

Education

Comment

This extract taken from Watson's pages set out below: -

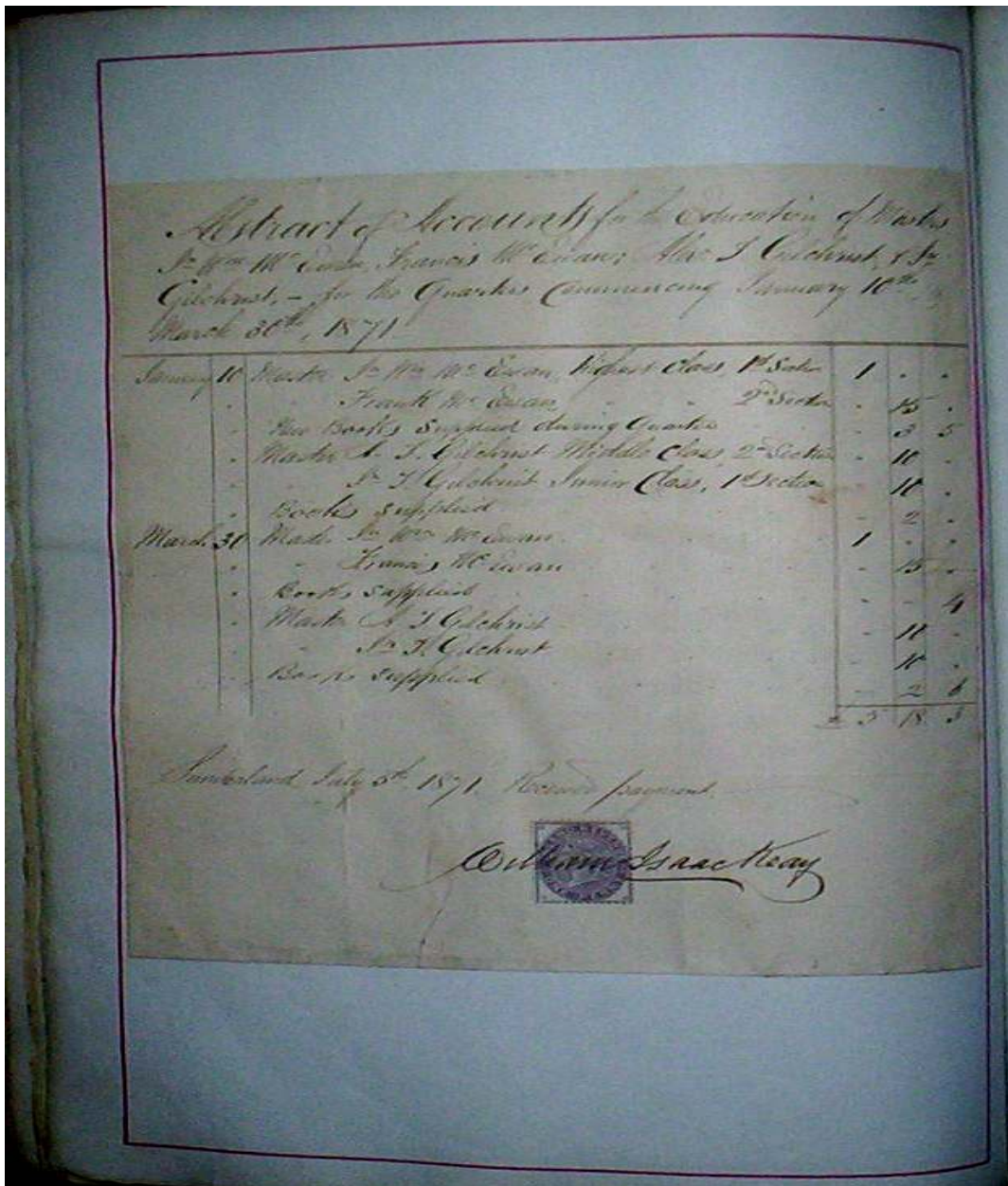
"In educational matters Palatine Lodge has always taken the liveliest interest and has the honour of being the pioneer of the Durham Masonic Education Fund, established as late as 1882 through the instrumentality of the Provincial Grand Secretary of that date; Bro Robert Hudson was an initiate of this lodge.

