

Elizabeth College – creation and rebuilding

Research from the archives

A Grammar School was founded on Guernsey in 1563 by the Royal Commissioners of Queen Elizabeth I. In that year 1 vergee and 2 perches of land with property was assigned to the “Elizabeth School” by the Commissioners. Later, in 1568, a further 10 vergees of land was assigned to the School by the Governor of Guernsey with the

consent of the Royal Commissioners. The object was to found, in the name of the Queen, a grammar school called ‘The School of Queen Elizabeth’. The School was also assigned with corn rents to provide a supporting income. Eighty quarters of wheat were assigned to the Master and the School which were to be levied and held by the School Master in perpetuity – all of which were endowed by letters patent. It was stipulated at the time that the Master need not necessarily be a clergyman but should

“be versed in Latin and in Greek, if it happen, and endued of good morals and with a grave aspect”. Further to this the main purpose of the school was to be the “teaching of grammar” and it was at the Master’s discretion whether other instruction (subjects) was to be undertaken. The school was to be divided into 6 classes. It was also made clear that if the Master was to persevere in doing wrong he was to be removed from his position by the Governor of Guernsey.



List of Masters of Elizabeth Grammar School (1600s) Under the old plan

Mr Martin de Pestre, left Feb. 1606

Mr Amos Horn, sworn in 1608

Mr John Ganrey, sworn in 10th May 1613

Mr Thos. Manger, (was) 30th Sept. 1622

Mr Joshua Slowley, sworn 4th Apr. 1627

Mr Arthur Morehead, (was) 16th July 1633

Me Jacob L’Epine, sworn 29th May 1639

Mr Thos. Carey, elected 26th Dec. 1644

Mr Geo. Delgarno, (was) 12th March 1661

Mr Gabl. du Perrier, (was) 10th July 1667

Mr Wm. Johnson, (was) 5th July 1682

College vacant at his death, 1st Feb. 1698

List of Masters of Elizabeth Grammar School (1700s)
Under the old plan

Rev. L. Payne, (was) 17th June 1708
Mr Row, (was) 17th January 1714
College vacant at his death 7th Apr. 1716
Rev. J. Le Mesurier, (was) 5th April 1738
College vacant at his death, 22nd May 1759
Rev. J Hemming, appointed 28th Dec. 1759
Rev. C. Crispin, B.A. 26th June 1761
Rev. N. Carey, B.A. 1st July 1795
Resigned on a Pension of £60, 1st Oct. 1824

THE COLLEGE GATEWAY.



It appears that the Master was within his right to hire other school rooms and dwellings in which to conduct his classes, which by all accounts did happen in 1816 when the Master took premises in Saumarez Street. But following the review of the School he was directed to move his dwellings and classes back to the School in January 1824.

An Education review Committee in 1823 investigated the history of the School up until that time and found that there had been many “instances of complaint against the Masters of the School for neglect of duty and for incompetency; some admonitions and some removals, but no expulsions of scholars” (students). They also found “that the number of scholars at the School of Elizabeth had probably never exceeded 29, had often been reduced to one or two and at times there had been none at all!”. It was surmised that during the 260 years since its creation the Masters had not exacted any fees from the students, but for as long as anyone could remember 1 guinea was ‘given’ to the Masters as a New Year’s gift every year, with 1 shilling for the Servant and 2 shillings and sixpence annually for coal.

The Review Committee in 1823 found the School in much reduced circumstances. The original letters patent from the Royal Commissioners had assigned a school-room, a temple or church, a cemetery to the North and neighbouring land and edifices to the South to include orchards and small gardens. Unfortunately, during his term of office, one of the Governors of Guernsey, Sir Thomas Leighton, (1570 – 1580) had sold off some of the land assigned to the School. The Committee also located some of the seating from the School in the Town Church! All told Sir Thomas would seem to have sold off 3 vergees of the best school land. Unfortunately he had no legal right to do this because by doing so he was annulling a Royal Grant!

