

BOTLEER
GRAMMAR
SCHOOL
WARRINGTON
1526 1976



THE BOTELEER GRAMMAR SCHOOL,

WARRINGTON.

1526 - 1976

A brief history to mark the Four Hundred and Fiftieth
Anniversary of the Foundation.



1 The School - Front View

C O N T E N T S

Acknowledgements	ii
I. The Origins of the Grammar Schools	1
II. The Life of Sir Thomas Boteler and the Foundation of the School.	2
III. The Early Years and the Re-Foundation in 1608.	4
IV. The Boteler Grammar School from the Re-Foundation to the Twentieth Century: 1608 - 1907.	5
V. The Last Years of Independence - the Headship of the Rev. Horace Gray.	13
VI. The New Boteler Grammar School 1940 to the Present Day.	16
VII. The Outlook for the Future.	25
Appendix 1: Extracts from 'Boteler Grammar School: Prospectus 1936'	26

ILLUSTRATIONS

Photographs:	The School The Masters The Prefects The School at Work and at Play
Line drawings:	Brasses from the Founder's Tomb Arms of Sir Peter Warburton The 1829 School Shaw's tablet The Rev. Edw. Owen, the Rev. Edw. Lloyd
Lists:	The Governing Body The School Staff The School Roll

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to the many generations of editors of 'Pincerna' (the first issue of which was published as far back as 1882), without whose diligence, initiative and imagination, this publication would not have been possible.

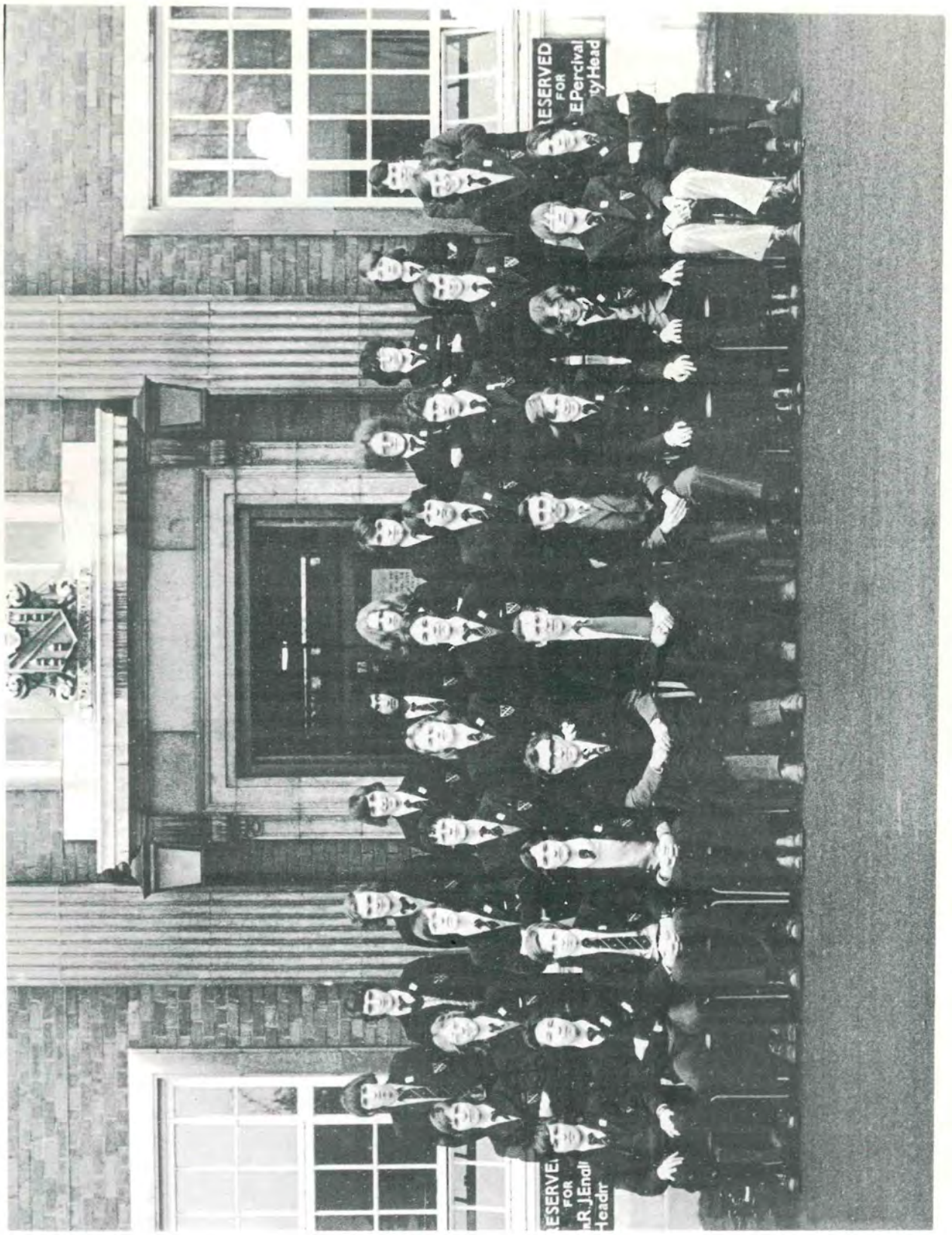
For the early history of the School I also owe much to the authors of the booklet published to mark the Quatercentenary in 1926.

I also express my thanks to colleagues and Old Boys who have supplied information; also to Mr E. Percival who has read through the text and has helped with the production of the booklet. I am also grateful to Mr K. Miller for arranging the typing and duplicating of the booklet. Mr J. Phenix, Mr J. Hughes and the Warrington School of Art have given invaluable help with the photographs and illustrations, while Mr J. Hughes has produced the attractive cover design.

H. Lievesley.
Senior History Master.
May 1976.



2 The Staff 1976



3 The Prefects 1975-76

1.

THE ORIGINS OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOLS

The origins of the grammar schools are to be found in the Middle Ages. For instance, Charity Schools came into existence as the result of a person leaving, by his will, money or lands to maintain a priest who was to say prayers for the soul of his benefactor. As this would take up only part of the priest's time, it became customary to require that he should also teach. There were also schools founded by guilds - Merchant Taylors' School is an example of these - where again priests were the teachers. Both these types of schools could be 'primary' or 'grammar' and as with Boteler Grammar School at first, they could be both in one.

The Renaissance of the later Middle Ages re-awakened an interest in the study of Greek and Roman literature; to learn through that literature what sort of men the Greeks and Romans had been, what life they had lived and what we might learn from them. Particularly in the time of the Tudors in England (1485-1603) we see the founding of many grammar schools whose main purpose was to teach Latin and Greek (possibly mathematics too) to enable boys to acquire a knowledge of grammar in order to read the literature of the Ancients.

It was fashionable for the gentry to leave money in their wills for the foundation of a grammar school for the education of the young in their locality. Thus it was that Sir Thomas Boteler instructed his successor to found a free grammar school for the benefit of the boys of Warrington.

11. THE LIFE OF SIR THOMAS BOTELER AND THE FOUNDATION
OF THE SCHOOL

The family of Boteler or Butler were descended from the Pincernas of whom we first hear in connection with the Warrington estates through the marriage of William Pincerna to the daughter and heir of Matthew de Villars, the second Norman owner of the manor and fee of Warrington. The family dates back to the time of William the Conqueror, the name being found in the Domesday survey in the year 1086. In medieval times the name of Pincerna (or Butler) was held by men of distinction, and considered an honourable title. The first Pincerna who took the name of Boteler was the fifth baron Wilhelmus le boteler, son of Richard Pincerna, born about 1160, who succeeded to the estates in 1176. Sir Thomas Boteler was the fifteenth baron.

Born at Bowsey in 1461, Sir Thomas Boteler conducted himself very shrewdly through the troubled times of Edward IV, Edward V, Richard III, Henry VII and Henry VIII: an eventful time (the period of the Wars of the Roses) for any man of mark. Having weathered all these storms, as well as many local unsettlements taken to law, he turned in 1520 to consider the disposition of his worldly goods. He was a friend of the Church. He gave generously to the fund collected for the rebuilding of the steeple of Lymm Church. Sir Thomas made a will in which he provided for the founding of the school and bought land in Tyldesley and Warrington. Before he died on 22nd April, 1522, he had added to his will a codicil making these lands the capital property of the school devised in his will.

