for a house for the master; he was unable to complete it in his lifetime but his executors completed it for him in 1711; the stone now on the school buildings records this fact. It was quite a spacious house of some dignity; it stood on the site now occupied by the Co-operative Society shop next to the Queen's Hotel and was pulled down comparatively recently. One shocking aspect of the Thurrock area is the way in which buildings of historic interest have been pulled down and no trace left; indeed, the stone referred to above suffered a very low fate until it was retrieved from the cesspit into which it had been placed. The exact site of the school is not known. It lay between the Church and the Stationmaster's house—probably nearer the latter. Excavations near or under this latter building in the nineteenth century revealed some tiles which may have been the original floor of the school, and one at least of these is carefully preserved.

What happened in the next hundred years to the school for which its founder made such minute and careful regulations is largely a matter of conjecture. What sort of curriculum was followed and with what enthusiasm we do not know; unlike some similar schools it does not seem to have developed or to have produced famous men. All records prior to 1786 appear to have been lost, but the old account book begun in that year quotes some rules and regulations for the conduct of the school and the qualifications necessary for the master; these appear to have been copied from earlier documents and may well have been observed since the foundation. From Lady Day till Michaelmas Day, morning hours were from seven till eleven and afternoon hours from two till five; from Michaelmas Day to Lady Day morning hours were from eight till eleven and afternoon hours from one to four. What spartan hours of work! I am left wondering why such a long interval was necessary between morning and afternoon sessions. Vacations, or Breakings Up, were a month at Christmas, a fortnight at Easter, a fortnight at Whitsuntide, and a fortnight at Bartholomewtide. No child was to be admitted under the age of seven years nor to stay after the age of twelve. Attendance at Church was compulsory every Sunday. Any child who was absent from school on more than three occasions for reasons other than sickness was to be expelled.

Little is known of the Schoolmasters up to 1780; nor do we know what academic qualifications they had. The first master in 1709 was a Richard Butler who apparently was deprived for not taking the oath; he was succeeded by a Samuel Wright but we have no information about him or when he took over. Grays Parish Registers record the marriage of a Samuel Wright, widower, to Elizabeth Langfield, single woman, in 1728. He died in office in 1732 and was followed by a Rev. John Walker who died in 1754. It is extraordinary that he should have been master for twenty-two years and left no information by which we can identify him. He was followed by a Benjamin Wells. We have some meagre evidence about him which suggests that the master usually combined other work with teaching duties. As the original trustees passed away, it was necessary at intervals to create fresh Trust Deeds and appoint new Trustees; one such Deed was drawn up in 1757 and mentions Wells as the Schoolmaster with James Theobald the younger as Lord of the Manor. Wells seems to have acted as an estate manager for Theobald; in an agreement over the lease of a chalk pit at Grays in 1771 Wells is stated as acting on behalf of James Theobald and is a signatory to the lease. He must also have been a man of some minor importance. From the Records of the Court Leet of the Manor of Grays Thurrock, a Benjamin Wells served as a Juryman from 1756 to 1778. He was also Aletaster in

1770 and 1773—a piece of overtime work many a modern school-master might envy. Grays Parish Registers record the burial of Benjamin Wells, Master of the Free School, in 1780.

He was followed by John Horncastle in 1780 or 1781. For much information about him we are indebted to Mrs. Turner of Bristol, a descendant of the Horncastle family, who is making an extensive research into the history of the family, and has been kind enough to send information. John Horncastle was born in 1743; in a petition of 1763 concerning his deceased cousin's estate he is described as Schoolmaster of Romford, although of what school I have been unable to ascertain. It seems also that he was engaged in corn business in Romford Market; he later took up farming at West Thurrock, but not very successfully because there is evidence of a sale in 1780 of household furniture, live and dead stock, farming utensils and the like. Shortly after this sale he came to the Charity School as master at £40 per annum. He too, like Wells before him, was a very busy man. In 1783 he became Church Clerk at Grays for £2 10s. per annum; he was also Church Clerk to West Thurrock for £5 per annum; he was bailiff to the Commissioners of Sewers; he collected the rents for the Trust, kept the accounts, and acted as Clerk to the Trustees. There is some evidence from the Horncastle correspondence that John Horncastle only received twenty pounds salary for the first six and a half years of his office; and there is an entry in the account book in 1787 which seems to support this view, because the Trustees then agreed to pay him the full forty pounds. Whether he always received it or not is still not clear; a letter from the Vicar of Grays to the Archdeacon of Essex written in January 1808 quotes the Master's stipend as twenty pounds. But perhaps the Vicar wrote in ignorance, being more concerned in his letter with his rheumatism and ague than with education in the parish.

John Horncastle died in 1815 after some thirty-five years in office. His records give invaluable evidence about the school. He seems to have been responsible for the copy of the original Trust Deed which appears in the 1786 Account book. His accounts make interesting reading; we get some idea of the cost of coal, and of minor jobs about the school; the fence round the master's house seems to have been continually damaged—perhaps it was too near the old workhouse—and the Trustees seem to have objected to paying for its repair. Clothes were bought at intervals for some of the boys. Numbers and names of boys who were brought before the Trustees for examination are also recorded; the names indicate that some of their descendants still live in the Thurrock area. The lowest number of boys brought forward is six and the highest ten. In this connection, the letter of the Vicar quoted above is of interest; he states that twelve were attending in 1808, and that

some boys were attending on payment of fees. How long this practice had been in existence and what numbers were involved is not known. The practice had no legal validity but it foreshadowed what was to come.

The next fifty years cover an interesting period of expansion and is slightly better documented. For a brief period of a few months a John Blaker was in charge of the school—he seems to have been a senior pupil acting until the new master was appointed. The Trustees appointed William Horncastle, the son of John Horncastle, in 1815; and I will have more to say about him later on. One very human condition of his appointment was that he was to keep the fence of the master's house in good repair—perhaps the trustees were thinking of arguments with his father. He remained in office until 1848; the Horncastle family were thus in charge of the school and the work connected with the trust for an almost unbroken period of sixty-eight years.

Throughout this period the master seems to have run the school and conducted the charity very much as he wished. This state of affairs was not uncommon at the time. Indeed, some of the Charity Commissioners Reports during the nineteenth century make very interesting reading. In the case of one well-known endowed school, the master managed to reduce the number of scholars to one, and to save himself further trouble, paid an usher to teach the boy, while he himself drew the revenues. The Charity school at Grays avoided this fate. The Charity Commissioners Report dated approximately 1836 gives this information about the school. It recites the history of various properties of the Trust; and I do not intend to go into these details except to make the point that the income had risen and that more money was available. The Report states:—

The school is situate in West Field, abutting on the Churchyard; it is in good repair and capable of holding fifty boys; the dwelling of the Schoolmaster is a good-sized house at the entrance of the town, and is in very good tenantable repair. The Schoolmaster, William Horncastle, was elected by the Trustees to succeed his father twenty-one years ago at a salary of £40, and has subsequently received an increase of £20 for 10 additional boys, making a total of twenty boys on the foundation.

There are four children clothed by the funds of this charity, the dress of each consisting of a blue coat, trousers and waistcoat, two shirts, two pairs of stockings, a pair of shoes and a leathern cap.

We are left to wonder how it was that the Commissioners thought the schoolhouse would hold fifty; nor do we know when the number of boys was increased.

However, all was not well with the little school. As with so many trusts, many of the original practices had died out. The Lord of the Manor had not exercised his right of nomination; nor

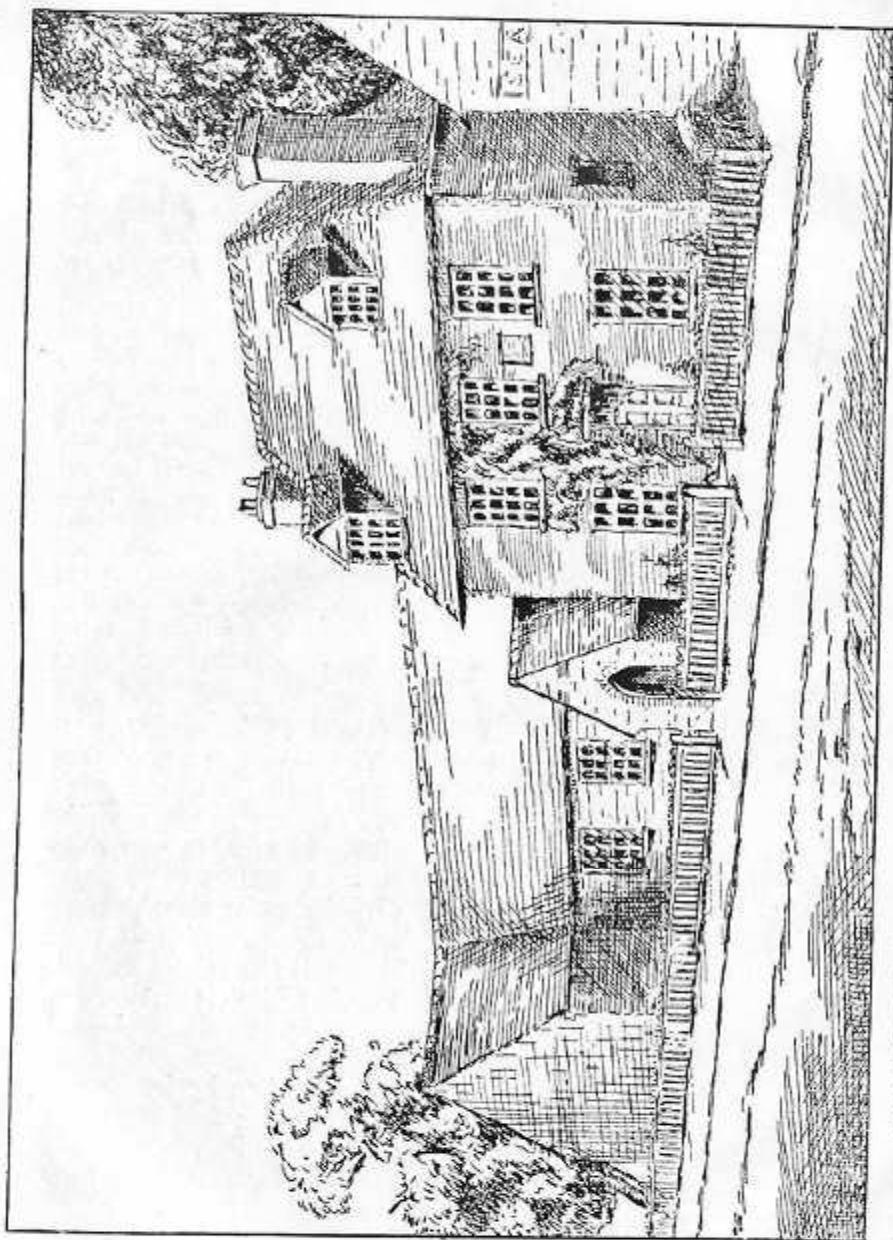
apparently were the accounts of the charities put before the Churchwardens and Overseers as laid down in the original trust. In the 1830's an agitation led by Mr. Richard Meeson began for the practice to be resumed. No doubt they were also inspired by the general spirit of the time which was demanding more and more educational facilities for the poor. The great work being done by the British and Foreign School Society and the National Society had been brought to the attention of a reluctant government, and no doubt some of the enthusiasm had reached Grays. The result of the agitation was a petition to the Court of Chancery in 1844 concerning the regulation of the Trust and the conduct of the school. The petition throws much light on the school. Here is an extract:—

“ That the Trustees of the said Charity have for several years past paid to the Schoolmaster the stipend of Sixty pounds a year besides his having the use of the Schoolmaster's House and for several years past there have usually been about 20 children as free Scholars in the said School who have been taught sometimes by the son of the said Schoolmaster and sometimes by the said Schoolmaster himself to read and write and cast accounts only and no instruction whatever in the Latin tongue has for many years past been given at the said school and the present Master is not competent to give such instruction and until lately he has not constantly attended in the said school and has not usually personally instructed the children and it is desirable that some arrangement should be made for providing instruction in the Latin tongue and extending and improving the system of education at the school.”

The petition went on to ask for a return to the earlier practices of the Trust and to ask for a new Trust Deed. The outcome of the petition was an Order which appointed a number of new trustees and empowered the Trustees to increase the number of scholars to thirty-five, and later perhaps to fifty. It was soon clear that the old schoolhouse could not accommodate these numbers and in 1848 the Trustees met to consider plans for the erection of a larger schoolhouse next to the Master's house in Orsett Road. The buildings went up very quickly and the school moved. What happened to the old school is problematical; the Railway Company seem to have obtained possession of the site and paid nothing for it!

William Horncastle retired in 1848. Whether he knew any Latin or not, he was clearly a man of “sober life and conversation”; the entries about him in his second wife's diary are deeply moving. But he was also a busy man of many affairs; perhaps they explain the absences to which the Churchwardens took exception. What he did as a young man is not known; he obviously thought it sufficiently important to warrant being fined £10 for refusing to serve in the Militia. In 1811 he described himself as “gentleman”





THE SECOND PALMER'S SCHOOL ADJOINING THE SCHOOLMASTER'S HOUSE  
From an original sketch by the late C. M. Shiner, Esq.

when he entered into partnership with Samuel Benson of Stifford, coal merchant, on payment of £400. Where he obtained this large sum is a mystery. In 1818, three years after his appointment to the school, he describes himself as coal merchant when entering into partnership with William Long, victualler; this partnership was dissolved in 1821. What else he did, apart from teaching, for the next twenty-seven years is not known; he was recommended for Postmaster in 1841 at £16 per annum and presumably acted as such.

For the next ten years there was a rapid succession of Masters until the appointment of John M. Rigge in 1838—he continued as Master until 1893. Thomas Hall 1848; Thomas Dermer and James Ward 1850; Edward Dearman 1851; Charles Prince 1852; Rev. (?) J. Benington and N. Hukley Torre 1857; Mr. Wilson 1858—all were appointed in quick succession and some took office. None are of any interest except Benington—and he for no academic virtues. A well authenticated account states that shortly after his appointment, Benington was recognised as an ex-convict by a Grays quarryman, also an ex-convict, and greeted as "Black Harry". What crime he had committed is unknown; what is certain is that immediately after this encounter, Benington left the district.

During Rigge's régime the school underwent many changes. In 1856 the Trustees were empowered to accept fee-paying students; the buildings were enlarged shortly afterwards and numbers went up considerably. However, a number of factors united to produce a revolutionary change. There was an ever increasing demand for education for the children of the rising middle class brought into existence by the Industrial Revolution. New schools were being founded, and the position of the old endowed schools came under review before Parliament in the 1860's. Moreover, many of the leases of the property owned by the trust had by now expired and been replaced by more lucrative leases; so much so that the Trustees felt that the time was ripe to establish some form of higher education from the funds of the charity. They therefore asked the Commissioners appointed under the Endowed Schools Act of 1869 to draw up a new scheme for the administration of the Trust. Some local opposition was met because it was felt that a charity set up for the poor of Grays was being diverted for the needs of the middle class. The Commissioners won the day and in 1871 the new scheme came into force.

The term Trustees now vanished and the term Governors took its place. The Governing Body was to consist of sixteen people; the Vicar of Grays and the Parishioners' Churchwarden, a Justice of the Orsett Petty Sessional Division, the Chairman of the Orsett Board of Guardians were to be ex-officio members; four members were to be elected by parents of children in the school and there



were to be eight co-opted members. A very different body indeed from the original Trustees. Two schools were to be provided; the Boys' School for 40 boarders and 100 day scholars; the Girls' School for 25 boarders and 50 day scholars. Fees were fixed at £5 a year for tuition and £30 a year for boarding. The list of subjects to be taught raised the type of education well above the elementary level. The Governors were empowered to grant Scholarships or Exhibitions to children from elementary schools in Grays or adjacent parishes on the results of competitive examinations, at reduced fees or without any fee so long as the number of such Foundation Scholars did not exceed one-fifth of the total numbers of scholars at the school. As far as I am aware, the scheme did not fix a minimum number of such scholars. One interesting point of the scheme is worth mentioning; for the first time the school is referred to as Palmer's School or Palmer's Endowed School; whatever correspondence I have seen up to this date speaks of the Charity School or the Free School.

The new Governors quickly set to work. The new Boys' School opened in 1874 and the Girls' School in 1876. Rigge continued as Headmaster. In 1884 there were 46 boys and 36 girls on the roll; in 1890 the number of boys reached 67 but dropped to 45 in 1893. The great majority on both sides were boarders.

There are in existence some personal records of life at the school during Rigge's headmastership. W. A. Brown wrote in 1923 an account of the Orsett Road School which he went to in 1860. He became a pupil teacher there at the ripe age of twelve years and six months, and served as such for two years and a quarter at the salary of 36 shillings a quarter. Unfortunately his account, while being rich in anecdote, tells us nothing of the curriculum. We gather that Rigge was helped by a succession of assistant masters; and that Rigge was a strict disciplinarian. According to Mr. Brown, there were about 80 or 90 pupils in 1860; 127 in 1867; of these, forty had free tuition. The free boys had to perform various chores; keeping the school clean, lighting fires, and generally doing menial work. Some of them were given clothing. My grandfather, who attended the school from 1857 till 1859, told me nothing of these duties—perhaps they were innovations of Rigge. The boys, other than free boys, paid from 3d. to 1/- a week according to their parents' income.

For the period of Rigge in the new school, there are two lively accounts which I quote extensively. An anonymous account of the school in 1884-86, obviously written by a boarder, should be given in full if space would permit. Furnishings were spartan indeed; nocturnal feasts were held in the dormitories if the masters could be avoided; "honour" was demanded of all boys and taken very seriously. I now quote—

"We were taught no science or handicrafts, they were never mentioned. There was no library for us to turn to for reading. We had to provide our own story books and reading matter—we never saw a newspaper and we were never told anything political or what was going on in the world . . . There were a few day-boys admitted to the School who lived in Grays . . . Every Sunday morning we paraded for Church in our neat Eton Suits, white collars, striped trousers and mortar boards with coloured tassel . . . The little boys' letters were always censored . . . We always had to write our address as Grays College . . . There were no special examinations apart from school examinations. No boy ever worked for Matriculation. This had to be done by private coaching after he had left school . . . No effort was made to find out what a boy was destined for, and parents were never asked. The school was simply a happy, fairly comfortable home, with lessons to keep us occupied and quiet." The writer speaks with great love of Mrs. Rigge and with great respect of Mr. Rigge.

Another personal account begins at 1887. " . . . ; you might have called us prisoners as we only left school twice a year to play Footer or Cricket; . . . never visited the town . . . Rigge was a decent sort and didn't smash into us. . . . We didn't study for Exams or Scholarships . . . We called the school Grays College . . . Crib-aided, we strove to learn about Caesar's doings and to understand Euclid's reasonings . . . We numbered say 45 boarders and 15 day boys. We never saw the girls."

Oddly enough, there seems to be little information about Rigge. He was clearly a man of honesty and learning and much respected. My impression is that he was aiming at developing the school as a public school and divorcing it from the life of Grays. There is no evidence of his taking any part in local affairs; and the tenor of the two accounts I have quoted is that he even wished to drop the name of Palmer. So much of his income as Headmaster was derived from fees and boarding profits that it is not surprising that he pushed that side as far as possible. It is a pity that not more is known of him; the name Grays College was certainly his invention. The word college has survived; indeed, when I went to the school in 1921, it was always referred to as the College or as Palmer's College.

It seems to have taken the residents of Grays some time to realise that the Palmer's Charity was not being used to the interest of Grays residents only. No doubt they would have continued in ignorance but for the fact that the rapid expansion of Grays, due to the railway and the advent of Tilbury Docks, made the Elementary Schools in the New Road inadequate, led to the building of Quarry Hill School, and brought about the creation of a Local School Board which demanded a heavy education rate. The cry

went up that money left for the education of the poor of Grays had been diverted to the education of people from outside the area and a long and acrimonious dispute followed. Eventually in 1891 a representative of the Charity Commissioners met the Grays School Board and the Local Board (the forerunner of the Urban District Council) to discuss the matter. Some members of the School Board were fairly moderate in their demands; they asked mainly for an increase in the number of places which could be filled from the Foundation; others led by Herbert Brooks and his father wanted a radical alteration. They argued that the school site and buildings should be sold; that any outstanding debts be paid off and the remaining capital sum and revenues of the charity should be used for lowering the general education rate. Had they had their way, the school would have ceased to exist; but fortunately the Commissioner refused to listen to their demands. At the same time however, the Essex County Council made it known that some of the so called "Whisky Money" was available for the purpose of developing technical education; and a conference took place between the Governors of the school and representatives of the Local Board to consider asking for a share for Grays, and the school seemed to be the obvious centre for the development of such work.

The outcome of these two currents of opinion was a new scheme of administration for the school which became operative in 1893. Briefly the scheme made provision for much more local control of the school; ten of the 15 Governors were representative of local interests and the remaining five were to be co-opted by them. The property was vested in the Official Trustees of Charitable Lands; the income from the Trust, then something like £830, was to be used for educational purposes apart from a minor charity. There was to be a day and boarding school for boys and another for girls. The minimum age of entry was to be seven years and the maximum age was to be fifteen, which could be raised to sixteen on the Headmaster's recommendation. The curriculum was fairly wide; including quaintly enough, the possibility of instruction in Navigation and Land Surveying. There were to be ten scholarships and exhibitions for boys and six for girls after 1894.

Minor alterations to this scheme, which lie outside the scope of my story, were made later but the scheme remained substantially the same until that drafted after the 1944 Act; a scheme which has many unfortunate features, and the implications of which were unknown to many old students, just as the implications of the 1871 scheme were not realised by the then Grays residents.

In view of the impending change of control which obviously meant a change of policy, Rigge resigned in 1892 but continued in

office until 1893 when George H. Silverwood was appointed. The next twenty years saw an unprecedented expansion. The development of technical education, and the plans being made for the provision of secondary education which culminated in the Education Act of 1902 made a progressive policy possible. And there can be no doubt but that "Gaff" Silverwood, as he was affectionately known to generations of Palmer's boys until his retirement in 1918, was the right man in the right place at the right time. Under his leadership, the numbers of boys grew from 45 in 1893 to 287 in 1918. Assisted by financial aid from the Local authorities large extensions of premises were made. By 1900 new classrooms, a physics laboratory, a gymnasium and a swimming bath were added. In 1907 more class rooms, more laboratory accommodation, technical instruction rooms, and the Art room were added in addition to the acquisition of a playing field. The history of further expansion after 1918 is given elsewhere in this book.

