

## ABBEYSTED IN WYRESDALE, AND ITS ENDOWED SCHOOL

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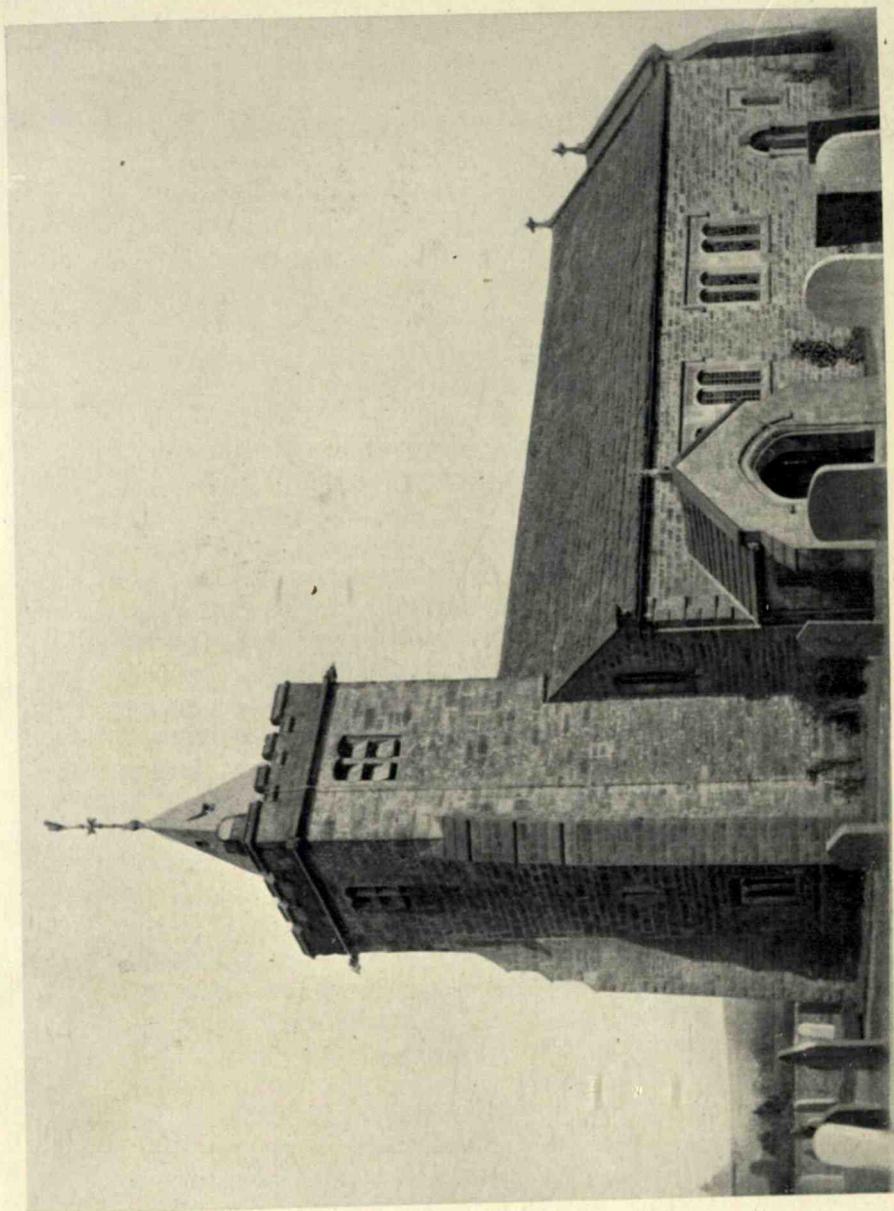
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SOME seven or eight miles south of Lancaster the London & North-Western Railway crosses the river Wyre, and the traveller sees to the eastward a broad valley surrounded on three sides by lofty fells. On the north side the fells, commencing with the steep ascent of Clougha, gradually rise to the summit of Wards Stone, nearly two thousand feet above the sea. On the south are the Bleasdale Fells, while to the east are the line of hills which divide Lancashire from Yorkshire. Through these hills comes the old main road from the West Riding to the sea—the road which comes from the line of the Roman Track from Ribchester to Overburrow, the road which brought many a band of soldiers through the Trough of Bowland to the west coast, the road over which the aged Abbot of Whalley passed from his trial at Lancaster for taking part in the "Pilgrimage of Grace" to die in front of his own Abbey, the road which brought the Lancashire witches to the scaffold at Lancaster, the road which is now a comparatively deserted highway. In these eastern hills too rises the river Wyre, one branch, known as the Tarnbrook Wyre, emerging from the peaty ground behind Wards Stone, the other branch, known as the Marshaw