At one time the school was called "Boteler's Free Grammar School" and this intention was expressed in Sir Thomas's will. 500 gold marks out of his estate were to be set aside for the purchase of lands to yield rents of the value of ten pounds "to founde a free grammar scolle in Weryngton to endure for ever ---"

On 16th April, 1526, the Trustees set their hands to a deed which actually founded the School, four years after Sir Thomas's death. This deed, after calling to mind the Founder's intention to establish a school "whereby men's sons might learn grammar to the Intent that they thereby might the better learn to know Almighty God", proceeds to make full regulations for the establishment and conduct thereof. The Master to be appointed is to be an "honest and discreet Priest, sufficiently and groundedly learned in grammar", a house in "Bag Lane" is set apart for his use, and he is to "have a seal made and known for the schoolmaster's seal of Warrington", and "the same seal to be surely kept and delivered from one schoolmaster to another" --- in spite of which injunction it has been lost, and not even a document bearing its impress has survived.

The collection of fees from the scholars was forbidden except four pennies for four stipulated celebrations - one a cock-fight at Shrovetide and three others to provide "a Drinking for all the said scholars." No scholar was to wear "any Dagger, Hanger or other weapon invasive, other than his knife to cut his meat with".

The Master was to have no assistants, but the older scholars were to teach the younger ones "their A.B.C. and Primars and so forth until they be entered into the learning of (Latin) Grammar." After they had been twelve months in Grammar the boys were to use to speak to one another "at all times and in every place, Latin and no English," and no scholar was to use "diceing or carding or other unlawfull games." Every scholar was to be ready to give the master "his help and assistance to the correction of any other scholar"; and if a boy dared to "make any fray upon the master" he was to be "removed for ever, except the said schoolmaster be contented to keep him still."

All the scholars were to go "two and two in processions on Sunday, Wednesday and Friday, about or within the Parish Church, singing the Litany and Responds." During the winter months they were to be at the church "between six and seven of the clock" every morning, and then immediately go to school, whence they were not to depart till five in the afternoon ---" or four at the discretion of the master." In summer they were to be at church between five and six. Every year on April 27th, the Founder's death was to be commemorated by a special Service, which was to be held in the Parish Church, "at the costs of every of the said schoolmasters." The order of Service is specified, and it is to include the collect, "Deus simul spes nostra." (The school motto is, of course, "Deus Spes Nostra". "God is our hope" and not "God spies on us" as some boys have thought.)

The "honest priest" appointed as the Master evidently was expected to have his hands full. Moreover, he was to look after the school's property and lands in his spare time; his salary was to be £10 a year; and if the school's income exceeded £10, the balance was to be put into "a coffer, having three locks upon it."

111. THE EARLY YEARS AND THE RE-FOUNDATION IN 1608

No doubt the school began happily enough for the scholars, as Sir Thomas had designed, "that perchance they might happen to be the very clear lanthorn of good example in virtuous living to all the country thereabouts, to the good encrease and use of vertue and expulsion of all vices." But unhappily the trustees were idle or asleep, for in the time of Edward Boteler, a great grandson, there was a master named Wakefield, and between them they used a part of the funds of the school and its estates for their own enrichment and amusement. The school was robbed by the very men who should have been the first to defend its interests. Wakefield died, none too soon, in 1605, and was buried at Warrington. The Foundation was "in great ruyn and decay."

In 1602, Sir Peter Warburton, who was a lawyer by profession, took upon himself the task of recovering the lost estates of the school. With this end in view he filed a Bill of Complaint in the Court of the Duchy of Lancaster, to compel the appointment of new Trustees. The court issued its decree in 1607.

In 1608 the new Foundation Deeds were drawn up in accordance with this decree, and two years later they were confirmed by a Commission of Charitable Uses in 1610.

By the new deeds it is provided that the schoolmaster "shall all the tyme that he shall be scholemaster of the said schole, well and truely keep the said schole, and teach and instruct the scholars thereof freely --- and upon every schole day shall be and continue in the said schole three hours att the least in the forenoon, and three hours att the least in the afternoon --- and shall every morning, together with his scholars, use some forme of prayer meet for the purpose, giving thanks to God that stirred up the heart of the founder, Sir Thomas Butler, Knight, to soe good a work, and likewise at night before they depart."

Sir Peter Warburton added to his benefactions by granting to the school a rent charge of £5 per annum yielded by some property in Chester. A Thomas Tildesley, who assisted Sir Peter, also contributed to the repair of the school to the extent of £5. In the Hall of the 1863 building the arms of Sir Peter Warburton and Thomas Ireland were emblazoned, though in fact the latter acted against Sir Peter in the legal proceedings.

(The origin of the names of three of the school Houses are, of course, to be found here. Warburton, Ireland and Tyldesley.)



Seal of
Sir Thomas Boteler
1520



The Rev. Edw. Owen



The Rev. Edw. Lloyd

THE BOTELER GRAMMAR SCHOOL FROM THE RE-FOUNDATION
TO THE TWENTIETH CENTURY (1608-1907)

After the Re-Foundation under a succession of well-qualified Masters the School would seem to have prospered. Close links were established with Brasenose College, Oxford, a number of Masters having graduated there. In fact, since the very beginning there apparently existed a connection between the School and the College. As a young man, our Founder had certainly met Bishop Hugh Oldham, of Exeter, who founded Manchester Grammar School, and Bishop William Smith, of Lincoln, who "was a great benefactor to the neighbourhood" and one of the founders of Brasenose (in 1509). One of the executors of Sir Thomas Boteler's will was also executor of Sir Richard Sutton, another founder of Brasenose.

The finances of the School were a continuing matter of concern. Much of the School's property had been let originally on long leases, which began to expire about this time. The tenants wished to renew them at the old rents; but the Rev. Nathan Ashworth, Master from 1627 until 1668, began proceedings which ended in the tenants submitting to take leases at a higher rent.

In 1687 the Rev. Samuel Shaw, who had been Master of Wigan Grammar School since 1676 was given "a licence to teach the Free School of Warrington." Shaw improved or re-built the School-house and premises, to which he affixed a tablet bearing his name and the date 1688. Shaw's tablet still exists, having been built into the west wall of the 1863 building in School Brow. (A drawing of this tablet is included in this booklet). Besides caring for the fabric of the School, Shaw also "obtained the consent of the Trustees to the commencement of proceedings, at his own risk, for the recovery of some lands which were apparently lost to the charity, and which after many years of litigation, were restored to the School".

In 1691 Shaw became Rector of Warrington. He was the first to hold the two offices conjointly. He did much for the Church. In 1697 he built the square tower which is shown on many old pictures. (It was pulled down in 1859, when the present spire was erected.) Shaw was also very active in collecting money for the assistance of Protestant communities abroad. Besides being Rector, he was one of the four King's Preachers for Lancashire. It was in 1707 also that Shaw assisted and advised Bishop Stratford in the formation of the Warrington Clergy Charity. In 1709 he concurred with Peter Leigh of Lymm in the foundation of Holy Trinity Church, Warrington. The Rev. Samuel Shaw died in 1718, at the age of sixty-eight, after thirty-one years' service, and was buried in the Chancel of the Parish Church.

The Rev. John Tatlock acted as Master for about a year when the Rev. Thomas Hayward took charge. He was born in Warrington in 1695 and was an Old Boy of the School. He graduated B.A. at Brasenose College, Oxford, in 1716, married in 1717; became M.A. in 1719, and immediately took up the duties of Master, although he was not licensed until 1720. From 1722 to 1731 he was Vicar of Garstang also, and in 1728 became, in addition, Incumbent of the re-built chapel at Sankey. Mr Hayward trained many excellent scholars, one of whom, described him as "an able but severe master, an admirable scholar, and a very useful man." He died in 1757 after thirty-seven years' service and was buried at Warrington. He had no less than sixteen children.

In 1757, after serving as "Usher" in the Merchant Taylors' School at Great Crosby, the Rev. Edward Owen was appointed Master of the School. He also succeeded Mr Hayward as Curate of Sankey. "He found the School in a dilapidated condition, the building in ruins, the roof ready to fall in, and the floors and walls all clay. He at once put it into a state of thorough repair, converting some outbuildings into a dining room and bedrooms, and rendering the house fit for the reception of boarders --- which it never was before." He also stopped up the Roman road which ran by the School, from Latchford to Winwick, and built his stables upon it.

Under Mr Owen the School was described as "an eminent free school" and became very famous for a while. Boarders came to it from distant parts, as far away as the West Indies, and many of its Old Boys rose to distinction. Three became Fellows of Brasenose College.

Owen was a good Classics scholar with a number of publications to his credit. In 1765 he was elected President of the Warrington Library, five years after its foundation, the first public library to be founded in the country. Owen was very antagonistic towards the Warrington Academy (1757-61) as a Non-Conformist institution and probably also as a rival to his own School.