Similarly, life in the School in those days is the subject of another article and I will restrict my comments. It is sufficient to say that under Silverwood the school took its place as one of the leading schools in Essex. By his keen interest in local affairs, the headmaster gave the school a position of prominence in local affairs; but he also wisely fed the school from outside and it never became parochial. The Michael Sadler Report of 1905 on the position and needs of higher education in Essex speaks in glowing terms of the school. "Palmer's Endowed School has already conferred great benefits on the area which it serves. It has now been decided to extend its buildings and sphere of work in order that it may become the centre of secondary education (including the instruction of pupil teachers) for the whole district and for evening classes in art and science for Grays. When these extensions are complete the range of its public usefulness will be considerably widened. The energy and organising skill which have been shown in the development of this foundation reflect great credit on all concerned, and not least upon Mr. Silverwood, who, helped by the warm support of the Governors and of the leading residents in Grays, has raised the number of the boys' school during the twelve years of his headmastership from 45 to 138, and commands the confidence of all who are interested in the development of secondary education in the town."

My account must end in 1918. I find it difficult to end a story which is not complete and which is still developing; and in fairness I must refrain from too much comment on recent changes under which the school, in my opinion, has virtually become just another part of secondary education in Essex, lost its autonomy, and bids fair to lose connection with the past other than through name. At least, at the time my story ends, we can rejoice that the

parochial attitude which existed in 1871 and again in 1893 did not win the day; and that after two hundred years of vicissitude and change, the small foundation begun by William Palmer had risen to a position of prestige and importance. The omission of William Palmer in not naming his school to commemorate his memory has been rectified; and thousands of men throughout these islands and the world remember his name when thinking back with love and respect to the school which proudly bears the name of Palmer's School.

## 2. THE SCHOOL BUILDINGS

by J. R. HAYSTON, M.A.

THE precise instructions which William Palmer laid down for the building of his school give us detailed information of its dimensions and an adequate picture of its general appearance, but it is very difficult to fix its position on the ground at the present time. Gyfford was guilty of some artistic licence, for the school did not stand so close to the church as it would appear to do from the engraving made from his drawing; the tithe map of the parish of Grays Thurrock (1840) makes this clear. It is probable that the school lay in the vicinity of the present Church Path, extending to the ground of the stationmaster's house, since the Trustees later sought, without success, compensation from the Railway Company for the site.

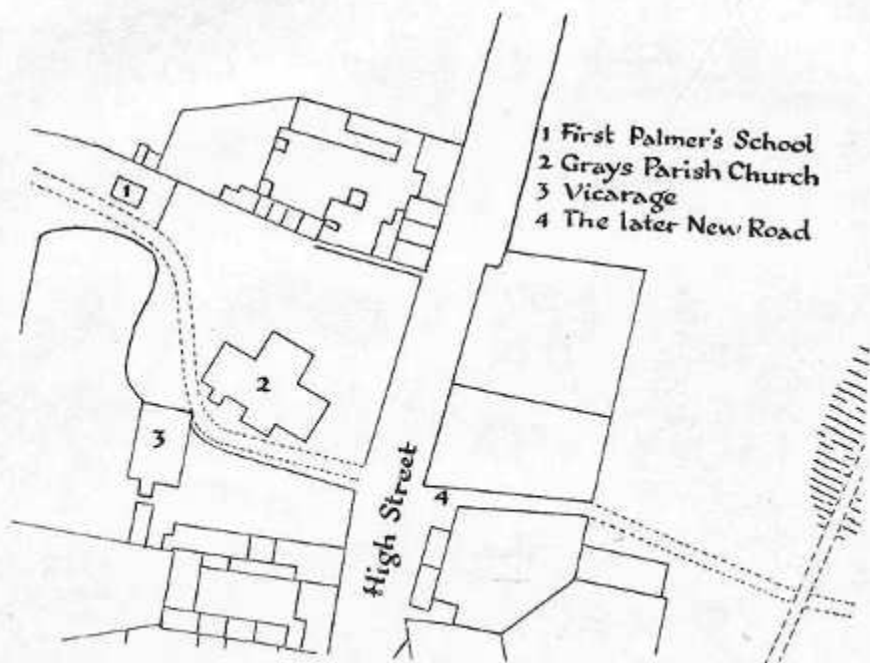
There has recently come to light a plan and builders' specifications for the erection of a "National School" in Grays, 1848. Examination of the plan, together with internal evidence from the specifications, leaves not the slightest doubt that this was the original Architect's drawing for the building of the second Palmer's School adjoining the Master's House which stood next to the "Green Man" in Orsett Road. Why, then, was the plan entitled "A National School"? There was, in 1846, a National School attended by 65 infants in a building not held on any legal title (probably in West Street); and National Sunday Schools in which the girls assembled in the Infants schoolroom "where the teachers reside" and the boys in "the Charity Schoolroom". But the first National School to be built in Grays, was that erected in New Road in 1873. I suggest that in 1848, at a time when no local schools were rate-aided, that there was so little distinction between a school for the "poor boys" of the parish drawing its income from a charitable endowment, and schools for infants (and later, girls) maintained by the voluntary subscriptions of a Church of England Society that one name covered them all; and no doubt



this impression was fostered, in the first place by the fact that the "Charity School" lay within the shadow of the Church supporting the National Schools; secondly by the fact that there seemed to be, for some years, a personal connection between the two schools, for in 1859 the Post Office Directory gives, under the title of "Public Schools" in Grays Thurrock.

National: Mrs. Eliz. D. Rigge, Mistress.

Palmer's Free Grammar: John Rigge, Master.



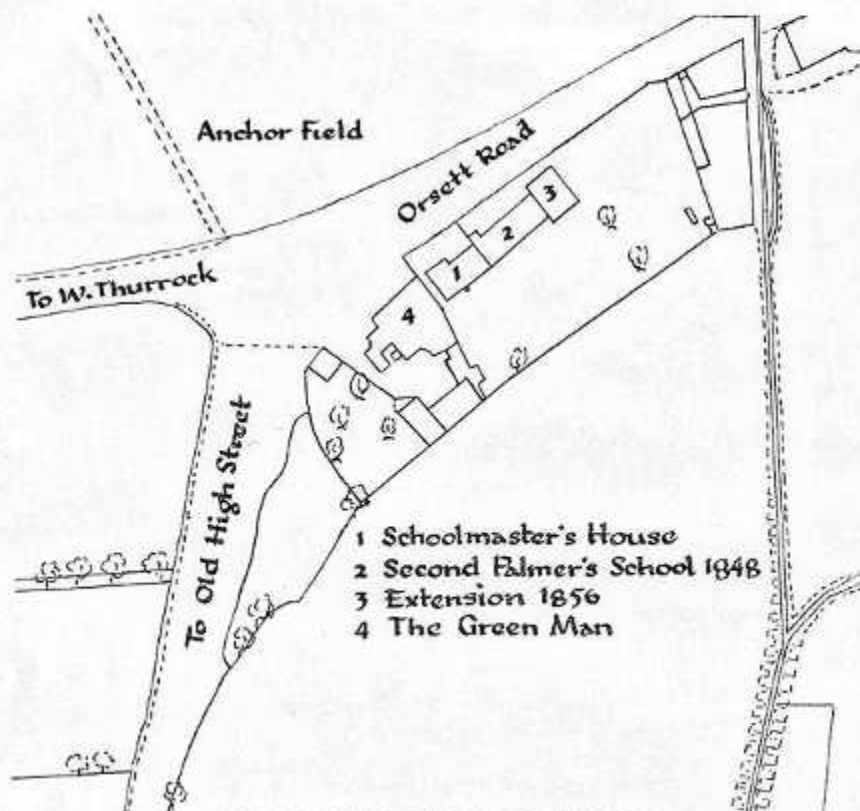
THE FIRST PALMER'S SCHOOL  
From the Tithe Map 1840

In the Post Office Directory of 1862, the former is more closely defined as the National School for Girls, and Miss Annie Simmons was Mistress.

The Trustees met in June, 1848, to consider this plan, and their decision is recorded in the following minute:

The Erection of a New School Room adjoining or near to the Master's House was considered, and the plan produced by Mr. Rd. Meeson, prepared by Mr. Hugh Smith, was laid before the meeting. Mr. Meeson was requested to communicate with Mr. Smith for the purpose of having some fresh plans made.

The architects' original proposal was estimated to cost £193 and was apparently too expensive, for his second plan, which was approved on 4th August, 1848, was estimated at £144 7s., though additional fittings brought the total bill to £165 11s. The contractor was Alfred Cribb, a bricklayer of Grays, and William Binder, described in White's Directory as "builder and undertaker" of



THE SECOND PALMER'S SCHOOL  
From the Ordnance Survey Map 1862-4

Orsett. The specifications accompanying the first plan authorized the contractors to demolish the old school and make use of the materials, so that it probably disappeared as the second building went up.

Two factors were now exercising a decisive influence: in the first place the income from the endowment was growing, enabling the Trustees to adopt a forward-looking policy; in the second, the population was growing, exerting a pressure for increased facilities for popular education. Accordingly on 5th November, 1855,



the Trustees made application to the Charity Commissioners for permission to extend the buildings and admit fee paying pupils. The work was completed within the next year, and a minute of 11th November, 1856 recorded:

The accounts of the Building Committee were examined and allowed, from which it appeared that £151.11.2 had been expended in building the additional School Room and £40.15.4 in improving the old School Room and in fittings and other necessary expenses.

Nevertheless the Trustees had gone further than their resources would permit and the extensions were only completed through timely aid from Richard Meeson, one of their number, who supplied the builder with bricks, lime and tiles on credit and who did not receive payment for a further five years. In 1857, a well was sunk near the Master's house and a pump installed in his kitchen, sanitary offices were built for the use of the boys, and a part of the Master's garden was converted into a playground. That completed the building with which we are familiar from the attractive sketch made by the late C. M. Shiner.

The fateful events following the passing of the Endowed Schools Act of 1869 which led to the decision to establish an "Upper" or Secondary school for both boys and girls do not concern us here; but the Governors—who took the place of the Trustees—began to look round for a suitable site for a new school. Negotiations were begun with W. T. Meeson for a site at the corner of Hogg Lane; and then with James Theobald for three acres of the eight-acre "Great Anchor" Field—which lay opposite the second school. Let us permit ourselves the speculation that we might have found ourselves today on the site of the Police Station, or Quarry Hill School, or even competing with the roar and "hideous hum" of the L.P.T.B. garage. However these negotiations fell through, and the Governors eventually bought, at £250 an acre, a small field of three and a half acres, called the "White Post Field" from Mr. Ingram. The site of the present school then lay in open country.

The new buildings (of which a Mr. Maples was Architect, and Messrs. Darby and Sons the Contractors) were begun in 1873 and the Boys' School was opened in 1874; the Girls' School, however, was not completed till 1876, probably because of financial difficulties, for the Governors had to realise some investments and mortgage the new buildings for £4,000 to meet their commitments of some £5,500.

The original scheme of 1870 envisaged a Boys' School providing for 40 boarders and 100 day scholars, and a Girls' School for 25 boarders and 50 day scholars, but it is evident that for some time nothing like these numbers were attained, and the accommodation was not stretched to capacity. In 1884 there were 46 boys

and 36 girls on the roll; in 1893 only 45 boys; in both cases the majority were boarders.

The original school consisted of what we should now call the South Front, with the houses of the Headmaster and Headmistress in the centre ("Very commodious buildings", says the prospectus of 1910, "with spacious and airy dormitories, one 34 x 18 x 16 feet, the other 38 x 19 x 15 feet, suitable lavatories, etc. erected on an elevated and healthy situation, commanding extensive views of the River Thames and the Kent Hills"). We have an account of the buildings in these early days from a boarder of the period 1884-6, who wrote:

The School is a fine large building in red brick relieved with white stone, imposing and wonderful to us boys. It was divided into two parts—one part was the boys', the other for the girls. They were absolutely two different and separate schools. The outside of the school looked more attractive than did the interior, for inside the place was bare and uninviting.

The big schoolroom was large, airy and well lit, bare to a Spartan degree—nothing was in the room but the long wooden, unpainted and unvarnished desks and forms and a big cupboard for books—no pictures of any kind adorned the walls; there were no radiators, no gas, no central heating, but a small coke fire in the winter, and hanging oil lamps; curiously enough we as boys never noticed or complained of the evident discomfort and mean furnishing. A door led out from the schoolroom into the tuck-shop or box room, and from there into the playground. Through this door we left or entered the school, while another door led into a small classroom, and a third door into the main hall, headmaster's study, passages to the private apartments, and stairs to the dormitories. The dormitories were like the school-room below, bare of furniture or decoration, only the little iron beds and a strip of carpet at the side of each bed—nothing more: There were two dormitories, one for the big boys and one for the little ones . . .

But not all people were impressed by the Victorian façade of this "fine large building". In the very acrimonious discussions of 1891 when an attempt was made to divert the funds of the Charity to the School Board, one of the representatives of the latter said "that the present buildings were badly constructed, constantly needing repair, and that if he had to administer the Charity as Chairman of the School Board, he should not like to have the present buildings hung round his neck".

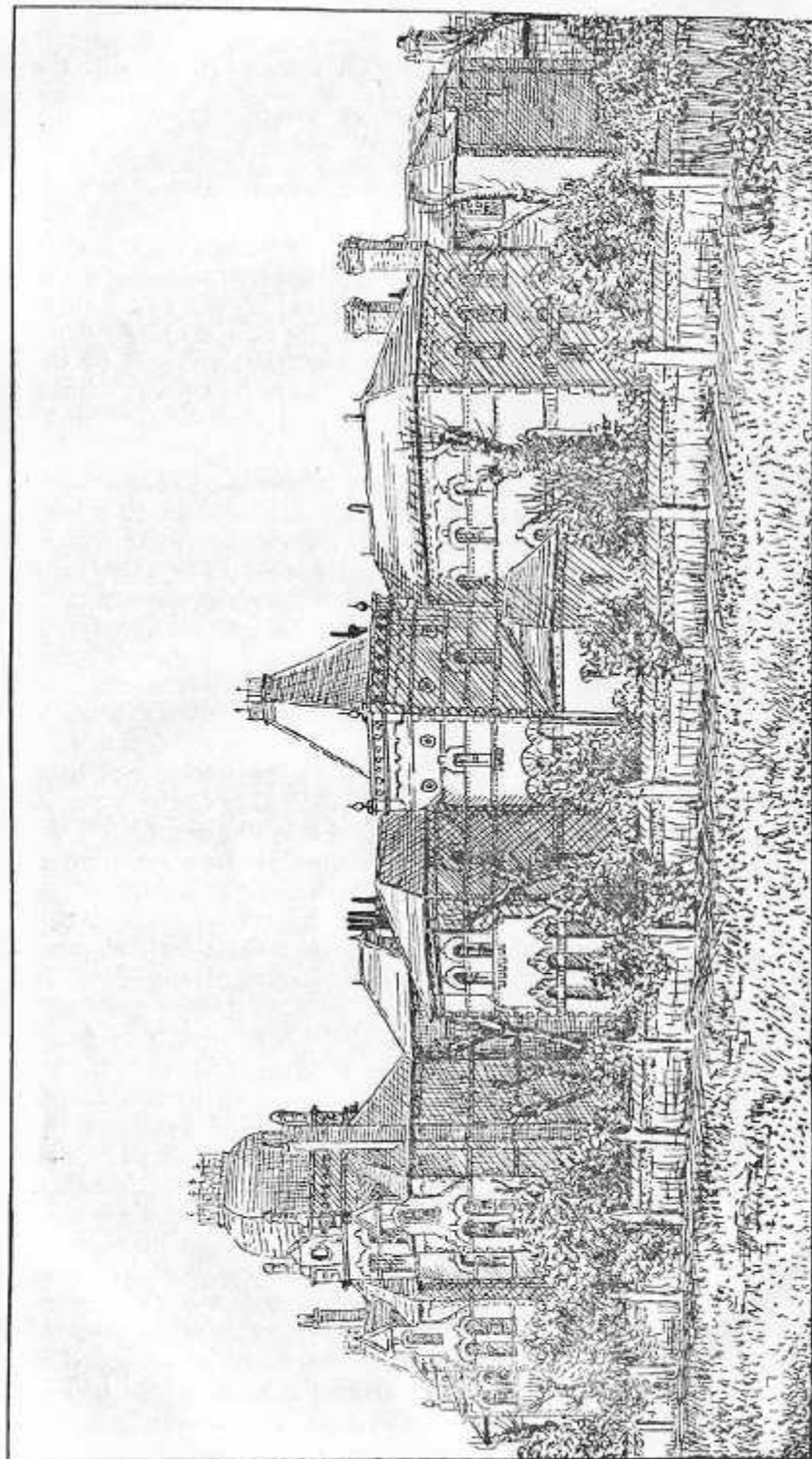
The year 1893 may be marked down as the beginning of a great era of expansion. The initial impetus probably came from the possibility of outside aid, when the Government turned over "Whisky Money" to County Councils to assist in the development of technical education. Local disputes were amicably settled with the promulgation by the Queen in Council of a "Scheme for the administration of the Foundation known as the School founded by William Palmer" whereby local interests were more adequately represented on the Governing body. In the same year, G. H.

Silverwood was appointed Headmaster on the inauguration of the new scheme.

The first fruits were quickly seen, for in 1894, a Science Lecture Room and Chemical Laboratory were erected and the "sanitary arrangements of the whole building were remodelled on the most approved system"—a somewhat lyrical expression of the fact that the school drainage was linked with the public sewerage system recently created by the local authorities. A Sanitorium followed in 1895 "affording complete isolation in the case of any outbreak of infectious disease". It was a detached building on the other side of Chadwell Road and is the present house of the caretaker of the Boys' School. In the same year, the Headmaster rented the adjoining field, and, later acquiring the freehold, sold it to the Governors in 1907. It is the present school cricket field.

The last two years of the old century witnessed considerable building. The existing science rooms were extended eastward by the addition of the Physics laboratory and a Swimming Bath which, when boarded over, also served as a Gymnasium. The west wing began to take shape with the erection of two classrooms, with a dormitory over, fitted with cubicles for senior boys. At the same time, the hot water system of heating was installed "radiators being fixed, not only in the schoolroom, classrooms and laboratories, but also in the dormitories". But this took time, and the work was not finished till 1900. There is a suggestion that before the installation of apparatus for heating the water in the bath, swimming may have been a spartan exercise. An account of Speech Day in the "Penny Illustrated News" of 1899 is illustrated by a photograph of the bath, with boys neatly lined along the diving platform, and mustached gentlemen (whom I take to be masters) formally grouped in the water. And in the middle of the south wall is an open fire grate! A similar photograph published in the Girls' School prospectus shows the young ladies decorously arranged and decently submerged to the neck!

Apart from the installation of electric light in 1902, no further construction took place until 1906-7 when there were extensive alterations and additions. What were at that time known as the "New Technical Buildings" but what we should know as the Science Block was completed with the addition of another Chemistry laboratory, Woodwork room, Art room, and classrooms. Mr. C. M. Shiner was the architect. The Science Block as then constructed remains unaltered to this day, though there have been interior modifications; the partition walls of two upstairs classrooms, for example, have been removed to provide a junior laboratory, and a classroom next to the Woodwork room has been adapted as a Biology laboratory. The remaining classrooms were housed in a small wing of two rooms running from the main school hall at



THE SOUTH FRONT OF THE THIRD PALMER'S SCHOOL AND HEADMASTER'S HOUSE

From a photograph taken c. 1920

that time, parallel to the west wing. The eastern wall of this wing would approximately coincide with the west wall of the present Hall.

The school as it then appeared will be known to all pupils who attended from that date to the early 1930's. To the extreme west lay the compact Technical Block, almost linked to the main buildings by the Physics laboratory and Swimming Bath. The main school block, containing the school hall, dormitories, dining hall and Headmaster's house now had a west wing of three classrooms, with the senior dormitory above, and a smaller wing of two classrooms. Beyond that, to the east, lay the orchard and the Headmaster's garden, and beyond that—the forbidden territory of the Girls' School.

Miss Braimbridge, in her essay, has traced the story of the Girls' School buildings. Certain rooms were, of course, common to both schools—laboratories, Art Room, Swimming Bath-cum-Gymnasium—were used by both boys and girls though not, of course, co-educationally. The south block was continuous, linked to the boys' school by the Headmistress's house, and containing the girls' school hall and the boarding establishment. Broadly speaking, there was an extension of the girls' school parallel to that of the boys' school, all the additional buildings developing into the east wing we know today, and all being completed by 1913. Apart from structural alterations necessary to convert to the use of the boys' school what had previously been adapted to the curriculum of girls, this wing remains unaltered to this day.

The rest of the story does not properly belong to the first two hundred years, but the provision of ever-expanding accommodation to meet the needs of an ever-increasing school population is a continuous one, and it would be well to bring it up-to-date here.

The outbreak of the 1914-18 war put out of mind all ideas of further extension; but its end created most difficult problems. The provision of additional accommodation was vital; but building costs were prohibitive. Accordingly, a temporary solution was found in the acquisition of army huts, erected in both the boys' and girls' playgrounds. But who can define "temporary"? These huts later did yeoman service during the reconstruction of the boys' school; thereafter they served as storerooms until continually expanding numbers necessitated their being pressed into service again. One hut in the east playground still provides three classrooms and looks remarkably permanent; they are by no means the least attractive classrooms in the school, though the heating is primitive. The other hut is now in the process of conversion to a Refectory providing full clubroom facilities for boys, and for meetings of school societies.

The story of the properties which Palmer left in his Trust Deed is a fascinating one in itself. The little property in Lombard



Street survived till 1918 when Barclay's Bank, which had acquired properties on both sides, induced the Governors to sell for no less than £15,000. This money enabled them to purchase 21 acres of land, some three-quarters of a mile to the east of the existing school, fronting Chadwell Road. Herbert Brooks ended his chapter on the development of the school with a hint of the hope that on that site might rise a new school for the girls of Palmer's School. In 1929 he was himself to lay the foundation stone of that new school, and within two years there had been completed the buildings of the school and Hostel with which we are now familiar.

The exodus of the girls made available the whole of the existing school for boys, but it was now due for major reconstruction. This work was begun in 1933 to the plans of the County Architect, Mr. Stuart, by Messrs. Brown Brothers of Grays and was completed by 1937 at a total cost of £34,000. Few who knew the school in those hectic days can forget the experience of trying to conduct a normal school curriculum while demolitions proceeded all round us; of constant removals and improvisations; of partitions, sometimes of canvas, sometimes a little, but only a little, more sound proof; of competition with all the noisy paraphernalia of building construction. The Headmaster, Rev. H. Alldridge Abbott, wrote in his Year Book for 1934-5:

School successes have been won under difficult and trying conditions. The east wing, though taken over by the boys in 1931 . . . has since been in a state of reconstruction. For the last few years, school work has had to be carried on amid the noise and dust inseparable from building operations, and as it was impossible to make a complete and compact scheme of rebuilding, the work has been sectional and partial. As soon as one set of classrooms has been completed, another set has been demolished, and the constant removal of classes and the consequent discomfort and unsettlement has not been conducive to that continuity of progress so very essential to school life. Unfortunately this state of affairs is likely to continue for some time to come. No hall has yet been built, so assemblies have to be held in the open air—a truly deplorable state of affairs especially in the winter. Swimming has had to be abandoned owing to the bad state of the roof of the baths, the "tuck-shop" has disappeared, there are no changing-rooms, and there is no supply of drinking water except one tap in the Playing Field . . .

