

TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF EDUCATION IN GLYNDE, 1765-1965

by

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Richard Trevor (1707-1771), the Bishop of Durham, inherited the Glynde Estates in 1743 and there followed a period of much building and many improvements, among them a new Vicarage, a new Church, the straightening of Glynde Reach, improving the village street, and much rebuilding at Glynde Place. Of necessity Trevor, no absentee Bishop, spent many months away from Glynde (or "Glynd" as it was then spelt) and on 4th February 1765 the Rev. Thomas Davies, Vicar of Glynde 1750-1789 and much involved in the running of the village in the Bishop's absence, wrote to William Hodgson, the Bishop's steward, "I have got all the little Children to School. There is at present near a score but as Spring comes on many boys will be taken off to tend Crows(sic), Hogs etc. Dame Burgess is to have 3 pence for the Girls that learn to sow(sic), there is about 5 of them: the rest are 2d per week." (1). This would have been an expense of 1s 3d per week for "the Girls that learn to sow" and about 2s 6d for the rest, making a total of 3s 9d per week. The stewards day book kept by William Hodgson for 1767 (2) contains the entry for 12th January "Pd. Mr. Davies for educating the Poor Childn. in Glynde & Beddingham to 10th Oct. 1766-£7 17s 11d". Assuming this is for one year (Davies was paid on the 10th October the following year as well) the £7 17s 11d would have paid, at 3s 9d per week, for 42 weeks, or less if we assume some of the money was for materials, with the entire cost seemingly being met by the Bishop.

The following year Hodgson's Rentals and Disbursements Book (3) records, "Teaching the Poor Children one year ending 10th Oct. 1767. Viz of Glynde besides Mrs Trevors Money 2s 5d; Beddingham £9 4s 1d: Total £9 6 6d". What was "Mrs Trevors Money" and why did it apply only to Glynde? On the 16th December 1818 John Ellman, the tenant of the Great Farm at Glynde and steward of the Glynde Estates, gave evidence to the Charity Commissioners that Mrs Mary Trevor (who seems to have been overlooked in any Trevor family pedigrees) bequeathed in her will £100 to be invested in Trust in the Turnpike road from South Malling to Glynde Bridge and on to Alfriston and that the interest thereof "might be yearly applied for the better instruction of the..... poor children (of Glynde) in the principles of the Christian religion". Ellman further stated that he had received five per cent interest annually on the £100, "till within the last two years..... which I have paid over to a schoolmaster and schoolmistress in the parish of Glynde", but the Trust was now insolvent. He added that he had heard of no other fund for education,

there was no school house, and that "I have paid annually for the last fifteen years (Ellman became steward in 1792) £4 to the clerk of the parish, who keeps a Sunday school in the Church, and takes all the boys and girls .... who offer themselves, and to a schoolmistress 3d a week for boys and 4d a week for girls, 16 or 18 altogether: she teaches the boys reading and the girls reading and needlework. I have paid same for the last two years although I have received no interest. I pay the excess on £5 from my pocket." (4).

At 3d and 4d a week the schoolmistress would have earned about 5 shillings a week or just over £10 a year for a 42 week year, which tallies nicely with the total for 1767 allowing for the increase in rate and bearing in mind the 1767 figure is the total expenditure (see appendix 1 regarding the Sunday School).

It is no great surprise that Ellman took a large part of the expense of the school upon himself. A prosperous sheep breeder and agricultural improver, he was also a great advocate of education at a time when this was far from fashionable. His father, Richard, was barely literate (5) and John himself had little schooling which, according to Walesby's "Memoir of John Ellman" (6), was a matter of great regret to him all his life. Nothing daunted, Ellman took tuition from the Rev. Thomas Davies, whose daughter Constantia he later married as his second wife. This connection with Davies may have been another factor in Ellman's generosity towards the school. Ellman also engaged one of his shepherds, Charles Payne, as a schoolmaster to teach the unmarried men and maid servants in Ellman's house to read and write, and sent his own son, John jnr., to Winchester (6). It is possible then that the school was carried on in Glynde at least until 1829, when John Ellman senior retired and left the village, even though Mrs Trevor's charity appears to have failed along with the Glynde Bridge Turnpike Trust at the beginning of the 19th century. The failure of the Turnpike Trust, incidentally, led to the building of a new line of road from Lewes to Eastbourne (the present A27) in 1818 (7).

