

The King's School, Grantham

An Outline History



12. Post World War I and Alexander James Tate

Alexander James Tate 1917 to 1931 Second Masters W.S.McVie; William Rowell

The task of recovery from the war, as well as from the financial problems, was left to **Alexander Tate** and he proved himself well capable of coping.

The regulations of 1907 had required that free places were to be made available for pupils from public elementary schools. The proportion set was "at least 25% of the previous years total entry". This was the "Scholarship" so well remembered by older Old Granthamians and that was replaced by the "11+" after the Second World War.

Alexander Tate's success can be measured by the increase in numbers to over 200 in his first year. Many of these were "scholarship boys" and their proportion grew until, roughly, half of the intake was selected by scholarship. The fear first voiced in 1904 that these boys would lower the standard in Grammar Schools was ill founded and the top classes became preponderantly scholarship boys.

It was becoming clear, and was confirmed by later developments, that **Alexander Tate** was an exceptionally able Head Master. He had **William Dawson's** organisational ability without the flamboyance and was as able to attract more pupils into the school but on a sounder basis than **William Dawson**.

In 1919 **Sedgebrook School** closed and many pupils and some teachers moved to this school, including **George Wooler Preston** who had been sacked in 1899 (see poster 10). The school population grew again with a total exceeding 300.

The Governors looked again at the Vicarage Garden with an idea of building but the Church Commissioners would have none of it. The solution came with the purchase of a World War I army hut that was large enough to provide five classrooms and several smaller rooms. It was a "ten year" stopgap, which stayed for 48 years. In addition the Old School was divided into three classrooms by curtains.

Finances were again tight. Inflation was leading to the late 1920s Stock Market Crash and school teachers' salaries were cut by 5%. **Alexander Tate** took a £100 cut in salary for three years to ease the burden on the foundation.

The school, however, flourished. The **O.T.C.** and its band held parades on Armistice Day and regularly on Church Parades. The rugby teams played many of the schools that were still opponents in the 21st century. In 1924 **Founders' Day** was inaugurated. The **bicentenary of Newton's death** was commemorated in 1927 and a year later there were celebrations of the **School's Quatercentenary**.

In February of 1931 the school and the town were shocked and dismayed to hear the announcement that **Alexander Tate** had died suddenly.

Post 1931 Head masters and deputies

Head Masters

Charles Bispham	1931 to 1939
William J Huggins	1939 to 1958
Gerald A Goodban	1959 to 1972
Stanley S M Nussey	1972
Ray G W Fardon	1972 to 1981
Gerald C Dyer	1982
Derek Lee	1983 to 1995
Stephen Howarth	1995 ~

Deputy Head Masters

William Rowell	1932 to 1948
Harry F Marks	1948 to 1961
Stanley S M Nussey	1962 to 1978 except 1972
Gerald C Dyer	1978 to 2001 except 1982
John Stenson	1982
Alan Farmilo	1988 ~
Mike Reading	2001 to 2003
Janet Phelan	2004 ~