But at last the dust was laid, and the new buildings were officially opened on 18th March, 1937. The outline of the old school was very largely followed, though the buildings were almost entirely remodelled in late Georgian style. The south and north fronts were built in an attractive silver grey brick with artificial stone dressings; the Hall and quadrangles, unfortunately, were built in yellow bricks to harmonise with parts of the original building which were retained—but they are weathering.

What differences would the pre-1930 Old Boy find on revisi-



ing the School today? Let it be said at once that he will wander round the Science Block and find little changed, save that his initials may have been obliterated by coats of paint. He will not lose his way in the Swimming Bath, though the gymnastic fittings have gone and he may admire the translucence of the water with improved filtering. He will find the west wing longer than he knew it, for it has been extended by the addition of cloak rooms below and a Master's Common Room above. The covered cloister walk will be strange, though within he will find the same three classrooms below; but if he seeks the boarding house he might have known so well, he will find it has been moved to the east wing, to the quarters once occupied by girl boarders. Where, then, are the old haunts? If he seeks the dining hall, he will be welcomed into the study of the Headmaster; and will find the old school hall converted into two classrooms. If he mounts the staircase to seek the junior dormitory, he will be astonished to find himself in a Library panelled in Indian silver grey wood and containing, perhaps, more books than he dreamed of. The senior dormitory, he will discover, has been converted into a couple of attractive classrooms where dreamers may still allow their thoughts to float away with Thames tides; the cubicles, too, are gone. He will walk along a corridor flanked by three more classrooms, and will be welcomed at the end into the Master's Common Room.

A staircase here will lead him back into the quadrangle, where he may pass along a corridor linking the east and west wings, pausing on the way to admire the well-appointed gymnasium on the north side. He may never have been in the east wing before; if he has, he will find it little changed in appearance.

But he will have noticed a great new structure running north to south, standing where he used to know the orchard and garden, and forming, with the south block and the corridor he has just traversed, two quadrangles between the east and west wings. Here will be the end of his journey—in the Hall with its gallery, beautifully panelled in Austrian oak and ebonised mahogany, with, behind an imposing proscenium surmounted with the armorial bearings of William Palmer, the stage which has already made possible so much development in the dramatic and musical activities of the School. Here may he pause and, if he will, dwell in spirit with those who gather daily for morning assembly and those hundreds who have already gone from this place.

We hope he will have enjoyed his pilgrimage.

## ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

This letter was written by the late Mr. W. A. Brown (1854-1941) to Herbert E. Brooks in 1923. It was not, of course, intended for publication but it has a special interest, in this year of commemoration, as probably the only extant personal account of the School nearly one hundred years ago. W. A. Brown, as his letter shows, was both a pupil and a pupil teacher at the School before its reconstruction as a place of Higher Education, and was a Governor of the School c. 1903-12.

THESE are the reminiscences of my school days at W. Palmer's old school situated in the Orsett Road. One part is now (1923) occupied by Mr. Fowler, and is used as a greengrocery business, and the other part as a private dwelling house. The house adjoining the School where the Head Master resided is now used as offices by T. Capron and Co.

*(The site of these buildings is now occupied by the new business premises of the Grays Co-operative Society.)*

I first attended the school in September, 1860, when Mr. John Miles Rigge was Head Master; in fact he was the only master then, but after I had been there two or three weeks, Mr. Jennings came as an assistant master, and stayed about three years, after which he left and took an appointment as Head Master at Rainham school.

Previous to Mr. Rigge was a gentleman named Wilson who only stayed a few months, and the senior boys told me they liked him very much as he was very kind to them. Mr. Wilson came to take the place of one named Benington who was only Master a few months. I never heard the reason for his leaving from the school boys, but my father told me that one day they were slack of work in the old Grays Hall Quarry, and in the afternoon several of the men were sitting on the boundary wall which ran from East to West along the Orsett Road; and one of the men who was a returned convict and who had been sent out of the country for sheep stealing, recognised Benington and saluted him by saying, "Hullo, Black Harry" (the name by which he was known to the convicts). Benington had also been sent out of the country as a convict. The other also said, "It is somewhat strange we should meet again". Benington asked him what he was talking about and he replied, "You know me very well and what I am talking about". This caused quite a sensation in Grays and more especially so when it became known that Benington, the returned convict, had absconded. This news was given me not only by my father but by two other men who sat on the wall and heard the conversation.

I was also told by my father that Benington succeeded Mr. Prince, who was Head Master about five or six years. There are a few men in Grays today who attended the school when Prince was Master, and I well remember the senior boys telling me what a strict master he was. He used to use an ash stick to punish the boys with, and the boys composed a rough piece of poetry about him which I give (as far as my memory serves me)

Mr. Prince is a very good man  
He tries to teach us what he can  
To read and write, and arithmetic cram  
But he never forgets to use the Ash stick  
And when he does he makes us dance  
Out of England into France.

I have heard my father speak about Mr. Horncastle who was Head Master of the School situated on the ground which is now used as the Church Path. He also told me about the other Masters after Mr. Horncastle gave up teaching, down to the time of Mr. Prince's being appointed, but I cannot remember the names. Those I have given are still fresh in my memory because the senior boys, who had been attending the school several years before I went, often told me about them.

There was only one Head Master at the School during my school days, he being there two years previous to my going, and he remained until the school closed, after which he went to the College. The names of the assistants were Messrs. Jennings, Atkinson, Sykes, MacKnight, Chitty, Sowray. Mr. Chitty was the first master to introduce the Tonic Sol Fa system of singing at the school; previous to that, Mr. Rigge taught by the old Notation.

Mr. MacKnight used to cause a lot of fun with the boys by his brogue. He would call out to a boy who was disobedient, "I'll be giving the forty lines directly", which meant that the boy was to stay behind after school hours and write the lines.

This brings me now to the period when Pupil Teachers were engaged.

During the time Mr. Chitty was assistant Master, Mr. Rigge asked for help in the school, and was instructed by the Trustees to select a boy from Class IA, which he did; and Francis Golden (brother of the late John Golden) was appointed. He stayed about one year as Pupil Teacher, and then left to join his father in the building trade. During that time I had passed from Class I to Class IA; then it was I was appointed as Pupil Teacher at the age of twelve years and six months and stayed till Christmas 1868, serving 2 years and 3 months. I then left and went as a Clerk to Mr. G. W. Turp, Manager of the Quarries.

I should like to state my reason for leaving the school. I had

been promised by the Vicar of Grays (Mr. Richards) that I would be sent to College to be trained as a Teacher, but, he failing to keep his promise, my parents were compelled to take me away to help earn my own living. As a Pupil Teacher I received the magnificent sum of 30/- per quarter, to which Mr. Rigge added 6/6 per quarter. Thus you will see it was not a great sum to maintain a growing lad on.

In case you may think it strange to select a Pupil Teacher from Class IA, I ought to point out that our School was numbered in the reverse way to the present day schools; our lowest class was numbered 6, the highest Class IA.

I should like to point out that when I first attended the school, there were about 80 or 90 boys attending, and as Grays grew in population so the school numbers increased. The highest number I ever remember was in the year 1867 when we reached 127; this was during the time I was teaching.

In the year 1860 we used to have half day holidays on Wednesdays and Saturdays but this was altered at the end of 1860 to attend all day Wednesday and to have holiday all day Saturday.

Hours in Summer: 9—12 a.m.

2—5 p.m.

Hours in Winter: 9—12 a.m.

2—4.30 p.m.

Holidays: August, 1 month

Christmas, 2 weeks

Good Friday,  $\frac{1}{2}$  day.

The school was managed by the Trustees whose names were, as far as I can remember them, in 1860.

Rev. C. Theobald, Vicar of Grays Parish Church

Rev. E. C. Lethbridge, Vicar of West Thurrock Church

Rev. W. Palin, Rector of Stifford Church.

Richard Meeson, Duvals, Grays

Mr. Rigge, Belmont Castle, Grays

Mr. J. Seabrooke, Brewery, Grays

(Father of the late C. Seabrooke)

Sir T. B. Lennard, Belhus Park, Aveley

Hon. Lord Petre, Warley

R. B. Wingfield Baker, Orsett

(I am not sure about these last three being Trustees, but I know they used to come to the School. When Rev. C. Theobald left Grays Church, Mr. Richards was appointed Vicar and thus became a Trustee.)

I give the names of the Trustees, because of an incident which occurred on the 5th of November, which was the day on which the Trustees held their annual meeting, except when the 5th fell on a Sunday.

When I mentioned previously the number of boys attending the school, I omitted to state that forty boys had to be taught free, as was recorded on the stone which was on the wall over the front door of the school house.

The free boys had to keep the school clean, scrub it thoroughly three times a year, clean all windows as often as required, and dust the school in the morning before 9 a.m. In the winter months they had to light the fire and get the School well warmed before Mr. Rigge came in; if not, the boy in charge was sure of a warm reception by coming into contact with the strap; and, to use one of Mr. Rigge's old sayings, "Woe betide you if this occurs again". Mr. Rigge was very particular to have the school very clean on the 5th of November ready for the meeting, hence the school was scrubbed out on the 4th, except one end and the porch entrance; but the final touches had to be done on the 5th i.e. all the windows cleaned again and the school swept three times, and if any marks were showing, that part had to be scrubbed again; the fire lighted, the stove polished, and the steps outside cleaned and bath-stoned. Well, to finish this, there were about twelve of the "free" lads selected to do the work with the writer to supervise.

Boys then were the same as today, full of fun and mischief. I was supposed to unlock the school at 8 a.m., but the boys asked me to keep the keys of the school so as to unlock it at 5 a.m. in order to get the work done and get away by 7 a.m. I unlocked the school as arranged with the 12 boys, who all came to time, and they were busily engaged when suddenly we had a visitor, Mr. Rigge, who at once gave me orders to send the boys home and return at 8 a.m. He started his old phrase "Woe betide you," and while trotting this out we had to our great surprise another visitor, Mrs. Rigge, who called Mr. Rigge to one side, away from the boys, and persuaded him to allow them to complete the work, which they did, and get away by 7 a.m. I presume you have guessed why the boys wanted to go so early; it was to go "popping" or "Guying" as it is now called. After the boys had all gone, and I went to the Master's house to deliver the keys, Mrs. Rigge said she didn't mind the boys coming to do the work early, but did not like being wakened at such an hour.

Before closing my reminiscences, I will give you the history of the before-mentioned stone which is now fixed in the south of the present College.

When the school was closed, the stone with the instructions about the Charity was taken down, removed to the Parish Church and placed behind the Organ where it remained for some time. After the present College was built, Grays people woke up from their slumber and began to ask what was to be done about taking



the education from the poor and giving it to the rich. In consequence a number of meetings were held and letters sent to the Grays Gazette which had just started its career. At one of the meetings it was asked what had become of the stone from the old school which recorded the gifts to the poor.

No one seemed to know where it had gone, and after the meeting a man by the name of Joseph Andrews told me where it was as he had helped to remove it.

Before he would tell me, he made me promise not to divulge his name while he lived, and I can say that I kept my word. What I did do was to go and see Mr. Grimwood and tell him all about the stone, how it had been taken to the Parish Church from the Master's house, and then one night, while the agitation was on, it had been taken up to the College and put at the bottom of the cesspool. Mr. Grimwood at once wrote to the Gazette under the title of "An Old Charity boy"; as he told me he used to attend the school when it was held where some of the present Church Path is now, and he was a free boy; hence his signing as above. The stone was soon taken out of the Cesspool, cleaned, and put in its present position on the south side of the College.

I also remember in the early part of my school days that on Sundays, after the service was over, some of the old parishioners used to go into the vestry to receive bread. Coal and coke was also distributed to those who had the bread. I believe the distribution of bread was stopped in the year 1862 or 1863, but the coal and coke was given for several years more. I never heard of any gifts after the old school closed.

*(Coal is still distributed annually by the Trustees.)*

The free boys had suits of clothes with knee breeches given to them once a year, but I cannot say how many boys, whether the whole of the 40 free boys or part. The last boys who had the gift of clothes were Thomas Tampkins and George Smith. I have seen Silhouettes of these but have not been successful in obtaining one.

I omitted to state that the boys, except the 40 free ones, paid 3d. per week. In some cases where the parents could afford it, they paid 1/- per week. If more than one boy attended, one paid 3d. and one 1/-; when one of the two left the other paid 1/-.

In closing my recollections of the old school days, I often think, when passing the shops of Mr. Pelling, about the meadows where these shops are built, about the battles fought there, this being the place where all quarrels were settled. A ring was formed by the lads standing round to see fair play. After it was over, both the culprits were sure of a warm reception from the strap used by Mr. Rigge, but the boys never went with tales to the Master. They always tried to settle quarrels in their own way.



# FIFTY YEARS AGO

by LORD STRANG, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., M.B.E.

Old Palmerian, 1903-1909  
University College, London, and the Sorbonne  
Permanent Under Secretary of State at the  
Foreign Office, 1949-53

FIFTY years ago, Palmer's was a modest establishment, modest, that is, in size and in material equipment, but not at all modest in the opinion which it held of itself.

In 1905, there were 138 boys at the School. That may seem to be small enough when compared with present figures, but it seemed to us to be pretty considerable then. In the twelve years since Mr. Silverwood had taken over the headmastership in 1893, the number had grown from a mere 45, most of them boarders. By 1918, when Mr. Silverwood retired, the figure was 287. The most difficult part of this process was undoubtedly in the early years. If I may somewhat misapply a famous quotation: *C'est le premier pas qui coûte*. To bring the numbers up from 45, mostly boarders, to three times that number, with a majority of day-boys, must have called for all Mr. Silverwood's remarkable powers of will, perseverance and vision. But by 1905, the School was clearly on the up-grade, and the steady increase in numbers from then onwards is to be attributed in part to the maxim: "Nothing succeeds like success", but also in part to the heavy growth of the population in the Thames Estuary.

Palmer's, as we knew it, would seem very small to the boy who attends the School today. When I first went there in 1904, we had only three class-rooms, one each for the fourth, fifth and sixth forms; a gymnasium-cum-swimming bath; chemistry and physics laboratories and a science lecture-room. There were also a Sanatorium and a "tuck-shop". These had all been built only a few years before. In addition, there was a hall in the original main building, overlooking the headmaster's lawn on the South front, which was used for school prayers each morning and for the junior classes. But within a very few years, more accommodation was needed; and before I left school there was another range of class-rooms in the main school, as well as a large new block in the south side of the playground, which gave us better equipped science laboratories, a room for wood-work and a handsome art-room. All this offered new scope for Mr. Holbeche, the science-master, for Mr. Connabeer, the art-master, and for Mr. Savage, our technical instructor.

I have said that the School in those days had a good conceit of itself: so it had, and with justice. In a report to the Essex County Council in 1905, Professor (afterwards, Sir) Michael Sadler said (in part):—"Palmer's Endowed School has already conferred great benefits on the neighbourhood which it serves . . . the energy and organising skill which have been shown in the development of the work of this foundation reflect great credit on all concerned, and not least upon Mr. Silverwood."

It will be noted that we called ourselves "Palmer's Endowed School". I do not find the word "Endowed" in contemporary references to the School (the name now seems to be "Palmer's School for Boys") and if the word has been dropped for other than mandatory, legal or constitutional reasons, I should be sorry. It was a good old name which recalled a foundation of which there was no need to be ashamed.

In one other formal way there has been a change which I think to be a change for the better. For its arms, the School has since adopted the dignified and well-designed Armorial Bearings of the Founder himself:—"Argent, a lion rampant sable between three palmer's staves sable, heads, ends and rests Or."

In our day, the arms were no less topical, but in a geographical sense. They gave in heraldic terms the address of the School. I will not attempt to blazon them in heraldic language; but we were told that the shell meant "Palmer's", the three acorns "Grays Thurrock (Thor's Oak)", and the sword "Essex". It was rather a pedestrian effort.

But what kind of education was it that gained so high a reputation for the School?

I am not an expert in education, and I expect that I shall betray this in what follows. I can only set down what I remember, and say what I think about it in retrospect.

The work of the School was based essentially upon homework. The first part of each period was set aside for the examination of the previous night's homework, if any, in that particular subject. Homework was tested in special small books called homework examination books. The master gave out either six or ten questions, one by one, and we had to write down the answers in these books. The boys in the back row then brought their books to the front row and the rest of us passed our books one desk back. The master gave the correct answers and we marked each others' answers, right or wrong. There was a fixed tariff of marks (5, 4, 3 or 2) for correct answers, and we had to get half of the answers right to earn any marks at all. The marks so earned were entered up in diaries which went by the name of "Journals". The weekly aggregate of these marks, together with any marks earned for essays and other written homework exercises, and marks for

good conduct, determined our place in form for the ensuing week; and in order to give significance to this place in form, we were occasionally made to take lessons standing round the class-room in due order, and we might gain or lose places in form during such a lesson by answering or failing to answer questions put to us by the master. Homework was a serious business. In the fifth and sixth forms it seldom took me less than two or three hours an evening to get through it.

Now, there are several things to be said about this system. The first is that it was designed to stimulate competition to the highest degree. For the keen scholar, it made life rather a burden. I am not saying that that is necessarily a bad thing. The second is that it laid emphasis on precise knowledge within a limited range. I am not saying that that is a bad thing either. If answers to questions are to be marked right or wrong by the boys themselves (and the answers were either right or wrong—there was no half-way house), the questions must be plain and concrete and limited in scope. This determined both the way in which we learned our lessons and the way in which the masters taught us. For us, it had the advantage that we knew what we knew; and that what we knew, we knew well; and that the things that we knew were the things which, being the kind of boys that we were, it was most expedient for us to know. For the masters, it meant a concentration on the curriculum (the marking system in the headmaster's eyes, was a test for them as well as for the boys), to the exclusion of too many excursions into other fields. The headmaster himself was a superb teacher and did permit himself, while insisting inexorably on the main objective (which was that we should know our facts), to open up vistas for us. And Mr. Holbeche, though not technically a very good teacher, made chemistry and physics living subjects which he held could interest us for the rest of our lives. It is no injustice to my own sixth form master to say that he was not of this type; and it has always been a matter of regret to me that I never came under the tuition of Mr. Edwards, a teacher of rare quality, whose services to Palmer's have continued in one form or another to this day, and who is now Chairman of the Governors. I had already moved beyond the fifth form before he came to the School.

I do not know what kind of tuition is afforded at Palmer's School today, but, in point of results in public examinations, which would be Mr. Silverwood's prime test, the School is not inferior (and that may be an understatement) to the School of fifty years ago. Certainly, the proportion of boys going on to the University is much higher now than it was then. Much may be urged against education which concentrates on facts as contrasted with a wider range of vision, but when I debate this problem with myself, I

think of a remark made to me by one of my University teachers: he said that young men ought to concentrate on imbibing facts while their minds were still fully receptive; it was a waste of time setting them to write essays—this only made them slick and superficial; let them master the facts—they could reflect and theorise on them in later years, and the more facts they then had to go upon, the better.

And as for the drudgery of learning facts as opposed to tuition without tears through the stimulation of interest, there is an ironic commentary on this in the following extract from a recent letter to "The Times":—

"As for interest, I think it is a very uncommon boy who enjoys an 'interesting' lesson. The enthusiasm and industry with which boys will apply themselves to learning by heart, for example, a list of places on the Equator, are equalled only by the reluctant boredom with which they will greet a 'humanized' lesson in geography. They prefer parsing to poetry, and dictation to discussion. Let us by all means favour the interesting lesson; but must we blind ourselves to the fact that it is the teacher and not the pupil, who feels the need of it?"

For myself while perhaps not preferring parsing to poetry, and this not from any dislike of parsing, I should certainly have preferred dictation to discussion, had the latter ever entered into our scheme of things; and I rather suspect that Mr. Silverwood and most of those whom he appointed as assistant-masters would have thought the same.

It was stated not long ago in a leading article in "The Times" that "Specialisation is the vice of English school education and so deeply ingrained that it is hard to cure". There was no such vice in Palmer's fifty years ago. You don't specialise if your curriculum is governed, as ours was, by the Cambridge Local Examinations, Junior and Senior, and by the London Matriculation of those days. Even in the sixth form, we kept to the normal wide range of subjects; and it was no doubt in compliance with the Founder's wish that boys at his School should be taught to "cast account", as well as to read and write and be instructed in the Latin tongue, that in the sixth form we were set to learn the rudiments of book-keeping and shorthand. The result of this non-specialisation was that we never reached a very high standard in any subject, but we had an accurate working knowledge within a limited range in a lot of subjects. Which is the better system? Who shall say? As I am growing old myself, I suspect that the old may have been better.

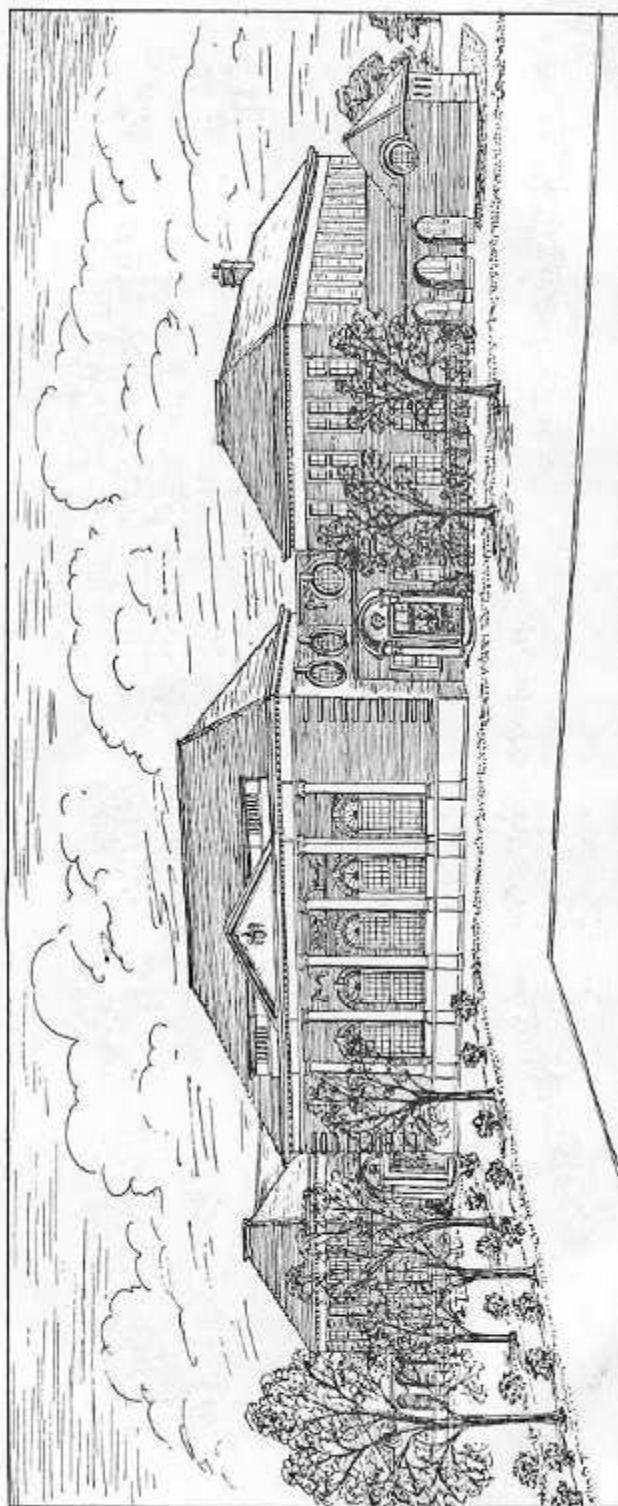
Certainly it was cheaper. We paid only two guineas a term, and I don't remember that there were any extras, except for such things as special tuition in music. All books were found by the

School, distributed at the beginning and collected and checked at the end of term.

