

A Schoolboy's life at Uppingham in Victorian times

by
Peter Flower

A Schoolboy's life at Uppingham in Victorian times

Uppingham's growth and prosperity in the late 19th century owed much to Edward Thring's vision to turn the small, local grammar school into a national public school. The huge increase of pupils from c30 in 1853 when he took over, to c300 in 1887 when he died, had a huge impact on the life of the town.

The town had 2,000 inhabitants when he arrived. They were a mix of gentry, professionals, tradesmen, shopkeepers and agricultural workers. On his death the town had increased to 3,000 with teaching and ancillary staff from the school adding to the social mix.

Much has been written about Thring as an innovative Headmaster, but little about the life of an ordinary boy at the school and what life was like living in this small market town. This article gives an insight for one such pupil - Reginald Grove, the son of a country doctor, whose home was in St Ives, Huntingdonshire, a market town similar to Uppingham.

During term time, Reginald boarded at Redgate on the London Road and kept a diary during the years he was at the school.



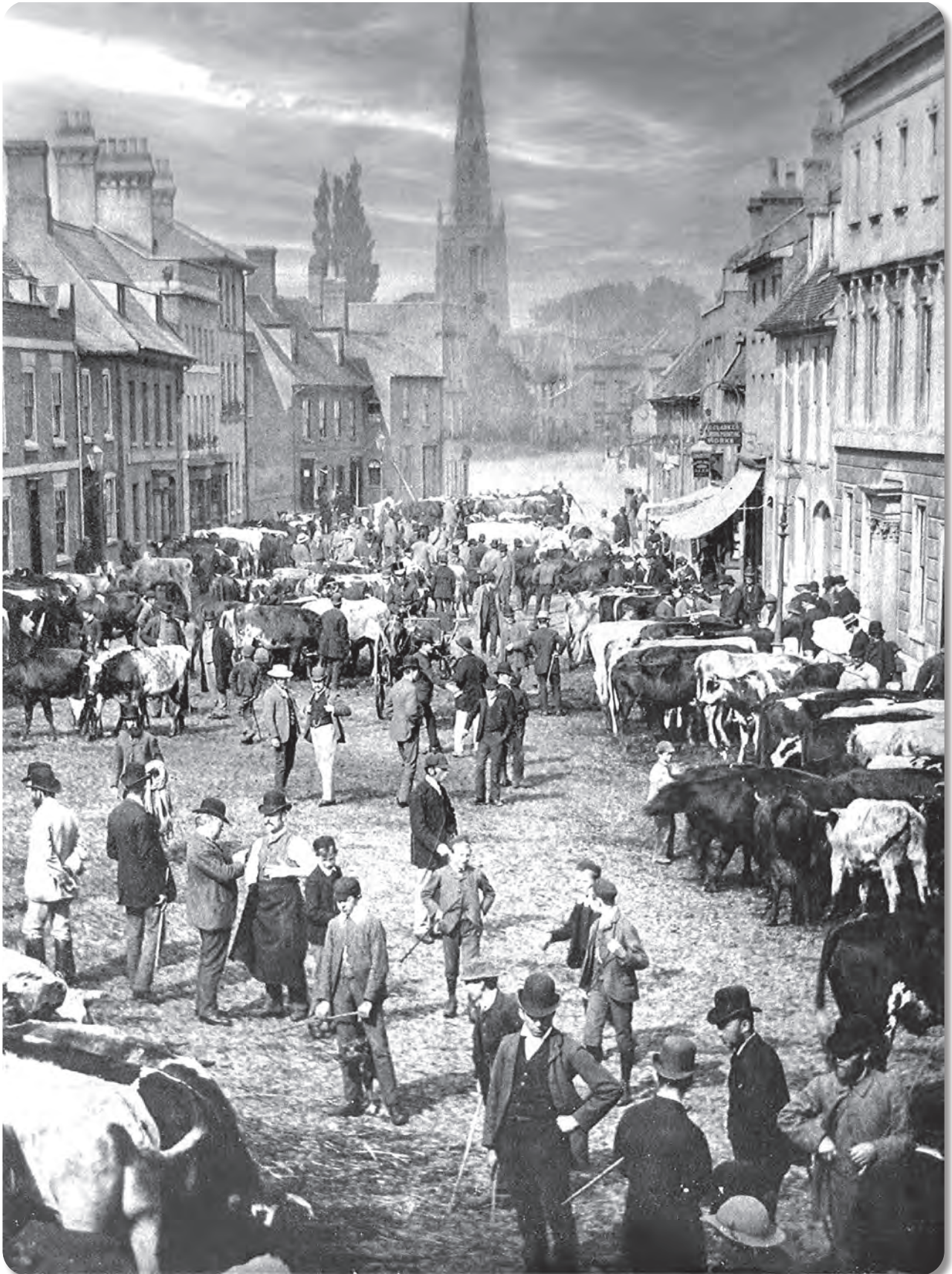
Reginald Grove

A tale of two market towns

Reginald arrived in the Autumn Term of 1883 aged fourteen. The market square, bordered by the Parish Church and the Falcon Inn, was the main focal point of the town and a market was held on Wednesdays, and annual fairs at the beginning of March and July.

Reginald's home, until his family moved half a mile away to a larger house two years before he went to Uppingham, fronted on to the market at St Ives where every Monday a bustling livestock market was held. There were also two annual Fairs held on Whit Monday and October 11th which meant that St Ives was a thriving hub for the local rural economy, like Uppingham. By the middle of the 19th century, it was said that St Ives was the second most important livestock market in England, after Smithfield Market in London. Cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and horses were sold in the streets on market day.