In 1767 Owen was presented to the Rectory of Warrington by Richard Gwilym of Bewsey, second son of Robert Gwilym, who married the heiress of the Atherton property, and so became Patron. When Owen received the news of the appointment, which did not involve resignation from the Mastership, he said that the Patron had spoiled a good schoolmaster to make an indifferent Rector. As Rector, Owen re-built the Nave of the Parish Church, which stood until it was demolished, in 1859 along with Shaw's tower.

Among Owen's curates, who also assisted him in the School, was the Rev. Edward Lloyd, M.A., of Jesus College, Oxford, who was also Curate of Sankey. Leaving the school on the death of Owen, he opened a private academy at "Fairfield", in Manchester Road. Included in this booklet are silhouette portraits of Owen and Lloyd, taken from Dr. Kendrick's 'Warrington Worthies'.

Owen died unmarried, in 1807, at the age of 79, after being Master for fifty years. He was buried, as he had desired, "in the Chancel of the Church of Warrington, on the south side of the grave of Samuel Shaw, a very worthy predecessor of his." Gilbert Wakefield said of Owen that he was "a man of most elegant bearing, unimpeachable veracity, and peculiar benevolence of heart."

After the death of Owen, the Rev. Robert Atherton Rawstorne of Brasenose College, Oxford was made Master of the School and Rector of Warrington by Lord Lilford, who was the Patron of the School, and had married the Patroness of the Church, Miss H.M. Atherton, whose family was connected with that of the new Master and Rector.

Rawstorne, having no intention of teaching, appointed as his "usher" the Rev. William Bordman. The new Master left to his usher "the entire management of the School, and allowed him the use of the School-house, thus converting the mastership into a sinecure and exciting the resistance of the inhabitants of Warrington, who had seen, with regret, the gradual decay of the School" during Owen's declining years". Several leading citizens took upon themselves the duty and expense of taking action in the Court of Chancery, in 1810, in order to test Lord Lilford's right to the Patronage of the School, and to secure a declaration that the office of Master and Rector could not be held conjointly. Chancery in accordance with its reputation took four years to pronounce that Lord Lilford was entitled to appoint the Master in virtue of his holding the Boteler estates, but that the Master could not at the same time be Rector. Rawstorne therefore resigned the Mastership. There can be little doubt that the decision of the Court was in accordance with the intentions of the Founder.

In the next year, 1815, the Rev. William Bordman was appointed Master, after being in actual charge of the School for seven years. He was of a type, naturally found mostly in the academic world, which combines intellectual ability with eccentricity of behaviour. Bordman's conversation was very pedantic, and his dress was outlandish. He once appeared at a meeting in "a long frock coat reaching to his heels, a brown scratch wig, a pair of goggle spectacles of coloured glass, and a deep green shade to cover his eyes." He was a great believer in corporal punishment and was even prosecuted, though without success, for "immediately correcting" a boy named John Booth.

Bordman has at least this to his credit, that in 1822 he began to keep a proper register of his pupils, of whom there were at that date 57. No earlier register exists.

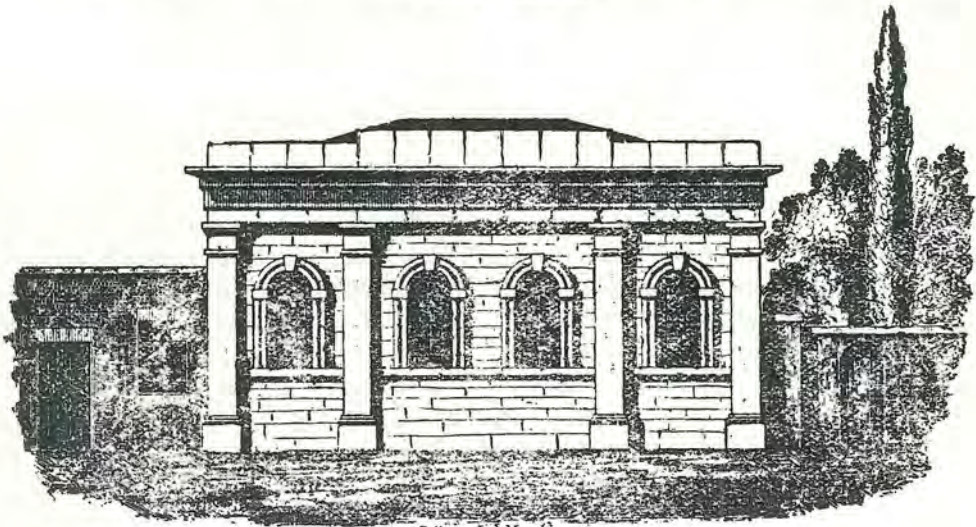
Constant complaints were made against him, till in 1828 he resigned, on condition that he was paid a round sum of £400 and an annual sum of £150, to be deducted from his successor's income. The Trustees were so anxious to be rid of him that they agreed to this iniquitous arrangement. He retired, with his wife, son and daughter, to Honfleur (at the mouth of the Seine, opposite Le Havre), and died there in 1846.

"In the meantime," says Fitchett Marsh in his history of the School, published in the middle of the last century, "the Chancery suit had resulted in the establishment, in the year 1820, of a scheme for the future management of the School, providing for such an extension of the plan of education as was consistent with the primary object of the foundation"; and "in the year 1829, with the sanction of the Court of Chancery, a fund, which in the course of the litigation had been paid into Court, was expended in the erection of a school, capable of accommodating 120 boys," a sign of the School's growing popularity. As ^{the} illustration shows, it was built of stone, in the Classical style; it is said that it was designed by the new Master.

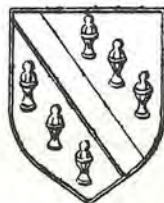
The Rev. Thomas Vere Bayne, M.A., was made Master by Lord Lilford, out of many applicants, in 1828. Unlike Mr Bordman, he was "a tall and well-looking gentleman." He continued to keep the register begun by his predecessor. (The name of every scholar during the last hundred and fifty years is known, and the names of many in the century before.) Mr Bayne was "very careful to learn the character of each of his scholars," among whom were the sons of almost every family of note in the locality. Mr Bayne also "conceived the happy idea of planning an excursion for the boys once a year, in the Spring or Summer." One of these excursions was made by boat down the Old Quay Canal to Runcorn and Weston - an inland voyage which is no longer possible. The next day there was the inevitable essay on the excursion, with a prize for the best account. The only thing recorded against Mr Bayne is that his boys wrote badly - probably because they did so much Greek.

Mr Bayne's interest in education was not confined to his own school. He lived at a time when thoughtful people were beginning to realise that no provision at all was made for the education of the mass of the nation. The State had not yet undertaken the responsibility for elementary education, the arrangements for which were in the hands of voluntary societies, chief among them being the National Society. Mr Bayne assisted the Rector of Warrington, the Hon. & Rev. Horace Powys, to raise the money for building and maintaining the National Schools in Church Street, which were opened in 1833.

Boteler's Free Grammar School at Warrington.



Falkner Lith. Mancl
New School Erected in 1829



Brasses from the Founder's Tomb.



Petrus warburton miles vnus
Iust de Cob Banco. quon-
dam huius Hospicij. 1618

Well

Arms of Sir Peter Warburton, from a Window in Staple Inn Hall.

"In 1840 the sale ---- of a portion of the School estates afforded an opportunity of obtaining, at the purchaser's expense, an Act for regulating the future management of the School".

In 1842 Mr Bayne retired from the School, and became Vicar of St. John's, Broughton, where he died in 1848.

There is an interesting connection between Mr Bayne's son (also called Vere Bayne) and Lewis Carroll, author of 'Alice in Wonderland' and born at Daresbury. They became life-long friends and scholars, both becoming fellows of Christ Church, Oxford.

The Rev. Henry Bostock, M.A. was next appointed. The succession of clergymen as Masters was, of course, because the Founder had said in his will that the Master of the School which he was creating was to be a priest. Mr Bostock was a native of Newcastle-under-Lyme, and was formerly in charge of Aylesbury Grammar School. Under him, as under his predecessor, the School flourished greatly for about ten years, and sent boys up regularly to Oxford and Cambridge. By degrees, however, "it began to decline ---- the Master began to absent himself too frequently from the great School, and to have some of the classes in his house. Disorder crept into the School; his boarders, as well as the day scholars, fell off," and finally, when Mr Bostock accepted the Chaplaincy of the Workhouse, in 1861, the Trustees took this opportunity to enforce his resignation. Mr Bostock, already in failing health, retired to Southport, where he died, on 2nd January, 1863.