Wyre, coming down from the Trough of Bowland, and both meeting just above the village of Abbeystead. That village takes its name from the Abbey, which was erected here by a colony of monks from the great Cistercian house of St. Mary of Furness. These monks seem to have come into Wyresdale in the latter part of the reign of Henry II. The name of the donor of the land upon which the Abbey of Wyresdale was built is not recorded, and very little is known about the Abbey itself. In 1194 Theobald Walter received a grant from the King of the Hundred of Amounderness, and soon after he presented the abbot and monks of Wyresdale to the Church of St. Michael-on-Wyre, some twelve miles away. Between 1194 and 1198 William de Chimelli, Archdeacon of Richmond, granted it to them on condition that they discharged the episcopal claims and assigned a vicarage in the Church with suitable provision for the support and vesture of the vicar.<sup>1</sup> This charter was witnessed by Hubert, brother of Theobald Walter, who had been created Archbishop of Canterbury in 1193; Hugh de Novant, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, who died 27th April 1198; Theobald Walter himself; Ranulf, Treasurer of Salisbury; Gilbert de Kentwell, a Norfolk baron; and Simon of the Chamber. To carry out the conditions imposed upon them the abbot and monks of Wyresdale shortly afterwards made an agreement with H., the chaplain of St. Michael-on-Wyre, that he should be the monk's chaplain for life, or should find at his own charges another competent chaplain, who should first do fealty to the abbot and monks.<sup>2</sup> For this service they granted to him the land on the eastern side of the Church of St. Michael-on-Wyre and the fishery

<sup>1</sup> *Lancashire Pipe Rolls*, by W. Farrer, p. 337.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 339.



WYRESDALE CHURCH

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belonging thereto, and the fishing from the bridge eastward, and the land from the Church extending eastward, and half a mark of silver yearly for his vicarage and his faithful service. They declared their intention to appoint a clerk to serve the said Church with the said chaplain, to collect all oblations, tenths, and other ecclesiastical emoluments, together with the bequests of the dying and altarage. They also required the chaplain to pay tithe of his corn, fish, cattle, and other movable goods which he might possess within that parish, and they reserved the right to erect a mill in any portion of the land on the eastern side of the Church without the chaplain having any right to claim multure. The abbot and monks promised truthfully to keep this covenant, and H., the chaplain, swore upon the altar in the Church of the Blessed Mary of Lancaster, in the presence of the Chapter of Lancaster, to faithfully observe the same in every way, and for greater security he found the following sureties—Adam, Dean of Lancaster; Benedict Gernet, parson of Halton; Roger, parson of Heversham; Robert, parson of Garstang; Alexander, parson of Clapham; Richard, parson of Poulton; Adam, parson of Burton, in Lonsdale; Benedict, chaplain of Tatham; Robert, son of Bernard; Master W. de Garstang, and Paulyn de Garstang. The charter concludes with a penal clause to enforce the provisions of the agreement, subjecting either party to the forfeiture of five marks for breach of contract. The witnesses were Ralph Fletham, Abbot of Furness; Thomas, Abbot of Cockersand, then called the Abbey of the Marsh; William, prior of Lancaster; D., prior of Cartmel; and R., prior of Conishead.<sup>1</sup>

These two deeds practically form the history of the Abbey of Wyresdale. Its foundation was prob-

<sup>1</sup> *Lancashire Pipe Rolls*, by W. Farrer, p. 338.

ably not earlier than 1170, and prior to 1190 the monks had fled before the storms which swept through the valley to find a more sheltered home at Wothenny, in County Limerick, in Ireland.

Of the Abbey buildings no trace remains, unless a few carved stones to be found in various buildings formed part of the Abbey.<sup>1</sup> Tradition points out the site as being just below the junction of the Marshaw Wyre with the Tarnbrook Wyre on the north side of the present Abbeystead Reservoir, but the principal relic of the Abbey is the name, which is still borne by the few houses which constitute the village of Abbeystead.

For centuries after the days when the monks departed in the close of the twelfth century no records connected with Abbeystead exist, but on high ground, about a mile to the west of the village, there arose a Church, the date and the patron saint of which are unlike unknown.

Early in the seventeenth century "Mr. Cragge" is stated to be minister at Wyresdale, and in the Commonwealth Survey of 1650 the record appears, that the "Chappell of Wyresdale hath, and time out of mind hath had, ffoure pounds per annum forthe of ye Revenue" of Lancaster Church "and Thirtie pounds per annum augmentation forthe of ye impropriate Rectory of Bolton, belonging to Sir Henry Compton, Knight, a delinquent by order of ye Comittee of Goldsmiths Hall upon Sir Henry Compton's composition. The Minister at ye said Chappell is Mr. Thomas Denny, Bachelour of Arts, who has beene a preaching Minister there above twelve yeares."<sup>2</sup>

In 1733 the chapel was rebuilt at a cost of

<sup>1</sup> The socket stone of a cross is preserved at the Lancashire Lodge of Abbeystead House. It measures 17 inches square by 15 inches in height, but the corners have been bevelled off. The diameter of the circular socket measures 11 inches.