Cattle were sold right outside Dr Grove's front door in a street called The Bullock Market. Reginald and his family went to sleep on Sunday evenings to the sound of lowing cattle across the river awaiting being moved to market very early the next morning. There was excitement for the Grove children when the household woke up very early on Mondays to the deafening noise of bleating sheep, pigs, sheep and poultry and the cries of drovers, graziers, and farmers as their stock was driven past their house. Added to this cacophony were the shouts of the owners hawking their stock, and livestock buyers bargaining over the price.



St Ives - Photo with Permission of The Norris Museum, St Ives.

The Bullock Market was paved with large cobbles and lined with wooden rails to keep the cattle off the pavement although there were openings to allow pedestrians to cross the road.

In winter, sales began by torch light and fat stock sales were completed by 6.00am. The stench on market day was foul; the dung spread across the roads and a huge clean-up was needed as the evening drew in and the day's business came to an end; this was then when the inns and public houses nearby did good business as the traders relaxed after a busy day. It was similar at Uppingham each Wednesday, although the market was not as large.

Howard Candler, a master appointed by Edward Thring twenty years before Reginald's time, wrote in the School Magazine in 1913, how he got down from the omnibus having come by train from the station at Manton:

'I alighted at the Falcon Inn from the Manton bus. The Uppingham of old days was more picturesque than it is now but it was ill-drained, dirty, with cobbled streets and old-fashioned thatched houses and cottages. The rambling street of a painter rather than an in-dweller. On market days the evil smelling street was crowded with pens of sheep, and cattle were attached to hooks in the house walls, appropriating such pavement as there was. Sometimes they escaped; a cow had once thrust its head through the window of one of the school classrooms in an attempt to join in, and another had chased a boy through part of the school, cornering and injuring him.'

One of Reginald's near contemporaries, John Graham, as an adult, described Uppingham when he was at the school as *"brisker and more busy as the carriages and pairs brought the residents of the countryside to do a livelier trade than now - and strings of hunters clattered through at early morning exercise; moreover, the market day was a day with plenty of cattle and sheep, clusters of hearty farmers with their womankind ready to be lured by adventurous cheap-jacks and vendors of crockery and the like.*

The countryside around the town was idyllic: The peace of the rolling pastures, the wide undulating valleys, and the warmth of its rich red soil, dotted with villages and homesteads of mellow tawny stone gave it a charm that was then undisturbed by an age of cheap petrol and still cheaper press'.

To the south lay the Welland river which was not suitable for rowing (and too far away) but, occasionally, it did provide skating when the river flooded and the weather was cold enough.

The Kelly's 1881 Directory for Leicester and Rutland described Uppingham as a town with *'one long street running from east to west containing some good houses, shops and inns; it is paved and lighted with gas'*. Most of the houses in the centre of the town were 18th or 19th century and built of sandstone.



High Street West, Uppingham 1861 - With Permission of Uppingham School Archives

There was a Post, Telegraph, and Money-Order office in the High Street which was well used by the boys and staff, and like St Ives, the town had banks, a County Court, which met at the Falcon Inn, every other month, a Police Station (two cells plus an apartment for the Police Inspector) a local newspaper - the Uppingham Gazette, published weekly.

Like St Ives, Uppingham had a Workhouse, (or Union) on the Leicester Road, built in 1836 which could house 155 -170 inmates or 'paupers'.

The streets were cobbled and these remained until flagstones were laid in 1892 after Reginald had left. The main street was lit by gas¹ in cast iron lamp posts and was further improved by new lights with handsome cast-iron pillars in 1860. Electricity only came later. Henry Walker, a pupil who joined just after Reginald left, remembered that it was only in 1894 that an electric light was installed in his house, Constables, which was run by an 'oil engine'. This also powered electricity through a cable to another nearby house, Meadhurst.

Given the similarity to his home in St Ives, Reginald felt very much at home!

But a major difference was that Uppingham was 500 feet above sea level. This elevation gave it a '*braceful, healthful air*' according to Sir George Parkin, Thring's biographer. In contrast, St Ives, being on the edge of the Fens, was at sea level.

Buildings and bells

Another difference between St Ives and Uppingham was the school buildings which, by Reginald's time, had begun to dominate the town. Kelly's Directory stated that the school had twelve boarding houses², and 300 boarders, exclusive of the Lower School. The Lower School³ was run separately to the public school but acted as a 'feeder' to it.

'Each boy is allowed a study to himself and a sleeping compartment properly furnished; and the number of boys in each class is kept down to an average of 25 throughout the school and in consequence of this the school has attained its present rank and size having steadily advanced as these facts became gradually known'.⁴

Not evident to the eye, but heard across the length and breadth of the town, were the bells that rang out throughout the day. There were the hand bells rung in each house to wake the boys up, the bell above the Elizabethan School Room tolling the beginning and end of each school period, the School Chapel bell that rang on Sunday mornings, and the hourly chime of the Parish Church bell. And there was also the peel of bells that rang out from the Parish Church for a celebration such as a wedding and the Queen's Jubilee in 1887. And then there was the solemn toll of the muffled church bell for a funeral. That was the last sound that Reginald heard as he left the town after Thring's funeral in October 1887.

Railways

A further difference between the two market towns was that Uppingham lacked a railway station until after Thring's death. In contrast, St Ives had a thriving station, serviced by the Great Eastern Railway and the East Midland line which, in 1887, had seven waiting rooms! There was no shortage of potential links at Uppingham with nearby stations for the London and North Western Line as well as the Midlands Railway but the steep gradients to the town made a link prohibitively expensive to construct. There were two railway stations in villages near to the town; one was at Manton opened in 1848 which was four miles away and the other at Seaton, just three miles away opened in 1851.

By the time Reginald came, an omnibus ran from Manton station three times a day for the journey to the Falcon Inn⁵ which acted as the terminus. The White Hart Inn acted as the terminus for Seaton station leaving three times a day too. Reginald used both stations depending on the rail route that he took from and to St Ives.

