

# The Napier College in Carisbrook Road

## Small Private Schools

According to my analysis of Kelly's 1910 Directory, the later grandiosely named Napier College in Carisbrook Road Road was one of 10 small private educational establishments in Walthamstow. These were all run by women and located in private houses. They were:

- Mrs A Booty's Boys and Girls School at 1, Carisbrook Road.
- Miss Sarah Hall's Boys & Girls School at 10 & 12, Higham Station Avenue.
- Miss Fanny Hickman's Girls School at 31, Handsworth Avenue, Hale End.
- Misses Sarah & Helen Hill Girls School AT 23, Church Hill.
- Miss Bessie Inglis Preparatory School at 35, Priory Avenue
- Miss Eleanor Peplow's School for Girls at 74, Clarendon Road
- Miss Alice Tibbs School at Pembroke House, Grove Road.
- Miss Annie H Tucker's Preparatory School at 74, Upper Walthamstow Road.
- Mrs Sarah Thomas College for Girls at 342, Hoe Street
- Walthamstow Creche (Matron, Mrs Grace Harrison) at 23, East Avenue.
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(*Walthamstow Memories* correspondent John Peters, tells us 'Following their retirement [Booty family] shortly before the outbreak of WWI, a Miss Peplow took charge of the school [Napier College] with the help of three assistants' This must be (Alice) Eleanor Peplow {See above} who, in 1910, was running a school for girls at Clarendon Road) When Charles Booty retired he would have been 78 years old. He died aged 84 years old in Guildford in 1917.

In the 1911 census we find:

### 1911 Census Extract

**Address:** 1, Carisbrooke Road, Walthamstow

Name	Status	Age	Year	Occupation	Birthplace
Charles Abbot Booty	Head	75	1836	Accountant & General Business Agent	Brighton. S Nicholas
Alice Booty	Wife	59	1852	Schoolmistress	Bath
Mary Alice Booty	Dghtr	36	1875	Schoolmistress	Oxford, S Pauls
Emily Alice Booty	Dghtr	29	1882	Schoolmistress	London, Paddington
Lilian Ethel Booty	Dghtr	24	1887	Schoolmistress	London, Paddington
Herbert Ernest Booty	Son	20	1891	Accountant	Walthamstow, St ?xxx

**In 1901, Charles Booty** was living with his family at 1, Carisbrook Road, Walthamstow. His occupation was as a Commercial Traveller. His wife was a schoolmistress. **Mary**, his eldest daughter was a Musician. His daughter **Emily** was a School Mistress and **Lillian**, his youngest daughter was a Teacher. They employed a Domestic Servant.

Charles and Alice Booty appear to have taken over an existing small private school from **Joseph and Alice Evans** who were running a school at this address in 1891. They were both school teachers and lived with their three young children (All born in India) and a Domestic Maid at 1, Carisbrook Road.



flats.

Carisbrook Road was planned in 1879 but doesn't appear in the rate books as occupied until 1884. It therefore seems that the property had been associated with education since sometime between 1884 when it was built and 1891.

Picture left is a present day (Google view) of Charles & Alice School at 1, Carisbrook Road.. Now divided into

## What Did You Need To Know To Run A School

### Charles & Alice Booth's Qualifications

In 1871, nineteen year old Alice Booty nee Smart and her two sisters were working as Assistants to their mother who was a Ladies Outfitter in Brighton . Four years later she married 39 year old, local man Charles Booth.

He seems to have had an interesting and eclectic career, According to the various census information.:

**1861**, he was in Brighton working an Assistant to his Book Seller father.

**1871** he is Working in Oxford as a Photographer employing five assistants.

**1881**, he and Alice are living in Paddington and he is a Traveller of Instruments.

**1891**, he and his family are at Blackhorse Road and he is a Traveller Stationer.

**1901** he is a Commercial Traveller and Alice is a School Mistress.

**1911**, he is an Accountant and General Business Agent and his wife is a School Mistress.

I have given the above information to show that according to the census records neither *Charles nor Alice Booty* had any formal education qualifications at all . This situation was not unique to them but this situation also applied to most of the people involved with the other small private Walthamstow schools.