There is a gap of eleven years until, in 1840, the Glynde parish registers record the baptism of Sarah Ann, daughter of William Downey "schoolmaster of this parish" on 5th April of that year. This may or may not be the William DOWNING recorded in the Tithe Award Schedule of 1838 but Downey is certainly the schoolmaster in the census of 14th June 1841, which is the month the building of the Glynde National School commenced (8). Downey may, however, be a red herring in this story, but if he isn't he had left the school before it was opened in February 1842.

The building of the school began in June 1841 and it opened the following February on a site opposite the Vicarage in the centre of the village. The site was given by Lt. General Henry Otway Trevor, the Lord of the Manor, and the Rev. William Rose, Vicar of Glynde 1824-1844, and it comprised one rood and two perches of Glebe land (9). It was conveyed in a deed of 1842 "as a site for a School for poor persons of and in the parish of Glynd and for the residence of a Schoolmaster or Mistress of the said school (if necessary) and for no other purpose whatever, such School to be united to the National Society for promoting the education of the Poor in the principles of the Established Church and to be conducted in accordance with the principles of that Society, but so that the appointment of Teachers and the Regulation and Management of such School shall be for ever in all respects under the exclusive direction and control of the Vicar of Glynd for the time being (10)."

The cost of the new school was £306 4s 11d, which was detailed as follows (11):-

Contract for building	£	s	d
	215	0	0
Cloakroom added and other alterations	30	6	11
Furniture	24	5	1
Clock	4	14	6
Conveyance	5	15	0
Slates, books, maps, stationery	9	4	6
Schoolmistress from London to organise the School, for two months attendance, Board, Wages-Salary, Travelling Expenses	8	5	6
Oak Tablet complete with names of Subscribers	4	14	6
Bell £1 0 0 Hanging Do. and zinc cover for it £1 0 9	2	0	9
Glass windows (lead-light) in the end of the School, additional oak rail, Labour	1	18	2
	<u>306</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>11</u>
	Subscriptions	305	0 0
	Balance	1	4 11

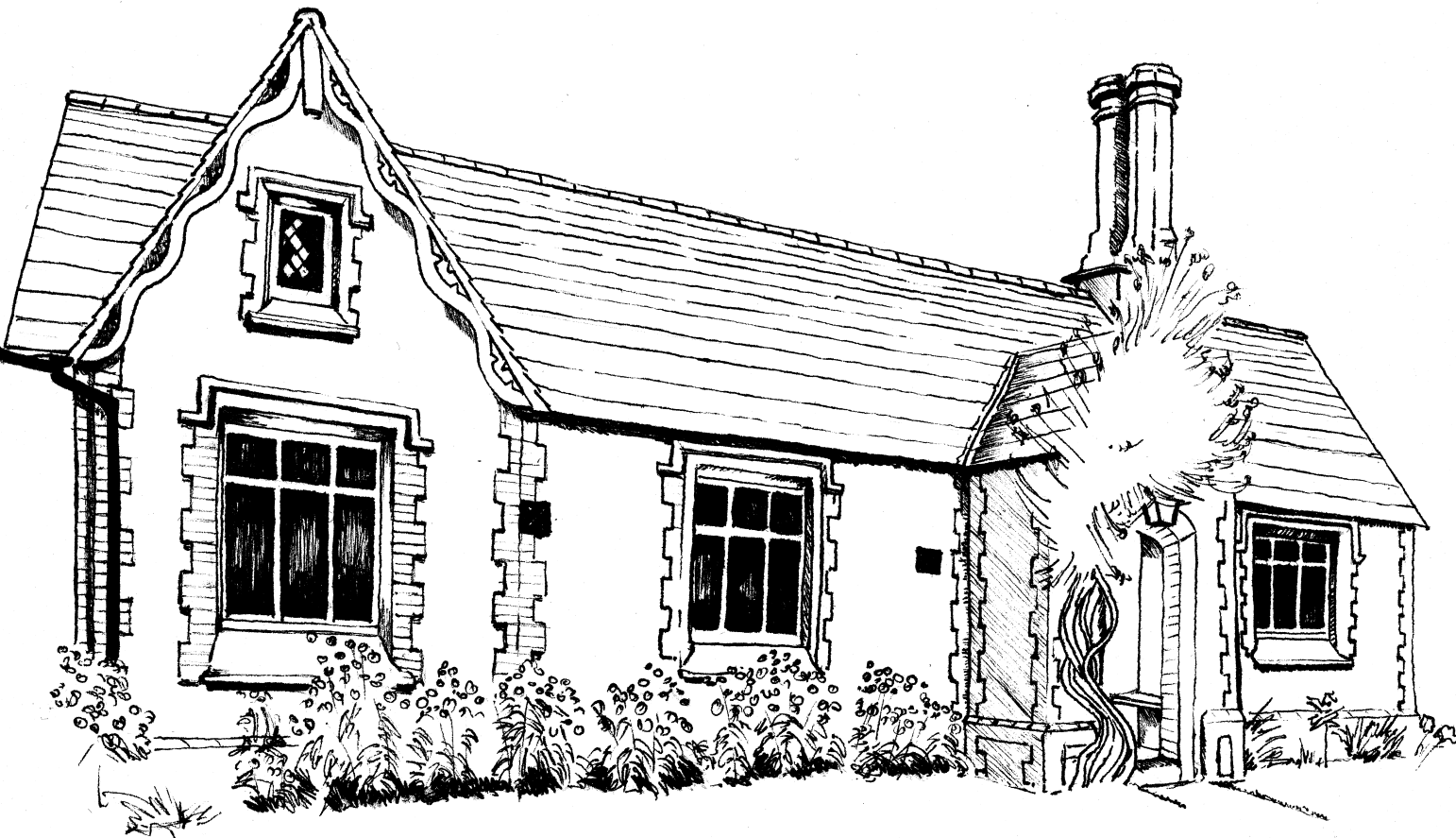
The Oak Tablet listing the subscribers, and the amount they gave, was still hanging in the school room in 1897 but seems to have disappeared since then. According to the invaluable Parish Magazine of January of that year, the subscribers gave £295 0s 0d (a shortfall of £10 on the above figure) and the money came from a variety of people:-

