

Cambridge Independent Press 7.7.1899

This afternoon the foundation stone was laid of the Morley Memorial School in Blinco Grove, Hills-road. ... The buildings which will accommodate 240 children, will be constructed of white brick, with slated roof and pitch pine block flooring, on cement concrete. The schools are provided with every accommodation on the most up-to-date style.

The school was opened on the 3rd November 1899. The Cambridge Independent Press reported on 10th November:

Despite the gale which prevailed on Friday afternoon last, a large company were present at the opening ceremony of the Morley Memorial School, Blinco Grove, New Cherry Hinton. The School, which has been erected by the Management of Homerton New College, is situate in a growing suburb of Cambridge. The aim of the managers has been to provide a model school. and this the new building is in every respect. When the door was unlocked by the Vice-Chancellor, Mr Chawner, Master of Emmanuel College, the company had access to a school which at once excited their wonder and admiration. No pains had been spared to make it as complete and convenient for teachers and scholars as modern ingenuity can devise. It was with pardonable pride that the Principal of Homerton, Mr J C Horobin, MA, and his assistant, Mr Jones, acted as cicerones [guide] to the numerous visitors. A description of the school has already been given in these columns, and it will well repay those who are interested in educational work to visit the latest addition to the provision for elementary education in the neighbourhood of Cambridge. Lighting, sanitation, and equipment are perfect. The walls are adorned with excellent pictures, which are a contrast to the highly coloured prints that are seen in some schools, and in one class-room men and women of historic fame and bits of pretty scenery are prominent. The desks are of the newest pattern, and among the accessories, a capital collection of models, for drawing classes, and a piano were noticed. The largest room is fitted with a folding glass screen. The visitors were not less pleased than astonished with all that they saw. After inspection, the company adjourned to Homerton College where tea and coffee were served....

The Vice-Chancellor thanked the Chairman and the Governors for the honour of asking him to preside at the meeting and to take the chief part in opening the Memorial School. He was filled with admiration and envy at the beautiful class-rooms which had been erected there, and was sorry to say they had nothing like it at the University. Having referred to a tie which bound him to that College, namely, the fact that their distinguished Principal was a graduate of Emmanuel College, he said that the new school marked an important epoch in the success of Homerton College. It was not merely a necessary adjunct to the College, but a memorial to the work of Mr Morley, one of the most princely of their merchant princes. Even an inexperienced person could see that the school was not a luxury but a necessity. The science of teaching, like all other sciences, must be experimental if it was to be progressive and fruitful in results. Amid the clash of arms, and whilst we were still smarting from defeat, people were not perhaps so willing to listen to a discussion on educational questions, but he thought that when they had passed over their present troubles they would see in them only an incident in our successful career as colonisers. and that perhaps educational questions were really more important and had more bearing upon the life and prosperity of the nation than even a struggle which now engrossed so much interest.... [this refers to the British defeats at the hands of the Boer republican fighters at the end of 1899].

Cambridge Daily News (8.1.1900)

The Sunday evening services were commenced with the New Year at the Morley Memorial Schools, Blinco Grove, on Sunday evening, when the Rev. H.T.Hooper preached to a fairly large congregation. Collections were made in aid of school funds.

Cambridge Daily News (16.10.1900)

"The school was opened for children in January and the average attendance for the half year has been 55. ... the first report of H.M.I. is very satisfactory."

Cambridge Independent Press (25.12.1914)

Girl Guides - An interesting meeting was held on Thursday evening at the Morley Memorial School, New Cherryhinton. About 100 scholars, past and present, were assembled to discuss the proposed formation of a branch of the Girl Guides ... At the end of the meeting about 33 names were given in to the members of the staff who are helping to organise the branch.

Cambridge Independent Press (15.1.1915)

Soldiers' Christmas Gifts - 8,000 Articles sent out from Cambs. and Isle of Ely

In a very long list of donors to this fund is the entry:

A pupil at the Morley Memorial School £0 0s 6d.

Cambridge Daily News (30.3.1939)

A meeting of air raid wardens of Coleridge Ward was held in the Morley Memorial School on Wednesday evening... Mr Abraham ... explained that he and the deputy head warden attended the meeting of all the head and deputy head wardens of the borough, held last week, at which the Chief Constable reviewed the position to date, and the work which all wardens were asked to do immediately in the form of selecting wardens' posts, checking up of gas masks on the card provided, and the issue of masks to those still without, of which there were still quite a number.