### Standards of education

In England and Wales, the 1872 Revised code of Regulations laid down Six Standards of Education. These standards did not correspond necessarily to year groups as, in Victorian times, promotion was on merit and many children did not complete all the grades. The standards (See Appendix) covered the three R'S (Reading, Writing and Arithmetic) and set out the standards that pupils should attain. Once a pupil had

finished Standard 1 they could then progress to Standard 2 etc. This created situations where pupils of the same age were often studying different standard levels.

Teaching was mainly by rote, with children learning things parrot fashion and by copying. Emphasis was particularly placed on learning to read and to write. In some areas there was a constant battle between the aim of the school to teach, and the needs of parents who relied on the help of their children, so many pupils did not turn up for lessons, especially at Harvest time. (See Appendix for the Standards)



This system meant that, so long as teachers could teach the required laid down 'standards', they didn't necessarily need to have formal qualifications. In addition to the 3 R's private schools could add extra lessons that they could charge for as an 'extra'. One of the Booty's daughters was a Musician and

Charles Booty claimed to be an accountant and business agent. This would have meant that they could offer extra lessons in music, accountancy and business studies. It is also very likely that they would also provide sewing and cookery lessons for girls etc. Most importantly, they were able to provide individual tuition to small numbers of children as opposed to children attending elementary schools in classes of 50-60 children.



## Why Did People Send Their Children To Private Schools?

When the Charles and Alice Booty family took over an existing private school in c1891, Walthamstow was still suffering from the problem that had been highlighted by the survey carried out in 1877 and which the School Board was trying to address. Essentially, this was because for many years there had been a large shortage of school places in Walthamstow. This wasn't a problem confined to Walthamstow but was the situation throughout England and Wales.

Between 1871 and 1911 the population had grown from 11,092 to 124,580 people! Walthamstow was overwhelmed by the logistic problems caused by this population growth and had failed to address the shortage of school places.

## Acts To Address The Shortage of School Placements

In order to address this situation Parliament passed the 1870 Elementary Education Act that made provision for the elementary education of all children aged 5-13. In order to implement this Act, the country was divided into 150 Educational Districts and each District was required to set up an elected School Board. The role of the School Board was to oversee all schools in their area and to bring them all under some form of supervision.

## A Royal Commission Shows The Problem In Walthamstow

In 1876 a Royal Commission recommended that elementary education for all children aged 5-10 years should be compulsory. Local authorities were required to make returns of the number of children in their area and existing educational provision.



Following this a national census was undertaken in 1877 to determine how many elementary school places were available and how many were needed. This was done by comparing the results of a census of existing school places with the number of children of school age recorded in the census. If there was a shortfall, a School Board for the district would be created who would be responsible for enforcing this Act.

The census showed that lack of elementary school place was particularly severe in Walthamstow. There were 2,665 children aged 5–13 in the parish. 2,175 of those were on the books of elementary schools and 370 were at private schools.

Picture left is St Mary's C of E National School in Offord Road opened in 1866 as an addition to the National School in Vestry Road

## Education Made Compulsory For Children 5-13 Years Old

In 1880 elementary education was made compulsory for all 5-13 year old children. In Walthamstow there were 5 Anglican schools, 5 run by Protestant nonconformists, and 3, including an orphanage and an industrial school, by Roman Catholics.

As a result of the Act, Walthamstow was compelled to form a School Board that that consisted of people elected by the ratepayers (Those who owned property in the area) The school board offered to take over existing schools but only the nonconformist schools accepted.



## The Walthamstow School Board

The new School Board was allowed to set up their own their own board schools or elementary schools and they were empowered to seek loans from the Government for capital money to build schools. This was necessary because they were told by the Education District that they must provide accommodation for an additional 950 children. In order to satisfy this requirement the Walthamstow School Board embarked on a huge building programme to create the necessary schools. In the same way that the Greater London Authority operates today , the School Boards financed themselves by a precept that was added to either the local poor rate or the municipal rate.