His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury and Mrs. Howley	15	0	0
The Dean and Chapter of Windsor	5	0	0
Grant from the National Schools Society	40	0	0
Lieut-Gen.H.O. Trevor	50	0	0
Hon. Mrs. Trevor	10	0	0
Sir James Langham, Bart. (of Glyndebourne)	20	0	0
John Ellman, Esq.	20	0	0
J.E. Fullager, Esq.	3	0	0
Rev.C.E. Hutchinson (Vicar of Firle)	3	0	0
C.C. Petley, Esq.	20	0	0
Mrs McLeod	10	0	0
Mrs Cade	10	0	0

Rev.H. Petley	20	0	0
Edward Foss, Esq.	2	0	0
Miss Foss	5	0	0
Miss Fanny Foss	5	0	0
Mrs. Rose	10	0	0
Miss Mair	5	0	0
Mrs. Hugh James Rose (Vicar's daughter-in-law)	2	0	0
Joshua Watson, Esq.	20	0	0
Rev. William Rose	20	0	0
Lieut-Gen.Hon.H.O. Trevor )			
The Rev. William Rose )			The Site

Curiously the only people on this list who appear in the 1841 Glynde Census are Sir J. Langham, John Ellman, and the Rev. W. Rose (Lt-Gen. Trevor's household being away in London), although two six year old girls named Mair and Fullager are residing at the Vicarage and the Rev. H. Petley is living in the household of Mr. Jenner, lime merchant, in Beddingham. A list similar to this one is contained in the Glynde Place Archives, along with a letter and the first two years accounts sent by the first mistress of the National School to Lieut-Gen Trevor (12). The letter is signed Anna C. Rose and the total of the subscriptions of this list comes to £305 0s 0d, the same as is stated in the building costs above. The main differences compared with the names on the Oak Tablet are the addition of £4 for flints contributed by Trevor and Ellman, only £1 credited to the Rev. Hutchinson, and instead of £2 from Mrs. Hugh James Rose this list has £10 from "A.C.R.", presumably Anna C. Rose. High James Rose died young (13) leaving a widow and the 1841 Census records an Anna Rose aged 46 and of independent means living in the vicarage, so Mrs. H.J. Rose and Anna C. Rose may have been the same person. Anna C. Rose left Glynde in 1844, the year the Rev. W. Rose died, and according to the accounts mentioned above the mistress received £20 p.a., her assistant £1 10s 0d, and a "Man attending the Children at Church" one guinea. "Books, Coals, Wood, Materials for Work, Repairs etc." came to the fine sum of £3 6s 3d.