Two days in the year were celebrated in School assembly and marked by the writing of an essay. On May 24, we wrote on the origin and meaning of Empire Day. On November 5, we wrote on "William Palmer and His School". We had not the advantage of the discoveries made about our Founder by the late Herbert Brooks and published in 1928 in a learned work which bore the same title as our annual essay. Our disquisitions were stereotyped, rudimentary and, as it now proves, inaccurate: but they served to remind us who we were.

We played games, of course—cricket and soccer—and played them quite well. Sports Day, held in July, was a relaxed and festive occasion, when the headmaster entertained our parents to tea on the lawn before the prizegiving. One of us (Douglas Boatman) wrote a school-song and our music-master (Mr. Townsend) set it to music: is "Boys of Palmer's" still sung, as it continued to be, so Mr. Brooks reports, as late as 1928? And we once put on a performance of "The Pirates of Penzance". But we lacked one thing in which the School today is fortunately rich—we had no school societies. Today, Palmer's School has Chess Club, Debating Society, Gramophone Society, Natural History Society, Photographic Society, Phillumenist Club, Stamp Club, a Scout Troop and an Aero-Modelling Club. As to this, when I addressed the School on Speech Day in 1949, I said: "This widening of interest is a part of education and, I feel sure, not the least valuable part. It seems to me that schools are doing wisely in stimulating an interest in as large a variety of human activities as possible. You never know where a seed may fall." I still think that that is true. I think that it would have been better for us if we could have looked beyond the School curriculum in this way fifty years ago, but we had no time. The school-day was filled up with lesson-periods, and after that we had our homework to do.





THE NORTH FRONT OF PALMER'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS



# THE GIRLS' SCHOOL

by Miss W. M. BRAIMBRIDGE, B.A.  
of the Staff of Palmer's Girls' School.

**E**IGHTY years, though only a fraction of the two hundred and fifty which we are celebrating, is nevertheless quite a respectable span of life for a girls' school. During this period the roll has risen to over five hundred and thirty pupils from the original six; while in premises and scope the expansion has been continual under the four women who have led the school to its present condition and status.

The first Headmistress, Miss Harriette Beck, took charge in 1876 of the small initial group which soon numbered about thirty boarders and day scholars, and she continued in her position for nearly thirty-one years. Her pupils remember her as a somewhat awe-inspiring figure, with hair severely arranged, and long black dresses sweeping the floor as she made her way up the one school-room to her desk, or sat beside the Rev. A. H. Delafield, then Vicar of Grays, as he gave his weekly Scripture lesson. The girls' schoolroom, with dormitory accommodation above, was linked to the boys' building by Miss Beck's own rooms which, together with the boarders' dining-room and the tiny room adjoining the schoolroom, were pressed into service for music lessons, and for teaching small groups as need arose. Visiting staff supplemented the work of the two or three full-time mistresses, and sharing the boys' staff was made possible. The names of Mr. A. J. Connabeer for Art, and Mr. Knightsmith (Guildhall Toastmaster) for dancing appear frequently in Old Girls' reminiscences. Miss Elizabeth Beck, sister of the Headmistress, attended to the domestic side, kept hens, taught the younger girls French, and gave an occasional cookery lesson in her kitchen.

No uniform was worn at this period, and no regular physical training was possible, though the boarders were sent to walk six times round the playground for a mile. The school at that time was set in fields, one approach being by a stile, over which the girls' crocodile was not allowed to climb unless the boys were safely on in front.

With the introduction of scholarships, and from other causes, the number of pupils by 1898 called for two additional classrooms, built adjoining the original room; and just before Miss Beck's retirement, the school then numbering seventy-four girls, yet another extension provided two more classrooms, over which were a botany laboratory and cookery room. Meanwhile, from 1899, the girls

were allowed to use the newly-erected gymnasium and swimming-bath for regular lessons with a visiting instructor. Old photographs show drill costumes of stout serge trimmed with white braid and finished with sailor collars; below appear voluminous bloomers buttoned below the knees, needing, in the cases of agile rope-climbers, constant repair. While sitting at the double iron-framed desks, or walking between the class rooms and the gymnasium, girls must wear ankle-length skirts over their drill dresses. For swimming in the summer term, high-necked, skirted costumes of serge were the rule.

Girls were admitted from the age of seven and might remain until eighteen, though most attended for two or three years only, having been previously taught at home or in small private schools; while on leaving, only a few followed careers, the majority remaining at home.

On Miss Beck's retirement in 1906, the boys' and girls' departments were united into a dual school with Mr. Silverwood as Headmaster, and Miss E. S. Packer, B.A., appointed as Senior Mistress. With the new buildings just completed it was possible for the curriculum to be extended, and the educational standards rose steeply. The Cambridge Local Examinations, hitherto taken by a few scholars, became the normal completion of the school course for serious students. Many of her old pupils speak with affectionate respect of the way in which Miss Packer (now Mrs. Chalmers) gave them new insight and inspiration, particularly in English Literature. Their physical development was now better catered for, with a permanent gymnastics mistress, Miss L. Wren, to teach not only Swedish drill, but tennis and hockey. The formation of an Old Girls' Hockey Club led to the birth of the still flourishing, ever-extending Old Girls' Association. A new gymnastics costume was designed; the pleated tunic, white blouse and black stockings then adopted remained, with minor changes, the school uniform until the 1940's.

Prospectuses of this period lay great stress on "electric light throughout", a separate bed for each boarder, the ample and appetizing food, and "the principal's great aim not to neglect dull and backward girls for the sake of those likely to bring more credit to the school". Safety precautions for the enlarged dormitories included a canvas fire-escape chute, affording opportunities for spectacular practices. By 1912-13 yet another wing of three large classrooms and an improved botany laboratory was built, with rooms for resident staff above.

The greatest period of change lay in the next twenty-seven years. Miss E. M. Wren, B.A., appointed in 1913 to succeed Miss Packer, became, on Mr. Silverwood's retirement in 1918, the Head-mistress of the separated girls' school, which she had already helped

through the difficult years of the first world war. Grays and South-East Essex generally were meeting a great influx of population, so that the demand for higher education for girls rose rapidly. Overcrowding became a serious problem, only partially relieved by the erection in the playground of two wooden huts. Years before, a site for a new girls' school had been purchased, but not until 1929 was the foundation stone laid by H. E. Brooks, Esq., D.L., J.P., Chairman of the Governors. Two years later, in the summer term, the long-awaited move took place, and the opening ceremony was performed by Mrs. Inskip, wife of the then Bishop of Barking: the Silver Jubilee of the present building is thus reached in this year of commemoration.

Miss Wren's interests were wide, her resourcefulness exceptional, and her devotion to the school unlimited, so that she made it of real account among the girls' schools of Essex. Herself an excellent teacher, she continually studied to keep abreast of all the developments made possible by an enlarged staff of specialists in many subjects. Perhaps her particular interest was in modern languages, and she was a pioneer in arranging exchange visits with French and German girls, offering the hospitality of her boarding hostel where parents found difficulty in receiving foreign girls into their homes. Miss Wren threw herself with enthusiasm into the task of forwarding every activity: the mannequin parade, one summer term, of every girl in the school in a dress of her own making attracted the attention of the national press. On the athletic side, she saw that the standard of games was kept high by expert coaching; while Sports Days became noted not only for the standard of the events, but for spectacular effects and marvellous organisation, drawing crowds to what was acknowledged to be an outstanding local social event. The House system, promoted to foster enthusiasm and to increase co-operative effort among girls living in "Town" or "Country" or boarding in "House", certainly achieved its object.

Above all, Miss Wren's interest in swimming will be remembered. Her courage and enterprise alone made possible the raising of £2,500 for the erection in the new school grounds of a swimming bath the value of which has been appreciated by all successive entries of girls. One year Palmer's gained the second place in England for the number of Royal Life Saving Society's awards. Ella Brooks in 1932 achieved the distinction of a Diploma and gold medal.

On the outbreak of war in 1939 Miss Wren had to see much of her work checked, and some destroyed. The boarding department was perforce closed. An evacuation party, led by Miss Wren, was sent to Southwold, and later joined East Dereham High School. By December, Palmer's reopened, and some form of school life was

gradually re-established as the return from evacuation continued, and shelters were provided against bombing. At the close of the first year of war, in 1940, Miss Wren retired.

The school was very fortunate in the appointment as Headmistress of Miss A. Leworthy, B.Sc. to take full advantage of all the opportunities opening before girls in the post-war period, and to meet all the developments consequent on educational changes throughout the country. But first the trying conditions of the years of war had to be surmounted. The new Headmistress arrived to find her scholars in shelters during an alert, and there they spent much of their school life, even including, on one occasion, a practical science examination of the Higher School Certificate. Fire-watching was added to staff duties, and the organisation of a rest centre for emergencies; while a really thrilling piece of service was the entertaining to a meal of a group of Dutch children, on their way to rest and recuperation in a safer part of England. Fortunately, only minor damage was suffered to the building during the war period.

Later, the story of expansion was resumed. The boarding was never re-established, but the hostel had gradually to be used to provide dining-rooms, music rooms, a Domestic Science flat, an Art and Craft Department, additional form-rooms, and Sixth Form study rooms. (In 1953 it was for a time entirely given over as a Rest Centre for people made homeless by the floods.) A far greater variety of courses has been made available, especially in the Sixth Form, and each individual girl is being helped to find the particular occupation for which she is most fitted. This policy Miss Leworthy made clear by the early appointment of a Careers Mistress to specialise in this task. The academic standard has been such that as many as sixty girls have in one year been members of the Sixth Form, more University scholarships have been gained, and success has been attained in a wide variety of directions. Girls are following careers in teaching, nursing, art, drama, and music as well as in the world of business. Miss Leworthy's own interest in music has led not only to its inclusion as an examination subject leading to a career, but to the encouragement of both instrumental music and singing, the latter, especially under the direction of Mr. J. E. Challis, L.R.A.M., having been a much appreciated feature of school functions.

To encourage good manners, poise, social easiness, and pride in appearance as a way to self-respect has always seemed important to Miss Leworthy, who, as soon as restrictions were lifted, introduced an attractive new uniform of cornflower blue tunics and blazers with blue and white striped blouses, and she banished the black stockings of the previous era. The styles of summer dresses have been changed every few years to keep them reasonably



MISS A. LEWORTHY, B.Sc.  
Headmistress



fashionable. A much greater measure of freedom has been developed, the Prefect system overhauled and made vital, a School Council instituted, and the House system re-introduced and adapted—all with the aim of developing co-operation and responsibility among the girls to enable them to take a significant place in the community.

Like Miss Wren, Miss Leworthy has encouraged the Old Girls' Association, and welcomed contacts with parents both at official functions and in more personal approaches. She has fostered the traditions, and warmly concurred in the revival of Founder's Day observance. As the numbers in the school have risen, the restriction imposed by lack of space has been increasingly apparent; for the Hall, which is also the only gymnasium, is quite inadequate for Speech Days and other functions, including dramatic work, in which Miss Leworthy has always been interested. When, therefore, a grant from the William Palmer Trust Fund became available, it was Miss Leworthy's inspired suggestion that an Open Air Theatre on Greek lines should be built on the sloping ground below the school. She accepted the task of raising the additional sum of over £1,500 necessary to complete the work, and directed a series of efforts culminating in 1954, when the theatre was opened by Robert Atkins, O.B.E. It has already proved most valuable as additional space for drama lessons, for the acting of plays, and for National Dancing and presentation ceremonies on Display Days, which, with their demonstration of many aspects of the school's activities, have replaced the former Sports Days. The surrounding land is being planted with trees and shrubs, so that a miniature park is growing up: this, and the quadrangle, are constant reminders of how Miss Leworthy's love of flowers is beautifying the grounds.

To review thus the span of this school's life leaves certain strong impressions: the first undoubtedly is of the immense broadening of opportunity for girls since 1876. The limited curriculum designed mainly for the stay-at-home has been extended in every decade, until the range of subjects is wide enough to cater for every type of ability, whether it be in languages (five are taught in addition to English); in mathematics and the sciences; or in art, craft, music and domestic science—and all can be pursued to advanced examination standard. Physical education, also, has stretched to cover not only gymnastics, but also swimming, dancing, and games of many kinds. The effect of such an all-round training at school is to fit its pupils for every type of career now open to women, and to secure, besides, such a breadth of interest that hobbies and leisure occupations can be richly enjoyed.

That Palmer's has so fulfilled its rightful function as a Grammar School is manifest in that so large a proportion of its girls choose careers of service to the community in education, health



and social services; and in addition they are frequently found taking the lead in voluntary social and youth work. Nevertheless, basically, much has remained the same. There is the same devoted service of the staff, and enthusiasm for the school by its pupils. Those who taught the ladylike art of plain sewing would doubtless have rejoiced to find Palmer's girls excelling in pottery, cooking, fabric printing and puppetry as well as dressmaking (and twice winning the Sherwood Cup at the Orsett show); while the early patience with the slower pupils has developed into the care to ensure for each individual the most suitable training. It is even true that the constantly recurring situation of too many girls for the building's capacity is still apparent at the present time!

A mere list of dates, with details of numbers and buildings, would be inadequate to give an impression of the living organism, in which every pupil who has ever attended has had a share as well as the staff who through the years have formed loyal teams in support of the Headmistresses, the whole making Palmer's School for Girls.



W. H. EDWARDS, ESQ., M.B.E., B.A., J.P.  
Chairman of the Governors

# THE LAST FIFTY YEARS

by W. H. EDWARDS, M.B.E., B.A., J.P.

of the Staff of Palmer's School 1906-45  
Senior Master 1931-45  
Vice-Chairman of the Governors 1946-51  
Chairman of the Governors from 1952

IN December 1905 I was awaiting a long postponed meeting of the governing body of a grammar school in Cornwall. The headmaster had already interviewed candidates for a post and had selected three, of which I was one, to meet the Governors. It was nearing Christmas, the Governors still delayed, a telegram arrived from Grays offering an appointment for the Term due to commence early in January.

That is how I started fifty years' association with Palmer's School. I had served one year in a small country grammar school dating from Elizabeth I; I had taught everything, including drawing and music; everything, for though at the outset the headmaster, a clergyman with degrees in Arts and Science, took all the science, he fell ill and died after a few weeks, leaving me to deal with a full syllabus of Chemistry and Physics. The senior master was a classic and non-resident; there was another master even younger than I, so for some time I was in charge of the twelve boarders, though a good senior prefect made the task supportable.

The above brief sketch is to point a contrast, entirely unexpected by myself. I arrived at Palmer's without previous interview, never having been east of Fenchurch before, on a Wednesday evening in the dark. I saw Mr. Silverwood for a few minutes only; he handed me over to Mr. Thorpe, who took me to the house known as the Sanatorium, and explained the Palmer's method, but not, I fear, in its full rigour; for he advised me to start the Term with a duty week, as my privilege. Duty, I found, was incessant supervision, without prefects, from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m. except when the boys were actually in class, and for a brief period at 9 p.m., when one had supper with the other masters. During the day I was initiated, by rapid degrees, into the complicated system of journals, marks, homework, tests, grammar cards, date cards, etc. There were authoritative processes uniform throughout the School, so interlocked by the constant and detailed supervision of the Headmaster that deviation was almost impossible. Outside the classroom, Duty continued without abatement until Tuesday night, when one handed over to the next duty master, to hold responsi-

bility unalleviated and unsupported for a full seven days. Except for the walk to Church on Sunday morning, I had seen nothing of the school surroundings.

This almost incredible beginning to the first phase of a fifty years' drama was very disturbing at the time, and although the general purpose unfolded itself by degrees, I still think that the process might have been a little less precisely atomised with advantage. Mr. Silverwood had been senior assistant at Dame Owen's School, Islington, and had adopted the frankly despotic system which had been in use there. It ensured industry, accuracy and uniformity. It embodied certain Victorian virtues, and was, in its way, the basis of Empire relying on Religion, Justice and Freedom. Also the Prospectus stated that special care was taken of backward pupils, and it was as good as its word. The boys of moderate ability bore the burden ungrudgingly, and the brilliant boys soared, it may be supposed, with stronger pinions when they had passed the Cambridge Senior Local and qualified for academic or professional careers. There were many who went to London University, especially the medical school, and did well, and at this very time (1906-7) Dr. T. S. Higgins crowned his career at University College by winning gold medals for first place in both medicine and surgery, after winning first place and scholarships in successive years; he had already graduated B.Sc. in 1905. And had we not with us Willie Strang, as the persistently top of the Sixth Form? G. B. Sansom was an earlier success, having passed out with a County Major Scholarship, First place, in 1899. These successes were recorded in gold lettering on two large "Honours" boards fixed in what was then the main schoolroom, and are still to be seen in one of the corridors.

There are some advantages in making doubly and trebly sure of the necessary minimum of facts and grammar, and the routine testing did not occupy the whole of the lesson-time. The authorized and firmly established facts could serve as pegs on which to hang further discussion, and one could, with the friendly co-operation of the boys, elicit something of the beautiful relatedness of everything when viewed in proper perspective.

The winter term had its amenities, at least for senior boys and boarders. The girls' school at that time occupied the east wing of the building, and was presided over by Miss Beck, now nearing retirement. She was a typical Victorian headmistress, dignified, with a high sense of discipline, yet understanding and not too aloof in her dealings with the girls. She invited us to a Ball, a grown-up affair with guests from the town and district, and superbly managed by Mr. Knightsmith, Principal of the West London School of Dancing, and for many years toast-master to the Lord Mayor of London; his voice, his handsome face and silvery

hair, his red tail-coat and silver buttons and, above all, his perfect deportment have made a quite ineradicable memory of this and subsequent occasions. The Silverwoods also gave a Ball, again with guests from the neighbourhood, and this was perhaps a slightly more jovial affair. This indeed was another side of Palmer's school life, and, for my part, I determined to stay and see what the Cricket was like.

The Cricket was good. Grays at that time was rather isolated from the schools of Essex, except for Southend. We played schools in Gravesend and Rochester, and travelled over to the old "Worcester" in a commodious if not speedy motor-launch, a novelty in those days. But there were many half-holidays devoted to a series of matches, repeated annually, with Dr. Blake's eleven, Mr. Ted Flinn's eleven, the Police of the Division, and Old Owen's Cycling Club. Masters played in these matches, and each game was followed by a high tea, which developed by customary stages into a sing-song. "Gaudeamus" led the way to the patriotic sea-songs; then sentiment and the spirit of reminiscence were aroused by the Harrow school song, "Forty Years On". If Dr. Blake was present, and he usually was, he sang, inevitably and invariably, "My Old Dutch", with *its* refrain of forty years of loyal companionship. If Owen's School, past or present, were the guests, the school song was sung. Before Douglas Boatman wrote "Boys of Palmer's", we had adopted the Owen's song:

"On many a well-remember'd field  
Have *Owen's* fought and won;  
We seldom lose, and never yield,  
Until the day is done."

The chorus went something like this:

"Then on with a will, *Owenians*!  
Success attend your play!  
Never let your ardour cool,  
For the honour of the school.  
On, *Owen's*, to the fray!"

It will be noticed that substitution of *Palmer's* for *Owen's*, and *Palmerians* for *Owenians* does not disturb the metre, and the practice was for both schools to sing together, smoothly enough until the last line, when the claim for vocal supremacy was pushed to the limit.

The school sports, too, was an occasion as much festive as athletic. It was held on the school field, and was very sociable. The girls were allotted one short race ("No pistol, please, Mr. Edwards") and the masters an egg-and-spoon race, usually won by Mr. Holbeche, though he gave the credit to a purely abstract rela-



tion of two ovaloid surfaces—I forget his explanation of his success, but it was highly mathematical.

Those who were the friends of the school in its leisure hours were fully aware of the severity of the school hours, and while accepting it as in the unchangeable nature of things, were insistent upon making the best of the times of relaxation. So the community was on the whole a joyful one; inside school Mrs. Silverwood was an unfailing help at the slightest sign of physical unfitness, and would brave the rigour of the time-table to administer the regular dose of medicine as long as it was necessary. On Shrove Tuesday, too, masters and boarders were relieved of lesson-tasks in the middle of the morning to partake of pancakes and orange-juice. The relaxation was only temporary, for the headmaster would go from class to class to ensure that the tempo of work was not intermitted. He loved taking over part of a lesson, and needed only a glance to recognize the stage of instruction the class had reached. The books were the same year after year, so were the passages for repetition from the New Testament, Lays of Ancient Rome, and Tennyson. We also read Dickens, Scott, Ruskin, Carlyle, Charles Kingsley, and he was familiar with them all, without book. Shakespeare, of course, was read, and Milton, who had not then been relegated, and they were perhaps more than exercises in parsing, analysis, paraphrase and précis writing. But for the Head, the living literature was nineteenth century. Tennyson's *Morte d'Arthur* (1842 version) he would declaim feelingly, with characteristic gesture:

“ The old order changeth, yielding place to new,  
And God fulfils himself in many ways,  
Lest one good custom should corrupt the world.”

The old order was changing, but slowly, by growth, and with maintenance of the old character. Building was in progress in 1906-7; the west wing with a large Chemistry laboratory, Woodwork room, Art room, and five new classrooms was erected, and the central block was added to; the outer wall of my class-room was removed and replaced by a wood and canvas screen hiding the operation of the workmen from sight but not from sound as we continued with class instruction. The new west wing was known as the Technical block, and was intended, in part, for evening classes in Science and Art, which were duly held there. The income of the school was at that time derived from the William Palmer Trust, from pupils' fees, and from Board of Education grants, administered by the Essex County Council. The purposes of the Acts relating to Technical Education were satisfied by the type of curriculum adopted by the schools which profited from the grants, and the new accommodation gave room for the normal expansion of school activities.