1 A Gas Works had been built on the Stockerston Road in 1839 and by the 1860's gas was used in most of the larger houses to light the homes although the supply was not always reliable. [Uppingham School Magazine 1885]

2 The houses in existence in 1883 were the following: The Red House (Revd Compton); Lorne House (Revd Campbell); 'Mr Constables' House (Revd Tuck); West Deyne (Revd Mullins); Brooklands (Revd Skrine); Highfield (Mr Cobb); Mr S.J. Thring's House (Mr d'A Barnard); West Bank (Mr Perry); School House (Revd Thring); Redgate (Revd Christian) and The Lodge (Mr Haslam). [Uppingham School Roll 1905]. In fact, Reginald referred to some houses by the name of their House Master such 'Tucks'.

3 The Lower School was housed in 'Springfield' in what is now called 'The Lodge' on the Stockerston Road.

4 Today there are fifteen boarding houses but each accommodates many more boarders than in Thring's time. There are now nearly 800 boys and girls at the school.

5 The Falcon was sometimes referred to as a 'hotel'.

Poverty and faith

There was a degree of poverty in both towns and surrounding areas due to the dependency of much of the population on the agricultural prosperity, or lack of it, of the surrounding area.

Like St Ives, besides its parish church, Uppingham had a number of nonconformist congregations – Bethesda,⁶ Congregational, Independent and Wesleyan chapels. These faith communities were in the forefront of helping those in need.

In St Ives the ladies of the parish church ran a soup kitchen supported by the local tradesmen who gave fresh produce. Such was the need in St Ives that at the opposite side of the town a second kitchen was set up run by the Town Poor Relief Committee.

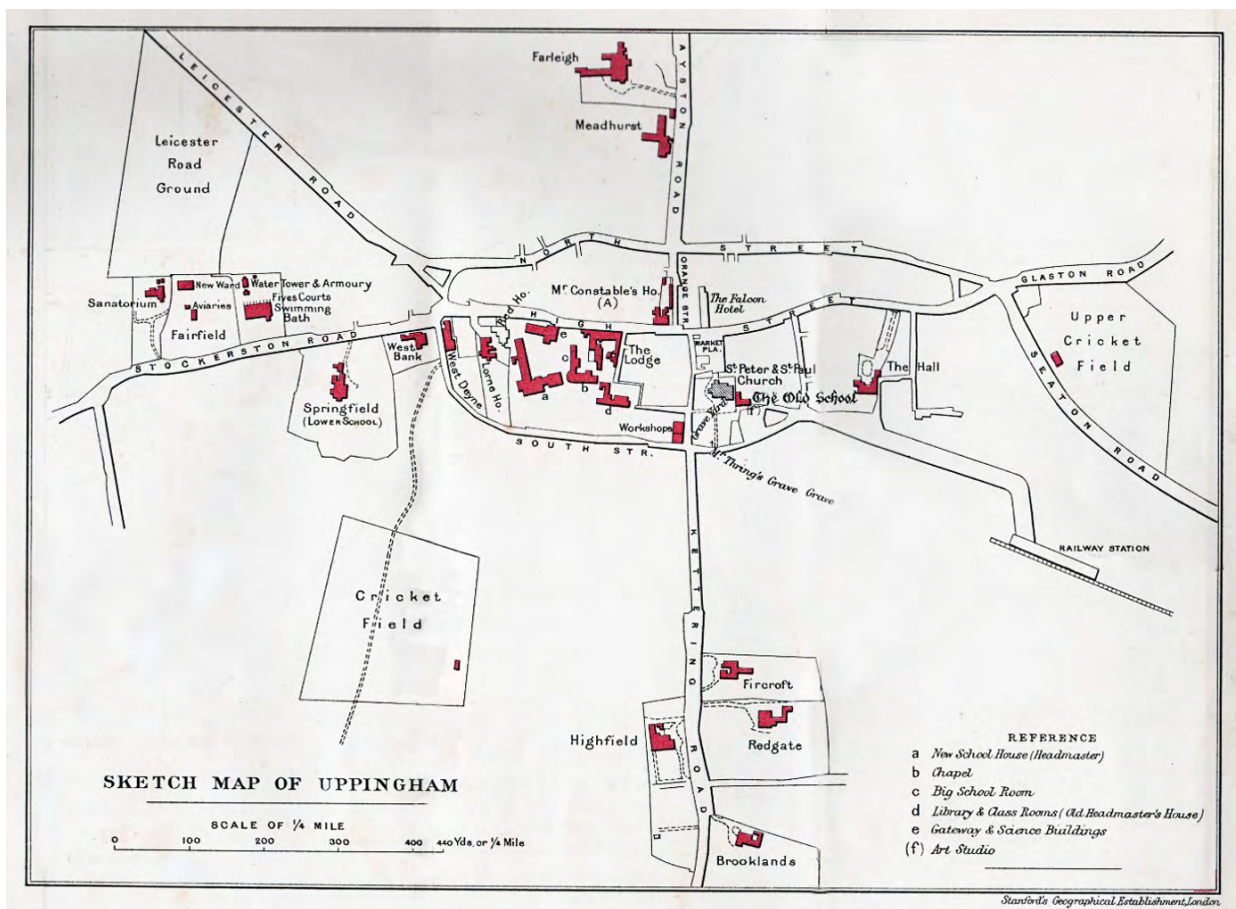
Henry Walker noted in his Memoirs that the wives of some Housemasters '*kindly had an extra quantity of soup made on Fridays and ...a large number of the poorer women came regularly after the house dinner was over.*'

Uppingham's prosperity in the early and mid-19th century was dependent on local agriculture. By the end of the century, it was becoming increasingly dependent on the school for its economy through the employment it provided and the income for the shops and trades which supplied its needs.