However up until 1891, parents were often required to pay for their children to attend school, or at least to supply paper, ink and other requirements, and this could be a real barrier in poor families. However, School Boards would pay the fees of children who were poor, even if they attended Church schools. The School Boards also could make grants to existing Church Schools

**Above a Walthamstow School Board medal awarded for good attendance at school**

The School Board was also responsible for enforcing the requirement for children to attend school. As Walthamstow predominantly still was a rural community and many parents relied on their children's help with work on the land, this was a difficult job for the School Board. This situation is still acknowledged in present times by the long school summer holiday at harvest times



## Widening The Scope Of Education

In 1886 the Cross Commission was set up to 'To inquire into the Elementary Education Acts, England and Wales' and this published its *Final Report of the Commissioners* in 1888. This caused considerable public interest and several of its recommendations were implemented from 1890 onwards. Physical exercises -

gymnastics and 'Swedish drill' - were often included in the curriculum and the Commission were in favour of recognizing a division between elementary and secondary education increasing the number of subjects taught eg: shorthand, horticulture and hygiene to be made 'specific' subjects; and grants to be paid in respect of laundry work, dairy work and housewifery.

### Left Queens Road School

In the last decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century many of the purpose built Elementary schools began to be divided into junior, middle and senior departments, which enabled improvements to be made in the courses of instruction for older pupils.



## Walthamstow School Board Achievements

By 1903 the board had built 13 permanent and 2 temporary schools, providing 16,150 school places. It had established two special schools, a part-time pupil teacher centre, and six evening continuation centres. Three more schools planned by the Board were completed by the new Walthamstow education committee in 1904-6. Two of the Church of England National schools had closed by 1903. The Monoux school, founded as a charity school in 1527, had been reorganized in new premises in the High Street and

was providing secondary education for boys. An Art school had been founded by Walthamstow Literary Institute, a technical institute and secondary day-school by Walthamstow Urban District Council, and a girls high school by private subscription (Walthamstow Girls School known as the Green School)

## The Establishment Of A New Improved Educational System

The first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century saw a plethora of measure affecting education. These included:

- The *Education Act 1902* (Known as the 'Balfour Act') established a system of secondary education that integrated higher grade elementary schools and fee-paying secondary schools. It also abolished the School Boards and established a new system of Local Education Authorities (LEAs) . As a result of the Act there was a massive expansion in the building of secondary schools in the years up to 1914.
- In 1907 a new Elementary Code: improved quality and aims of elementary education. And among other things, the Education (Administrative Provisions) Act 1907 introduced a scholarship/free place system for secondary education and required LEAs to provide medical inspections of elementary school children.
- The Acland Report on the *School Attendance of Children Below the Age of Five* (Board of Education Consultative Committee): in 1908 that made recommendations regarding the provision and content of nursery school education
- Opening of Central schools in 1911.

## The Demise Of Walthamstow's Small Private Schools

By 1911, there were now sufficient free school places for all of Walthamstow's children and only small specialist private schools (Eg: Preparatory schools and 'crammers' or those offering additional child care) could compete with the new purpose built Board schools staffed by trained teachers teaching a range of subjects. Although a few small private schools still continued to survive up until the beginning of WWII, effectively this was the end of them.

Bill Bayliss  
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## APPENDIX

### The Educational Standards Laid Down For School In 1872

#### STANDARD I

##### Reading

Read one of the narratives that comes after monosyllables in an elementary reading book used in the school.

##### Writing

Copy in manuscript handwriting a line of print, and write from dictation a few common words.

**Arithmetic**

Simple addition and subtraction of numbers of not more than four figures, and the multiplication table to multiplication by six.

**STANDARD II****Reading**

Read a short paragraph from an elementary reading book.

**Writing**

Write a sentence from the same book, slowly read once, and then dictated in single words.

**Arithmetic**

The multiplication table, and any simple rule as far as short division.

**STANDARD III****Reading**

Read a short paragraph from a more advanced reading book.

**Writing**

Write a sentence slowly dictated once by a few words at a time, from the same book.  
Long division and compound rules (money).

**STANDARD IV****Reading**

Read a few lines of poetry or prose, at the choice of the inspector.

**Writing**

Write a sentence slowly dictated once, by a few words at a time, from a reading book, such as is used in the first class of the school.

**Arithmetic**

Compound rules (common weights and measures).

**STANDARD V****Reading**

Read a short ordinary paragraph in a newspaper, or other modern narrative.

**Writing**

Another short ordinary paragraph in a newspaper, or other modern narrative, slowly dictated once by a few words at a time.

**Arithmetic**

Practice and bills of parcels.

**STANDARD VI**

**Reading**

Read with fluency and expression.

**Writing**

Write a short theme or letter, or an easy paraphrase.

**Arithmetic**

Proportion and fractions (vulgar and decimal).