

**SUPERINTENDENTS, TEACHERS, AND  
PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF ACKWORTH  
SCHOOL, FROM 1779 TO  
1894. A LIST COMPILED FROM OFFICIAL  
DOCUMENTS, WITH HISTORICAL NOTES  
AND SHORT BIOGRAPHIES**

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Superintendents, Teachers, and Principal Officers of Ackworth School, from 1779 to 1894. A List  
Compiled from Official Documents, with Historical Notes and Short Biographies by Joseph  
Spence Hodgson

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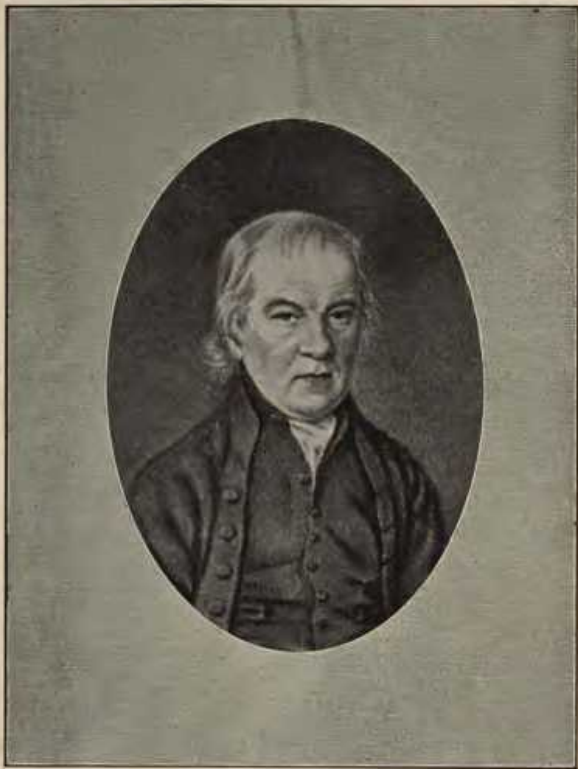
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**JOSEPH SPENCE HODGSON**

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ROBERT WHITAKER.

From a miniature by Charlotte Giberne.

Ackworth Sch. 1.

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By JOSEPH SPENCE HODGSON,  
*Secretary of the Ackworth Old Scholars' Association.*

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## P R E F A C E .

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At the Centenary a list of the scholars at Ackworth School from 1779 to 1879 was published by the Centenary Committee. At that time a strong desire was expressed that a list of the teachers should be comprised in the volume. The result of inquiries showed that no official list had been kept. In 1889 William Frederick Wells, of London, published a list of scholars for the ten years succeeding the Centenary; and again no material for a list of teachers was heard of.

But in 1893 an Ackworth scholar told me of an old wage-book that he had once seen in the archives of the School office; so on my next visit to the School I applied to the Secretary, who at once produced the book. It was to me like a newly discovered manuscript. Its preservation was excellent. The binding was of leather, and the paper unsized, with a surface adapted only to the flexible quill-pens of the period. This book was a record, in clear, beautiful writing, of the wages to be paid to every officer of the institution from the year 1806 to 1862, with the day, month, and year of each on entering and leaving.

This list formed the basis for this work, which I felt devolved upon me to do for the benefit of the Ackworth Old Scholars' Association, and from my having had a share in the bringing out of the aforementioned lists of scholars. Three visits to



## PREFACE.

the School were requisite to gather all the material. Copying the wage-book on the first one ; on the second, the reading through the minute-books of the School Committee, for the officers from 1779 to 1806. The hiring (always on trial) of every domestic servant was as faithfully recorded on the minutes as that of a superintendent or teacher. Neither minutes nor wage-book availed for the officers from 1862 to 1894. They had to be gathered from the Superintendent's tabular statement of teachers presented each year to the Committee, the current account of wages paid, and from the receipts of such wages. In this I had the valuable assistance of Thomas Wright, the Secretary, who gave me the benefit of his intimate knowledge of the books and of the teachers of his time. On the third visit the whole of the extracted list of names was called over. Errors and omissions, there may be many, from the fragmentary nature of the material at my disposal.

In compiling the list, the endeavour has been to give the year when each one entered and left, the time when each was a scholar, apprentice, or teacher ; a short biographical notice of the more conspicuous services rendered to the School ; the rearrangements of the modes and methods of teaching ; and the period and origin of new class-subjects into the curriculum.

I am largely indebted to my old master, Henry Thompson, for many valuable quotations from his excellent *History of Ackworth School*. My thanks are also due to John H. Nodal, an Ackworth scholar, of Manchester, for the help of his editorial experience and his assistance in revising the proofs. My acknowledgments are due to my dear friend and schoolfellow, Alfred Simpson,

PREFACE.

for his kindly counsel and his especial help in the illustrations and the binding of the book. Lastly, I would mention the kindness of many old scholars of both wings for their assistance in furnishing biographical information.

The labour of love in compiling the list has been fully repaid in the interest derived from living in the past history of the School, amid the quaint manners and customs of its earlier day, and the sympathetic feeling often arousing in reading of the earnestness and strong devotion to duty which actuated the old masters, mistresses, and officers. Many of these spent their strength and vigour in a long life of service. Witness the half-century of Samuel Peaker, the gardener; the forty-eight years of Leonard West, the tailor; the forty-four years of John Walker, the baker; the forty-five of James Wilson, the assistant shoemaker. The higher departments of the Schools show a similar remarkable record of prolonged labours, as in the instances of the forty-one years of Thomas Brown, the thirty-six of John Newby and Thomas Puplett, the thirty-four years of Hannah Whitaker, wife of the Superintendent, the thirty-three of Maria King, and the most responsible twenty-nine years of Robert Whitaker, and the twenty-six of Thomas Pumphrey, as Superintendents.

J. SPENCE HODGSON.

HEATON MERSEY, NEAR MANCHESTER,

THIRD MONTH, 1895.

## ILLUSTRATIONS.

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The Portraits have been produced by Dellagana & Company, Limited, of London and Manchester, mainly from photographs, nearly all of which have faded by lapse of time, and therefore some allowance must be made for any artistic imperfections.

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