This was the town that Reginald grew to know and love during his four years as a pupil and boarder.

Boarding Houses

Unlike some of the major public schools founded in the mid-nineteenth century, Uppingham school was a dispersed community. It did not have a single site with class rooms and a central dining hall unlike, for instance Rugby. The hub of the school, when Reginald arrived in 1883, was the Schoolroom built in 1863 and a Chapel built two years later. A few hundred yards away, next to the Parish Church, was the Old School Room dating back to Elizabethan times which was still used.



1906 Map of Uppingham School Properties - With permission of Uppingham School Archives

⁶ This was a Strict and Particular Baptist congregation ('strict,' meaning their practice of 'restricted communion' to those who have been baptized as adults as believers).

Beside the Chapel and School Room there was a Sanatorium and Swimming Baths on the Stockerston Road which added to the imposing buildings used by the school.

Most of the houses were situated along the western part of the High Street, but they also spread out for some distance along the main east-west road through the town.

There were four other houses about half a mile from the rest, on Red Hill to the south. Brooklands, Fir croft (as spelt then), Highfield and Redgate which were called the 'Hill Houses'.

Generally, the boarding houses were built individually by each housemaster and reflected his own personality and requirements. Every house had its own dining hall and dormitories; and Thring insisted that each boy had his own individual study.

Redgate

Redgate was built in 1872/3. It was an impressive red bricked building built in the 'Gothic Revival' style to reflect the grandeur of a small priory or grange; this was to enhance the school's reputation as a leading public school.



Redgate 1887 - Photo with permission of Uppingham School Archives

Redgate had a 'private' wing for the Housemaster and his family and servants and a separate part for the boarders. This comprised a dining hall, which was also used for lessons, kitchens, wash rooms and lavatories, as well as small studies for each boy and two dormitories. Because it had been purpose built to house thirty boarders, the facilities were much better than some other Houses in the School, such as the Red House in the town centre, which had been adapted for boarding purposes.

Redgate was closed as a house for the school in 1940 due to plummeting school numbers. Sadly, its original glory faded and the boys' side was pulled down in the early 1960's, as was the third storey of the private side. The house has now been restored by its present owner.

When Reginald joined the school Revd George Christian had been the housemaster since 1874 assisted by his wife, Mary. Two of her younger brothers, Robert and Cecil Hale were both pupils at West Deyne. Christian had joined the school in 1869 and became the Housemaster of Fir croft from 1871-73 before taking over Redgate. He was also the school chaplain.



*Redgate Boys - Photo with Permission of Uppingham School Archives
Reginald is standing at the back row, fourth from the right. The date is 1886*

A large house, it needed many servants to run it, most of whom lived in. Besides thirty-one boarders, in 1881 there was a Matron, Miss Mary Ann Fry, who was also designated in the National Census as a Domestic Servant. Ten years later she was carrying out similar duties at Clifton College. The Cook was 28 year old Sarah Ann Swarm, the Parlour Maid, 27 year old Sophie Charles and there were three teenage Housemaids and one Kitchen Maid - a total of seven. Interestingly, only one of the staff had been born in Uppingham. Besides the kitchen maid who was born in South Luffenham, the others were from further afield. Those who did not live in, but were on the household staff included a groom, a stable boy and a gardener - a total of ten. Each boarding house was a substantial employer in the town.

As there were young women in each house, whether maids, laundry or kitchen hands, they often became the object of the boy's attention. One of Reginald's friends in Redgate, Arthur Heald, was a praepostor [prefect] with him in his last year, and he fell for a 'Miss Elliot'. She was not one of the house staff and what her relationship was to Revd and Mrs Christian is unclear. Probably she was a Nursery Nurse for the Christians' children or maybe a relative. She and Heald were *'sweet on each other'*.

Nothing more was recorded so probably it was a relationship that fizzled out as quickly as it had begun.

Local Tradesmen

The boys had their main meal after morning school at 1.30pm at each house. This was a cooked meal of meat or fish with vegetables followed by a pudding. The local tradesmen did a roaring trade in supplying the produce for the cook to prepare the meals.

When the School decamped to the seaside town of Borth in North Wales for a year in 1876, due to a typhoid epidemic, business in Uppingham was hit hard. On the boys return the next year, the towns' folk built arches of flowers and welcoming messages in the High Street.

Some eighty townsmen and boys hitched themselves to the station omnibus as the boys entered the town and pulled it up the High Street. They took it to West Bank and half way back again as a mark of their gratitude. Business had been grim while the school was away.

One of the tradesmen, John Hawthorn, ran a book shop which was popular with the staff and boys as well as a small printing works which carried out considerable printing for the school. The School Magazine, which was produced by the sixth form boys every term, was typeset and published by Hawthorn. According to Jack Graham, who was both a boy and Master at the School, Hawthorn was quite a character. He was generally '*garbed in somewhat clerical clothes, with rather short trousers displaying white socks, a clerical hat, and monocle attached to a broad black silk ribbon was straight out of a Trollope novel.*' To youngsters he was an awe-inspiring figure who was in the habit of ticking off boys that, unless they were going to buy one of the books in the shop, they should not finger them.⁷

There were six butchers in the High Street - Matthew Catlin, Arthur Clark, John Love, Thomas Scott, Annie Southwell and Rowland Turner. Five green grocers had shops in the High Street too - George Bates, Abel Phillips, Cornelius Cooke, Walter Squirrel and Walter Woodall, while Henry Kirby had a shop in the Market Place.

The local market held weekly ensured a continuous supply of fresh meat and locally grown produce.

Bread was baked by four bakers - Joseph Freestone and Joseph Frisby, whose premises were in the High Street, George Woodcock in Adderley Street and James Stevenson whose bakery was in School Lane. Interestingly, Stevenson also ran a Coffee Tavern in the High Street which Reginald visited.