Towards the end of Mr Bostock's mastership, in 1859, the scheme for the management of the School was again re-modelled, and after Mr Bostock's retirement the Trustees decided that the time had come to re-model the buildings also. The old master's house, parts of which had probably stood since before 1526, was pulled down in 1862, along with the new School, which had been built in 1829. They were replaced by the building which still stands in School Brow and is now used by the Corporation's Highways Department. Built in the style now known as Victorian Gothic, the old school looks very forbidding today, but was considered a fine building at the time. During the re-building some of the boys were sent to Winwick School, whose Head, the Rev. Henry Burrell, had formerly been an assistant master at the Boteler Grammar School.

In 1863 the School re-opened, with only thirty boys, under the care of the Rev. Offley Henry Cary, M.A. He was a grandson of the Rev. H. F. Cary, who translated Dante's 'Inferno', and he had married the daughter of Mr Moultrie, the Rector of Rugby, at which place he was educated.

Mr Cary had a commanding presence, Rugby principles and Rugby traditions. He did much good work for the School. He engaged masters to teach writing, accounts, mathematics, French, German, and drawing. It is interesting to note that even a hundred years ago some "setting" took place, with a number of boys in the Lower School (even in Form 1) taking subjects such as Mathematics and French with Forms in the Upper School. In 1874, following the formation of the Oxford and Cambridge Joint Board of Examiners, Mr Cary began the practice of bringing in a university scholar once a year to examine the School. The practice survived until the end of independence, though by this time (1933) the university visitor was simply an invigilator (and, since the trivialities of today become the history of tomorrow, let it be recorded that in honour of his coming, the caretaker's daughter made a special fruit cake, shared at tea-time by the assistant master who shared the invigilator's duties). Mr Cary also introduced the custom of an Annual Speech Day; and he "took means to promote a taste for cricket and other athletic sports."

A prospectus for the School of 1865 gives us further insight into the curriculum and organisation of the School at that time. The Trustees of the School included Cd. Wilson Patten, M.P. and Gilbert Greenall, M.P. In addition to the Headmaster, there was on the staff, the Rev. G. Feather as Second Master and two Assistant Masters --- Herr Huttman teaching French and German, and Mr Burnett teaching Writing, Arithmetic and Science. Mr Thompson, an "Extra Master" taught Drawing. To quote from the prospectus:-

"The places of the boys in the half-yearly lists are determined by the marks of the preceding quarter and examination combined. At Midsummer, Prizes are given to those boys who pass the best examinations in each Form of the Upper School in Classics, of the Lower School in Classics, with History and Geography. Before the Christmas Holidays each boy is required to prepare for examination two branches of study, of which the one must be Classics, the other either Divinity and History, or Mathematics, or French and German, or Natural Philosophy. Prizes are given to those who show greatest proficiency in each subject. Prizes are also given for a Latin Essay, for an English Essay, and for general conduct. An additional Annual Prize of the value of £3, to be called the Fitchett Marsh Prize, has been promised by a gentleman of Warrington." (Fitchett Marsh was formerly Clerk to the Trustees and had produced a history of the Boteler Grammar School, from which much of the information included in this work on the early years of the School has been obtained).

This was an epoch when the nation was endeavouring to introduce some order into its educational system. Accordingly, about 1865 the School was visited by Mr James Bryce, on behalf of the Royal Commission appointed to enquire into Endowed Schools. Mr Bryce said in his report: "The general character of the School is more purely classical than that of most Lancashire Grammar Schools -- Many of the people whom I saw in Warrington declared that they never remembered it so prosperous or so popular --- The wealth and position of the School no doubt require that it should continue classical; and in Warrington --- one may expect that a supply of boys will always be found whose parents will let them have the benefit of a high classical or scientific Course, and send them to the University afterwards."

Many of the proposals of the Bryce Report were embodied in the Endowed Schools' Act of 1869. Under this and various amending Acts new schemes of management were drawn up for all endowed schools not already dealt with under the Public Schools' Act of 1868. Such a scheme was drawn up for Boteler Grammar School, and it received the Royal Approval in 1880. A special paragraph safe-guarded the position of Mr Cary, but nevertheless - to quote the works of William Beaumont - he resigned at Easter, 1881, "before the new scheme of the Charity Commissioners should come to its birth."

It was said that "the number of times when Mr Cary had been absent from prayers might be counted on one's fingers." Certain it is that he served the School long and well, lifting it completely out of the "state of chaos" into which it was said to have fallen at the end of Mr Bostock's mastership. By the time of Mr Cary's retirement there were a hundred boys on the School Roll, though very few stayed beyond the age of fifteen or sixteen, while one or two were still being admitted at the age of seven or eight. Nevertheless it was a big improvement on the total of thirty when Mr Cary became Master in 1863.

On 20th December, 1880, the Governors, who had replaced the Trustees, according to the New Scheme, appointed the Rev. E. J. Willcocks, M.A. of St.Catherine's College, Cambridge, to succeed the Rev. Cary. Mr Willcocks had already taught Mathematics in the School for eleven years, before which he had been a master for ten years at Cheam School, in Surrey. He is said by Old Boys (in 1926) to have been "an able man, of generous heart and human feeling," who "allowed no slackness, and took a personal interest in every boy."

It is worth recording that the first issue of the School Magazine, 'Pincerna', appeared at the beginning of Mr Willcocks Mastership, in 1882 and appeared erratically over the next twenty years before becoming a regular feature of the school year. Among many articles of interest in the magazine, one describes the uniform worn by pupils in the 1880's - Eton collars and mortar-boards were standard, with boys in Years IV and V adding a black tassel to their mortar-boards and boys in Year VI adding a white tassel.

Mr Willcocks, again according to Old Boys, "lived for the School and his boys, and he was always sorry to see the gradual encroachment of works around the building." The view to the Parish Church was completely obstructed by the buildings of Rylands Wire Works. Until 1905 Mr Willcocks and his family resided, as his predecessors had done, on the School premises; but in that year alterations to provide additional class-rooms made it necessary for him to remove to "Heathfield", Latchford Without. He died there in 1907. Upon his grave, in Grappenhall churchyard, is the simple but pregnant epitaph: 'Laborare est orare' ('To work is to pray'), and it is a fitting epitaph for a man whose life was typical of a scholar and a gentleman. The Old Boys' Union perpetuated his memory by placing a tablet in the Old School.

V. THE LAST YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE -
 THE HEADSHIP OF THE REV. HORACE GRAY, 1907-1933

In 1907, the Rev. Horace Gray, M.A., was appointed Headmaster. Mr Gray began his education at the Perse School, Cambridge (as did Mr P. M. Jackson, our more recent Headmaster). In 1893 he entered Jesus College, Cambridge, as Senior Open Mathematical Scholar. He graduated in 1896, being placed 21st Wrangler in the Mathematical Tripos.

The years of his Headmastership from 1907-1933 were to prove some of the most critical in the history of the School, for B.G.S., like every other institution could not escape the traumatic effects of the First World War and the Great Depression which followed it. The finances of the School were under strain, numbers were low and it became increasingly likely that the independent status of the School would have to be sacrificed.

Yet there were also years of achievement. The annual reports of the Oxford Examiners were always full of praise for the standard of work and the discipline of the School and, for the size of the School (120-180 boys of which only 10-20 were in the Sixth Form), examination successes and university awards were consistently good. Conscious of the long history of the School, Mr Gray revived the Founder's Day Service. An enthusiastic sportsman, he introduced a House System to encourage "keen, healthy competition." The Houses were named Boteler, Warburton and Ireland - Tyldesley came later. Mr Gray also presented the silver cup engraved with the arms and motto of the School, which we still play for in the House Soccer Competition. Mr Gray made frequent references in his addresses to "educating the whole man" and learning to "play the game" at school to ensure one played the game in later life. Again, this period saw an increasing number of holidays abroad to countries such as France, Germany and Greece; there were also regular trips to the Lake District and the annual Ascension Day excursion to Snowdonia was instituted.

It was in the early years of this century, following the 1902 Education Act, that the Warrington Secondary School was founded in the Technical Institute. This brought a measure of competition with Boteler for pupils and helped to stimulate a debate about curriculum. In the nineteenth century, Classics and Mathematics had dominated the curriculum, but by the turn of the century English Literature, Modern Languages, History and Science were being taught, and in 1908 Mr Gray introduced "commercial subjects" together with drawing and woodwork. While articles appeared regularly in 'Pincerna' about the relative value of Classics over "modern" subjects as a mental training, there were increasing references in the Headmaster's reports at Speech Days to the need to prepare boys not just for entry into the professions, but also to the need to train "the future captains of industry."

Speech Days, in fact, were elaborate affairs with musical items and dramatic works being performed in addition to the speeches and the prize-giving. In the nineteenth century three plays were performed, one in Greek or Latin, one in French and one in English. In 1904 there were excerpts from Aristophane's 'The Frogs' in Greek, and excerpts from Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. It must have required considerable stamina to survive a Speech Day in those times.