In 1906, the full-time staff, besides the Headmaster, were Thorpe, Holbeche, Edwards, Piggott, Littlewood, Cook and Rees. There was also a resident French master, Courtois, and many visiting masters: Wilkinson, Townsend and Arthur Hume for music, Connabeer for Art, the sergeant-major of the Volunteer Artillery for military drill, Silvey for gymnastics, while J. R. Savage divided his time between Palmer's and the woodwork centre in Bridge Road, now known as Park Secondary. All of us were hard pressed for room; Connabeer used to take several classes at once, darting from room to room with voluble exhortation and explanation, while the normal form-master stood by to second his efforts by preventing pure lapse of industry. The classes were large; I had forty-five in mine, and the sheer bulk of marking, testing, record-making and supervisory activity was in itself intimidating. So it was a relief to divide the classes, and welcome new masters. Loftus was first of a number of masters who joined in the years before the war to take new classes or to replace men who left; I remember well Radford, Douglas, Pratt, Hopkins, Heap, Howarth, J. Thomas, art master Max West, French masters, after Courtois, Guingouain, Bourdâche, and Decottignies. At the beginning all the masters except Mr. Holbeche lived in and shared the same common room; Holbeche was a family man and lived in Chadwell Road, opposite to the school, but he often came across in the evening to play bridge. As the staff increased in numbers, so it became possible for the older ones to live out and be free from boarder supervision. But these defections did not much disturb the intimacy which had become characteristic of Palmer's staff. On one occasion a visitor from another school, who had spoken of the freedom which prevailed in his own school, finished up admitting that once school was over the staff tried to get as far away from each other as possible, while Palmer's staff were notoriously as thick as thieves all the time. The boys too, he might have added, took detentions as a matter of course, and once the debt was paid, friendly relations were at once resumed with the masters in general. We had no rigid house system; matches were arranged between House and Town, and later on Country and Riverside provided further areas for sectional matches. The masters generally provided a side, and mixed matches, masters and boys, still gave the local cricket enthusiasts a good game.

There were some innovations. Pratt started a magazine; its independence of advertisement and its determination to break new ground in poetry, prose and line-sketching made it a very interesting production. It did not survive the outbreak of war. Loftus organized and trained a Cadet company, of which most of the members remained together in the local Territorial force as a signal company after they had left school.

War was declared on August 4th, 1914. When we re-assembled in September Captain (now Colonel) Loftus had already departed in accordance with his Territorial Army commitments. For the rest of the school this epoch, which was to change or shatter institutions all over the world, opened quietly enough. The Education Ministry had asked all schoolmasters to remain at their posts, and work proceeded as usual, except that the Head at morning assembly gave an earnestly felt but optimistic account of what was happening, which was in a short while accompanied by messages from Palmerians who had already joined the forces. Before long permission was given to masters to enlist at the rate of one master each Term; the Head, who was of course a dominant figure in Grays, was appointed to some kind of military liaison post, and most of the staff became at once involved in police and recruitment duties. Still the school kept on its wonted course; there was little war-like action in the immediate neighbourhood. One early morning, it is true, when Pratt and I had just come off police duty, we heard a curious humming in the sky and saw a shower of bombs fall on Gravesend. The Zeppelin became dimly visible over the school in a few seconds but continued northwards without further damage; the last of the bombs, we were informed later, fell in Tilbury Dock.

The departure of a large portion of the staff, one by one, each marked by a send-off party, did, however, make a great difference to the working of the school. Thorpe and Holbeche were available throughout, and some of the replacements did good service, but so rapid a change could not but damage the existing order. When the end of the war was in sight, Mr. Silverwood determined to retire. The old order had changed, and the reconstruction would be on different lines. The school as he had known it had in great part been scattered over the theatre of war. Over ninety old boys had been lost, including H. F. Silverwood, the Headmaster's younger son; two masters, Hopkins and Hunter, were killed, and others wounded. It was, indeed, the end of an era.

After his retirement, Mr. Silverwood achieved a project which had engaged his mind for many years, that was, to journey round the world, to visit relatives and Palmerians who had taken up careers in distant parts of the Empire, and to see memorable places other than those which he had visited on his numerous tours to Europe during school vacations. In America, he went some distance out of his way to visit the small town in Massachusetts where William Lloyd Garrison was born and spent the early part of his strenuous manhood. Mr. Silverwood reported to me that the inhabitants seemed not to have heard of their local hero, and he was intensely disappointed. And who was Lloyd Garrison? He was a man of many ideas who arranged them all around one big idea:

the emancipation of negro slaves by appealing to the moral factor in preachers, politicians, writers and all citizens he could reach by the newspapers he founded and the lectures he assiduously delivered. He went to jail twice, once for "libelling" a shipowner who carried cargoes of slaves, and once for his own protection against mobs who tried to lynch him. He failed to avert Civil War, but the principle he lived for was ultimately successful; he died in 1879.

Moral ideas in education and social policy demand a certain rigour of practice in the early stages, or they will not survive the temptations, equivocations and expediencies which are bound to arrive. G. H. Silverwood had a great love for the principle of human liberty by the grace of God, but he felt himself, and imposed on others, a necessity for strictly-ordered obedience in detail as preparation for freedom and responsibility. He was a leader in many local affairs; he managed the Grays Library Committee and the Grays Local Employment Committee from their foundation, was elected to the Urban District Council and appointed Justice of the Peace. He died in 1924. Mrs. Silverwood survived him for thirty years, and was buried at Little Thurrock where a memorial service was held, attended by many old friends of the school.

In 1919, when we returned from the army, the new Headmaster, the Rev. H. Alldridge Abbott, M.A., of Queen's College, Cambridge, had already been appointed. Mr. Abbott had for some years been head of Eggar's Grammar School, Alton, Hants., and brought to Palmer's ideas and purposes which were to fructify marvellously in later years.

One of the first changes made by the new headmaster was the creation of a new form in the middle school, thus lengthening the period of normal progress through the forms by one year, and of course advancing the standard of Form VI. Later, a second year sixth was formed, so bringing the school up to a standard which is now normal in large schools preparing for the Universities. Also the curriculum was departmentalised and specialization was expected of nearly every master. Gone were the days when one could take any form in any subject. In any large school of to-day, as soon as a boy enters the sixth, he begins to spend most of his time on a group of subjects which are his special interest. This is an important advance, for at that age he is beginning to respond of his own accord to the attraction of learning for its own sake, and is capable, if he has the innate intelligence, of running ahead of a schoolmaster who, though perhaps well-educated, has not kept abreast of recent developments in a rapidly advancing world of knowledge. There is risk of lack of balance perhaps, and specialization breeds specialization, so that the physicist has perhaps for-

gotten his Latin, and the classicist his mathematics, before he leaves the University, and is therefore not so adaptable as a teacher in a school of many subjects. But the Headmaster's purpose was to advance Palmer's to Public School status, which purpose he succeeded in achieving.

After the war it was necessary to build up a new staff. Many of the existing appointments were temporary, and as the old members returned one by one, they were fitted into the new scheme as appropriately as possible. For a few years throughout Britain there was naturally a demand for experienced school-masters, and we lost Howarth and Payne, who became headmasters, Loftus, who became an administrator at Southend and subsequently head of Barking Abbey School, Douglas, who went to Leigh, Lancashire, and Pratt, who went to Canada. Thorpe, Holbeche, Benson, Savage and myself were left of the old staff. Many of the new masters stayed for several years, notably Baxenden, Oldham, Birks, Morris, Newsome, and the others were either the veterans of to-day or have since retired: Bohm, Bone, Cramp, Gallimore, Harkins, E. G. Hughes, Frank Hughes. Of a somewhat later date are Jolly, Henley, Ross, Barker-Jones, R. T. Jones, Miles-Jones, Owen, Brown, Hayston, Bloyce. There are many others who stayed for some years before the second war. There was Christie, who re-appeared as Art Master, Slater and Mayne, who became a curate, Mundy, Dann, Cyphus, Urry. All these are notable names to me, but I must leave it to Old Palmerians to clothe the names with memories.

The fact that most of the staff after the war were recently in the armed forces made possible a Cadet organization which started as a company but developed into a battalion of the whole school. Mr. Abbott went for training to the Brigade of Guards and became Cadet Lieut-Colonel and, later, Cadet-Colonel. There was sufficient close-order drill to ensure smartness, but the military attitude was confined to the parade-ground and did not invade general school life. There was an Annual Inspection, a gala occasion when parents attended to view the evolutions and the P.T. display, to greet the visiting General and to admire, at a distance, the efforts of the school military band. Every summer during the twenties an under-canvas camp was held at Felixstowe or Southwold, in which military instruction was a minor ingredient. At these camps we also enjoyed the fellowship, renewed year after year, of contingents from other Essex schools. The school cadet movement lasted until 1931, when it became merged in a more general national movement for pre-service training, specialized for Air Force, Navy and Army.

Originally a part of the Cadet activities was a series of foreign tours which took place annually from 1922 to 1936. The first of these was in military formation; four platoons of Palmer's Cadets

joined with two of the Regent Street Polytechnic to journey, much of it actual marching, from the Somme to Ypres and Calais. This comprehended the whole of the British front during a large part of the War; the large craters and trench systems were still there as well as much of the *débris*. Later tours covered other parts of France and Belgium, Holland, Denmark and Sweden, and in 1926 a visit to Canada was carried out by a smaller party. The hospitality of the Canadians and the genial publicity which attended their movements were remembered by the participants for many years afterwards.

All non-commissioned ranks in the Cadet Battalion were held by boys, so that every year there were many promotions to be made among the seniors to maintain the full complement of lance-corporals, corporals, sergeants up to the Regimental Sergeant-Major himself, who was often also the School Captain. For there was, for other school purposes, a system of School Houses, each supervised and encouraged by a House Master and managed in detail by three or four House Captains. There were at first six houses: Addison, Butler, Marlborough, Priestley, Shaftesbury and Walpole; in 1930 two more, Herbert Brooks and Theobald, were added. There was soon considerable rivalry between the houses in competition for the Trophies awarded for Football, Cricket, Athletics, Cross-Country running and even General Efficiency in more studious pursuits. The regular practices and frequent matches led to a high standard of achievement in Football and Cricket, and in the seasons 1931-32-33 the school elevens are recorded as having lost only one match in a long series of football contests, involving first, second, third and sometimes fourth elevens.

The annual Athletics meeting, after much preliminary training by the Houses, was held on the Town Recreation Ground. Mr. A. S. Turk and Mr. Bert Lee of the Amateur Athletic Association were usually present and took note of promising athletes and encouraged them to specialise if their performances merited it. Mr. Turk was at that time especially interested in budding champions for he was in 1932 manager of the British Olympic team that competed at Los Angeles.

Military training, foreign travel and games were, however, activities only secondary to the dominant academic function of the school at this epoch. Hitherto, Palmerians who aimed at professional life had generally continued their education in London medical schools or in the colleges associated in the University of London, and right well did they acquit themselves. But Mr. Abbott, as a Cambridge man himself, soon encouraged members of the sixth to aim at the ancient universities. Gordon Nobbs and P. J. McAllister were the pioneers, winning scholarships at St. John's and Peterhouse, Cambridge; they were followed by L. F. Mead at



Hertford, Oxford and F. W. Patmore at Trinity, Cambridge. Each year brought more successes until in 1933 there were as many as twenty-three in residence at either university. Some of these had won valuable open scholarships, and many were awarded William Palmer or G. H. Silverwood or H. F. Silverwood scholarships and were helped by County Council grants, but the modern system of the State or County Council meeting all expenses was not yet in operation; consequently parents were called upon to meet some of the costs in many cases. In this regard the Headmaster did much good work by encouragement, information and persuasion not only of parents, but of Heads of Colleges both in his own university and in Oxford. There is no doubt that once Palmerians were established they paved the way for future entrants, for a number of them became notable scholars and Fellows of their colleges. In 1925 those then in residence formed themselves into an Oxford and Cambridge Palmerian Society, which met every year alternately at Oxford and Cambridge for dinner and reunion.

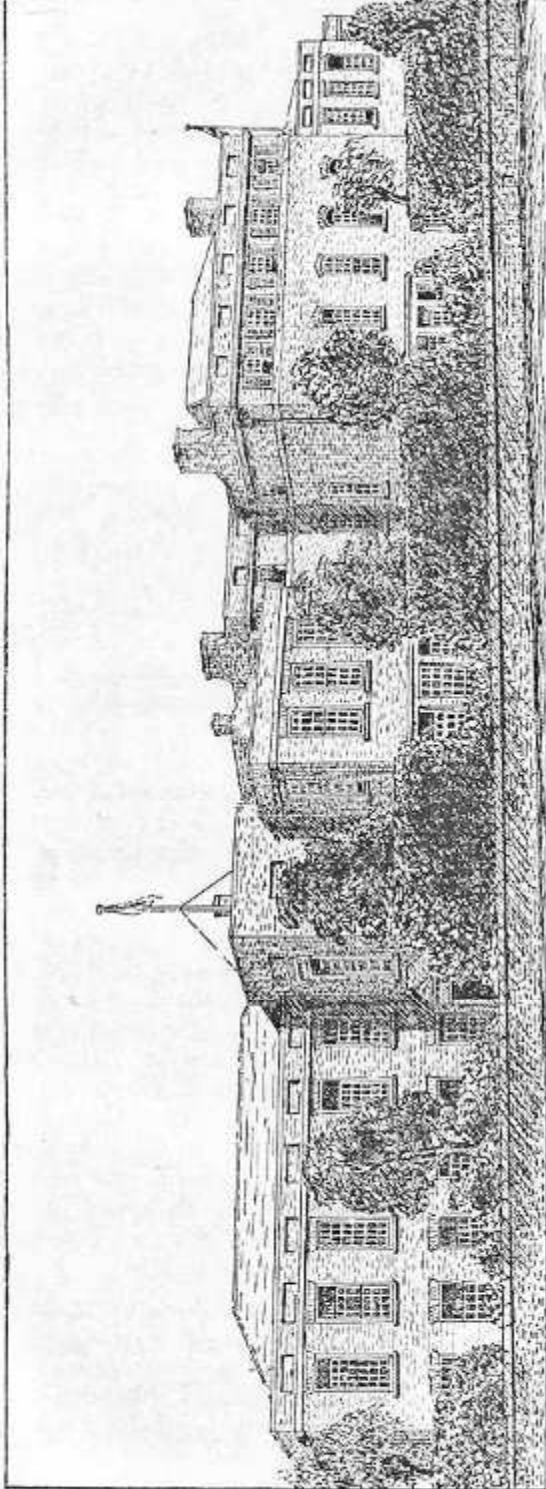
The school published a Year Book from 1923 until the second World War. This gave games fixtures and records, examination successes, and information concerning the careers of old boys as they passed through college and adopted their various avocations; we could also follow the careers of Palmerians of a former generation, notably Dr. T. S. Higgins, Sir George Sansom and Lord Strang. There were athletic successes to record, too: K. Goodyear, Cambridge Blue and captain of the soccer XI, G. G. Holmes, Amateur International and captain of England, J. Landells, English International and Millwall. In the Academic world, we heard of Gordon Nobbs, who became Senior Mathematical Master and then second Master at the City of London School, Douglas Nobbs, Lecturer in Political Science in Edinburgh University, H. G. Booker, who like F. Patmore had taken his London B.A. while still at school, subsequently Wrangler, Smith's Prizeman and Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge, and who, after a research period at the National Physical Laboratory, Washington, returned to Cambridge as University Lecturer in Mathematics. There were many ministers of religion, some in Canada, the United States and Africa, solicitors, doctors, engineers, journalists, a novelist or two, broadcasters, and a long list of civil servants, local government officers and commercial and industrial executives.

In 1931 Mr. Abbott was elected to the Headmasters' Conference. This body had been formed in the nineteenth century to provide a medium whereby educational problems common to the Public Schools might be discussed. The Constitution had since the war been made more flexible, though it still demanded close connection with the Universities; the Conference also required to be satisfied with the general attainments and high aims of the school,

and that it should have opportunity to guide its own development. So though the appointment was a personal one, it did define Palmer's as a Public School, and in the Report of the Committee on Public Schools (Fleming Report) 1944, there were listed 83 independent schools and 99 aided by grants from the State or County. Of this total of 182 schools there are in Essex one independent, Felsted, two direct-grant schools, Brentwood and Chigwell, and one aided, Palmer's. The quality of Palmer's was thus nationally recognised, and there is no doubt that the University connexion, coupled with a high rate of successes at the normal leaving-age level, was of advantage to those entering professional or business life, for it marked not only individual educational qualification but membership of an institution with a reputation for character and ability. It should be added that the Public Schools, regarded all over the world as characteristic of British preparation for generous and Christian leadership, have shown a definite, if somewhat restrained, desire to be considered partners of the State and County system.

The nineteen-thirties brought some troubles. Mr. H. E. Brooks, who had been Chairman of the Governors since 1921, died in 1931. A very able man of business, he had advanced far in public affairs and was chairman of the County Council 1929-1931. Palmer's School was much more to him than an interesting part of County Council duty. His book, "William Palmer and his School" is crowded with local historical detail, the accumulation of which must have cost prodigious labour. He had for years fostered the development of Palmer's School from the point of view of the County Education Committee. Much of the London property, including the tailor's shop in Lombard Street, which we looked at with proprietary interest when we passed that way, had been sold to provide funds for a new Girls' School as far back as 1918. The new school was opened in 1931, and plans were made for extensive re-modelling of the old buildings to provide suitable accommodation for a larger boys' school. It was not until 1937 that the extensions were completed, and the intervening years were full of difficulty. In the first place the world trade economy had partially collapsed; unemployment and the fear of it oppressed the lives of all classes. The effect was felt at the top of the school, for some parents were unable to bear the expense of entering their sons at a University, and some boys who had passed examinations satisfactorily could not find suitable openings in business or industry.

Then the re-building made school life uncomfortable. It proceeded by stages over four years, during which period the classes were moved from place to place as the new structure took shape. Much of the old building was preserved, but the tower was collapsed and the front re-faced with handsome silver-grey brick.



THE SOUTH FRONT OF THE PRESENT BOYS' SCHOOL AND HEADMASTER'S HOUSE

The fine library with its panelling, the commodious and elegant hall, the gymnasium, several class rooms, cloak-rooms and a Masters' common-room were added while the school was in session. For some time it was not possible to hold Assembly, or "Prayers" as it was traditionally called, indoors, so that the school assembled in the open air. The winter-time was severe, and the general comfort and discipline were put to some strain.

In March 1937 the reconstructed school was officially opened by Sir Michael Sadler, Master of University College, Oxford, who was the leading adviser of the Government and the County Councils, and who had, in fact, made a report on Palmer's thirty years before. His speech at the opening was carefully and tactfully framed: he referred to the character of Essex people as combining "two quite different traditions and attitudes of mind, one strongly individual, hierarchical, and the other insistent upon collective authority", and we were to infer that Palmer's was to pass from relative independence to a dependence upon County authority. Many local Endowed Schools, whether founded as medieval or Elizabethan Grammar Schools or not, were being taken over by County Councils as part of the County Secondary School system. The Essex Education Committee were at that time friendly but firm. There had always been William Palmer free scholars, but now the number of county scholarship places was increased and fees were increased for other pupils, making entrance more difficult. After a few years, we lost the preparatory forms. Like many local endowed schools, Palmer's had always welcomed small boys, on a fee-paying basis, of course, as they did not attract grants from public authorities. At this period the preparatory department provided a means by which a limited number of young boys, some of them brothers of the main-school boys, could qualify, after two or three years' instruction, by a not too difficult examination for entrance to the main school. Their piping voices, their gay welcome to instruction and mild discipline, their irreconcilability in the face of decisions of sixth-form umpires and referees—all these were exhilarating rather than embarrassing.

These changes were gradually effected, and in the meantime the second War was approaching. Evacuation schemes had been prepared by higher authority, but when the time came, we found that London schools were, quite justly, provided for first. Some Palmer's boys joined in family or occupational projects for removal to distant parts of the country, and a contingent under Mr. Jolly joined Bungay Grammar School in Norfolk, but the majority of the boys remained, and by November the school was re-opened under war-time conditions. We were not allowed to assemble more than 250 boys at a time, so that the school was divided into two shifts. Every boy carried a gas-mask, and stayed to a mid-day meal,

for which only half-an-hour was allotted, and the school was cleared by 3 p.m. The buildings were sand-bagged in places, and means of escape from all upper floors was contrived. When the "Alert" was sounded, the boys were promptly led to the fortified sections, and so methodical was the routine that it was possible to carry out full instruction in all forms for the greater part of the War, and the emergency examinations were taken with success.

At night the buildings were guarded and patrolled by masters, and although alarms were frequent, and the general neighbourhood suffered disastrously on many occasions, there were only two incidents that caused damage to the school. One was in day-time during one of the many air-fights attending the attacks on Hornchurch by German bombers. A British "Hurricane" descended rapidly, still flying but apparently out of control, and fell into the pit in front of the school, where it exploded and burst into flames. The fighter-pilot was still in his seat, but had probably been killed during the fight. The explosion shattered most of the windows in front of the school. The other incident occurred at night, during a heavy incendiary raid on the Little Thurrock area. Several bombs fell on the school premises; one fired a large hut in the east playground, and one burnt itself out under the floor of the east dormitory. The fires were promptly and adequately dealt with.

A few ladies joined the staff to take the place of masters on service, and it was during this period that we gained the services of Mr. John Scott, who has since done so much for music in the school and district. A large proportion of the staff were available for normal school duties and in addition took part in work connected with defence. Frank Hughes led a detachment of the Home Guard, and subsequently became colonel of the regimental formation; Mr. Henley was a chief instructor in Civil Defence, and was regularly called on when some strange missile fell in the district; others were involved in counter-invasion measures, and even the boys had instruction in fire-fighting, first aid, in constructing obstacles against landing gliders and in carrying messages through a supposedly occupied region.