A fishmonger, James Gregory had his shop in South View as did Mabel Porter in the High Street. Both got their fresh supplies daily by train.

All these tradesmen prospered as the school expanded and they had delivery boys to deliver to the school houses. There was keen competition between them to ensure that they retained their customers. The school holidays inevitably saw a slowdown in their business which was experienced by the other retailers - boot makers, watch makers, book sellers and so on.

Extra grub

After school had finished in the afternoon, high tea was served in each house. Edward Hornung, who left the year that Reginald joined, described the hero in his novel '*Fathers of Men* [which was based on the school], arriving on his first day and having tea, '*with any amount of good cheer in hall, every fellow bringing in some delicacy of his own, and newcomers arriving in the middle to be noisily saluted by their friends. The fare provided was plain bread and butter so the shared food was welcome.* Reginald also mentioned treats from time to time being served - pancakes at the start of Lent for example.

Just before lights out, biscuits and milk was given to the boys before they went up to their dormitory.

As today, the appetite of the boys was greater than the meals provided. Hampers were always welcome from home and easily sent via the railway and then onward from Manton or Seaton station by carrier to the school. The contents were then shared out with friends in the studies. The first one Reginald received was a month after he arrived in his first term when he '*got a hamper from home with a good many things in it.*' Throughout the next four years he looked forward to treats sent from his family - whether a cream cheese from his mother or Devon cream sent by his Uncle Frank. The cream cheese was all but eaten by tea time on the day that it arrived!

The boys had sweet teeth and sweets were bought from confectioners in the High Street - 'Senior' Baines and Charles Mould. They not only sold sweets: buns and cocoa were favourites of the boys too. Reginald's accounts record of buying 'grub' probably covered buns and the like.

⁷ His shop was opened in 1854 at 6, High Street East, Uppingham and - masters, pupils and the school itself were the mainstay of his custom. His son, Charles, ran the shop until 1951 and it was still trading in the late 20th century

'The cocoa was coarse and thick and the buns were not always fresh' Hornung said. But there was also a confectionary shop in School Lane which was a favourite of the boys. Rawnsley described being able to visit Nicholl's Tuck Shop in the School Lane⁸ between 9.00pm and 9.45pm but this was clearly not possible for the boys from the Hill Houses.

Other food that Reginald brought to top up his school fare was fruit, eggs, cherries, jam and biscuits. Reginald recognised the danger that with little exercise due to the bad weather, he needed to look out as he was '*getting most awfully fat and lazy*'.

Exeats

Occasional visits to Uppingham by his parents were looked forward. It was not easy for Dr Grove to leave his practice but when he could, he and his wife took the three-hour train journey to visit Reginald, on a weekend or for a special occasion like prize giving. Special permission had to be given by a boy's Housemaster who wrote out a slip, or 'exeat', the size of a small book mark, for a boy to produce if another master saw him in town after evening call over.



Prize Medal - 1887

One of the two inns in the town already mentioned was used - the Falcon or the White Hart, further down the High Street. His parents visited towards the end of his first year, arriving on Saturday at 6.00pm, staying at the Falcon. Reginald had a meal with them and chatted for three hours before going back to Redgate; the next morning, Sunday, he had breakfast with them and they all attended Chapel. At lunch he invited three friends to join them and the day did not end until 9.30pm. His parents caught an early train back on Monday morning.

Visits into Town

There was a relaxed attitude to boys visiting the town; Reginald went with a friend on one occasion to the Coffee Tavern which had been opened in May 1881 as an alternative for working men using public houses.⁹ Boys were also allowed to visit the Flower Show, as Reginald noted in his diary paying a visit in the Summer Term of 1884. Winding down towards the end of his last term he went to a cricket match and then the Flower Show, where he spent 2/- [£12.60] in a bazaar in aid of the coffee tavern. He had only a painted matchbox from the raffle to show for it!

Sometimes events in the town, like the Flower Show, were a cover for boys to meet up with local girls. The severe punishment given to two Sixth Formers in Reginald's last year was designed to send a clear warning about fraternising with local girls. Two Lower Sixth boys, Ernest Drabble and Joseph Whitwell, were punished for visiting the Uppingham Flower Show held in November instead of playing football on the Leicester Ground;¹⁰ they had changed out of their football clothes into ordinary clothes on the way there. The village and town girls were the attraction, rather than the vegetables and flowers!

For Drabble and Whitwell, their offence was slipping off when they should have been playing football. Both were in the School Football XV and Whitwell was also Captain of the Cricket XI. Perhaps they thought no one would see or miss them; or more likely, 18-year-old Drabble believed he was untouchable given his sporting process and he led Whitwell (who was only 15) on. Anyhow, they were found out and reported to Thring. Thring viewed this misconduct by the sporting heroes seriously. Their behaviour prompted swift and draconian action. They had their school sporting colours removed and they both received ten strokes ('licks') of the cane each. Having their colours taken away was as humiliating as being caned. Boys in the school would think twice before doing anything similar. However, Whitwell and Drabble were later to get back into Thring's good books and were given back their colours.

⁸ This was run by Thomas Nicholls who also ran another confectionery shop in the Market Place

⁹ Thring visited the Coffee Tavern on its first day of opening and was impressed: 'It is very nice and has every prospect of doing well, I think from what I hear. At all events this earnest effort throughout all England to make the life of the poor more cheery is very striking and full of hope.' [Parkin]

¹⁰ A Flower Show held in November seems strange; perhaps it was mainly for prize vegetables.

Free Time and Country Rambles

Thring was a keen walker who continued to take *'really good'* walks until a few days of his death. Parkin said of him that *'he was interested in every wayside flower, every bird's note, every striking bit of scenery, every shifting cloud which changed the appearance of the sky.'* His favourite Latin tag was *'Solvitur Ambulando* or *'we solve it by going on* (literally it is *'loosed by walking'*).