The 1823 Review of the School of Elizabeth was proposed by the Lieutenant Governor of Guernsey, his Excellency Sir John Colborne KCB. After the investigation was completed the States of Guernsey took steps to re-structure the School and repair the deprivations that had occurred to it in the proceeding 260 years. To this end a new staff was elected in October 1824 – comprising;



Principal – Mr Stokes
Vice Principal – Reverend W. L. Davies
Professor of Mathematics – Reverend G. De Joux
The Professors of French and Writing were still undecided at this time.

As part of the reformation process it was decided that the school should take on boarders from England and that the charge of 12 *livre* would be made on a per annum basis for a complete classical education including English, French, writing and arithmetic. The Committee did rule, however, that those individuals or families that during the period 1570 – 1580 had purchased school land from the then Governor Sir Thomas Leighton should not be forced to return the land as they had bought it in good faith, rather it was an error on the part of the Governor.

In 1825 the school had the following student attendance figures;

Forms	Entered	Moved from lower forms	Total	Gone	Moved to higher forms	Remain	Total
I	42	0	42	4	12	26	42
II	22	12	34	3	7	24	34
III	19	7	26	2	7	17	26
IV	19	7	26	0	8	18	26
V	4	8	12	0	4	8	12
VI	0	4	4	0	0	4	4

A States meeting in early 1826 debated the School's future and passed the following proposals;

1. That 8,000 *livre* be granted for the building of a new College and a Master's house.
2. That 600 *livre* be granted for the levelling of the land and building of walls around the said land.
3. That 700 *livre* be granted for the annual running expenses of the new College (as calculated in 1826).

After this was agreed and put in motion a ceremony was held on Thursday 19th October 1826 to lay the first stone of the new College.

The Sarnian Journal; and Jersey Chronicle.

Sarnian Journal.

GUERNSEY OCTOBER, 29, 1826.

—•—

The ceremony of laying the Foundation Stone of Elizabeth College, took place on Thursday last. The assemblage of persons to witness it, was very numerous.

About half-past nine o'clock, the flank companies of each regiment of native Militia, assembled at the Fighting Cocks; from thence they were marched to Government-House, preceeded by the Band of the East Regiment, and the Buglers of the 81st Regt.— They then formed a line from Government-House to the Court-House; shortly afterwards, the Bailiff, the Dean, his Majesty's Prevost, and several other Gentlemen, waited upon his Excellency Sir John Colborne. A quarter of an hour had not elapsed when Sir John, accompanied by the above Gentlemen, proceeded to the Royal Court, to join the States of the Island, who were there waiting for his Excellency. As soon as he arrived, the procession began to move in the order which we published in last Monday's Sarnian, and proceeded to the Town-Church, where Prayers suitable to the occasion, were read by the Rev. H. Durand.

The Procession then moved on to the College ground in the same order. Previous to the laying of the Foundation Stone, the Very Rev. the Dean addressed those around him as follows:—

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,

We are at length arrived at that auspicious period, in renovating the constitution of Elizabeth College, which will, I trust, insure the success of our difficult and laborious task, be a noted epoch in the history of this Island, and prove of incalculable advantage to our posterity.

It is notorious, that almost all the Beneficent Endowments in the Kingdom for Latin and Greek, and likewise those of a subordinate nature for Writing and Arithmetic, within the three last centuries, have greatly deviated from their original Statutes and Regulations; and, in many of them, such has been the relaxation of duties as to annihilate the benevolent intentions of the Founders.

Deign thy heavenly grace to all the Constituted Authorities in this Island ; and to all ranks and degrees in the Realm ; that all, in their respective stations, may study and labour to promote the Glory of their Creator, and the present and future welfare of their fellow-creatures, remembering that solemn account which each of us must hereafter render at the tribunal of Christ.

We also humbly pray for the Clergy, whether Bishops, Priests, or Deacons, that by soundness of doctrine and integrity of life, they may in all things promote and adorn the Religion of God our Saviour : that there may never be wanting a succession of persons duly qualified to serve God in Church and State. And we implore thy divine blessing on all establishments devoted to the cultivation of religious and useful learning : on the two English Universities ; and therein for the Colleges of Exeter, Jesus, and Pembroke, at Oxford. We also humbly pray for the good estate of the Royal College of Queen Elizabeth in Guernsey ; and herein for the Governor, Visitors, Directors, Principals, Professors, and all others connected with the Institution ; that both here, and in all other places more immediately dedicated to God's service and man's improvement, true religion and sound learning, with whatsoever else is excellent and useful, may for ever flourish and abound.

