



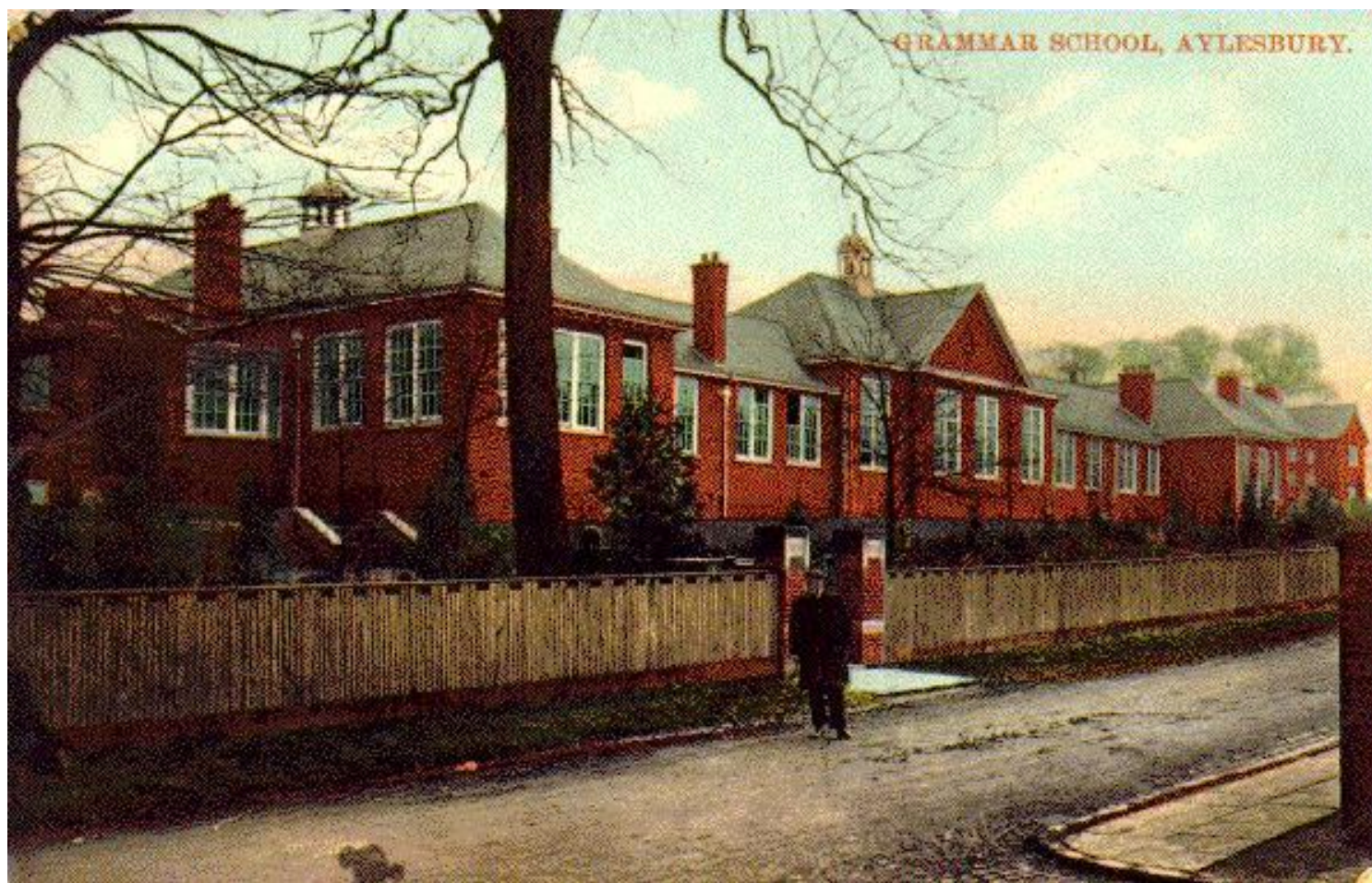
The New Aylesbury Grammar Schools

The new Grammar Schools, which have been erected in Walton Road, were formally opened on Thursday by Lord Rothschild.

The buildings were commenced towards the end of last summer and were ready for occupation at the beginning of last week, when the boys were transferred from the old buildings in St. Mary's Square.

original building, with one to correspond recording the opening of the present premises.

Six classrooms are provided together with a large lecture room, art room, and a thoroughly up-to-date laboratory accommodating twenty pupils. There are also two common rooms for the teaching staff, headmaster's room and two dining rooms for the pupils. All the principal rooms are heated by hot water, in addition to fresh air stoves. Special attention has also been given to the ventilating and lighting. Covered playing sheds and bicycle houses have been provided in the boys' and girls' playground, with asphalt yards and tennis courts at the rear of the school.



