

**REGISTER OF THE
SCHOLARS ADMITTED TO
COLCHESTER SCHOOL,
1637-1740**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649504275

Register of the Scholars Admitted to Colchester School, 1637-1740 by C. L. Acland & J. H. Round

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

C. L. ACLAND & J. H. ROUND

**REGISTER OF THE
SCHOLARS ADMITTED TO
COLCHESTER SCHOOL,
1637-1740**

~~V. 15754~~
Colchester, Eng. - Royal Grammar School.

REGISTER OF THE SCHOLARS

ADMITTED TO

COLCHESTER SCHOOL

1637 - 1740.

EDITED, WITH ADDITIONS, BY

Col. in Horace

J. H. ROUND, M.A.,

Member of Council of the Essex Archaeological Society,

FROM THE TRANSCRIPT BY

THE REV. C. L. ACLAND, M.A.,

Vicar of All Saints, Cambridge, late Head Master of the School.

* Colchester :

PRINTED BY WILES & SON FOR THE ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

1897.

PREFACE.

A HAPPY chance enables us to trace the existence of schools at Colchester to so early a date as 1206. The industrious Morant discovered a "fine," dated in that year, by which the then Bishop of London granted to William, son of Benedict, "a Soke,¹ with its appurtenances, in Colchester, which extends from St. Mary's Lane to the Lane next Headgate ('Havedgate'), and from the wall of Colchester on the west to Headstreet ('Havedstrete') on the east; which Soke, with the schools of Colchester, and the advowson of St. Mary-at-the-wall ('de muro'), and the chapel of St. Andrew, and a capital messuage appertaining to that Soke, belongs to the Barony of the See of London, saving to the Bishop the advowsons of the said church and chapel, etc."² The position of the school in this Soke was doubtless due to the control of all schools, at the time, being vested in the bishop of the diocese. It was still there, as Morant observes, so late as 1464, when "the Master of the Schools was presented then for throwing the dirt of his School over the Town-Wall at the Postern."

But the history of the present endowed school begins three-quarters of a century later with the grant by Henry VIII., 12th Nov., 1539, of the revenues of the chantries in St. Mary's Church and St. Helen's Chapel to the bailiffs, burgesses, and commonalty of Colchester on condition of their devoting a portion of them to the establishment of a free school in the town. The sum of £6 13s. 4d., which they assigned to the schoolmaster, was given him in 1553 and 1558, and therefore probably in other years, but the

¹ A franchise, or privileged district.

² I have identified this fine in the Record Office. It is now No. 46, and its date is 28th May, 1206.

whole arrangement came to an end under Elizabeth, when the revenues were surrendered to the Crown, and re-granted under similar conditions 6th July, 1584 (26 Eliz.). The Queen's letters patent are printed by Morant, as are also the other documents connected with the foundation, including the interesting statutes ordained by the Bishop of London and the Dean of St. Paul's (13th Jan., 1587). Among the illustrations of the times afforded by these statutes is the careful provision that the schoolmaster shall "subscribe to the Articles of Religion confirmed by Act of Parliament in the 13th year of her Majesty's reign," and that he and the usher, "with so many of his Scholars as shall by the publick preacher of the Town, if there be any, so (*sic*) found able to yield a sufficient Account of their Faith and Religion, the first Sunday of every quarter of the year, present himself with them to be partakers of the Lord's Table, in that Parish Church which shall be appointed to the School," under pain of removal from it. The Bishop thus, in his own diocese, pointedly ignores the rite of confirmation.

Among the curious documents not printed by Morant is the Chamberlains' account for 1620, which contains these entries relating to Mr. Kempe's mastership.