The war lasted so long that boys who were at school at the beginning were afterwards visiting us in the intervals between bombing raids on Germany or in the short leaves during the air-defence of London, the Estuary and the aerodromes. The casualties occurred with alarming suddenness from the point of view of those in school who had only recently seen their friends in exuberant spirits. Palmer's was indeed the type of school which provided such a large proportion of those engaged in the Battle of Britain, and so earned a share in Churchill's eulogy. The dead, with those from other theatres of war, are commemorated on one of the two bronze plates fixed in the entrance hall. The other, of course, re-

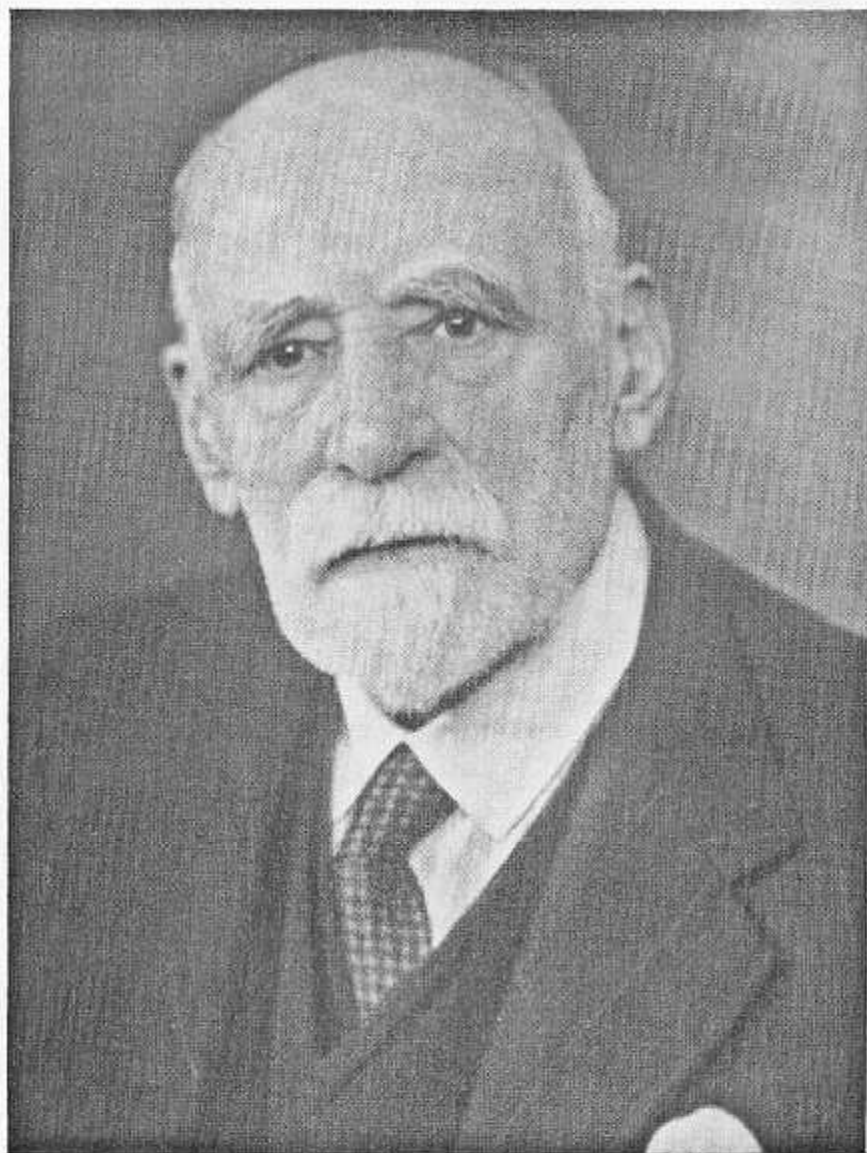


cords the fallen of the first war twenty-five years before, but still fresh in the memory of old boys and masters.

Mr. Jolly came back from Bungay, but did not stay for long. He joined the R.A.F. and was sent out to Malaya only to be captured with the garrison at Singapore. When the war was over he rejoined the staff at Bungay. Miles-Jones had been invalided out of the Army, but was unable to continue at school for long and died soon after the war.

With the 1944 Education Act there started a new State model, shaped by a spirit of national unity and equality. After 1914-18 there had been much planning and hope of reconstruction, but the operation had fallen short of national effectiveness. Some authorities and some individual schools had made great advances, and Palmer's had progressed to continuous contact with the old-established universities, but this was in great measure an individual success attributable to the unremitting energy and high aims of the Rev. H. A. Abbott. In 1946 he retired from the headmastership he had held for twenty-seven years; he became Vicar of Lanhydrock in Cornwall, where also he was preferred to a prebendary stall in Truro Cathedral.

The post-war revolution in Education affected the framework in which Palmer's was an important part rather than the appearance and function of the school itself. Some development has occurred: there is more Greek and some pupils study Russian, but the record of examination successes continues, and the best of the Sixth Form go on to Cambridge, Oxford, or London University as before, but now it is part of a national system which gives equal opportunities to all children without respect to parents' income or social position. Perhaps this is the most important, as it is the most revolutionary, aspect of the Education Act, 1944, which also provides for nursery schools, youth clubs, technical institutes and colleges, County colleges for compulsory further education and for free secondary education for all in different types of schools according to aptitude and ability. The Act was the result of two years' consultation with all bodies concerned with Education, agreement being reached upon many issues which had proved intractable in the past, including the position of Church Schools and the place of Religious Instruction in school life. The vast expansion of educational activity called into being a number of advisory, executive and supervisory authorities, and as an extensive re-distribution of population is proceeding at the same time, there is much building of new schools to provide for the new urban areas. The old schools are modified to meet the new conditions, but the lengthening of the period of compulsory school attendance, at first by one year and at a future date by yet another, has made it necessary to provide more accommodation even in the older settled areas. About



THE LATE ALFRED BROOKS, ESQ., O.B.E., C.A., J.P.  
Chairman of the Governors 1931-1951

twenty per cent of the secondary school entrants are expected to be provided for in grammar and technical schools, and in due course a large proportion of these will go to universities or other higher centres of education. Existing grammar schools fit into the national scheme, operated for all purposes below university level by County Councils and Divisional Executives, with as little disturbance of their traditional function as is possible. The Independent Schools and Direct Grant Schools help by taking County pupils in such proportions as may be agreed.

Schools such as Palmer's which were formerly Aided and could accept some fee-payers find themselves bound to receive pupils who show themselves able by passing high on the General Entrance Examination, and whose parents choose a grammar school education. This is strictly in accordance with the Act, but it has the result that old-established Grays families or Palmerians in the immediate neighbourhood are reluctant to risk the possibility of their children not being included in the winning places in the examination list, and prefer to send them to more expensive schools outside the district. There seems no possibility in the present state of the law and regulations concerning fees of remedying this breach of local tradition; the governors and the headmaster would rejoice if they were able to relieve parental anxiety in some of these cases.

From the national aspect the chief rôle of the local Grammar School is to provide opportunity towards a lengthened association with humane studies for boys of eminent ability and that direction of aptitude, whose parents also choose a course which may not mean a reflex of financial gain to the family fortunes, but rather a contribution of highly responsible individuals to the community at large. It is not a matter of competition but of reasonable specialization that differentiates such a school from technical schools and from modern schools, types which may be expected to attract a great range of ability but somewhat different aptitudes. It is important that there should be no gap of snobbery or implied superiority between the types of schools, or, for that matter, between the local grammar schools and the great public schools.

Implied superiorities tend to prevent a friendly and unresentful sharing of responsibilities as between individuals, groups, parties or states, whether opposed or allied. They form part of a whole genus of complexes, psychological and sociological, called by some "schematic misunderstandings". Such tangles have been common enough during the last fifty years, and this history would be very incomplete if it did not make reference to two "one-generation" William Palmer scholars who have been prominent in world history in that period.

In 1939, at the time when the upper forms were busy with Certificate examinations, the newspapers were blazoning the name of

Mr. William Strang in connection with a delicate and very important mission to Moscow. They also publicised in some detail his progress from Rainham village school, through Palmer's to University College, London, and, after war service from 1914 to 1918 to the first place in the Higher Civil Service examination in 1919. They laid stress upon the fact that the local endowed school had triumphed over Eton, Harrow, Winchester and other traditional nurseries of diplomats. There can be little doubt but that the profuse publicity was intended to influence democratic opinion not only in Russia but also in Britain, France and America. His subsequent career has inevitably been in the public eye; as head of the Foreign Office he was knighted in 1939, and raised to the peerage on his retirement a few years ago.

In 1941 the Prime Minister sent Duff Cooper (Lord Norwich) to Singapore to report on the situation there. In his autobiography, *Old Men Forget*, Duff Cooper records how he found most British and Americans optimistic about the intentions of the Japanese, but Sir George Sansom said, sadly, that *he* was quite sure Japan would enter the war, and as Sir George was a great scholar, who "knew more about Japan than most Japanese, and was the greatest living authority on Japanese art", Duff Cooper reported according to his opinion. When in December the Japanese were in the war, Duff Cooper as resident Cabinet Minister in Singapore, formed a War Council, and included Sir George Sansom as Director-General of Publicity.

In each of the episodes just recounted the material and temporal outcome was unsatisfactory: Russia *did* make a pact with Hitler, and Singapore *was* overwhelmed by the Japanese. But pacts and defeats have been secondary incidents in a world struggle of such exhaustive dimensions, material and spiritual. It may be only co-incidence that of the comparatively small band of scholars who have penetrated sympathetically into the deeps of a distant nation's consciousness, two should be Palmerians, but it lends support to the hope that "first-generation" scholars, passing from grammar school to university, may show a greater tolerance for certain foreign studies than scholars of an ageing and inhibitory tradition.

As far as Palmer's is concerned, the last ten years have shown development rather than deviation from its traditional style. The new headmaster, Mr. F. J. Jordan, B.E.M., M.A. (Lond.), had already many years of experience, including the headmastership at Bridport Grammar School, Dorset. His leadership has extended to the town and district in many social, cultural and religious matters; he was appointed to the Orsett Bench of Magistrates in 1955. The school itself is a happy place, and the boys contrive to enjoy many activities not directly connected with examinations. Nevertheless examination successes have been extraordinarily numerous,

and many boys go to the Universities, generally London, Cambridge or Oxford, aided by State or County scholarships, though one or two open scholarships are won annually. The school has responded to the national demand for more students in Science and Mathematics, but Arts subjects have not been neglected, and in the most recent portion of our period two open choral scholarships have been gained. Music has been an attractive and progressive part of school life; the school choir has on several occasions journeyed to Chelmsford Cathedral to take part in Evensong. The school operatic productions have become famous locally, and the "ladies" of the chorus win much applause from an appreciative public. The Hall is now a recognised centre for concerts organised by the Thurrock Orchestral Society and the Thurrock Male Voice Choir. The latter organisation has broadcast on many occasions; its conductor, Mr. Arthur Jones, is an old Palmerian, and so are many of the "voices". Much of the musical development of the school and district is due to the leadership of Mr. John Scott; the standard is high, and even those who cannot perform are led to appreciate music of good quality.

Some of the amenities which the school enjoys are due to resources somewhat independent of the local education authority. There still remains an income from the William Palmer endowment of about a thousand pounds a year. This money, together with gifts from Old Boys and profits from the Gilbert and Sullivan performances, has been used for the beautifying of the school and other purposes which cannot at present be charged to the rates and taxes fund. The finest single addition has gone to the Girls' school in the form of the noble Greek theatre, but the Boys have acquired an organ in the Hall, some extension to the Library, new tennis courts and ornamental gates. The cricket field, too, has been adorned with an elegant Pavilion, the gift of an Old Boy; it was designed by Mr. Fincham, and opened in June 1954 by Mr. Trevor Bailey, the Essex and England cricketer.

School cricket is still good, and for some years Mr. G. V. Ross has conducted a cricket tour during the vacation, visiting teams in Norfolk. At home the school often entertains Essex County elevens, and some matches in the minor counties' competition have taken place on the school field, which is now one of the most attractive in the county.

Relations with other schools in the district are friendly and co-operative. Often transfers are made to give sixth-form advantages to suitable pupils from modern schools, and occasionally a reverse movement has been made of a young Palmerian to a modern school and accepted without suspicion of down-grading. The headmaster leads in matters of Youth Service, Local Employment facilities, including Apprenticeship schemes, and all community



services where young people are concerned; all with due regard to age and aptitude, but none for class distinctions. When the floods came in February, 1953, the living accommodation was given up to homeless people without delay and without misgiving.

Palmer's Endowed School faces the future with the administratively convenient title of "undenominational voluntary controlled school". It is possible for it to adhere to its own loyalties as well as to respond to government-shaped schemes. Part of the burden, if it is a burden, of the new technology, will be borne by the new Technical College. Even so, there will be problems and stresses which are difficult to assess; the strategy of a community largely technocratic is still obscure, even to its own leaders. In the tumultuous happenings of the last fifty years, great wealth, great skill and great courage have worked to catastrophic issues with a kind of fatality. We fail to see, as St. Augustine saw in his day, the Universal Reason guiding mankind in the midst of disasters. Nothing is so modern as the necessity for remembering the ancients. So our local grammar school, amid all its other duties, will refresh our memories with the grammar of the Latin tongue, and so to Rome and Athens, and Jerusalem, and repentance and renewal.



F. J. JORDAN, B.E.M., M.A., J.P.  
Headmaster

## THE STAFF OF THE BOYS' SCHOOL

1915	H. Benson	1949	J. B. Richards, B.A.
1919	A. C. Cramp, F.L.S., F.R.M.S.		R. W. Ims, B.A.
1921	A. H. Gallimore, B.A.		F. W. Hawkins, C. & G. Cert.
1922	E. L. Bone, B.A.	1950	A. E. Hendry, Dip.Phys.Ed.
1925	E. E. R. Bohm, B.A.	1951	A. R. Hall
1931	R. T. Jones, B.A.		H. W. Steggles, B.Sc.
1932	G. V. Ross, B.A.	1952	J. A. West, B.Sc.
1934	J. R. Hayston, M.A.		J. F. Moore, B.A.
1942	J. R. Scott, B.Sc., L.R.A.M.	1953	J. K. Banner, B.A.
1947	C. N. Twydell, B.A.	1954	P. M. Dines, B.Sc.
1948	P. L. Ross		L. A. Hopkins, B.A., B.Com.
	L. T. Harris, B.A.		E. J. Moorhouse, B.A.
	L. R. Willmer		M. J. Tyrrell, B.A.
	W. S. Humphries, B.Sc.		R. M. Howitt, Dip.Phys.Ed.
	R. H. Jesson, B.Sc.	1955	A. W. Trotter, M.Sc.
1949	D. G. Davies, B.Sc.		B. J. Lang, B.A.
	G. S. Jackson, M.A.		C. Matthews, B.A.

## FORMER MASTERS WITH TWENTY YEARS' SERVICE

1884-1918	A. J. Connabeer	1919-1950	E. G. Hughes, B.A.
1896-1931	H. Holbeche, B.Sc., A.R.C.S.	1920-1946	J. J. Harkins, B.ès.L.
1899-1919	W. Townsend, L.L.C.M.	1921-1955	F. Hughes, M.C., B.A.
1902-1921	F. W. Thorpe, M.A.	1929-1951	W. J. R. Henley, M.Sc.
1906-1945	W. H. Edwards, B.A.	1931-1953	E. Barker Jones, B.Sc.
1907-1944	J. R. J. Savage, C. & G. Cert.	1931-1952	L. E. Bloyce, B.A., L.ès.L.

## THE STAFF OF THE GIRLS' SCHOOL

1919	Miss W. M. Braimbridge, B.A.	1954	Miss B. M. Crookendon, G.R.S.M., A.R.C.M.
	Miss E. T. Brown, M.A.		Miss B. L. Finch, Teachers' Cert. Dom. Subjects
1921	Miss V. M. Smith, A.T.D.		Miss H. M. C. Gibson, B.A.
1928	Miss M. E. Shorter, B.A.		Miss G. M. Mayhew, B.A.
	Miss E. M. Smith, B.Sc.	1955	Mrs. R. Alden, Dottoressa di Belle Lettere
1939	Miss M. K. Fallas, B.Sc.		Miss E. J. F. Climic, B.A.
1945	Miss K. S. Dougill, B.Sc.		Miss B. E. Hayward, B.Sc.
1948	Miss J. M. Barbanell, B.A.		Miss J. E. Miller, B.Sc.
1952	Miss P. J. Bennett, B.A.		Miss M. Whittlestone, G.R.S.M., A.R.C.M.
	Miss M. M. Grant, B.Sc.	1956	Miss E. M. S. Clarke, Teachers' Cert. Dom. Subjects
	Miss J. Potter, Dip.Phys.Ed.		Miss A. L. McCoubrey, B.A.
	Mr. C. W. Watson, L.R.A.M.		Miss S. B. Magashack, A.R.C.A.
1953	Miss A. H. Davidson, B.A.		
	Miss J. Gilby, Dip.Phys.Ed.		
	Miss R. L. Magnus, B.A.		
	Mrs. M. B. May, B.A.		
	Miss S. M. Minty, M.A.		
	Miss G. M. Snellgrove, B.A.		

## FORMER MEMBERS WITH TWENTY YEARS' SERVICE

1906-1927	Miss M. C. Ockendon	1917-1952	Miss A. M. Davis, B.A.
1917-1945	Miss E. A. Irons, B.A.	1920-1949	Miss A. E. James, B.A.
	1917-1953	Mr. J. E. Challis, L.R.A.M.	

# EXTRACT FROM THE MARRIAGE SETTLEMENT OF WILLIAM PALMER, 1657.

This Indenture made the fifteenth day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred fifty and seven Between William Palmer of London Merchant of the one part and Robert Smyth the elder of Upton in the parish of Westham in the County of Essex Esquire, Robert Smyth the younger son and heir apparent of the said Robert Smyth the elder, and Anne Smyth third daughter of the said Robert Smyth the elder of the other part. Whereas there is a marriage intended (by the grace of God) shortly to be had and solemnized between the said Wm Palmer and the said Anne Smyth, Now this Indenture witnesseth That in consideration of the said marriage And of the sum of 2000l of lawful money of England to the said Wm Palmer in hand at and before the ensealing and delivery of these presents by the said Robert Smyth the elder well and truly paid in full for the marriage portion of the said Anne . . . And for a competent Joynture to be made for the said Anne in case she shall overlive him the said Wm Palmer . . . And for the settling and assuring of the Manors lands tenements and hereditaments hereafter in these presents mentioned . . . in the name and blood of the said Wm Palmer so long time as it shall please almighty God and to other the several uses intents and purposes hereafter expressed . . . He the said Wm Palmer doth covenant with the said Robert Smyth the elder and Robert Smyth the younger . . . that he will before the end of Easter Term next ensuing . . . at the costs and charges in law of him the said Wm Palmer before the Justices of the Court of Common Pleas at Westminster in due form of law acknowledge and levy unto the said Robert Smyth the elder and Robert Smyth the younger and their heirs . . . one or more fine or fines . . . whereupon proclamations shall or may be had according to the form of the Statute in that case made and provided. Of all that the Manor of 'Torock als Thorock Gray als Grayes Thorock' with all and singular the rights members and appurtenances thereof in the said County of Essex, And of all that capital messuage and mansion or Manor house at Grays Thurrock with all the barns stables edifices buildings yards orchards gardens and appurtenances thereunto belonging containing by estimation 11 acres. And of all that messuage called ye Mill house with the appurtenances. And of all those two cottages heretofore in the tenures of Wm Machin and Younge and now in the tenures of Wm Nuby and Robt Witham. And of all that messuage with the appurtenances called or knowne by the name or sign of the Rose and Crowne heretofore in the tenure of John Whitebread and now in the occupation of William Tayler. And of all that tenement called the Boarded house heretofore in the tenure of Umpton and now in the occupation of John Crofts. And of all that tenement with the appurtenances and two acres of land heretofore in the tenure of John Crofts and now in the tenure of Ezekiel Sparkes. And of all that cottage heretofore in the tenure of Edward Sawell and now in the tenure of Peter Wingate. And of all that tenement heretofore in the tenure of John Jasper and now in the tenure of John Little. And of all that tenement

being the Ferry house with the appurtenances called the Galley and six acres of salt and fresh marsh heretofore in the tenure of John Lacy and now in the tenure of Abraham Pellham. And of all those several parcels of arable land containing together by estimation one hundred and twenty and eight acres whereof one of them is called by the name of Dies field and containeth fifty and two acres and one of them is called by the name of Small Profits and containeth by estimation thirty and two acres and one other of them is called by the name of Round Bushfield and containeth by estimation twenty and eight acres and the other of them is called by the name of 14 acres and containeth by estimation 16 acres And do abut east upon Grayes woods, west upon Hogg lane, north upon the lands now or late of Thomas Latham Gent and the lane leading from Stifford to Chadwell and south upon Bramble hills heretofore in the tenure of Richard Larder and now are in the tenure of Jno Lambert. And of all that parcel of land called by the name of the Slade containing 14 acres heretofore in the tenure of Richard Larder and now in the tenure of Jno Lambert And of all those woods called Grayes woods Lady Spring and Sacocks wood containing by estimation 100 acres heretofore in the occupation of Ri: Larder now in the tenure of John Lambert. And of all those three parcels of arable land lying together called the Great Warren, the Little Warren and Bustards Warren with the tene-ment in one of them standing containing fourscore and ten acres heretofore in the tenure of Jno Starkis and Tho: Bushfield and now in the tenure of John Dove And of all that parcel of land called Brownesfield containing 20 acres heretofore in the tenure of Jno Starkis and now in the tenure of Ezekiel Sparkes. And of all those several parcels of land lying in Bushey croft Callow lands Broomehill and Knavesacre containing one and twenty acres heretofore in the tenure of Jno Crofts now in the tenure of Ezekiel Sparkes. And of all that parcel of land called Bramble Hills containing eight and twenty acres heretofore in the tenure of John Ware and now in the tenure of Ezekiel Sparkes And of all those 3 parcels of land called the Crofts containing 13 acres heretofore in the tenures of James Crosse and Tho: Bushfield now in the tenure of Tho: Bushfield. And of all that parcel of land called Brickfield containing 15 acres heretofore in the tenure of Rich: Larder and now in the tenure of Jno: Lambert. And of all that parcel of land called Boorefield containing 15 acres heretofore in the tenure of Ri: Larder and now in the tenure of Jno: Lambert. And of all that parcel of land containing 10 acres called by the name of the Towne field now in the tenure of Tho: Bushfield And of all that parcel of land lying under Brickfield hedge containing 3 acres now in the occupation of Thomas Bushfield And of all those 3 parcels of land called the Town fields contain- ing 20 acres now in the tenure of Tho: Bushfield And of all those 3 parcels of land lying together called Ives Thomas Longhill and Broomefield contain- ing thirty and two acres heretofore in the tenure of R. Larder now in the tenure of John Lambert. And of all that parcel of land containing 8 acres heretofore in the tenure of Umpton and now in the tenure of John Crofts. And of all that parcel of land lying at the foot of Walecote marsh containing 2 acres and a half heretofore in the tenure of Jno Starkis now in the tenure of Ezekiel Sparkes. And of all that marsh called Coltrop containing 14 acres and a half heretofore in the tenure of Ri: Larder and now in the tenure of Jno: Lambert. And of all that parcel of marsh called Grayes mead containing twenty and six acres And of all that marsh called Redopps marsh containing 6 acres heretofore in the tenure of Rich: Larder



and now in the tenure of Jno: Lambert. And of those two parcels of marsh grounds lately divided called Broad marsh containing 20 acres heretofore in the tenure of R. Larder now in the tenure of Jno Lambert And of all those two parcels of marsh called the Saltings containing four and twenty acres heretofore in the occupation of Rich: Larder now in the tenure of Jno: Lambert. And of all that marsh called Brands marsh containing 4 acres heretofore in the tenure of James Crosse and now in the tenure of Ezekiel Sparkes. And of all that marsh called Landhope containing 8 acres heretofore in the tenure of Jno: Jasper and now in the tenure of Jno: Little And of all that parcel of marsh ground containing 20 acres now in the tenure of Ezekiel Sparkes. And of all that marsh called Capes hope marsh containing 10 acres lying in four several parcels heretofore in the tenures of Jno: Ware and James Crosse now in the tenure of Ezekiel Sparkes. And of all that marsh lying in 5 parcels called Walecote marsh containing 15 acres heretofore in the tenure of Jno: Ware and now in the tenure of Ezekiel Sparkes. And of all that other marsh called the three acres marsh heretofore in the tenure of Jno. Jasper now in the tenure of Jno. Litle. And of all those six parcels of pasture and marshland enclosed together on the west side of Grays Thurrock and the highway leading from Grays Thurrock to the pound called by the several names of the West Salting, the two West fields, Mill marsh Rushmarsh and Brands marsh containing together forty and six acres now in the tenure of Tho: Bushfield, abutting east upon Grays Thurrock and the highway leading to Grays Thurrock pound, west upon Wright's marshes, north upon the way leading from the pound there to West Thurrock and south upon the River of Thames. And of all that Chapel situate and being on the south side of the east end of the parish church of Grays Thurrock. And of all that Market to be holden weekly upon Thursday and three fairs in the year. And of all the rents and services of all the freholders now belonging to the Manor of Grays Thurrock . . . And the full force of the same fine or fines shall be adjudged . . . and are hereby declared by all the said parties to these presents to be . . . To the several uses intents and purposes . . . hereafter in these presents respectively mentioned and expressed and to or for none other use intent or purpose whatsoever (that is to say) As for touching the aforesaid cottage in the tenure of the said Wm Nuby And all that tenement called the Rose and Crowne And all that tenement now in the tenure of Jno Little And all that tenement being the Ferry house called the Galley together with the Ferry and all the aforesaid tenements now in the occupation of Peter Windgate And all those pieces of land meadow pasture and marsh called by the several names of the Crofts, the parcel of land lying under Brickfield hedge, the Towne fields, Landhope, the 3 acre marsh, the West salting, the two West fields Mill Marsh Rush Marsh and Brands marsh . . . To the only proper use of Wm Palmer and of his heirs and assigns for ever. And touching All that tenement called the Boarded house and all that parcel of land containing 8 acres now in the occupation of Jno Crofts And all those three parcels of arable land lying together called the Great Warren, the little Warren and Bustards Warren with the tenement in one of them standing . . . to the use of the said Wm Palmer during the term of his natural life . . . Then to the use of the said Robert Smyth the elder & Ro. Smyth the younger and their heirs during the life of the said Wm Palmer upon trust . . . And from and after the decease of the said Wm Palmer Then to the use of the first son of the said Wm Palmer on the body of the said Anne Smyth to

be begotten and of the heirs male of the body of such first son lawfully to be begotten And for lack of such issue then to the use of the second son of the said William Palmer . . . [and so on to the 10th and all other sons of William and Anne]

. . . And for the lack of such issue Then to the use of the said Robert Smyth the elder & Robert Smyth the younger for and during the term of fourscore & nineteen years from thence next ensuing and fully to be complete & ended In trust for the raising of portions and maintenances for daughters In case the said Wm Palmer shall have one or more daughter or daughters by the said Anne and no son or sons or having any son or sons they all die without any issue male of their bodies And after the expiration or other sooner determination of the said term of 99 years, Then to the use of the said Wm Palmer and of his heirs and assigns for ever . . .