But it is the financial problems of running the School which emerge from the pages of 'Pincerna' with increasing force. In 1910, for instance, requests for donations for creating a "worthwhile library" are made, and in the same year a Preparatory Form for young boys (age of entry 7 or 8 years) was introduced to swell the numbers and the income from fees. This lasted until 1915. Numbers in the First and Second Forms were persistently low, many boys not entering the School until the Third year. At the same time, some boys were admitted who were so dim that they never progressed beyond what was called the Third Remove. Then again, the level of ability was helped after 1880 by the provision of up to twenty free scholarship places - Boteler Scholarships. One half of these were awarded to boys in other schools and were to attract boys who had the academic ability but lacked the financial means to pay the fees at Boteler. The other half, were awarded annually to boys within the School, upon the Reports of the Examiners on the results of the examination held in the Summer Term. Throughout this period Mr Gray expressed concern at the number of boys who were withdrawn from the School before they had reached the Fifth and Sixth Forms and these scholarships were often awarded to boys who had done well in the School Certificate, to encourage them to enter the Sixth Form. Nevertheless, between the Wars numbers in the Sixth Form seldom totalled twenty. In 1907 there were 124 on the roll of which 16 were in the Sixth Form. The staffing at that time, however, was not ungenerous; besides the Headmaster and Second Master there were eleven Assistant Masters, of whom three were part-time.

As early as 1914 references were made to the need for new buildings to start taking boarders again (another way of boosting income), and buildings away from the centre of Warrington. In 1924 the Latchford site of sixteen acres was purchased, though School matches had been played there for some years. It was hoped to have new buildings for the Four Hundredth Anniversary of the School's foundation in 1926. The features of the site were praised. "It would not be encroached on by objectionable works as far as the main road, while on the south the railway would be protection which nothing could overpass." It seems ironic today, with plans now afoot for a flyover above the canal and the railway and bisecting the School field.

An appeal was launched for £700-800 to build a pavilion, while the design for the new school was thrown open "for limited competition amongst architects in Lancashire and Cheshire from which areas the school derives financial support." In fact, the winning design for the new school was the work of two Old Boys. The pavilion was completed in 1926, in time for the Four Hundredth Anniversary, but the school had not even been started.

It would seem that for some years generous financial support had come from wealthy governors who were prominent figures in the town, especially Sir Peter Rylands and Sir Gilbert Greenall. However, the cost of the much-needed new buildings was likely to be beyond the means of the School. Indeed, an agreement reached between the Governors of the School and the Warrington Education Authority, whereby the latter promised to meet any deficiency on the School accounts to the extent of £400 per annum, indicates the seriousness of the financial situation.

In 1932, with the estimates for the cost of the new school to hand, the inevitable had to be accepted: the independent status of the School would have to come to an end. Responsibility was transferred to Warrington Corporation, along with the School's financial endowments. Mr Gray decided to resign, and Mr Price Evans, one of the Assistant Masters, became Acting Headmaster, a position he held until 1940, when the School moved into the new buildings at Latchford and amalgamated with the Warrington Secondary School.

Relations with the Warrington Corporation were helped considerably by the contribution of the Rev. Edward Downham. He was Vice-Chairman of the Warrington Education Committee in 1933 and was shortly to become its Chairman. In 1934 he became Chairman of the Governors of Boteler Grammar School, a post he was to hold until his death in 1968. He showed immense affection for our School and sought every opportunity to further the well-being of B.G.S. To him fell the honour of performing the official opening of the new school in 1940; the event was later commemorated with the unveiling of the plaque in the entrance hall to the School.

See Appendix 1 for extracts from the Prospectus for the School for 1936, less than three years after transfer of responsibility to the Corporation.

VI. THE NEW BOTELER GRAMMAR SCHOOL:
1940 TO THE PRESENT DAY.

The new school, though not quite complete, opened in September 1940 with 350 boys on the roll and with a new Headmaster, Mr N. L. Clapton. Mr Clapton had been educated at the Royal Grammar School, Worcester, had taken a 'First' in Mathematics at Hartford College, Oxford and taught at Glasgow Academy before coming to Warrington. He quickly established himself as a man of tremendous energy, enthusiasm, and with the considerable organizing ability that was required to create a new school out of two very different institutions - the old Boteler Grammar School and the more recently founded Warrington Secondary School. The fact that both schools joined in a new building helped in replacing rivalry with comradeship. Mr Clapton was a strict disciplinarian, some would say a martinet, but one who gained considerable respect for his ability, his knowledge of his staff and the boys, and for his fairness.

The official opening on 16th September, 1940, was attended by governors and local dignitaries and received great publicity in the local press. A deep impression was made on Warrington public opinion. The Chairman of the Governors spoke of the unique task ahead with the merging of the two schools and the need to build on the traditions of the past. Mr Clapton's feelings and hopes were also expressed in 'Pincerna' in an article - "What Lies Before Us?" In this article he set goals which the School went far to achieving during the period of his Headship.

"We must guard against expecting too much as a right. The School must prove itself worthy of its future expectations and must forbear to adopt the too prevalent spirit of taking without giving. (even in 1940!) To this end we must see that our work, games and activities are the best we can give. Again, if we learn in our small community of the virtues of loyal effort for the good and honour of the School, then the wider duties as future citizens will follow. In games the team spirit must take precedence over individual self-display. Conduct must always be beyond reproach, the honour and responsibility of representing the School must never be treated lightly --- We hope for an opportunity to found a sound tradition of work, play and spirit; in the meantime to quote that now famous phrase - let us "Go to it." (quoting the new War Prime Minister, Winston Churchill.)"

And, of course, the School was to be very much affected by the Second World War. The editorial in the 1940 issue of 'Pincerna' reflecting on the move to Latchford expresses awareness of the very real peril facing the country and the response it demanded.

"We talk much of tradition in England and often emptily but even the dullest and most unresponsive of those who have passed through the School must have felt at some time a little pride in being members of an institution founded so long ago and with such noble motives, which themselves had their origin in a movement which threw off the shackles of the Middle Ages and opened to men's minds those wide horizons of thought and free speculation which we see so murderously threatened today. There lies the direct link between Sir Thomas Boteler and ourselves. If this war ends in defeat for us, then the values which he, by his benefaction wished to foster, and which the School has ever since sought to maintain, perish, too."

Yet, perhaps the shared deprivations and the comradeship the War engendered helped in creating the new school community. Anybody who was involved in the School in the war years has a fund of stories to tell. As so often, it is in difficult and uncertain times that a spirit of fellowship and corporate effort is fostered. Many find a willingness to take on new tasks and get a great deal of satisfaction out of them.

In the early months of the War fire-squads were formed under prefectorial control to man the stirrup-pumps and were re-inforced by first-aid parties. Four boys and one master slept on the premises each night. During the Christmas holidays in 1940 many boys volunteered to fill sandbags which were required for distribution about the town. Sixth Formers also helped with the Christmas post, some making contributions from their earnings to the library fund. A school garden was started with great enthusiasm in response to the "Dig for Victory" campaign. At the end of the first year ten pounds was donated to the Warrington Infirmary out of the proceeds of the sale of the produce. Substantial contributions were also made during such campaigns as 'War Weapon Week', 'Warship Week', 'Wings for Victory Week' while the collection of jam jars and other salvage was a continuous activity. The School also adopted a warship and communicated regularly with its crew, as far as national security would permit. Ministry of Information lectures became a regular feature of school life. School dinners were introduced in 1940 and even received favourable comments. In addition to the dining hall, the metalwork shop had to be used for extra accommodation. The charge per dinner was 6d. (2½p.) The Old Boteler Cadet Corps, which had been abandoned in the 'thirties was reformed for boys in the Fourth Year and upwards - an opportunity for self-expression and self-satisfaction, as it was styled. The Corps flourished: there were regular camps, visits to barracks, gun instruction, and a brass band was formed. In 1942 the school holidays were changed to arrange a long Autumn Harvest holiday from 3rd October to 25th October to help local farmers with the potato harvest.

Of course the cruel reality of war made itself felt regularly with news that Old Boys of the School had been 'killed in action' or reported 'Missing presumed dead'. A number of masters were called up to serve in the forces and in 1941 Mr Kenneth Abbott, a former Biology master who had left to join the navy, was killed when the huge battle cruiser H.M.S. Hood blew up and sank within minutes; only three of her crew survived out of a total complement of more than a thousand men.