Item to Mr. Kemp for three books, videlicet:

	s.	d.
a Cooper's Dixonory	14	0
Rides Dixoneray	8	6
Nomen Claters	3	8
for carredge of them from London ..	6	

It was on the death of Mr. Kempe in 1637, after he had held the Mastership nearly forty years, that William Dugard, "a most excellent scholar," as Morant terms him, was elected by the Mayor and Commonalty, and entered on his duties 9th Sept., 1637. As it was he who commenced the Register of Admissions to the school, his mastership calls for special notice. Previously usher at Oundle (1626), and master of Stamford school (1630), this remarkable man, when he came to Colchester, was thirty-one years old. He found the pupils only ten in number, of whom eight were free scholars. Within a year and a

half of his becoming master he had admitted over eighty boys. Of his ability as a teacher there is no question: his subsequent career is proof of the fact. But although his life has been carefully written for the *Dictionary of National Biography*, it seems by no means easy to determine his political attitude. There can be little question that his departure from Colchester, after his brilliant success at the school, was due to the opposition of the extreme party in the town; but the letter of intercession on his behalf (6th Jan., 1643), which is printed by Morant, is signed by the Earl of Manchester and others on the "Parliament" side, and urged that he "may justly expect from the Parliament protection in all his just rights and privileges, and encouragement and maintenance from you." This could scarcely be the case were he an avowed Royalist. It is clear, however, that his sympathies were rather with the king than with the revolutionary party, and that he did not go far enough for the Puritan leaders at Colchester.¹

As the entry relating to his resignation has not hitherto been printed, I here transcribe it from the Corporation records:—

13 March, 1642/3.

At this Assembly it is ordained that whereas Mr. Dewgard hath made offer to resigne his scholemastership of the free Grammar schole of this towne to the Mayor and Commonalty of this town upon Condition that the Mayor and Commonalty shall paie unto him the said Mr. Dewgard the sume of one hundred powndes in full paiement and satisfacoen of all such debts, dues, and demands whatsoever etc. from the begynninge of the world to this daie. It is now ordered and agreed that the said sume of one hundred powndes shall forthwith be paid to Mr. Dewgard upon his resigning his school-mastershippe of the said Grammar schoole and givinge to the Mayor and Commonaltie of this towne a generall acquittance.

Dugard, while he was at Colchester, had lost his wife Elizabeth, who died 5th July, 1641. In her honour he inscribed in his admirable register a long "Epicedion" in

¹ See, for further particulars concerning his Colchester career, the paper *Liber Scholæ Colcestriensis* by the Rev. C. L. Acland, in *Essex Arch. Trans.*, n.s., Vol. II., p. 93, and Morant's *History of Colchester*.

Latin elegiacs. This he signed as "viduus moestissimus," adding a Latin and a Greek quotation, testifying the eternity of his love. Within eight months the inconsolable widower had taken out a special licence for his marriage with "Lydia Tyler of All Hallows, Lombard Str., widow."¹

One must not trace here his subsequent career; but in May, 1644, he was chosen head master of Merchant Taylors' School, where he began a Register of Admissions as invaluable to genealogists as that which he had kept at Colchester.²

It would be interesting to learn if it was at Colchester that Dugard made the acquaintance of the learned Dr. Glisson, whose treatise on *The Rickets*, "one of the glories of English medicine," he printed in 1650.

His successor was Mr. Waterhouse, whose election is thus recorded—

30 June, 1643.

At this Assembly Mr. Mayor and Commonalty nowe assembled doe with one mutual consent and agreement elect and choose Mr. Thomas Watterhowse Master of Artes to bee the Schoolemaster of the free grammar schoole of this towne, and hee to be presented to the Lord Byschoppe of London our diocesan for his Lordshippes approbacion.³ And that the said Mr. Thomas Watterhowse shall enter the exercise and take the possession of the said schoole.

Provided always that hee the said Mr. Thomas Watterhowse before his admittance into the said Schoole shall give good securitie to the Mayor and Commonalty of this said towne for his continuance and attendinge the said Schoole without departure from thence without the license of the Mayor of this towne for the tyme beinge, by and duringe the tearme of fower yeeres next after his said admittance.

It is significant that the new master came from Emanuel College, which had been founded by one of the Essex Mildmay's avowedly as a Puritan seminary. Among the boys admitted during his mastership (pp. 42—58), one recognises several names, such as those of the Gurdons of Assington, which favour the view that his sympathies were

¹ *Chester's London Marriage Licences* (ed. Foster), Col. 425.

² See Robinson's *Register of the Scholars admitted into Merchant Taylors' School*, Vol. I., pp. v., xiv., 157, et. sq.