Walking was an activity encouraged by Thring for the boys. John Skrine, a boy at Uppingham and then later a master commented that *'the Rutland pasturelands are excellent for walker. The views are pleasant, if not remarkable, and you may wander to seem them almost where you like. The woodsides, the broad, greenrides (sic), the field paths, and their styles...*

John Graham who joined in 1888 as a pupil described *'the peace of the rolling pastures, the wide undulating valleys, and the warmth of its rich red soil, dotted with villages and homesteads of mellow tawny stone'*. He went on to say that he was *'free to explore Stoke and Wardley'¹¹ woods, to spend afternoons failing to jump the Stock brook or other streams, to follow the hounds with perhaps the friendly help of a stirrup leather from some kind hearted sportsman to help us back home to call-over or tea'*.

Reginald loved to go out into the countryside around Uppingham. Sometimes the route taken by him was the road from village to village; on occasions it was across fields, foot paths or bridleways. Hornung described the sort of walk that Reginald and his friends took:

'And off they went, but not with linked arms¹², or even very close together; for Chips still seemed annoyed at something or other, and for once not in a good mood to talk about it or anything else. It was unlike him; and a small boy is not unlike himself very long. They took the road under the study windows, left the last of the little town behind them, dipped into a wooded hollow, and followed a couple far ahead over a style and along a right-of-way through the fields; and in the fields, bathed in a mellow mist, and as yet but thinly dusted with the gold of autumn, Carpenter found his tongue.'

If games were not being played, then going for walks in the afternoons was a regular activity with generally two or three boys out together; just before the end of the Christmas Term 1885, for instance, Reginald and his friend Henry Berry went for a five mile round trip to Thorpe and Seaton on a cold, bright day when there had been a hard frost which had prevented football being played.

Reginald loved the area and enjoyed wandering in this countryside. But his walks were not always quite so idyllic.

A ghoulish discovery

In March 1886 when he was seventeen, he walked two and a half miles to the village of Glaston with two friends, William Reid and Henry Berry who were both at Redgate; they deliberately went there out of ghoulish curiosity to see what had been dubbed the *'haunted house'* where a man hanged himself ten days before.

What had happened was this. A twenty-two year old agricultural labourer called James Liquorish from the village had been walking near the Old Glaston Hall where he came across two boys from Redgate. The boys wanted to see the *'Haunted Room'*, which was known locally for having the occasional spectral sighting and so they all went into the ruins of the hall. The boys suddenly screamed in horror and ran from the building. Liquorish looked around and saw the decomposed remains of a man hanging by the neck from a door lintel. The boys ran home; one of them did not recover from shock for some days. No wonder!

Liquorish went into Uppingham and told the Police Constable. The body was then cut down. The body was presumed to have been there for a week or so. The man was identified as William Church, a 70-year-old former groom, and his flesh had been eaten by the bats and rats that infested the ruins.

Reginald's grandmother read about the incident in the *Daily Telegraph* and, in writing to Reginald, hoped he had not been one of the boys. He wasn't but it didn't stop him and his friends taking a morbid look at the spot!

11 Stoke Wood was a couple of miles to the south and Wardley Wood a mile or so to the west of the town.

12 In fact, walking arm in arm by friends was common and accepted as a token of friendship, nothing more.

Brass rubbings

During his last two terms Reginald became very enthused about brass rubbings as a hobby. The work involved reproducing on rolls of paper the impressions of monumental brasses found in old churches. The image of each brass was transferred onto large pieces of paper using black wax or graphite like a pencil. The brasses were found usually on the flagstones but sometimes they were fixed to a wall. Reginald described this process in greater detail in an article that he wrote for the School Magazine in June 1887. The village churches around Uppingham were a good hunting ground for him.

He pursued his new hobby by walking out to local villages, either on his own, or with his friend Berry, to visit churches which were known to have brasses: Braunston, Brook (*'the nicest little village church I have seen round here'*), Lyddington, Manton and Stockerston,

Thring became interested in Reginald and Berry's work and gave special permission for them to make visits outside roll call hours. This was a creative hobby, new to the school and Thring was interested as it aligned with his educational beliefs of encouraging boys to explore the world around them. *'They were all, especially Thring, very pleased with the brasses'* Reginald wrote in his diary.

He and Berry walked 19 miles before the end of term to visit St Peter's Church at Deene just over the border in Northamptonshire; the church was in the estate of Brudenell family who owned Deene Park House. They walked home at a *'tremendous pace'* as they had misjudged the time but got back a quarter of an hour late for call over.

This meant having to report to Thring the next day.

Thring was cross with them and refused any more special leave that term. As there were only a few days before the end of term it was no great hardship. At the beginning of the summer term Reginald returned to Deene, this time with another friend, Charles Evans. They were grateful that they took two umbrellas as it poured with rain on their way there and they would have been drenched without them. This was a more fruitful visit as the brass he took was, in his view, *'the best rubbing I have ever taken'*.

The following months saw him go on more trips to collect brasses. His last trip was near the end of term when he made another visit to St Peter's Church Stockerston with two other boys. The brass had been uncovered only recently – a knight dated 1467 - which Reginald described as *'fairly good and curious'*. This was because the knight depicted was headless. He was John de Boyville the Lord of Stockerston and was shown in the armour of the War of the Roses. His wife Isabella Cheney was by his side.

It was the last time that Reginald recorded taking a brass before he went up to Cambridge and continued his hobby there, becoming one of the first members of the Cambridge University Association of Brass Collectors which was founded the year before in 1886.



The Church of St Peter, Stockerston Rutland

REDGATE HOUSE LIST,

MAY, 1887.

