

## Private schools in Bexley

### A history of some of Bexley's old private schools

#### **Brampton College, formerly Hope Lodge School**

In the 1860s a certain Miss Waghorn lived at Hope Lodge, next to the old Guy, Earl of Warwick at Welling. The rate book for November 1869 describes the property as a school as well as a house; so we assume that she had just started her school then. She was succeeded by the Cockmans in 1870. According to the Census Enumerator's Returns in the 1871 Census Hope Lodge was occupied by James Cockman, aged 55, a grocer, born at Hayes in Middlesex, his wife, Elizabeth, aged 52, born in London, and described as a schoolmistress, his daughter Elizabeth, aged 18, born in Poplar, described as a teacher, and his son Henry, aged 13, also born in Poplar. There were also four pupils, Anne, Fanny, and Rosa Lamb, aged 13, 12, and 7, whose home was in Rotherhithe, and Annie Thompson, aged 11, from Pimlico. There was one servant, Jane Anderson, aged 15, who came from Bermuda. Presumably there were other pupils who were not boarders.

The rate books show that Mrs. Cockman (whose husband seems to have died in the early 1890s) continued the school until 1895, when the daughter took it over. She moved it to No. 70 Crook Log, Bexleyheath, in 1896. She was succeeded by Miss Amos, who was later followed by Miss Barnes. In 1929 Mr. and Mrs. Kent acquired it. They moved to 24 Brampton Road in 1936 and changed the school's name from Hope Lodge School to Brampton College. Their daughter became headmistress in 1952.

#### **Cottingham College and University School**

These two establishments claimed to have been founded in 1889.

It seems that the original school was at Plumstead, according to a report in the Bexleyheath Observer of 17 May 1962 and that it was transferred to 24 Crook Log, Bexleyheath in 1929 under Mr. L.J. Cottingham. It was then known as Cottingham College. The earliest local reference to it is in the 1929 rate book.

By 1931 the school also occupied a house called "Mardale" in Brampton Road but in that year it was moved to No. 66 Crook Log, "Clovelly". We have no rate books for years later than 1931 and it is impossible to fix the date or cause of the division of the school into two parts, Cottingham College and University School. It is known that in 1936 University School occupied Nos. 64 and 66 Crook Log, from correspondence between estate agents and the Clerk to the Bexley Urban District Council. In 1938 the Bexley local handbook gave the address of Cottingham Commercial College as 54 Crook Log, "Menindic". Possibly a new principal divided the school into a grammar section (University School) and a commercial section (Cottingham).

University School moved in 1937 to new premises in Brampton Road. Both schools were bombed out in 1940. University School moved to 232 Upton Road South and closed in 1988.

### **Upton College**

The Bexley local directory of 1920 carried an advertisement for Upton College, stating that it had been founded in 1910. Its address then was 323 Broadway, on the corner of Upton Road. It was a day and boarding school, preparing pupils for the Oxford Locals. By 1934 it had been transferred to no. 62 Crook Log, "Leinster House".

It was bombed out in 1940.