

**St George's School,  
Roundhay, circa 1880-1917**

© by Neville Hurworth

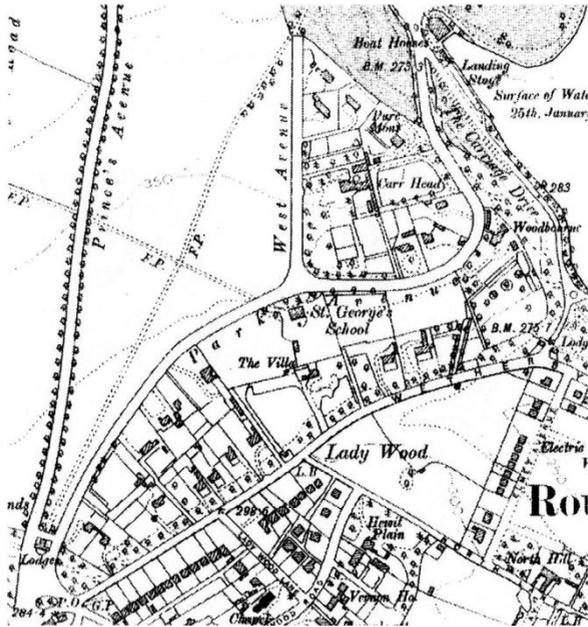
After the Corporation of Leeds bought the Roundhay Park Estate in the early 1870s, it was their intention to sell off the surplus land for exclusive villa sites, and in 1876 the land was sold which became the Park Avenue and West Avenue developments. The Corporation laid down stringent conditions as to what could be built there.

William Tunstall, a prosperous Leeds coal merchant, bought Lot 10 in this sale, just over two acres of land near where West Avenue joins Park Avenue. In 1879 Tunstall asked Leeds Corporation for permission to build a school on his plot but his request was turned down, nor could he build a house on it for use as a school.

However, the 1881 census, barely two years later, lists a building as 'High School' with schoolmaster, Theodore P. Brocklehurst, and a few boarding scholars. Its position in the census leaves little doubt that this was built on Tunstall's plot in Park Avenue. Theodore Percy Brocklehurst continued to run the school until the end of the 1880s when he left for London to train in holy orders. For many years in the early 1900s he was vicar at Giggleswick Parish Church.

The 1891 census lists the school as 'St George's School' and the new headmaster was the Reverend Frederick Edward Crick MA. He was one of three brothers, Cambridge graduates, whose careers followed similar paths in teaching or in holy orders. The school had expanded slightly with a few more boarders listed in the census. There was also a school matron, a teacher with a BA degree, and a German assistant master, Dr. Goebz, who taught music and foreign languages. Crick left Roundhay with his family in 1893 to become the vicar of St Mary's Church at Litton Cheney.

The next headmaster was Arthur Sladen Davis, a man of local origins, son of the Reverend Thomas Davis, who was the vicar of Roundhay St John's Church for 48 years before his death in 1887. Whites Directory of Leeds for 1894 has the following entry, 'Davis, A. S., mixed boarding school, The High School, Roundhay village', interestingly reverting to the earlier name for the school. Some



**OS Map of 1909 showing the site of St George's School. Crown Copyright.**



**20A Park Avenue (2011), formerly St George's School circa 1880-1911.**

later Directories refer to the school as 'St. George's High School.'

Those with a special interest in the Duchess of Cambridge, the former Kate Middleton, may already know that she is a direct descendant of the Reverend Thomas Davis. Her paternal grandfather was Peter Francis Middleton. Harriet Albina Lupton, his maternal grandmother, was Arthur Sladen Davis' sister. After the Reverend Thomas Davis died, his wife, Christiana Maria Davis, Arthur's mother, lived with Arthur until her death at St George's School in 1899.

The photograph on the next page taken in 1905 shows Arthur Sladen Davis outside the school front door (the porch is still a pleasant feature of the house) with boy pupils most of whom lived locally and were day scholars. We are fortunate to have the names for many of the people in the picture.

In the centre section of the photograph (extracted and magnified below the main photograph) we can see another teacher, Stewart Dalrymple Crawford BA, whose sister, Rose, was married to A S Davis.

It is tempting to conclude that Mr Crawford and the boy 'Crawford' on the front row were father and son but this is not likely. Crawford had married Florence Jefferson in Northallerton, in 1898, and the 1901 census shows the two of them in a house in Ripon which they ran as a school. There were also two boarders and a servant living with them but no baby. No-one else was listed.