<sup>2</sup> *Record Society*, vol. i. p. 126.

£1245, when a tower was added. Both chapel and tower appear to have been rebuilt or restored in 1843. The appearance of this building was bare and uninteresting. The windows were circular headed windows, with a single square mullion down the centre of each. The square tower at the west end had no battlements, and altogether the building was a worthy example of the style prevalent in the early part of the nineteenth century.

In 1853 the interior of the church was again "restored," but it was not until 1893, after the manor of Over Wyresdale had been purchased by the 4th Earl of Sefton, that the building was properly dealt with. Lord Sefton opened out the old timber of the roof, inserted new windows with stained glass, added a chancel, vestry on the north side and porch on the south, buttresses to the walls and battlements to the tower, and converted the building from a remarkably uninteresting edifice to a beautiful church.

Since his death, and in his memory, at the cost of his daughter, Lady Rose Molyneux, two windows have been fitted with stained glass; two more, at the cost of Captain the Hon. Richard Frederick Molyneux, in memory of the late Countess of Sefton, his mother; and quite recently two more have been put in by his brothers and sisters in memory of the 5th Earl. In every window sheep or lambs form part of the design, as is fitting in a church so placed high on the fields where sheep in thousands feed.

The pulpit, largely modern, bears date 1684, but there are only two memorials in the Church of earlier date than the nineteenth century. These are a small brass in the floor inscribed—

JOHN BARKER

Son of the

Rev<sup>d</sup> FRANCIS LEE

Born Aug. 19, 1773

Died June 26, 1778

and a tablet bearing the following inscription—

Below lie the Remains of  
 THO<sup>s</sup> TOWNLEY OF ORTNER, Gent<sup>n</sup>,  
 Who died Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1739, aged 86  
 He  
 to augment this Curacy  
 Gave in 1725, 1726 and 1732  
 £200 in each year  
 To obtain the like sum from the  
 Gov<sup>rs</sup> of Queen Anne's Bounty  
 He also built a House for the Curate  
 And a public Stable near this place.

JOHN TOWNLEY	JAS. WATSON
Erex <sup>t</sup> 1790.	Curate 1790.

The solitary bell bears the inscription—

THOS. HARISON, Chwarden A.R (? D) 1774.

But though there is no monument in the Church to the memory of William Cawthorne, there is still flourishing at Abbeystead the school which he founded at Abbeystead in the seventeenth century, and for the conduct of which he left elaborate instructions.

The original school buildings have long disappeared, but in the wall of the present school is a stone bearing the inscription—

This Schoole founded by  
 WILL<sup>m</sup> CAWTHORN, Gentleman,  
 Anno Domi. 1674. Vel doce,  
 Vel disce, Vel discede.

William Cawthorne, of the parish of St. Bartholomew the Less, London, by his will, dated the 22nd day of September 1683, stated that of his love for religion and learning he had erected a free school in Wyresdale, "wherein by the Providence of Almighty God I drew my first breath," and he desired to continue the same after his death, and in order thereunto had there re-edified and built a con-

venient house for the habitation and accommodation of a schoolmaster that he may be near the said school the better to apply himself to the education and tuition of such children as may be committed to his charge and tuition. And considering that there was none or very small maintenance for the minister to officiate at Wyresdale Chapel, the testator for the settling and maintaining the said school and schoolmaster, and for the encouragement of an orthodox preaching minister to officiate in the cure of the Chapel for ever, devised to Abraham Partington (Mayor of Lancaster); Seth Bushell, D.D., Vicar of the parish of Lancaster; Laurence Shaw, Vicar of Cockerham; Thomas Simpson of Cockerham, gentleman; Thomas Clayton of Wyresdale, gentleman; William Gervis of Lower Wyresdale, gentleman; Thomas Shierson of Lancaster; John Hodgson of Lancaster, merchant; John Corless of Forton, in the parish of Cockerham, gentleman; William Slater of Forton, gentleman; James Hathornthwaite of the Vaccary of Steble Oak, in the County of York, gentleman; William Cawthorne of Lower Wyresdale, yeoman; and Christopher Cawthorne of Lower Wyresdale, yeoman; and Edmund Banton of Ellel, Tanner (whom he appointed visitors and governors of the said school), the schoolhouse and the house lately erected by him for the schoolmaster, and three closes or "Pigh-tells,"<sup>1</sup> called the Ayre, Emmots Croft, and the Green Close, together with two other pieces of land called the Grazing Green, and a piece of land called the Sower Acre, and two beast gates and half a beast gate to departure on the cowpasture, all then in the occupation of Christopher Bond, the then present schoolmaster. And also the messuage divided into two and occupied by Jennet Cragg,