The original building, fronted by a newly planted Garden contributed by the Hon. Mrs. Trevor, was constructed of rough flints faced with yellow brick and with a slate roof. It consisted of a single classroom which had to accommodate up to 66 children in a village which expanded rapidly after the opening of the Railway Station in 1846. Glynde's population rose from 270 in 1841 to 329 by 1901, and Beddingham's increased in the same period from 268 to 481. This was due almost entirely to the new houses being built around the Station, which was in Beddingham parish, to house the workers in the new chalk and clay pits that used the railway to carry their goods. Many of the children from the new village of Beddingham attended Glynde National School rather than make the muddy trek to Beddingham School which had opened by 1860, but which was sited near the parish Church a mile and a half away.



A.L. 84

Consequently overcrowding became impossible and in 1864, with the school roll over seventy and still rising, the school was enlarged. This was done under the supervision of the Rev. W. de St. Croix (Vicar of Glynde 1844-1877) at a cost of £135 5s 4d, the largest expense of £111 0s 0d being to C. Weller, builder (the Wellers had been bricklayers and stonemasons throughout the 18th and 19th centuries in Glynde). A classroom for the infants was added in 1884 by the Rev. George Averill (who succeeded the Rev. de St. Croix and died in 1890) at a cost of £139 5s 0d (see appendix 2), the builder this time being Thorpe of Lewes, who was paid £132 10s 0d, C. Weller being paid £6 15s 0d for building a wall (14). Even after this the main room measured  $37\frac{1}{2}$  feet by 18 feet, and the infants room  $16\frac{1}{2}$  feet by  $16\frac{1}{2}$  feet, and the attendance was well over seventy and by the beginning of this century over ninety (15).

Many improvements were made from 1898 to 1905 including new "offices" for both boys and girls, cloakrooms built and supplied with water, and the playgrounds

extended and improved. By this time the population of Glynde and Beddingham had peaked and the shrinking of village populations between the two world wars led to the closure of Beddingham School in 1936 and after a life of 123 years, Glynde School closed in 1965. Its pupils, now numbering less than three dozen, were transferred to Firle. The only education remaining in the village now is a pre-school playgroup, which meets in the Reading Room in Beddingham twice or three times a week depending on numbers. Glynde School itself is now hardly used, except for Parish Council meetings and an O.A.P.'s foot clinic once a fortnight.

The school must have played a prominent part in the life of the village, and a succession of teachers, monitors and pupil teachers (who were exclusively female until 1950) did their best to teach, with the help of the Vicars and their families, not only "the principles of the Established Church" but also a variety of subjects to a variety of standards and with varying degrees of success. The teachers though were often from urban backgrounds and one notable Sussex rural feature seemed doomed at an early date, for in the second year of the School Log Book on 5th January 1863 schoolmistress Catherine Downing writes "Found reading in 1st class good, except accent".

References:-

- (1) ESRO/GLY/2770
- (2) ESRO/GLY/2938
- (3) ESRO/GLY/2937
- (4) The Reports of the Commissioners...to enquire concerning Charities in England and Wales relating to the County of Sussex (S.A.S. Library)
- (5) William Wisdom MS. ESRO/PAR347/A4163
- (6) Memoir of John Ellman by A. Walesby, from "The Library of Agricultural and Horticultural Knowledge", 3rd Edn. (J. Baxter, Lewes, 1834)
- (7) The Reports of the Commissioners, see (4)
- (8) Glynde Parish Magazine Jan. 1898
- (9) Glynde Tithe Award ESRO
- (10) Glynde Parish Magazine Jan. 1898
- (11) Glynde Parish Magazine Jan. 1984
- (12) ESRO/GLY/3467 a-c
- (13) E. Boys Ellman; "Recollections of a Sussex Parson" and Sussex Agricultural Express, 12th January 1839
- (14) Glynde Parish Magazine Jan. 1898
- (15) Glynde School Log Books (ESRO/ESC76/1)