We yield Thee our unfeigned thanks for mercies already received, for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life, particularly for the advantages derived from the liberality of Founders and Benefactors,—such as were Queen Elizabeth the Munificent Foundress of this College, King CHARLES the First, and George Morley Bishop of Winchester.

But above all, we offer up our most grateful and devout adoration for that stupendous instance of our heavenly Father's Love, the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus-Christ ; for the means of Grace, and the hope of Glory.

Finally, we bless thy Holy Name, for all thy Servants departed this life in thy faith and fear ; beseeching thee to give us grace so to follow their good examples, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom, through the merits and mediation of the same Jesus-Christ our Lord. AMEN.—

Here follows the Lord's Prayer and Grace.

Sir John Colborne, having deposited the Coins of the Realm, and those of France, &c. as is usual on such occasions, in a vase (we annex below the inscription) which was placed in an excavation formed in the stone for that purpose, made the following speech :—

“ With this part of the ceremony it is gratifying to reflect that the assemblage attracted here evinces the intense interest excited generally through the Island by the efforts of the States to renovate Elizabeth College.

“ Laying the Foundation Stone, although a mere form, is in this instance so closely associated with the use of the intended superstructure, and with the prospect of its being greatly influential in bringing the institution to maturity, that we participate with delight in these ceremonies, and in perfect confidence that our hopes will be realized, we may venture to assert that as the approach to liberal instruction is facilitated, so will the prosperity of the Island increase.

“ A great stimulus to education has been already given by the deliberation and conduct of the States. They have armed the Directors with sufficient power to carry their intentions into execution, and these Guardians of the College and of the parochial and Central Schools, cannot fail in their office, for they will recollect, from what has occurred, that the tree which bears fruit *thinly* must be *invigorated*, and be encircled with fresh mould.

“ The work before us has been retarded by unexpected labour however, we trust that these excavations completed with so much perseverance and success, are emblematical of the industry and steady course that will be pursued by our young friends and by every member of College Elizabeth.”

This speech having been concluded, the parties composing the Procession returned to their several places of destination. The Boys of Elizabeth College were regaled in a most splendid manner, under marquees erected upon the lawn in front of the Government-House; and in the evening, Lady Colborne gave a grand Ball and Supper. The Royal Court and other Gentlemen dined together at Rosetti's rooms, where a sumptuous dinner had been prepared for them. The Douzaines from the Country Parishes dined together at Cole's Hotel. Wine and biscuits

were distributed as refreshments to the Troops, after the Procession, upon the New-Ground; and the Workmen, who labour at the new College, were presented with a good solid dinner, and a hogshead of Wine by the Royal Court. Thus ended a ceremony, which will long be recollect ed in Guernsey, and we are truly happy to add, that no accident occurred, which could throw a gloom over the futurity of this memorable day.

INSCRIPTION.

Anno Salutis Humanae MDCCCXXVI.

Regni GEORGII IV. Mag. Br. et Hib. Reg. F. D. VII.

Profecto Sarnie

Georgio Augusto Pembrochiae et Montisgomerici Comite
Eq. Per.

Instaurata Scholâ Reg. Elizabethae et Amplificata,
Cum Id. in Primis Saaderet V. C. Profecti Vicem
Gerens.

Atque Auctâ Nomine
Collegii Elizabethae Regalis,
Cooptatis undique Praeceptoribus
et

Alumnis intra Biennium CLII Ascitis:
H. V. Collegium Perpetuo Visitantibus

Joanne Colborne, Eq. B. C. Proef. Vicem Gerente,
Et Daniele Francisco Durand, A. M. Decano,
Dirigentibus XIII. Viris

Daniele De Lisle Brock, Arm. Baillivo
E. Le Marchant, Arm. Baill. Loc Ten D. F. Durand,
A. M. Par S. P. P. Rectore.