<sup>1</sup> A small meadow; any small enclosed piece of land.—Halliwell's *Dictionary of Archaic and Provincial Words*.

widow of Thomas Cragg, and then the wife of John Thompson, and also then of Timothy Cragg, son of late Thomas Cragg. Also a messuage occupied by James Thompson, and a messuage occupied by Nicholas Fox, and a messuage occupied by William Balderston, and two fields adjoining, all in Abbeystead Vaccary. To hold unto and to the use of the said governors upon trust :—

1. To permit the school to continue a free school for ever for the benefit of fifty free scholars such as the trustees shall judge fit objects of charity, such free scholars or their parents to dwell in one of the twelve Vaccaries in Wyresdale (Abbeystead, Hathornthwaite, Marshaw, Dunkenshaw, Tarnbrook, Leigh, Emmotts, Lentworth, Catshaw, Swaineshead, Ortner, and Greenbank), and so as the testator's own kindred and relations be always preferred.

2. To permit the schoolmaster to hold the said messuage adjoining the school for his own habitation and also the land aforesaid for his own use and benefit, provided always that the schoolmaster should give a bond under his hand and seal with one surety in £100 for the good and sufficient repairing of the messuage and outhouses, and for delivering up the said messuages, lands, and premises unto the trustees when so required. Power was given to the trustees to require the schoolmaster to carry out any repairs, "and for restraining the said Schoolmaster from undertaking any Lecture or constantly to preach in any Church or Chapel whereby or by means whereof the said Scholars shall or may be neglected in their education."

3. Upon trust to pay yearly to the said schoolmaster the yearly sum of £15 sterling.

4. And "unto the Minister who shall officiate the said Cure in the said Chapel for the time being the yearly sum of eight pounds sterling or in lieu

thereof or in part thereof to allot him a House parcell of the premises to dwell in. . . . And in case any house or accommodation shall be allotted to the said Minister by the said Trustees then the Testator directed that the Minister for the time being should in such case enter into such Bond touching Repairs and leaving the Possession thereof as he had before appointed for the said Schoolmaster to enter into."

The testator directed his trustees once in every year yearly, upon such convenient day as they should appoint, to meet, and visit the school and view the repairs thereof, and see if all things therein were managed according to his true intent and meaning, which he earnestly requested, desired, and appointed them to see carefully performed, and upon every such annual meeting he appointed twenty shillings to be expended out of the rents of the premises upon a dinner for the trustees.

The trustees were to keep the said school and premises in good and sufficient repair, "and what shall be yearly remaining out of the rents issues and profits of the premises shall be given and distributed yearly for buying of books for the poor Scholars within the said four first mentioned Vaccaries, being of honest lives and conversation, and towards the relief of such poor People inhabiting within the said four first Vaccaries as to his Trustees shall seem meet."

Power was given to the trustees to appoint new trustees, fourteen in all, to place and displace the schoolmaster, to deduct any cost of repairs not met by the estate from the salaries of the schoolmaster and minister, and to lease for twenty-one years for the full value without any fine.

All differences arising between the schoolmaster, scholars or their relations, and others, were to be

referred to the ending and determination of the trustees.

The said fifty scholars were not to be admitted into the school without the consent and approbation of the trustees, or unless they observed all such orders and rules as the testator had therein written, and which he directed should be "wrote into a Table and set up in the said Schoolhouse there to remain for the better ordering and government of the said School."

Finally the testator gave general power to the trustees to have the whole management of the school and to rectify all abuses therein, "hoping they will be very carefull therein to see the same performed according to the true intent and meaning of this my Will, desiring God to give a Blessing to their endeavours and to encrease the number of Benefactors towards the addition of so good a work whereto I have contributed my small mite in the beginning thereof, and that the same may be enlarged for the Glory of Almighty God, and for the educating and bringing up of young children and youths to be instrumental to serve Him."

Previously to this will the testator seems to have framed a series of "Constitutions Orders and Directions made and appointed by William Cawthorne the Founder of the Free Grammar School in Wyresdale . . . which are at all times to be kept and observed for the Better Ordering and Governing of the said School and these Constitutions were embodied in his Will."

"The Being Life and Continuation of all such foundations on Earth are the laws and Statutes of those foundations And the Life of the Statutes and Ordinances are the due and strict observation and execution of them which cannot be done but by living men that are just and piously disposed."

Therefore the testator requested those persons

that are and shall be trustees, rulers, visitors, or governors of the said school "that a Conscionable Care be had to the due keeping and observing the Ordinances following which doing the Blessing and Peace of God rest upon them and their Issue."