Appendix 1

Rules for a Sunday School in the Parish of Glynd, (ESRO/PAR347/A4163) c. 1785

- 1st. That a meeting of the Managers of the said School will be held the first Sunday in every month that the service happens in the forenoon by nine o'clock in the morning in order to make such alterations as shall be thought proper & give directions for the better management of the school and also that the Parents may have an opportunity of having their children admitted into the said School, by making proper application.
- 2nd. The children are to be in the school by nine o'clock every Sunday morning and stop till eleven and at two in the afternoon & stay till four, except when the Evening service begins at two, then to be at school at one o'clock and stop one hour before service & one hour after.
- 3rd. The names of the Children (Admitted) are to be entered in a Book provided for that purpose and to be called over exactly when the School hour begins, and if any child shou'd absent him or herself from the school at the time their names are so called over such child to be noticed in the book and an enquiry made to know the reason why such child did not attend the school.
- 4th. When their names have been call'd over the business of the day to begin with a prayer which the master shall read the children all kneeling, and to conclude in the same manner when the school hours (for the day) are over.
- 5th. If any of the scholars are guilty of lying swearing or talking in any indecent manner, or otherwise misbehaving themselves, the teacher shall point out the evil of such conduct, and if after repeated reproof the scholar shall not be reformed, he or she shall be excluded the said school.
- 6th. The parents are desired to send their children regularly to school clean in their persons and as decently clothed as their circumstances will permit.
- 7th. That no child shall be admitted into the Sunday school, without application first being made by their parents or guardians, to two or more of the Managers of the said school at a Monthly meeting.
- 8th. Before the children leave the school the teacher shall read this admonition

Your benefactors require you to refrain (during the remainder of this day) from Hallowing or making any noise - but those who choose to amuse themselves behave quietly and soberly, thus will recommend yourselves to the favour of your betters and incline them to do you many Acts of kindness, which noisy wicked and illnated Children will be excluded.

- 9th. And lastly, that the Rev. Mr. Davies, John Ellman, Wm. Als, John Tugwell, John Wisdom Senr. and William Homewood be appointed Managers of the school and that any two of them be a committee to transact any Business relative to the said school.

Rules 4 and 8 were later crossed out. The date at the top is my approximation using the parish registers.

## Appendix 2

From the Sussex Express, Saturday 15th November 1884.

### GLYNDE

A CONCERT was given in aid of the enlargement fund of Glynde School, on Wednesday evening. A new wing has been added to the school in order to provide a separate class-room for the infants. The work has been capitally done by Messrs. B. and J.B. Thorpe, of Cliffe, Lewes, at a cost of about £150. Of this sum Viscount Hampden has given £60, W.L. Christie, Esq., M.P., Glyndebourne, £15 15s.; the Rev. George Averill (Vicar), £15; Mr. T. Colgate, £5; Mr. W.H. Nash, £5; the Chichester Diocesan Association and the National Society have also promised help. The concert realised over £5, tickets being 1s Od, 6d, and 3d. The Vicar presided, and the large room was crowded in every part by an enthusiastic audience of about 200, amongst whom were Lord and Lady Hampden and party, and Mr. W.L. Christy, M.P., and party. Mr. Ingram's comic songs were rapturously encored, and Mr. Starnes's admiral playing on the pianoforte formed a feature of the concert. Programme:-

#### PART I

Piano solo, Mr. Starnes  
Song, Hon. Mrs. C. Brand  
Song, "Now Phoebus sinketh in the West," Rev. W.P. Crawley  
Piano solo (Schumann), Miss Sadler  
Song, "The Dream of Peace," Mrs. Averill  
Song, Hon. Mrs. C. Brand  
Piano solo, Mr. Starnes  
Song, "That's a dear little Scrub." Mr. W. Ingram

#### PART II

Song, Miss Newington  
Piano solo, "Minuet" (Hayden), Miss Sadler  
Song, "Tom Bowling," Rev. W.P. Crawley  
Song, "The Drummer's Song," Mr. W. Ingram  
Piano solo, Mr Starnes  
Song, Miss Newington  
Song, "The Better Land," Mrs. Averill  
Song, "Villikins and his Dinah," Mr. W. Ingram  
"God Save the Queen"