VI. UPPER DIVISION.

Berry, S. W.
Grobe, W. B.
Heald, A. E.

VI. LOWER DIVISION.

FISHER, T. C.

REMOVE

Smith *mi.*, L. R. D.

UPPER V.

Milman, F. R. E.
Castle, E.
Evans, C.

MIDDLE V.

How, F. A. W.
Allan, W. G.

LOWER V.

Eliot, E. C.

MIDDLE REMOVE.

Brandreth, L.
Maclure *ma.*, A. F.
Parker, *ma.*, A. P.

UPPER IV.

Catling, C. B.
Beardmore, J. G.
Jose, E. S.

MIDDLE IV.

Smith *otus*, H. T. P.

LOWER IV.

Kelsey, E. L.
Cox *min.*, P. G. A.
Rickards, H. H.

UPPER III.

Parker *min.*, A. C.
Davies-Colley, R. J.
Gregory, J. R.
Dixon *ma.*, T. F. H.
Reade *mi.*, H. L.
Engström, C. L.

MIDDLE III.

Paget, F. F.

LOWER III.

Compton, J.
Dixon *mi.*, T. F. H.
Charlton *ma.*, H. C.
Royle, J. B.

II. & I.

Charlton *mi.*, A. S.
Krüger, H. S.

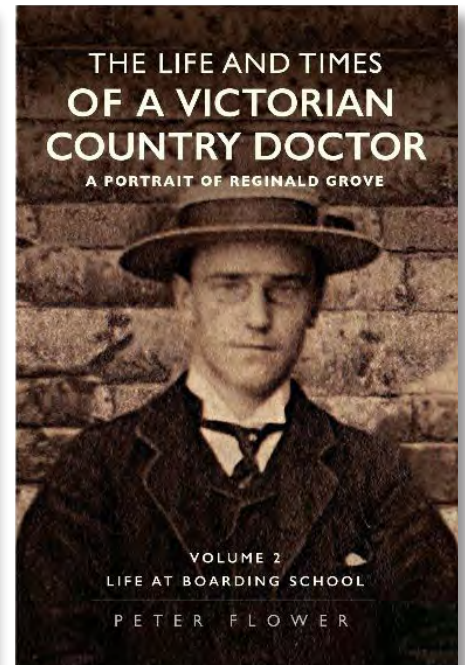
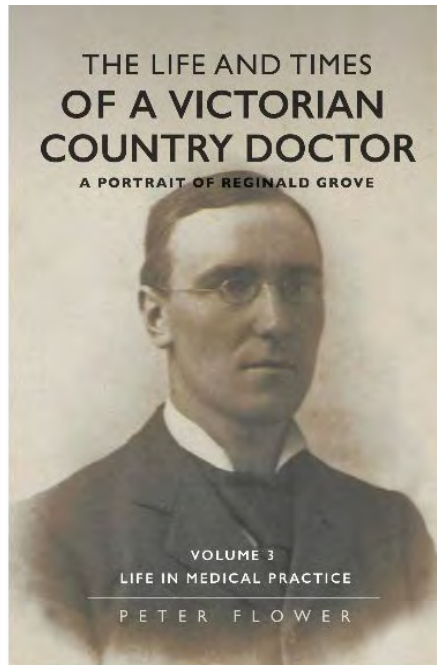
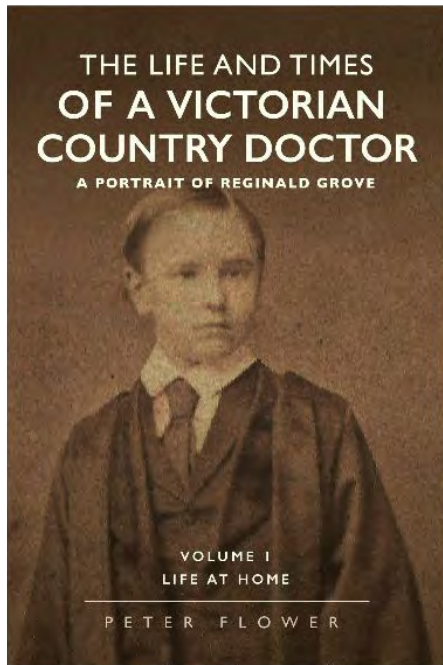
Bibliography

- Grove W.R. Diaries 1881-1887 (Grove Family Archives)
- Graham, John, *Forty Years of Uppingham* (Macmillan and Co., London, 1932)
- Hornung, E.W., *Fathers of Men* (Charles Scribner's Sons, (1912)
- Kelly's Directory of Bedfordshire, Hunts and Northamptonshire (1885).
- Kelly's Directory of Leicestershire and Rutland (1899)
- William White, History, *Gazetteer and Directory of Leicestershire and Rutland* (William White and Simpkin Marshall & Co., 1887)
- National Census 1881. Kew.
- Matthews, Bryan, *By God's Grace: a History of Uppingham School* (Whitehall Press, 1984).
- Parkin, George, *Edward Thring, Headmaster of Uppingham School. Life, Diary and Letters Vol 1* (Macmillan & Co, 1898)
- Rawnsley, Hardwicke, *Edward Thring: Teacher and Poet* (T.F. Unwin, 1889)
- Rawnsley, Willingham Franklin, *Early Days at Uppingham under Edward Thring* (Macmillan & Co Ltd, 1904)
- Rawnsley, Willingham Franklin, *Edward Thring- Maker of Uppingham School.* (Kegan Paul, Trench & Co. Ltd, 1926)
- Richardson, Nigel, *Typhoid in Uppingham – an analysis of a Victorian Town and School in crisis 1875-1877* (Routledge 2008)
- Richardson, Nigel, *Thring of Uppingham, Victorian Educator* (University of Buckingham Press, 2014).
- Rogers, Alan, *The Making of Uppingham* (Uppingham Local History Study Group Publication, 2003)
- Rudman, Jerry, *Date Time Line Uppingham School* (Uppingham School Archives).
- Rutland Local History Society Vol 3: *Railways in Rutland (1980)* Spiegl Press
- Skrine, John Huntley, *A Memory of Edward Thring* (Macmillan and Co., 1889)
- Thring, Edward, *Diary 1877/8* (Uppingham School Archives)
- Uppingham School Magazine 1913
- Uppingham School Roll 1824-1905 (3rd Issue. Edward Stanford, 1906 via Internet Archive, University of Harvard)
- Uppingham in 1851 – *a night in the life of a thriving town* - Uppingham Local History Society Group (2001) Arnold Wills Ltd
- Tozer, Malcolm, *The Ideal of Manliness – the legacy of Thring's Uppingham.* Sunnyrest Books, 2015)
- Walker, Henry, *Memoirs Book 1 & Book 2* (handwritten) (Uppingham School Archives, 1957)
- William White, History, *Gazetteer and Directory of Leicestershire and Rutland* (William White and Simpkin Marshall & Co., 1887)