"The first obligation that I am ever engaged to lay upon myself humbly upon my knees to praise and magnify the Goodness of God who from a mean beginning of my birth in this Parish hath inabled me to offer this mite of my thankfulness for all blessings that he hath in great mercy bestowed upon me."

The founder therefore ordained that the school be ruled by not less than six or more than fourteen governors, the first to be Abraham Partington, Mayor of Lancaster; Seth Bushell, D.D., Vicar of Lancaster; Laurence Shaw, Vicar of Cockerham; Thomas Simpson, of Torrisholme, Thomas Clayton of Wyresdale, William Gervis of Lower Wyresdale, Thomas Sherson of Lancaster, gentleman; John Hodgson of Lancaster, merchant; James Corles of Forton, gentleman; William Slater of Forton, gentleman; James Hathornthwaite of the Vacary of Steble Oak, in the County of York, gentleman; William Cawthorne of Lower Wyresdale, yeoman; Christopher Cawthorne of London, yeoman; and Edmund Banton of Ellel, in the County of Lancaster, tanner, they to appoint the schoolmaster and remove him at pleasure, and to see the ordinances of the school duly kept, and to choose a new schoolmaster in the place of the former schoolmaster, and if, after three months, they did not agree upon the election and choice of a new master, then the election was to devolve "unto the Mayor, Ministers, and Vicar of Lancaster, and the Vicar of Cockerham, with one or two of my nearest relations and kinsmen, if any be living, and inhabit within ten miles of the School."

The schoolmaster was to be "a Graduate of one of the Universities, not under twenty-three years of age, a man skilful in the Greek and Latin Tongues, and of a sound religion, of a grave behaviour, of a sober and honest conversation, noe Tipler or haunter of Alehouses or Tavernes. I also desire (if it may be) that the Schoolmaster be skilfull to write a fair hand, and that he be skilfull in Arithmetick to the Intent he may teach his Scholars English, Latin, and Greek, and also to write and cast Accounts."

The governors were to meet at least once a year, and to have power to alter the constitution after the death of the founder.

The schoolmaster was to "train up his Scholars in the Vulgar English and Latin Grammar and Greek Grammar, and that for Phrase and Stile he infuse noe other into them save Tully and Terence for Poets and Orators. That the Schoolmaster begin betwixt Lady Day and Michaelmas at six of the Clock in the morning and end at eleaven, And in the afternoon that is begin at one and end at five, And in Winter that they begin at seven and continue to eleaven, and in the afternoon from one to four: And that the Master doe come in person into his School every morning except he be detained for want of his health by six of the clock from Lady Day to Michaelmas, and by seven of the Clock from Michaelmas to Lady Day, and that he continue in person in teaching his Scholars the whole time appointed for their instruction."

If the schoolmaster prove negligent in keeping his hours after three admonitions from the governors his place was to be void and a new schoolmaster was to be chosen into it, and "I ordain that the Schoolmaster every Saturday morning do call the Scholars before him and do Catechise

them in the principles of Christian Religion that they may by that means be seasoned and preserved to receive public instruction by way of Catechising from the Minister in the Chapel."

"And I do ordain that the Schoolmaster upon pain of the loss of his place that he grant no Play days or part of the Play Days to his Scholars upon any pretence above two half days in four weeks except upon the Visitors desire. But I appoint and desire that the Scholars do every Thursday betwixt three and four o'clock in the afternoon play of course and I desire there may be no breaking up nor leaving of School before any Festival Days save only four days in Easter week, as many at Whitsuntide, and seven days at Christmas," and that the scholars have notice of commencement of school by ringing of a bell.

The schoolmaster was not to exceed in his correction above the number of three stripes with the Rod at any time; he was not to strike any scholar about the head or strike with his fist or palms of his hands or with any other thing, upon the pain of loss of five shillings for every such stripe or stroke; . . . he was not to curse or revile the scholars. . . . The scholars were to be corrected for so doing with the ferula, and for swearing with the rod. . . . Further, the school was to be for ever free for the teaching of English, Latin, and Greek tongues unto fifty scholars born of parents in the twelve Vaccaries of Wyresdale.

"The Scholars shall every morning upon their knees before they begin their Lectures offer up their Sacrifices of Prayer and Thanksgiving to God by Prayers and reading a Chapter or some other portion of Scripture. . . . And before their dismissal in the evening they shall sing one of David's Psalms . . . and then close the day with Prayer and Thanksgiving."

The scholars were required to repair to the chapel every Lord's Day.

No scholar who had attained to such a progress in learning as to be able to speak Latin shall, whether within school or without, when they are among the scholars of the same or higher form, speak English.

Each scholar was to be placed according to his progress in learning, and, without partiality, to be preferred by the master in his form. No scholar was to cut, scratch, or deface the walls, boards, forms, or seats in the school.