## APPENDIX II

### ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT FOR ERECTING A WHARF AT GRAYS, 1657 <sup>(1)</sup>

ARTICLES of Agreement indented made concluded and agreed upon the Twentieth day of November In the yeare of our Lord One Thousand Six Hundred fiftie and Seaven Betweene Thomas Burren and Moses Jones of St. Leonards Bromley in the County of Middlesex Carpenters of the one part and William Palmer of London Merchant of the other part Witnessing as followeth viz.

First the said Thomas Burren and Moses Jones for themselves and either of them . . . doe covennt promise grannt and agree to and with the said William Palmer his executors etc by these presents in manner and forme following, that is to say, that they the said Thomas Burren and Moses Jones . . . their servants workmen or assignes . . . will for the consideracon hereafter in these presents expressed make and sett up one framed Wharfe at Graies Thorrocke in the County of Essex upon the place where the Ancient Wharfe formerly was, wch said Wharfe shall containe from the first great Landtye towards the Thames neere the landing place there thence to the Towneward one hundred and twenty foote in length at the least, and shall make the Mudsill of the said Wharfe the whole length of the wharfe of good new fir seaven inches thick and nine inches broad And shall make the Campstride of the said Wharfe the whole length of the wharfe of good sound hart oake eight inches broad and six inches and a halfe thick and shall make all the punchins of the same Wharfe of good hart oake every punchin to be seaven foote long at least and six inches and a half broad and five inches and a half thick and not to stand or be sett above fiteene inches one from another at the most And shall also make to the same wharfe one hundred and twenty foote of needle or of hart oake wch shalbe seaven inches broad and five inches and a halfe thick at the least And shall make to the said wharfe eighteene Landtyes more or lesse as need shall require all of hart oak, nine of them to be fowerteene foote long apiece at least, five of them to be eighteene foote long apiece at least or longer if need shall require, and the rest of those Landtyes to be fiteene foote long apiece at least and not to be sett or placed above seaven foote in seaven foote and a halfe one from another And shall fasten every one of those Landtyes with an iron bolt of three foote and a halfe long and one inch and a halfe over with sawcer heads and two staples or more at each end if need shall require And shall board the said Wharfe in the inside from the bottome to the needle with the best deales inch and halfe thick apiece and from the needle to the top with the best plancks of hart oak one inch and a quarter thick apiece And shall make the same wharfe seaven foote at least from the bottome to the top And shall make sufficient tayle stakes of hart oak for the said Landtyes, two taylestakes at least for every landtye And shall keepe the same wharfe in at the bottome all the length by driving in of piles of hart oak of a sufficient length and thicknes three foote and a halfe in fower

foote one from an other or nearer if need shall require and also shall and will from the first great landtye where they begin to frame the wharfe from thence to the Thamesward sufficiently mend and repair that part of the wash or returne next to the Thames with the piles and boards that are already in the other part of the said wharfe filling it up with bush bavins making it a firme cawsey with chalke and gravell And also shall find and allowe all manner of labour and workemanshipp in and about takeing up and throweing out the earth and putting in againe And shall make the said wharfe all over a firme ground filling it up with bushes chalke and gravell And that they shall sufficiently substantially frame sett up and finish the same wharfe at or before the feast day of the Nativity of St John the Baptist now next coming after the date hereof in by and with all and all manner of stufte materialls and workemanshipp in such manner as is before expressed and according to the intent and true meaning of these presents and so firme and strong that by and to the judgement of men the same shall and may stand and continue firme and good the space of twenty and one yeares at the least And that the said Thomas Burren and Moses Jones shall and will from time to time for and during the space of seaven yeares comencing from the aforesaid feast day of the Nativity of St John the Baptist now next coming after the date hereof at their . . . owne proper costs and charges well and sufficiently repaire and amend all and all manner of defects or decaies whatsoever wch shall during the said terme of seaven yeares come unto or growe upon the said wharfe in any sort or kind whatsoever.

IN CONSIDERACON whereof the said William Palmer . . . doth covenant . . . to and with the said Thomas Burren and Moses Jones . . . that he . . . shall and will well and truly pay or cause to be paid unto the said Thomas Burren and Moses Jones . . . the some of three score and five pounds of lawfull money of England in manner and forme following that is to say forty pounds thereof in hand at and before the sealing and delivery hereof and twenty five pounds more thereof residue and in full payment of the said some of three score and five pounds within the space of thirty days next after the finishing of the aforesaid wharfe as aforesaid Att or in the now dwelling house of John Butler the elder, Scrivener, scituate in Fenchurch Streete London And also that they the said Thomas Burren and Moses Jones . . . shall or may have or take all the old stufte or material . . . wch is now belonging to the aforesaid Wharfe being one hundred and twenty foote in length or thereabout See that they take away the said stufte or materialls without doing any prejudice or hurt to that wch they shall leave standing And further if there shall be any bushes groweing in the wood of the said William Palmer in Graies Thorrock that then it shall and may be lawfull to and for the said Thomas Burren and Moses Jones . . . to cutt take and carry away so many of those bushes as they shall have occasion to use in or for the worke aforesaid so they doe no spoyle or prejudice to the wood or trees groweing in the same wood And lastly the said William Palmer . . . doth covenant . . . to and with the said Thomas Burren and Moses Jones . . . that if they shall and doe well and substantially make sett up and finish the aforesaid wharfe in such manner as is before expressed and within the time before limited for doing thereof in and by all things according to the intent and true meaning of these presents and if upon veiwe there of Thomas Cowden and William

Fowkes of St Leonards Bromley, maltsters shall adiudge that the makeing setting up and finishing of the aforesaid Wharfe shalbe worth five pounds more than the aforesaid some of three score and five pounds and that they the said Thomas Cowden and William Fowkes shall declare the same by writing under both theire hands testified by credible witnesses that then he the said William Palmer . . . shall and will within the space of thirty daies next after that such declaracon shalbe shewed unto the said William Palmer . . . under the hands of the said Thomas Cowden and William Fowkes well and truly pay or cause to be paid unto the said Thomas Burren and Moses Jones . . . att the place aforesaid the some of five pounds more of lawfull money of England over and above the aforesaid some of three score and five pounds In witness whereof the parties above said to these presents interchangeably have putt theire hands and seales the day and yeare first above written

Mem:

That before the sealing and delivery hereof it was mutually agreed by and betweene all and every the parties within menconed that whereas it is menconed in severall places in the Articles within written that all timber and stufte wch is to be used about the within menconed wharfe shalbe all hart oak yet nevertheles if there shall be a small parcell of sap in any one piece of the timber or stufte wch shalbe used in or about the same wharfe wch shall not be preiudiciall the within named William Palmer . . . shall not take any advantage or forfeiture of upon or by the within written articles or any covenant therein contained or upon or by the bonde for performance of the covenants thereof And so sealed and delivered in the presence of Jo Butler and William Fell.



## APPENDIX III.

### THE TRUST DEED FOUNDING THE CHARITY.

This Indenture made the seven and twentieth Day of August in the fifth yeare of the Reigne of our Sovereigne Lady Anne by the Grace of God of England Scotland France and Ireland Queene Defender of the Faith &c. Anno Dni. 1706. Betweene William Palmer of Stratford in the parish of Westham in the County of Essex Esquire of the one part and Sr Richard Anderson of Stifford in the County of Essex Baronett, Sr Thomas Davall of Graies Thorock knight, Dacres Barrett of Bellhouse in the said County of Essex Esquire, Richard Barrett Esquire, eldest Son and Heir Apparent of the said Dacres Barrett, John Lockey of Barking in the County of Essex Esquire, Richard Saltonstall of South Ockendon in the said County of Essex Esquire, Nathan Wright of the parish of Cranham in the said County of Essex Esquire, Joshua Palmer the elder of St Buttolls without Bishops Gate London Doctor in Physick, Joshua Palmer the younger Gentleman Son and Heir apparent of the said Joshua Palmer the elder, Nathaniel Grantham the younger of West Thorock in the said County of Essex Gentleman, Pigott Hatt of Orsett in the said County of Essex Gentl. and Joseph Brandon Citizen and Goldsmith of London of the other part Witnesseth that for and in consideration of the Summe of Five shillings of lawfull Money of England to the said William Palmer in hand well and truely paid by the said Sr Richard Anderson, etc. . . . at and before the sealing and delivery of these presents The receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged and for the settling assuring and conveying of the Messuages or Tenements Lands and Hereditaments hereinafter menconed To the severall uses intents and purposes and upon the Trusts and subject and under the Provisoes Limitacons and Restrictions herein after contained menconed and declared of and concerning the same Premises He the said William Palmer . . . Doth grant Bargain sell release and confirm unto the said Sr Richard Anderson, etc. . . . (in their actuall possession now being by virtue of a Bargain and Sale for one whole yeare to them made by the said William Palmer by Indenture bearing date the Day next before the Day of the date of these presents to commence from the Day next before the Day of the date thereof and by force of the Statute for transferring of uses into possession and to their Heires and Assignes) All that piece of parcell of Land being part of the Feild called Westfeild lying and being in the parish of Grays Thorock in the County of Essex now in the tenure or occupacon of Thomas Hare containing by estimacon twenty foot in depth and eighteen foot in breadth be the same more or less as the same is now marked out with the Appurtenances which said piece or parcell of Ground so marked out abutteth on the Church yard there on the East and abutteth on the Parsonage Garden on the South and North and West on Westfield aforesaid And also all those five Messuages or Tenements with the Appurtenances scituate and being in White Crosse Street in the parish of St. Giles's Cripplegate in the County of Middlesex now in the severall tenures or occupacons of Samuel Shepheard, Richard Golding, Elizabeth King Widow, Peter Guyett, and Job Ridle or their severall Assignes And all that Messuage or Tenement with the appurtenances scituate in Lumbard Street in the parish of Allhallows Lumbard Street London now in the tenure

or occupacon of Joseph Brandon Together with all Shops Cellars Sollars  
 Chambers Rooms Entryes Ways Passages Yards Backsides Lights Water-  
 courses Easements Profitts Commodities and Hereditaments whatsoever to  
 the said Messuages or Tenements and Premises belonging or in any wise  
 appertaining or therewith now used occupied or enjoyed or accepted reputed  
 or taken as part parcell or Member thereof or of any part thereof And the  
 Revercon and Revercons Remainder and Remainders and all yearly and other  
 Rents Issues and Profits thereof And all the Estate Right Title Interest  
 Claim and Demand whatsoever either in Law or in Equity of him the said  
 William Palmer of in and to the same Premises or any part or parcell thereof  
 together with all Deeds Evidences and Writings touching or concerning the  
 same Premises only which he the said William Palmer now hath in his  
 Custody or can come by without Suit in Law or Equity TO HAVE AND  
 TO HOLD the said piece or parcell of Land Messuages or Tenements and  
 all and singular other the Premises therein before menconed and intended  
 to be hereby granted and released and every part and parcell thereof to be  
 hereby granted and released and every part and parcell thereof with their  
 and every of their Appurtenances unto the said Sr Richard Anderson, etc.  
 . . . their Heires and Assignes for ever . . . TO the use and behoof of  
 the said William Palmer and his Assignes for and during the terme of his  
 naturall life without impeachment of or for any manner of waste and with  
 full power liberty and authority to make do and commit waste and imme-  
 diately from and after his decease Then as for and concerning the said  
 piece or parcell of Land in Westfeild aforesaid To the use and behoof of  
 the said Sr Richard Anderson, etc. . . . their Heires and Assignes UPON  
 TRUST and TO the Intent and Purpose that they the said Sr Richard  
 Anderson, etc. . . . and their Heires shall erect and build upon the same  
 Premises a good substantial Brick Building for a Schoolhouse twenty foot  
 in length and eighteen foot in breadth fronting the Church Yard aforesaid  
 with a Chimney therein and raise the Floor of the said intended Schoolhouse  
 one foot above the Ground and Wainscott the whole inside of the same with  
 Deale Wainscott full four foott high from the said floor and place con-  
 venient low Desks and Seats in the said Schoolhouse and also make a  
 Vault under the same ten foot square sufficient to hold five Chaldrons of  
 Coales or more and to finish and compleat the said Building within two  
 yeares next after the decease of the said William Palmer in case he shall  
 not himself build and finish the same in his life time And as for and  
 concerning all the said five Messuages or Tenements in White crosse Street  
 and the said Messuage in All hallows Lumbard Street and the rest and  
 residue of the Premises herein before menconed and intended to be hereby  
 granted and released TO THE USE and behoofe of them the said Sr  
 Richard Anderson, etc. . . . their Heires and Assignes for ever UPON  
 TRUST that they the said Sr Richard Anderson, etc. . . . and their Heires  
 shall and doe receive the Rents and profits thereof and pay and apply the  
 same TO the severall Charitable uses intents and purposes herein after  
 menconed (that is to say) UPON TRUST to pay and apply out of the  
 Rents and Profits of the same Premises which shall incurr and grow due  
 for the space of two years next after the decease of the said William Palmer  
 so much Money as shall be necessary for the erecting building and finishing  
 the said intended Schoolhouse in manner as aforesaid and to apply the  
 overplus and residue of the said Rents and Profits arising out of and by  
 the same Premises for and dureing the said first two years after the Decease

of the said William Palmer for the raising of a Causeway on the backside of the Storehouses in Graies Thorock aforesaid the said Causeway to be made two foot high with Earth and six foot wide and covered with Gravel and fenced with Posts in case the same shall not also be done and finished by the said William Palmer in his own life time and from the expiracon of the said terme of two yeares next after the decease of the said William Palmer THEN UPON TRUST that they the said Trustees & their Heires and Assignes by and out of the Rents Issues and Profitts of the same Premises well and truly pay or cause to be paid to the Schoolmaster of the said intended School for the time being for ever the yearly Summe of Forty Pounds of good and lawfull Money of England at the four most usual feasts or Days of Payment in the year (that is to say) The feast of the Birth of our Lord Christ and the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary the Nativity of St. John Baptist and St. Michael the Archangell by even and equall porcons the first payment thereof to begin and to be made at such of the said Feasts as shall first and next happen after the end or expiracon of the said terme of two yeares next after the decease of the said William Palmer AND upon further TRUST that they the said Trustees and their Heires doe and shall by and out of the Rents Issues and Profitts of the said Premises well and truly pay or cause to be paid the yearly Rent or Summe of Twenty shillings of like lawfull Money of England to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poore of the Parish of Graies aforesd and their Successors for the time being for ever at the said four usual feasts or Days of Payment by even and equall portions The first payment thereof to begin and to be made at such of the same feast Days as shall first and next happen after the end or expiration of the said terme of two yeares next after the decease of the said William Palmer to be by them laid out in buying of Bread to be distributed to and among such poor people of the said Parish of Graies as they shall think proper Objects of the same Charity in such manner as is hereafter menconed (that is to say) Eighteen penny Loaves of Bread upon the first Sunday in every month and twenty four penny Loaves of Bread on the fifth Day of November yearly for ever The first distribution of the said Bread to be made the first Sunday of the first Month that shall happen after the end and expiration of the said terme of two yeares next after the decease of the said William Palmer AND UPON further TRUST that they the said Trustees and their Heires do and shall by and out of the Rents Issues and Profitts of the said Premises yearly and every year for ever upon the fifth Day of November Cloath four poore Children of the said Parish of Graies Thorock to be nominated and appointed by the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poore of the same parish for the time being with the consent and approbacon of the Owner or Owners for the time being of the late Mansion House of the said William Palmer in Grayes Thorocke aforesaid wherein William Tyler now inhabiteth the said charge of Cloathing such four poor Children not to exceed the yearly Summe of Eight pounds AND upon this further TRUST and Confidence that they the said Trustees and their Heires Do and shall by and out of the Rents Issues and Profitts of the said Premises yearly and every year pay or cause to be paid to the Minister of the said Parish of Grays Thorock for the time being for ever the Summe of Twenty shillings of lawfull Money of England for Preaching a Sermon upon every fifth Day of November and if the Minister of the said parish for the time being shall refuse or neglect to do the same Then to pay the

said Twenty shillings a yeare to such Orthodox Minister of the Church of England as shall at the request of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poore of the same parish for the time being preach a Sermon in the same Parish Church on the same Day AND also upon this further TRUST and Confidence that they the said Trustees and their Heires do and shall by and out of the Rents Issues and Profitts of the said Premises well and truly pay or cause to be paid to the Tenant or Occupier of the Wharf or Ferry and Ferryhouse in Graies Thorock aforesaid for the time being for ever the Yearly Summe of Twenty shillings of lawfull Money of England UPON TRUST that such Tennant or Occupyer for the time being yearly and every year lay out and imploy so much thereof as is necessary in the first place for the repairing and amending the Causeway lying behind the Storehouse of the said William Palmer at Grays Thorock aforesaid And to imploy and lay out yearly and every year the remainder of the same Twenty shillings a year in carrying Earth and laying the same on that part of the Salting Ground lying behind the Wharfe of the said William Palmer at Grays Thorock aforesaid which is most Wett and Poachy AND upon this further TRUST and Confidence that they the said Trustees and their Heirs do and shall by and out of the Rents Issues and Profits of the said Messuages or Tenements and Premises hereby granted and released yearly and every year buy five Chaldron of Coals at the Cheapest rate in the Summer and lay the same in the Vault or Cellar intended to be made under the said new intended Schoolhouse as aforesaid and there to be kept till the fifth Day of November in every year and then to be given and delivered out by the Churchwardens of the said Parish of Grays Thorock to such of the Poor People of the same Parish and in such parts and proportions as the person or persons who shall be owner or owners for the time being of the said late Mancon House of the said William Palmer in Grays Thorock aforesaid shall from time to time nominate and appoint AND upon this further TRUST that they the said Trustees and their Heirs do and shall by and out of the Rents Issues and Profits of the said Messuages or Tenements and Premises hereby granted and released yearly and every year pay or cause to be paid to the Church wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish of Grays Thorock for the time being for ever on the fifth day of November yearly and every year the summe of Forty shillings of lawfull Money of England to be laid out in Entertaining the said parish Officers when they meet to enquire and examine whether the said severall Charities be paid and applied according to the true intent and meaning of these presents and to take an account thereof and enter the same in some Book to be kept in the Vestry of the parish Church of Grays Thorock aforesaid for that purpose AND upon this further TRUST that they the said Trustees and their Heirs do and shall by and out of the Rents Issues and Profitts of the said Messuages or Tenements and Premises Default and Deduct to themselves all such Costs Charges Damages and Expences as they or any of them shall from time to time expend lay out or be liable or put unto for or by reason of these presents or the Trusts hereby reposed in them AND upon this further TRUST that they the said Trustees and their Heirs and Assigns doe and shall imploy and dispose all the rest residue and remainder of the said Rents Issues and Profitts of all and singular the said Messuages or Tenements and Premises to and for the repairing upholding and supporting of the said Messuages or Tenements hereby granted and released and the said Schoolhouse hereby



directed to be built as aforesaid from time to time as occacon shall be or require and in the mean time improve the same to the best advantage for the purpose aforesaid AND the said William Palmer for him and his Heires doth by these presents grant direct and appoint that the person to be nominated and chosen Schoolmaster for the said intended School from time to time and at all times hereafter shall be nominated chosen and appointed by such Person or Persons who for the time being shall be Owner or Owners of the said late Mansion house wherein the said William Palmer did lately live in the aforesaid Parish of Graies Thorock which Schoolmaster so to be chosen nominated and appointed shall be obliged to teach and instruct gratis and without any reward or stipend for the same Tenn poore Children of the said Parish of Graies Thorock to be nominated and appointed for that purpose by the Churchwardens of the said Parish for the time being with the consent of the Owner or Owners of the said late Mancon House of the said William Palmer in the parish aforesaid yearly and every year on the fifth Day of November and to teach them to Read Write and cast Accounts and to Instruct them in the Latin Tongue such nominacon and appointment to be made in writing under their Hands and Seals And in case any such Schoolmaster shall neglect or refuse to teach such Tenn poor Children of the said parish gratis and without reward in manner as aforesaid that then such Schoolmaster immediately after such refusall or neglect shall thereby be incapable to be Schoolmaster of the said Intended School and shall have no further or other benefit of the said Annuity or Salary of Forty pounds a yeare And that then and in such case the Owner or Owners of the said late Mancon House of the said William Palmer in Graies Thorock aforesaid shall nominate and appoint such other Person as he or they shall think fitt to be Schoolmaster of the said intended School and to teach and instruct the said Tenn Children of the said Parish of Graies gratis and without reward and in manner as is aforesaid according to the true intent and meaning of these presents PROVIDED also and the said William Palmer doth hereby declare that it shall and may be lawfull to and for the said Trustees and the Survivors and Survivor of them and the Heires and Assignes of such Survivor and all and every Person and Persons who shall hereafter be Trustees of and for the said intended Charities from time to time by Indentures under their Hands and Seals to demise sett and to farm lett all or any part or parts of the said Messuages or Tenements herein before menconed and intended to be hereby granted and released as aforesaid to any Person or Persons for any terme or number of years not exceeding the number of one and twenty years at the most Rent that can be reasonably had or obtained for the same soe as the same be made payable half yearly or quarterly dureing the continuance of such Lease without taking any Summe or Summes of Money or other thing whatsoever by way of Fine or Income for or in respect thereof and so as none of the said Leases be made dishonourable of waste and so in every such Lease be contained conditions of reentry for nonpayment of Rent to be thereby reserved and such other Covenants as are usuall in like cases and so as such person or persons to whom such lease or Leases shall be made Seale & Execute Counterparts thereof respectively PROVIDED also and it is hereby further declared covenanted and agreed by and betweene the said parties to these presents for them and their Heires and the true intent and meaning of them and of these presents is that when the number of the said Trustees



above named shall by Death Release or otherwise be reduced to the number of three persons That then the surviving Trustees or the Heires of the Survivor of them shall Convey over the said Messuages or Tenements Hereditaments and all and singular other the Premisses herein before menconed and intended to be hereby released and conveyed with their and every of their Appurtenances to the like number of Persons of Creditt and ability living near unto the said Parish of Grayes Thorock or Relacons of him the said William Palmer as are nominated and appointed by these presents and to their Heires and Assignes To the use of themselves and the said other Trustees and their Heires UPON THE TRUSTS and to the Intents aforesaid and so from time to time the surviving Trustees of the said Messuages or Tenements and Premisses herein before menconed and intended to be hereby granted and released as aforesaid shall convey the premises to themselves and other Trustees as aforesaid and their Heires upon the Trusts herein before menconed TO the Intent that the clear yearly Rent and Profitts of the same Messuages or Tenements Hereditaments and Premises may be applied to and for the several uses intents and purposes hereinbefore particularly menconed and expressed according to the true intent and meaning of these presents IN WITNESS whereof the said partyes first above named have hereunto sett their Hands and Seales the Day and year first above written