Bro Michael Scarth, Worshipful Master 1792-3 deserves the honour of initiating this new development, with far reaching results, in 1793; and anticipating the establishing of the Masonic School for Boys by several years."

Thursday Dec: 12; 1793

"The Lodge having taken into consideration the benefits that arise to Society in general by a proper education for children, and that it might lead, in some degree, to encourage Masonry and the Arts and Sciences in this country, if a Fund was established in each Lodge, for the purpose of educating such of their brethren's children as might not have the means of procuring a proper education.

Resolved unanimously.



RULES
OF
FUND.

each person into the Society of Masons, shall be considered as a separate Fund, and be applied for the purpose of Educating children in such manner as the Committee hereafter mentioned, or any 5 of them, shall think best.

2- That such Committees shall consist of 12 MEMBERS, viz:- the 2 Masters, 2 Wardens, 2 Deacons, Treasurer & Secretary, and 4 other MEMBERS, to be elected annually, when the Officers are chosen.

3- That in order to increase the Fund, a Voluntary Contribution shall be made by the Members at all future Festivals, when the Master shall inform the Members then present of all the Proceedings of the Committee during the year, as also how the Fund of Charity has been applied.

BRO. M. SCARTH
CHAIRMAN
OF
FUND

At the Lodge meeting on JAN: 9. 1794, Bro. M. Scarth is Chairman of the Committee, appointed at last meeting of Lodge for establishing a School, presented the Resolutions of the Committee as follows:—

“At a Meeting held at Bro. Trowsey's on Thursday, the ninth day of January, 1794, at which were present—
 Bro. M. Scarth A.M. Bro. J. J. Stanfield
 Bro. J. Hardcastle J.W. .. Kilvington
 Bro. J. Hewitt J.D. .. W. Hills Secy
 who were informed that there was collected at the Festival held on Dec. 27th last £. 9 0— which, with the Money and Fees received for this Fund of Charity, amounts to upwards of £12.

RULES & REGULATIONS	<p>Resolved - That 10 poor Boys resident in Sunderland and Bowth, above 7 years and 14 years of age, shall be put to School and paid for out of the said Fund, and that each Member of the Committee may recommend one boy, and the Boys to be put to School shall be determined by Ballot, if more than the number wanted be recommended.</p>
COMMITTEE	<p>2. That Bros. Scarr, Stout, Hardcastle, Stanfield & Wilson shall be, and they or any 3 of them are hereby, appointed a select committee for appointing and agreeing with a proper person to teach such boys, Reading, Writing, & Common Arithmetic, and also to superintend the Boys when at School, as often as they can make it convenient, and that such Select Committee be requested to agree with the Master to go with the Boys to the Parish Church, in Sunderland on each Sunday morning and there attend them during Divine Service.</p>
ATTENDANCE AT CHURCH	<p>3. That an account shall be kept by the Master, in which shall be entered the Names of the Boys, what they learn, and an exact account of each boys attendance at School.</p> <p>4. That each boy shall be in the school at least 6 hours in each day, except Saturdays, and on each Saturday at least 3 hours and attend in the school each Sunday morning at Godet to go from thence, with the Master, to the Parish Church.</p>
DUTY OF PARENTS	<p>5. That in order that the Boys may be obliged to attend the School regularly, there shall be paid unto the Master by the Parents of each Scholar that shall, or may be absent from School, one halfpenny for each and every day that he may</p>

FINES
FOR
NON ATTENDANCE

DISMISSAL

CORRECTION
OF
BOYS

REDUCTION

A
POPULAR
SCHOOLMASTER

not attend as aforesaid. And the Master shall not teach any such Boy or Boys until he receive the sum half penny for every day each Boy may be absent, and such Boy or Boys have been prevented by sickness or other inevitable cause to be allowed of by the select committee

6- That if any Boy be absent 12 days in any Calendar month - except above causes allowed by committee - he shall be discharged, and the select Committee shall appoint another in his stead till the end of the year. That the Master shall be tender in correcting the Boys so put to his School, and take all possible care to prevent immorality, and if his endeavours be ineffectual, to report thereof to the select Committee, and they shall have full power to discharge such Boy or Boys that may be misbehavers, and to appoint others in their stead.

These resolutions were unanimously approved of, and in 1799 the number of Boys was reduced to 6.