³ William Juxon. This is a notable entry at the height of the Civil War and on the eve of the Westminster Assembly.

Puritan. Nathaniel Seaman, who succeeded him in 1648, was probably, from his name, on the same side. He soon ceased to keep up the Register, which from 1649 to 1671 loses its value for genealogists. Trouble ensued on Mr. Seaman's resignation in 1659, and we find among the town records an order of 29th Sept., 1659—

That Mr. John Brasier, Mr. George Crosse, and Mr. Stephen Emaus or any two of them shall forth with goe to the Grammer schoole and schoolehouse belonging to this towne and presently take the possession of them with all the bookes and appurtenances, for the use and benefit of the Mayor and Cominalty of this towne; And to deliver the possession of the said Schoolehowse and schoole with the bookes and appurtenances to them belonging to Mr. John Ruting master of the said grammer schoole; And it is further ordered that the request of Mrs. Cotton and the accompte of Mr. Seaman shalbe taken into consideracon the next time the howse shall meets.

Five days later it is ordered—

That Mrs. Cotton shall free the schoolehowse and deliver the possession thereof to Mr. Rutinge within one monethe: (if Mr. Rutinge and Mrs. Cotton doe agree for her staying any longer tyme in the said schoolehowse).

A month later, a curious entry records the intention of the Corporation on—

The fiftē day of November (being Gunpowder treason daie) in the yeere of our Lord 1659, to goe from hence to visite the grammer schoole, and from thence to the sermon according to the usuall custome.

There is, lastly, an order on 17th Jan., 1659/60, that, at the next meeting, "the accompts of Mr. Seaman about the repaire of the Grammer school shalbe perused and debated."

Of the next two masters, Edward Burles and Lewis Griffin, the register contains no record save a bare list of the twelve free scholars, in 1663, under Mr. Burles. Mr. Cranston, who succeeded in 1671, began to keep the register again on the lines laid down by Dugard, but the entries gradually become meagre, and in 1679 they cease. With the exception of two admissions, under Mr. Reynolds in 1695, there are no more entries till 1702, when he was succeeded by Mr. Allen, under whom the register was

resumed, in a meagre fashion, till 1711. It was recommenced by his successor, Mr. Turner, in 1723, and kept up under the next masters, his successors, Mr. David Comarque (1726) and Mr. Palmer Smythies (1729). As the entries are less local in character after 1740,¹ the Essex Archæological Society has not felt justified in printing the register further. It continues, however, to possess genealogical value down to 1770, and again from April, 1777, to April, 1778, when the school was under that eminent scholar, Dr. Parr.² After his mastership there are no entries till 1807.

To genealogists the most interesting entry, probably, in the whole Register is this:

Guillelmus à S^u. Laurentii filius unicus Thomæ à S^u. Laurentii de Wiston in agro Suffolciensi (ex antiqua et prænobili familia Baronis de Howte in Hibernia oriundi, et Christopheri Baronis de Howte filii secundi) natus in parocia de Stoke juxta Nayland in comitatu Suffolciensi annum agens 11^{mm}. Admissus est 11^{mo} die Januarii 1638 (i.e. 1638/9).

It is positively stated in *Burke's Peerage* that Christopher Lord Howth's son and successor, Nicholas, who died 1643, was succeeded by his "son" William. As one would expect that if anyone knew the historic pedigree of an Irish Peer, it would be Ulster King of Arms, I have only partially identified the boy William in the text. But on going further into the matter, I have found that—though, at so late a date, such an error is hardly credible—Nicholas left no sons, the relationship of his successor, William, to him being actually a matter of uncertainty.³ Our entry proves what had only been conjectured, namely, that William was a nephew of Nicholas, being the son of his younger brother, Thomas St. Lawrence. But we do not stop even here. Our entry gives Thomas as of Wiston, Suffolk. The rector of Wiston has kindly allowed me to

¹ The first admission for 1741 is that of Robert, son of the Hon. Walter Molesworth.

² Some of these later entries have been annotated by me in the Acland transcript.

³ See *Complete Peerage*, Vol. IV., p. 273.