

The Stanton Ford School

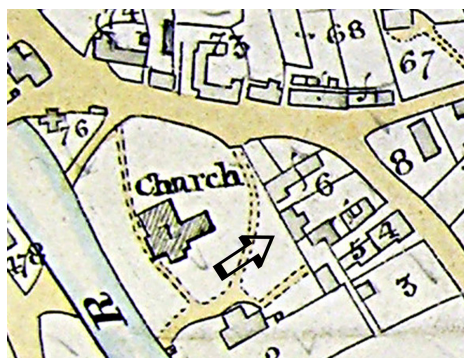
Much the earliest school in Baslow Parish was the endowed or charity school at Stanton Ford. It was set up by the Duke of Rutland some time in the 1620s (approx.) to provide education for four pupils from Baslow including Bubnell and two each from Curbar Calver and Froggatt. It served for over 250 years until it closed down in 1889 – it could not compete with the better education in Baslow and Curbar

The Methodist Sunday School

In 1822 the Methodists, already established in the village, acquired a small plot of land for a purpose-built Sunday School in School Lane. In 1966 it was converted for use as the main Methodist Chapel.

The 1839 National School

The National Society of Education in the Principles of the Church of England was founded in 1811. While it did not build or run schools it helped with finance and expertise. The National School in Baslow opened in 1839 in the present day churchyard, to the left of the main drive into the car park (arrowed on map). After 50 years it was run down, the building was in poor condition and it was about to fail its regular inspection.



1848 Tithe Award Map

The door of the School was preserved and is now the front door of the old headmasters house

There are records of an old school log book. Entries include the following

- 20 Apr 1865 *Small school as parents keep the bigger boys to assist in the gardening*
- 20 May 1865 *urged the point of each child bringing his or her school pence every morning*
- 29 Jan 1866 *The 1st class wrote a letter to a friend on the progress of the Baslow Gas Works*

St Anne's School

In 1876, the village had to decide whether to upgrade the school in the churchyard, or build a new one. At the same time the vicar Rev Stockdale was keen to enlarge the churchyard. Villagers rallied, and the Dukes of Devonshire and Rutland made generous donations. In all about nearly £2000 was raised to build the present St Anne's school and the school house. Initially under the firm hand of Mr. John Matthewman, St Anne's Church School has flourished ever since. A similar school

was founded in Curbar in 1871. The only remains of the old National School is the main door: It is now the front door of the old School House.

Bubnell School for Girls

Mention must also be made of three other private schools in the village. There was a small private school for girls in Bubnell Hall. It opened first in the 1840s. Later it is described as a "A High Class Establishment for Young Ladies" was run by the Caines family. The 1871 census lists sixteen pupils aged ten to sixteen, mainly from the Sheffield and Rotherham area, though one was born in Savannah, U.S.A. It closed in 1898

The Beeches School

Bulmer's History of Derbyshire 1871 mentions a

'High Class Boarding School' where boys are prepared for the Universities, the Public Schools and for Professor or Commercial careers. The house, named 'The Beeches', stands with its own grounds and contains tennis lawns and cricket field and grass covered playground. Principal Frederick Powel F.R.G.S. etc. Nothing more is known about this grand sounding school.

It may well have failed when St Anne's School opened. The Beeches, now rebuilt and converted to flats, is in Church Lane immediately opposite the Rowley's restaurant (the old Price of Wales Hotel).

The Dames School

The last establishment was a Dames School, a sort of kindergarten run by Miss Hibbert in the house now called Orchard Cottage at Over End. There had been plans for a proper Infants School for some time and with the opening of the new school in 1876, she and her pupils moved in. For this reason the new establishment was always referred to as The New Schools. Miss Hibbert continued to teach there for many years.

Calver Mill School

For interest I have included the first school in Calver. It was a mill school, built in the mid 1830s by Horatio Mason, then owner of the Calver Cotton Mill. It provided a basic education, reading based mainly on the bible and writing for children working in the mill but others could attend for a penny a day. It closed when the present school next to Curbar Church was opened in 1871.

The building still stands, recognized by its characteristic clock tower and is now used as barn for the nearby Stocking Farm. The Baslow connection - Horatio Mason is buried with his family in Baslow Churchyard very close to the entrance of the Church Rooms

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