The boy with the boater hat was Christopher Swayne, son of the vicar of St Aidan's Church. His mother was a daughter of James Kitson of Elmete Hall. The angelic-looking boy, 'Lister', sitting between A S Davis and 'Mr Jones', was Edgar B. Lister. His family lived at 'Woodbourne' in Park Avenue, near neighbours of A S Davis. The house has gone but Woodbourne lodge still exists.

'Ives', the boy looking over A S Davis' shoulder and above Lister was almost certainly, Derrick Ives, who was tragically lost in WW1 when his submarine H10 sailed off and never returned. A few years later, his Ives family lived at St George's School and renamed it 'Greystones' (see Valerie Ives' article 'They Died in the Service of Their Country' in Oak Leaves Book One for further details).



**Masters and boys at St George's School in 1905.**





**Mixed class with teachers at St George's School in 1907.**

Charles Athelstane Lupton (C A Lupton), next to 'Crawford' was from the Lupton family whose businesses and many years of public service are still well-known in the town today. Many years later, he wrote about them in his book 'The Lupton Family in Leeds' (Wm. Harrison & Son, (Ripon) Ltd. 1965). He is also in the second photograph which shows a mixed class in 1907, at the end of the back row, far right.

The second girl to the left of him was 'D. Ives', probably Dorothy Ives, Derrick Ives' sister. The angelic face of Edgar B. Lister appears again, - the boy in the centre of the front row. Of the two ladies in white in the centre of the photograph, 'E.D.' on the right, was probably Elsie Davis, A S Davis' daughter who was also a teacher at the school.

The school had its own song. C A Lupton says it was 'an inspiring record of... when saints and dragons flourished in full robustness.' Sports days were happy events in the school calendar. A programme for a sports day in 1907 has survived. It lists the competitors and any handicaps imposed on them. Prizes were presented by parents of the pupils and well-wishers.

Some of the prizes were quite valuable, e.g. a silver ink pot was presented by a 'Mrs. Ross' as first prize for the 100 yards race for the under twelves. Was she the mother of 'W. Ross' who competed in the race and who also won the batting prize, a cricket bat presented by 'S. Sykes Esq.'? Rather surprisingly to us in our modern times perhaps, there was a 'Sewing on a Button Race'. Eighteen names were listed in the programme to compete for a pocket case (boy's first prize) and a silver pencil (girl's first prize), both presented by a 'Mrs. Scott-Stanley'. There were only three in the Open High Jump competing for a clock presented by 'H. Lupton', who was probably Hugh Lupton, C A Lupton's father.

A S Davis was an accomplished student. He graduated at Cambridge University with a first class honours degree in mathematics. Before coming to St George's School, he taught at Leeds Grammar School and Cheltenham College. In C A Lupton's opinion, Arthur and his daughter Elsie were good teachers to 'those who wanted to learn' but he thought that Arthur was 'really too kind and not a strict disciplinarian.'

Arthur certainly comes over as a kind, avuncular figure in the photograph of 1905, but his brother-in-law, S D Crawford, on his left, was quite a different person, it seems. According to C A Lupton, Crawford had a temper to match his red hair and regularly used his cane liberally and indiscriminately in class.

S D Crawford had lived in a teaching environment all his life up to this point. His father, the Reverend John Robert Crawford MA, an Oxford graduate, was born in China in about 1817. In 1850 he became the twentieth headmaster of the 16<sup>th</sup> century King Edward the Sixth Grammar School at Great Berkhamstead, Herts. When he died while still a young man in 1863, the younger members of his family were sent away to boarding schools for orphans of clergymen.

His wife returned to her hometown of Stratford-on-Avon, which is where she was living at the time of the 1871 census with a servant and her son S D Crawford. He was only 16, but even then he was a teacher - an 'assistant master'. There followed many years teaching at various schools during which he found time to graduate from Trinity College Dublin with a BA. He ran St George's School with A S Davis from about 1902 to 1907.



**The house at the junction of Street Lane  
and Park View Crescent which was St  
George's School, circa 1911-1917.**

It seems that S D Crawford was finally able to take off his mortar board and put away his cane. The Probate Calendar Index shows that when he died in 1919 'the Reverend Stewart Dalrymple Crawford' was living at Hawes Vicarage. Perhaps in his final years, his angry spirit found some peace in holy orders.

In about 1911, A S Davis moved to new premises. The house on the corner of Street Lane and Park View Crescent became St George's School for a few years until it finally closed towards the end of WW1. A S Davis left Roundhay and died in Worcester, his father's birth place, in 1927.

**Acknowledgement**

I would like to thank Joan Newiss for allowing me to copy the two photographs of the teachers and pupils of St George's School and the sports day programme. She also kindly loaned me a copy of C A Lupton's book on his family for which I am also grateful.