In spite of the extra difficulties created by the War traditional school activities flourished. Societies were numerous and varied, though some proved to be more successful than others. In the first year they included a Chess Club, Dramatic Society, Debating Society, Hobbies Club, Scientific Society, Photographic Society, Junior French Circle, the Choir, Badminton Club and a Boys' Club to encourage gymnastics and cycling. An annual event was the School Concert. A new House System was set up more suited to the new School and the increase in numbers on the school roll - the Houses were to be Warburton, Ireland, Priestley (replacing Boteler) and a new House called Tyldesley (a name associated with the School from earliest days). In 'Pincerna' we read - "In School and House games, boys who had played to different codes played together in the various teams, well exemplifying the way in which we have all adjusted ourselves." Fortunately, this hint of social snobbery was rare. For Soccer there were 1st, 2nd and Under XI V Elevens, 1st and 2nd Rugby XV and a Bantam XV; for Cricket there were 1st, 2nd and Under XI V Elevens.

Confirmation classes were held regularly - in 1942 thirty two boys were confirmed in the Boteler Chapel in the Parish Church. In December 1942 a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was held by the School for the first time. 1943 saw the formation of the Union Society incorporating the Debating Society and Scientific Society. Subjects included in the first year's programme were wide-ranging; music appreciation, Czechoslovakia, American education, the French resistance, hobbies and Brains Trust.

The editorials in 'Pincerna' express great satisfaction with the way the new B.G.S. had succeeded in establishing a cohesion and community spirit and a high reputation in the town in so short a time. However, towards the end of the War, as in 1902 and 1918 following earlier wars, plans for a reorganization of secondary education were afoot, this time with the theme 'Secondary Education for All'. The Headmaster expressed fears that the changes would lead to a levelling down rather than a levelling up. However, the Butler Education Act of 1944, with its aim of creating a tri-partite system of secondary education with grammar, technical and secondary modern schools meant that the future of Boteler Grammar School was to be secure for many years to come. It also meant the end of fee-paying in state grammar schools, which was all to the good. For one thing it helped bring about the increase in the size of the Sixth Form (only about 15 - 25 at this time compared with around 125 today) which the Headmaster was very keen to obtain. In fact the academic results were invariably very good, and in 1944 four out of seven Open Scholarships offered by Durham University were won by boys of the School.

By 1946 the School had increased in numbers on the roll to 540 and the return to normality after the War was quite rapid. New masters replaced "old" mistresses who had served the School so well during the War. With the end of the War interest in the Cadet Corps declined but other activities flourished and in 1947 a school orchestra was formed. An extensive prize system was introduced throughout the School with the easing of restrictions on book publishing. However, a now familiar note was struck by the Headmaster in his address at Speech Day in 1948 - "15 to 16 year old boys find it too easy to get pleasure outside and find school irksome and boring." He was also concerned about the growth of the herd instinct in the Sixth Form and stresses the need for leadership and the development of individual personality.

In 1950 it was announced that Mr Clapton was leaving Boteler to take up the Headship of the King Edward VII Grammar School, Sheffield. He could be well satisfied with his achievement in ten years at Boteler Grammar School. The new School was well founded in spite of all the difficulties to be overcome and the exceptional circumstances created by the Second World War. The School had already established a reputation for "Godliness and good learning" in the tradition of Sir Thomas Boteler and was highly esteemed both by the members of the School and by the town of Warrington.

In January, 1951, Mr P. M. Jackson took charge of the School. Educated at the Perse School and at Peterhouse, Cambridge, and having already spent some five years as Headmaster of Ilkeston Grammar School, Derbyshire, Mr Jackson had the academic training and experience one expected of a headmaster of Boteler. However, the contrast between the character of Mr Jackson and that of his predecessor could not have been greater. His approach to the task, though no less effective, was essentially different from that of Mr Clapton.

Whereas Mr Clapton seemed cold, severe and rather unapproachable, Mr Jackson seemed more relaxed, a man who relied on his skills in the art of gentle persuasion to achieve his aims. This is not to say that he did not have very high standards and was not rigorous in seeing that they were maintained. He was once described as an "enlightened despot" and rather liked the description. Certainly he expected everyone to know his place and to remember that he was the Headmaster. Mr Jackson was not only a scholar but a gentleman. His manners were impeccable and he had all the social graces. Perfect in the art of polite conversation, but at the same time he enjoyed an intellectual discussion. Equipped with a superb memory he could draw on a vast store of quotations from so many learned works, for he was extremely widely read. Mr Jackson was the epitome of what one thinks of traditionally as the grammar school headmaster - a scholar, an orator, a wit, a certain amount of passion, a little vanity and an undoubted presence; above all, a great deal of affection for his pupils and a great pride in his School.

If Mr Clapton had seen his main task as one of welding two former schools into one new school, Mr Jackson saw his main task as defending the new Boteler Grammar School against pressures which he felt could destroy the achievements of centuries at Boteler. And, maybe because as a historian he had a strong feeling for the past and for tradition, Mr Jackson was extremely conscious of the long history of the Boteler and felt very strongly the responsibility placed on him to preserve and to enhance the standing of Boteler as the grammar school of the town of Warrington. Throughout his Headship he strove to maintain the highest standards of scholarship which he felt were being eroded by the superficiality of some modern educational innovations, innovations which he felt always seemed to involve a lowering of standards and of expectations in young people. He was very concerned about the increasing pressures on adolescents from the outside world to accept much that was trite and tasteless. At all times he insisted on civilized behaviour, good manners and smartness in dress and appearance. He sought to perpetuate all that was best in the traditional grammar school.

Thus, the Jackson era will be remembered as a period of stability and solid achievement before the 'comprehensive' threat loomed up before us. The level of academic success was never less than satisfactory and was frequently outstanding, with regular awards being obtained at Oxford and Cambridge. Mr Jackson saw it as his particular responsibility that boys with obvious academic gifts should be given every assistance to reach their full potential, and that all members of the School should be encouraged to make the most of their ability. Many Old Boys will remember with gratitude the assistance and sympathetic encouragement he gave them in furthering their careers. There was also a much lower turnover of staff than was to be found in many schools, a sign that the partnership between Headmaster and Assistant Masters was close and vital in achieving the academic successes of these years.

Not that every boy was to achieve high academic honours, of course. And even twenty years ago, Mr Jackson at Speech Day was bemoaning the growth of a could-not-care-less attitude and increasing lethargy, a reluctance to take on responsibility and a rather negative attitude to life. But the range and number of activities organized in the School indicates that many were making a positive contribution to the life of the School.

Among the activities introduced or revived in these years were Sports Day, the Swimming Gala, the Annual Cross-Country Race, the regular production of Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. The latter were very popular and involved a large body of masters and boys and included Mrs Jackson who made a speciality of designing and making the dresses for the "female" characters. School societies came and went, as in the past, but many survived and prospered. A regular feature became the exchange of pupils for a fortnight each summer with boys from a school in Hilden, Germany, a twin-town of Warrington.

The School distinguished itself in competitive games and athletics, both against other grammar schools and in Warrington town championships, and was regularly represented in the Lancashire Schools Athletic Championships. Some members of the School also went on to further sporting successes. D. W. Grayson and N. Wilson were to win Cambridge Blues for Soccer and S. Squires a Blue for Swimming, and M. S. Warburton an Athletics Blue at Oxford. More recently, J. Richards, who left the School in 1969, was the first Boteler boy to become a Senior Schoolboy International and to play for the England Under-23 XI. As a member of the Wolverhampton Wanderers team he won a League Cup Medal in 1974.

As the years passed, of course, the buildings were no longer so new and were not so well equipped as they had seemed to be in 1940. The temporary huts of 1944 are still with us in 1976, and the heating system, for years so temperamental, has only recently been renewed. Plans for a swimming pool proposed in 1952 have still not materialised, though the tennis courts, proposed at the same time, were eventually provided in 1970 with the help of the Old Boys. The purchase of the Broadbent estate in 1965 by the Authority improved the already good playing field and enabled us to re-introduce Rugged as an alternative to Soccer for some boys, and not without success. In 1971, the generous gift of an Old Boy, J. L. Gibson, enabled the School to acquire a language laboratory.

Ever conscious of the long history of the School, it is not surprising that Mr Jackson should revive the Old Boys' Union and the Annual Dinner. He always responded enthusiastically to the toast proposed to the "School" and encouraged the attendance of members of Six Upper to establish links between themselves in their last year at the School, and the Old Boys' Union. It became a tradition for the Head Boy of the year to propose the toast "to the Pious Memory of Sir Thomas Boteler". An Old Boys' tie was produced to a very pleasing design. It should be remembered that it was with the encouragement of Mr Jackson that the Old Boys' Union set themselves the task of raising money for additions to the School's amenities. Again, for years now, they have helped finance the production of 'Pincerna'. With excellent and devoted leadership from Old Boys such as Mr K. Miller (now Chairman of the School Governors) and Mr D. Doherty, to name only two, they have proved of inestimable worth to the well-being of the School and to the maintenance of its standards and traditions. They have organized bazaars and the like to provide money for the tennis courts, audio visual and duplicating equipment, recreational equipment, and, of course, for that superb memorial to the Old Boys who died in the World Wars, namely the wrought iron gates at the entrance to the School.