These ordinances were to be openly read in the schoolhouse once every half-year, and a full register of names of scholars was to be kept.

"And it is desired that the Scholars come handsomely in their apparel for though the cloaths of some be mean and coarse yet their Parents are to take care that they be whole and cleanly and that after they are admonished and Parents spoken unto, and continue to be slovenly and nasty, or have any noisome sores, that they be not taught in the said Schools during the impediment: And I do ordain that the Schoolmaster shall once in every year read these ordinances in the presence and hearing of the Governors or the Major part of them that shall then meet."

The governors therefore entered upon their duties with the full code of rules drawn up by the founder, with a school and a schoolmaster's house built by him, with a schoolmaster named Christopher Bond, and with a certain endowment.

In 1723 the surviving trustees seem to have been Thomas Sherson, Edmund Gervis, John Corles, Richard Hathornthwaite, and Robert Bond. By deed dated 7th September 1723 they added to their number eight new trustees, namely, William Cawthorne of Hillington, John Caw-

thorne, James Fenton, Doctor of Laws, Marmaduke Drinkall, Doctor of Physic, Alexander Sherson of Lancaster, Thomas Townley of Ortnor, James Hathornthwaite of Quernmore, and Robert Banton of Ellel.

On the 22nd May 1728, George Jackson was appointed master by James Fenton, Alexander Sherson, Marmaduke Drinkall, Thomas Townley, and Richard Hathornthwaite, trustees of Wyresdale School. Mr. Jackson resigned five years later, and on the 1st January 1733-4, Thomas Richardson, gentleman, was appointed by James Fenton, Alexander Sherson, John Cawthorne, Marmaduke Drinkall, and James Hathornthwaite. Mr. Richardson's testimonial was signed by A. Forbes, Vicar of Melling; James Fenton, Curate of Caton; and William Johnson, clerk. Mr. Richardson held the office for the long period of sixty years.

On the 3rd November 1739, William Cawthorne of Hillington, in Middlesex, by John Cawthorne his proxy, and John Cawthorne, James Fenton, Doctor of Laws, Marmaduke Drinkall, Doctor of Physic, James Hathornthwaite of Quernmore, and Robert Banton of Ellel, appointed eight new trustees, namely, Nicholas Hathornthwaite, Robert Bleazart, and John Townley of Ortnor, all of Upper Wyresdale, yeomen; James Fenton, gentleman; Charles Cawthorne of Bernard's Inn, London; Thomas Butterfield of Lancaster, merchant; Thomas Hathornthwaite of Quernmore, yeoman; Richard Banton of Cabus, yeoman.

In 1775 the trustees seem to have been James Fenton of Lancaster, esq.; Alexander Butler of Kirkland Hall, esq.; Thomas Fenwick of Burrow, esq.; Thomas Saul, Henry White, William Butterfield, and John Fenton, all of Lancaster, esquires; John France of Rawcliffe, esq.; James Wiggles-

worth of Townhead within Slaidburn, esq.; Robert Fletcher of Over Kellet, clerk; Thomas Townley, Anthony Blezard, Richard Hathornthwaite, and Thomas Thompson, all of Over Wyresdale, yeomen.

On the death of Mr. Richardson in 1793, the majority of the trustees—John Fenton Cawthorne, Robert Fletcher, James Wigglesworth, Richard Hathornthwaite, Anthony Blezard, Thomas Thompson, and Thomas Townley—appointed the Rev. James Bleasdale as master. He was assistant curate of Wyresdale, and his testimonial was signed by the Rev. James Thomas, Vicar of Bolton le Sands, the Rev. John Widditt, Rector of Heysham, and the Rev. James Watson, Master of the Free Grammar School of Lancaster and Curate of Wyresdale.

The report of the Charity Commissioners in 1826 states that at that date John Fenton Cawthorne was supposed to be the only surviving trustee under a deed executed about 1775, but long since lost. He was said to be the heir of the surviving devisee under the will of William Cawthorne. The report further states that about 1815 Richard Townley, the Rev. Henry Wigglesworth, the Rev. John Fanshaw, Gilbert Bateson, Thomas Thompson, and three others then deceased, were appointed by the surviving trustees to act with themselves, but in consequence of the loss of previous trust deeds no conveyance was executed in pursuance of that appointment, though they had since acted as trustees.

About 1833 Robert Edmondson was appointed master by the Rev. H. Wigglesworth, Rector of Slaidburn, and Richard Townley, esq., of Ortnor, the majority of the trustees.

On the 27th May 1835, at a meeting of the trustees and the master of the Abbeystead School

and the parents of the children who attended the school, for the purpose of consulting what time the master ought to attend the school, it was unanimously resolved that the master attend the school at nine o'clock in the morning, and teach the children six hours a day during five days in the week.