In 1801, The sum of six guineas was voted to assist a Mason's son, named Robinson, heavily afflicted by the loss of his right side, so as to render him unfit for any employment, except that of a Schoolmaster

It is pleasing to record that this youth was eventually initiated into Palatine Lodge on Dec: 28. 1807, and had charge of the Boys educated by the Lodge until his death in 1810.

The minute of Dec: 29: 1834, states "The Boys [5 in number] educated at the expense of the Lodge

were introduced and examined in Reading, Writing, and common Arithmetic, and showed some excellent Specimens of Penmanship, alike creditable to themselves and their Teachers. Dr. Will. P.

GIRL
ELECTED

Only 5 Boys being at this period at School is due to the daughter of Bro. K. Hodson having been elected to fill a vacancy in 1825.

Amongst the large number of Boys so educated, the following, abstracted from the minute Books, afford interesting reading.

SCHOLARS

1839 - That the son of Bro. Laws, a poor man belonging to St John's Lodge, No 95, fill up vacancy.

1841 - The vacancy be filled up by the Grandson of Bro. Eagles, Thomas Laws Will

On the death of Bro. Robinson in 1846, the Boys were sent to Mr. Robson's School, in Nile Street, and later to Mr. Martindale's School, Borough Road, in 1849.

In 1873, the Boys were enrolled in Mr. Cameron's School, Palatine Lodge SS 114

REPORT

OF
COMMITTEE

ON

SEP^r 26. 1850

Your Committee beg to Report that they visited the School of Mr. Martindale on Monday, the 23rd inst, and found that 5 boys only, viz Thomas Laws, George J. Fullam, Woodfield Hodson, Joseph Daughtry, and Am. Simson, at present attend, and consequently there is one vacancy, which your Committee recommend should be forthwith filled up -
Altho' your Committee cannot, they respect to say, speak

IRREGULAR

ATTENDANCE.

in unqualified terms of the Order & Regularity of the School, yet they feel bound to say that from the examination of the Copy and other Books of the 5 boys, it appears that they are as far advanced as from their ages and station may be expected, but your Committee regret to have to Report that the Attendance seems very irregular, more particularly that of Fullam, who appears to be absent much more than half his time — in fact, there is little doubt but that the parents do not pay that regard to a proper attendance which they would pay, provided the cost of Education had to be borne by themselves; and as the continuous absence of the scholar will have the effect, not only of depriving him of the benefits of Education which this Charity was formed to afford him, but will also bring discredit both upon the Schoolmaster and the Lodge, your Committee beg to

MONTHLY REPORT

BY

SCHOOLMASTER

recommend that an absence of 7 days in any month, without sufficient reasonable excuse, shall be considered as evidence of the intention of the Scholar to leave the School, and the Vacancy shall thereupon be filled up, and that the Schoolmaster be requested to send to the Secretary, on the morning of each General Lodge, a return of attendances during the previous month.

SUBJECTS

OF

INSTRUCTION.

Your Committee further beg to Report that Mr Martindale stated the Hours of Attendance were from 9 to 12, and from 2 to 5, and that the course of Education for the Lodge Boys was Arithmetic, Geography, English History, English Grammar, Writing, and Reading of the Holy Scriptures.

Your Committee felt themselves at liberty to recommend that a Class for teaching the Church Catechism should be formed

TEACHING
OF
CHURCH-GOING

Mr Bartindale expressed his willingness to accede to, but your Committee by no means wish that the Boys whose parents do not attend the worship of the Church of England, or who object to their Children joining in such class, should be compelled to do so.

Your Committee beg to draw the attention of the Lodge to the fact of the boys being without the Books usually read from in the School, and whatever the Lodge may determine upon this subject, your Committee recommend that in future, on the appointment of any boy, his parents should be informed that the Lodge will require the same care and attention to be bestowed upon him, as to providing Books and otherwise, as would have been bestowed if the Lodge had not made the appointment. - The cost of the remuneration to the Schoolmaster being all that the Lodge professes to bear.

CONCLUSION
OR REPORT.

In conclusion, your Committee regret to have to Report that the boy Thomas Laws appeared at School in a most disgraceful dirty state, and they recommend that the attention of his parents should be drawn to the fact - no state of poverty could justify the state of dirt he was in.

Signed on behalf of Committee
Geo. S. Hanson

26th Sept 1850.

[The last payment for School Fees was made in 1857]