Author

After following Reginald Grove, his grandfather, at Uppingham School, Peter Flower read modern history at King's College, London University and was elected an Associate of Kings College (AKC). He is a member of the British Association for Local History and a member of the Richmond Local History Society and the Huntingdonshire Local History Society.

He has published *The Life and Times of a Victorian Doctor – a portrait of Reginald Grove* in three volumes. Volume 2 covers his time at boarding school. All three books are available at Brown Dog Bookshop at <https://www.browndogbooks.uk>.



Redgate in 2021

Copyright © Peter Flower 2022. The right of Peter Flower to be identified as the author of this article has been asserted in accordance with the Copyright, Design and Patents Act 1988. No part may be reproduced without the written permission of the copyright holder.

General Index

A

Agriculture 6

B

Bakers 9

Bells 5

Berry, Henry 11

Boarding Houses 5, 6, 7

Borth 8

Boyville, John de 12

Brass rubbings 12

Braunston 12

Brook 12

Brooklands 5, 7

Brudenell 12

Buildings and bells 5

Bullock Market 2, 3

Butchers, High Street 9

C

Candler, Howard 4

Cast iron lamp posts 5

Chapel, School 5, 6, 7, 10

Chapel, Wesleyan 6

Charles, Sophie 8

Cheney, Isabella 12

Christian, Mary 7

Christian, Revd George 7

Church, Bethesda 6

Church, Congregational 6

Church, Independent 6

Church, William 11

Clifton College 8

Coffee Tavern 9, 10

Confectioners 9, 10

Constables 5

County Court 4

Cricket XI 10

D

Deene Park 12

Dining hall 6, 7

Dormitories 7

Drabble, Ernest 10

Drovers 2

E

East Midland line 5

Electric light 5

Elizabethan School Room 5

Evans, Charles 12

Exeats 10

Extra grub 9

F

Falcon Inn 2, 4, 5

Farmers 2

Fat stock sales 3

Fens, The 5

Fir Croft 7

Fishmongers 9

Flower Show 10

Football XV 10

Free Time and Country Rambles 11

Fry, Mary Ann 8

G

Gas Lighting 4, 5

Ghoulish discovery 11

Glaston 11

Glaston Hall 11

Graham, Jack 9

Graham, John 4, 11

Graziers 2

Great Eastern Railway 5

Green grocers 9

Grove, Dr 10

Grove, Reginald 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15

H

Hale, Cecil 7

Hale, Robert 7

Hampers 9

Hawthorn, John 9

Heald, Arthur 8

Highfield 5, 7

High Street 4, 7, 8, 9, 10

Hill Houses 7, 10

Hornung, Edward 9, 10, 11, 14

Housemasters 6, 7, 10

I

Ice skating 4

K

Kelly's Directory 4, 5, 14

Kitchens 7

L

Lavatories 7

Leicester Road 5

Lights out 9

Liquorish, James 11

Livestock market 2

Local girls 10

Local Tradesmen 8

Lower School 5

Lyddington 12

M

Manton 4, 5, 9, 12

Meadhurst 5

Midlands Railway 5

Money-Order 4

N

Nicholl's Tuck Shop 10
North Western Line 5

O

Oil engine 5
Old School Room 6
Omnibus 4, 5, 9

P

Parish Church 2, 5, 6
Parkin, Sir George 5
Police Station 4
Post 4
Poverty and faith 6
Public Houses 3, 10

Q

Queen's Jubilee 5

R

Railways 5, 14
Railway Station, Manton 4, 5, 9, 12
Railway Station, Seaton 5, 9, 11
Railway Station, Uppingham 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10,
11, 12, 14, 15
Redgate 2, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 15
Red Hill 7
Red House 5, 7
Reid, William 11
Rutland pasturelands 11

S

Sanatorium 7
School Chapel 5
School Chaplain 7
School Lane 9, 10
School Magazine 4, 5, 9, 12, 14
Schoolroom 6
Skrine, John 11
Sleeping compartment 5
Small studies 7
Soup kitchen 6
St Ives 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Stockerston 5, 7, 12
Stockerston Road 5, 7
Swarm, Sarah Ann 8
Swimming Baths 7

T

Telegraph 4, 11
Thorpe 11
Thring, Edward 2, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 14
Town Poor Relief 6
typhoid epidemic 8

U

Union, Uppingham 5
Uppingham Gazette 4

V

Visits into Town 10

W

Walker, Henry 5, 6
War of the Roses 12
Wash Rooms 7
Welland, River 4
West Deyne 5, 7
White Hart Inn 5
Whitwell, Joseph 10
Workhouse 5