In 1854 Chancery proceedings were taken, and on the 25th November in that year Vice-Chancellor Wood approved of a scheme for the regulation of the school. The trustees were to be seven in number, exclusive of the Curate of Wyresdale, who was (when resident) to be *ex officio* a trustee. Provision was made that the schoolmaster was to be a member of the Church of England, but not necessarily a graduate of either University, or skilful in the Greek or Latin languages, or competent to teach the Greek or Latin grammar. The income of the foundation was to be applied in repairs of the schoolhouse and other buildings on the charity estates (except the house occupied by the curate), in paying the salary of the schoolmaster—the total of whose emoluments from the charity were to be not less than £60 or more than £70—and after various provisions for educational purposes any balance was to be divided amongst the poor of Abbeystead, Hawthornthwaite, Marshaw, and Dunkenshaw. The Curate of Wyresdale was to be entitled to occupy the house and premises then occupied by the curate, he first entering into a bond to keep the house and premises in good repair.

In 1879 a new scheme was framed by the Charity Commissioners for the regulation of "Cawthorne's Endowed School at Over Wyresdale."

The governing body was to consist of ten persons, namely—

The Lord of the Manor of Over Wyresdale.

Five representative governors to be appointed for five years—

Two by the Justices of the Peace for the Petty Sessional Division in which Wyresdale is situate.

Two by the ratepayers of Over Wyresdale.  
One by the Vicar and Churchwardens of Wyresdale.

Four co-optative governors to be appointed for seven years.

Subject to the payment of £15 a year to the Vicar, the endowment was to be wholly applied to educational purposes. The school was to be conducted as a public elementary school in the present buildings, and to be open to all boys and girls of good character and sufficient health, but preference in the order of admission (if there was not room for all) was to be given to the children of poor inhabitants of the four Vaccaries of Abbeystead, Hawthornthwaite, Marshaw, and Dunkenshaw, and next to children being the kindred and relatives of the founder, William Cawthorne, and afterwards to children of the other eight Vaccaries of Over Wyresdale.

The scheme provides that the governors shall apply a sum of £50 each year in—

- (1) Making payments (not exceeding £1 to any one boy or girl) to children who have attended for not less than one year and have made not less than 100 attendances at the school in excess of the number of attendances required by the Code.
- (2) Providing scholarships of the yearly value of not more than £5 each, tenable in the upper department of the school, to be awarded to the most deserving scholars who have attended for at least three years.

- (3) Providing one or more exhibitions of the yearly value of not more than £20 each, tenable at any place of more advanced education approved by the governors.
- (4) Paying tuition fees of necessitous and deserving scholars, not exceeding £5 in any one year.

Under this scheme the school has continued to be managed from 1879 to the present time.

The school property originally consisted of certain farms, the school building and the schoolmaster's house. Of the old school and schoolmaster's house adjoining nothing remains but the inscribed stone recording the date of erection. The school itself was rebuilt in 1857 at a cost of £500, and the schoolmaster's house was rebuilt in 1841 at a cost of about £330.

Of the land, 6 acres 3 roods 20 poles was purchased by the Corporation of Lancaster for the purposes of their compensation reservoir, the consideration being a perpetual annuity of £12.

In 1877 the Corporation agreed to purchase the schoolmaster's house and a further part of the charity property for the extension of their reservoir, and the governors found it necessary to erect a new master's house.

On the 2nd December 1882, Henry Garnett conveyed to the governors a piece of land on the north-east side of the road from Ortnor to Abbeystead, containing 1699 square yards, and upon this land a master's house was erected at a cost of £1111, 4s. 6d.

In 1884, to carry out the terms arranged in 1877, the governors conveyed to the Corporation of Lancaster for reservoir purposes—

- (1) The house known as the schoolmaster's house, with its outbuildings and 17 acres 1 rood of land in consideration of a per-

petual annuity of £78, 15s. This was to include the previous annuity of £12.

- (2) A piece of pasture land containing 6 acres 3 roods 20 poles for a sum of £700.

In 1885 the remainder of the charity property, including 186 acres 3 roods 37 poles, with rights of pasture on Abbeystead Fell, but excepting the school and schoolmaster's house, was sold to Lord Sefton for the sum of £6000, which was invested in the purchase of £5992, 10s. Consols.

In 1896 the question of the ownership of the house and land occupied by the Vicar of Over Wyresdale was settled by an Order of the Charity Commissioners authorising the governors to convey the property to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for the benefit of the Vicar of Wyresdale, and the conveyance was completed on the 5th December 1896.

The property of the school therefore now consists of—

- (1) The school and playground.
- (2) The master's house and garden, containing 1 rood 16 poles.
- (3) £5992, 10s. Consols, producing yearly £164, 15s. 8d.
- (4) A perpetual annuity of £78, 15s. from the Corporation of Lancaster.