The new school is a one-storey building with a separate entrance at either end for boys and girls, and a cloak and changing rooms conveniently adjoining. A wide, well lighted corridor leads from each entrance to the Central Hall, which is the interesting feature of the building. Well lighted and decorated it contains the tablet taken from the old Grammar School commemorating the erection of the

The buildings are in the Georgian style, and from the exterior, present a handsome and picturesque appearance, a pleasing contrast being afforded by the red brick walls and white painted cornices and windows. The internal decoration has been successfully carried out by means of green stain on the woodwork and carefully selected distemper on the walls, the whole looking bright and cheerful.

The contractors, Messrs. Hacksley Bros. of Wellingborough, have carried out their work in a most creditable manner. Messrs. Nichols, Northampton were responsible for the decoration, plumbing and sanitary work; Messrs. Musgrave for the hot-water heating, and Messrs. Stott of Birmingham for the lighting and ventilating. The fresh air stoves were supplied by Messrs. Shortland of Manchester. The plans selected in competition were prepared by Fred Taylor A.R.I.B.A. who has been responsible for the carrying out of all works with the assistance of Mr Will Taylor, who has acted as Clerk of the Works.

The Opening Ceremony

Lord Rothschild, on arrival, was received by the Governors of the school. The chairman (Rev. C.O. Phipps) handed his Lordship a key. With which he unlocked the main door of the school. He then preceded to the large hall, where a numerous gathering had assembled.

The Chairman said he felt he must first say how very gratified the Governors of the Grammar School of Aylesbury were to see what an interest the people took in the great work they had undertaken and, he hoped, satisfactorily carried out there. He saw this by their attendance there that afternoon. This was a most interesting occasion, when they were all met for the opening of those Schools by their friend and neighbour. Lord Rothschild, who had mostly kindly come over to do that most gracious act. (Applause). It would, perhaps be a certain amount of interest to them to know that there were something like 400 people who has a claim to be invited to attend on that occasion. There were, first of all the parents of the 110 children, then the pupil teachers, the Urban District Councillors, the County Councillors and other people in Aylesbury who were interested in education, and who therefore ought to be asked to be present.

He thought they might congratulate themselves on the very good attendance there on that occasion. The first thing he had to do was to sketch as briefly as possible the history of that school, which had now been transferred from St. Mary's square up to that position in Walton Road. He had been asked to say how sorry they were for those who were not able to be present, including Lord Buckinghamshire the Hon. Walter Rothschild, the Rev. C Ridley (former Headmaster), the Rev. H. C. Wace (of Brasenose College, one of the Governors and Mr Coningby Disraeli. They had all written their apologies and sent their good wishes.

The School was founded by Sir Henry Lee who gave two tenements near the Church, the rent of which was to go towards providing and paying for a master to teach the poor boys of Aylesbury. This amounted to about £8 a year, so that the master did not get so much as they could wish. But some of the boys used to pay fees, so that the income of the master was more than £8 a year. The boys were taught in the Lady Chapel of St. Mary's Church or rather that part of the Church which they called the Lady Chapel but which he did not suppose really was so.

It was there that they were taught by a master, who had a licence from the Vicar of Aylesbury. The next thing they found about the history of the school was that in 1714 Mr Henry Phillips of London left £5000 to be invested for the purpose of enlarging the school and making provision for the children in the school, and also for the instruction of the poor boys of Aylesbury and Walton, in writing, arithmetic and accounts. Reading seemed to have been left out. (laughter)

All their books and paraphernalia were to be provided for them. In 1718 it was found impossible to enlarge the Lady Chapel without incommoding the Church and two masters' houses were built connecting the school on the site of the original gift of Sir Henry Lee at a cost of £1,267:18:2. There were 120 free scholars and 20 paying scholars who were taught in the Lady Chapel which was called the 'Latin School'. It was arranged that there was to be a schoolmaster, an usher, and a writing master. He believed that the writing master lived in one house and the schoolmaster in another, but he did not know what became of the usher.

The age of the children was fixed at five, provided they could read. They came to school at six o'clock in the morning and stayed until six o'clock at night, with two hours in between for luncheon. In the winter they allowed the children to go to school at seven in the morning and leave at five in the evening. That was what he had been able to glean of the ancient history of the school. Now they wanted to come to more modern times. He had been Vicar of Aylesbury now for about 12 years and he had been one of the Governors of the school during the whole of that time for he could not help himself occupying the position, which he filled by virtue of his office.

On very many occasions the Governors considered the question of enlarging the buildings and also extending the scope of the education in the School. Eventually it was decided that they should sell their old buildings in St. Mary's Square and go to some other part of Aylesbury where they could have better accommodation for playing fields. Here it was that Lord Rothschild came to their help so splendidly by allowing them to acquire that fine piece of property at a comparatively small price, for which they would always be indebted to him.

The County Council also came generously to their help and gave them a grant of £3,750 and the Aylesbury Urban District Council also came to their aid with a sum of £875. The whole of these buildings and the ground upon which they stood had cost them practically about £10,000. He was sure they would all agree with him that they now had buildings of which they might be proud (applause).

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