The War Memorial Fund raised over £1,000 in 1957 to pay for the gates and memorial tablets in the School Library. The dedication ceremony took place in October, 1957 and was described in 'Pincerna' as "an enriching occasion, simple yet dignified." In 1959 a second plaque was placed on the gates commemorating the new School, which reads as follows:-

BOTELER GRAMMAR SCHOOL
FOUNDED 1526
IN SCHOOL BROW
AND THERE REBUILT
1688, 1707, 1829, 1862
REMOVED HERE TOGETHER WITH
WARRINGTON SECONDARY SCHOOL
1940

'LOCUS MUTATUR NON ANIMUS'
('The place changes but not the spirit')

The next year, the commemorative plaque in the entrance hall was unveiled by Canon Downham, rather belatedly, owing to the circumstances prevailing in 1940. It reads as follows:-

THIS SCHOOL, FOUNDED IN 1526 UNDER
THE WILL OF SIR THOMAS BOTELER KT.,
LORD OF THE MANOR OF WARRINGTON,
AND ORIGINALLY BUILT AT SCHOOL
BROW, WAS REMOVED TO ITS PRESENT
SITE IN 1940 WHEN ITS MEMBERS
WERE JOINED BY THE BOYS OF THE
WARRINGTON SECONDARY SCHOOL.
THESE PREMISES WERE OFFICIALLY OPENED
ON SEPTEMBER 16th, 1940, BY THE
REVEREND EDWARD DOWNHAM, B.A.,
CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNORS.

In 1971, the Boteler Association was formed of Parents, Masters and Old Boys and has proved even more beneficial in linking together all those who have the interests of the School at heart. In 1969, a School Council was formed when a number of Sixth Formers, possibly following current fashion, felt they needed more opportunity to express their views on the running of the School but, for what ever reasons, interest soon died away and the Council was to be short-lived.

With the passing of the years older staff retired and those who had taught at School Brow or the Old Secondary School became fewer in number. In 1955 Mr William Pryke retired after over thirty years on the staff - a gifted scholar, a most eloquent speaker and a perfect gentleman. In 1959, Mr Leslie Cockram retired after forty years on the staff. He was a wonderful organizer and a man of wide interest and talents; also a skilful draughtsman, as his memorial to the Old Boys who died in the 1914-1918 War in the School Library testifies. Mr Cockram loved to tell how in his younger days he used to cycle to School from Knutsford regularly - difficult to imagine these days. Mr Donald Forsyth retired in 1965, having begun teaching at School Brow in 1927. A man of wide reading and culture, he was greatly concerned to develop taste and discrimination at a time when boys were being subjected to much that was second rate and unworthy. For a great many years he was an excellent editor of 'Pincerna'. In 1967 Mr Charles Hale retired - a man of fine integrity, remembered for his even temper and quiet efficiency. The Old Boys' Dinner of that year was a great occasion with Mr Pryke as Guest Speaker. But the Dinner was also attended by Mr Cockram, Mr Hale and Mr Jim Boyle, who was about to retire owing to ill-health after thirty four years as the School's groundsman. All three are remembered on Sports Day through their gifts of competition trophies for the boys of the School. In 1971 the last link with School Brow was broken with the retirement of Mr William ('Bill') Pearson after forty-two years service. A most likeable character who in his time had given much to the School in so many ways, particularly as librarian, cricket coach and producer of the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas.

Then in 1973 came the retirement of Mr Jackson himself. Although hampered by ill-health after his heart attack in 1962, it seemed that he would go on for ever. When he finally decided to retire it was inevitable that it would leave a gap that would be very difficult to fill; for Mr Jackson was a "character" in the best sense of the word. We would surely miss his presence in morning assembly, for instance. The majestic entry, gown flowing and retinue scurrying to match his sprightly pace, the intriguing historical digressions which occasionally enlivened post-assembly announcements, his aptitude for extempore speaking and ability to select the 'mot juste'. He made much of the fact that if he came from behind the lectern we knew that something very serious had happened and we were threatened with dire consequences if it was not put right immediately. In particular, he would severely castigate anybody who harmed the good name of Boteler in the town. How he loved to quote great figures from history and even to assume their part. Queen Elizabeth I was his favourite and when he took his final assembly before his retirement, those of us who were there will not forget how moved we were by his quotation from Queen Elizabeth's last speech to a Deputation from the House of Commons in which the great queen expressed her love for her people and her appreciation that she could not have reigned so successfully without the love and help of her subjects.

It may indeed be said with some certainty of Mr Jackson, that we shall not see his like again, for his type of headmaster is a dying breed.

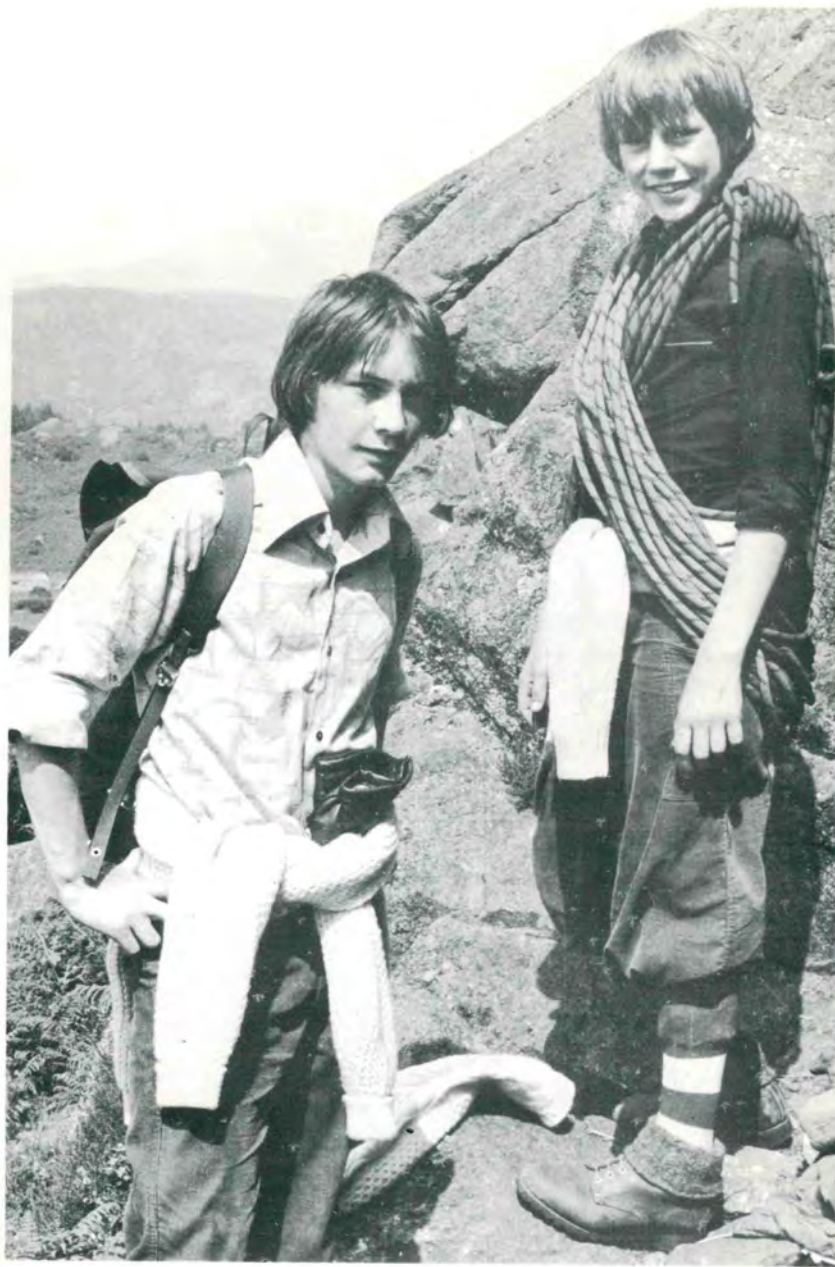
As has been suggested already, Mr Jackson could surely have succeeded in many spheres - the theatre and Parliament are just two that spring to mind - but we at Boteler benefited from his decision to make a career in education and we perhaps even now do not fully appreciate the value to us of his twenty-three years of dedicated service to the School.