The school is now entirely free, and the average number of children in attendance is 43.

Such is a summary of the history of Wyresdale Church and Abbeystead School. High up on the hillside, on the borders of the moors, exposed to all the winds of heaven, the little church looks upon a vast expanse of fell stretching for many miles to the east, and follows the silver course of the river Wyre until it merges in the Irish Sea on the west. And in the valley below the church stands the school, almost on the site of the old Cistercian Abbey, a

foundation where for more than three hundred years has been carried on the work which William Cawthorne began "for the glory of Almighty God, and for the educating and bringing up of young children and youths to be instrumental to serve Him."

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CURATES OF WYRESDALE.

1608. "Mr. Cragge, Minister at Wyresdale, but no preacher."—*Kenyon MSS.*
- (?) 1638. Thomas Denny. Mr. Denny was buried at Lancaster 28th November 1668, and his will proved in 1669.
1688. William Gregson, "being chosen Curate of Wyresdale Chappell by the inhabitants with the consent of Mr. Fenton."
1691. Thomas Blamyre.
1699. Christopher Whittingdale.
- Prior to 1716. John Hadwen. Removed to Aughton Chapel.
1716. Lawrence Washington. Mr. Washington was the son of Robert Washington of Warton, was baptized 27th June 1685, and was grandfather of Thomas Washington, Vicar of Warton in 1794. Lawrence Washington died 25th November 1768, aged 84. His will was proved in 1771 by his daughter Ellen, the sole executor.
1769. Francis Lee. Appointed by the Vicar of Lancaster to be "Curate of the augmented curacy of Wyresdale vacant by the death of Lawrence Washington." Mr. Lee was Incumbent of Rusland in 1747, Master of Heversham School in 1756, and Curate of Lancaster 1756-69. In 1789 Mr. Lee nominated his son Francis Lee, B.A., born in 1766, of St. John's College, Cambridge, as his Assistant Curate, at a stipend of £35.

*Abbeystead in Wyresdale,*

1790. James Watson. Appointed by the Vicar of Lancaster to the Curacy of Wyresdale, void by the death of Francis Lee in December 1789. Mr. Watson was in 1766 Headmaster of Lancaster School, and in that capacity seems to have got into trouble with the Mayor of Lancaster, for it is recorded that "at a meeting of the Council held on the 24th day of June 1779, to take into consideration the Behaviour of the Rev. Mr. Watson, Head Master of the free Grammar School at Lancaster, on the twenty-third day of this instant June, to Master Richard Hinde, son of Thomas Hinde, Esquire, Mayor of the said Borough, and one of the Scholars in the said School: it was unanimously resolved in Council that the behaviour of the said Mr. Watson to the said Richard Hinde hath been unproper and inhuman and unjustifiable, and that by means thereof and from the said Mr. Watson's conduct at this meeting, he hath highly incurred the displeasure of the Council. And it is further unanimously resolved that if the said Mr. Watson shall in future persist in such conduct proper steps will be taken, at the expense of the Corporation, to remove him from his office of Schoolmaster." No further record appears against Mr. Watson. In 1790 he nominated James Bleasdale, Clerk, as his Assistant Curate, at a stipend of £40, and died in 1799.
1799. James Thomas. Appointed by the Vicar of Lancaster on the death of James Watson. Mr. Bleasdale continued to be the Assistant Curate at a stipend of £42 a year. Mr. Thomas in 1804 obtained licence for non-residence from the Bishop of Chester, and Mr. Bleasdale occupied the Curate's house. Mr. Thomas was Vicar of Bolton le Sands, Curate of

- Wyresdale, and Curate of St. John's Church at Lancaster, all at the same time.
1824. Joseph Stuart. Appointed on the death of James Thomas. He was previously Curate of Admarsh.
1829. Robert Watson. Appointed on the death of Joseph Stuart. Mr. Watson was Curate of Lancaster 1826-29.
1863. Constantine Adolphus de Lusignan. Mr. de Lusignan was Curate of Frodsham from 1854 to 1856, acted as Curate at Wyresdale from 1856 to 1863, was appointed Perpetual Curate in 1863, and continued till 1878, when he became Vicar of Caton. He died in 1888.
1878. Thomas Joseph Brereton. Resigned 1894.
1894. Daniel Schofield.

MASTERS OF THE SCHOOL.

1684. Christopher Bond.
1727. George Cooperthwaite.
1728. George Jackson.
1734. Thomas Richardson.<sup>1</sup>
1794. Rev. James Bleasdale.  
John Winder.
1833. Robert Edmondson.
1854. James Phizackerley.
1885. Edward Casson.
1890. Edward H. Little.

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<sup>1</sup> July 1793. At Abbeystead, aged 80 years, Thomas Richardson, for nearly 60 years Master of the School there.—*Lancaster Register*.