



BURY

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

During Founders' Day we give thanks to those people who supported our School, and a list of names is read out in the Founders' Day services:

Henry Bury, Roger Kay, James Wood, Geoffrey Earl Of Derby, Edward Hornby, Sarah Openshaw, Thomas Haworth, Esther, Harriet And Susannah Ramsbottom, Henry Webb, Frederick Earl Of Derby, Henry Whitehead, Thomas Kay, Edward And John Mellor, John Barlow, Benjamin Ormerod, Charles Hill, Arthur Collins, Mary Bradley, Gladys Heywood, Harry Walton, James Newton, Alfred Peacock, Elizabeth Farrow, Harry Farrar, Percy Howarth.

We feel it important to share the history and relevance of these important benefactors.

Henry Bury

Henry Bury is the first name read out in the Founders' Day list of benefactors; the school we know, and love would not exist if not for him. The Reverend Henry Bury was a native of the town and was educated at Manchester Grammar School under James Bateson. It is believed he had probably been a curate school master, although he possessed considerable property. In 1634, at the age of 89, Henry Bury made a will in which he left money towards providing a Master (or teacher) for a free Grammar School for the Parish of Bury. At that time, it is likely that there was perhaps only one school master and education was probably focussed on teaching basic skills of reading and writing. It is clear that this endowment was for a school which already existed, and which was founded in around 1570 – as we know, this year is the School's 455th anniversary.

Roger Kay

Most of our community will be familiar with the Roger Kay Hall, the large central assembly hall on the Senior Girls' site. The Reverend Roger Kay was a former pupil, born in the parish of Bury in 1663 and who was a rector in Wiltshire for many years. When the School experienced a difficult period in the early 18th Century it was saved by his actions. He bequeathed funds to the school in 1726, and the re-founded school was opened four years later, on 6th May 1730.

For this reason, Roger Kay is sometimes known as the 'refounder' of the School, in contrast to Henry Bury who is referred to as the Schools' founder. Bury Grammar School at this time was still a school for boys only, but Reverend Roger Kay also recognised the importance of girls' education and left money specifically for this purpose.

The 6th of May was a significant date for the Reverend, being the date his old Cambridge College, St John's, celebrated their own Founders' Day and Bury Grammar School now celebrates its Founders' Day on the Friday nearest to 6 May each year. One of the highlights of the school year in normal times is the procession from the School to the Parish Church, where a special service is held. Reverend Roger Kay is believed to be buried under the pulpit of the Parish Church, which is a memorial to him.

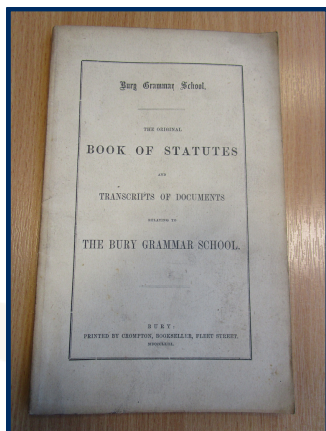
Earl of Derby

There has been links between the Derby family and the School ever since its founding 450 years ago in around 1570. Edward Stanley, the third Earl of Derby, who was born in 1509 and partly brought up by Henry the Eighth, gave the land on which the School was originally built. He is known as one of the three founders of the school. More recently, the sixteenth Earl of Derby gave the School the land on which it is now built and opened the Boys' School in 1903; his son, The Honourable Arthur Stanley, opened the Girls' School in 1906 and the Roger Kay Hall a year later. In 2008 his grandson, Lord Derby, returned to open the new Kindergarten school.

Female benefactors

7 of the names in the list of benefactors are female. In the late 19th Century two of these, **Miss Sarah Openshaw** and **Miss Esther Ramsbottom** gave money to the school to fund scholarships. **Miss Sarah Openshaw**, of Irwell House, Bury, gave £100 to found a Scholarship, to be called the "John Openshaw Scholarship," in memory of her father, and in 1894 this scholarship was augmented by a further gift of £100. **Miss Esther Ramsbottom's** donation of £50 was for a scholarship for pupils in the Girls' School and was known as the Ramsbottom Scholarship. The final female benefactor in the list is **Elizabeth Farrow**; it is believed that she was a former pupil, member of Staff and possibly the first Head of the Preparatory department. She retired in 1950 and left funds for the school.

OUR FOUNDERS AND BENEFACTORS



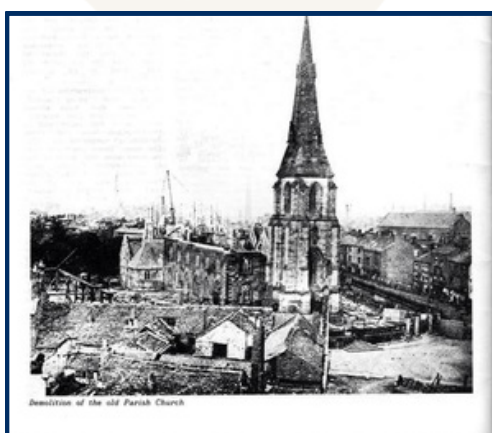
A true copy of the 'Original Book of Statutes related to The Bury Grammar School



The pulpit was given in memory of the Reverend Roger Kay, by John Whitehead, father of a benefactor of The School.



The original portrait of Rev. Roger Kay who re-founded Bury Grammar School in 1726, was given to the School by a descendent Thomas Nuttall.



The old Parish Church of Bury which was demolished and replaced by the present Victorian building which was consecrated in 1876. There has been a church on this site since Medieval Times.



The Oak Chest and writing desk dated 1727 – a historic school item belonging to the School's Founder, still in School.



The plaque is on the pulpit in Bury Parish Church - 'To the glory of God and in memory of the Rev. Roger Kay, MA'