T. F. De Havilland, Arm. B. Maingy, Arm. D. De Lisle, Arm.
T. Saumarez, Eq.

J. Guille, Arm. J. Carey, Arm. G. Collings, Arm.
T. Brock, A. M. G. J. Chepmell, A. M.
T. Carey, Arm.

Mag. Princip. C. G. Stocker, A. M.

Architecto J. Wilson.

Hic Primus Ædificii Lapis Jactus Est

Ad quod Fundandum et Exstruendum,

Necnon ut Profectus Jam Fundato Exstructoque Large
Suppeterent

Decreto Regis Impetrato,
Conventus

Ordinum Res Summas insulae Administrantium,
Patrocinium Literarum Suscipiendo

Se Posteris Optume Consulturum Esse Censens,

In Regium Opus Regia Cum munificentia

Publicam Pecuniam Lybentissime Suffragiis Erogavit,

Adeo ut Impensis Tanto Instituto Dignissimis

Has Aedes Plus Vice Simplici Ditaverit.

Quod Faustum atque Felix sit Incoepatum

Faxit

D. O. M.

TRANSLATION.

ANNO DOMINI MDCCCXXVI Oct. XIX.

In the viiith year of the reign of his Majesty
GEORGE THE FOURTH,

Of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King, De-
fender of the Faith, &c.

His Excellency the Rt. Hon. GEORGE AUGUSTUS, Earl o
Pembroke and Montgomery, K. G., Governor of Guernsey.

THE SCHOOL OF QUEEN ELIZABETH,

Renovated and enlarged at the suggestion

OF

His Excellency the LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR,

And now called the

ROYAL COLLEGE OF ELIZABETH.

Official Permanent Visitors.

The Lieut.-Governor, Major-General Sir J. COLBORNE, K. C. B.

The Dean, the Very Rev. DANIEL FRANCIS DURAND, M. A.

Directors.

Three by virtue of their office.

Daniel De Lisle Brock, Esq. Bailiff,

Eleazar Le Marchant, Esq. Lieutenant-Bailiff.

Very Rev. D. F. Durand, M. A. Rector of St. Peter-Port.

Seven elected by the States.

John Guille, Esq. Jurat.

James Carey, Esq. Jurat.

Rev. Thomas Brock, M. A., Rector.

Rev. William-John Chepmell, M. A. Rector.

Daniel De Lisle, Esq.

Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Fiott De Havilland,

Bonamy Maingy, Esq.

Three elected by the Lieutenant-Governor.

Lt.-Gen. Sir Thomas Saumarez.

William Collings, Esq. Jurat.

Thomas Carey, Esq.

PRINCIPAL.—Rev. Charles-William Stocker, M. A.

ARCHITECT.—Mr. John Wilson.

This Corner Stone was laid of the new Edifice, to found and erect which, as well as to ensure for it a liberal revenue, THE STATES, having obtained an order from His Majesty in Council, and judging that by the patronage of Literature they should best consult the benefit of posterity, most readily voted munificent grants of public money, proportionate to the magnitude of the object they had at heart.

God grant the undertaking may be prosperous and blessed!

This new School is the building that still stands to this day.



The School of Queen Elizabeth. 1830s.

In 1827 the New School's staff role was as follows;

ELIZABETH COLLEGE.	
<hr/> FOUNDED BY QUEEN ELIZABETH, A.D. 1563. <hr/>	
<hr/> GOVERNOR. His Excellency Gen. the Right Hon. Sir William Keppel, G.C.B.	
PERMANENT VISITORS.	
His Excellency Major-Gen. Sir J. Colborne, K.C.B., Lieut.-Governor.* The very Rev. Daniel Francis Dutand, M.A., Dean.*	
SPECIAL VISITORS	
Are appointed by the King, when deemed expedient.	
DIRECTORS.	
Daniel De Lisle Brock, Esq., Bailiff,* President.	John Guille, Esq.† James Carey, Esq.
Eleazar Le Marchant, Esq., Lieut.-Bailiff*	William Collings, Esq.** The Rev. Thomas Brock, M.A.†
The very Rev. the Dean, as Rector of St. Peter Port. *	The Rev. William John Chepmell, M.A.†
Lieut.-Col. Thomas Fiott De Haviland, Vice-President.	Daniel De Lisle, Esq., Secretary.† Thomas Carey, Esq.**
Lieut.-General Sir Thomas Saumarez.**	Bonamy Maingy, Esq., Treasurer.†
CLERK.—Mr. James Du Port.†	
* By virtue of their office. † Appointed by the State. ** Appointed by the Lieut.-Governor.	