Wm	O	Palmer
Richd	O	Anderson
Nathan	O	Wright
Thomas	O	Davall
Dacre	O	Barrett
Ri	O	Barrett
Ri	O	Saltonstall
John	O	Lockey
Jos	O	Palmer senr
Josu	O	Palmer junr
Nathaniel	O	Grantham
Joseph	O	Brandon

Sealed and Delivered (each skin being first stampd with a double sixpenny Stamp) by the within named William Palmer in the presence of Owen Lloyd, Jo. Thomas, Edw: Fawcett

Sealed and Delivered by the within named Dacre Barrett, Ri: Barrett Ri: Saltonstall in the presence of us Robt Hamilton, Jno Tapley.

Sealed and Delivered by the within named Jno Lockey in the presence of Edw Lockey, Philip Taylar.

Sealed and Delivered by the within named Sr Thomas Davall in the presence of us John Wilkes, Wm Curteis.

Sealed and Delivered by the within named Joshua Palmer Senr & Joshua Palmer Junr in ye presence of Jno Mackmath, Philip Taylar.

Sealed and Delivered by the within Sir Richd Anderson in the presence of Wm Curteis, Philip Taylar.

Sealed and Delivered by the within named Nathaniel Grantham, Gentleman in the presence of Robt Foley, Joseph Reebess.

Sealed and Delivered by ye within named Sr Nathan Wright Bartt in the presence of Wm Curteis, Phillip Taylar.

## APPENDIX IV.

### WILLIAM PALMER'S WILL.

I. WILLIAM PALMER, of Stratford Langthorn in the parish of Westham in the County of Essex Esquire calling to Mind the frailty and mortality of my Nature but being at this time of sound Mind and perfect Memory praised be God do make and ordain my last Will and Testament in manner following Viz. IMPRIMIS I bequeathe my Soul into the Hands of Almighty God hoping through the Satisfaction and Merits of my only Saviour Jesus Christ to have full and free pardon of all my Sins and to Inherit Eternal Life my Body I comit to the Earth to be buried in my own Chancell at Grayes Thorock in the said County of Essex in such decent manner as my Executor herein after named shall think fitt.

ITEM I Will that my Debts and Ifunerall charges be paid and Discharged.

ITEM, WHEREAS in and by one Indenture bearing date on or about the seven and twentieth Day of August Anno Dom 1706 and in the fifth year of the Reign of her present Majesty Queen Anne made or menconed to be made between me the said William Palmer of the one part and Sr Richard Anderson Baronet Sir Thomas Davall knight Dacres Barret Esquire Richard Barret Esqr John Lockey Esqr Richard Saltonstall Esqr Nathan Wright Esquire Joshua Palmer the elder Doctor in Physick Joshua Palmer the younger Gentleman Nathaniel Grantham the younger Gentleman Pigott Hatt Gentleman and Joseph Brandon Goldsmith of the other part I have granted to and settled upon them as my Trustees several Messuages or Tenements and Lands for Charitable uses and among the rest for a Schoolhouse lately by me built but not finished in Grayes Thorock aforesaid under the limitacons therein expressed NOW I do hereby Give and Devise unto my said Trustees All that my Cottage now in the possession of the Widow Elkin and William Gilman with the piece of Ground thereunto annexed and therewith enjoyed situate and being in the parish of Grays Thorock aforesaid TO HOLD to my said Trustees their Heirs and Assigns for ever UPON TRUST that they permit and suffer my said Executors to pull down the said Cottage and to erect on the said piece of Ground a Messuage or Tenement as herein after directed AND upon the further TRUSTS that such Messuage or Tenement with the Appurtenances shall be hereafter the Habitacon or Dwelling house for the Schoolmaster of the said School for the time being wherein he shall Dwell gratis AND I will and order that such House be Built and Erected by my said Executor and the said Joshua Palmer Junior in such manner and according to such Model as I shall Direct (if I leave any such) otherwise as they shall think fit and that all things in relation thereto be managed by them jointly.

ITEM my Mind and Will is and I do hereby Order Charge and Direct that the Half years Rent which shall become due for and out of all my Messuages Lands Tenements and Hereditaments in the said County of Essex at Michaelmas or Lady Day next after my decease one whole years Rent of my three Houses in Chancery Lane one whole years Rent of my five Houses in White Cross Street one whole years Rent of my House in Lombard Street one whole years Annuity of a Tally and Order herein after

given to Joshua Palmer being Twenty five pounds also one quarterly payment of the Annuity of Twenty eight pounds herein after given to Dorcas Wright als Canning next becoming Due after my Decease also three pounds hereinafter mentioned to be paid my Cousin Wright also the next years Interest of Thirty pounds which shall become due after my Decease from Thomas Hare by his Bond Also all the Annuall Profits which shall become due for or on my Million Lottery Tickets amounting in the whole to seventy pounds per Annum after my decease And also the next Six Months Interest which shall become due next after my Decease for all Monies due to me on Mortgages Bonds Judgments or otherwise (except herein after specifically given or bequeathed and not hereby charged) shall be paid unto and received by my said Executor to whom I give devise and bequeath the said Rents and Interest above menconed In Trust that he immediately lay out and apply the same Moneys so to be raised for the more speedy finishing of the School I have already built and for the erecting and finishing of a House or Habitation for the Dwelling of such Schoolmaster on the Ground before devised at Grays Thorock aforesaid for such purpose and that the overplus of the Moneys so to be raised as aforesaid after the said School is finished And the said House erected and finished shall be by my said Executor laid out and expended in the Building of Outhouses and such other Conveniences as shall be usefull and necessary for the said House.

ITEM I give and bequeath the Clock now standing in my Hall to the said Trustees In Trust for the said School and Will that the same be set up there to remain for the use thereof.

ITEM I give and bequeath the Sum of Ten pounds to such of my Servants living with me at the time of my decease as shall be nominated by my trusty and faithful Servant Alice Slow for that purpose over and above their Wages to be divided among such in such proporcons as she shall think fitt and to be paid them forthwith after my ffuneral.

ITEM I give and bequeath unto my said trusty and faithfull Servant Alice Slow Spinster two Annuities of Twenty five pounds per Annum each making together ffifty pounds per Annum payable at the Exchequer for the term of Ninety nine years pursuant and according to an Act of Parliament in that behalf made in the sixth year of her present Majesty's Reign for the said term of Ninety nine years if she the said Alice Slow shall so long live she paying nevertheless unto Ann Hebbs Widow thereof Eight pounds quarterly as she shall receive the same from the Exchequer during the life of the said Ann Hebbs and if she shall Dye before the said Ann Hebbs Then to whom I give the said two Annuities of fifty pounds per Annum and to whom they shall come by virtue hereof shall pay the said Eight pounds per Annum as aforesaid to the said Ann Hebbs during her life and after the decease of the said Alice Slow Then I give and bequeath the said Annuities of ffifty pounds per Annum or so much thereof as shall not be payable to the said Ann Hebbs to Margaret the Wife of Robert Bedle of London Innkeeper for and during all the remainder of the said term of Ninety nine years which shall be then to come if the said Margaret shall so long live for her particular separate use and for which her receipt shall be a Discharge and from and after her decease Then I give and bequeath the said Annuities of ffifty pounds per Annum to William Bedle (son of the said Robert and Margaret) for all the re-

mainder of the said term of Ninety nine years that shall be then to come (if the said William Bedle shall so long live) And from and after his Decease Then I give and bequeath the said Annuities of ffifty pounds per Annum to the Son (if but one) if more than one Then to the eldest son of the Body of the said Margaret then living for and during all the remainder of the said term of Ninety nine years that shall be then to come if such Son shall so long live and after his Decease Or in case there be no such Son Then I give and devise the said Annuities of ffifty pounds per Annum unto the Daughter if but one or if more than one Then to the eldest Daughter of the said Margaret then living for and during all the remainder of the said term of Ninety nine years that shall be then to come if such Daughter shall so long live And from and after her decease or if there be no such Daughter or Son or any Issue of them living Then I give and bequeath the said Annuities of 50*l* per Annum and the Tallys and Orders for the same to William Hudson and Margaret Hudson Grandchildren to my Cozen Margaret King and to their Executors Administrators and Assigns for all the remainder of the said Term that shall be then to come.

(About the Wharfe)

ITEM, WHEREAS I am entitled to a Wharf and Storehouse with the Bridge leading to the low Water and to a Causeway behind the said Storehouses which I have lately made at Grays Thorock now in the possession of Oliver Wake I do hereby give and bequeath one other Annuity of 25*l* per Annum payable at the Exchequer for the term of Ninety nine years pursuant and according to the said Act of Parliament made in that behalf in the said sixth year of her present Majesty's Reign (after one year's Annuity paid thereout unto my Executor for and towards building the House and finishing the said School as above is mentioned) unto Joshua Palmer of the Middle Temple London Gentleman for so long of the residue of the said term of Ninety nine years as he shall live and from after his Decease To such person or persons as shall be intitled to the possession or Rents and Profits of the said Wharfe Storehouses Bridge and Causeway for so long of the said residue of the said term as he or they shall continue so intitled to the said Rents and Profits UPON TRUST that the said Joshua Palmer and such other Person and Persons respectively shall and do out of the first Moneys (after the said first years Annuity paid as aforesaid) that shall be received for the said Annuity pay so much Money as shall be necessary for repairing and beautifying my chancell in the parish Church of Grays Thorock in the said County of Essex in such manner as my said Executor shall think fit And my Mind and Will is that the Tenant who for the time being shall be in actual possession of the Ferry House and the said Wharf Bridge Storehouse and Causeway during the remainder of the said term do lay out and expend any Sum or Sums not exceeding the said Sum of five and twenty pounds per Annum in manner following Viz. In the first place for providing and laying one hundred loads of Earth Chalk or Chalk Rubbish and spreading the same on the Saltings on the East side of the said Storehouses for raising the said Saltings untill the same shall be sufficiently raised and in the next place for buying Timber Pyles and Boards for the necessary reparation of the said Wharfe Bridge Storehouse and Causeway and for paying and discharging all other Expences in and about the necessary Repairs thereof which are to be done in such manner as such Tenant and my said Executor shall think fit and proper concerning which

Repairs and Expences such Tenant shall be accountable and shall yearly at Michas in every year render a just and true account to the said Joshua Palmer or to the person or persons who shall be then intituled to the Possession or Rents and Profits of the said Ferry House Wharfe Bridge Storehouses and Causeway And in case the said Joshua Palmer or the Person or Persons who shall be intituled to the said Annuity and Rents and Profits of the said Ferry House Wharfe Storehouses Bridge and Causeway shall not pay such Expences to the Tenant in possession of the said Wharfe and other Premises for the use aforesaid laid out during all the said term of Ninety nine years That then and on every such Default it shall be lawfull for the Tenant so in possession to deduct yearly and every year out of his Rent that he shall pay for the Wharfe and Premises such Sum or Sums so by him laid out for the purposes aforesaid not exceeding the said Sum of 25£ per annum.

About Mrs. Slow's Legacy.

ITEM I give and bequeath unto my said Servant Alice Slow the Raught Bed in my Chamber and all the ffurniture in the same Chamber except the Plate Also I give unto her all the wearing Apparell and Linnen which was my late Dear Wife's which is by me undisposed of.

About the Godchildrens Legacy.

ITEM I give unto my severall Godchildren 10£ a piece.

ITEM I give to my Niece Jane Gubbs Daughter of my Niece Ann Gubbs deceased 10£.

ITEM I give 10£ to the Poor of the parish of Grays Thorock in the said County of Essex to be disposed among them at the Discretion of the Minister and Churchwardens with the advice of my Executor.

ITEM I give 5£ to the Parish of St. Katherine Coleman Fenchurch Street London being the Parish where I was born and bred for the Cloathing of Poor Children in the said Parish.

ITEM I give 5£ to the Poor of the said Parish of Westham where I now live to be distributed among twenty poor Inhabitants of the Wards of Stratford and Westham at the Discretion of the churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish.

ITEM after one quarterly payment of the Annuity here next after mentioned towards the Building the House and ffishing the School above mentioned I give to my Niece Dorcas Wright alias Canninge the sum of 200£ and all the profits of the same for which I have from the Exchequer a Tally and an Order in her Name for the yearly Annuity of 28£ per Annum for her life by vertue of a certain Act of Parliament for granting to their late Majestys certain Rates and Dutys of Excise upon Beer Ale for securing certain recompences and advantages in the said Act menconed to such persons as shall advance the sum of Ten Hundred thousand pounds.

ITEM I Give unto William Hudson and Margaret Hudson the two Grand children of my Cozen Margaret King the sum of 20£ apiece.

ITEM I Give to Mary Hering Daughter of George Canning 10£.

ITEM I Give to Doctor Thomas Botterell 10£.

ITEM I Give to my Cozen Margaret Towse 4£.

ITEM I forgive to my Cozen Wright the Sum of ffifty pounds which



he is indebted to me and which is secured by a Judgment and all costs and damages for and in respect of the said judgment and desire my Executor after my Decease to acknowledge satisfaction thereof upon the request and at the charge of my said Cozen Wright provided he pay 3£ to my Executor for one years Interest to be employed towards the Building the House and finishing the School above menconed.

ITEM I Give to all the Children of my late Brother Walter Benthall deceased the Sum of 20£ a piece.

ITEM I Give to all my Tenants that Rent 10£ per Annum or under and not less than 20£ per Annum to every Tenant respectively the sum of 40£.

ITEM I Give to all my Tenants that Rent above the Sum of 10£ per Annum to every Tenant respectively the sum of 10£.

ITEM I Give to the said Mrs. Margaret Bedle wife of Robert Bedle the wrought Bed and all the ffurniture that is in that Chamber on the left hand going up the Stairs and 12 Damask Table Cloaths and one Dozen of Damask Napkins marked G.B.

ITEM I give Devise and Bequeath unto the said Joshua Palmer (charged with the half years Rent and one years Rent above given towards Building the House and finishing the Schoolhouse as before menconed and with the further charge of Sixteen pounds per Annum charged on the three Houses in Chancery Lane herein after given to Margaret King during her life) All my Messuages Lands Tenements and Hereditaments in Grays Thorock aforesaid in the said County of Essex and also all that my Mancon House in Stratford in the said parish of Westham in the said County of Essex and the Tenement adjoining thereunto in the tenure of John Sage or his Assigns and also those three Messuages or Tenements situate and being in Chancery Lane in the Parish of St. Dunstons in the West London which I lately purchased and are in the tenure or occupation of Richard Tidmarsh and John Walthoe or their respective Assigns And all other my Messuages Lands Tenements and Hereditaments in the Countys of Essex Middlesex and City of London or elsewhere in the Kingdom of Great Britain not by me already settled for Charitable uses intents and purposes And the Reversion or Reversions Remainder and Remainders thereof And all my Estate Right Title and Interest therein shall go and remain and be And I do hereby give & devise the same to the said Joshua Palmer TO HAVE AND TO HOLD to him the said Joshua Palmer for and during the term of his naturall life And from and after his Decease To the use and behoof of my Nephew James Smith and the said Joseph Brandon and their Heirs for and during the naturall life of the said Joshua Palmer UPON TRUST to preserve and support the contingent uses and Estates thereof herein after limited from being prevented defeated or destroyed BUT UPON TRUST nevertheless to permit and suffer the said Joshua Palmer during his life to have receive and take the Rents Issues and Profits of the same Premisses and from and after the decease of the said Joshua Palmer Then to the first Son of the said Joshua Palmer to be begotten and the Heirs Male of the Body of such first Son lawfully issuing and for Default of such Issue Then to the use and behoofe of the second third fourth and every other Son and Sons of the Body of the said Joshua Palmer lawfully to be begotten and the Heirs Male of the Bodys of every such Son and Sons respectively

lawfully Issuing severally successively and respectively one after another as they and every of them shall be in seniority of age and priority of birth the elder of such Son and Sons and the Heirs Male of his Body issuing being always preferred and to be before the younger and the Heirs Male of his Body issuing And for default of such Issue Then To the use and behoofe of the aforesaid William Hudson Grandson of my Cozen Margaret King and his Heirs for ever upon condition that accruing of my said Estate to him he shall leave the Name of Hudson and take upon him the Surname of Palmer and that he and his Heirs after him injoying my said Estate shall take on him and them the Surname of Palmer and in all Deeds and Writings shall write themselves accordingly by the said Surname of Palmer and not by the Name of Hudson.

ITEM I Give and bequeath unto my Cozen Margaret King during the term of her natural life for her sole and separate use and for her better support and maintenance the sum of 16£ per Annum without any deduction or abatement for Taxes or otherwise and to be paid her quarterly by the said Joshua Palmer out of the Rents and Profits of my said three Houses in Chancery Lane with which said Sum of 16£ per Annum I hereby charge the same after the first years Rent thereof shall be paid towards the Building the House and finishing the School afore charged thereon.

ITEM I Give and Bequeath unto John Eusebius Smith Son of John Smith late Minister of the Parish of Westham aforesaid the Sum of 5£.

ITEM I Give and Bequeath unto my good friend Mr. Joseph Brandon the Sum of fifty Pounds in respect of the Trust I have reposed in him to see the Charity by me lately settled on the parish of Grays Thurrock aforesaid well and truly performed and the further trouble I shall herein give him not doubting his care and pains in seeing the same well and truly performed and accomplished according to my intent.

ITEM I Give to Elizabeth Wife of the said Joseph Brandon 5£ to buy her a Ring.

ITEM I Give all the rest residue and remainder of my Estate after all my Debts and Legacies paid and funerall Charges defrayed and satisfied to my Kinsman William Hudson And I do hereby make and constitute the said Joseph Brandon full and sole Executor of this my last Will and Testament desiring him to take care duly to fulfill and perform the same hereby revoking all former and other Wills by me at any time heretofore made and do publish and declare this to be and stand as and for my last Will IN WITNESS whereof I have to this my last Will and Testament consisting of this and the twelve proceeding Sheets of Paper set my Hand and Seal this Eleventh Day of January Anno Dom 1709 and in the Eighth year of the Reign of Queen Anne over Great Britain &c.

Wm PALMER.

Witnesses Names.

JAMES WALL.

Wm CURTIS.

NICHOLAS PERREY.

Wm LUNBERY, all of Stratford.

## CODICIL.

WHEREAS I have paid into the Bank of England per Hands of Mr. Joseph Brandon the Sum of four hundred pounds to be put into the Lottery for 32 years and have thereupon a Receipt for the said four hundred pounds Nr 170 under the Hands of William Stubbs one of the Receivers of the Bank and thereby I am intituled to forty Tickets which in the Note he engages to deliver as soon as the Books shall come to his Hands the said forty Tickets being entered in their Books in my Name and for proper Account which said Tickets are to be delivered to Mr Brandon to be by him kept till shall be Drawn NOW for the disposal of the same after the drawing considering my great years and that I am never likely to see them Drawn I have therefore esteemed of an absolute necessity to declare my Mind concerning the disposal of the same when they shall be drawn my full Mind is that the Profit of all the Tickets Blanks or Benefits as they shall be drawn be paid to my Executor for the first year of the 32 years to be by him applied for the setting up and fixing a compleat and handsome Sun Diall at or on the School Room which I have erected in the parish of Grays Thorock in the County of Essex and then I Give five pound more out of the profits arising out of the first years Tickets to Mr Joseph Brandon for the great care and pains he has taken in settling the Tickets and my Mind is that the rest and residue of the Profits of the first years Tickets after the payment of the 5*l* to Mr Brandon and after the Charge defrayed for erecting the Sun Diall shall be appropriated to the sole use of building the House and finishing the School Room which I have erected in the parish of Grays And my full Mind and real intent is that all the Tickets Blanks and Benefits as they shall be drawn for the remainder of the thirty two years after the first year shall be to the whole use and support of my Brother Walter Benthall's three Daughters to be equally divided among them.

And in consideration of all the premises I have set my Hand and Seal all written with my own hands this fourteenth of february 1709/10

Wm PALMER.

This writing was signed and sealed and published and declared as a Codicil the 12 Day of May 1710 by Wm Palmer.

WITNESSED.

JAMES WALL.

Wm CURTIS.

NICH. PERREY.

Wm LUNBERY.