4a The School at Work - In the Woodwork Shop



4b The School at Play - The Fell Walking Club at Rest



5 The School at Play - The Fell Walking Club on Expedition

VII. THE OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE.

The retirement of Mr Jackson marked the end of an era in the history of the Boteler Grammar School. The outside pressures which he resisted for so long are becoming even stronger. In particular, it seems inevitable that the character of the School will be drastically changed as a result of the reorganization of secondary education on comprehensive lines; even the name of the School may be changed. Boteler seems likely in the next few years to become an 11-16 school, all Sixth Form education being concentrated elsewhere. The task of steering the School through these changes has fallen to our new Headmaster, Mr R. J. English.

In spite of the uncertainty about its future, the School, in the meantime remains a grammar school and strives to maintain the academic standards expected of such a school. Extra-curricular activities flourish as never before. Recent years have seen numerous School trips to places in Britain and overseas at every holiday period. The expansion of the School Shop to support a fleet of mini-buses, again provided in part with the help of the Boteler Association, has proved most valuable in enabling groups of boys to attend camps, fell-walking excursions and sports fixtures. The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme has encouraged increasing numbers of boys to take up new interests and activities. The recent completion of the Sixth Form Common Room has considerably improved the amenities for Six Upper.

Thus we can face the future with a sense of pride in the achievements of the past and with confidence that we can meet the challenges ahead in the same spirit and conviction that has enabled Boteler to survive earlier crises in its history. Ever mindful of the traditions of the past, we may have to change to some degree to suit the demands of contemporary society, but we shall always seek to preserve standards of excellence in scholarship and to teach Boteler boys a sense of fairness and consideration for others, and to send them into the world as worthy citizens. And surely these will still be worthy goals no matter what changes may come about.

In the years ahead, may we still be able to say with a clear conscience that we are fulfilling the wishes of our Founder, that this whole school should be brought up to Godliness and Good Learning, just as it has been said with justification for the past 450 years.

APPENDIX 1:

Extracts from - Boteler Grammar School Prospectus 1936.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

The Warrington Grammar School was founded in the year 1526 by Sir Thomas Boteler, Knight, of Bewsey.

The School is recognised by the Board of Education as an efficient Secondary School.

The School is open to sons of residents in the County Borough of Warrington. The sons of non-residents will be admitted to the School if there are vacancies after full provision has been made for the sons of residents.

The curriculum is arranged on such lines as may prepare boys for the University, the learned professions, and the usual Civil Service Examinations. Adequate provision is made for the efficient instruction in those subjects which are of practical utility to men of business.

All entrants to the School will be required to take the Admission Examination, of which particulars may be obtained on application to the Headmaster, or to the Chief Education Officer.

The fees are £12 a year, payable in advance, but they may be paid in three equal instalments of £4 in the first week of each term. If total or partial remission of these fees is desired, special application must be made.

The accounts for Tuition Fees, Books, etc., are rendered at the end of each term, and should be paid on the first day of the following term, the cheque being made payable to the Headmaster.

BEFORE BOYS ARE ADMITTED THE PARENTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT UNDER A PENALTY OF A SUM EQUAL TO ONE YEAR'S FEES NOT TO WITHDRAW THEM FROM THE SCHOOL UNTIL THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR DURING WHICH THEY REACH THE AGE OF 16.

The School is examined every year. The public examinations taken at the School are the School Certificate and Higher School Certificate Examinations of the Northern Universities Joint Matriculation Board.

A report of each boy's conduct, punctuality, industry, and progress is sent to every parent or guardian at the end of each term.

There are extensive and well-appointed playing fields at the disposal of the School, at which all pupils normally attend for organized games on Wednesday afternoons.

No boy may absent himself from School except for illness or other sufficient cause, previously approved by the Headmaster, and a note must be brought to the Headmaster by any boy returning to School after such absence. If a boy cannot attend School, a written intimation must be sent to the Headmaster.

In case of illness necessitating absence for not less than six weeks, half of the proportionate fees will be deducted from the next term's account when a medical certificate has been duly presented to the Headmaster.

The Headmaster will be glad to receive from parents an early intimation of their son's probable choice of career in after life. He may be seen at the School, by appointment, on school business.

All property (caps, overcoats, etc.) must be plainly marked with the name of the owner.

Particulars of the Admission Examination and the Examinations for Scholarships will be found on the following pages*.

Education Office,
Sankey Street,
Warrington.
January, 1936.

C. E. STEWART
Chief Education Officer.

Note - at the time of amalgamation in 1940 there were some 200 on the school roll but with only 4 boys in Six Upper and 8 boys in Six Lower.
Besides the Headmaster, the staff included 8 Assistant Masters and 4 Visiting Masters (Part-time).

*NOT included in this extract.

THE GOVERNING BODY 1975-6

Chairman: K. Miller

L.E.A. APPOINTMENTS:

Cllr. H. Whitehead
Cllr. W. T. Edwards, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.
Cllr. G. C. Rylands
Cllr. D. Mapp

DISTRICT COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS:

Cllr. R. G. Crocker
Cllr. T. I. Mackrell
Cllr. P. T. F. Birchall
Cllr. B. S. Arnold

ASSISTANT MASTERS EMPLOYED IN THE SCHOOL

C. W. Sharman Esq.
B. P. Ogden Esq.

PARENTS OF CHILDREN ATTENDING THE SCHOOL

A. A. Donald Esq.
J. Walton Esq.

HEADMASTER OF A CONTRIBUTING PRIMARY SCHOOL

J. Cleeton Esq.

CO-OPTATIVE GOVERNORS

K. Miller, J.P., F.C.I.S.
Rev. Father Holdsworth

GOVERNORS REPRESENTING LORD DARESBUY AND LORD LILFORD

D. Binns Esq.
Judge E. Steel
H. Hornby Fairclough Esq.
Rev. J. O. Colling

THE SCHOOL STAFF 1975-6

HEADMASTER: R.J. English, Esq., M.Sc.M.Ed.
DEPUTY HEADMASTERS: E. Percival, Esq., M.A., M.Ed.
G. D. Howard, Esq., B.Sc.

ASSISTANT MASTERS AND MISTRESSES:

Rev. R.J. Brunswick, C.F.	Mr J. Phenix, B.A.
Mr J.A. Charters	Mr C.J. Rees, B.Sc., M.I. Biol.
Mr M.E. Comer, B.A.	Mr R.E. Rice, B.Sc.
Miss M.L. Coyle, B.A.	Mr J.A. Riley
Mr M.G. Cross, B.A.	Mr J.P. Ryan
Mr G.R.K. Curtis, B.A. Mus B, LTCL	Mr D.A. Shade, B.Sc.
Mrs D.I. Davies, B.A.	Mr C.W. Sharman, B.A., J.P.
Mr R.M. Duckett	Mr D.A. Smith
Mr P.J. Elliott	Mr C.D. Stobbs
Mr E.W.P. Farrell, B.A.	Mr A. Summerfield, B.A.
Mr B. Glover, B.A.	Mr J. Thomason, D.L.C.
Mr E. Harrison, M.A.	Mr J.R. Tweedy, B.Sc.
Mr A.W. Hill, H.N.C., L.R.I.C.	Mr I.G. Wilkinson, M.A., B.Sc.
Mr M.W. Hughes	Mrs A.S. Wood, B.A.
Mr N.H. Kilshaw, B.A.	
Mr H. Lievesley, B.Sc. (Econ.)	<u>SECRETARIES:</u>
Mr G.A. Moss, B.Sc.	Mrs M. Finch
Mr B.P. Ogden, M.A., M.L.C.	Mrs J. Harrison
Mr A.J. O'Neill, B.Ed.	
Mr W. Oxley, B.Sc.	<u>CARETAKER:</u>
Mrs A.F. Patterson, B.Sc.	Mr T. Dutton

THE SCHOOL ROLL: 1975-6

NO. ON THE SCHOOL ROLL: 577

SIX UPPER: 45
SIX LOWER: 45
YEAR FIVE: 94
YEAR FOUR: 96
YEAR THREE: 87
YEAR TWO : 100
YEAR ONE : 110

SCHOOL PREFECTS:

HEAD BOY: K. H. Holt

DEPUTY HEAD BOYS: A. Conheaney
K. Conheaney

D. C. Aldred	D. A. Heaton
R. S. Appleton	P. H. Hirst
S. P. Behan	G. Hurst
J. Bennett	P. Jones
M. C. Bond	A. P. Kelly
D. A. Brown	S. J. Lewandowski
P. Campbell	M. F. Longworth
M. F. Caswell	C. Lord
G. A. Cliffe	D. H. Luker
I. Daniels	C. L. McManamin
C. L. Davies	F. Majid
P. R. Davies	J. E. Marsh
F. J. Evans	W. Milne
I. J. Forshaw	J. T. Prescott
R. G. Giles	J. M. Webster
T. Gordon	I. J. White