PRINCIPAL.¹

Rev. C. W. Stocker, M.A., late Fellow of St. John's College, Oxford.

VICE-PRINCIPAL.²

Rev. William L. Davies, M.A., late Fellow of St. John's College, Oxford.

Third Classical Master.³ — Edward Simms, B.A., of Wadham College, Oxford.

Classical Assistant.⁴ — Thomas George Kidd, of Cains College, Cambridge.

Master of the Mathematical School.⁵ — M. Jean Gideon René de Joux, of Geneva.

Master of the Upper French School.⁶ — M. Barthélémi Maurice, of the University of Paris.

Master of the Lower French School.⁷ — M. Louis Le Courtois.

Master of the Commercial School.⁸ — Mr. George James Aylmar.

Assistant Writing Master.⁹ — Mr. Charles Gladstains.

Master of Drawing and Surveying.¹⁰ — Mr. Thomas Compton, from the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich.

EXTRA MASTERS.

SPANISH,—Don Ramon Salvato,¹ and Don Raphael Bernabeu.²—
2*l.* 2*s.* per quarter.

ITALIAN,—Signore Gaetano Picozzi.³—3*l.* 3*s.* per quarter.

MUSIC,—Mr. John Adam Keil.⁴—2*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* per quarter.

N.B. The scholars pay extra for their books required at the College.

¹ Appointed June, 1826.
³ Appointed Sept. 1827.

² Appointed Oct. 1827.
⁴ Appointed June, 1826.

The College also had a series of “exhibitions” (grants) associated with it which were awarded to promising or outstanding students.

EXHIBITIONS AND PRIZES.

I. An Exhibition of 30*l.* per annum, for four years, to the best classical scholar, native of the Bailiwick, or son of a native, founded by the Earl of Pembroke, 1826.—Electors: the two Examiners and the Principal.

II. Four Exhibitions of at least 20*l.* per annum, for four years, to the best scholars, not of the Bailiwick; in—1, divinity; 2, classics; 3, modern languages; and 4, mathematics; founded by the masters having boarders.—Electors: the Directors.

III. An exhibition of 20*l.* per annum, for four years, to the best classical and theological scholar, native or not, founded by Admiral Sir James Saumarez, Bart., G.C.B., D.C.L., Vice-Admiral of Great-Britain, etc., etc., 1827.—Electors: the two Examiners and the Principal.

IV. Six annual prizes of 2*l.* 2*s.*, for good conduct, one to each form: established by the Directors, 1826.

V. Five annual prizes of 2*l.* 2*s.* for compositions, in—1, Latin prose; 2, Latin verse; 3, French prose; 4, English prose; and 5, English verse: established by the Directors, 1826.

VI. A prize of 2*l.* 2*s.*, for a translation from Milton into Greek verse: for 1828.

During the year 1827 the tuition fees were listed as shown;

Terms, for day-scholars, including a course of instruction in divinity, history, geography, Hebrew, Greek, Latin, French, English, mathematics, arithmetic and writing, 3*l.* per quarter.—Drawing and surveying, 15*s.* per quarter.

Terms for tuition, to members of the Universities, or other students, in ethics, rhetoric, logic, etc. (including the above subjects), 15*l.* per quarter.

To students who have been scholars, 5*l.* per quarter.

Terms for board, exclusively, 11*l.* 11*s.* per quarter.



Elizabeth College. Early 20th century.